

Mt. Starr King
1931-1982
The Peak Registers



Original Pages with Transcriptions and Comments

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Note: The page numbers below for any particular year may not be as accurate as one might wish. People put entries out of order now and then.

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Preface

What is a peak register? It's like a guest book at a wedding. Visitors to the summit sign their names and perhaps make a comment or two. Why would one want to waste time on a book of signatures? We have reasons: Some guests wrote interesting things, additional information on some of the ascenders has been added in this book, and one sees facts which may have a general interest. The reader familiar with California rock climbing will see names that have a place in the history of Yosemite rock climbing and elsewhere in the Starr King registers.

The skeptic may also ask, with so many peaks is there anything special about Mt. Starr King and its place in climbing history? Starr King is located near Yosemite Valley and, being a relatively inaccessible summit, was a target of early climbers. The appeal of the peak has endured through the years and generation after generation has climbed it. As techniques improved, new and more difficult routes were put up. The approach distance is such that the climbs are remote and not overrun. Finally, the climbs result in a true mountain summit, something which many Yosemite Valley rock climbs do not realize. Roped climbing was used for about 95 percent of the ascents in the register books.

The Sierra Club placed a loose leaf sign in register on Mt. Starr King in 1931. It was replaced in 1937 with a bound book. Of those who climbed the peak, about 1364 entries were made in the registers from 1931 through 1981. The registers were removed by Mark Spencer¹ around 1992 and given to Robin Ingraham² who sent the originals to the Bancroft Library in Berkeley. I understand that two newer registers are now on the peak and cover the period 1981 to the present (2011).

In September 1970 the Sierra Club Board of Directors designated The Bancroft Library of the University of California at Berkeley as the official depository for

¹ Author of *Southern Yosemite Rock Climbs* with Shirley Spencer.

² Robin Ingraham, mountaineer, graphic designer, photographic artist, and peak register preservationist had an article in the National Geographic Adventure magazine and Sierra, the Sierra Club publication, about saving old peak registers.

the club's archives. The large collection of records, photographs and other memorabilia known as the "Sierra Club Papers" is thus permanently protected. If one wishes to see the Starr King Registers in person, one may visit the library and request the Sierra Club Peak Register for Mt Starr King, CATALOG RECORD BANC MSS 71/293 carton 17. Alternatively, one may purchase a copy of the microfilm of the files or download this book.

I ran across the registers when researching a biography of William Kat, my grandfather and the man who climbed Mt. Starr King more times than anyone else as recorded in these two registers. After the biography was complete, I decided the registers would have general interest, especially if associated with events and accomplishments of the lives of the people who had made their jottings. I felt I was competent to make this effort because I had been a rock climber with ascents at Yosemite Valley and Tahquitz Rock as well as having practiced bouldering at Stoney Point near Chatsworth and Indian Rock in Berkeley. In a quick scan of the register I recognized a number of names, many of some fame in the world of Yosemite rock climbing.

The registers have surprises. For example, an argument was held about who climbed the peak in the early days. The greatest number ascenders in winter, not necessarily an easy or safe thing to do, came not from the mountaineering elite, but from mass outings of students from a small college. Some lonely men left notes asking others to contact them – guaranteed not to get much of a result considering the average number of ascenders was about 27 per year for the 51 years of the registers, and the average number of women was four! Famous climbers, physicists, mathematicians, authors, and several who had been or would be incarcerated made the climb. An interesting group, to be sure.

Social change was evident in the registers. Early register entries had no references to drugs, gross humor or impolite language, so one has something to anticipate in reading. The register is an historic document, and nothing was deleted from the actual pages. However, I retained editorial control over the transcription and did not render some gratuitous profanity. I alert the reader in those cases.

In a few places I made this book a personal writing by putting in remembrances and comments. I cross referenced names to a list of first ascents in Yosemite Valley at the Yosemite Climbing Association's web site which was compiled by

Ed Hartouni. Many who climbed Mt. Starr King were climbers of note. I focused on the Yosemite Valley area when looking to see what else a person who ascended Mt. Starr King may have done, for Yosemite is viewed by many as the litmus test for rock climbing. There were also those without Yosemite credentials who climbed Starr King and went on to other mountain areas of the world. And some died on climbs, both in Yosemite and elsewhere.

The character of the climbers who made it up Mt. Starr King has been rounded out using the Internet as a reference, and searches produced surprising results of interesting careers. I wish I could have said more about everyone who signed in, but it is hard to find information that can be pegged to a name unless there are clues in the entry. For example, Bill Hooker put the initials for the American Alpine Club and the Harvard Mountaineering Club by his name, so I could find out a lot about him. His partner was Fred Smith, but without other information it was impossible to find out more about him as there are many Fred Smith's to be found on an Internet search. Women often change their names when they marry breaking the trail of identity for the casual researcher, so additional information about them may be impossible to find.

I spent more time on the early entries because this is a book of history, and as time fades the older information becomes harder to find.

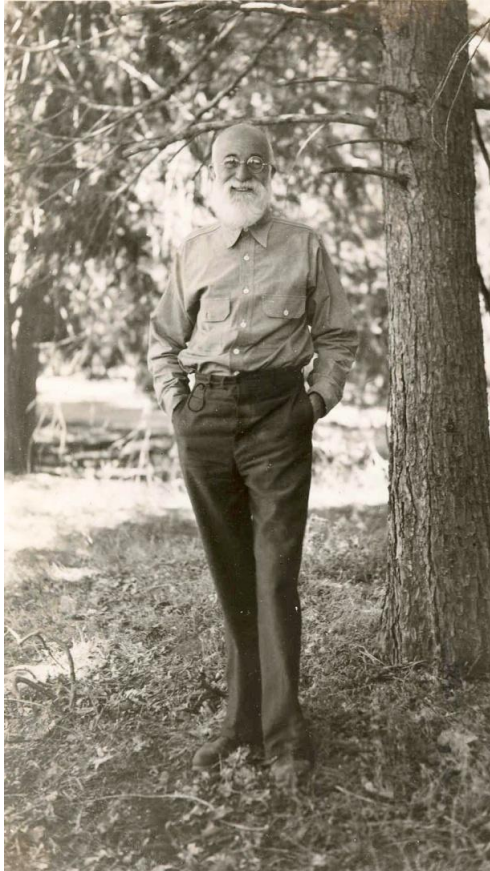
One might view this as a stream of consciousness book about the register. Everyone wasn't treated the same, because on any particular day I felt differently than the day before. The registers should be considered a work of fiction to some degree. No one swore to tell the truth when he or she signed the register and added comments, and some did not.

Finally, if you find errors or have information that you think should be in the book, send it to me and I will take appropriate action.

Bill Amborn
amborns@gmail.com
West Linn Oregon
December 1, 2011

The stories about Starr King are not so much the actual climbs, but the people who made the climbs - Mark Goebel

This book is dedicated to the memory of William Kat, early Yosemite climber,



September 1937 William Kat in Yosemite

and to those who have made it up the peak and those who will make it up the peak one day...

Climbing is dangerous. Climb at your own risk.

You can be seriously injured or killed in this activity.

How to Read This Book

This book is designed to be read with each register page facing its transcription for easy back and forth. If you are reading it on a computer, set the view for two pages.

Statistical Tables and Graphs

Tabulations of facts about ascents of Mt. Starr King, as stated in the entries, for the 51 years of the registers reveal interesting trends and behavior. For those who wish to go directly to the tables, they are listed below:

1. Number of Climbers Ascending Mt. Starr King by Year.....	49
2. Number of Ascents by Month of the Year.....	85
3. Percent Climbs by Route Taken on the Dome.....	95
4. Percent Climbs by Approach Taken.....	110
5. Number of Ascents Per Climber.....	125
6. Number of Ascents by Party Size.....	157
7. Ascents by Gender.....	359

The tables and graphs are scattered through the book to fill blank pages.

A Short History of Mt. Starr King



Mt. Starr King, 9081 ft., from the Glacier Point Road in a thunderstorm

Tectonic plates bumped and one slipped under the other. The earth's crust crinkled upwards and plutons, giant bubbles of magma, formed and ascended slowly in the general uplift beneath the overlaying sedimentary rocks. The plutons cooled to granite, and through the ages the overlaying soft rock surface was rubbed clean by wind, water and ice revealing the granite domes of the Sierra Nevada. Eons pass.

Humanity in large numbers descended on California for gold in 1848 and explored everything over the next few years looking for the intriguing yellow metal. The

Yosemite area, first visited by organized travel in 1855, became widely known for its beauty. One visitor was Thomas Starr King, a Unitarian minister in San Francisco who was struck by the beauty of Yosemite and coined a phrase, “Yosemites of the soul” to describe the best and most beautiful of man’s inner feelings. Starr King campaigned for Lincoln for President and Stanford for governor of California. He was an anti-slavery unionist, and after his death a peak was named for him near Yosemite Valley, Mt. Starr King.

Although not visible from the floor of Yosemite Valley, Mt. Starr King presents a striking view from the road to Glacier Point. The peak is also visible from Half Dome if one hikes the trail to the top. Mt. Starr King was considered inaccessible by early geological surveys, so naturally the question was who would climb it.

The First Ascent

George B. Bayley and E. S. Schuyler were the first, ascending Mt. Starr King by the northeast side in the summer of 1876, according to the historical record.³ Their route went up the left hand skyline of the dome where the trees reach the highest point as seen in the photograph on the preceding page.

The second ascent was made via the southeast saddle in 1877 on August 23rd by George Anderson, James Hutchings and J. B. Lumbert. Anderson was the man who pioneered the first ascent of Half Dome, close to where the cables run today, and he and his party were surprised to find evidence of someone having been on the summit of Mt. Starr King before them. The next day the peak was ascended again by Anderson and Hutchings who brought Mrs. A.L. Sweetland and S.A.Walker with them. The Anderson route approximates the right hand skyline from the obvious saddle between the lower two domes, again as seen in the photograph on the preceding page.

No published accounts of ascents of Mt. Starr King between 1877 and 1931 are known. In 1931 interest revived in climbing the peak, and the Register Committee of the Sierra Club, a conservation organization formed in 1892 by

³ Mountaineering Notes by Francis Farquhar, pp 115-118, Sierra Club Bulletin, February, 1932. Farquhar wrote a well researched article about the early history of Mt. Starr King.

John Muir and others, placed a book on the summit so those who climbed could record their ascents.

Are Sierra Club Peak Registers Managed?

Registers are placed in a wild, unsupervised environment, so they may be damaged by weather, vandalized, taken, or pages torn out for souvenirs. Here is what some said about treatment of the register in the register itself:

- Dec 31, 1963 Some dolt left the register box upside down so the book is soaking wet...

- 1973 Please don't rip out pages containing famous climber's names...

To be fair, the 1963 entry does not mean the people in the preceding entry in the register are dolts. Someone else who did not sign the register may have left the box improperly secured. The effect of wetting the book was to make entries of many peak ascenders difficult to read. The 1973 entry says a person with knowledge of the register noticed pages missing. Another type of activity that might be classified as register abuse is the entry of bogus names. Although Janus is a surname, if it is associated with the first name of Hugh the combination raises suspicion.

If a peak register is filled, then it may leave the summit. The disposition of registers is something of a mystery to many climbers. The Board of Directors of the Sierra Club voted to place the club's historical records with The University of California's Bancroft Library in 1970. The first donation included some summit registers. The Bancroft says registers continue to be added to the collection by club members and other individuals. On the other hand, I was told the Sierra Peaks Section of the Sierra Club has a policy as of this writing to donate retired registers to the library at the University of California at Los Angeles. The ultimate disposition of a register may be a matter of luck, and, as noted in an entry in the Mt. Starr King Register, a matter of frustration to some peak ascenders who wonder what happened to that great old register they saw before or heard about:

- 9/6/80 1:20 PM. Great register. Nothing is worse than the Sierra Club continually taking down the registers to god knows where...

A note on a folder indicates that the registers in this book were given to the Bancroft Library in 1992 by the Sierra Peaks Section of the Sierra Club, ten years after removal from the peak. As mentioned in the Preface, The registers were removed and ultimately sent to the Bancroft Library about 1992 by Mark Spencer⁴ who said, “Mt. Starr King is probably one of the few peaks that has such a select and intact register history. I checked my copy of the register and did not find anything different than what you were provided [by microfilm from the Bancroft Library]. When I removed the register, Robin Ingraham photocopied the entire book, sent the copies to me and must have sent the original to the Bancroft, where you found it.” Ingraham has a web site which has information about register preservation at <http://robiningraham.com/summitregisters.html>

All register pages quoted or reproduced here are from a microfilm roll of the Mt. Starr King Register, Sierra Club Mountain Registers and Records, BANC MSS 71/293c, The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley. Each page contains its own dates if a specific reference is required. The quality of the reproduction reflects what was on the microfilm. The microfilm size is 35mm and I scanned it more or less the way one would scan slides.

Recorded History - the Registers

The format of this book puts hand written entries from the register on one page, and the same information transcribed into typed text on facing page. In addition to the register itself, footnotes and additional text are also included.

We begin with the first register, a loose leaf notebook, place by three climbers, Eldon Dryer, Warren Loose and Judd Boynton on July 4, 1931.

⁴ Author of *Southern Yosemite Rock Climbs* with Shirley Spencer.

The Loose Leaf Register
1931-1937

The Sierra Club

Register Box No. _____
Deposited on summit of Star King
Date July 4, 1931 By Dyer, Rose, Boynton
The altitude of this summit is 9,081 feet.

THOSE VISITING THIS POINT ARE INVITED TO REGISTER THEIR NAMES, ADDRESSES AND DATE OF ASCENT

It is particularly requested that nothing be written in this Register except the date and the names and addresses of those making the ascent. If there are features of your trip that are of general interest, The Sierra Club will be very glad to receive an account of the same by letter.

The Sierra Club has placed this Register at this point in order that you may record your ascent and in order that the Club may collect data regarding the number of people that make this climb and the locality from whence they come.

Penciled records are less apt to become illegible than ink. In case the pencil attached to this register has become lost, will you not kindly put one in its place.

Please show your appreciation of the purposes and efforts of The Sierra Club by using care in replacing this Register in the box, carefully securing the cover, and restoring the box to the spot from whence taken. Your assistance in preventing damage to or removal of this Register by any thoughtless or malicious person, will aid the Club in its efforts.

Any communication regarding this box or its contents, particularly if the Register is completely filled, will be appreciated by

THE SIERRA CLUB OF CALIFORNIA

To explore, enjoy and render accessible the mountain regions of the Pacific Coast, to publish authentic information concerning them; to enlist the support and co-operation of the people and the Government in preserving the forests and other natural features of the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

1931

Eldon Dryer placed the Sierra Club register with Warren Loose and Judd Boynton on July 4th 1931. They carried the aluminum metal box with them to the summit along with loose leaf register sheets and the title page we see above.

Two paragraphs of the title page are noteworthy:

“It is particularly requested that nothing be written in this Register except the date and names and addresses of those making the ascent. If there are features of your trip that are of general interest, The Sierra Club will be very glad to receive an account of the same by letter.

The Sierra Club has placed this Register at this point in order that you may record your ascent and in order that the Club may collect data regarding the number of people that make this climb and the locality from whence they come.”

In hindsight one might take exception to the request that users only put names and addresses in the register and refrain from making other comments. As you read the register, you will look forward to comments – and wish for more. Regarding uses of the collected data, nothing was associated with the register file from the Bancroft Library, and I never saw anything in Sierra Club publications through the years. Perhaps this book will fulfill that intended use.

The next page is the first entry written by Eldon Dryer about the time of the placement of the register box. Dryer wrote what he believed was the history of ascents of Mt. Starr King.

DATE	NAME	ADDRESS	CITY OR TOWN	STATE
1877	Capt Anderson	} First party to climb Star King	} Dismantled by Sawthorn aided by heavy logs to the mine	
1877	Mr Hutchings			
1877	Mrs. Hutchings			
	Three others			
	↑			
	54 years	↑		
	↓			
	Invention of Robber sled above			
6/25/31	Warren Louse	R. 2 Box 333	Fontaine	Calif
6/25/31	Eldon Dyer	815 E Columbia	Pomona	Calif
	} Second Party to climb			
	used 2 rounded posts North East side used 2 posts to garman traction found no records prompt car built by first party			
7/2/31	H. Hopkins		Hollywood	Cal.
	(Entry by Dyer)			
	(found parts of flag pole erected by Capt. Anderson)			

1877	Capt. Anderson	\	
1877	Mr. Hutchings	\	First party to climb Starr King
1877	Mrs. Hutchings	/	Climbed by southeast aided by iron key
	Three others	/	bolts driven into granite

|
54 years

|
(Invention of rubber soled shoes)

|

6/25/31 Warren Loose⁵, R2 Box 333 Fontana Calif
 6/25/31 Eldon Dryer⁶, 815 Columbia Pomona Calif
Second party to climb. Ascended from North East side. Used
 Keds to gain our traction. Found no records except cairn built
 by first party.

7/2/31 H. Hopkins, Hollywood Cal.
 (Entry by Dryer)

(Found parts of flag pole erected by Capt. Anderson)

Loose and Dryer were proud of their ascent on June 25, 1931 and made contact with a park ranger naturalist who wrote it up for Yosemite Nature Notes⁷:

For 54 years Mt. Starr King, towering 9081 feet into the air, just three miles south of Half Dome has defied the attempts of mountain climbers to attain its summit, but this summer two daring youths Warren Loose of Fontana, Calif. and Eldon Dryer of Pomona, Calif. made the ascent with

⁵ Warren Loose's other ascents of Starr King: July 4, 1931, July 12, 1932
⁶ Dryer also ascended Starr King on July 4, 1931
⁷ Yosemite Nature Notes, Volume X August 1931 Number 8, Ascents of Mt. Starr King by C. C. Presnall, Junior Park Naturalist

the aid of rubber-soled shoes. Within a month several others also made the climb.

The first ascents in 1877 were made from the southeast side with the aid of eye bolts and ropes, but all the ascents this year have been made from the northeast side. Loose and Dryer carried a rope which was used in a body belay⁸ at the most dangerous point. A later party found that patches of inner tubing sewed to trouser seats were a great aid. At best, the climb is a hazardous one, due to the lack of hand or footholds on the smooth slope, which is a little steeper than the cable climb on Half Dome, although less than half as long. Anyone contemplating this climb should be sure his nerves are steady and should not attempt it alone.

EARLY ASCENTS

In 1877 the mountain was climbed by George G. Anderson, who was the first man to climb Half Dome. He assisted four others to the summit of Starr King: J. G. Lambert, J. M. Hutchings, S. A. Walker and Mrs. A. L. Sweetland. They found two monuments on top, indicating previous unrecorded ascents, and inserted a flagpole to mark their own achievement. Remains of this flagpole were found by Loose and Dryer, who made a permanent record of all ascents in the Sierra Club register which they deposited on the summit. Mr. Hutchings, in his book "In the Heart of the Sierras," states that the two men who built the monuments were George S. Bayley and E. S. Schuyler. He also claims that his wife and daughter Florence were assisted to the top by Mr. Anderson, but this is not mentioned in his manuscript which is on file at the Yosemite Museum.

THOSE WHO'VE DONE IT

The following list of ascents of Mt. Starr King previous to August 1, 1931, is complete in so far as we can learn at present:

⁸ The writer is probably referring to the shoulder belay, a technique which lost credibility later in the 1930's and was replaced by the hip belay.

1877 (?)—George S. Bayley and E. S. Schuyler.

August 23, 1877—George G. Anderson, J. S. Lambert and J. M. Hutchings.

August 24, 1877—George G. Anderson, S. A. Walker, J. M. Hutchings, Mrs. A. L. Sweetland, with possible addition of Mrs. Hutchings and Florence Hutchings.

June 25, 1931--Warren Loose and Eldon Dryer.

July 3, 1931- Harry Hopkinson⁹.

July 4, 1931—Warren Loose, Eldon Dryer and Judd Boynton.

July 23, 1931—John Emlen Jr. and Wilfred Frost.

July, 1931—A Sierra Club member, name not yet known.

We see Dryer's comments about the history of ascents of Mt. Starr King were incorrect. At best theirs was the third ascent. And then Francis Farquhar wrote a well researched piece in the February 1932 Sierra Club Bulletin which left no doubt that George B. Bayley and E. S. Schuyler were the first ascenders, agreeing with the Yosemite Nature Notes, but setting the year as 1876. Farquhar's article included text published by John Muir in August 1876 as well as a quote from James Hutchings' journal, presumably written near the time his ascent with Anderson: "The entire area of the summit is only about 100 ft. by 75 ft. Two monuments erected gave evidence of someone having ascended this peak before us. We erected a flag pole, put up a flag, painted by J. G. Lambert—for our party." Bayley and Schuyler preceded Anderson and Hutchings.

The other item mentioned by Dryer is the invention of rubber soled shoes. One might think rubber soled shoes were an innovation that took place close to 1931

⁹ Dryer gave the name as H. Hopkins. There are many Harry Hopkins and Hopkinsons in Los Angeles for the 1930 census, so this may remain unresolved.

which made more frequent ascents of Mt. Starr King possible. However, rubber soled shoes were in the process of development as early as the late 1800's. As time went on the U.S. Rubber Company came up with a shoe they first called Peds, but due to trademark issues an alternative name of Keds was selected and mass-marketed as Sneakers in 1917. The shoes were called Sneakers because every other type of shoe made noise when one walked, except moccasins.¹⁰ If one wonders what type of shoes were in vogue for mountaineering before rubber soled boots, a common type of footwear for the mountains was leather soled and heeled boots which had hobnails protruding from the bottoms. These gave excellent traction in the forest and on snow, but on Yosemite rock were not effective.

Dryer's assertion of second ascent was sure to generate a dispute. As mentioned earlier, Francis Farquhar wrote his article for the February 1932 issue of the Sierra Club Bulletin which clearly stated the first three ascents. In response to Dryer's assertion of "second ascent", Richard Leonard made this comment in the register referring to recent history:

6/28/32 ... I have heard of at least two climbs before 1931.

Believing what Dryer had written and without having read Farquhar's article, Boynton made a rebuttal to Leonard:

July 7, 1932 Judd Emery Boynton, 2800 Buena Vista Berkeley Calif

It is not true that this dome has been climbed prior to 1931 by anyone except the Anderson party. I have met several who have claimed to have climbed, but they never could answer questions put to them, and finally admitted they hadn't.

In answer to Boynton, Leonard gave these particulars a year later in their slow motion argument:

June 10, 1933 ...Mr. Vandervoort of Menlo Jr. College has been up twice around 1913 to 1916. Willard Grinnell of Berkeley claims an ascent around 1925.

¹⁰ <http://inventors.about.com/library/inventors/blshoe.htm>

Farquhar's article makes it impossible to rebut the ascent of Bayley and Schuyler which means Boynton and Dryer were wrong on at least one count, and therefore suspect on others. We may conclude that ascents made before the register was placed would be in the order below based on the written record which includes Leonard's comments, for Boynton did not say who he had interrogated:

1. Bayley, Schuyler, summer 1876
2. Anderson, Hutchings, 8/23/1877
3. Anderson, Hutchings, Sweetland, Walker, 8/24/1877
4. and 5. Vandervoort, 1913-1916
6. Grinnell, 1925
7. Loose, Dryer, 6/26/1931
8. Hopkins, 7/2/1931

The reader will note I give credence to Richard Leonard and Francis Farquhar. To understand their position in the climbing world, the following comes from the Sierra Club web site:¹¹

The use of the climbing rope energized the climbing community. A young law student named Richard Leonard organized a climbing club that practiced at Cragmont Rock in Berkeley; this group became the Rock Climbing Section of the San Francisco Bay Chapter [of the Sierra Club]. A similar section was formed in the Angeles Chapter. Soon members of the rock climbing sections were training for difficult technical ascents in Yosemite and at Tahquitz Rock in southern California.

A new generation of Club rock climbers appeared, including Leonard, Eichorn, David Brower, Raffi Bedayan, Morgan Harris, Bestor Robinson, and many others. Although Club members did not introduce the use of the rope to American climbers, they perfected its use, promoted safety in the sport, and raised the standards for technical climbing. By the mid-1930s they were pioneering routes up spires, walls, mountains, and towers previously thought unclimbable.

¹¹ <http://www.sierraclub.org/history/origins/chapter6.asp>

In 1934 Eichorn, Leonard, and Robinson climbed the Cathedral Spires in Yosemite, using pitons for the first time in the Sierra. The Club's Committee on Mountain Records began to compile a climbing guide to the Sierra, and the Sierra Club Decimal Rating System, developed at Tahquitz Rock by the Angeles Chapter Rock Climbing Section, soon became the American standard for determining the difficulty of rock climbs. The Club's *Bulletin* had been devoted primarily to literature about the exploration, enjoyment, and conservation of the Sierra; under the editorship of Francis Farquhar it also became the premier American mountaineering journal.

You will see many of the above names in the register as we go along.

In 1938 at age 30 Richard Leonard became a member of the Board of Directors of the Sierra Club and held that position for 35 years. The introduction to the Bancroft Library oral history interview with Leonard was written by Francis Farquhar who was also a President of the Sierra Club.

Famed early climbers Charles Michael and his wife Enid went up with a third party to climb Starr King in 1926. They were unsuccessful, perhaps owing to footwear. Enid wrote of the experience for the Stockton Record, and it is included in *The Joy of Yosemite: Selected Writings of Enid Michael, Pioneer Ranger Naturalist* edited by Fernando Peñalosa¹² who gave permission for its use here:

In the year 1915 Mr. Michael and I, when cutting cross country from Wawona to Lake Merced, came over Merced Pass and down Illilouette Canyon and at the Clark fork we took an old sheep trail which led us close to the south base of Mount Starr King. Having passed a short way beyond the dome we turned to look back and from where we stood it appeared that one might walk up the southeast slope of Starr King to the summit. On this occasion there was no time to attempt the climb, but we thought at some future date we should like to try it. During the early part of September 1926, we were spending a few days at Glacier Point and Starr King stood large and splendid, apparently very near. One afternoon

¹² Other books about Yosemite by Fernando Peñalosa include *Yosemite in the 1930's: a remembrance* and, *Shirley Sargent: Yosemite Historian*.

while we were looking at it, William Facio, the manager of the hotel, came by.

“You were looking at Starr King,” he said, “it is a beautiful peak.”

“We were thinking of walking over and trying to climb it,” Charles remarked.

“By all means try it,” said William, “if anyone can do it, you can. We went over there last year to try and climb it. You see that little dome, that pebble in front of Starr King, we went onto the top of that. It was 9:00 o’clock when we got there and we built a fire and made lots of smoke so that those left here could see where we were. Then we went



Charles Michael

From the DVD accompanying the book *The Joy of Yosemite: Selected Writings of Enid Michael* edited by Fernando Peñalosa

across the little valley that lies between the pebble and Starr King and came right up to the peak. When I stood there so close I could touch it. I said, ‘Oh, you beautiful Starr King.’ It seemed to me the most wonderful thing I had ever seen. Then we followed right around to the mountain at the edge of the trees and the brush. This brought us to a second dome connected to Starr King by a saddle and it was here we started up. We did not go far—it was too steep—and I said, ‘I might get up but how would I ever get down?’ I tell you what you should have, a pair of corrugated rubber pants and rubber pads for your elbows and your hands, then if you got up you might get down.”

“How did you return?” I said to William.

“We went around by Mono Meadows. It was endless; don’t come back that way.”

The following day, September 7, 1926 we left the hotel at 6:00 a.m. and with us was one of the students at summer’s nature school, a Mr.

Hershler. The Eleven Mile Trail down to Illilouette furnished an easy start for the walk to Starr King and crossing the stream a short distance above the bridge we headed up the slope taking the direction that we expected would bring us to Starr King. A long walk up the slope through the forest at length brought us out onto an open ridge. At our left was the “pebble,” and across a little valley the great dome of our hope rose boldly before us. Dropping a little we followed a saddle between the “pebble” and our ridge and came into the little valley. And now we could almost touch the bare and polished cliffs of Starr King. This close approach was more awesome than reassuring. Clean and flawless and supporting no living thing, in graceful and uniform curve, the vast side of the dome swept from the valley in which we stood.

“There is no climbing it from this side, that is plain enough to see,” Charles said.

“We hope it’s different on the other side,” I ventured.

“On some other side, at least,” said Mr. Hershler.

The little valley terminated in a pass which opened out into Starr King Meadows. Evidently the native mule deer had used this pass for years; trails from Illilouette converged here, and there were many parallel trails that were plainly worn by daily use. The tread of numberless seasons had cut them deep into the sand of the pass. They might have been cattle or sheep trails and the best of



Enid Michael

From the DVD accompanying the book *The Joy of Yosemite: Selected Writings of Enid Michael* edited by Fernando Peñalosa

them were as good as man-made trails. Yet there was no human footprint—the trails led into a wild country far from trails and seldom visited by man. Hundreds of deer, we thought must have passed this way every day, albeit, now not an animal was to be seen. The passageway of invisible herds was impressive on this quiet morning and in the forest that closed about us the only sound was the soft sighing of the wind in the red firs and mountain pines.

“The way has certainly opened out easily before us,” said Charles, “what luck, perhaps fate is tempting us on.”

“This easy course may be a bait,” observed Mr. Hershler, and we laughingly agreed with him.

“You talk silly,” was Charles’ comment, “when we get to the other side we’ll walk right up.”

“We hope so, oh we hope so.”

We worked around on the northwest side of the dome that is heavily forested for quite a distance up the slope. Before long we came to the upper limit of trees and onto the bare wall of the dome. Here the approach did not look so forbidding and we had a mind to try the mountain, from this side. We kept on, however, working around the mountain, clinging to our original plan of trying the southeast side, the approach that had interested us so many years ago. In the course of half an hour we reached the southeast side of the mountain and here we saw for the first time the saddle that connected Starr King with a second hump. The arrangement of the greater and lesser domes linked by a saddle is remindful of the great Half Dome and its lesser dome.

We at once turned our attention to the wall of the mountain and started to walk up just as Charles said we should. The granite, steep and bare of vegetation, was yet somewhat lumpy and Charles said, “We can walk pretty steep granite as long as it is rough as this is.”

The desirable roughness, we became painfully aware, thinned out as the wall stiffened its back and settled into a pitch of increasing steepness; no longer able to stand upright, we were forced to our knees. So, hitching and crawling upward, we made a ledge some fifty feet from the starting point in the saddle. Ranging about fifteen feet above was a portion of a great granite shell. Through the ages many of these shells or layers had lifted up from the surface and slid away to the base of the dome. The portion of the latest one to peel off lifted a wall-like ledge

above the granite some five feet through and extended 100 feet or more up the slope. It seemed to us that if we could reach this wall-like edge of the great shell fragment, we might be able to work up along it.

“I’m going to try for the wall,” said Charles, “and somebody should stay behind and try and catch me in case I start sliding.”

Neither Mr. Hershler nor I made any move to go farther. Squatting on the narrow ledge we anxiously watched Charles’ progress. Cautiously, using both hands and feet, he advanced, and much relieved were we when he reached the edge of the shell and got his arms over the top of the wall. He could look over the top of the wall and found it to be steeper than the portion of the slope where he was. Then up along the edge of the shell he worked his way for perhaps fifty feet. The wall was sleek and offered no hand holds, the pitch of the granite was awful and I could see that each step put him in a more dangerous position. Mindful of his right leg that was broken less than a year ago and is not yet as good as the left one, I became extremely anxious for his safety and commenced to ask him to return. Presently he decided that to go farther involved too great a risk and he turned about. In returning, the hazard was far greater than when going up—when walking up a steep slope the weight is on the feet; it is not so walking down; the weight is back, and when one is compelled to bend the knees and when it become still steeper one is compelled to sit down. Charles came carefully down, supporting himself the best he could by the sheer wall and arriving at the head of the open space, fifteen feet above us, he sat down.

“I don’t think I can stick to this,” he said, “be ready to stop me if you can.”

Mr. Hershler and I braced ourselves on the narrow ledge and waited. Charles commenced to move down, and watching keenly I could see that each time he tried to stop his feet slipped as though on a greased surface. Yet he was able to check his progress and in a few minutes was safe on the narrow ledge. We decided then that it was best to return to the saddle and from here ascend the lesser hump that we might look the mountain over. When seated on the hump we could see that the slope was more gentle on the south side. Below this more climbable slope lay great cliffs, however, and to reach it seemed not impossible. Masses of shell fragments that had weathered off still lay on this side. The concentric layers of granite that had been flaking off and sliding away from all sides

of the dome save the south side had not broken away from the summit of the dome. Here five or six concentric layers each appearing four or five feet thick had remained in position to form a crown. From our position the summit was visible and had there been a man-made monument of any size we could have seen it.

“Surely,” said I, “if any one had ever scaled that peak he would have left a monument. There are plenty of scattered fragments to erect a large one.”

“Nobody ever climbed this peak from this side without mechanical aid,” said Charles, “the angle of acclivity is as great or greater than that of Half Dome where the ladder goes up.”

“Had I had a corrugated seat for my trousers I would have more confidence about climbing up, as then my mind would be easy concerning the return.”

“It is better not to have too much confidence when considering such a climb as this. There is a slim chance that one might get to the top, but no chance at all of getting down—even William’s corrugated rubber trousers wouldn’t make it safe. I am quite satisfied to quit on this peak and I feel certain that it has never been climbed from this side without the aid of ropes and pegs.”

Charles had never quit on a mountain before and he seemed to be tickled that he had found one too difficult to climb and when I accused him of feeling pleased over our failure, it was true and it was good to have one peak in the park that defied a human climber. Charles could afford to feel gleeful inasmuch as he has a number of first ascents to his credit and two the Minarets and the Devil’s Crag, two peaks of which he made the first, and up to this time the only ascents. While I, with no first ascents on my calendar, could hardly sympathize with Charles, I looked longingly at the summit so plainly to be seen with its careless litter of stones.

I think success would have been more agreeable to Mr. Hershler than failure, too. At any rate, no audible sounds of joy came from him and presently he proposed that we walk to the other side and try it, as it was still early in the day.

Following this suggestion we retraced our steps and arriving on the northwest side of the peak we gave it our consideration. One thing in favor of this side was that the trees climbed much higher than on the

other. The last tree was a crouching fir and from this a rough ledge led up for about thirty feet. We took this ledge that had an almost vertical trend and this brought us onto a comfortable horizontal ledge.

“This seems to be a good stopping place,” I said.

“Oh, we can go farther, I am sure,” said Mr. Hershler, with an indefinite wave of his arm.

“That’s fine,” I said, “you demonstrate.”

“Oh, that is easy,” said he and started on while Charles and I watched. After about ten feet had been accomplished he paused and looked about.

“Can’t you go on?” said Charles.

“It’s too steep right ahead of me but over there is a crack with grass in it, if one could get up that perhaps one could work over and reach the next grassy crack.”

Charles walked up the granite to the crack in question. “It’s a bad place,” he said, “the crack breaks the wrong way, but I’ll try it.”

Charles was able to climb up beside the crack. However, the next few steps, leading from this position to the second crack were very bad. A square spike was stuck at the top of the crack where Charles was. “Some fellow,” he said, “got up this far and then stuck in this spike, tied a string to it and prayed that it would hold while he slid down. Now I’ll see if I can make it back without the string.” He took the spike and turning about commenced to dig into the crack. In this way he was able to make a little niche in which to cling and let himself down a short distance. Then again he dug out a finger-hold and came down a little farther. It was all he could do to make it, and it was with a big sigh of relief that he stepped onto the good foothold at the bottom of the crack.

“Don’t do it, Mr. Hershler, it’s too bad, remember you have a wife and child at home and it’s better to walk home than be carried on a bough.”

Mr. Hershler was not resigned; he said that he thought somebody might do it sometime. Nevertheless he consented to turn back with us and choosing a new route, we walked back to Glacier Point.

A few days after our return home from Glacier Point, Charles met Willard Grinnell.

“Last year I went over and climbed Starr King,” said Willard.

“It’s hard to believe,” said Charles, “which side did you go up?”

“The northwest side, it was easy. I had a girl with me. She slipped and that scared her and she refused to go farther. I ran up and down three times to show her how easy it was—there’s nothing to it.”

Since that time two mountain climbers have been to see Charles. Both had been over to try Starr King. Neither had succeeded, albeit both thought they would return some other time and climb it. Last year a man said that he had climbed the peak with his little girl. All this is interesting. To Starr King is long walk from any place of overnight’s entertainment, and it is pleasing to know that the next individual who successfully scales Mount Starr King, will erect a monument of such size that it can be seen from below. This will lend courage to others, who like me, have an ambition to conquer the peak.

From this point forward, each register page will be displayed accompanied by the same information in type and additional information, usually footnotes. The intent is to make the document easy to read, for one’s eyes may tire from pages with faded handwriting in different styles.



Mt. Starr King from space (Google)

DATE	NAME	ADDRESS	CITY OR TOWN	STATE
Fourth of July 1931				
7/4/31	Judd / Boyer	200 Buena Vista	Berkeley	Calif
	Eldon Dyer	815 E. Columbia	Pomona	Calif.
7/4/31	Warren Snow	R. 2 Box 333	Fortuna	Calif
		Up North Slope (45 minutes)		
7/23/31	John Embler	96 W. School Lane	Phila.	Pa
7/23/31	W.T. Frost "Jack"	2136 Grant St.	Berkeley	Calif
		Up north slope (25 minutes on granite)		
7/23/31	-12:20 PM	Ed Dordruff - Woody	Point	Mariposa Cal
		at first ledge on granite		
		80m on N. side 12 minutes - Used Craps sold by		
		Colt Anderson's Route		
		without pegs on 15 minutes - Top at 2:15 PM - Found		
		wooden wedges used by Capt. Anderson on way up. One		
		wedge in crevice in rock about 60' from S. saddle.		
		Ed Dordruff 7/24/31		
Aug	Ralph G. James	2001 Alston Hwy,	Berkeley	
7/7/31	Albert E. Peterson	2526 Dwight Ave, U.C. Zool.	Berkeley,	Calif.
7/9/31	Olewn Williams	YMCA - Berkeley,	Calif	
Sept-10 1931	S.A. (Bert) Herwell	Park	Naturalist	
	Yosemite. I came up with Carl			
	Thorne with Ranger Naturalist			

Fourth of July 1931

7/4/31 Judd Boynton¹³, 2800 Buena Vista Berkeley Calif

7/4/31 Eldon Dryer¹⁴, 815 E Columbia Pomona Calif

7/4/31 Warren Loose¹⁵, R2 Box 333 Fontana Calif

7/23/31 Up North Slope (45 minutes)

John Emlen¹⁶, 36 W. School Lane Phila. Pa

7/23/31 W.T. Frost “Jack”, 2136 Grant St. Berkeley Calif

Up North Slope (25 minutes on granite)

7/24/31 12:30pm EP Woodruff – Woody, Box B Manteca CA

Left Carl Hill age 16 at last ledge on granite. Down on N. side in 12 minutes (used crepe sole basketball shoes) skirted dome climbed up Capt. Anderson’s Route without pegs in 15 minutes. Top at 2:15pm. Found wooden wedges used by Capt. Anderson on way up. One wedge is in crevice in rock about 60 feet from South saddle. EP Woodruff 7/24/31

Aug Ralph A. James, 2001 Allston Way Berkeley Calif

7/9/31 Albert E. Peterson, 2526 Dwight Way Berkeley Calif. U.C. Zool.¹⁷

7/9/31 Owen L. Williams¹⁸, YMCA Berkeley Calif

Sept 10 1931 C. A. (Bert) Harwell¹⁹ Park Naturalist, Yosemite. I came up with Carl Sharsmith Ranger Naturalist [continued on next register page].

¹³ Boynton’s other ascents: July 7, 1932, July 24, 1933, July 15, 1934, July 6, 1935

¹⁴ Dryer also ascended Starr King on June 25, 1931

¹⁵ Warren Loose’s other ascents of Starr King: June 25, 1931, July 12, 1932

¹⁶ Emlen and Frost were naturalists in training at the Yosemite School of Field Natural History. Wilfred Frost was a San Francisco minister’s son.

¹⁷ Peterson was a 30 year old medical student at U.C. Berkeley

¹⁸ Owen Williams, U.C. Student, was also on the first ascent of the El Capitan Chimney route with Ethel Mae Hill and Gordon Patten on October 9-10, 1937. Sierra Club Bulletin, February 1940, p. 54. Williams also climbed Starr King on July 3, 1936.

¹⁹ Charles A. Harwell

Who were Dryer, Boynton and Loose? The first recorded ascent of Half Dome outside of the cables was in 1931²⁰ by Dryer and Boynton, so they were tested friction climbers. At this time Boynton was a college student in Ontario, California (Claremont Colleges are located there) as probably were Dryer and Loose by their addresses, and all three were likely Yosemite Park and Curry Company summer employees. How they were engaged to place the peak register is unknown.

Judd Boynton, 21 years old at the time of the ascent, came from an interesting family and was interviewed regarding his mother's dance activities for the oral history project at the Bancroft Library in Berkeley. The interview is fascinating reading for the student of history, dance and the Bohemians, but it does not touch on mountaineering.²¹ He had training in dance and was probably strong and had excellent balance. The address he wrote in the register is that of the "Temple of Wings", at that time the large Boynton family residence and location of his mother's dance studio. It was far up the Berkeley hills on the north side of the University of California campus and within a short distance of both Cragmont Rock and Indian Rock. The Temple had no doors and the family would sleep on mattresses which were gathered up and moved to the side so Judd's mother could teach dance there during the day.

Dryer was 18 at the time of the ascent. Later in life he owned patents and had a Malibu address, so he was probably a successful man. Warren Loose, 20, came from Mono County, California east of Yosemite National Park.

With the preliminaries over the race begins! Emlen and Frost climbed the dome in 45 minutes, Woodruff in 25 minutes, and then 15 minutes. As register entries go on, references to quickness of ascent will be found, not only of ascending the granite dome but also including the approach from either Yosemite Valley or the Glacier Point Road.

Woodruff climbed the summit dome by both routes within a couple of hours while leaving his partner waiting at the base of the northeast side. Woodruff used crepe soled shoes for friction climbing instead of Keds. Both shoes give good adherence

²⁰ Sierra Club Bulletin, February 1940, p. 53

²¹ http://bancroft.berkeley.edu/ROHO/collections/subjectarea/artslit/music_dance.html

to the rock for friction climbing. New crepe soles are slightly sticky. The dates on this page are scrambled, and the likely explanation is that a blank area was left on the page and later filled in.



Mt. Clark from Mt. Starr King

recorded so far in this book
to Frances Farquhar for
Sierra Club records.

Please report at Museum,
Yosemite the record of your
climb. Carl & I are on way
to Mt Clark will climb it
"par mañana". See the
red rock 1 mile N. of Clark on
Clark ridge? About 100, sediment
rock there. We are taking in
specimens of that rock.
Safe journey down!!

Carl Sharnick - milk - Bert. H. ~~et al~~
(turn over next blank page for)
panorama.

[Harwell and Sharsmith's 9/10/1931 entry continued]

[We will send ascents] recorded so far in this book to Francis Farquhar for Sierra Club records. Please Report at Museum, Yosemite for the record of your climb. Carl and I are on way to Mt. Clark will climb it "por mañana" [by tomorrow]. See the red rock one mile north of Clark on Clark ridge? About 10 acres sedimentary rock there. We are taking in specimens of that rock. Safe journey down!!

Carl Sharsmith – with – Bert H. (turn over next blank page for panorama)

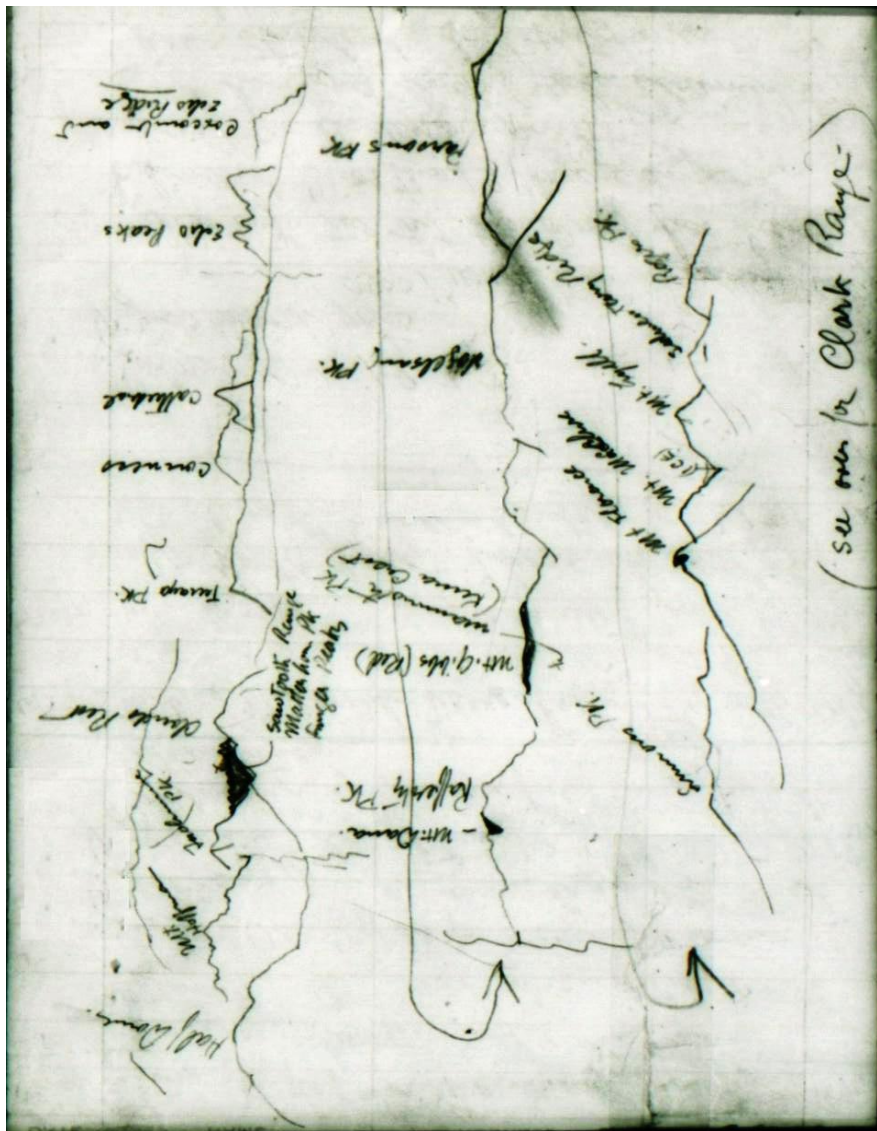
The National Park Service was formed in 1916, and Yosemite was part of its jurisdiction. Staff were assigned to investigate park features in order to interpret them for visitors. Harwell's entry indicates that wind, water and ice did not completely scrape the softer overlaying rock from the granite. A small patch of sedimentary rock remained on a granite ridge at 9,000 feet above sea level. This was geological documentation that the park area was once covered by sedimentary rock and therefore at a much lower elevation. The mountains were uplifted as a block and then glaciated to remove all but a trace of the original covering. In the 1960's we would learn plate tectonics caused the uplift.

Harwell became park naturalist in 1929. He resigned in 1940 to take a position with the Audubon Society. Sharsmith, a seasonal ranger, took time while on the summit to identify the surrounding peaks for later visitors by drawing panorama profiles to the north and east.

The summer of 1931 was Sharsmith's first year of employment while he attended school at U.C.L.A. Sharsmith graduated in 1933 and continued his education at Berkeley where he received his PhD.²² Sharsmith's name appears in Richard Leonard's 1933 notes on members of the Sierra Club Rock Climbing Section in Berkeley.²³ Sharsmith worked as a seasonal ranger for 25 years after graduation and later while employed as a professor at several universities during his career.

²² Wikipedia is a good start for information about Carl Sharsmith

²³ Yosemite Climbing Association at <http://yosemiteclimbing.org/>



(see over for Clark Range)

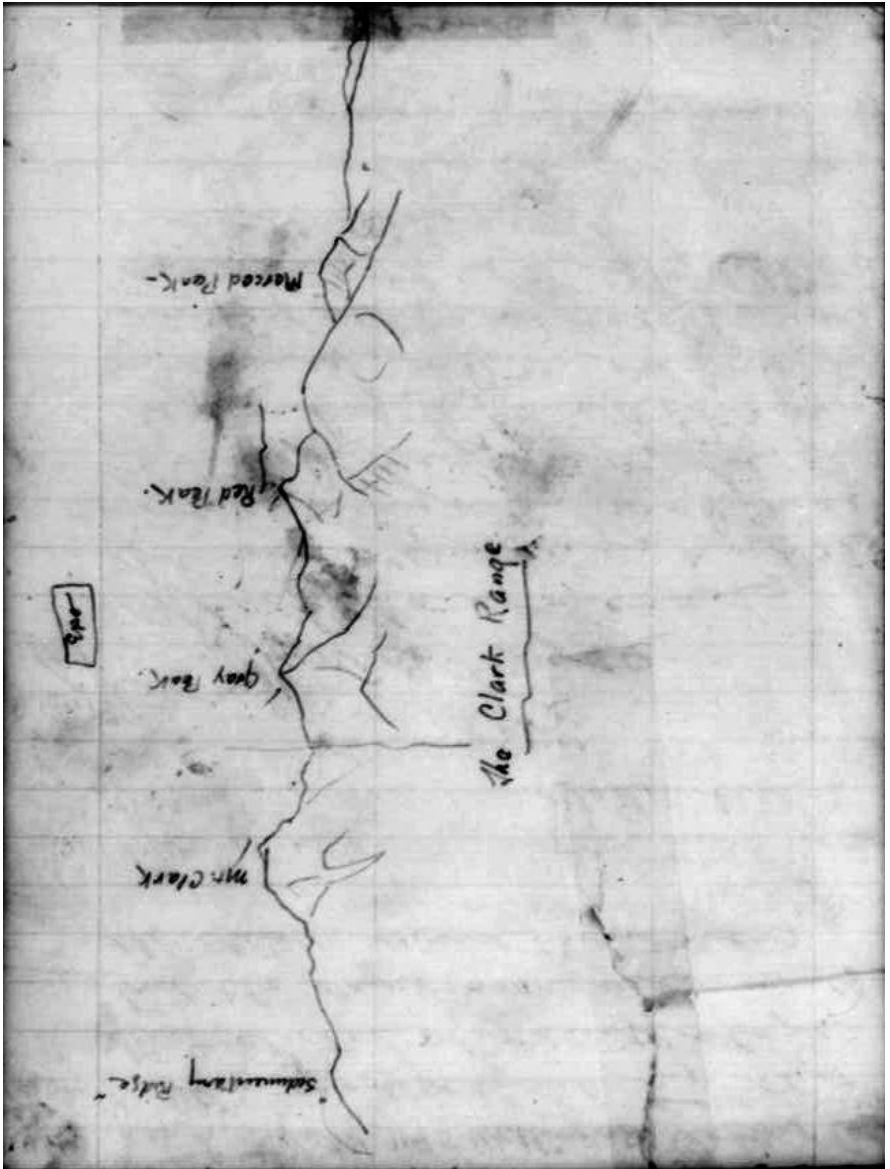
Sharsmith's First Panorama. The order of peaks is as follows:

Top row - Half Dome, Mt. Hoffmann, Tuolumne Peak, **Sawtooth Range**, **Matterhorn Peak**, **Finger Peaks**, Clouds Rest, Tenaya Peak, Mt. Conness, Cathedral Peak, Echo Peaks, Coxcomb and Echo Ridge.

Middle row - : **Mt. Dana**, Rafferty Peak, **Mt. Gibbs (Red)**, **Mammoth Peak (Kuna Crest)**, Vogelsang Peak, Parsons Peak.

Bottom row – Simmons Peak, Mt. Florence, Mt. McClure, Mt. Lyell, sedimentary ridge, Rodger Peak.

The sedimentary ridge was the goal of the rangers. The bolded names refer to darkened areas on the drawing which are in the far distance.



Sharsmith's Second Panorama. The annotations for the Clark Range are, left to right, sedimentary ridge, Mt. Clark (see page 40), Gray Peak, Red Peak, Merced Peak. The sedimentary ridge is the location to which the rangers were headed.

On Anderson and Hutchings' ascent of the peak in 1877, Anderson used homemade moccasins which had been soaked in turpentine (paint thinner) to make them sticky and therefore better for friction climbing, that is, climbing where the rock is of relatively low angle but there are not many holds. Although an ingenious idea, the turpentine may have made the feet burn a bit. On June 22, 1932 (next page) Louis Petroff, tried another means of adhesion: Pine sap. One would imagine the stickiness would prevent falling or sliding down, but it may have made moving up difficult. As Petroff said, "Used sap (rosin) from yellow pine on hands and shoes to stick! It stuck!" Although Petroff says he is Bulgarian, he appears on the voting rolls in Los Angeles in 1928. Petroff's partner, Bob Swenson, went barefooted to get better traction on the granite. If one could control it, feet with slight perspiration would work best. These interesting techniques have been obviated by the climbing shoes and boots of today.

DATE	NAME	ADDRESS	CITY OR TOWN	STATE
7/30/32	Leinz Petroff	(outland) U.S.C. Streets	Los Angeles	Calif.
	Climbed together with the Andersons. Climbed from the North side. Used sap (resin) from yellow pine on hands and shoes to stick to steep 100 ft.			
8/21/32	Bob Lawson	1100 W. Ocean St. Stockton, Calif.	Stockton	Calif.
	Member of the Pacific Patrol			
6/25/32	Richard M. Howard-Diers	Club -	Berkeley	Calif.
8/10/32	Robert A. Ray	herb naturalist	Berkeley	Calif.
4/28/32	H. B. Blanks	herb naturalist	Berkeley	Calif.
	Up North face - I have heard of at least 2 climbs before 1931			
July 7 1932				
J. J. Emerson, Boynton				
	2200 Buena Vista	Berkeley	Calif.	
It is not true that this Dome has been climbed prior to 1931 by anyone except the Anderson party.				
I have met several who claimed to have climbed, but they never could answer the questions put to them, and finally admitted they hadn't.				

1932

- 6/22/1932 Louis Petroff, (Bulgaria) USC student Los Angeles Calif. Climbed together with the undersigned. Climbed from the north side. Used sap (rosin) from yellow pine on hands and shoes to stick! It stuck!
- 6/22/32 Bob Swenson, 1170 W Acacia St. Stockton, Calif. Climbed barefooted; member of the Kodiak Patrol²⁴.
- 6/28/32 Richard M. Leonard²⁵ – Sierra Club – Berkeley Calif.
- 6/28/32 Robert D. Ray, Scout Naturalist, Berkeley Calif²⁶
- 6/28/32 H.B. Blanks²⁷, Scout Naturalist, CCC, Berkeley Calif
[Leonard writes] Up North face – I have heard of at least two climbs before 1931.
- July 7, 1932 Judd Emery Boynton²⁸, 2800 Buena Vista Berkeley Calif. It is not true that this dome has been climbed prior to 1931 by anyone except the Anderson party. I have met several who have claimed to have climbed, but they never could answer questions put to them, and finally admitted they hadn't.

The initials CCC refer to the Cragmont Climbing Club, founded by Richard Leonard in March 1932 and named for the park in north Berkeley where many early Sierra Club rock climbers practiced. The climbers from Berkeley formed the vanguard for ascents in Yosemite at the time, and a number of climbers gave

²⁴ Four Eagle Scouts of the Kodiak Patrol-Jack Dozier, 18; Bill Dozier,18; Thomas Mann, 18; and Bob Swenson, 17, all Eagle Scouts from Stockton, climbed Clyde Minaret from the east on Aug 2, 1933 the same day Walter Starr disappeared.

²⁵ Leonard's other ascent was on June 10, 1933

²⁶ The Ray family lived on Colusa Avenue in Berkeley, a short walk up Solano Avenue and the Indian Rock Path to the local climbing practice area at Indian Rock.

²⁷ Herbert Blanks was also on the first ascent of the West Face of the Lower Brother on 10/21/34 with Boynton Kaiser and Elliot Sawyer. Sierra Club Bulletin, February 1940, page 54. The trio also made the second ascent of the Higher Cathedral Spire.

Blanks lived within a quarter of a mile of Indian Rock Park in Berkeley.

²⁸ Boynton's other ascents: July 4, 1931, July 24, 1933, July 15, 1934, July 6, 1935

CCC as their affiliation. The same initials for the Depression era also commonly refer to the Civilian Conservation Corps, a job creation organization of the Federal Government. However, this organization was not formed until after Franklin Roosevelt became President in January 1933. All designations of CCC in the Mt. Starr King register appear to have been associated with the Cragmont Climbing Club as the addresses of climbers putting CCC by their names are from cities on the east side of the San Francisco Bay.

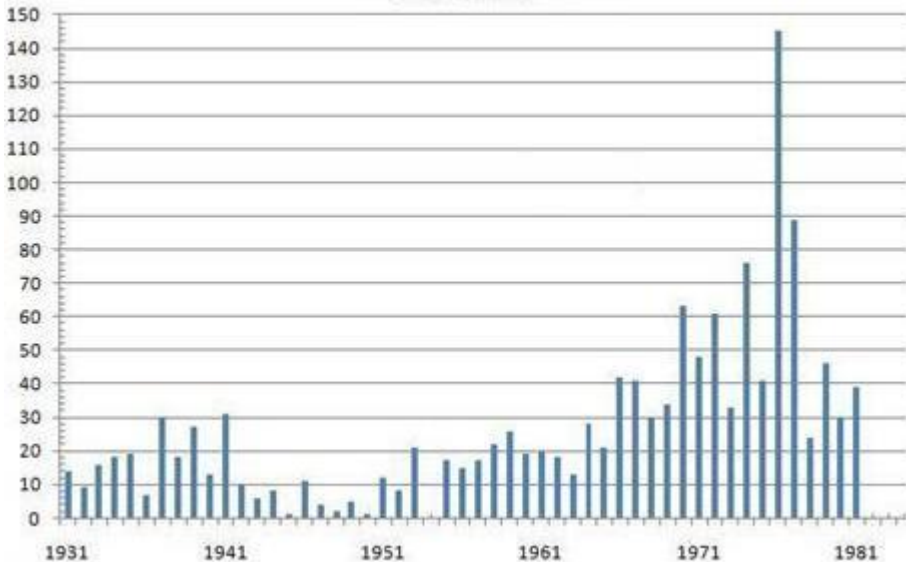
The registers give us a chance to say something about climbers and climbing by compiling data from the entries. The first chart is of the number of people who ascended Mt. Starr King by year from 1931-1981. The data is graphed on the next page.

Year	Ascents	1948	2	1966	42
1931	14	1949	5	1967	41
1932	9	1950	1	1968	30
1933	16	1951	12	1969	34
1934	18	1952	8	1970	63
1935	19	1953	21	1971	48
1936	7	1954	0	1972	61
1937	30	1955	17	1973	33
1938	18	1956	15	1974	76
1939	27	1957	17	1975	41
1940	13	1958	22	1976	145
1941	31	1959	26	1977	89
1942	10	1960	19	1978	24
1943	6	1961	20	1979	46
1944	8	1962	18	1980	30
1945	1	1963	13	1981	39
1946	11	1964	28		
1947	4	1965	21		

The data seems to make little sense in some areas, and this is because social events, World War II, the Korean War, the environmental movement, the Bicentennial, the 100th year anniversary of the first ascent, the increasing popularity of rock climbing - each has had an influence. In a couple of years register pages were removed which cut the count of climbers. By how much remains a mystery.

The legendary drug plane crash at Lower Merced Pass Lake in the winter of 1976-77 led many climbers to hike the trail out of Yosemite Valley to Lower Merced Pass Lake. The trail goes by Mt. Starr King which I hypothesized might have led some of the climbers who salvaged dope from the Lockheed Loadstar to make a side trip. It does not appear to be the case as two Sierra Club groups added 34 people to the total for the year, and they were not up there for the weed.

**Number of Climbers Ascending Mt. Starr King by Year
1931-1981**



The lowest years are centered on World War II and the Korean War years, and the highest year is the Bicentennial.

DATE	NAME	ADDRESS	CITY OR TOWN	STATE
July 1932	Jan S. Husted	1145 Wellington	Oakland	Calif.
	It's a good climb up that first stretch of granite slope but the panorama was worth the climb several times over.			
July 12-32	Miriam Baynton	280 Bunnell	Berkeley	Calif.
	A great climb and am glad I made it. More power to you.			
July 14/32	Warren Loose			
	Well here we are, blisters sunburn and all. Miss Baynton and Miss Husted ought to be proud of their achievement. I'm third and second woman in 54 years, respectively to gain the top of this rock pile.			
	Personally it looks the same as last summer to me.			
	We climbed north slope about 4 1/2 hours from 2 o'clock (granite) to 3			

July 7, 1932 Jean L. Husted²⁹, 1145 Wellington St. Oakland Calif. It's a good climb up that first stretch of granite slope but the panorama was worth the climb several times over.

July 12, 1932 Miriam Boynton,³⁰ 2800 Buena Vista Way Berkeley Calif. A great climb and am glad I made it. More power to you.

July 12, 1932 Warren Loose³¹. Well here we are, blisters sunburn and all. Miss Boynton and Miss Husted ought to be proud of their achievement, third and second women in 54 years, respectively, to gain the top of this rock pile. Personally it looks the same as last summer to me. We climbed notch slope, about four hours from Valley (Yosemite).

²⁹ May be spelled Jeane in other documents. She also climbed Starr King on September 2, 1933.

³⁰ An older sister of Judd Boynton (July 4, 1931, July 7, 1932, July 24, 1933, July 15, 1934, July 6, 1935).

³¹ Warren Loose's other ascents of Starr King: June 25, 1931, July 4, 1931

DATE	NAME	ADDRESS	CITY OR TOWN	STATE
6/10/33	Pickens & Bennett	Sierra Club - CCC	Berkeley	Calif
6/10/33	Robert Robinson	" San Alpo Club	Chico	Calif
6/10/33	Henry S. Bann	Appalachian Nat Club	Hartford	Conn
6/10/33	Levo F. Clark	Sierra Club - CCC	Alameda	Calif
6/10/33	Oliver & Schuler	" " San Alpo Club	Colusa	Calif

Up the rock gully from the
 Millwright side (south) to the notch at
 the base of Capt Anderson's route. An
 easy climb up this route to summit.
 We will go ~~down~~ the north face,
 towards the Valley, thus making the traverse.

Mr. Vanhook of Mills Jr
 College has been up twice around
 1993 to 1916. Willard Grinnell of
 Berkeley claims an ascent around
 1925.

From [unclear]

1933

- 6/10/33 Richard M. Leonard³², Sierra Club-CCC Berkeley Calif
6/10/33 Bestor Robinson³³, Sierra Club Am Alp Club³⁴ Oakland
6/10/33 Henry S Bens, Appalachian Mt Club Hartford Conn
6/10/33 Lewis F. Clark³⁵, Sierra Club – CCC Alameda Calif
6/10/33 Oliver Kehrlein³⁶, Sierra Club, Am Alpine Club, Oakland Calif

[In Leonard's hand] Up the rock gully from the Illilouette side (South) to the notch at the base of Capt. Anderson's route. An easy climb up this route to the summit. We will go down the north face, towards the Valley, thus making the traverse.

Mr. Vandervoort of Menlo Jr. College has been up twice around 1913 to 1916. Willard Grinnell of Berkeley claims an ascent around 1925.
Sierra Club

Richard Leonard and Bestor Robinson are on this climb together. In 1934 they would join Jules Eichorn for the first ascent of the Cathedral Spires, milestones in Yosemite rock climbing. Robinson was also with Brower on the first ascent of Shiprock.

In a rare bit of luck, Michael Rettie found old photographs made by Lewis F. Clark at a garage sale in Alameda,³⁷ and Michael graciously gave permission for them to be used here. First, Lewis F. Clark at home in Alameda, a desperate looking character who one day would be the President of the Sierra Club. He has a bandana and a Sierra Club cup on his belt, and in his hand he is holding a day pack.

³² Leonard's other ascent was on June 28, 1932

³³ Bestor Robinson had a distinguished life both in the mountains and out. Wikipedia has an article on him.

³⁴ American Alpine Club, a national organization dedicated to mountaineering.

³⁵ Clark also ascended the peak on May 29, 1934.

³⁶ Kehrlein was honored by the Sierra Club for his work in organizing outings by having an award named for him, the Oliver Kehrlein Award for Outings Leadership

³⁷ The story is on Supertop.com



Credit: Michael Rettie

Second, a shot of three people at Cragmont Park in Berkeley. Richard Leonard is on the right, the two on the left are not identified.



Credit: Michael Rettie

DATE	NAME	ADDRESS	CITY OR TOWN	STATE
	July 24 1933			
	Judd Emery Boynton		Berkeley Cal.	
	Third ascent.			
U.S.C	Richard Dyer - Bennett	YY	Berkeley Cal.	
	my first ascent			
U.S.C	Lynn B Wright	DTD	Oakland Cal.	
U.S.C	Stan Mc Charles		Berk. Cal.	
Sept 2, 1933	Kenneth May	Party from annual outing of Rock Climbing Section of the Sierra Club		Berkeley
		North Face.		
	Chot Sawyer	(Party of 6/10/33 descended as stated)		
	Jean P. Husted	U.C.	Oakland Cal.	

July 24 1933 Judd Emery Boynton³⁸, Berkeley Cal. Third ascent
U of C³⁹ Richard Dyer-Bennet Berkeley Cal. Psi Upsilon My first ascent
U of C Lyn R. Wright⁴⁰ Delta Tau Delta Oakland Cal.
U of C Alan McCharles Berk. Cal.⁴¹

Sept 2, 1933 Kenneth May CCC Party from annual Berkeley outing of Rock
Climbing Section of the Sierra Club. Nord Face.
Elliot Sawyer⁴² CCC, Berkeley (Party of 6/10/33 descended as stated).
Jean L. Husted⁴³ CCC U.C. Oakland Cal

We see Boynton (July 24, 1933) is making multiple ascents, up to his third, and Jean Husted is on her second, although not so annotated. The September 2, 1933 entry by Jean Husted giving “CCC” as her affiliation is the last “CCC” to be seen in the register. In 1975 Leonard stated that the CCC was disbanded in 1932 and merged with the Sierra Club Rock Climbing Section (SCRCS)⁴⁴, but he was off by a year based on both Husted’s entry and his own of June 10, 1933.

The next register page is difficult to read, but it is one of the best entries written. It is of a young man roaming about on his own and climbing a route isolated from any possible help in the event of an accident and doing so in questionable footwear. But he had a guardian angel...

³⁸ Boynton’s other ascents: July 4, 1931, July 7, 1932, July 15, 1934, July 6, 1935

³⁹ The University of California at Berkeley is often abbreviated U of C or U.C.

⁴⁰ Wright also ascended Starr King on July 15, 1934, Jul 20, 1937, June 25, 1955, October 13, 1956, June 1, 1957, June 21, 1958 and June 25, 1960.

⁴¹ McCharles lived about a mile south of Cragmont Park in Berkeley. His other ascents of Starr King: June 11, 1934, July 15, 1934, July 1, 1935, July 6, 1935, August 17, 1935, June 30, 1936, July 20, 1937, July 23, 1937, June 25, 1955.

⁴² Sawyer was also on the first ascent of the West Face of the Lower Brother on 10/21/34 with Boynton Kaiser and H.B. Blanks. Sierra Club Bulletin, February 1940, page 54. The trio also made the second ascent of the Higher Cathedral Spire.

⁴³ Husted’s other Starr King ascent was on July 7, 1932.

⁴⁴ <http://www.archive.org/stream/richardmountain01leonrich#page/n69/mode/2up>

9/3/33 Carl J. Richofsky U.S.B.P.R. 321 South 7th St Richmond Calif

Evelyn Howard my precious guardian angel was with me in spirit. My time [on the dome] was around 35 minutes. I took that ledge slab around to the north and was I blue. I almost lost my nerve as I slipped and slid approximately twenty feet, not fast but was my face red. I marked my route in blue heel. This summer in May I did Half Dome and was it raining but the top it was like dear old S.F. fog. I came down a canyon that can be seen from here. Just to the left of the Dome on the left. Very steep at times. I climbed onto trees to get down. Came out near Vernal Falls on the North side. I used Tennis shoes to climb this. They were borrowed from Brad Claussen, Eagle Rock, Calif (Stanford). He wears tens and I fives so one shoe would of been enough. Try Mt. Talbot or Mt Rose at Tahoe. Write to me please. I tried Half Dome, Ledge Trail, El Capitan, Eagle Peak, Yosemite Falls, North Dome, Basket Dome, Sentinel Dome, Vernal, Illilouette, Nevada Falls. All along the rim from the top of Bridalveil Falls to Sentinel Dome. It's very windy at times. I thought it would blow me off the granite face. Happy Landing. Carl Richofsky. U.S.B.P.R.

U.S.B.P.R. stands for the United States Bureau of Public Roads, a forerunner of the Federal Highway Administration. In 1931 the U.S.B.P.R. had a camp at 7,000 feet on Bridalveil Creek in Yosemite National Park to make a survey for a modern paved road to Glacier Point.⁴⁵ The camp was a small affair consisting of five tents, two for living, one for office work, and two for the mess facilities, dining, cooking and storage. The improvement of roads and facilities was high on the list of activities for the Park Superintendent, Charles Goff Thomson.

The public record shows that Carl J. Richofsky was born in 1907. Carl R. Richofsky was born December 15, 1938, and his mother's maiden name was given as Howard.

⁴⁵ <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/infrastructure/blazer19.cfm> From a history of US Dept of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration web site.

DATE	NAME	ADDRESS	CITY OR TOWN	STATE
Sept. 15, 1933	Roland Heath	1245 Oak St.	San Francisco	Calif
"	Paul Sikora	3510-18 th St.	San Francisco	Calif
"	Victor Laquea	3339 Solom St.	San Francisco	Calif
<p>The above party of 3 have completed a 2 weeks knapsacking trip thru the south section of the Park. Including Buck Camp, Royal Arch Lake, Ostrander Lake, Glacier Pt., via Merced trail to Ottaway creek, to Breze Lake, via Fernandez Pass to Isberg Lake. ^{from Solom} by Post ^{Solom} Lake pass, to top of Half Dome in one day by way of the Washburn Lake and Merced Lake. Carried a knapsack load of Red Fir bark to top of Half Dome that night and had a fire fall of our own. ^{Witness to this} is fire fall push over man at Glacier Pt. In making our ascend of Starr King we came up the South East slope probably the one used by Capt Anderson but we did not know it at the time. The climb was not so bad as one makes it sound although one must use strategy. We used the ordinary Rubber composition soled shoes with exceptional results. Now to go down by the North slope. Oh for Jimmie Durantee now.</p>				

The Firefall, a Yosemite tradition started in 1872 and ended in 1968, consisted of burning embers being pushed off Glacier Point. In the following entry the climbers mention that they made a special Firefall from Half Dome before coming over to scale Mt. Starr King.

9/15/1933 Roland Heath, 1245 Oak St San Francisco Calif

Paul Sikora, 3510 18th St San Francisco Calif

Victor Sagues, 339 Folsom St San Francisco Calif

The above party of 3 have completed a 2 weeks knapsacking trip thru the south section of the park. Including Buck Camp, Royal Arch Lake, Ostrander Lake, Glacier Point, via Merced Trail to Ottaway Creek, to Breeze Lake via Fernandez Pass to Isberg Lake by Post Peak Pass, from Isberg Lake to top of Half Dome in one day by way of the Washburn Lake and Merced Lake. Carried a knapsack load of Red Fir back to top of Half Dome that night and had a firefall of our own. Witness to this is fire fall push over man at Glacier Pt. In making our ascent of Starr King we came up the South East slope probably the one used by Capt. Anderson but we did not know it at the time. The climb was not as bad as one makes it sound although one must use strategy. We used the ordinary rubber composition sole shoes with exceptional results. Now to go down by the north slope. Oh for Jimmie Durante's nose.⁴⁶

⁴⁶ Jimmie Durante was a comedian who was known for his prominent nose. Why one would be wishing for this at the moment is an interesting question.

PLEASE DO NOT USE MORE SPACE NECESSARY

DATE	NAME	ADDRESS	CITY OR TOWN	STATE
5-29-34	Lewis F. Clark	5 Dine Club, Iron. Alpine Club 1344 Day St	Kamada	Calif
5-29-34	Jerome Cramer	2528 Broadway	San Francisco	Calif
"	Charles W. Morse	SICRRA CLUB 1912 Rose St.	Berkeley	Calif
5-29-34	Adrian A. Wakhlandt	STURRA CLUB 320 AD. WILSON	BERKELEY	Calif
5-29-34	Don Morison	Mountaineer (Kettle) 80 Post	San Francisco	Calif
5-29-34	Edward L. Pamer	1912 Rose St	Berkeley	Calif

— Above party of 6 came up Anderson's route from SE saddle using 2 ropes of 120 feet each - for safety. Standing same route to our camp on plateau to north. ^{by coming in -}

July 15, 1934
 Alan Mc Charles - 255 Hilgard - Berk, Calif
 2nd record ascent along

July 15, 1934 Sunday

Judd Emery, Rogator fourth ascent Berkeley Calif

U.C. Lynn R Wright $\Delta T \Delta$
 Univ. of Calif - 36

T. to loose hangs high Oakland.
 Alan Mc Charles - 3rd ascent
 U.C. - 36
 no ropes.

1934

After the preceding two pages of chatty entries, the humorless ask that climbers follow the rules:

PLEASE DO NOT USE MORE SPACE [THAN] NECESSARY

5-29-34 Lewis F. Clark⁴⁷, Sierra Club, American Alpine Club, 1349 Bay St
Alameda Calif

5-29-34 Jerome Cramer, 2528 Broadway San Francisco Calif

5-29-34 Charles W. Mors, Sierra Club, 1912 Rose St Berkeley Calif

5-29-34 Adrian A. Wahlander, Sierra Club, 320 Armington Berkeley Calif

5-29-34 Dean Morrison, Mountaineers (Seattle), 80 Post San Francisco Calif

5-29-34 Edward L. Ramer, 1912 Rose St Berkeley Cal

Above party of six came up Anderson's Route from SE saddle using two ropes of 120 feet each for safety. Descending same route to our camp on plateau to north. Fog coming in.

6/11/34 Alan D. McCharles⁴⁸, 2568 Hilgard Berkeley Calif, UC '36, second ascent – alone

July 15, 1934 Sunday

Judd Emery Boynton⁴⁹ fourth ascent Berkeley Calif

Lyn R Wright⁵⁰ Delta Tau Delta Univ of Calif – '36 The Goose hangs high Oakland.

Alan D. McCharles⁵¹ – 3rd ascent U.C. – 36 no ropes

⁴⁷ Clark also ascended the peak on June 10, 1933

⁴⁸ His other ascents of Starr King: July 24, 1933, July 15, 1934, July 1, 1935, July 6, 1935, August 17, 1935, June 30, 1936, July 20, 1937, July 23, 1937, June 25, 1955.

⁴⁹ Boynton's other ascents: July 4, 1931, July 7, 1932, July 24, 1933, July 6, 1935

⁵⁰ Wright also ascended Starr King on July 24, 1933, Jul 20, 1937, June 25, 1955, October 13, 1956, June 1, 1957, June 21, 1958 and June 25, 1960.

⁵¹ His other ascents of Starr King: July 24, 1933, June 11, 1934, July 1, 1935, July 6, 1935, August 17, 1935, June 30, 1936, July 20, 1937, July 23, 1937, June 25, 1955.

DATE	NAME	ADDRESS	CITY OR TOWN	STATE
7-19-34	W.C. Augustine	Yosemite Natl. Park (Forest Technician)		
	(Out-type mapping so climbed this en-route)			
7-19-34	Les Blair	National Park Service	Berkeley	Calif
7-20-34	Walter K. Newell	1605 Laguna Street	Berkeley	Calif
	"FLAMM"	570 5TH. SUC - V2		31'32'33'34'
		↑ up Nat. 15 minutes		over flag
7/20/34	J. Adrian Palquist	U.C. '34	Berkeley	Calif
	(Bud) looking for a Stair B.A.			
	FLAG HOISTED ON 7/20/34			
	BY FLAMM & BUD			
	IS IT STILL THERE?			
7/29/34	YES.			
7/1/35	Clyde Lane (qu.)	U.C. '35, 1022-9	S.F.	Calif
	Alan D. McCharles (4th ascent)			
	1st party this year, U.C. '36			
7/1/35	Helen Mc Donald	U.C. '36	Pinole	Calif
	first climbing with ropes.			
	Clyde B. Lane (second ascent)			
	Flag is still here			
	Alan D. Mc Charles (5th ascent)			
	Judith Bogator Berkeley Calif.			
	Fifth ascent.			

7-19-34 W.B.Augustine, Yosemite Nat'l. Park (Forest Technician)
(Out type mapping⁵² so climbed this en-route)

7-19-34 Ted Plair, National Park Service Berkeley Calif

7-20-34 Holbrook K. Newell, 1605 Argonne Stockton. "Flamo" (Std Stn⁷⁵³ INC-
V2 31'32'33'34)

7-20-34 J.Adrian Palmquist, UC '34 Berkeley Calif Up north 15 minutes – our
flag – no ropes nothing (Bud) Looking for a steel bar!
FLAG HOISTED ON 7/20/34 BY "FLAMO" & "BUD"
Is it still there?

7/29/34 Yes⁵⁴

1935

7/1/35 Clyde Lane⁵⁵ (girl) N.C. '35 1222 8th Ave S.F. Calif
Alan D. McCharles⁵⁶ (4th ascent). 1st party this year. UC '36

7/6/35⁵⁷ Helen McDonald U.C. '36 Pinole Calif. First climbing with ropes.
Clyde B. Lane (second ascent). Flag is still here.
Alan D. McCharles⁵⁸ (5th ascent)
Judd Boynton⁵⁹ Berkeley Calif. Fifth ascent.

⁵² Type mapping refers to determining the vegetative cover of an area.

⁵³ Standard Oil (Chevron) gas station in Yosemite Valley.

⁵⁴ The names for this entry, "Yes", are on the following page in the register.

⁵⁵ A sometimes American naming tradition is to make a child's first name the maternal family surname and the last name that of the paternal family surname. Some come out well, but others lead to possible confusion. Lane also climbed Starr King on July 5, 1935.

⁵⁶ His other ascents of Starr King: July 24, 1933, June 11, 1934, July 15, 1934, August 17, 1935, June 30, 1936, July 20, 1937, July 23, 1937, June 25, 1955.

⁵⁷ This entry is duplicated on the next page of the register because the signers realized they were out of date order. The dates present an interesting problem.

⁵⁸ See 7/1/1935 on this page.

⁵⁹ Boynton's other ascents: July 4, 1931, July 7, 1932, July 24, 1933, July 15, 1934

DATE	NAME	ADDRESS	CITY or TOWN	STATE
7/29/34	P. M. Wolfe	2082 Simons St.	San Francisco	Calif.
7/29/34	W. Collier	333 Diane St.	Fresno	Calif.
8/15/34	SCHWARTZ SCHWARZMANN	5649 PRYAL ST.	OAKLAND	CALIF.
8/15/34	Harj. Jackson	5937 Shafter Ave	Oakland	Calif.
<p>July 5 1935 Built Big Cañon on Summit Top.</p> <p>Judd Boynton 5th ascent Helen McDonald 1st ascent Clyde B. Lane 2nd ascent Don & M. Charles 5th ascent</p> <p>August 11th, 1935 Climbed from southeast saddle - took our time and liked it -</p> <p>David R. Browner RGS, SC Clark Linn, Yosemite + Tacoma WA Robert B. Flanders Stanford + New Parkland TX</p> <p>Up south and down north routes</p>				

7/29/34 B.M. Wolfe, 2082 Lime Ave Long Beach Calif.

7/29/34 H.O. Collier III, 333 Diana St Fresno Calif

8/15/34 Everett Schwarzmann, 5669 Pryal St Oakland Calif

8/15/34 Geo. J. Jackson, 5937 Shafter Ave Oakland Calif

July 5 1935⁶⁰ Built Big Carien [sic] on Summit Top

Judd Boynton 5th Ascent

Helen McDonald 1st ascent

Clyde B. Lane⁶¹ 2nd ascent

Alan D. McCharles 5th ascent

August 11th, 1935 Climbed from southeast saddle – took our time and liked it.

David R Brower⁶², RCS, SC

Jack Tarr, Yosemite and Tacoma Washington

Robert B. Sanders⁶³ Stanford and Pasadena Calif

Up south and down north routes.

David Brower makes his first appearance in the register on August 11, 1935. Brower would become the first salaried Executive Director of the Sierra Club and be involved in conservation and climbing activities, including writing and editing climbing guides. Brower's autobiography *For Earth's Sake: The Life and Times of David Brower* is must reading. Brower and Leonard wrote the first *Climber's Guide to the High Sierra*, including a section on Yosemite Valley in the February 1940 Sierra Club Bulletin. Mt. Starr King was included and the two original routes were described.

⁶⁰ Duplicate entry – see prior register page.

⁶¹ Lane also climbed Starr King on July 1, 1935.

⁶² Brower's other ascents: August 18, 1935, March 9, 1937, July 27, 1937

⁶³ Other ascents of Starr King on August 18, 1935 and August 16, 1936.

DATE	NAME	ADDRESS	CITY OR TOWN	STATE
3-17-35	Alan D. Mc Charles	U.C. 36	6th	mont
5/17/35	Ruth Stage	1st 2. C. 36 St.	Berkeley	Calif
8/18/35	Up north route from Little Yosemite. Down by Anderson route since we found it good coming up last week.			
	Dave Brower	Berkeley - Yosemite		
	Robert Sanders	Pasadena - Stanford		
	William R. Newby	Monterey - Yosemite		
8/19	Sierra Club RCS Party			
1935	C. Raffi Bodayan	R.C. San Francisco	Party in	Yose.
	2. Hon. M. Woods	San Jose.		
	3. Charles Burkett Jr.			
	4. Peter ...		RCS.	
	5. Jerome Bodayan	S.F.	RCS	
6-31-35	Alan D. Mc Charles	U.C. 36	7th	mont
	Visibility dense - wind strong - demon chilly -			
7-3-35	Edith Mae Hill	Olympic Pacific	Stockton	Calif
7-3-36	Owen L. Williams	(2nd cont)	"	"
3-9-37	Dave Brower	Yosemite RCS SC		
	Joe Specht	Yosemite		
	First winter ascent. 5' snow on alpine from Blaine Point Road to saddle at north. Snowing			

8/17/35 Alan D. McCharles⁶⁴ UC '36 – 6th ascent
8/17/35 Ruth Stage 1st ascent UC '36 1929 Vine St Berkeley Calif

8/18/35 Up north route from Little Yosemite. Down by Anderson route, since we found it good coming up last week.
Dave Brower⁶⁵, Berkeley – Yosemite
Robert Sanders⁶⁶, Pasadena & Stanford
William B. Newby, Glendale – Yosemite

Sept 9 1935 Sierra Club RCS party

1. Raffi Bedayan⁶⁷ RC San Francisco Party in Yosem.
2. Don M. Woods, San Jose
3. Charles Burkett Jr.
4. Peter Grubb RCS
5. Torcom Bedayan SF RCS

1936

6-31-36⁶⁸ Alan D. McCharles UC '36 – 7th ascent. Visibility dense – wind strong – damn chilly

7-3-36 Ethel May Hill, College of Pacific Stockton Calif.

7-3-36 Owen L. Williams⁶⁹ (2nd ascent) Stockton Calif

1937

3-9-37 Dave Brower⁷⁰ Yosemite RCS SC

Joe Specht Yosemite

First winter ascent. 5 ½ hours on skis from Glacier Point Road to saddle at south. Snowing.

⁶⁴ His other ascents of Starr King: July 24, 1933, June 11, 1934, July 15, 1934, July 1, 1935, July 6, 1935, June 30, 1936, July 20, 1937, July 23, 1937, June 25, 1955.

⁶⁵ Brower's other ascents: August 11, 1935, March 9, 1937, July 27, 1937

⁶⁶ Other ascents of Starr King on August 11, 1935 and August 16, 1936.

⁶⁷ Raffi Bedayan later was a maker of carabiners. He also changed his name to Bedayn.

⁶⁸ See note for August 17, 1935, above. For the purposes of this book, this ascent is considered to have been on June 30, 1936.

⁶⁹ Williams also climbed Starr King on July 9, 1931.

⁷⁰ Brower's other ascents: August 11, 1935, August 18, 1935, July 27, 1937

8.9.36	Tom Koz	Yosemite		Cal.
8-2-36	Sam Gubbins	Yosemite		Cal.
8.16.36	Tom Koz			
8.16.36	Robert B Sanders	¹¹ I can't help adding ^{3rd account} Stanford U.	Honi soit qui mal y pense	

Register Renewed

5/29/37

By Committee on Mountain Records - Sierra Club

Book Type Register Placed

5/29/37

(The Committee on Mountain Records was revised 6/10/33 by the discussion herein of the Records on this peak (Mount W. Bond))

8-9-36 Wm Kat⁷¹, Yosemite Cal
8-9-36 Dan Gribhan, Yosemite Cal

8-16-36 Wm Kat⁷²
8-16-36 Robert B. Sanders⁷³, Stanford U I can't help adding 3rd ascent. Honi
soit qui mal y pense⁷⁴

REGISTER REMOVED

5/29/37

By Committee on Mountain Records – Sierra Club

BOOK TYPE REGISTER PLACED

5/29/37

(The committee on Mountain Records was revived 6/10/33 by the discussion
herein of the records on this peak. Richard M. Leonard)⁷⁵

William Kat was a carpenter who went to work on building the Ahwahnee Hotel
in 1927. He fell in love with Yosemite and stayed on in building maintenance
with the Yosemite Park and Curry Company until 1946 when he retired. These
are his first recorded entries at age 61, but he may have had earlier ascents. He
said he climbed Mt. Starr King 19 times.

⁷¹ Kat's recorded ascents of Starr King were on August 9, 1936, August 16, 1936,
August 22, 1937, August 29, 1937, July 21, 1938, September 3, 1938, July 14, 1939,
July 29, 1939, August 3, 1939, August 13, 1939, July 26, 1940, September 1, 1940,
May 30, 1941, July 10, 1941, August 8, 1943, July 16, 1944.

⁷² Ibid

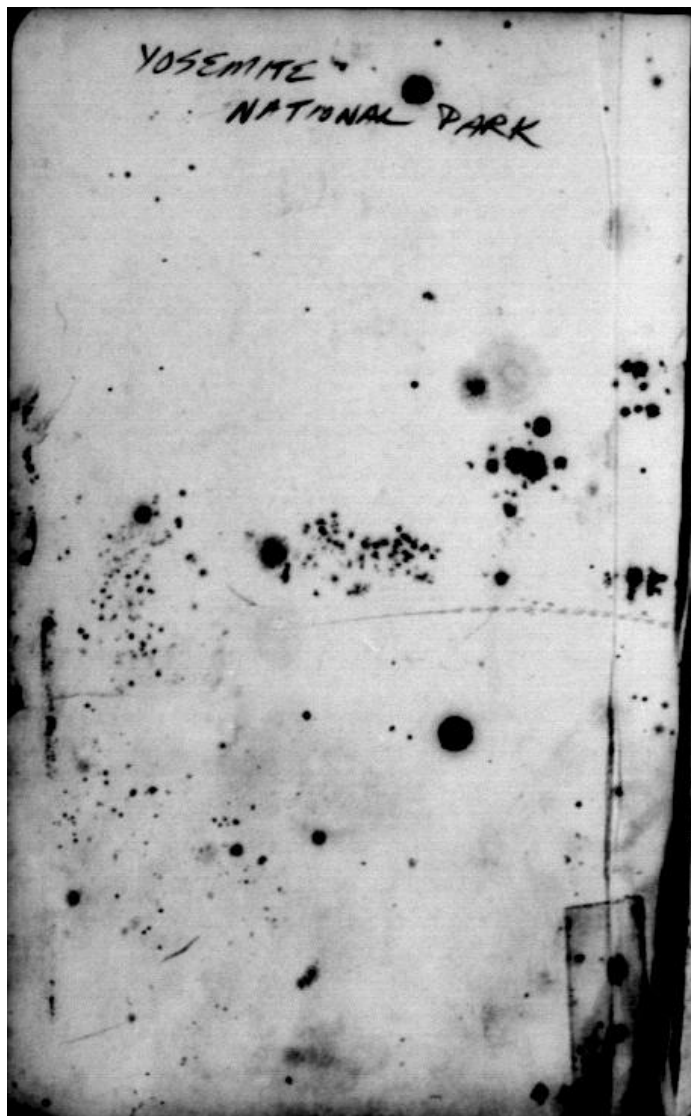
⁷³ Other ascents of Starr King on August 11, 1935 and August 18, 1935.

⁷⁴ The Latin reference is the motto of the Order of the Garter which is translated as
"Evil be to him that evil thinks". In this context it could mean "if you think this ascent
is of little consequence, so are you". Sanders was almost 22 at this time.

⁷⁵ This statement refers to the discussion Leonard and Boynton had about the history
of who had climbed the peak.

The First Book Register
1937-1981





MOUNT STARR KING 5

Register Placed

May 29, 1937

by

Sierra Club

Rock Climbing Party

1. Nevil M. Ruge
2. Inis Dawson
3. Ed Witt Allen

1973

Please don't rip
out pages containing
famous climber's
names. Nelson
and Salathe are good.

Mount Starr King
Register placed
May 29, 1937

By

Sierra Club
Rock Climbing Party

1. Neil M. Ruge
2. Muir Dawson
3. DeWitt Allen

1973

Please don't rip out pages containing famous climber's names.
Nelson and Salathè are gone.

1937

Two members of the climbing party placing the register, Dawson⁷⁶ and Allen⁷⁷, later had rock climbing first ascents in Yosemite Valley. Ruge lived on Cragmont Avenue in Berkeley in 1935 and was an active Sierra Club mountaineer. He was on the first ascent of an un-named peak in 1934 that was subsequently named Mt. Ansel Adams.

The 1973 note indicates that pages containing the records of the ascents of John Salathè and Anton Nelson, famous names to be sure, had gone missing, and of course other names disappeared from the register, too. No entries from 1950 and 1954 are in the register, and either year may be the time period covered by the missing pages. Based on the handwriting and the year, 1973, the author of this note was probably Chris Denney⁷⁸ who made nine ascents of the peak in this register.

⁷⁶ First ascent of Split Pinnacle, Sierra Club Bulletin, February 1940, p. 59

⁷⁷ First ascent of Kat Pinnacle in 1940 (named for William Kat whose name we see in these registers). A Climber's Guide to Yosemite Valley, Steve Roper, 1964, p. 36

⁷⁸ Denny made an ascent of Starr King on July 21, 1973.

May 27, 1937

Swiss Club Rock Climbers: Section

1. W. Kenneth Davis RCB-SC
 2. Hermann F. Ulrich AAC, HMC
 3. Ben M. Hall RSC
-
1. Kenneth J. Adams SC-RCS
 2. Kid Landers PCS
 3. Paul Lucas - SC - RCS

June 7, 1937

1. Pat Buntow SC RCS
 2. Bill Rice SMS, RLS, ULLA
 3. John W. Rurch S.C.
- 3 hrs. from Glacier Point. Looked like rain

July 18, 1937

- DL Baberoth, Leonia, N.J. AMC
- Granville P. Ashcraft. NPS-USC-EFE
- BOB GODWIN - U.C.
- Verlin G. Baysinger - PeKin, Illinois
(2 fine climb on a fine day)

May 29 1937 Sierra Club Rock Climbing Section

1. W. Kenneth Davis RCS-SC
2. Hermann F. Ulrich, AAC, HMC
3. Birs M. Hall RSC
1. Kenneth D. Adam⁷⁹ SC-RCS
2. Nick A. Landers RCS
3. P Lucas SC-RCS

June 7 1937 1. Bob Brinton SC RCS

2. Bill Rice SMS RCS UCLA
 3. John P. Burch SC
- 3 hrs from Glacier Point. Looks like rain.

July 18, 1937 D.L.Babenroth, Leonia N.J. AMC

Granville P. Ashcroft NPS-USC Sigma Alpha Epsilon

Bob Godwin U.C.

Verlin G. Baysinger – Pekin Illinois (a fine climb on a fine day)

Kenneth Adam and W. Kenneth Davis, both Bay Area rock climbers, were on the first ascent of the Royal Arches route with Morgan Harris in 1936, a classic climb in Yosemite Valley.⁸⁰

Bob Brinton and Bill Rice were a pair of Southern California rock climbers who developed their skills at Tahquitz Rock near Idyllwild, then came north to Yosemite to climb. Both Brinton and Rice had first ascents at Tahquitz in 1936, Brinton on the Piton Pooper and Fingertip Traverse, Rice on Angel's Fright and the Fingertip Traverse (with Brinton and two others)⁸¹.

⁷⁹ See also May 27, 1944 and May 21, 1957

⁸⁰ A Climber's Guide to Yosemite Valley, Steve Roper, 1964, p. 104

⁸¹ A Climber's Guide to Tahquitz Rock, Wilts and Wilson, 1956, p. 20, 24 and 26

15 July 20, 1937
 7th record
 16 Alan D. McCharles U.C. 36
 17 Jack Schaefer U.C. 39 & X
 18 Tom R. Wright V.C. 38 ΔTA

To Dan Langford on the day he makes it
 → "Congratulations"

July 23 - 1937
 8 Dan Langford - U.C. AEO
 Class of '38
 9 Alan D. McCharles

20 To Ms Schafe -
 Didn't use my hands and came up on one foot.

21 Frederic A. Brand Aug 14, 1937
 470 - 3rd Ave S.F. Cal. V.C. 31

Aug. 23, 1937
 22 Harris F. Shaw - and hospitalized
 Berkeley, Calif - D.P. 7:30 A.M. 1937

23 Tom Hart Yosemite Aug 24, 1937

July 20, 1937 Alan D. McCharles⁸² U.C. '36 7th Ascent
 Jack Schafer U.C. 39 Sigma Chi
 Lyn R. Wright⁸³ U.C. 38 Delta Tau Delta 3rd Ascent
 To Dan Langford on the day he makes it, "Congratulations"
 July 23 – 1937 Dan Langford U.C. Alpha Sigma Phi Class of '38
 Alan D. McCharles⁸⁴
 To McShafe – Didn't use my hands and came up on one foot.
 Aug 14, 1937 Frederic A. Brand, 490 3rd Ave S.F. Cal. U.C. '39
 Aug 22, 1937 Harris F. Shaw Jr. – and barefooted too –Berkeley Calif D.P.O.
 '36⁸⁵
 Wm Kat⁸⁶, Yosemite
 Carl P. Jensen SC RCS
 Thomas L. Johnston CCHC

The August 22nd entry with William Kat and Harris F. Shaw continues on the next register page to include Carl P. Jensen and Thomas L. Johnston, so they are shown above to keep the party intact. The annotation by Johnston's name is CCHC which stands for the Camp Curry Hiking Club, an ad hoc summer organization. In all likelihood Shaw and Jensen were also summer employees of the Yosemite Park and Curry Company. Carl Jensen became a talented climber who was on the first ascent of Jensen's Jaunt⁸⁷ at Tahquitz Rock in 1938 as well as that of Pulpit Rock⁸⁸ in Yosemite Valley in 1939.

⁸² His other ascents of Starr King: July 24, 1933, June 11, 1934, July 15, 1934, July 1, 1935, July 6, 1935, August 17, 1935, June 30, 1936, July 23, 1937, June 25, 1955.

⁸³ Wright also ascended Starr King on July 24, 1933, July 15, 1934, June 25, 1955, October 13, 1956, June 1, 1957, June 21, 1958 and June 25, 1960.

⁸⁴ His other ascents of Starr King: July 24, 1933, June 11, 1934, July 15, 1934, July 1, 1935, July 6, 1935, August 17, 1935, June 30, 1936, July 20, 1937, June 25, 1955.

⁸⁵ The meaning of the abbreviation D.P.O. is unclear.

⁸⁶ Kat's recorded ascents of Starr King were on August 9, 1936, August 16, 1936, August 22, 1937, August 29, 1937, July 21, 1938, September 3, 1938, July 14, 1939, July 29, 1939, August 3, 1939, August 13, 1939, July 26, 1940, September 1, 1940, May 30, 1941, July 10, 1941, August 8, 1943, July 16, 1944.

⁸⁷ A Climber's Guide to Tahquitz Rock, Wilts and Wilson, 1956, p. 28

⁸⁸ A Climber's Guide to Yosemite Valley, Steve Roper, 1964, p. 183

- 8/22/37
 24/ Carl Jensen SC RGS
 5 Howard W. Winters CCHC
 26. Aug 29. 37 Wm Kat
 Yosemite
 27 " " J. F. Fentley - YOS -

1938

July 7, 1938
 Attained summit at 11:30 A.M.
 Clear with haze over valley. Plenty of
 snow on crest and Clark Range.

Sierra
 Hikers
 Assoc.

- 28 P. S. Olson, Riverside, Calif.
 29 Frank M. Swygens UCLA.
 629 GAYLEY AVE WESTWOOD, Cal.
 30 George Robert Hudson UCLA
 31 Fred Hudson Los Angeles, Cal.
 High School

Aug 29 37 Wm Kat⁸⁹, Yosemite
J. Fritsch, Yos

1938

July 7 1938 Attained summit at 11:30A.M. clear with haze over valley. Plenty of snow on crest and Clark Range. Sierra Hikers Assoc.
P.S. Olson, Riverside Calif.
Frank M. Dwiggins, Theta Chi U.C.L.A. 29 Gayley Ave. Westwood Cal
George Robert Hudson⁹⁰, UCLA 2919 Lyric St L.A.
Fred Hudson⁹¹, Los Angeles Cal. John Marshall High School

On August 29th William Kat accompanied Jules Fritsch up the peak. Fritsch was a Swiss-German hired in 1928 by the Yosemite Park and Curry Company as part of their development of cross country ski touring and ski mountaineering in the park⁹², well before the official opening of Badger Pass in January 1936 and the general shift to downhill skiing. The first ski hut was a cabin on the west side of Mt. Watkins. Mary Curry Tresidder recalled, "Plans for Snow Creek Cabin were drawn by Eldridge T. Spencer, with Dr. Tresidder poring over them and making suggestions. We had a book of pictures and plans of Swiss mountain huts, I remember, which we referred to. Bill Kat did a good deal of the work on the cabin, and Dick Michaelis, later the caretaker there, and Jules Fritsch, the little Swiss ski instructor, also worked on it."⁹³ Kat also worked on the ski facilities in the Badger Pass area. He spoke German fluently, as well as his native Dutch, so he and Fritsch were a good fit. Fritsch, the subject of a well known Ansel Adams photograph, was caught skiing down Lembert Dome in Yosemite making a single, swooping track on an otherwise unbroken snow slope. Fritsch did serious ski

⁸⁹ Kat's recorded ascents of Starr King were on August 9, 1936, August 16, 1936, August 22, 1937, August 29, 1937, July 21, 1938, September 3, 1938, July 14, 1939, July 29, 1939, August 3, 1939, August 13, 1939, July 26, 1940, September 1, 1940, May 30, 1941, July 10, 1941, August 8, 1943, July 16, 1944.

⁹⁰ George Hudson also climbed Starr King on July 28, 1939, July 19, 1940

⁹¹ Fred Hudson also climbed Starr King on July 28, 1939, June 11, 1941, August 24, 1947

⁹² Yosemite's Innkeepers by Shirley Sargent, p.109

⁹³ Yosemite Nature Notes, Volume XXXII, Number 2, February 1953

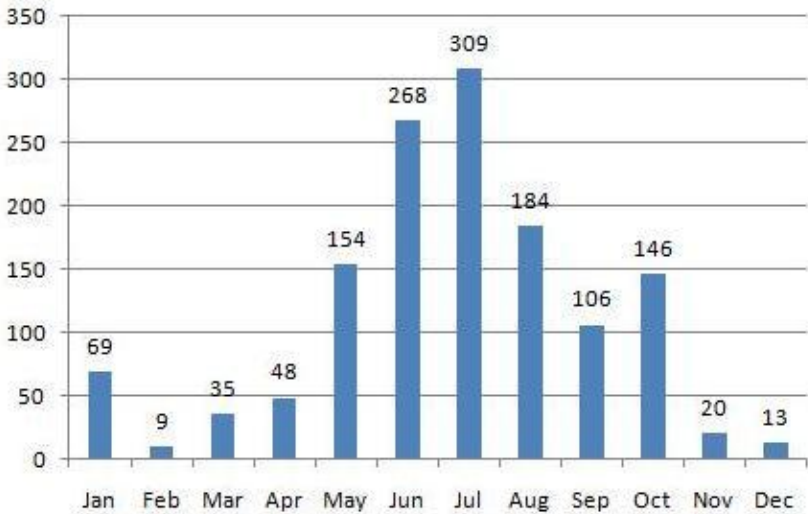
mountaineering and winter ascents of Sierra peaks. Kat used snowshoes for his winter outings.

If one wants to avoid the crowds, what are the best months to ascend Mt. Starr King? The register has dates for most ascents which include the month, or allow one to deduce it:

Month	Climbs
Jan	69
Feb	9
Mar	35
Apr	48
May	154
Jun	268
Jul	309
Aug	184
Sep	106
Oct	146
Nov	20
Dec	13
Unknown	3

The month of January 1976 had 56 ascents. A group outing from Westmont College was the cause. Absent this anomaly, the total for all January's would have been 13, and the best months to avoid the crowds would have been November through February. The register entries do not say if the reason for the outing in January 1976 was the Bicentennial, the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the first ascent of the peak by Bayley and Schuyler, or mere happenstance. The chances of meeting anyone on Mt. Starr King in January are slim.

Climbs of Mt. Starr King by Month



The month of October stands out as a seeming anomaly, but October is one of the truly glorious months for climbing in Yosemite, even with its shorter days.

July 10, 1938.

32 Fred Kelley (solo) R.C.S.

4 hrs. from intersection Mono
Mtns. trail + Glacier Pt. road,
via southern saddle.

Traversed; SE-NW; also NW-SE.

July 21, 1938

33 Wm Kat. Yosemite

34 David Zealey - a poor
U.C. med student - more
ways than one.
Now let's eat.

35 Alexis W. Byrne
U.C. almost med student
I love life

36
7.20.38 John Emanuel
Stanford U.
I am so slaty
now I can

July 10, 1938 Fred Kelley (solo) R.C.S. 4 hrs. from intersection Mono Mdws trail and Glacier Pt. road, via southern saddle. Traversed SE-NW also NE-SW

July 21 1938 Wm Kat⁹⁴, Yosemite

David Zealor – a poor U.C. med student - more ways than one. Now let's eat.

Alexis W. Byrne, U.C. almost med student. I love life.

John Emanuel⁹⁵, Stanford U. I am so shaky now I can hardly write. I hope we get down.

Alfred Kubo, Interlaken Switzerland, VENI VIDI VICI!!!!⁹⁶

08/03/1939 Have had a hard time getting those four boys up but made it and got down again OK. Wm Kat⁹⁷

Although the page ends with Alexis Byrne's entry, the rest of the party and a later comment by William Kat from the next page are included for the sake of continuity. The note by Kat was dated a year later and written when he was, apparently, on the peak alone. Kat often took a few others with no experience up the peak, and, as the writings of the four young men above show, it was a thrill. Kat, 63 on this ascent, greatly enjoyed the company of the young summer employees in Yosemite. A photograph of Kat and the four young men of the July 21, 1938 ascent is on the following page. The photo also shows that the "big carien" built by Judd Boynton and partners on July 5, 1935 is still there. The page after the group photo has an enlargement to show the detail of the register box.

⁹⁴ Kat's recorded ascents of Starr King were on August 9, 1936, August 16, 1936, August 22, 1937, August 29, 1937, July 21, 1938, September 3, 1938, July 14, 1939, July 29, 1939, August 3, 1939, August 13, 1939, July 26, 1940, September 1, 1940, May 30, 1941, July 10, 1941, August 8, 1943, July 16, 1944.

⁹⁵ Emanuel's other ascent of Starr King was on September 3, 1938

⁹⁶ "I came, I saw, I conquered," from Caesar's Conquest of Gaul

⁹⁷ See note for 7/21/1938 for his other ascents..





hardly write. I
hope we get down

VII 21

37 Alfred Kubo, Tuttlekhan
Switzerland

VENI VIDI VICI !!!

~~Was~~ a hard time getting these four
boys up. but made it and got down again at
2:17

July 27, 1937

Ascent by SE edge - 4 hours
from ~~Green~~ point

Morgan Harris - S.C. PCS

Walt Brewer

Joe Brewer SC PCS

Jeane Barnbrock - U.C. L.A.

Aug. 10, 1938

Dr C. R. Wylie Jr.

Ohio State University

Came up alone, via S.E. saddle

Nice climb - Nice view

July 27, 1937⁹⁸ Ascent by SE ridge – 4 hours from Glacier Point
Morgan Harris⁹⁹ – SC RCS
Dave Brower¹⁰⁰ – SC RCS
Joe Brower SC RCS¹⁰¹
Jeane Barnbrock – U.C.L.A.

August 10, 1938 Dr. C.R. Wylie Jr.,¹⁰² Ohio State University. Came up alone via SE Saddle. Nice climb - nice view.

Morgan Harris had fourteen rock climbing first ascents in Yosemite Valley. Surely his greatest accomplishment was the first ascent of the Royal Arches route, a climb for which he was the driving force.

C.R. Wylie was a mathematician and poet. You never know who will show up climbing solo on Mt. Starr King! Aside from his poetry, his books also include 101 Puzzles in Thought and Logic, Advanced Engineering Mathematics, Foundations of Geometry, and Introduction to Projective Geometry. His poem “Paradox” is quite good. Wylie neatly boxed in his entry, something only one other person did in the registers. Is this a turn of the mathematician’s mind?

⁹⁸ The year may be in error as the month and day appear in correct order with the preceding and following entries.

⁹⁹ Harris’ other Starr King ascent was on May 21, 1957

¹⁰⁰ Dave Brower’s other ascents: August 11, 1935, August 18, 1935, March 9, 1937

¹⁰¹ Dave Brower’s younger brother. Dates of his other ascents: June 29, 1939, August 4, 1940, July 10, 1941

¹⁰² Clarence R. Wylie. His books are still available on the secondary market.

Sept 3

Johnny Emanuel
Stanford U.

Second time up. Lots
easier this time. Going
to try it on one leg
next time.

Sept 3, ~~John A. Pellegrini~~
First time up - a real
thill - Makes Glacier baby's
stuff -

Occidental College - Quaker NJ.

Sept 3. Tom Kat Yosemite

1937

May 29 - Sierra Club RCS -

LEADER Dorothy Markward - San Jose
John A. Dyer RCS Berkeley

Ray of Esperance RCS S.F.

Ray of Frontiers Sierra Club M

B.K. Ligan S.C. Chapter

Robert Board - Sierra Club - Joma Paula

(LOS BATOS)

Just Sky RCS S.F.

Harvey Nielsen - Boy Chapter

Harvey Dowling - RCS Burlington

Sept 3, 1938 Johnny Emanuel¹⁰³ Stanford U. Second time up. Lots easier this time. Going to try it on one leg next time.
Fred A. Pellagrino. First time up – a real thrill – Makes Glacier baby’s stuff. Occidental College, Princeton N.J.
Wm Kat¹⁰⁴, Yosemite

1939

May 29 1939 Sierra Club RCS
Dorothy Markwad¹⁰⁵, San Jose
John A Dyer¹⁰⁶ RCS Leader Berkeley
Ray L’Esperance RCS SF
Ray E. Montrose Sierra Club
B.E. Gigas, S.C. Chapter
Robert Board – Sierra Club – Loma Prieta (Los Gatos)
Fred Toby RCS SF
Harvey Mielenz, Bay Chapter
Harvey Dowling RCS Burlingame
Harry Meyer RCS Sierra Club Long Barn Calif

The comment by Pellegrino on September 3rd, “makes Glacier baby’s stuff” refers to hiking (or scrambling) the Ledge Trail to Glacier Point from behind Camp Curry. The trail has long been closed. It was difficult to maintain and a number of accidents took place on it, including fatalities.

Regarding the May 29, 1939 entry, Richard Leonard wrote an article in the February 1940 Sierra Club Bulletin about rock climbing by 37 club members in Yosemite where on page 118 he said,

¹⁰³ Emanuel’s other ascent of Starr King was on July 21, 1938

¹⁰⁴ Kat’s recorded ascents of Starr King were on August 9, 1936, August 16, 1936, August 22, 1937, August 29, 1937, July 21, 1938, September 3, 1938, July 14, 1939, July 29, 1939, August 3, 1939, August 13, 1939, July 26, 1940, September 1, 1940, May 30, 1941, July 10, 1941, August 8, 1943, July 16, 1944.

¹⁰⁵ Also climbed the peak on October 29, 1942

¹⁰⁶ Dyer also ascended Starr King on May 31, 1941

Mt. Starr King. – On May 28, under the generous leadership of Dorothy Markwad and John Dyer, ten members of the trip were able to enjoy the extensive view from this formerly “inaccessible” summit.

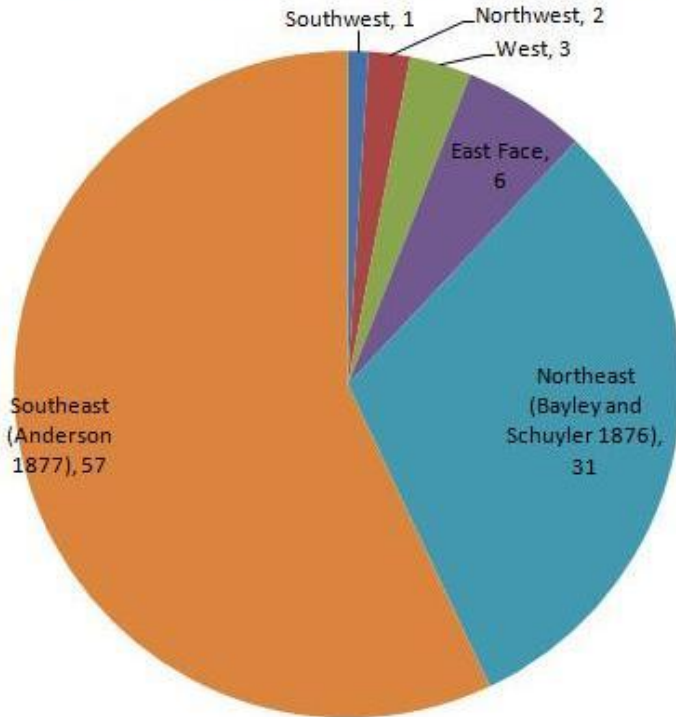
Mount Clark. – Many enjoy general mountaineering and wilder and higher country rather than pure rock climbing in the valley. Thus on a four day trip Lester Ferris, Ben Hall, Stephen Hall and Tom Morley ascended Mt. Clark from Washburn Lake , and also reached the summit of Mount Starr King on their return.

Leonard’s article is partly corroborated by the register in the May 29, 1939 entry, although one of the two is off by a day. However, the names of Lester Ferris, Ben Hall, Stephen Hall and Tom Morley are nowhere in the register. This raises a question about the integrity of the climbers, the integrity of the register or Leonard’s understanding of what happened as it was reported to him. Of course there is no answer, but it may be as simple as the climbers not signing the book.

The route used by climbers is sometimes mentioned in register entries. The two original routes were the NE (Bayley and Schuyler’s first ascent route from 1876) and the SE (George Anderson’s route from 1877). Other routes were put up later, but the two original were the most popular. For climbs where the route name was given, these are the percents:

Route	% Climbs
Southwest	1
Northwest	2
West	3
East Face	6
Northeast (Bayley and Schuyler 1876)	31
Southeast (Anderson 1877)	57
	100

% Climbs by Route on Mt. Starr King



Anderson's route has the advantage of being warm and dry more than Bayley and Schuyler's. However, for some winter ascents climbers found they could virtually walk up the snow to the summit on Bayley and Schuyler's route. The other routes are rock climber's routes, and information about them should be sought from a guide book such as *Southern Yosemite Rock Climbs* by Mark and Shirley Spencer¹⁰⁷.

¹⁰⁷ Mark Spencer has had nine ascents of Mt. Starr King, one in the period covered by this book on July 13, 1980.

May 29 '39 R.C.S. Sierra Club
Harry Meyer - Long Ben. Calif

June 29, '39
J. O. 9th ridge - will descend by
diagonal cracks on N. face:
1. Joe Brewer S.C. R.C.S.
2. Peter Ray S.C.

July 14, 1939:

6 hrs. from Camp Curry, via Terminal
Nevada Falls; left 4:30 A.M., arrived
10:30, up north-east crack.

Everett H. Broad Wm Hess
Stanford U. - '35; Yosemite

July 16, 1939

4 1/2 hrs. from Happy Isles
Robert P. Allen - U.C. '34
Sierra Club - Yosemite Field School '36
Solo

June 29 '39 By SE Ridge. Will descend by diagonal crack on N. face.
Joe Brower¹⁰⁸ SC RCS
Ester Ray SC

July 14, 1939 6 hrs from Camp Curry via Vernal and Nevada Falls: Left at
4:30A.M. arrived 10:30, up north-east crack.
Everett H. Breed, Stanford U '35¹⁰⁹
Wm Kat¹¹⁰, Yosemite

July 16, 1939 4 ½ hrs from Happy Isles.
Robert P. Allen¹¹¹ – U.C. '34 Sierra Club – Yosemite Field School '36.
Solo.

In order to train naturalists for the park, Dr. Harold C. Bryant, C. M. Goethe and Loye Holmes Miller started the Yosemite School of Field Natural History in 1925. The school had many alumni who went on to work in Yosemite and other parks.¹¹² C.A. “Bert” Harwell was the Director of the school at one point (see his ascent of Starr King on September 31, 1931) and Carl Sharsmith attended the Field School. Robert P. Allen wrote a short article outlining some of the research done by the Field School for the 1953 Sierra Club Bulletin.

¹⁰⁸ Dates of his other ascents: July 27, 1937, August 4, 1940, July 10, 1941

¹⁰⁹ Breed was optimistic. He graduated in 1936 and went on to earn an MBA in 1940. He served as a naval officer in the North Atlantic doing convoy duty in WWII.

¹¹⁰ Kat’s recorded ascents of Starr King were on August 9, 1936, August 16, 1936, August 22, 1937, August 29, 1937, July 21, 1938, September 3, 1938, July 14, 1939, July 29, 1939, August 3, 1939, August 13, 1939, July 26, 1940, September 1, 1940, May 30, 1941, July 10, 1941, August 8, 1943, July 16, 1944.

¹¹¹ Allen ascended Starr King also on June 25, 1959.

¹¹² www.yosemite.ca.us/library/guardians_of_the_yosemite/superintendents.html

arrived 1:00 climbed
July 28, '39. ~~climbed~~ north
face. via Nevada Falls
from camp Curry; approaching
storm with a few drops
all ready.

George R. Hudson
2514 Lyric St. Los Angeles (UCLA)
Mary Louise Koch
Feet a little raw but had
lots of fun climbing.
Los Angeles, Calif.

Certainly worth the
extra difficulties. Hope
my feet carry me
back. Eileen Fuller. L.A.

Fred Hudson L.A.
2nd time up
Sierra Club member
John Marshall High School

July 28 '39 arrived 1:00 climbed north face via Nevada Falls from Camp Curry;
approaching storm with a few drops all ready
George R. Hudson¹¹³, 2519 Lyric St Los Angeles (UCLA)
Mary Louise Koch, Feet a little raw but had lots of fun climbing. Los
Angeles Calif
Eileen Fuller, L.A. Certainly worth the few difficulties. Hope my feet
carry me back.
Fred Hudson¹¹⁴, L.A. 2nd time up. Sierra Club member. John Marshall
High School

¹¹³ George Hudson also climbed Starr King on July 7, 1938, July 19, 1940

¹¹⁴ Fred Hudson also climbed Starr King on July 7, 1938, June 11, 1941, August 24,
1947

July 29.

Phoebe Russell, R.C.S., S.M., S.C.

Noa Brandt Yosemite

Wm Kat Yosemite

Chet Fennell Yosemite

August 13

Ralph Elliott, Burlingame

Herbert Wether, Yosemite

Wm Kat Yosemite

1940

July 19, 40

From Happy Isles in 5 1/2
hours, left at 12 o'clock noon
and hope we will get back
to trail before dark.

George R. Hudson U.C.H.
2611 Lyric St., L.A.

July 29, 1939 Phoebe Russell¹¹⁵, RCS SM SC
Nora Brandt, Riverside
Wm Kat¹¹⁶, Yosemite
Chet Fennell, Yosemite

August 13, 1939 Ralph Elliott¹¹⁷, Burlingame
Herbert Wetzler, Yosemite
Wm Kat¹¹⁸, Yosemite

1940

July 19, '40 From Happy Isles in 5 ½ hours; left at 12 o'clock noon and hope will get back to trail before dark.
George R. Hudson¹¹⁹ U.C.L.A., 2519 Lyric St LA

In 1966 William Kat wrote the following about his trip up Mt. Starr King with Elliott and Wetzler on August 13, 1939:

Herbert Wetzler, a lanky six-foot four inch Texan, a student of a southern college, and a summer clerk at the accounting office of the Curry Company in Yosemite Valley, was full of fun and had a great hankering to do some mountain climbing. But he wouldn't dare to climb by himself, so he asked me if he could go along with me which suited me fine. The next Sunday we two and another summer helper, Ralph Elliott,

¹¹⁵ Russell also climbed Starr King on May 30, 1941 with her sister, Elizabeth Lewis. Phoebe Russell and Elizabeth Lewis were the cousins of Ruth Dyar Mendenhall, an early climber of note in southern California. The two ladies joined the Sierra Club in 1938. Ruth married John Mendenhall and they climbed peaks and technical rock climbs at Tahquitz. See "Woman on the Rocks, the Mountaineering Letters of Ruth Dyar Mendenhall".

¹¹⁶ Kat's recorded ascents of Starr King were on August 9, 1936, August 16, 1936, August 22, 1937, August 29, 1937, July 21, 1938, September 3, 1938, July 14, 1939, July 29, 1939, August 3, 1939, August 13, 1939, July 26, 1940, September 1, 1940, May 30, 1941, July 10, 1941, August 8, 1943, July 16, 1944.

¹¹⁷ Elliott's other ascent of Starr King was on July 26, 1940

¹¹⁸ See note 78

¹¹⁹ George Hudson also climbed Starr King on July 7, 1938 and July 28, 1939

drove to Glacier Point and with our rucksacks, climbing rope, water and food, started the trail which led us to a canyon where we crossed the Illilouette Creek and proceeded to the Anderson route at the southeast saddle of Mt. Starr King. This was really a nice climb over boulders and slick slopes where a little friction climbing was a revelation to Herb, who, laying flat on his belly crawled like a huge lizard. We made the saddle in fair time but now the actual climb started. I showed the boys how to handle the ropes and gave a few little instructions on how to behave if one should slip or should get in distress.

I started the first steep smooth wall and went up to where there was a place to stand. Of course we were all three roped together and I made my first belay station without difficulty. Next there was about eight feet of the smoothest rock so I crawled and, reaching out, caught a little unevenness to help pull myself up and I was then able to reach a rock where I could belay to help the boys up to where I was with room enough for all. The boys did all they could to climb the cliff, but wound up climbing the rope that I held secure around a protruding upright rock.

Then came the real test for we had to traverse a two-inch wide line of rock, harder than the granite rock of the dome. Here a slip would be fatal, for the steep, smooth slope went down hundreds of feet. I went ahead and walked the line (the proper name is dike). The dike runs horizontal about thirty feet where there is a good place to belay. After I and the rope were secured the boys followed but were really scared. However, I had spanned a half-inch rope from the upright rock to where I was and so made a handrail. All got safely to the next station. Now it was going up again very steep, but, by laying on the right side with footrests and handgrips on the sinuous edge of an overlaying shell, we all got up nicely.

Herb declared, —I've never felt happier in my life.

We now came to a niche where there was room for six. We rested there after the last strenuous climb and then crossed a soft, wide, slick slope by friction climbing. We were now under a huge overhanging slab, which had cracked off from the mountain and gave us a chance to climb out in the open sunshine. The rest was easy going and on the top we signed our names on a hidden climbers' registration book. I asked the boys how they liked being on top of Starr King where hardly anyone ever comes. They were as happy as kids can be.

After scanning over the horizon, pointing out the various peaks, we spotted a niche where the careful Mr. Anderson had piled a small supply of firewood sticks in the year of 1877 - two years after the year I was born.

We went down exactly the way we came up with only one difference. Going up I had the lead, going down I was the last to belay for the boys' safety.

Following this adventure Kat and Wetzler went on another to White Mountain just south of Mt. Conness where Wetzler accidentally knocked a rock down a chimney which hit Kat and cause him to fall a good distance. He broke his neck, had a fracture at the base of the skull and other points, broke his shoulder and foot. He was not expected to live but he pulled out of it. In fact, he was back to work within two months, and he climbed Mt. Starr King twice the following summer.

1st mountain climb I actually
completed - Broke my 2 best
finger nails - !!

Gerald E. Gangola
Los Angeles City College
3511 Effie St - L.A.

July 26, 1940

Ralph Elliott - Burlingame, Calif. - ^{2nd time} but not last
Armin Williams

11:30 - very clear - the
east range visible
in the distant haze

Robert W. Ward.

Downey, Calif. Compton J.C. 35
There are scores for some "Yosemite"

Wm. H. X Yosemite

August 4, 1940

From Glacier in 4 1/2 hrs via
N. trail

Joe Brower ^{Secy} SC

Berkeley, Calif. Y.P.

Chet Fennell

Yosemite, Calif. Y.P.

July 19, 1940 1st mountain climb I actually completed – Broke my 2 best finger nails!! Gerald E. Ganopole¹²⁰, Los Angeles City College, 3511 Effie St L.A.

July 26, 1940 Ralph Elliott¹²¹ – Burlingame Calif. Second time but not last Armin Williams. 11:30 – very clear, the Coast Range visable in the distant haze.

Robert W. Ward, Downey Calif. Compton J.C. '35. There are scares for some “Yea Man”

Wm Kat¹²², Yosemite

August 4, 1940 From Glacier in 4 ½ hours via N. crack.

Joe Brower¹²³, SC RCS, Berkeley Calif Y.L. [Yosemite Lodge]

Chet Fennell, Yosemite Calif G.P. [Glacier Point]

¹²⁰ Ganopole's other ascents of Starr King: July 24, 1941, August 2, 1941, August 9, 1941, June 30, 1943

¹²¹ Elliott's other ascent of Starr King was on August 13, 1939

¹²² Kat's recorded ascents of Starr King were on August 9, 1936, August 16, 1936, August 22, 1937, August 29, 1937, July 21, 1938, September 3, 1938, July 14, 1939, July 29, 1939, August 3, 1939, August 13, 1939, July 26, 1940, September 1, 1940, May 30, 1941, July 10, 1941, August 8, 1943, July 16, 1944.

¹²³ Dates of his other ascents: July 27, 1937, June 29, 1939, July 10, 1941

SEPT. 1, 1940
TRAVERSE SW TO N

Steering S. Granger
John Finley
Don Buchanan
Wm. Katz

Spent night on top of
Mt. A. 11.2
Oct '59

Sept 1, 1940

A hurried ascent.

Completed morning shift of
dishwashing at Camp Curry
at 1:00 P.M. Left Happy
Isles at 1:50 P.M. Reached
top of Nevada Falls at 2:40 P.M.;
base of Star King Dome at 4:10;
and summit at 4:30 P.M.

I have an evening shift of
dishwashing starting at 7:30 P.M.
So here I go

R. D. Olson - Sierra Club - Yosemite

I still don't believe it
Phil Finley Sept '42

Sept 1, 1940 Traverse SW to N
Sterling Cramer¹²⁴, Yosemite
Jules Fritsch, Yosemite
Don Buchanan, Yosemite
Wm Kat¹²⁵, Yosemite

Sept 1, 1940 A hurried Ascent Completed morning shift of dishwashing at
Camp Curry at 1:00pm. Left Happy Isles at 1:50pm. Reached top of
Nevada Falls at 2:40 pm; base of Starr King Dome at 4:10; and summit at
4:30 pm. I have an evening shift of dishwashing starting at 7:30pm. So
here I go.....
R.D. Olson¹²⁶, Sierra Club Riverside.

I don't believe this. Phil Arnot Oct 59.
I still don't believe it. Phil Arnot July '62

The climb by Kat on September 1, 1940 included three others who comprised a group of residents. Cramer was the Vice President for Finance and Treasurer of the Yosemite Park and Curry Company.¹²⁷ Normally people high in the company kept away from mountaineering at this time, but Cramer had his office in the Ahwahnee and Kat had his workshop there and they had a friendship. Jules Fritsch we have met before, the little ski instructor from Switzerland. Don Buchanan was a prodigious hiker and scrambler who made more than 20 ascents of Half Dome by going directly up from Mirror Lake to catch the cable route.¹²⁸

¹²⁴ Also ascended Starr King on August 8, 1943.

¹²⁵ Kat's recorded ascents of Starr King were on August 9, 1936, August 16, 1936, August 22, 1937, August 29, 1937, July 21, 1938, September 3, 1938, July 14, 1939, July 29, 1939, August 3, 1939, August 13, 1939, July 26, 1940, September 1, 1940, May 30, 1941, July 10, 1941, August 8, 1943, July 16, 1944.

¹²⁶ Olson also climbed Starr King on June 26, 1941

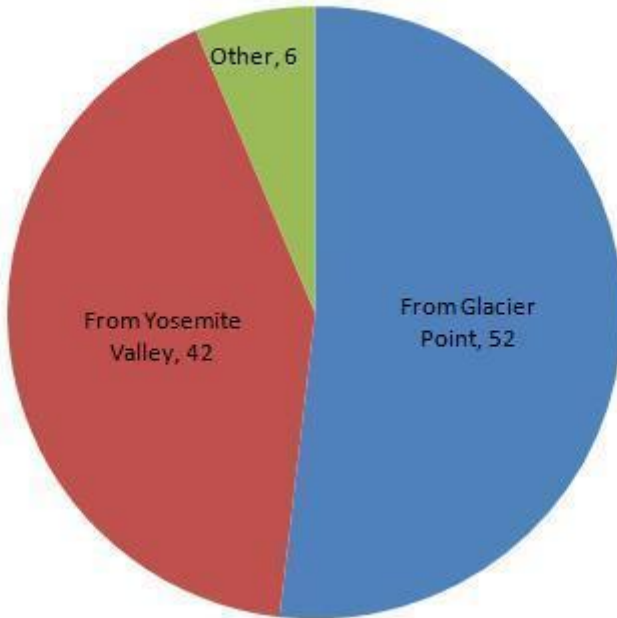
¹²⁷ Yosemite's Innkeepers by Shirley Sargent, p.114

¹²⁸ Sierra Club Bulletin, February 1940, p. 51

Although the Olson's time on September 1st was hard to believe for Phil Arnot, Olson's times were reasonable for someone in excellent physical condition. He probably slept well after his evening shift.

Climbers of Mt. Starr King sometimes noted which approach they used to get to the base of the granite domes. The easiest approach is probably from the Glacier Point Road, although in some seasons it may be hard to cross Illilouette Creek. The other popular approach is from Yosemite Valley. A small number of climbers end up at Mt. Starr King by coming down from the higher country, sometimes from Mt. Clark.

% Approaches Used



Decorations Day, May 30, 1941
(Anderson Route from
Elizabeth Lewis, So. Pasadena
Photo Russell, R.C.S., Sierra
N.M. Nat. Yosemite. Club
cloudy + starting to snow!

May 31, 1941

Mary Thayer R.C.S. So. Calif. ^{Sierra Club}
John Dyer R.C.S.
Augusta French Mother Lode Chapter
Allen Strauss ^{Sierra Club} Loma Prieta
William A. Horsfall. S.F.
Tom Jones Mother Lode SC
Charlotte Lewis Bay Chapter
Glenn L. Weber " "
Randall Rice
Agnes Ginn Bay Chapter ^{Sierra Club}
Florence Rata Bay Chapter " "
Arthur Davey Mother Lode " "
Ray Esperand Bay Chapter " "

June 11, 1941

Fred Hudson - L.A.
3rd ascent via N. slope,
a very clear and warm day with
few clouds.

1941

- May 30, 1941 Decoration Day¹²⁹ (Anderson Route from Glacier Point)
Elizabeth Lewis,¹³⁰ So. Pasadena
Phoebe Russell¹³¹, RCS, Sierra Club. Cloudy and starting to snow
Wm Kat¹³² Yosemite
- May 31, 1941 Merlen Thayer, RCS Sierra Club, So. Calif
John Dyer¹³³, RCS
Auguste Frugè¹³⁴, Mother Lode Chapter Sacramento
Allen Strauss, Loma Prieta
William A. Horsfall,¹³⁵ S.F.
Tom Julles, Mother Lode SC
Charlotte Lewis, Bay Chapter
Glenn L. Weber, Bay Chapter
Randall Rice
Eleonore Jinnò, Bay Chapter Sierra Club
Florence Rata, Bay Chapter Sierra Club
Arthur Davey, Mother Lode Chapter Sierra Club
Ray Lesperance, Bay Chapter Sierra Club
- June 11, 1941 Fred Hudson¹³⁶ L.A.. 3rd ascent via N slope. A very clear and warm day with few clouds.

¹²⁹ Memorial Day was originally known as Decoration Day, the day on which flowers were placed on the graves of deceased veterans.

¹³⁰ Elizabeth Lewis and Phoebe Russell were sisters from Southern California

¹³¹ Russell also climbed Starr King on July 29, 1939.

¹³² Kat's recorded ascents of Starr King were on August 9, 1936, August 16, 1936, August 22, 1937, August 29, 1937, July 21, 1938, September 3, 1938, July 14, 1939, July 29, 1939, August 3, 1939, August 13, 1939, July 26, 1940, September 1, 1940, May 30, 1941, July 10, 1941, August 8, 1943, July 16, 1944.

¹³³ John Dyer was on the first ascent of the Direct Route on Washington Column in 1940. Dyer also ascended Starr King on May 29, 1939

¹³⁴ August Frugè, was a conservationist and a longtime director of the University of California Press.

¹³⁵ Horsfall was on Richard Leonard's list of Rock Climbing Section members of the Bay Area Chapter of the Sierra Club, and he was on the first ascent of the Illilouette Fall West Side route. A Climber's Guide to Yosemite Valley, Steve Roper, 1964.

¹³⁶ Fred Hudson also climbed the peak on July 7, 1938, July 28, 1939, August 24, 1947

June 26, 1941

June 26, 1941

- Climbed by N.E. slope -
#1 R.D. Olson S.C. Los Angeles
4 hrs., 5 min from Happy Isles.
#2 Cloudy and misty, all around
dome, can't see over.
1st ascent and a good one
Bob Griffin - Oakland Cal
#3 Jay Scoggins, Colver.

Thurs. July 10, 1941

Jay Braver s.e.
Jules M. Pichon S.C.
M. Kat. Yocumite
1st ascent for Wm. Kat as a
Sierra Club member.

Thursday, July 24, 1941

Left Happy Isles 7:00 AM. Arrived at noon.
Scattered cumulus clouds in all directions.
Jerry Benepole - 2nd ascent. L.A. City College
Walked up on my hands blindfolded this time!
Bill Hermon - Hollywood
Rode my bike up - guess
I'll coast down on the handlebars!

June 26, 1941 Climbed by N.E. slope.

R.D. Olson,¹³⁷ S.C. Los Angeles. 4 hrs 5 min from Happy Isles

Bob Griffin Oakland Cal. Clouds and misty all around dome, can't see over. 1st ascent and a good one.

Ty Scoggins, Colusa

July 10, 1941 Thurs.

Joe Brower¹³⁸, S.C.

Jules M. Eichorn¹³⁹, S.C.

Wm Kat¹⁴⁰, Yosemite. 1st ascent for Wm Kat as a Sierra Club member

July 24, 1941 Thursday. Left Happy Isles 9:00am. Arrive at noon. Scattered cumulus clouds in all directions.

Jerry Ganopole¹⁴¹. 2nd ascent L.A. City College. Walked up on my hands blindfolded this time (?)

Bill Herman. Hollywood. Rode my bike up. Guess I'll coast down on the handlebars!

¹³⁷ Olson also climbed Starr King on September 1, 1940

¹³⁸ Dates of his other ascents: July 27, 1937, June 29, 1939, August 4, 1940

¹³⁹ Eichorn was one of the great early climbers whose first ascent of the Higher Cathedral Spire with Richard Leonard in 1934 presaged a shift to technical climbing in Yosemite Valley.

¹⁴⁰ Kat's recorded ascents of Starr King were on August 9, 1936, August 16, 1936, August 22, 1937, August 29, 1937, July 21, 1938, September 3, 1938, July 14, 1939, July 29, 1939, August 3, 1939, August 13, 1939, July 26, 1940, September 1, 1940, May 30, 1941, July 10, 1941, August 8, 1943, July 16, 1944.

¹⁴¹ Ganopole's other ascents of Starr King: July 19, 1940, August 2, 1941, August 9, 1941, June 30, 1943

Aug-2, 1941

Ascended N. slope - 6 hrs. from Happy Isles.
Plenty of fun getting party exp. 42nd member,
Colleen Budagno, waiting at base.

Jerry Harpole - 3rd ascent L.A. City College
Just the thing to develop the colors of our
legs. I saw my Geo John Marshall High
Wesley W. Williams
UCL, L.A. ⊖ X ?
How did I do it?

Aug 9, 1941

- 3 hrs from Happy Isles
1. Jerry Harpole - L.A. Sought to name his
place after me by now
 2. Chuck Rogers - Fresno State College - B.K.,
1st attempt at climbing - not bad.
-

September 3, 1941

J. Dan Webster, Newark Calif. - 1941
Field School of Natural History
4 1/2 hours from Camp Curry

1942

May 30 '42

E. theif Jane Smith
Bill Rice RC5, SC

No. Hollywood,
Calif.

Aug 2, 1941 Ascended N. slope. 5 hrs. from Happy Isles. Plenty of fun getting party up. 4th member, Colleen Gudagno waiting at base.
Jerry Ganopole¹⁴². 3rd ascent LA City College
Jeanne Few. John Marshall High. Just the thing to develop the calves of your legs.
Wesley W. Williams. U.C.L.A. Sigma Chi. How did I do it?

Aug 9, 1941 3 hrs from Happy Isles.
Jerry Ganopole – L.A. ought to name this place after me by now.
Chuck Rogers. Fresno State College B.K, 1st attempt at climbing – not bad.

September 3, 1941 J. Dan Webster¹⁴³, Newark Calif – 1941 Field School of Natural History. 4 ½ hours from Camp Curry.

1942

May 30 '42 Ethel Jane Smith
Bill Rice¹⁴⁴RCS SC. North Hollywood

¹⁴² Ganopole's other ascents of Starr King: July 19, 1940, July 24, 1941, August 9, 1941, June 30, 1943

¹⁴³ Webster wrote about the life zones of the Hetch Hetchy region in Yosemite as a student at the Yosemite School of Field Natural History: Nature Notes for November 1941, http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/yosemite_nature_notes/. Webster became a professor who published works about parasitology. Webster also ascended Starr King on July 15, 1942.

¹⁴⁴ See June 7, 1937 for more information about Bill Rice

May 30 1942

Milton Franks - May 30, 1942
Malcolm Smith Pasadena, Calif

July 13, 1942 - 4 hours from Curry
Jim Sheppard - ^{new} Trust man Curry

Bob Daniels - ^{at Curry}

RUSSELL BARNECUT

S.F. J.C. - A Δ E

HEAD DISH WASHER AT
CAMP CURRY CAFETERIA

July 15, 1942

J. Dan Webster - Newark, Calif.
and the "Greasy Spoon"

October 29, 1942

Cloudy - cold - slipped from saddle - ^{a little} snow

Dorothy Marknad - San Jose

Douglas Whitehead - Avenel Park, N.Y.

1943 - See!

June 30 - Mark Beaumont - Jerry
(S.C. R.C.S.)

pulled me up all the way,
no feet left either just stumps
Jerry Gange - how do we get

May 30, 1942 Milton Frinck
Malcolm Smith. Pasadena Calif

July 13, 1942 4 hours from Curry.
Jim Sheppard¹⁴⁵, Sigma Chi, Toast man Curry Kit. U.C. '46
Bob Daniells. Coffee man Curry Cafe
Russell Barnecut S.F.J.C. Alpha Delta Epsilon. Head Dishwasher at
Camp Curry Cafeteria

July 15, 1942 J. Dan Webster¹⁴⁶– Newark Calif. And the “Greasy Spoon”.

October 29, 1942 Cloudy. Cold. Climbed from saddle. A little snow
Dorothy Markwad¹⁴⁷, San Jose
Douglas Whiteside¹⁴⁸, Avenill Park NY

1943

June 30, 1943 See!

Mark Beaumont SC RCS – Jerry pulled me up all the way. No feet left
either, just stumps.
Jerry Ganopole¹⁴⁹. How do we get [see next page]

¹⁴⁵ Also climbed the peak on June 28, 1944

¹⁴⁶ On this date Webster is an employee of the Curry Company. Webster also
ascended Starr King on September 3, 1941.

¹⁴⁷ Also climbed the peak on May 29, 1939

¹⁴⁸ Whiteside also ascended Starr King on June 1, 1946.

¹⁴⁹ This is the last recorded entry by Ganopole for Mt. Starr King. In 1948 he was on
the first ascent of a variation to the established route up Lower Cathedral Spire with
Raffi Bedayn, Paul Estes, and Roy Gorin. A Climber's Guide to Yosemite Valley,
Steve Roper, 1964, p. 158. Ganopole's other ascents of Starr King: July 19, 1940,
July 24, 1941, August 2, 1941, August 9, 1941

back down? The spikes are in the wrong
way - Ellen B. at base - Not enough rope for 3, + Tom
should get her.

Aug 8. 43

Stewart Cramer
Yosemite
California.

Born in
Cleveland
Ohio age 12

Margaret Wilson
Yosemite Natl Park
California

Sunday - Aug. 8, 1943

I was at the party tonight.
Wm Kat. 17th trip to base
Yosemite.

Stirling S. Cramer
Yosemite

Back down? The spikes are in the wrong way. Ellen B. at base. Not enuf rope for 3, & too short to get her.

Aug 8 1943 Stewart Cramer, Yosemite California born in Cleveland Ohio age 12
Margaret Wilson, Yosemite Nat'l Park California Sunday. I wore out my
pants coming up
Wm Kat¹⁵⁰, Yosemite 17th trip to here
Sterling S. Cramer¹⁵¹, Yosemite

I was fortunate to contact two people who went up Mt. Starr King with William Kat. One was Stewart Cramer. Here is the text of a letter he wrote in February 2009 in reply to my questions:

I am the Stewart Cramer age 12 who climbed Mt. Starr King in 1943 with your grandfather, and that is my name as it was then in the log at the summit. My father's name appears below your grandfather's name.

Here are the answers to your questions:

[What route did you take up Mt. Starr King?]

1. We left the Glacier Point road and crossed Illilouette Valley to begin our climb.

[What do you remember about the climb?]

2. I remember much friction climbing near the top. Your grandfather was quite adept at friction climbing.

[Do you have any other recollections of William Kat?]

3. He had his own way of doing things – a “local character.” About three years before, your grandfather and my father and I climbed the Gunsight-Bridalveil Notch. Possibly a summer later (1942), I was climbing the talus in the lower ½ mile of Indian Canyon (Humo was

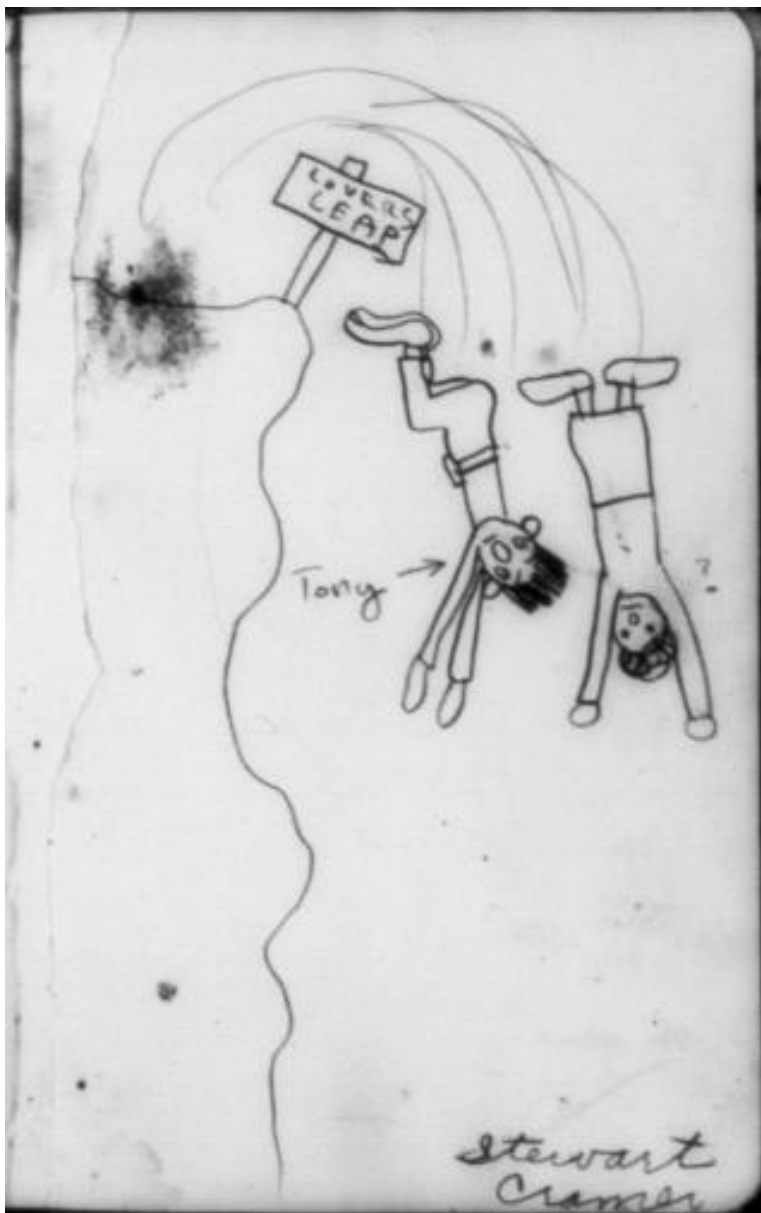
¹⁵⁰ Kat's recorded ascents of Starr King were on August 9, 1936, August 16, 1936, August 22, 1937, August 29, 1937, July 21, 1938, September 3, 1938, July 14, 1939, July 29, 1939, August 3, 1939, August 13, 1939, July 26, 1940, September 1, 1940, May 30, 1941, July 10, 1941, August 8, 1943, July 16, 1944.

¹⁵¹ Also ascended Starr King on September 1, 1940.

the original name of canyon and creek) and on the way back to the Valley floor, where the creek banks are mostly loose dirt and gravel, I saw a coat folded up, and a hat placed upon it – sort of Tyrolian, and I recognized the hat as what I would see your grandfather wearing, so often. Something told me to leave it in place. When I got home I told my parents what I had seen on the bank of the canyon. My father made a phone call and right away learned your grandfather had just arrived at the hospital that morning. He had a broken leg. Probably, as I was returning home, a hospital maintenance man had walked back up the canyon and retrieved his hat and coat. I don't know any details about how your grandfather got down from the canyon, or why his hat and coat were left behind.

The reference to the broken leg gives the reason for no climbs up Mt. Starr King in 1942 by William Kat.

The “Lovers Leap” drawing was on one of the last two pages of the book. I moved the drawing to be near Stewart Cramer’s entry. Perhaps drawn surreptitiously at the time of his ascent, it is a 12 year old boy’s art work. The name “Tony” and “?” may have been added later in a different hand.



May 27, 1944

Kenneth D. Adams SC
Kenneth S. Henderson USN, Spokane

JUNE 28, 1944

Jim Sheppard UC - EX-USN
2nd trip up - 15th consecutive
year to Yosemite.

Two girls or a fellow at base
they say they can't make it.
Hot Sunny day - some scattered
clouds - ~~still plenty of snow to East~~

July 16, 1944

Paul de Pyffer Age 10.

Ralph de Pyffer 7-16-44
7-16-44

Wm. Kat. Yosemite (70)
18th trip up here. This is my
farewell trip to Star King

Donna Wells 7-16-44
Richmond, Calif. 1st trip
left 6 P.M. arrived 11 P.M.

James D. Snell 7-16-44
Burbank, Calif. 17th trip

1st trip but it won't be the last

1944

- May 27, 1944 Kenneth D. Adam¹⁵² SC
Kenneth S. Henderson USN, Spokane
- June 28, 1944 Jim Sheppard¹⁵³ UC Sigma Chi USN 2nd trip up – 15th consecutive year to Yosemite. Two girls and a fellow at base they say they can't make it. Hot sunny day. Some scattered clouds. Still plenty of snow to the east.
- 7/16/1944 Paul de Pfyffer Age 10
Ralph de Pfyffer
Wm Kat¹⁵⁴, Yosemite (70). 18th trip up here. This is my farewell trip to Starr King
- 7/16/1944 Kenneth Wells, Richmond CA 1st trip, left 6AM arrived 1PM
James D. Lanella, 17 yr old, Burbank Calif. 1st trip but it won't be the last

In October 2008 Paul de Pfyffer wrote the following about his ascent in 1944:

We went from the valley up the mist trail to the top of Nevada falls then up to Mt. Starr King. Mr. Kat led my father and I up the mountain. As I remember, Mr. Kat knew the way very well and we had no trouble in climbing Mt. Starr King.

My parents lived in the valley. I don't really remember much of the climb except a few places were a little scary to me; also Mr. Kat thought that I was the youngest climber to climb Mt. Starr King at that time.

Paul's father, Ralph de Pfyffer, was one of the Swiss ski instructors hired by the Yosemite Park and Curry Company around 1928. By this time he was in charge of the photo lab for the Curry Company where he would remain.

¹⁵² See also May 29, 1937 and May 21, 1957

¹⁵³ Also climbed the peak on July 13, 1942

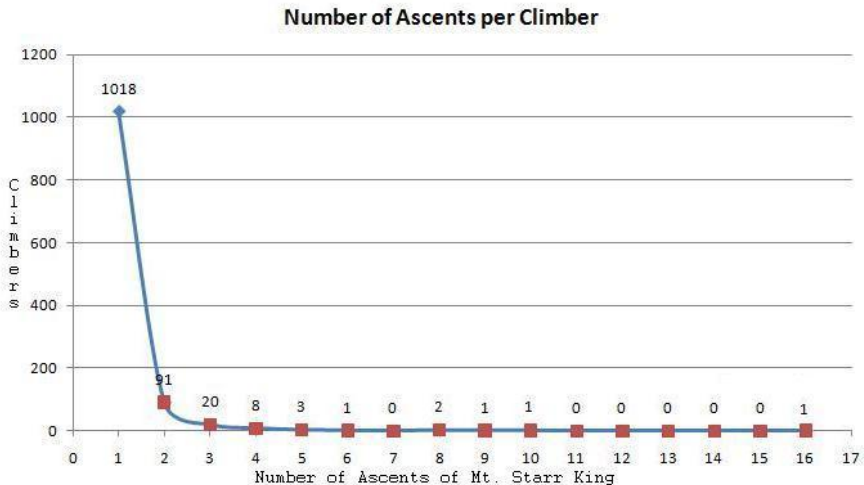
¹⁵⁴ Kat's recorded ascents of Starr King were on August 9, 1936, August 16, 1936, August 22, 1937, August 29, 1937, July 21, 1938, September 3, 1938, July 14, 1939, July 29, 1939, August 3, 1939, August 13, 1939, July 26, 1940, September 1, 1940, May 30, 1941, July 10, 1941, August 8, 1943, July 16, 1944.

William Kat shows his age as 70, but he was 69 years of age. He had a habit of counting the day he was born as his first birthday. He also says it is his farewell trip, and it is the last register entry for him. In 1960 he was clear that he had climbed the peak 19 times. The register only has 16 entries for him, so he may have made climbs and not signed in. However, for our purposes here, the register is the controlling document.

The vast majority of climbers reached the summit of Mt. Starr King once, others several times. In all we saw 1364 ascents in the registers made by 1146 different people. The following table tells the tale:

Ascents per Climber	Number of Climbers	Number of Ascents
1	1018	1018
2	91	182
3	20	60
4	8	32
5	3	15
6	1	6
7	0	0
8	2	16
9	1	9
10	1	10
11	0	0
12	0	0
13	0	0
14	0	0
15	0	0
16	1	16
Totals	1146	1364

The number of people who made multiple ascents, 128 (in bold type), accounted for 9 percent of the climbers; however, this small group made 25 percent of the ascents! Interestingly, the data when graphed create a beautiful curve, the kind of plot that would excite Dr. C.R. Wylie (See his ascent on August 10, 1938). How is it that motivation, interest in climbing and the ability to do a climb add up to a beautiful curve? We wait for the doctoral thesis on this combination of the mental and physical.



The honor roll of those with more than 3 ascents:

- 16 William Kat
- 10 Alan D. McCharles
- 9 Chris Denny
- 8 Lyn R. Wright, Dave Willis
- 6 George Whitmore
- 5 Judd Boynton, Gerald Ganopole, David Lunn
- 4 Dave Brower, Joe Brower, Bruce Cooke, Ken Boche, Jeff Barton, Fred Hudson, Ray Jewell, Howard Lewis

Douglas Macnair
San Francisco, Calif 1945
July 24

Sierra Club Party - June 1, 1946
24 in party to saddle from Glacier
Point, 9 to top. Returning by way
of Nevada Falls trail.

1. Dorothy Kinkade
2. John C. Hoagland
3. Bernice Boyer
4. Karl Boyer
5. Helen Rudy
6. Dorothy Hill
7. Douglas Macnair, Yosemite
8. John Hart
9. Bob Bear

1946 - Aug. 25

Gerhard Bakker, Jr. UCLA,
6812 Nita Ave. Huntington Park, Cal.

Came up alone on north face.

Ronald Mook is UCLA
LA 43 Calif.

up South face partly by
remote control

1945

July 24, 1945 Douglas Macnair, San Francisco Calif

1946

June 1, 1946 Sierra Club Party. 24 in party to saddle from Glacier Point. 9 to top. Returning by way of Nevada Falls trail.

Dorothy Kinkade

John C. Hoogland

Karl Boyer

Bernice Boyer

Helen Rudy

Dorothy Hill

Douglas Whiteside¹⁵⁵, Yosemite

John Hart

Bob Bear

1946-Aug.25 Gerhard Bakken, Jr. U.C.L.A., 6812 Rita Ave, Huntington Park Cal.. Came up alone on north face.

Ronald Moak, ex UCLA, LA 43 Calif.

Up South Face partly by remote control

The Sierra Club group took a different overall route than others by starting from Glacier Point and ending in Yosemite Valley. The nice part is that the hike is mostly downhill.

¹⁵⁵ Whiteside also ascended Starr King on October 29, 1942.

We laugh and holler
and scream with joy
Because we were here
Before Kilroy.

Aug 24, 1947

Fred Hudson
~~Jim Robertson~~
Bill Palmer (U.C.L.A.)

Came from Mono Meadows
trail along ~~the~~ side of
false Steep King. Reached
top about 2:15

AUG 30, 1947 notes, see
1st SOLO ASCENT & earlier 2nd 1976
1st ASCENT W FARR
JEFFREY ARMIDILLO SR.

1947

A ubiquitous bit of graffiti found during and after World War II was “Kilroy was here.” This graffiti phrase was not found in the register by the party ascending on August 24th 1947, and so the poem:

We laugh and holler
And scream with joy
Because we were here
Before Kilroy¹⁵⁶
[In the hand of Bill Palmer, below entry]

Aug 24, 1947 Fred Hudson¹⁵⁷
Jim Robertson¹⁵⁸
Bill Palmer¹⁵⁹ (U.C.L.A.)
Came from Mono Mdeadows Trail along side of false Starr King.
Reached top about 2:15

Aug 30, 1947 1st solo ascent [sic] [later comment] Not so, see earlier,
1st ascent [sic] W Face RNT 1976
Jeffrey Armidillo Sr.

¹⁵⁶ From Wikipedia: James J. Kilroy, an American shipyard inspector, may have been the man behind the signature. During World War II he worked at a shipyard where he was said to have written “Kilroy was here” to mark rivets he had checked. The idea was to prevent the erasure of chalk marks showing where a riveter ended his shift. Some riveters discovered they could receive extra pay by erasing the previous worker's chalk mark and chalking a mark farther back on the same seam, giving themselves credit for some of the previous riveter's work. Kilroy stopped this practice by writing "Kilroy was here" at the site of each chalk mark. At the time, ships were being sent out before they had been painted, so when sealed areas were opened for maintenance, soldiers found an unexplained name scrawled. Thousands of servicemen may have seen his slogan on ships and Kilroy's omnipresence and inscrutability sparked the legend.

¹⁵⁷ Fred Hudson also climbed Starr King on July 7, 1938, July 28, 1939, June 11, 1941

¹⁵⁸ Also climbed Starr King on June 9, 1951.

¹⁵⁹ Palmer also climbed Starr King on September 3, 1949

1948

* June 26
Climbed via northeast
ridge.
Richard Lemmon, ^{sign} Chet
Keith A. Bruchman, ^{RES}

1949

Aug. 27
Kenyon Cooke, Oakland
Bruce Cooke, Oakland
Raining slightly, but fairly
warm.

Sept. 3. ^{finally made it}

SN Webb Couiter } W. Los Ang
Bart Bill Palmer } UCLA
2nd Time

Via Glacier Point and Moun
Meadows A 1/2 HRS.

1948

June 28, 1948 Climbed via northeast ridge
Richard Lemmon¹⁶⁰, Sierra Club RCS
Keith A. Brueckner¹⁶¹

1949

Aug 27, 1949 Kenyon Cooke¹⁶², Oakland. Raining slightly but fairly warm
Bruce Cooke¹⁶³, Oakland

Sept 3 1949 Webb Coulter¹⁶⁴, W. Lost Angeles U.C.L.A. Finally made it
Bill Palmer¹⁶⁵ 2nd time W. Lost Angeles U.C.L.A.
Via Glacier Point and Mono Meadows 4 ½ hrs.

Bruce and Kenyon Cooke were brothers who grew up in Oakland, Bruce the elder by about five years. Bruce was well known in Bay Area rock climbing circles. He is next in the register in 1964, once for a solo climb and a second time with his brother Kenyon and Kenyon's son.

PAGES MISSING.

The climbing year of 1949-1950.

Entries from September 4, 1949 to July 22, 1950 are missing. An entry in this register on July 25, 1965 refers to an entry by Anton (Ax) Nelson dated October 23, 1949. Nelson's fame on the Lost Arrow was too much for a souvenir hunter to ignore.

¹⁶⁰ Richard Lemmon became a Professor of Chemistry at the University of California

¹⁶¹ Breuckner received his Ph.D. in physics from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1950 and had a distinguished career.

¹⁶² Kenyon Cooke's other ascent was on October 12, 1964

¹⁶³ Bruce Cooke's other ascents: September 7, 1964, October 12, 1964, June 27, 1966

¹⁶⁴ Coulter was on the water polo team at UCLA in 1948-1950.

¹⁶⁵ Palmer also climbed Starr King on August 24, 1947

July 22 Beautiful Clear Day
Some climb. I am still shaking
I am so scared. Dont have Mountain
like this back home.

Leroy Williams Jr. Virginia Tech '52
101 Park St.
Christiansburg, Va.

May 19, 1951 - Absolutely perfect day.

John Mowat S.A.C.

W Vogel SAG

Hugh Bennett SAE

May 19-1951 same perfect day

Nechy Bortich

Marian Steineke

Betsy Crowder

Marian Steineke

Stanford

Alpine

Club

June 9, 1951

Roger A. Mann (General, N.Y. [C.C.D.R.])

Richard G. Robertson (15 yrs) Berkeley

Bob Dolan (Richmond)

Jim Robertson (2nd Ascent) Berkeley

Stu Robertson - Berkeley - [C.C.D.R.]

1950

July 22 [1950] Beautiful clear day. Some climb. I am still shaking I am so scared. Don't have mountains like this back home.

Leroy Williams Jr. Virginia Tech '52. Iol Park St, Christiansburg Va.

1951

May 19, 1951 Absolutely perfect day.

John Mowat S.A.C.¹⁶⁶

B Vogel SAC

Hugh DeWitt, SAC

May 19, 1951 same perfect day

Neely Bostich, Stanford Alpine Club

Marian Steineke, Stanford Alpine Club

Betsy Crowder, Stanford Alpine Club

Maxine Steineke, Stanford Alpine Club

June 9, 1951 Roger A. Mann (Geneva N.Y. (C.C.D.R.¹⁶⁷.)

Richard G. Robertson (15 yrs) Berkeley

Bob Dolan (Richmond)

Jim Robertson¹⁶⁸ (2nd ascent) Berkeley

Stu Robertson Berkeley (C.C.D.R.)

For more information about the S.A.C., see "The Stanford Alpine Club" by John Rawlings, CSLI Publications, Stanford University Libraries, Stanford, CA. It is a 194 page volume which gives an excellent history of the S.A.C. It is well illustrated and indexed and has photography edited by Glen Denny¹⁶⁹. A short history of the SAC in Yosemite Valley is in "Camp 4, Recollections of a Yosemite Rock Climber" by Steve Roper, 1994. Mowat was on the first ascent of the Southwest Arete, West Side, of the Middle Brother in Yosemite Valley with

¹⁶⁶ S.A.C. stands for the Stanford Alpine Club.

¹⁶⁷ Camp Curry Dining Room

¹⁶⁸ Robertson also climbed Starr King on August 24, 1947

¹⁶⁹ Glen Denny climbed Starr King on June 30, 1965.

Nick Clinch, Dave Harrah and Sherman Lehman. *A Climber's Guide to Yosemite Valley*, Steve Roper, 1964, p. 158.

Marian and Maxine Steineke were the daughters of Max Steineke, an oil geologist in Saudi Arabia in the 1930's. The two girls lived in Dhahran for two years, 1937-1939 and are shown in *Images of America, Early Los Altos and Los Altos Hills* on page 88 standing on a hill overlooking King Saud's encampment. The entire family was outdoors oriented, skiing, hiking, camping. Maxine received a MS from Stanford in 1953 and Marian a BS in 1954. The girls are also mentioned in *Discovery! The Story of ARAMCO Then* by Wallace Stegner, as well as in many other articles on the Internet.

At Stanford Bea (Beatrice) Vogel made some of her own pitons at the Engineering School's metal shop. She earned her PhD in arachnology from Yale, and was also involved in the fight for gender equality – see Chapter 7 of *Liberty and Sexuality – The Right to Privacy and the Making of Roe V. Wade*. Vogel accompanied Warren Harding on the first ascent of the Harding Route on Glacier Point Apron, west side in 1957 in Yosemite Valley.

These little blurbs I put in hardly do justice to the lives people led, but perhaps will assist the curious reader in finding out more.

7/13/52
Good exercise - Beautiful
thunder clouds - should be
bunched soon

Frank A. Zander - Oakland
Cal
Calvin Clark - Berkeley
Cal
D. W. Hunter

SEPTEMBER 13, 1952

Joe Fitcher - Sierra Club

Jesse F. Baley - U.C.L.A.

Gordon D. Seele - C.I.T.

Up S. Slope without incident.

OCTOBER 12, 1952

VIA SE. SADDIE & FACE,

JOHN C. OHRENSCHALL,
S.C.R.C.S., SAC, CAL.

James M. Carl - Mother Lake Stage,

Sierra Club. Res applicant.

This is good enough for me.

BEAUTIFUL, WARM DAY,
3:15 P.M., FROM NEVADA
FALLS THIS MORNING. EITHER
THIS IS MINIMUM 5th CLASS,
OR I'M A POOR CLIMBER -
PROBABLY LATTER.

1952

7/13/52 Good exercise – Beautiful thunder clouds – should be drenched soon
Frank H. Zander – Oakland
Alalacohn Clark – Palo Alto
H.C. Whisler

September 13, 1952 Joe Fitschen – Sierra Club
Jesse F. Baley – U.C.L.A.
Gordon D. Seele – CIT¹⁷⁰ Up S. Slope without incident

October 12, 1952 via SE Saddle and face
John C. Ohrenschall¹⁷¹, SC RCS, Sacramento, Cal
James M. Carl, Mother Lode Chapter Sierra Club. RCS applicant. This is good enough for me.
Beautiful, warm day. 3:15pm from Nevada Falls this morning. Either this is minimum 5th class, or I'm a poor climber. Probably latter.

Joe Fitschen participated in four major first ascents¹⁷² in Yosemite Valley and climbed in many areas, especially Tahquitz Rock, so not much more need be said here except a snippet from a 1956 Tahquitz guide¹⁷³, “This route (Fitschen’s Folly) commemorates Joe Fitschen’s 170 foot fall from the slabs above the friction route.” He survived! Lucky for me as in 1962 he assisted in rescuing me

¹⁷⁰ CIT is the California Institute of Technology from which Seele would later obtain a degree in Geochemistry. See also September 4, 1977.

¹⁷¹ Ohrenschall was with Warren Harding on Harding’s first new route, the west face of Sugarloaf Rock near Lake Tahoe - Camp 4, Recollections of a Yosemite Rock Climber by Steve Roper, 1994 p 56. Ohrenschall also made the first ascent of John’s Other Chimney with Mary Ann Corthell in Yosemite Valley and participated in the first free ascent of K-P Pinnacle with Mark Powell - A Climber’s Guide to Yosemite Valley, Steve Roper, 1964, p. 51, 167. Ohrenschall also climbed Starr King on May 30, 1953 and June 26, 1962.

¹⁷² <http://www.yosemiteclimbing.org/content/yosemite-timeline>

¹⁷³ Climber’s Guide to Tahquitz Rock, Wilts and Wilson, 1956, p35. Fitchen’s Folly is the route, with Fitschen misspelled.

and a climbing partner in Yosemite when my partner was bitten by a rattlesnake on a route up Sunnyside Bench near Lower Yosemite Falls.

Joe sent this account of his Starr King adventure to me, and it was not, as said in the register, “without incident”:

Gordon Seele was sitting on the summit of Alta Peak when my mother and I arrived. Gordon was sixteen and about to be a freshman at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech). He was alone, while I was with my mother, but then I was two years younger. We hiked down together and exchanged addresses and phone numbers when we got to the cars. Differences in age were more crucial than differences in sex or anything else in those teen years. A bullying type might form a small gang of younger kids, or a guy having a little trouble with girls of his own age might see if he seemed more mature and sophisticated to a girl a year younger. Maybe this was more of a west coast phenomenon where it was more unusual than in the east for students to skip grades. Maybe it was more common then than now, but being in a certain grade in school was like being on an island. After that differentiation came social class, rather crudely defined, then religion. Race was not much of a factor since apart from a few Asians there was only one race in Glendale.

The difference in our ages didn't seem to matter to Gordon, perhaps because he didn't feel socially at ease with the older students at Caltech. Perhaps he just wanted someone to hike with. In any case, he could usually borrow his parents' car, and my mother trusted him, so Gordon and I went on a number of day hikes in the local mountains. Even snow in the winter didn't stop us. We would plow through it to some summit, certainly aware of our soggy boots and soaking jeans and cold fingers and ears and toes but not really bothered by it all. Just being in the snow was a novel and stimulating experience for a southern California kid.

The following summer, Gordon started talking about a more serious climb. He had a friend, Jesse, who wanted to climb Mt. Starr King, a cone of a dome tucked away behind Half Dome in Yosemite and a few hundred feet higher in elevation. None of the Sierra Clubbers I talked to knew much about it. Getting to the summit wasn't just a hike. At one time

in the nineteenth century it was regarded, along with Half Dome itself, as one of the three remaining “problems” in the Yosemite region. Jesse’s mother wanted to spend a few days hiking in Yosemite, so late in the summer the four of us drove up to the Valley in her Nash. This was my first trip to Yosemite, and we surely drove through the tunnel and stopped to take in that magnificent view, and I surely saw El Capitan and the Cathedral Rocks rising like guardians at the gates and a little farther on Sentinel Rock and then, rising a mile above the head of the Valley, Half Dome and Clouds Rest. I saw, in short, a large part of my future, but I remember none of it. My mind was on Mt. Starr King. Gordon, Jesse, and I hoisted heavy packs and started up the Mist Trail past Vernal Fall and Nevada Fall. At the top of Nevada Fall, Jesse, who seemed to know where he was going, headed off the trail into the woods. We found large patches of underbrush. We found mazes of downed trees. We found that we could not see very far through the trees and could not be sure we were going in the right direction. We staggered on. We had estimated it would take a few hours to get to the base of the dome, but we didn’t find it until late afternoon.

Jesse, who paraded some expertise in the higher levels of mountaineering, told us how earlier alpinists would coat the base of their boots with pine pitch in order to get a better grip on the smooth granite. We considered the technique, but decided it was more trouble than it was worth, and the route didn’t look that steep. Jesse, expecting difficulties, had brought along some equipment to aid our ascent. He pulled from his pack 100 feet of quarter-inch manila rope. When I became more involved with real climbers I found that the lore of those days was rife with tales of young lads heading up to the cliffs with coils of clothesline, so we were relatively well equipped. (Still, mothers should hide the clothesline as well as the cleaning supplies and pistols used for self-defense. Uncounted numbers of our youth have been killed, or even maimed, because they foolishly relied on clothesline. Parachute cord is not much better and should exhibit product safety warning labels. All the same, even life is hazardous and may lead to death.) Jesse also produced a few Star drills and some eye bolts. You drilled a hole, he explained, put the bolt in the hole, and then threaded the rope through the hole in the bolt. Jesse didn’t have, nor seem to know about, pitons, carabiners, standard 7/16-inch

nylon climbing rope, or expansion bolts. As luck would have it, such equipment wasn't necessary for an ascent of Mt. Starr King and wouldn't have been useful since none of us knew even the rudiments of placing pitons or using the rope to belay another climber.

The next morning, with spirits high, we tackled the peak eager for success. The route was not very long or very difficult, but I remember thinking more than once that it would be best not to slip and fall. Taking note of this, however, is a long cry from being afraid of falling. Because of some quirk of neuronal wiring, exposure without fear equals exhilaration. This heightened state is probably a legacy of the prehistoric hunters. Fearful hunters did not survive. Exhilarated hunters not only returned with full bags but felt like going out again. Too simple a theory, perhaps, but the better climbers I know are in one way or another exhilaration junkies—not daredevils, not thrill seekers, but looking for that rush that's often equated with freedom.

The granite slabs rising in a smooth line to the summit looked steeper than they actually were, the effect of foreshortening that the experienced mountaineer is accustomed to. Such an experienced climber could probably walk up these slabs with his hands in his pockets, but I didn't know enough to trust my feet, and consequently I clawed at every available crack or handhold and was elated to find the occasional small ledge on which to rest. My heart pounded like a woodpecker and I panted like a hound. All of this made it seem like an even greater adventure.

In due course we stopped while Jesse drilled a hole (oh, the shame of it in retrospect). The point of this bolt placement was not to promote our safety. Rather, Jesse also had brought along an eight-millimeter movie camera, and he used the rope, doubled through the bolt, to support him while he moved out on the smooth face to be in a better position to film our desperate progress. He repeated this process several times as we got higher, so important was it that our feat should be duly recorded (who knows what visions now occupy the compressed files of innumerable video cams). Higher, the angle lessened, and we strolled up to the summit where we found a register stashed in a cairn. We signed our names, and while reading through the accounts of previous ascents I came across a

note someone had written earlier in the summer. The climber had left the Valley in the morning, hiked up a trail different from our route, ascended a steeper route on the other side of the peak by himself, and had arrived on top at two in the afternoon which left him plenty of time to get back down to the Valley well before dark. We were late into our second day and would not return to the car until the afternoon of the third day. We had succeeded in turning a day's ramble into a three-day siege. Suddenly, our achievement seemed to lack finesse, style, skill. There was more to this climbing game than we had dreamed.

Climbing down is sometimes more tricky than climbing up, so we used the doubled rope through the bolts as a hand line on the steeper sections. I guess we had a bit of luck since the bolts stayed in the holes. We could easily have removed them by pulling out on them, but the tension from the rope and the low angle combined to keep them in place. Sometimes innocents get away with things; sometimes they don't.

I'm not sure when I last saw Gordon, but I don't remember any specific trips with him after that one. I was going on more and more Sierra Club trips, and I found that if the back packing and peak bagging were arduous enough my mother was not interested and would let others act *in loco parentis*. Perhaps in his second year at Caltech Gordon was adapting to the social scene, was able to make friends with the older students, and was becoming more self-conscious about hanging out with someone two years younger than himself. It was a friendship I would have liked to last longer.

Joe's method of ascent is not to be emulated, and the warning must be repeated:

Climbing is dangerous. Climb at your own risk.

You can be seriously injured or killed in this sport.



THE CLIMB HAS JUST
BEGUN.

MM

MAY 30, 1953 - N.E.

SLOPE COVERED WITH SNOW;
UP S.E. SLOPE WITHOUT
INCIDENT.

JOHN C. OHRENSCHA II
S. C. R. C. S.

Mary Ann Corthell VP + CCO
rosemita SAC SC

Norah Straley Sierra Club

H. C. King H. M. C. AAC.

J. Davis SC RCS

The climb has just begun [and a small drawing accompanies]

1953

May 30, 1953 – N.E. slope covered with snow. Up S.E. slope without incident.

John C. Ohrenschall,¹⁷⁴ SCRCs

Mary Ann Corthell¹⁷⁵, YP&CC

Norah Straley¹⁷⁶ Sierra Club

H.C. King HMC¹⁷⁷ AAC

J. Davis SC RCS

By the year and the companions, J. Davis is probably Jack Davis¹⁷⁸ who participated in four first ascents¹⁷⁹ in Yosemite Valley. This entry highlights a problem of looking up people with common last names and no complete first name. Jack Davis' first ascents were the Northwest Ledges on Cloud's Rest, the Northwest Buttress of Middle Cathedral Rock, the East Buttress of Middle Cathedral Rock, and the North Face Traverse of Middle Cathedral Rock.

¹⁷⁴ Ohrenschall also climbed Starr King on October 12, 1952 and June 26, 1962.

¹⁷⁵ Mary Ann Corthell made the first ascent of John's Other Chimney with John Ohrenschall in Yosemite Valley. A Climber's Guide to Yosemite Valley, Steve Roper, 1964, p. 167. Her name would become Mary Ann Matthews, but she was also known as Corky. She was a Stanford graduate and active in the Stanford Alpine Club. See also her July 15, 1966 and her July 21, 1967 entries in this register.

¹⁷⁶ Norah Straley was on the first ascent of the East Face of Ragged Peak with Warren Harding and Ray Alcott on August 16, 1953.

¹⁷⁷ Harvard Mountaineering Club

¹⁷⁸ Camp 4, Recollections of a Yosemite Rock Climber by Steve Roper, 1994 p. 58

¹⁷⁹ <http://www.yosemiteclimbing.org/content/yosemite-timeline>

June 20, 1953

from G.I. PE.

3PM - Started 10 AM - Perfect
day - up N. Slope -

Frank deSausure - UCHC

PHIL GEORGE • ALAMEDA

COMFORTABLE CLIM. WEARING? APPROP.
P. DATE: SUMMER #1101

July 11, 1953

Wonderful trip except
I'm terribly thirsty - Can't
wait till we get to snow
bank where the fruit juice
is hidden.

Margy Zuehl S.C.
we took Alice Jensen UCHC
S.C.

GOD! WHAT FRICTION!

T.E. (Merriman

(NEWASTOLIUM MARCHING &
CHORUS SOCIETY)

PHIL GEORGE ALAMEDA

June 20, 1953 3pm Started 10am from Gl. Pt.- Perfect day – up N. Slope
Frank deSaussure, UCHC¹⁸⁰
Phil George, Alameda
Comfortable climb wearing appropriate summer attire!

July 11, 1953 Wonderful trip except I am terribly thirsty – Can't wait till we get
to snow bank where the fruit juice is hidden
Margy Fischer SC
Alice Jensen UCHC SC Me too!
P.E. Merriman (New Asmolian Marching and Chowder Society). God!
What Friction!
Phil George, Alameda

¹⁸⁰ UCHC is the University of California at Berkeley Hiking Club. Frank deSaussure did a lot of mountaineering, including rock climbing, in California, the Northwest, and British Columbia. He is listed as Warren Harding's partner in Wikipedia on the first ascents in 1954 of North West Books and the Left & Right Water Cracks, Lembert Dome, Tuolumme Meadows, CA.

July 29, 1953

Started at Glacier Point
at 7:40 AM and came by
way of S.W saddle. The
trifiction is nice even
with rubber lug soles
on. Brought a beginner
with me as second man.
Did a good job. Weather
good and got to top at
11:45 PM. Must be back
to blister rest tomorrow.
Hate to think of going
back to work.

Leader Ralph Edwin Sutton
122 Middlefield Rd
Palo Alto
and RCS of Tama Prieta
Chapter of Sierra Club

Beginner: ~~John Ockener~~
Shore Acres
HOUSTON, TEXAS

↑
We're glad they made it!!
attn: say, Ralphie

July 29, 1953 Started at Glacier Point at 7:40 AM and came up by way of SW saddle. The friction is nice even with rubber lug soles on. Brought a beginner with me as second man. He did a good job. Weather good and got to top at 1:45 PM. Must be back to blister rust¹⁸¹ tomorrow. Hate to think of going back to work.

Ralph Edwin Sutton, Leader, 1221 Middleford Rd Palo Alto, and RCS of Loma Prieta Chapter of Sierra Club

John Ochsner, Beginner, Shore Acres Houston Texas

We're glad they made it!! attn Bay, Ralphie

¹⁸¹ Blister rust is a fungus that attacks pine trees. An intermediate host for the fungus is the gooseberry bush (genus *Ribes*). Control refers to a project in many public forests where the gooseberry bushes are eradicated by spraying a chemical similar to Agent Orange.

Aug 13 1958

Left Glacier Point at 7:00
arrived here at 11:15 - Complete
friction no peton - Scared
the camp out of me -
Checked at Camp 16 Store
Yosemite Park.

Paul Houston

SAME PARTY - EMPLOYEE
IN VILLAGE STORE - GOT DIRTY
PANTS - LACC - FORESTRY
MAJOR - Mary Smart.

Same party as above.
I think it was a
pretty good climb.
Jack Stitt

Aug 13 1953 Rod Houston - Left Glacier Point at 7:00 arrived here at 11:15.
Complete friction no piton – scared the crap out of me. Checker at
Camp 16 Store Yosemite Park
Gary Smart. Same party – employee in Village Store – got dirty pants –
LACC – Forestry major
Jack Stitt. Same party as above. I think it was a pretty good climb.

Oct 6, 1953

Dave Hammack } Loma Prieta
George Larimore } R.C.S.
Via NE face
without incident + water

10 October 53

up NNE slope after
attempt on NNW slope
(very interesting pitches
around there.)

George W. Whitmore } S.C.
Eric Kirchner } R.C.S.

10/13/53
Red English.

Oct 6, 1953 Dave Hammack¹⁸², Loma Prieta RCS
George Larimore,¹⁸³ Loma Prieta RCS
Via NE face without incident and water

10 October 53 Up NNE slope after attempt on NNW slope (very interesting
pitches around there)
George W. Whitmore¹⁸⁴, SC RCS
Eric Kirchner, SC RCS

10/13/53 Ned English

1954

PAGES MISSING.

The climbing year of 1954

The last entry on this page is from October 13, 1953. The entry on the following page is from May 21, 1955. Considering the number of climbs normally made in a year, it is likely that pages were removed here containing 1954 entries.

¹⁸² On June 2, 1951 David Hammack was on the first ascent of a class 4 Middle Brother route named From Michael's Ledge with Ronald Hahn, Anton Nelson, and John Salathé A Climber's Guide to Yosemite Valley, Steve Roper, 1964, p. 71

¹⁸³ In 1950 Dave Hammack and George Larimore made the first ascent of the Gorge Traverse between the upper and lower Yosemite falls. A Climber's Guide to Yosemite Valley, Steve Roper, 1964, p. 90

¹⁸⁴ George Whitmore was on a number of first ascents in Yosemite Valley including the El Capitan Nose in 1958 with Warren Harding and Wayne Merry. The others: Sentinel Spire in 1954 with Warren Harding, Arch Rock Pinnacle in 1955 with Warren Harding, Lost Brother from the Southwest Side in 1958 with Merle Alley, the Ahwahnee Buttress in 1959 with Merle Alley, George Sessions and Jerry Dixon, and Nickel Pinnacle from the Notch with Mark Powell. A Climber's Guide to Yosemite Valley, Steve Roper, 1964. Whitmore also ascended Starr King on April 30, 1960, April 9, 1961, October 26, 1969, May 29, 1974, and April 29, 1979.

5-21-55
1410
Ascent from the
SE saddle - solo ascent
Dick Markham
San Carlos, Calif

5-29-55

STARTED FROM MONO MDS. AT 12:30
P.M., ATTAINED SUMMIT

Via south face. (Tehipite Chapter)

George Sessions S.C. RES FRESNO

Richard Calderwood S.C. RES. FRESNO, Calif

Ralph Richardson

Solo trip - it is
Good Luck on getting
down - June 15, 1955

6-21-55

John Meppiam

John Henneberger - NPS
SE SADDLE

1955

5-21-55 14:10 Ascended from the SE saddle – solo ascent
Dick Markfin, San Carlos Calif

5-29-55 Started from Mono Mds. At 12:30 p.m. Attained summit via south face
George Sessions, SC RCS (Tehipite Chapter)
Richard Calderwood SCRCFS Fresno Calif

June 15, 1955 Ralph Richardson. Solo trip. It is Good Luck on getting down

6-21-55 John Merriam¹⁸⁵
John Henneberger – NPS
SE Saddle

George Sessions¹⁸⁶ went on to participate in six first ascents in Yosemite Valley. Calderwood had five¹⁸⁷ in addition to spending some time on the Nose of El Capitan with Harding as the first ascent unfolded. In 1960 I picked up Calderwood as a partner on the first ascent of Coonyard Pinnacle on Glacier Point Apron, the pre-eminent location for friction climbing in Yosemite Valley. He was a solid climber and a good companion. He later taught rock climbing at a Junior College in Fresno.

¹⁸⁵ Also climbed the peak on June 17, 1958

¹⁸⁶ Sessions' first ascents: Spireview Point, Bear Rock Bolt Route, Lower Watkins Pinnacle, Penny-Nickel Arete, Pohono Pinnacle North Face, Ahwahnee Buttress. First free ascent of Arches Terrace. Sessions also climbed Starr King on July 30, 1956, May 30, 1959 and July 25, 1965.

¹⁸⁷ Calderwood's first ascents: Arches Terrace, Phantom Pinnacle Left Side, Coonyard Pinnacle, Hangover Buttress, Juliette's Flake Right Side, First free ascent of Arches Terrace.

June 25, 1955
from Glacier Pt.

John Jaeger } joint leaders
Lyn R Wright }
Florence Richmond
Alan Mc Charles (9th ascent)
Clarence Richmond.

Oct 22, 1955

Mono Mds at 9:30 AM
summit via N.W. slope easy 4th
Dail Doucette - TRIPIC + USAF
Richard Sheffield
San Diego R.C.S.

Two persons
expected up in
the near future

Bill Feuer R.C.S.
Herb White Lyabrook, New York

June 25, 1955 From Glacier Pt.

John Yeager¹⁸⁸ \
Lyn R Wright¹⁸⁹ / Joint Leaders
Florence Richmond¹⁹⁰
Alan McCharles¹⁹¹ (9th ascent)
Clarence Richmond¹⁹²

Oct 22, 1955 Mono Mds at 9:30 AM. Summit via NW slope easy 4th

Dail Doucette, Tehipite Ch & USAF
Richard Sheffield, San Diego RCS
Two preons [sic] expected up in the near future [sic]

Bill Feuerer¹⁹³ RCS
Herb White¹⁹⁴, Lynbrook New York

This is a reunion for McCharles and Wright who were last up together in 1937. McCharles is done now, but Wright will have three more ascents after this one.

Bill Feuerer attained enduring fame in the climbing community as “The Dolt” for his climbing equipment. As a rock climber and student at UCLA I frequented his shop, The Dolt Hut, on Sawtelle Blvd in Los Angeles from 1959-1960. Bill was a slow talker but not a dolt. He was on the start of the El Capitan Nose project with Harding in 1957, and one prominent ledge on the route was named “Dolt Tower” after Feuerer. He is listed on five first ascents in Yosemite Valley, The Arrowhead Arete, Lower Cathedral Rock North Buttress, The Footstool Right

¹⁸⁸ John Yeager also ascended Starr King on June 1, 1957 and June 21, 1958.

¹⁸⁹ Wright also ascended Starr King on July 24, 1933, July 15, 1934, Jul 20, 1937, October 13, 1956, June 1, 1957, June 21, 1958 and June 25, 1960.

¹⁹⁰ Florence Richmond’s also ascended Starr King on October 13, 1956.

¹⁹¹ His other ascents of Starr King: July 24, 1933, June 11, 1934, July 15, 1934, July 1, 1935, July 6, 1935, August 17, 1935, June 30, 1936, July 20, 1937, July 23, 1937.

¹⁹² Clarence Richmond’s also ascended Starr King on October 13, 1956.

¹⁹³ Feuerer also ascended Starr King on May 30, 1971

¹⁹⁴ White also ascended Starr King on July 1, 1956.

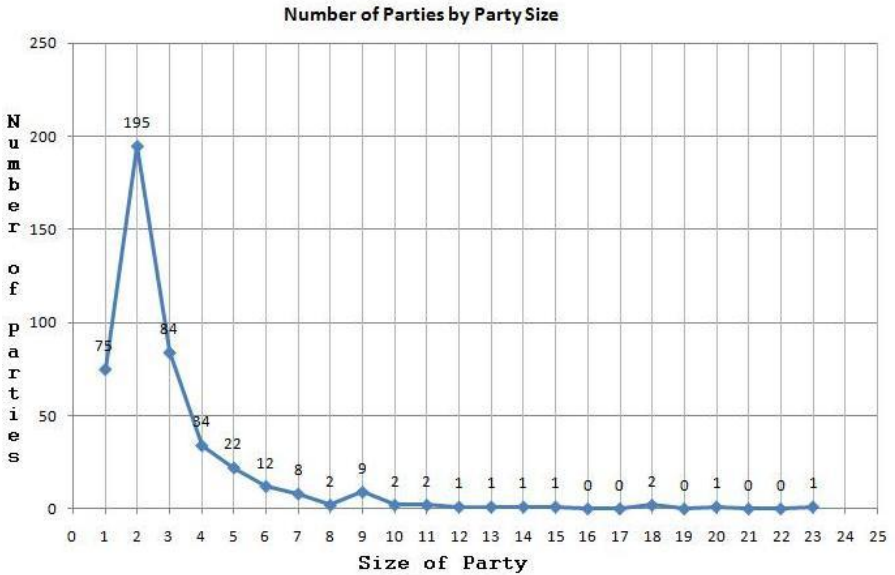
Side, Penny Pinnacle East Arete and Rixon’s Pinnacle West Face. He is also listed for a first free ascent of the Overhang Route on Lower Cathedral Rock. All except Rixon’s (done with Tom Frost) were climbed with Mark Powell. The reader is directed to Camp 4, Recollections of a Yosemite Rock Climber by Steve Roper for a wealth of detail about Bill Feuerer.

Another statistic that can be found in the registers is the distribution of the number of climbers in the parties that ascend the peak.

Party Size	Number of Parties	Number of Climbers			
1	75	75			
2	195	390			
3	84	252	13	1	13
4	34	136	14	1	14
5	22	110	15	1	15
6	12	72	16	0	0
7	8	56	17	0	0
8	2	16	18	2	36
9	9	81	19	0	0
10	2	20	20	1	20
11	2	22	21	0	0
12	1	12	22	0	0
			23	1	23
			Totals	453	1363

A party size of “1” means the climb was a solo endeavor, no ropes and essentially done third class. A party size of 23 means a group ascent by an organization such as the Sierra Club’s Sierra Peaks Section. Plotting the two variables, party size and number of parties ascending the peak, we get a beautiful curve in which only

parties of nine stand out as anomalous. Why people sort themselves so neatly into groups of differing sizes, solos climbers aside, is an interesting question for the psychologists who concern themselves with risk and its mitigation.



5 NOV 55

from horizontal line
G.P. rd. & up N face. Max
use of existing pitons - rain
in morning.

77. Denny rd
and Clark

- 1956 -

June 9, Bill Keasbey & Don
Goodrich: We found this
thing only after a bit of
wandering in the brush. Came
from camp on Clark Fork.
A perfect day, but the guide
should mention that pitons are
essential for anchoring on the
SE. (regular?) route. Water!

12 June 1959
Mt. COMESS

5 } Bill Keasbey &
Don Goodrich
U C H C

Going down on our roller skates.

5 Nov 55 From Mono trail and Glacier Point Rd & up N Face. Max use of existing pitons – rain in morning
F. L. Davenport,
Zyal Clark

1956

June 9, 1956 Bill Keasbey, UCHC
Don Goodrich, UCHC

We found this thing only after a bit of wandering in the brush. Came from camp on Clark Fork. A perfect day but the guide should mention that pitons are essential for anchoring on the SE (regular?) route. Water! Going down on our roller skates.

† 12 June 1959 Mt. Conness [This annotation was probably written by Krehe Ritter when he was on Mt. Starr King on July 8, 1959 and regards Don Goodrich]

Don Goodrich participated in seven first ascents in Yosemite Valley, including the slab Pinnacle on the Glacier Point Apron named for him, Goodrich Pinnacle, Dinner Ledge, Lower Brother Middle West Face, Obscurity Traverse, Point Beyond, Rixon's Pinnacle East Chimney, Monday Morning Slab Right Side, and Goodrich Pinnacle Left Side. As the cross annotation placed near his entry indicates, Goodrich was killed on the 1200 foot southwest face of Mt. Conness when he pulled a loose block of rock off and fell. A memorial plaque was placed near the wall, and his name endures on the climbs of and to Goodrich Pinnacle. Krehe Ritter was on the Mt. Conness climb with Goodrich.

June 24, 1956
Ken Mearley and Dick Markham
2:00 PM. From Glacier
Point.

June 28
Bart Hooley 11:30
Max Allen 10:31

Hooley's a fast hiker!

JULY 1, 1956 11:30 PM

PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY

ALPINE CLUB

Herb White LIMBROOK, N.Y.

Chuck Arigue, Fergus Falls
(MINNESOTA)

and we have 250 miles to
hitch back this afternoon, yet!!

June 24, 1956 Ken Muajily
Dick Mashim
2:00PM from Glacier Point

June 28 1956 Bart Hooley 11:30
Max Allen 10:31
Hooleg's a fast hiker!

July 1, 1956 Presidio of Monterey Alpine Club
Herb White¹⁹⁵, Lynbrook N.Y.
Chuck Argue, Fergus Falls Minnesota
And we have 250 miles to hitch back this afternoon, yet!!

¹⁹⁵ White also ascended Starr King on October 22, 1955.

JULY 30 - 1956

ASCENT ~~by~~ NORTH EAST FACE

- 1. GEORGE SESSIONS
- 2. DENNIS WILLS

FRESNO

SIERRA CLUB R.C.S.

PERFECT DAY !!

Oct. 13, 1956

clear, sunny, warm
 to the Richmonds - Clarence - Ho
~~gan Level~~
~~Lyn Rought Leader~~
 Helen Kamnitz
 Sierra Club Not Rock Climbing Section

MAY 31, 1957

Kenneth D. Adams SF, AAC
 Morgan Harris SC RCS

June 1, 1957 - from N.E.

nice snow x wet rock climb
 very warm on top, time from
 Glacier Point 6 1/2 hrs.
 Vernon Jones - Roy Smith

July 30 1956 Ascent of North East Face

1. George Sessions¹⁹⁶

2. Dennis Wills

Fresno Sierra Club RCS. Perfect day!!

Oct 13, 1956 Clear, sunny, warm

The Richmonds – Clarence (Leader) – Flo¹⁹⁷

Roseann Lenel

Lyn R. Wright¹⁹⁸ (Leader)

Helen Kennitzer

Sierra Club NOT Rock Climbing Section

1957

May 21, 1957 Kenneth D. Adam¹⁹⁹, S.C., A.A.C.

Morgan Harris²⁰⁰, SC RCS

June 1, 1957 From NE. Nice snow – wet rock climb. Very warm on top. Time from Glacier Point 6 ½ hours

Vernon Jones

Ron Smith²⁰¹

Angeles Chapter Sierra Club RCS

¹⁹⁶ Sessions also climbed Starr King on May 9, 1955, May 30, 1959 and July 25, 1965.

¹⁹⁷ The Richmond's also ascended Starr King on June 25, 1955

¹⁹⁸ Wright also ascended Starr King on July 24, 1933, July 15, 1934, Jul 20, 1937, June 25, 1955, June 1, 1957, June 21, 1958 and June 25, 1960.

¹⁹⁹ See also May 29, 1937 and May 27, 1944

²⁰⁰ This was a 20th anniversary climb for Harris. He was last up the peak on July 27, 1937. Adam was also on the peak in 1937, and he had an intervening trip up in 1944.

²⁰¹ R. Smith was on the first free ascent of The Consolation at Tahquitz Rock in the 1950's, but it is impossible to know if this is the same person.

Jan 1, 1957

Chuck Edwards - In land

Bruce Mcintosh

John Yeager

Kate Yeager

Dick Mcintosh

Ernie Wright

JUNE 8, 1957

DAVE REARICK

FROM S.E.

John Gary

SADDLE.

AUGUST 3, 1957

MEPPEL OLSON, Jessa Benton,

med students at C.M.E.

Used ropes and erecting
pilons on S.E. face. Warm
day, no water! Camp to use
some club dues to install
drinking fountain, Mr. Bower!

June 1, 1957 Chuck Edwards – In lead
Bruce McIntosh²⁰²
John Yeager²⁰³
Kate Yeager²⁰⁴
Dick McIntosh
Lyn Wright²⁰⁵

June 8, 1957 David Rearick²⁰⁶
John Gary
From S.E. Saddle

August 3, 1957 Merrel Olson
George Burton
Med students at C.M.E. Used ropes and existing pitons on S.E. face.
Warm day, no water. Ought to use Sierra Club dues to install drinking
fountain, Mr. Brower!

Dave Rearick had six first ascents in Yosemite Valley, the first ascent of the Diamond on Long's Peak in Colorado with Bob Kamps, as well as being a climber of note at Tahquitz. He was also a legendary building climber at Cal Tech.

²⁰² Also climbed the peak on June 25, 1960

²⁰³ John Yeager also ascended Starr King on June 25, 1955 and June 21, 1958.

²⁰⁴ Kate Yeager also ascended Starr King on June 21, 1958.

²⁰⁵ Wright also ascended Starr King on July 24, 1933, July 15, 1934, Jul 20, 1937, June 25, 1955, October 13, 1956, June 21, 1958 and June 25, 1960.

²⁰⁶ Rearick also climbed Starr King on October 7, 1967.

Sept. 1, 1957 10:20 A.M.
Mother Lode Chapter, Sierra Club

1. Dalsour Janson

Jack Rowlin

Maggie Lawson (Gt. Britain) guest

March 2, 1958

Bill Dunmire

Up NNE route

Dick Sternmark

on skis
skis off 800' down

June 15, 1958

NE Route, 2 Cl. Spots, melting snow,
much of rock wet,

Bill Loub serves,

Richard Calif.

Henry Carlson

New York, N.Y.

June 17, '58

John Maxwell
Rocky Rain

RAIN 4 #41

5 p.m. on ...

Sept 1, 1957 Mother Lode Chapter, Sierra Club
Del Mar Janson
Jack Rankin²⁰⁷
Maggie Lanson (Gt. Britain) guest

1958

March 2, 1958 Bill Dunmire²⁰⁸
Dick Stenmark
Up NNE Route. On skis. Skis off 300' down

June 15, 1958 NE Route, I climbed with 5 pitons. Melting snow, much of rock wet.
Bill Doub²⁰⁹ Piedmont Calif
Nancy Carlson New York N.Y.

June 17, '58 John Merriam²¹⁰
Rocky Reinhart
Rainy, Hail. 4 pitons

²⁰⁷ Warren Harding was introduced to climbing by Jack Rankin, a CalTrans Engineer and lifelong Sierra Club member. Rankin also climbed Starr King on August 9, 1966.

²⁰⁸ First Ascents in Yosemite Valley: Harris' Hangover, Phantom Pinnacle Left Side (Regular Route), El Cap Tree Regular Route, Lower Cathedral Rock Overhang Bypass, Middle Cathedral Rock Northwest Buttress, El Capitan East Ledge Traverse

²⁰⁹ Doub also ascended Starr King on September 17, 1964

²¹⁰ Also climbed the peak on June 21, 1955

June 21, 1958
Sierra Club Mountaineering Committee
Trip.

Shirley Hertlein
Lambert Hertlein
Garry Williams - leader
Magdalena Thiel
Lyn Wright
John & Kate Yanger
Alan Steen Leader
Walt Hartsough
Frank Hibbard
John Dorsey Leader

June 22, 1958

Jack Maling
George Mowat
Joan ^{Luca} Faufler
Jack Weicker

Sept. 1st 1958
Chrysler Deal
came up South face
Glacier point hotel
left Glacier point 7:40 AM
arrived summit 11:05 AM.

June 21, 1958 Sierra Club Mountaineering Committee Trip

Shirley Hertlein

Norman Hertlein²¹¹

Larry Williams – Leader

Magdalene Heil

Lyn Wright²¹²

John Yeager²¹³

Kate Yeager²¹⁴

Alan Steen – Leader

Walt Hartgough

Frank Hibbard

John Dorsey – Leader

June 22, 1958 Jack Maling²¹⁵

George Mowat²¹⁶

Joan Luce Stauffer

Jack Weicker²¹⁷

Sept 6, 1958 Clyde E. Deal²¹⁸, Came up south face . Glacier Point Hotel. Left
Glacier Point 7:40 A.M. arrived summit 11:05 A.M.

²¹¹ Cattle ranchers today.

²¹² Wright also ascended Starr King on July 24, 1933, July 15, 1934, Jul 20, 1937,
June 25, 1955, October 13, 1956, June 1, 1957 and June 25, 1960.

²¹³ John Yeager also ascended Starr King on June 25, 1955 and June 1, 1957.

²¹⁴ Kate Yeager also ascended Starr King on June 1, 1957.

²¹⁵ Maling was a member of the Stanford Alpine Club.

²¹⁶ George Mowat had his MS in Geology in 1954 from Stanford where he was a
builderer.

²¹⁷ Also a member of the Stanford Alpine Club.

²¹⁸ First ascents in Yosemite Valley: The Footstool Left Side, Parkline Slab Right
Side.

MAY 9 1959

R. STEIN - Occasional Peaks Camp & Photo
S. NEICE - Sierra Club
MANS. Meadows - South FACE

May 30, 1959

via South

Gary N. Smith (age 13)
Merle Kelley SCRCs
George Sessions SCRCs
Irving Smith (Age 16)

June 25, '59

South east face

Peter Allen (age 16)
Perry Allen " 14
Robert Paul Allen " 54 (late)
(The Old Man) 2nd ascent - 1st on 7/16/59

JULY 4, 1959

RAY VAN AKEN, CHINA LAKE
Bob STANTON

1959

May 9, 1959 R. Stein²¹⁹ – Occasional peak gang, Palo Alto
S. Neice – Sierra Club
Mono Meadows - South Face

May 30, 1959 via south
Gary Hunt (Age 13)
Merle Alley²²⁰ SCRCs
George Sessions²²¹ SCRCs
†Irving Smith (Age 16)

June 25, '59 Southeast Face
Peter Allen (Age 16)
Perry Allen (Age 14)
Robert Paul Allen (Age 54) (Abe) The old man. 2nd ascent – 1st on
7/16/39

July 4, 1959 Ray Van Aken, China Lake
Bob Stirton

I added the cross next to Irving Smith's name in the transcription. He died less than a year later, March 19, 1960 at age 17, when he was descending into "The Notch" to make a climb of the Lost Arrow in Yosemite Valley with Gerald Dixon. Dixon ascended Mt. Starr King on April 29, 1960, the month following Smith's death.

²¹⁹ Stein also climbed Starr King on October 8, 1966.

²²⁰ Alley's First Ascents in Yosemite: Arches Terrace, Lower Watkins Pinnacle, Lost Brother Southwest Side, Ahwahnee Buttress. First Free Ascents: K-P Pinnacle, Arches Terrace. Alley also ascended Starr King on June 4, 1972.

²²¹ Sessions also climbed Starr King on May 9, 1955, July 20, 1956 and July 25, 1965.

6 July 59

Ray R. Johnson Jr.
Stan E. Kahan

8 JULY 1959

Steve Roper SCRCs
Trehe Ritter UCHC, SCRCs
4 hours from Glacier Point road
via South Face - class 3

12 July 1959

up from N.E. side 4th class
1st 4th class climb.
weather; partly cloudy, warm
Grand view hope to make
a repeat. (11 persons)

Doug Peterson^{EF} (leader), ^{Kingman} SC
Bob Hackamack^{SC} (inspector)

30 August 1959

Via N. Face
Gail & Al Baxter

6 July 1959 Paul R. Johnson Jr.
Stan F. Kahan

8 July 1959 Steve Roper SCRCs
Krehe Ritter²²² UCHC SCRCs
4 hours from Glacier Point Road via south face – class 3

12 July 1959 Up from N.E. side. 4th class. 1st 4th class climb. Weather; partly cloudy, warm. Grand view. Hope to make a repeat. (11 pitons)
Doug Peterson (leader) SC Knapsacker
Bob Hackmack. SC Knapsacker

30 August 1957 via N. Face
Gail Baxter
Al Baxter²²³

Steve Roper's name is known to climbers around the world for his guide books and other writings. Two of his books are a must for the reader of this register: Camp 4 - Recollections of a Yosemite Rockclimber and A Climber's Guide to Yosemite Valley (red or green). The books give excellent history of much of the times covered by the Starr King registers. Steve lived in Berkeley at the time of this ascent and was a frequenter of Indian Rock and other Bay Area climbing locales when I was in Berkeley. Our names are linked in Yosemite by our first ascent with Tom Naylor of Nevada Flake, a slab resting on the cliff to the right of Nevada Falls. And so in March 2007 I sent a copy of the register page to Steve and he replied with a description of his second climb of Mt. Starr King in 2002, 43 years after his first:

September 16, 2002: David Cook and I are off to Mono

²²² Ritter's Yosemite First Ascents: Lower Arch Traverse, Penny-Nickel Arete, Split Pinnacle East Arete, Goodrich Pinnacle Left Side, Goodrich Pinnacle-Coonyard Traverse. First Free Ascent: Circular Staircase,

²²³ Baxter's Yosemite First Ascents: Middle Watkins Pinnacle, Upper Watkins Pinnacle

Meadows Trailhead on the Glacier Point Road, then a one-hour hike with huge packs down to a campsite on the opposite side of Illilouette Creek, which we had been unable to cross in July 1998. Easy this time, with good rocks keeping our feet dry.

September 17, 2002: Off at dawn for Mt. Starr King, which I hadn't climbed since July 8, 1959. The approach, also with huge packs (rope, rack, 8 quarts of water, clothes, food etc.) was strenuous, with some deadfall, a bit of Manzanita and interminable steep slabs covered with ball-bearing grit. It took probably three hours to gain the 2,500 feet to the top of the lower, middle dome. Here I saw an amazing sight at this remote place at this hour on a weekday in mid- September: two 35- to 40-year-olds gazing upward at the main dome. They turned out to be brothers named Strickland who had a rope and a rack but were staring at what looked like a nasty route. They decided to watch us.

We raced up the route in less than 20 minutes, Cook leading the "hard" section, a 30-foot 5.3 corner. I led off from his belay spot (the route above doesn't go up a nasty- looking, right-slanting slot but rather goes out left and up easy friction) for about 100 feet to the unroping spot. The summit was five minutes away. Great views of Half Dome and the Tuolumne area. We descended with the rope off poor anchors, usually using a hand line but two stretches with short rappels. The two brothers were impressed, saying they would forego the experience. "We don't have your confidence," one brother said. This made our day, naturally.

Back to camp around 1:30 p.m. with very tired legs.

September 18, 2002: Off near first light. The three-mile journey out was very hard on the legs and took probably 90 minutes (a 1,000-foot elevation gain). Back in Oakland by 1 p.m.

Roper's write up contains valuable advice. First is the Illilouette Creek which can run so high in spring and early summer that crossing it may be impossible or dangerous. A register entry on August 6, 1967 indicates that a climber drowned on the return of a July 4, 1967 trip up the peak. The second piece of advice is that the approach to the Anderson route contains unsure footing in places as well as the possibility of running into Manzanita thickets. Finally, the difficulty ratings of the route vary from Third Class to Fifth Class, depending on the climber and the day. Friction climbing is usually on low angle rock, but it sometimes is hard for one to become adjusted to the lack of positive holds.

Oct 11, 1959

Carlmont Alpine Club
Left Nevada Falls 6:45 AM
Climbed north face (class 5)
On top 11:30 AM (first 2)

Phil Arnot	Redwood City
Jack Lindley	Mt View
Harry Cameron	Belmont
DAVE WING	SAN CARLOS
JIM DAY	SAN CARLOS

Oct 18, 1959
Jim Wilson Livermore
FRED MARTIN LIVERMORE

31 April 1960

up NWE face on marginal
snow conditions.
(4 bolts for protection -
and scappel points on descent)
Ice axe essential under these
conditions to probe depth
and quality of cover.
George W. Whitmore
Frederick

W. W. Martin

Oct 11, 1959 Carlmont Alpine Club. Left Nevada Falls 6:45AM climbed north face (class 5) on top 11:30 AM (first 2)
Phil Arnot,²²⁴ Redwood City
Jack Lindley²²⁵, Mt. View
Harry Pancoast, Belmont
Dave Wing, San Carlos
Jim Day, San Carlos

Oct 18, 1959 Jim Wilson²²⁶, Livermore
Fred Martin, Livermore

1960

31 April 1960 Up NNE face on marginal snow conditions (4 bolts for protection – and rappel points on descent). Ice ax essential under these conditions to probe depth and quality of cover.
George W. Whitmore²²⁷, Fresno

Aside from assigning 31 days to April, Whitmore's ascent highlights a problem that has plagued the Yosemite rock climbing community, the placement of unnecessary bolts which scar and alter the rock permanently. Mt. Starr King had been climbed by people alone and in tennis shoes as a reading of this register shows. Other winter ascents of the peak were made without bolts, including the first in 1937. Whitmore could have done as the climbers did on November 6, 1971, declare "No guts" and go around to the Southeast route.

²²⁴ Mt Starr King ascents on October 15, 1961, July 7, 1962

²²⁵ Lindley's other Starr King ascent was on October 15, 1961

²²⁶Wilson's First ascents in Yosemite Valley: El Capitan East Ledge Traverse, Watkins Pinnacles from Tenaya Canyon, Higher Cathedral Spire North Couloir, Diving Board - Sunshine Buttress, Nevada Flake Right Side, Vernal Falls Right Side. Wilson, a physicist, was also on exploratory first ascent attempts at the North Face of Sentinel Rock and the Northwest Face of Half Dome - See Camp 4, Recollections of a Yosemite Rockclimber by Steve Roper. Wilson also participated in the first ascent of Hummingbird Ridge on Mt. Logan in 1966. Ascent 1967.

²²⁷ Whitmore also ascended Starr King on October 10, 1953, April 9, 1961, October 26, 1969, May 29, 1974, and April 29, 1979.

May 15, 1960 Sunday
George Wallerstein, SC, SPS, Berkeley
Martial Thiebaut²²⁸, Berkeley
From SE Saddle

29 May 1960 SE Saddle
Jerry Dixon²²⁹ \ Fresno
BethD--ling²³⁰ /

May 29, 1960 Northeast Side
Arvel Gentry
Pat Gentry
LA Chapter Sierra Club RCS will descend by SE saddle

June 25, 1960 Sierra Club Bay Chapter Mountaineering Section
Frances J. Wolcott²³¹ (SCRCS)
Lyn Wright²³² Mtrng Sec SC
Warren E. Cade, SC
Sharon Bachman, SC
Diane Westman, SC
†Frank Sacherer, SC
Bruce A. McIntosh²³³, SC

Having finished his second year in college, and with mostly old timers and ladies, Frank Sacherer makes a humble ascent of Mt. Starr King to begin a climbing

²²⁸ Thiebaut also climbed Starr King on August 1, 1964

²²⁹ Dixon's first ascents in Yosemite Valley: Ahwahnee Buttress, Hangover Buttress.

²³⁰ Name unreadable.

²³¹ Wolcott also ascended Starr King on May 13, 1961

²³² Wright also ascended Starr King on July 24, 1933, July 15, 1934, Jul 20, 1937, June 25, 1955, October 13, 1956, June 1, 1957 and June 21, 1958.

²³³ Also climbed the peak on June 1, 1957

career which would see him become one of the greats²³⁴ in Yosemite rock climbing history. I was privileged to have known Frank for a year or so and did many climbs with him in Yosemite in the fall of 1961. Frank is given a good write-up by Steve Roper in *Camp 4, Recollections of a Yosemite Rockclimber*. Frank died in 1978 on The Shroud in the Swiss Alps. He was working as a theoretical physicist at Cern at the time and was buried in a small cemetery in Chamonix. In May 2010 his ashes were returned to the United States through the efforts of Janice Sacherer, and after a ceremony were cast to the winds in Yosemite National Park.

By now we have all but forgotten about William Kat who made so many ascents of Mt. Starr King in the 1930's and 1940's. But he was not entirely done with the mountain. On page 34 of *The Ahwahnee, Yosemite's Classic Hotel*, Shirley Sargent has this: "Kat ... remained with the [Yosemite Park and Curry] Company until his retirement in 1946. At 88, he made his 20th ascent of Mount Starr King and lived until the age of 97..."

Sometimes authors get it a little wrong, and that's forgivable if it makes a better story. In this instance the author made two errors: William Kat was born June 20, 1875 and was within a week of being 85 years old in 1960 when he and I, his 18 year old grandson, set out to climb Mt. Starr King for what he told me would be his 20th ascent. The second error is apparent when one does not see our signatures in the register. This is what really happened....

We walked over to the store and purchased food for the hike and climb. I let Grandpa do all the shopping to ensure that he would get what he, a vegetarian, liked. Nuts, raisins, bread, and chocolate were picked. I grabbed a can of tuna and a pack of mincemeat so I wouldn't starve. With that done, I was to meet him at 5:00 am and we would head out. Of course, for me to get there at 5:00 I had to be up earlier so I could walk the mile or two across the Valley from Camp 4 to the Housekeeping area.

²³⁴ Thirty three first ascents or first free ascents are attributed to Sacherer in five seasons, a stout record for the time, or any time.

At 5:00 we started out in the coming light, past the aroma of burning trash at the dump that used to be a little ways from Camp Curry and the multitude of bears hanging around it. We went up the mist trail to the top of Vernal Falls in the still morning air and then continued on the foot trail to the top of Nevada Falls which we reached about 9. We weren't fast, but it seemed we did OK. At the top of Nevada Falls the trail is on the left side of the river, but we had to be on the right side to go up to the peak, so we immediately were hiking cross country trending ever up. We needed to gain about 3000 feet to get to the summit dome. Above 6000 feet walking uphill can be hard work if one is not fit, or if one is 85. We slowed dramatically as the elevation increased, and at about 8000 feet I suggested perhaps it was too much and we should go back as Grandpa was breathing heavily and resting every ten steps. I was carrying all the gear, climbing rope, food, water, so he was unencumbered. I was in top condition and was just idling along and so got a lot of great views of the side of Half Dome you normally don't see as we made our way up the slope. Red snow plants peaked out of the soil.

Grandpa would hear none of turning back, and above 8000 feet continued with ten small steps, then rest, ten steps, then rest, with the rest times getting longer as we went up. It was excruciatingly slow, and I could tell by the sun that time was beginning to move against us as we needed to be get back down to the Valley before dark. In our favor was the fact that June has the most daylight, but even so going down can be difficult when one is tired.

Finally we reached the base of the summit dome on the Northeast side. We had no watch, but by compass, a stick, and a circle drawn in the dirt I figured it was about 3pm, although it was probably later. We had been going for at least 10 hours, and we only had five or six hours of light left. I again suggested that we go back, but Grandpa said, "No, let's give a try." As I looked at him I noticed his face was a bluish hue, and at that moment I realized I had made a terrible error in bringing him up that far, and we were perhaps going to be in trouble. So I said that the route looked to tough for us, and that he was too tired. Grandpa said not to worry, I should just climb up and he would not climb, but go hand over hand up the rope. I looked at his hands, incredibly thick and tough from a life of carpentry, and almost agreed, but then thought that if he lost his grip on the rope he would fall and he would surely die, if not from the fall, then from exposure in the night. So I said it just looked too hard for me, and I was afraid for something

bad going wrong if I fell. He looked at me and said, "I understand, Bill. We go down."

We took a short break, finished the water, and Grandpa said we could get back faster if we went down a different way than we had come up. This is against the general rule of going down a different way unless it is known in advance, but he had been up there 19 times before, so I agreed. Instead of going back down to the main trail on the Merced River at the top of Nevada Falls, we would go down a steeper but shorter looking route down the northwest side of the peak toward Illilouette Creek where we would pick up the trail to the top of Nevada Falls.

As it turned out, we ended up in an extensive talus slope covered with Manzanita bushes. Manzanita grows and then partly dies so the branches are inflexible and tear at your clothes as you bushwhack through them. The slope was mostly rubble and footing was not good. We went slowly, even with gravity on our side. It is often the case that a steep descent is as difficult as the ascent, or more so if one is tired. We reached the trail by the creek as light was fading in the canyon and headed toward the Merced River. I had Grandpa lead the way so he could set the pace at whatever was comfortable, and it was a good thing, too, as I had to shout at him a couple of times as he started to walk off the trail. It was then he told me his vision wasn't so good in the twilight and dark, and that I should lead the way. I later learned he was becoming blind in one eye. I hoped for a moon to light up the night, but there was none. That night would get so dark you could see the Milky Way with a glance.

I started to lead the way slowly, constantly glancing back, and again he walked off the trail. I told Grandpa that it was no good; we were going to have to stop. But he said, "No, you get a stick and you hold on to one end, and I will hold onto the other and you will lead me down." The next time he walked off the trail holding the stick while I was still on the trail, he walked on the other side of a tree and almost knocked us both over. We agreed to stop for the night.

The first problem I had to address was water. It was difficult to get down to the crashing stream at the bottom of the canyon to get some and then climb back up in near dark over granite covered by slick pine needles. That done, I had to get a fire going. I thanked my lucky stars I had tossed matches into my pack, just in case. It was hard finding sticks to burn in the dark, and I had to do plenty of work to

kick out a barrier around where the fire was to be so as not to set off a forest fire, although the thought occurred to me that might have gotten us some help. I asked Grandpa if he wanted me to run down to the Valley and get help, but that really made him testy, “No, I will walk out tomorrow.” So we began the night, first with finishing the only food left, the bread which we toasted over the fire, then with trying to stay warm. As the night went on, Grandpa who had only a shirt and sweater was shivering and making noises and I was worried so I put my sweatshirt on him and spent the night in a t-shirt. I rotated sides every so often and kept the fire going all the time, hot on one side, frozen on the other. We spent the night at about 6500 feet in the open, and it wasn’t warm. Of course we were lucky that the night was not really cold and there was no wind.

With the first light we began the walk down to the Valley and made it by about 9 a.m., another four hours on the trail. I left Grandpa at his housekeeping cabin and caught the bus for my summer job. I got all kinds of flak from my Mom and Aunt who asked what had been going on in my mind to make me take Grandpa on the trek. Apparently he was told by the doctor not to leave the Valley floor due to his heart. What could I say? No one told me.

During the summer up in Idaho at the Forest Service Camp where I worked I got a letter from Grandpa with just a couple of sentences where he thanked me for accompanying him up Mt Starr King, and he said that he was sorry that he couldn’t make it.

August

August 13, 1960

Sierra Peaks Section
Angels Chpt. Sierra Club
Up south face class 4

John W. Robinson - Newport Beach
Frank M. Hoffmann - Los Angeles

Andy Smatko - Santa Monica
Tom Ross ONION VALLEY, CAL.

Frede Jensen, København
My 100 lbs. qualifying Sierra
Peak. Davis. I made it down.

La Sierra passai ton guai di
dolore, che qui pace il mio
cuore.

Fait en Cino da Pistonia.

9 April 1961

quo Whitmore

Alpine

SE saddle
(still class 5)

August 13, 1960 Sierra Peaks Section Angeles Chapter Sierra Club

Up south face class 4

John W. Robinson, Newport Beach

†Graham M. Stephenson²³⁵, Los Angeles

Andy Smatko,²³⁶ Santa Monica

Tom Ross, Onion Valley

Frede Jensen My 100th qualifying spire.

P ... duvise I ... safe down a Sierra pass and on guai ... dolore che qui
grace il mio cuore. Frit ef... Cino da Pistoia²³⁷

1961

9 April 1961 Geo Whitmore²³⁸

Rani Pyle²³⁹

SE Saddle (still Class 5)

²³⁵ Died in an October 1976 climbing accident on Dunagiri in the Garwhal Himalaya of India. From the web site of the Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club. Stephenson also climbed Starr King on July 4, 1967.

²³⁶ In 2001 Smatko received the Sierra Club's Francis P. Farquhar Award for his achievements as a mountaineer and author of mountaineering books. Since 1953, Smatko made more than 1,800 ascents in the Sierra Nevada. He prepared the Mountaineer's Guide to the High Sierra, which was published by the Sierra Club in 1972, and also helped revise the 1954 book, A Climber's Guide to the High Sierra.

²³⁷ I recall a Frede Jensen at U.C.L.A. in 1958-60 who was a prolific peak bagger, and this is undoubtedly he who has just finished climbing 100 peaks on the Sierra Club's Sierra Peaks Section list. He leaves a quote under his name in Italian, but I am unable to completely make it out (part may read in translation, "with trouble and pain that here graces my heart... Cino da Pistoia [the author of the quote, a 13th century Italian]"). In 1991 Frede Jensen received an award for creative and scholarly research at the University of Colorado for work in French and Italian, and he has many published works. Sierra Club web site.

²³⁸ Whitmore also ascended Starr King on October 10, 1953, April 30, 1960, October 26, 1969, May 29, 1974, and April 29, 1979.

²³⁹ The first name is difficult to read and may be incorrect.

May 13, 1961

first official trip Sierra Club S.F. Bay
Chapter Mountaineering Section

from Elmer's falls

snow and ice covered - wet and slippery
horrible!

James Walcott - SC RCS, SC Mountaineering Sect.
May 13, 1961
Rep M. Smith first ascent of ~~Stans King~~
Jan 3, 2, 1961. SC RCS, ~~San Francisco~~ May 13, 1961

June 1961
A hot beautiful day, excellent climbing
however, the climbing was not bringing a
rock on each was hard getting to the top. SC side
May 3, 1961

OCT 15, '61

Bruce Morris Carmont
Alpine Club 10/15/61

May 13, 1961 First official trip Sierra Club SF Chapter Mountaineering Section from Illilouette Falls. Snow and ice covered wet and sloppy. Horrible!
Frances J. Wolcott²⁴⁰ SCRCs SC Mountaineering Sec.
Rey M. Smith first ascent of Starr King
Joseph F. Troy, Jr. SCRCs San Francisco

1 June 1961 North side, beautiful day, excellent climbing however I'm kicking myself for not bringing a rope on such wonderful rappelling terrain SE side.
Jerry B. Sepi

Oct 15, 1961 Bruce Morris²⁴¹, Carlmont Alpine Club
[the rest of the party is on the following page]

Carlmont is a section of Belmont, California, a town down the peninsula from San Francisco. This is the second mention of the Carlmont Alpine Club, the first being on October 11, 1959. By the entry on the following page we see that the club was associated with the Carlmont YMCA. Bruce Morris got a taste of rock climbing, and it grew on him. I noted a Bruce Morris associated with 34 first ascents in Yosemite Valley from 1977 to 1989 and sent an e-mail to him to see if he was one and the same. He replied, "Yes, that was me and I was just 14, out of 8th grade, and starting as a freshman at Aragon High School. My mother read about the Carlmont Alpine Club which was run by Phil Arnot in Belmont and signed me up for my first climbing trip with the group. We drove up from Belmont, slept in the Valley, then hiked up to Star King Meadows. The next day, a Sunday, we climbed Mt. Starr King, hiked out and drove back to the Bay. ... Up until 1961, the only mountaineering I'd done had been with my dad: Lemberd Dome and Mt. Lassen I think. Made a solo ascent of Mt Dana in August 1961 too. So Mt Starr King was my first "technical" climb with ropes and rappelling gear. Can still remember going into Starr King Meadow with Phil [Arnot] and the gang." His mother was advanced in her thinking.

²⁴⁰ Wolcott also ascended Starr King on June 25, 1960

²⁴¹ See also June 7, 1970.

up north fare
pass 5 Calmarit 9/24/41
Phil Annet Guide

- Jack Lindley
- Joe Lucca - Trade-o. Belmont.
- Steve Huber - San Carlos
- David Kupper - San Carlos
- Jean Gauss - Redwood City
- Gally Timly - San Carlos
- Rich Dale - Belmont - 3d Try
- Jan Simby - San Carlos
- Johannas, Dumai - San Carlos
- Per Sandberg - Menlo Park
- Steve Wallace - Belmont
- Paul Backus - ~~Belmont~~ Belmont 2nd try

May 20 1942

Jim Wolf
Chris Denny
From G.P. Hotel,
camped below west
chute of S. C. saddle.
On summit at
10:30 via chute and

Oct 15 1961 [continued] Up North Face. Class 5. Carlmont YMCA

Phil Arnot²⁴², Guide

Jack Lindley²⁴³

Joe Zucca – Pride-o-Belmont

Steve Higbee, San Carlos

David C. Lunn²⁴⁴, San Carlos

Joan Gauss – Redwood City

Sally Timby – San Carlos

Rick Dale – Belmont, third try

Jean Jimky – San Carlos

Johanna Lunn – San Carlos

Per Sandberg, Menlo Park

Steve Wallace – Belmont

Paul Backus, Belmont, 2nd try

1962

May 20, 1962 Jim Wolf

Chris Denny²⁴⁵

From G.P. Hotel. Camped below west chute of SE saddle. On summit at 10:30 via chute and the saddle route. Cold and cloudy, considerable ice and some snow blowing around now although the sun is shining also – really a beautiful day. View to east obscured by storm. (We think the SE saddle route is 5th also, George)

²⁴² Mt Starr King ascents on October 11, 1959 and July 7, 1962

²⁴³ Lindley's other Starr King ascent was on October 11, 1959

²⁴⁴ Lunn's other ascents of Starr King: July 7, 1962, June 7, 1970, June 9, 1973, January 14, 1974

²⁴⁵ Chris Denny's other ascents of Starr King: September 7, 1967, July 7, 1968, October 26, 1969, June 20, 1970, August 7, 1971, June 4, 1972, July 21, 1973, October 12, 1974

the saddle route. Cold and
cloudy, considerable
ice and some snow
blowing around now
although the sun is
shining also, really
a beautiful day.
View to east obscured
by storm. (We think
the S.E. saddle rt. is
5th also, George).

May 20, 1962

3:30 PM. S.E. Saddle route •

David MacDonald

Hermana Reis Swabia

Robert McElroy MD, Kansas

JUNE 10, 1962

ED BURYN - MIKE McMILLAN

SE SADDLE - 1st PITCH IS 5TH
IN OUR ESTIMATION. FINEST
VIEW IMAGINABLE

May 20, 1962 3:30 PM SE Saddle route.

David MacDonald

Hermann Reiss, Swabia²⁴⁶

Robert McElroy MD, Kansas

June 10, 1962 Ed Bury

Mike McMillan

SE Saddle. 1st pitch is 5th in our estimation. Finest view imaginable.

²⁴⁶ Swabia is in southwestern Germany which abuts Switzerland to the south and France to the west.

JUNE 26, 1962

— VIA N.E. SIDE —

JOHN OHRENSCHALL, BOULDER, COLORADO

GOOD VIEW TODAY: HIGH SIERRA TO
THE EAST, COAST RANGE TO THE WEST.

JULY 7, 1962

via North Face

- class 5 & pitons for safety. Good conditions. wonderful view AND NO MOSQUITOS!!!

Phil Arnot (3rd ascent) ^{Redwood} CITY

Sheldon Arnot - San Marino

David Gunn - San Carlos

Carliwint Alpine Club

Hello
Phil:

Jim Henderson
10-6-66

June 26, 1962 via N.E. side

John Ohrenschall²⁴⁷, Boulder Colo. Good view today: High Sierra to the East, Coast Range to the West.

July 7 1962 via North Face. Class 5, 8 pitons for safety. Good conditions. Wonderful view and NO MOSQUITOS!!!

Phil Arnot²⁴⁸ (3rd ascent) Redwood City

Sheldon Arnot, San Marino

David Lunn²⁴⁹, San Carlos

Carlmont Alpine Club

[note written below entry] Hello Phil – Jim Henderson 10-6-66²⁵⁰

²⁴⁷ Ohrenschall also climbed Starr King on October 12, 1952 and May 30, 1953.

²⁴⁸ Mt Starr King ascents on October 11, 1959 and October 15, 1961

²⁴⁹ Lunn's other ascents of Starr King: October 15, 1961, June 7, 1970, June 9, 1973, January 14, 1974

²⁵⁰ Correct date was October 8, 1966

Aug 4. 1962

- VIA N. FACE -

3 PITONS.

BRING YOUR OWN BOTTLE
PARTY 2 FELLOWS 1 GIRL
OTHER FELLOW HAD TO
BE TREATED FOR LACERATIONS
ON HEAD FROM WIND BOTTLE

- WE DIDN'T HAVE COMMUNIONS -

ROBERT E. RANSOM

Carolee Petersen

Bob Korte

- WEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE

LOOK MAW WE'RE HAVING
A BALL!

October 28, 1962

Warm - sun - no wind. Up
S.E. face from saddle.

Herb Hultgren

Jim Wilkerson - Iowa Mountaineers

Carl Dreibach

Bob Dreibach

Grüße aus der Schweiz

Aug 4 1962 via N. Face. 3 pitons. Bring your own bottle Party. 2 fellows, 1 girl.
Other fellow had to be treated for lacerations on head from wine bottle.
We didn't have communion.
Robert F. Rasmussons
Carolee Petersen
Bob Korte
Weeeeeeeeeeeee. Look man, were having a ball!

October 28, 1962 Warm – sun – no wind. Up S.E. face from saddle.
Herb Hultgren²⁵¹
Jim Wilkerson – Iowa Mountaineers
Carl Dreisbach²⁵²
Bob Dreisbach
Grosse sans der schweit [unable to translate]

²⁵¹ The names Hultgren and Wilkerson are associated with high altitude medicine. Both were MDs. Hultgren was professor emeritus of medicine at Stanford University.

²⁵² Carl Dreisbach also ascended Starr King on January 2, 1969

MAY 31, 1963

11 to James Pursey

12 to Reed Pursey

Burt and Ken Pursey, Glendale
Sierra Club R.C.S. + Sierra Club

Very enjoyable climb

Conly M. Smith

Scott + Kaper Smith got
to base of mountain

ages 2 + 2 1/2 yrs. Daddy

fabulous

Jim Smith - Good Climber

JUNE 16, 1963

From Blain Point in SE ridge
Magnificent view. Beautiful view

Rich Anagy

Barbara Lilley

June 18 1963

from Happy Isles via Herod
falls excellent view

Leroy Nelson
Boise Ida

1963

May 31, 1963 Age 11 ½ Janise Turney

12 ½ Reed Turney

Bert Turney

Gen Turney

Glendale Sierra Club RCS and Sierra Peaks [Section].

Very enjoyable climb.

Carolyn M. Smith

Scott and Roger Smith got to base of mountain ages 2 and 2 ½ yrs.

Daddy babysat.

Jim Smith – good climb

June 16, 1963 From Glacier Point via SE Ridge. Mosquitoes en route. Beautiful view.

Rich Gnagy²⁵³

Barbara Lilley

June 18 1963 From Happy Iles via Nevada Falls. Excellent view.

Leroy Kelm, Boise Ida.

²⁵³ Rich Gnagy and Barbara Lilley participated in several first ascent of 5th class routes on Sierra peaks.

JULY 5, '63

HOWARD LEWIS, SAN JOSE
Daniel Pigache, Mountain View

Note: Daniel Pigache is visiting this country from Paris, France. Is a member of the Gruppe Universitaire de Montagne et de Ski (GUMS) (he wrote that, I didn't). It's a mountaineering & ski club, anyway. The climb today was the first for both of us, and we did use some pitons. Great climb -- cool wind & many clouds.

— H.L.

DEC 31 1963 Some dirt left the register box upside down so the book is ~~scattered~~ not. Climb by standard East ridge route. Snow on only a few holds. Neil Bostick SAC

LEW MAYHEW

SKI CONDITIONS GOOD

Memorial Day May 30 '64
Howard + Pat Lewis
Al + Helen Timmons
GREG McGRIBBIN

July 5, '63 Howard Lewis²⁵⁴, San Jose

Daniel Pigache, Mountain View

Note: Daniel Pigache is visiting this country from Paris, France. Is a member of the Groupe Universitaire de Montagne et Ore Skit (GUMS). He wrote that, I didn't) It's a mountaineering and ski club anyway. The climb today was a first for both of us, and we did use some pitons. Great climb - - cool winds and many clouds. H.L.

Dec 31, 1963 Some dolt left the register box upside down so the book is soaking wet.²⁵⁵ Climb by standard east ridge route. Snow on only a few holds.

Neil Bostock,²⁵⁶ SAC

Lew Mayhew²⁵⁷

Ski conditions good.

1964

May 30, 1964 Memorial Day

Howard Lewis

Pat Lewis²⁵⁸

Al Timmons

Helen Timmons

Greg McGibbon

²⁵⁴ Howard Lewis' entries are on July 5, 1963, May 30, 1964, May 31, 1968, and May 30, 1971.

²⁵⁵ Blame it on the French

²⁵⁶ A Stanford graduate who would become a Silicon Valley executive

²⁵⁷ A distinguished education professor at Stanford

²⁵⁸ Pat Lewis' entries are on May 30, 1964, May 31, 1968, and May 30, 1971.

May 31, 1964

Don Monk Via North route

Ron Bierstedt CMC



June 6, 1964

Beautiful weather,
cold, clouds mit sunshine,
rain, wind. Great climb.

Bill Farnhaber

PETE "SAM" OVERMIRE

Billie Eagerblade-EBS

Frank Walcott

May 31, 1964 Don Monk Via North Route
Roger Bierstedt CCMC

June 6, 1964 Beautiful weather, cold, clouds mit [sic] sunshine, rain, wind. Great climb.

Bill Faulhaber²⁵⁹

Pete "Sam" Overmire

Billie Eagerblade – EBS

Francis J. Walcott²⁶⁰

²⁵⁹ Faulhaber's other Starr King ascent was on August 17, 1968

²⁶⁰ Francis Walcott's Sierra Club papers, 1954-1972, are at the Bancroft Library.

MARMOTS!

JUNE 27 VIA SOUTH FACE

DAVE FRENCH

Randy Lawrence

Paul Porter

JUNE 27 VIA NO. FACE ROUTE

CRAIG HOLDEN

Dick Irwin

Jerry Leonard

August 1, 1964

Martial J. Thiebaut

James Q. Denton

Splendid day

6 SEPT 1964

Solo with one arm from saddle... spooky
The descent should be even spookier

ERIC BECK

9/7/64

Bruce Cook - Oakland
Back Routes

June 27 via south face.
Marmots!
Dave French²⁶¹
Randy Lawrence
Paul Porter

Via No. face route
Craig Holden²⁶²
Dick Irvin²⁶³
Jerry Leonard

August 1, 1964 Martial J. Thiebaut²⁶⁴
James Q. Denton
Splendid day.

6 Sept 1964 Eric Beck. Solo with one arm from saddle. Spooky. The descent should be even spookier.

9/7/64 Bruce Cooke²⁶⁵, Oakland. Both routes.

Beck was not joking about climbing with one arm. He broke his arm in a fall on Middle Cathedral Rock, and to fix it, steel pins were inserted.²⁶⁶ I posted a question on the Supertopo.com climber's forum and Eric replied, "Wow, what a trip into the past. This was a 2 day trip to bag Starr King and Mt Clark. I was in mountain boots. The descent was indeed scary, backed up and down several times

²⁶¹ Dave French was on the first ascent of the Lost Brother Northwest Face. He is also a character in "You're Standing on My Fingers" by H. Warren Lewis. Lewis' entries are on July 5, 1963, May 30, 1964, May 31, 1968, and May 30, 1971.

²⁶² Holden was on the first ascent of Middle Cathedral Rock North Buttress

²⁶³ Irvin was on the first ascent of Spireview Point. He also ascended Starr King on July 12, 1969.

²⁶⁴ Thiebaut also climbed Starr King on May 15, 1960

²⁶⁵ Bruce Cooke's other ascents: August 27, 1949, October 12, 1964, June 27, 1966

²⁶⁶ Camp 4, Recollections of a Yosemite Rockclimber, p 162

before committing to the moves. ... How do we survive the bright ideas of our youth?" Another forum responder said, "I remember his arm in a cast with a right-angle bend at the elbow. When eating fried chicken, he could not lick his fingers." That was real torture!

Eric Beck was one of the outstanding rock climbers in Yosemite Valley having participated in eleven first ascents from 1962 to 1971. He and I were on a rope together for my first multi-pitch climb at Tahquitz in March 1959, White Maiden's Walkaway.

Bruce Cooke first appears in this register for his August 27, 1949 ascent with his brother Kenyon. Bruce is a well remembered climber for his times at Indian Rock in Berkeley and elsewhere. A route was named after him in the Tuolumne Meadows area, The Cooke Book on Daff Dome. "I will never forget Bruce Cooke - in his 60's then - wheeling up on his bike, lacing his shoes and cranking off one arms [pull-ups] from a fist jam in the tree in the Pit [at Indian Rock in Berkeley] before gracefully floating up all kinds of problems others flailed upon." – Rick L.²⁶⁷ Tom Higgins also has information about Bruce Cooke at his (Higgin's) website, and Kenyon Cooke's family wrote a short piece for the 10th Mountain Division in which Bruce and Kenyon served in WWII:

Brothers Kenyon K. and Bruce B. Cooke had enjoyed mountaineering and climbing in the Sierra Nevada Mountains of California, and it was this experience that led them to the 10th Mountain Division.

Kenyon joined first, after completing a semester as a geology major at U.C. Berkeley. Bruce followed, after securing permission to leave his job as a blacksmith at Mare Island Naval Shipyard. They trained at Camp Hale and Camp Swift. Kenyon completed ice climbing school at Mt. Rainier. When they shipped out on the USS West Point in January, 1945 headed for combat, Kenyon left behind his bride, Audrey, and their unborn child.

With their respective units, Kenyon and Bruce were soon engaged in the successful battle to take Mt. Belvedere. This was followed

²⁶⁷ Supertopo.com

by an intensely fierce and exhausting fight for Mt. della Spe. Then it was on through the North Apennines and the Po Valley. The end of the struggle came with the German surrender on May 2, 1945. From the battlefield, Kenyon had written a poem for his bride titled “Night on della Spe.” In it, he wrote of the horrors of war and his dreams of home and future:

(that the sounds of mortar and gunfire)...
“Would cease forever and we all would know
The joy of living, free from fear
Not having to listen – for what would we hear?
A woman laughing, a baby’s cry!”

Kenyon and Bruce were among those fortunate who returned home on the Marine Fox in August, 1945 to fulfill those dreams and tell the remarkable tale of the 10th Mountain Division.

Upon his return home, Kenyon wrote of his experiences while they were still fresh in his mind. This account has been published as Chapter 4 in *Good Times, Bad Times*, and many of the pictures he took appear throughout the book. While in Italy, Bruce wrote a letter to their parents describing his experiences. This letter is also contained in the book.

Bruce was awarded the Bronze Star for his attempts to save the life of a fellow soldier. When he came home, he returned to work at Mare Island and Hunters Point Naval shipyards. Bruce was a blacksmith, philosopher, sharp-shooter, poet, and cyclist, but his passion was climbing. A world-class climber, he completed over 750 climbs between 1941 and 1982, mostly in the Sierras. Several of his climbs were first ascents, and many were solo. But he also enjoyed climbing with Kenyon, Kenyon’s children, and his many friends. This tough guy with a heart of gold opened the world of mountains to his family; their majesty and beauty surpassed only by his courage and wisdom. While he had no children of his own, he was a beloved inspiration to Kenyon and Audrey, and all of his nieces and nephews.

Kenyon returned home to his wife Audrey, and three month old Kathleen. As time passed, the family grew to include Laura, Cecile, Janice, Kenyon, Karen, Virginia, Michael, Marjorie, Joseph, Marianne,

and Rosalie. A baby cry, indeed! Our father took us camping and backpacking. He taught us to climb and fish. He made us laugh and took us to see “where this road goes”. A man of impeccable character, by his example he taught us the meaning of integrity, honesty, tolerance, loyalty, love, and the value of family, home, and work. He instilled in us a deep appreciation of the values and principles for which he and Bruce, and their fellow soldiers had sacrificed so much. Retired Senior Pilot Plant Operator for Shell Development, Kenyon was married to his sweetheart Audrey for 52 years. Together they raised 12 good people, and had 26 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren.

Kenyon and Bruce told us their stories, took us on adventures, and opened our hearts and minds to the wonders they knew. They gave us themselves, gave us our world. We are very grateful and proud that Kenyon was our father, and Bruce was our uncle.

The Cooke Family

17 September 1964

Garrett De Bell S.A.S.

Bill Dumb Stained, Silver Club R.C.S.
North Face Cl. 4, from Nevada Falls
Camp

Oct 10, 1964

Up from southeast
enjoyable climb.

Aibel M. Erb Ski Club
Manhattan Beach, Cal

Ruth KARIMI W.L.A.

Oct. 12, 1964

Kinoyon Paul books 12

Kinoyon K. Cooke

Bruce Cooke East face

17 September 1964 Garrett O. Bell, S.A.C
Bill Doub²⁶⁸, Stanford, Sierra Club RCS
North Face Class 4, from Nevada Falls Camp

Oct 10, 1964 Up from southeast – enjoyable climb.
Arkel M. Erb, Sierra Club Manhattan Beach Cal
Ruth Karimi, W.LA

Oct 12, 1964 Kenyon Paul Cooke 12
Kenyon K. Cooke²⁶⁹
Bruce Cooke²⁷⁰
East Face

Cooke says “East Face” which indicates a first ascent, although credit is given to others in Southern Yosemite Rock Climbs,²⁷¹ the most widely used guide book for the area. Of course Kenyon Paul is Kenyon K.’s son.

²⁶⁸ Doub also ascended Starr King on June 15, 1958

²⁶⁹ Kenyon Cooke’s other ascent was on August 27, 1949

²⁷⁰ Bruce Cooke’s other ascents: August 27, 1949, September 7, 1964, June 27, 1966

²⁷¹ Southern Yosemite Rock Climbs by Mark and Shirley Spencer p. 138. Credit for the first ascent is given to Roebig, Schroeder and Distler in July 1969. They were unsure if they were first and even put a question mark after the claim.

1965 CLIMBING SEASON

Eric Boyd Lodi, Calif. 16 June 1965

Dave Riggle " " " "

John Baird June 65

June 30, 1965

From S. saddle

Penny Carr

Allen Denny

JULY 11, '65

S.E. saddle route - beautiful
cloudless sky

Larry Nelson

MARTY SCOTT

1965

June 16, 1965 Eric Burr, Lodi Calif
Dave Riggle, Lodi Calif
John Bard

June 30, 1965 From S. Saddle.
Penny Carr²⁷²
Glen Denny²⁷³

July 11, '65 SE Saddle – beautiful cloudless sky.
Larry Nelson²⁷⁴
Marty Scott

²⁷² In 1963 Penny Carr graduated from Stanford and was on the first ascent of Moby Dick Center Route in Yosemite Valley. She died a suicide within a year of this Starr King climb.

²⁷³ Glen Denny had 16 first ascents in Yosemite Valley. He was one of the few who carried a camera around, and ultimately published a book with his photographs, "Yosemite in the Sixties".

²⁷⁴ Nelson's other Starr King ascent was on August 9, 1966

July 25, 1965

5½ hrs from Happy Isles.
2⁴⁶/_P massive cir's from
zenith to all north ½ sky
2 drops rain at noon.

wanted 35 years for this
Jack S. Kirk (Life Dipsea)
Deamon
Mariposa, Calif (see as Nelson
Oct 23, 1949)

Pety C. Gamache
Auburn, Maine

" Illigiticum non carborundum"
Appalachian Mt. Club.

George S. Sessions Univ. of Chicago
1st time in 9 years. Mountaineering
Club

July 25, 1965 5 ½ hours from Happy Isles. 2:10 PM Massive cn's²⁷⁵ from Zenith to all north ½ sky. 2 drops rain at noon. Waited 35 years for this.
Jack G. Kirk, Mariposa Calif. (The Dipsea Deamon [sic] – see Ax Nelson Oct 23, 1949)
Pete C. Gamache, Auburn, Maine. “Illigiticum non carborundum”²⁷⁶
Appalachian Mt. Club
George S. Sessions, University of Chicago²⁷⁷ Mountaineering Club. 1st time in 9²⁷⁸ years.

Jack Kirk's entry is primary evidence that pages were torn out for the 1949-1950 climbing season, and one of the climbers whose entry is missing was Anton (Ax) Nelson (see the page beginning June 28, 1948). No mention of Salathé is made, so where his entry might have been is still a question. Jack Kirk also has two other comments of interest, “waited 35 years for this” and “Dipsea Deamon”. The thirty five year wait probably refers to the first change in handicapping the Dipsea Race which went from Mill Valley over the mountain to Stinson Beach. The race organizers finally changed the handicapping from a somewhat arbitrary basis to a clear cut age related basis. Jack Kirk first ran the race in 1930, so this entry is 35 years later, just when the change was made. He won in 1967, so it worked for him! Since he is connecting this to Anton Nelson, there may have been a competition. Unfortunately, we are missing Nelson's entry. Kirk was known as the Dipsea Demon for his outstanding performances and the longevity of his entries. Kirk ran in 67 consecutive races from 1930 to 2002. There were a couple of years when the race was not run in the Depression and three in World War II. Kirk's last run was at age 95. A movie was made of him and the race, *The Dipsea Demon*.²⁷⁹

²⁷⁵ Cumulonimbus (thunderstorm) clouds

²⁷⁶ Don't let the bastards grind you down. A popular, grammatically incorrect, pseudo Latin phrase.

²⁷⁷ Sessions was involved in the field of Ecology. Also climbed Starr King on May 29, 1955, July 30, 1956 and May 30, 1959.

²⁷⁸ Correct number is 7, according to the register.

²⁷⁹ Information about Kirk came from the Marin Independent Journal, various articles.

July 25, 1965

Windy, easy ascent

John Payne, SC.

JEFFREY R. SMEDBERG, SC.

OUR CONTRIBUTION TO WORLD
LITERATURE

SEVILLE DAIR DAGD

TOUSIN BUSSES INARO

NOJO DEMS TRUX

SUMMIT COUSIN SUMMIT DUX

July 25, 1965 Windy, easy ascent.

John Payne, S.C.

Jeffrey R. Smedberg, S.C. Our contribution to world literature:

Seville dair dago

Tousin busses inaro

Nojo dems trux

Summit cowsin summit dux

This is a spoken dialect exercise:

Seville dair dago

Tousin buses inaro

Nojo dems trux

Summit cowsin summit dux

See Willy there they go

Thousand buses in a row

No Joe them's trucks

Some with cows in [side] some with ducks

SEPT. 3rd 1965

PARTY OF 5 FROM
VAN NUYS, CALIF.

CONSISTING OF VALLEY COLLEGE
STUDENTS:

1. Spike Mouno
2. Bill West *
3. John F. Boyer
4. Bill Paris $\Phi A \Psi$
5. Tim Haslan
 $\Phi A \Psi$

* leader

Sept 3rd 1965 Party of 5 from Van Nuys Calif. Consisting of Valley College students:

Mike Moreno²⁸⁰

Bill Wirt, Leader

John F. Goyer²⁸¹

Bill Davis IV, Phi Delta Psi

Tim Haslan, Phi Delta Psi

²⁸⁰ See also July 1, 1967.

²⁸¹ Goyer's other ascent of Starr King was on July 1, 1967

About 25 Sept 1965

Bill Hooker

ARC, HMC

Fred Smith

Via S. Notch

[Handwritten signature]

OCT 30, 1965

MEL WRIGHT Los Altos

GEORGE DETZEL Menlo Park

Via S. Col

clear and dry!

Oct 31, 1965

4 Witches, 2 Hobgoblins

The Witches 2pppt

on Mt Staun King

! HEE HEE!

About 25 Sept 1965 †Bill Hooker²⁸², AAC, HMC
Fred Smith
Via s. notch

Oct 30, 1965 Mel Wright²⁸³, Los Altos
George Oetzel²⁸⁴, Menlo Park
Via S. col, clear and dry

Oct 31, 1965 4 witches, 2 Hobgoblins The Witches Sabbath on Mt. Starr King
Hee Hee!
[preceding two lines written to be read using a mirror]

²⁸² William W. Hooker, a magna cum laude graduate of Harvard in 1956, died June 15, 1974 in an avalanche on Huandoy Norte in the Peruvian Andes along with Glenn Converse. They lie buried in the white snows of the Cordillera Blanca. The 1975 American Alpine Journal. Hooker also climbed Starr King on October 8, 1966 and March 28, 1970.

²⁸³ Mel Wright is a PhD holder who worked at the Stanford Research Institute. Wright also ascended Starr King on October 8, 1966.

²⁸⁴ Oetzel was a PhD holder in Electrical Engineering whose thesis was published in 1964. He worked in the Stanford Research Institute for a time. He was an original member of the 1975 “Homebrew Computer Club” which also boasted Steve Wozniak, co-founder of Apple, as a member.

APR. 9 '66 via S. TAC

KARRY NELSON, S.C. SACTO.

~~Chris~~ Hoepker S.C. SACTO

Mark G. E. Gibbard S.C. SACTO

April 9, 1966

Jack Rankin SCR

Adolf Baur DAV

via north side. nice climb
lot of snow ice & water,
was kinda slippery in spots.

May 14, 1966

from SE saddle

Bob Summers SC RCS

Monfred Kosi DAV

DICK BROWN SC RLS

This is a most beautiful
Sierra day. Bright sun, cool
breeze, a few cumulus decorating
the sky. After an hour's rest
who should appear but Bill Seville
solo, with Kelly. a happy
reunion. — RCS.

1966

Apr 9 '66 via S. Face

Larry Nelson²⁸⁵, S.C. Sacto
Chris Hoepker, S.C. Sacto
Mark McGilvray, S.C. Sacto

Jack Rankin, SCR²⁸⁶
Adolf Baur, DAV²⁸⁷

Via north side. Nice climb, lot of snow, ice and water, was kinda slippery in spots

May 14, 1966 From SE Saddle

Bob Summers,²⁸⁸ SCRCS
Manfred Kosi, DAV
Dick Brown SCRCS

This is a most beautiful Sierra day. Bright sun, cool breeze, a few cumulus decorating the sky. After an hour who should appear but Bill Scoville, solo, with Kelty. A happy reunion. RCB

As footnoted in Rankin's previous ascent of Mt. Starr King, he introduced Warren Harding to climbing. Adolf Baur was a German alpinist who who went on numerous trips with Rankin. On Supertopo.com this was written: "As I recall, he (Harding) came to several "dynamic belay practice" sessions Jack (Rankin) held at some property he had down in the Sacramento River bottoms. We'd hoist a 200 lb concrete block up a tree using rope wrapped around a washing machine agitator bolted to Jack's car wheel. The belayer would request slack be let out (say, 20 feet of white Columbia) and the block would be dropped. The belayer used a hip belay with a leather butt patch and gloves. Smoke was produced, the belayer most often upended, and the lesson, in those days, was "the leader must not fall!" Times have certainly changed!" [Storer]

²⁸⁵ Nelson's other Starr King ascent was on July 11, 1965

²⁸⁶ Rankin also climber Starr King on September 1, 1957

²⁸⁷ Deutscher Alpenverein, the German Alpine Association.

²⁸⁸ First ascent in Yosemite: Snow Creek Slabs with Ken Boche.

Bill Scoville SCRS
SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA

TRAVELING DOMES S. TO N.

SOLO W/ PACK - GRAND
WEATHER - MAY 14, 1966

QUITE A HAPPY SURPRISE TO FIND MY
FELLOW SCRS GROUP NAPPING ON
THE SUMMIT.

June 27, 1966

Party led by Beaver (clutchrock)
Cooke. S. HERRERO as companion
Keli's left at camp.
ALSO E. FACE RT.

JULY 3, 66

WM WICHMAN,
MENLO PARK

Bob Vails
Atherton
from SE Saddle

May 14, 1966 Bill Scoville²⁸⁹, SCRCs, San Jose California
Traversing domes S. to N. solo with pack. Grand weather – May 14, 1966. Quite a happy surprise to find my fellow SCRCs group napping on the summit.

June 27, 1966 Party led by Bruce (clutchrock) Cooke²⁹⁰. S. Herrero²⁹¹ as companion. Kelty's left at camp. Also E. Face Route

July 3, 66 WM Wichman²⁹², Menlo Park
Bob Vaile²⁹³, Atherton
From SE Saddle

Bruce Cooke, age 47, calls himself “clutchrock”, a reference to his hand strength no doubt. Cooke was an iron worker at Mare Island and still engaging in what is mostly a young man's sport. Relating to about this time a comment was posted on Supertopo.com regarding Cooke, “I am not sure how old Bruce was then, but he was an old guy compared to any of us. At Indian Rock, he would do one of the overhanging routes without using his feet, just letting them dangle while he did a succession of pull-ups and quick grabs to the next hold.” [DrDeeg]

²⁸⁹ Scoville is a character in H. Warren Lewis' book, *You're Standing on My Fingers*. Lewis' entries are on July 5, 1963, May 30, 1964, May 31, 1968, and May 30, 1971.

²⁹⁰ Bruce Cooke's other ascents: August 27, 1949, September 7, 1964, October 12, 1964

²⁹¹ Steve Herrero had three first ascents in Yosemite Valley.

²⁹² In 1968 Wichman was a PhD student at Stanford in the field of Computer Science.

²⁹³ Bob Vaile was head of the Physics Department of the Stanford Research Institute from 1955 to 1970.

15 July 66 - Ventura Chapter
S.C.

Mary Ann Matthew (~~was~~ ~~Call~~)

~~5~~ ~~LEADER:~~

Ward Allison - Sgt. at Arms

Mitchell Cotton - Philosopher

Marcel Sedletzky - ARCHITECT

Jackie Craigie - Don Mother

Noel Mapstead - Juvenile delinquent

Tom Morris - Absent - class I

July 15
at 10
Mrs. Williams
Dad - Morris

27 July 66

Brian McIlroy - Berkeley

Dan Wilson - Longfellow

SE Col to summit in
two carry class 4 patches

15 July 66 Ventana Chapter S.C.

Mary Ann Matthews (nee Corthell) [unreadable] LEADER²⁹⁴

Ward Allison, Sgt. at Arms

Mitchell Cotton, Philosopher

Marcel Sedletzky²⁹⁵ – Architect

Joelle Craige – Den Mother

Noel Magstead – Juvenile delinquent

Tom Morris²⁹⁶ – abortionist Class V <--- My Dad. William Morris July 1975²⁹⁷

27 July 66 Brian Mulloney, Berkeley

Don Wilson – Lafayette

SE Col to summit on two easy class 4 pitches

²⁹⁴ One blacked out word could be read. Her other ascents: May 30, 1953 (as Corthell), July 21, 1971

²⁹⁵ See also July 21, 1967.

²⁹⁶ See also July 21, 1967.

²⁹⁷ See entry for Bill Morris on July 5, 1975

Oct. 8, 1966 - Clear + Dry
Sierra Club
Leon Prietz Mountaineering Trip

MEL WRIGHT Los Altos
Lowell R. Smith Palo Alto

First Day " "

LEO A. WOROSHILOFF Monte Serrano

R. Stein Palo Alto

Jim Henderson Belmont

Keith Thomassen Palo Alto

Bill Rausch Palo Alto

Bill Hooker Palo Alto

Dave Stevenson Palo Alto

Stephen M. Swenson Belmont

James K. A. Harral, San Anselmo, Cal.

Bill Berreyesa Los Altos Calif

Alan T. Waterman Stanford Calif

JIM COOK SAN JOSE

Bruce C. Johnston, Stanford

Pat Buchanan Palo Alto

Shelton Hilli San Jose

Oct 8, 1966 Clear and dry. Sierra Club Loma Prieta Mountaineering Trip

Mel Wright²⁹⁸, Los Altos

Lowell F Smith, Palo Alto

Lisl Day

Leo A. Woroshiloff, Monte Sereno³⁰⁰

R. Stein³⁰¹, Palo Alto

Jim Henderson, Belmont

Keith Thomassen, Palo Alto

Bill Rausch³⁰², Palo Alto

Bill Hooker³⁰³, Palo Alto

Dave Stevenson, Palo Alto

Stephen G. Svendsen, Belmont

James K.A. Harral, San Anselmo Cal.

Bill Berreyesa, Los Altos Calif

Alan T. Waterman, Stanford Calif

Jim Cook³⁰⁴, San Jose

Bruce C. Johnston, Stanford

Pat Buchanan, Palo Alto

Apflanes Hilli, San Jose

²⁹⁸ Wright also ascended Starr King on October 30, 1965

²⁹⁹ Lisl Day came to the U.S. as a teenaged refugee from the Nazi takeover of Austria. She later went to Palo Alto where she was employed as a legal assistant for many years, and where she pursued her lifelong passions of singing, skiing, swimming, mountaineering and rock climbing. SFGate.com

³⁰⁰ Near Campbell, California

³⁰¹ Stein also climbed Starr King on May 9, 1959.

³⁰² Rausch also climbed Starr King on April 29, 1972

³⁰³ Hooker also climbed Starr King on September 25, 1965 and March 28, 1970.

³⁰⁴ Cook also ascended the peak on August 20, 1971.

OCT 21, 1966

Jim Kringsman

Richard Doleman

45 min on climb, one day
round trip from ^(2 hrs. 45 min.) Glacier Pt.

June 13, 1967 John Wilkison

July 1, 1967 EASY CLIMBER
EXCEPT FOR SNOW. MUCH NICER
IN JULY THAN IN SEPT.

John F. Boyer

JULY 1, 1967.

SECOND TIME AROUND HERE.
LOVED IT TWICE AS MUCH! HOPE
TO MAKE IT LATER, WHEN I
RETURN FROM VIETNAM (LEAV-
ING IT OF AGE.)

Michael A. Moreno
(U.S.M.C.)

July 1, 1967

This was my first attempt
at climbing — I was scared,
but the view was well worth
the effort!

Jack Stuster
(ACS3)

Oct 21, 1966 Juris Krisjansons³⁰⁵
Richard Doleman³⁰⁶
45 min on climb, one day round trip from Glacier Pt (2 hrs. 45 min.)

1967

June 13, 1967 John Wilkinson

July 1, 1967 Easy climb except for snow. Much nicer in July than in Sept.

John F. Goyer³⁰⁷

Michael A. Moreno³⁰⁸ (U.S.M.C). Second time around here. Loved it twice as much! Hope to make it later, when I return from Vietnam (leaving 1st of Aug.)

Jack Stuster³⁰⁹ (UCSB) This was my first attempt at climbing – I was scared but the view was well worth the effort.

³⁰⁵ Krisjansons had first ascents in the Tetons with, among others, Yvon Chouinard. He had a career in rocketry at Ohio State University.

³⁰⁶ Doleman was on the first ascent of Edge of Night in Yosemite Valley and the East Face of Mount Hoffman.

³⁰⁷ Goyer's other ascent of Starr King was on September 3, 1965

³⁰⁸ See also September 3, 1965.

³⁰⁹ A Dr. Jack Stuster later worked for Anacapa Sciences in Santa Barbara

July 4, 1967

Sierra Club - Los Angeles
Sierra Peaks Section

1. Bill Hunt
2. Czech Schweitzer
3. Dick Beach
4. RICK ALESHIRE
5. Bob Guyan
6. John P. Hunter (Hany S)
7. Dick Jahn
8. Charles Rucy
9. Graham Stephenson

July 21, 1967 Ventana Chapter SC

Mary Ann (Coby) Matthews - ~~_____~~

MARCEL SEDLETZKY

~~AL KANDBINDER~~

Vince Torras

H. STANLEY HILBERT (CHAPLIN)

DALE WILSON

Tom Morris

Helen Sedletzky

W L.P.H.S

H: Dad - will see

(25)

July 4, 1967 Sierra Club Los Angeles Sierra Peaks Section

Bill Hunt
Erick Schunazky
Dick Beach
Rick Aleshire
Bob Guyan
John P. Thornton (Hairy)
Dick Jali
Charles Rugg
Graham Stephenson³¹⁰

July 21, 1967 Ventana Chapter S.C.

Mary Ann (Corky) Matthews LEADER³¹¹
Marcel Sedletzky³¹²
Al Kandlbinder³¹³
Vince Torras
H. Stanley Hilbert (Chaplin)
Dale Wilson
Tom Morris³¹⁴ ----- Hi Dad – William ‘75
Helen Sedletzky
W. Alli, LPHS³¹⁵

A tragic accident took place on a trip into the Clark Range which included Mt.

³¹⁰ Stephenson also climbed Starr King on August 13, 1960.

³¹¹ “Leader” is again blacked out as on the ascent a year ago. Her other ascents: May 30, 1953 (as Corthell), July 15, 1966

³¹² An Architect and teacher at U.C. Santa Cruz. See also July 15, 1966.

³¹³ Kandlbinder Peak, named for Dr. Alfred Kandlbinder, an original member of the Ventana Chapter of the Sierra Club, stands at 4,653 feet. There is no trail directly to the summit but one can, with some skill of scrambling and perhaps a little bouldering, gain the summit from the Ventana Double Cone.

³¹⁴ See also July 15, 1966

³¹⁵ Los Padres High School

Starr King on July 4, 1967, above. Bill Oliver of the SPS graciously furnished the trip report from the Sierra Echo, July 1967, page 15:

CLARK RANGE TRIP - July 1-4. 1967 Bill Hunt

Thirty-seven Sierra Peaks Section [of the Sierra Club] members and guests set out from the Mono Meadows trailhead in Yosemite National Park at 8:30 A.M. on Saturday, July 1. That very warm day was spent backpacking about 12 miles to a campsite at 8,800 feet on Ottoway Creek a mile below Lower Ottoway lake. The next morning at 7:00 A.M. 27 climbers departed for Merced Peak and a long day of climbing. Twenty-six gained the summit of 11,726 foot Merced, most of the climb being on very wet fairly soft snow.

After this climb most of the group traversed the ridge to Ottoway Peak, a non-list peak a third of a mile to the north, while some returned to camp. After a lunch in the warm sun, the 19 remaining climbers made the ascent of 11,699 foot Red Peak, and from there 7 hardy souls continued on to 11,574 foot Gray Peak. Four others, including the leader, continued on the ridge to the west of Red Peak climbing peaks 11,300' (approximately) and 11,109', and the others returned to camp.

On Monday an early backpack to a campsite on Illilouette Creek was made. From there 10 set out for and 9 reached the summit of 11,522' Mount Clark, an impressive 3rd class peak. Three others, under the leadership of John Peckham, climbed Gray Peak on Monday from the same campsite on Illilouette Creek. By Tuesday the climbing group had dwindled to 9 climbers and these all successfully gained the spectacular summit of 4th class Mount Starr King.

Upon return to the trailhead on Tuesday evening July 4th, the group was shocked to hear that on the previous day Don Minter³¹⁶, son of Alvan Minter, had fallen off the log that crossed Illilouette Creek and had been swept away. Both Don and his father had made the climb of Merced Peak and were with those hiking out a day early when the accident happened. The leaders and all those participating on the trip were saddened to hear of this tragedy.

³¹⁶ The public record shows that Donald Minter died in Mariposa County on July 3, 1967.

Donald Minter was almost 16 years old at the time of his death. This event underscores the hazards of crossing Illilouette Creek.

22 July 1967

Sue Baxter
Tony QATAR

Approached from Mono Meadows -
Quite a feat considering we
got no sleep the night before,
... went through thickwood into
the misty Mountains to sit upon
granite thrones...

Aug 6, 67

Antelope Valley YMCA Y's
Hikers Club.

This climb is dedicated to
the memory of the boy
from the July 4, 67 Sierra club
climb who was killed in a
stream crossing on the return
to Glacier Point.

Wally Henry BOB BOREK JR

Bruce Orr AUMS RULES

Paul Hungerford Harold Lynar

Roger Bell

Linn Leigh
Ken Primmer

22 July 1697 Sue Baxter

Tony Qamar

Approached from Mono Meadows. Quite a feat considering we got no sleep the night before. ...went through Mirkwood into the Misty Mountains to sit upon granite thrones³¹⁷

Aug 6, 67 Antelope Valley YMCA Y's Hikers Club. This climb is dedicated to the memory of the boy from the July 4th 1967 Sierra Club climb who was killed in a stream crossing on the return to Glacier Point.³¹⁸

Wally Henry

Bob Boeker, Jr.

Bruce Ayn

Paul Hungerford AVHS³¹⁹ Rules

Roger Bell

Harold Lynan

Jim Leigh

Ken Primmer

³¹⁷ A reference to geography of the world created by J.R.R. Tolkien in The Lord of the Rings.

³¹⁸ See the previous register page for the details of the fatality of Donald Minter.

³¹⁹ Antelope Valley High School

Sept 9 1967

SIERRA CLUB Tehuipite Chap

D.W. Tomer (VSS 2415)

FERRY CO.

Chris Denny (yes, the
S.E. saddle route to 5th
class, George.)

Bull Johnson

Tehuipite Chapter - Sierra Club

Up the SE saddle route from
Mono Meadows.

SEPT. 28, 1967

Milton G. ARMSTRONG

Valley
Center,
Calif

An extremely rewarding climb.

Thunderstorm in early afternoon
clearing to 50% cloudiness during
ascent. Visibility unlimited -
magnificent panorama all around
the horizon. How fine it is to
heed Aluir's advice - to "climb
the mountains and get their
good tidings..."

Sept 9, 1967 Sierra Club Tehipite Chapter

D.W. Tomer³²⁰ (NSS 2985)

Jerry Coe

Chris Denny³²¹ (yes, the S.E. Saddle route is 5th class, George)

Bill Sorenson³²² – Tehipite Chapter Sierra Club. Up the SE Saddle route from Mono Meadows

Sept 28 1967 Milton G. Armstrong, Valley Center Calif

An extremely rewarding climb. Thunderstorm in early afternoon clearing to 50 percent cloudiness during ascent. Visibility unlimited – magnificent panorama all around the horizon. How fine it is to heed Muir’s advice – to “climb the mountains and get their good tidings...”

³²⁰ Darrel Tomer was a member of the National Speleological Society (NSS)

³²¹ Chris Denny’s other ascents of Starr King: May 20, 1962, July 7, 1968, October 26, 1969, June 20, 1970, August 7, 1971, June 4, 1972, July 21, 1973, October 12, 1974

³²² Bill Sorenson’s Yosemite Valley first ascents: The Grack Center Route, The Cracker Southwest corner, Teeter Tower, Direct Direct Route. Sorenson also climbed Starr King on July 7, 1968 and June 16, 1979.

October 7, 1967

David and Judy Rearick
Boulder, Colorado.

OCT 29, 1967

WEATHER CLEAR AND WARM.
LOOP TRIP FROM GLACIER. PT.
SOLO CLIMB

JERRY TINLING S.F.

John Fischer 2nd week in
November 1967 - Stoned

MAY 25 '68

Chuck Kroger SAC from
Pauli Livermore Hoff/Kloss

MAY 30 '68

Bill NELSON - WOODSIDE

Alan Gillespie Stamford

I bet wim Kiet liked
this climb

Oct 7, 1967 David Rearick³²³

Judy Rearick
Boulder Colorado

Oct 29, 1967 Weather clear and warm. Loop trip from Glacier Pt. Solo climb.

Jerry Tinling³²⁴, S.F.

November 1967 John Fischer 2nd week in November – stoned

May 25 '68 Chuck Kroger³²⁵ SAC

Pauli Livermore SAC
from Happy Isles

1968

May 30 '68 Bill Nelson,³²⁶ Woodside

Alan Gillespie³²⁷, Stanford. I bet Wm Kat liked this climb.

I was fortunate to contact Dr. Gillespie, and he sent some details about his climb to me:

³²³ Rearick had six first ascents in Yosemite Valley: Camp 4 Terror, Inconsolable Buttress, Pulpit rock East Face, Via Aqua, Rixon's Pinnacle East Chimney, West Corner Half Dome. He also climbed in other areas, Tahquitz, Colorado. The diamond on Long's Peak was one of his first ascents of note. In 1959 Rearick earned his PhD in mathematics from Cal Tech. I remember him from Tahquitz and the Riverside County campground where he would recite Lewis Carroll poetry and walk on his hands (not at the same time). Rearick also climbed Starr King on June 8, 1957.

³²⁴ Tinling climbed all over the Sierras for many years. On June 13, 1994 he signed the register on Mt. Gould, 13,005'.

³²⁵ Yosemite first ascents by Chuck Kroger: Nickel Pinnacle East Face, The Heart Route on El Capitan. At Stanford he majored in geophysics and in his senior year was president of the Stanford Alpine Club. He was the first person to climb four routes on El Capitan in Yosemite in a single season (1968-69).

³²⁶ Yosemite first ascents: Shadyside Bench, with Alan Gillespie

³²⁷ Gillespie became a professor of Geology at the University of Washington. Yosemite Valley first ascent: Shadyside Bench with Bill Nelson

This date was probably the second shot at it. I remember trying to climb it in 1965 when I was 17 and my lifetime list was Bear Creek Spire. I think my brother was along. Both he and Bill were older and more experienced which is probably why they sent me up. I remember working a friction face and then retreating to a crack system, ending on a small ledge, way below the summit. But the friction was novel to me then, and we retreated.

By 1968, Bill and I noticed that we hadn't ever made it up Starr King, so we set out late from the Bay Area and hiked down to Illilouette Creek in the dark, by Braille. Next morning, we had to wade the creek, nearly chest deep, so Bill actually belayed me across, and vice versa. I threw my boots across with the socks stuffed in them, so they'd be dry for the climb and the hike back out. But one sock blew out in transit and got soaked. Higher up, my lead, again, but this time I think we just did friction the whole way up the SE route, or most of it. At least that's how I recall it now. It was a drop-dead gorgeous day, and probably that is what inspired our message [regarding William Kat], although I don't remember writing it.

Actually, a few friends from school had a similar experience with Illilouette Creek in the winter, when one tried to throw his skies across. One ski made it, the other slid back the opposite snowbank into the creek and was lost. There's a long story about their trek back out.

Again it seems that the most perilous part of the trip up Starr King is Illilouette Creek. It can be avoided by coming up from Happy Isles or by waiting until late August when the water level has gone down.

May 31, 1968.

Howard + Pat Lewis

Conrad Grunke

Loma Prieta R.C.S.

Left Laurie at the tent.

Hope we can find it again.

Did a lot of cross-country

rather than follow the

lengthy trails - Beautiful

day. Snow very low, this year.

June 14:

From Nevada Falls

Ernest Hillburn

John Gibbons

fucking long walk; but worth

it - superb view from the

saw ~~to~~ ⁱⁿ Merced Peak

from Milner; no comment

May 31, 1968 Howard Lewis³²⁸

Pat Lewis³²⁹

Conrad Grundke³³⁰

Loma Prieta R.C.S.. Left Laurie³³¹ at the tent. Hope we can find it again.
Did a lot of cross country rather than follow the lengthy trails – Beautiful
day. Snow very thin this year.

June 14 1968 From Nevada Falls

Ernest Millburn

John Gibbons

Fucking long walk but worth it – superb view from the Sawteeth [sic] to
Merced Peak. From Millburn: no comment

³²⁸ Howard Lewis' entries are on July 5, 1963, May 30, 1964, and May 30, 1971.

³²⁹ Pat Lewis' entries are on May 30, 1964, and May 30, 1971.

³³⁰ Grundke's other ascent of Starr King was on May 30, 1971

³³¹ Lorrie (Lorraine) Grundke. See May 30, 1971 for her ascent (not left at the tent).

7 July 1968 - NE Side

Beautiful ascent up flow-cast
creek under hazy skies. Pleasant
except for bothersome flying
ants on summit. Hazy but
tremendous view. Will descend by
SE Saddle over fifth class section
called min 4th by guide.

Best Incredible
Summit Views
Washed

R. Allyn Laroyan (2d Lt, USAF)
My second Yosemite (Tehipite Ch)
rock climb! Great! Sierra Club
Chris Denny, Chairman of
Tehipite mountaineering Section
Krist Jensen " "
Bill + SORENSON +

9 Aug. 1968 - NE Side
Chris Price (of Reed College)

Bill Faulhaber Aug 17 1968
BILL FULLER 8/17/1968

7 July 1968 NE Side. Beautiful ascent up flowered crack under hazy skies. Pleasant except for bothersome flying ants³³² at summit. Hazy but tremendous view. Will descend by SE saddle over fifth class section called min 4th by guide.

R. Allyn Saroyan³³³ (2nd Lt USAF) My second Yosemite (Tehipite Chapter Sierra Club) rock climb! Great!

Chris Denny³³⁴, Chairman of Tehipite Mountaineering Section

Krist Jensen, Tehipite Mountaineering Section

Best Inaccessible summit I ever made.

Bill Sorenson³³⁵

9 Aug 1968 NE Side

Chris Price (of Reed College)³³⁶

Aug 17 1968 Bill Faulhaber³³⁷

Bill Fuller

³³² A phenomenon indicating the expansion of a single ant colony into several colonies.

³³³ R. Allyn Saroyan became a scientist working at the Livermore Laboratories.

³³⁴ Chris Denny's other ascents of Starr King: May 20, 1962, September 7, 1967, October 26, 1969, June 20, 1970, August 7, 1971, June 4, 1972, July 21, 1973, October 12, 1974

³³⁵ Sorenson also climbed Starr King on September 9, 1967 and June 16, 1979.

³³⁶ A liberal arts college in Portland, Oregon. Christopher Muir Price wrote an undergraduate thesis in Physics, "The Josephson effect detector" in 1971. Price also climbed Starr King on January 29, 1969

³³⁷ Faulhaber's other Starr King ascent was on June 6, 1964

September 28, 1968
Jerry Halpern
GARY LUNIS

9/22/68
CAMERON SUTTLES
2019 CHAUNING WAY #2
BERKELEY VIA SE. SADDLE

Ronald A. Hahn, Sierra
MT VIEW CAL.
BILL MARTIN - SAC - S.C.
LOS ALTOS, CALIF.

Dave Smith, Sierra Club
331 W 5th ST
Carson City Nevada
"My warranty has run out"

OCT 5, 1968

Louise Wilson NE route
1761 Pine St. Class 4.
Livermore, Cal #1??

Ray Jewell, Livermore, Calif

September 28, 1968 Jerry Halpern

Gary Lukis

Cameron Suttles, 2019 Channing Way #3 Berkeley via SE Saddle

Ronald A. Hahn, Sierra Club Mt. View Cal.

Bill Martin, SAC S.C., Los Altos

Dave Smith, Sierra Club, 331 W. 5th St, Carson City Nevada, “My warranty has run out”

Oct 5, 1968 Louise Wilson³³⁸, 1761 Pine St. Livermore Cal

Ray Jewell³³⁹, Livermore Calif.

NE route class 4? *!?!*

³³⁸ Wilson also ascended Starr King on October 6, 1968

³³⁹ Raymond Jewell has written a number of articles in Physics. Jewell’s other ascents of Starr King: October 6, 1968, July 5, 1969, April 11, 1970, and December 5, 1974.

10/6/68 SIERRA CLUB

RAY CHAPTER RCS TRIP

1 PM. DVCST Cirrus clouds.

~~Bob~~ ~~Mars~~ WIND NORTH 6KTS

~~Will~~ ~~Allen~~

Mary Anne ~~Mars~~ (Staford) SE route

~~Lois~~ ~~Wilson~~

R Jewel

- a little easier than
yesterday's route

Gurman Singh Sidhu - My
urban off to Ray Jewel for
making it so easy for me.

W/ about ready to
storm so very

~~Joe~~

Carl Dreisbach Palo Alto

John Fischer S.F.

Jan. 2 1969

10/6/68 Sierra Club Bay Chapter RCS Trip. 1 pm overcast with cirrus clouds.
Wind north 6 knots. SE route
Bob Mark³⁴⁰
DeWitt Allen
Mary Anne Mark³⁴¹ (Stanford)
Louise Wilson³⁴²
R. Jewell³⁴³. A little easier than yesterday's route.
Rajurnam Singh Sidhu – My turban off to Ray Jewell for making it so
easy for me.
Why it's about to storm so we go.

1969

Jan 2 1969 Carl Dreisbach³⁴⁴, Palo Alto
John Fischer S.F.

Look at this! De Witt Allen was one of the three climbers who placed this book register on the peak on May 29, 1937. Thirty one years between ascents! Allen also had three first ascents in Yosemite Valley: Kat Pinnacle by the Tyrolean Traverse, Washington Column Direct Route, and the North Face of Church Tower.

³⁴⁰ Also climbed the peak on April 11, 1970.

³⁴¹ Also climbed the peak on April 11, 1970.

³⁴² Wilson also ascended Starr King on October 5, 1968

³⁴³ Jewell's other ascents of Starr King: October 5, 1968, July 5, 1969, April 11, 1970, December 5, 1974.

³⁴⁴ Carl Dreisbach also ascended Starr King on October 28, 1962

Jan. 29, 1969

Chris Price

and

Tom Findley

it's 12° F and windy
and clear

SATURDAY A.M.
JUNE 14, 1969 Bluebird weat

PETE BANKO, the ubiquitous
bushwacker, from SE
saddle. I am not looking
forward to the descent. At
least I didn't come up
yesterday.



Jan 29, 1969 Chris Price³⁴⁵

Tom Findley

It's 12 degrees F and windy and clear

June 14, 1969 Bluebird weather

Pete Banko,³⁴⁶ the ubiquitous bushwacker, from SE saddle. I am not looking forward to the descent. At least I didn't come up yesterday.

³⁴⁵ See also August 8, 1968. He is a Reed student, and the likely reason he pops up in Yosemite is that his parent's home was in the Stockton area. This would have been the semester break.

³⁴⁶ Banko drew the unilateral nuclear disarmament symbol on the left side of the page. It is also known more generally as a peace symbol.

21 June 1969

We who climb Starr King today carry with us the memory of Thomas C. Grantham whose tragic motorbike accident on Friday the 13th of June took from us a real fine, well-liked fellow rock climber. Tom, who would have been with us today, would have enjoyed this great, exciting climb.

Donald J. Meyers

Don Johnson

Robert Orange

Donald Huebner

Leonard Hall

Debra Allison

Climbed North Face Route.
Used 3 pitons to protect class 4
belay stairs. Up about 11:30 AM.

21 June 1969 We who climb Starr King today carry with us the memory of Thomas C. Grantham³⁴⁷, whose tragic motorbike accident on Friday the 13th of June took from us a real fine, well liked fellow rock climber. Tom, who would have been with us today, would have enjoyed this great, exciting climb.

Franklin J. Meyers³⁴⁸

Don Anderson

Robert J. Grainger

Donald Huebner

Leonard Hall

Draley R. Olson

Climbed the north face route. Used 3 pitons to protect class 4 belay stances. Up about 11:30 am.

³⁴⁷ Died in Los Angeles County on June 13, 1969

³⁴⁸ Listed on the Sierra Club's Sierra Peaks Section as a qualified mountaineer in 2006. That's staying power.

July 5, 1969

Via North Face =

Larry Goldstein

Los Wilson

Arlene Blum UGAC

Dick Hillman

Ray Powell

July 5, 1969 via north face

Larry Goldstein

Les Wilson³⁴⁹

Arlene Blum UHC³⁵⁰

Dick Hickman

Ray Jewell³⁵¹

³⁴⁹ Wilson had 13 first ascents from 1961 through 1965 in Yosemite Valley.

³⁵⁰ Dr. Arlene Blum is a biophysical chemist and renowned mountaineer. She was awarded the Francis P. Farquhar Mountaineering Award in 1982.

³⁵¹ Jewell's other ascents of Starr King: October 5, 1968, October 6, 1968, April 11, 1970, and December 5, 1974.

July 12, 1969 12:00

via So. saddle
Cora, Prieta & CS

Wesley Omori

John Wolfe

Bill Felt

Jack J. Kuizenga (South-Africa)

Jack Levin

Bill Felt

Barbara Smith, Richard

Steve Beach

Bill GOLFAR by Aron

MON JULY 21 '69

JOHN ROBBIG

TOM DISTLER

RON SCHROEDER

EAST FACE 5.6

1ST? No. Done by Bruce Smith
& companions, 1968

THUNDERSTORM APPROACHING

July 12, 1969 12:00. Via SE Saddle. Loma Prieta RCS

M--- Omori

---man Goldfarb

--- Grayson

Dirk J. Kuizenga³⁵² (South Africa)

Dick Irvin³⁵³

Joel Falk

Jim Murray³⁵⁴

Barton Huntly Richardson

Steve Beach

Eli Goldfarb, Los Altos

July 21 '69 Mon

John Roebig

Tom Distler³⁵⁵

Ron Schroeder

East Face 5.6 1st? [added by an unknown party] No. Done by Bruce
Cooke and companions 1964

Thunder storm approaching.

Roebig, Distler and Schroeder are listed as the first ascenders of this route in Southern Yosemite Rock Climbs and in Ed Hartouni's list on the Yosemite Climbing Association website. However, based on the register, Bruce Cooke along with his brother and nephew did the first ascent of the East Face on October 12, 1964. To Roebig and party's credit, they put a question mark after their claim.

³⁵² Dr. Kuizenga worked at Stanford in the physical sciences, specifically microwaves.

³⁵³ Irvin also ascended Starr King on June 27, 1964. Irvin was a climber of note in the Stanford Alpine Club, along with Mowat and Clinch, who climbed in many mountain ranges of the world. He died in 2006. The American Alpine Journal had an obituary for him by Nick Clinch in the 2007 edition.

³⁵⁴ Also climbed Starr King on May 21, 1977, July 19, 1980.

³⁵⁵ Distler's other ascent of Starr King was on March 28, 1970

26 Oct 69
via SE 3 saddle
Tehupite Chopton, Sierra Blanca
young white rock, trip standard
Chris Denny, chipton
Douglas W. Muncy
Ben Lee Russell

March 26, 1970

Can See clear to Kennedy Meadows
Solo climber had nice time
meeting old friends Clark & Lyall again
A little 100 meters snow to climb
today - go in tonight.

David Fink

28 March 1970

North face - wonderful snow climb

Alan Conner LPRCS

Bill Hooper " AIC

Tom Distler

Donna Dettler

Best of year - God's work

26 Oct 69 via SE Saddle. Tehipite Chapter Sierra Club
George Whitmore³⁵⁶, trip leader
Chris Denny³⁵⁷, climbing leader
[name unreadable]
Douglas W. Moincy
Ben Lee Dewell

1970

March 26, 1970 Can see clear to Kennedy Meadows. Solo climber had nice time meeting old friends Clark and Lyell. A little too much snow to climb them again though.
David Fisk

28 March 1970 North face – wonderful snow climb
Alan Cousins LPRCS³⁵⁸
Bill Hooker³⁵⁹, LPRCS, AAC
Tom Distler³⁶⁰
Elinor Distler
Beautiful view. God's country

³⁵⁶ Whitmore also ascended Starr King on October 10, 1953, April 30, 1960, April 9, 1961, May 29, 1974, and April 29, 1979.

³⁵⁷ Chris Denny's other ascents of Starr King: May 20, 1962, September 7, 1967, July 7, 1968, June 20, 1970, August 7, 1971, June 4, 1972, July 21, 1973, October 12, 1974

³⁵⁸ Loma Prieta [Chapter of the Sierra Club] Rock Climbing Section

³⁵⁹ See also September 25, 1965 and October 8, 1966.

³⁶⁰ Distler's other ascent of Starr King was on June 21, 1969

11 APRIL 1970

NE SNOW SLOPES
Berg Chapter Ski Touring Section

Ray Jewell

Mary Anne Mark

Timothy E. Treacy

Scott Marshall

John Hagen

Bill Hopdel

Bill Powning

George Blount (Lester)

MAY 30, 1970

FIRST ASCENT OF ~~WEST~~ WEST FACE

6 PITCHES OF FIFTH CLASS 5.5

KEN BOCHER ABC, SC

LEO PANZA

BEAUTIFUL CLIMB, BEAUTIFUL

DAY, BEAUTIFUL VIEW!

JUNE 7, 1970

ASCENT VIA NE SLOPE

FRANK + JANIS SARNGQUIST

11 April 1970 NE Snow slopes. Bay Chapter Ski Touring Section

Ray Jewell³⁶¹

Mary Anne Mark³⁶²

Timothy L. Tredly

Bob Mark³⁶³

Lotte Kamen

Bill Hoover³⁶⁴

Bill Powning

George Bloom (Leader)

May 30, 1970 First ascent of southwest face.³⁶⁵ 6 pitches of fifth class 5.8

Ken Boche,³⁶⁶ AAC, S.C.

Lee Panza

Beautiful climb, beautiful day, beautiful view.

June 7, 1970 Ascent via NE slope

Frank Sarnquist³⁶⁷

Janis Sarnquist

³⁶¹ Jewell's other ascents of Starr King: October 5, 1968, October 6, 1968, July 5, 1969, December 5, 1974.

³⁶² Also climbed the peak on October 6, 1968

³⁶³ Also climbed the peak on October 6, 1968

³⁶⁴ Hoover also climbed Starr King on March 25, 1979.

³⁶⁵ Called the West Face in Southern Yosemite Rock Climbs.

³⁶⁶ Boche had 20 first ascents in Yosemite Valley, several of them pre-eminent friction climbs. The dates of his other ascents of Starr King: September 5, 1970, June 14, 1972, June 5, 1980.

³⁶⁷ Rock climber, mountaineer and physician – all of note.

~~GINNY~~
GINNY
WAS
ON TOP!

1976

*

Jan 26

Jan 26, 1976 Ginny was on top!

This entry is far out of date order. It belongs with the Westmont College Wintertrek II. See page 374.

Erwin:

Bewkes!!

S.C. ski tour
climbed up in snow

hills & cones Mt Clark!

Silby

7 June 1970

David Lunn + Bruce Morris
guided us up - first climb
for most of us.

Tony Gromme

Bruce Morris

Jodi Buchalter 1st climb

Gordon Danielson

Julie Karon, Palo Alto

David Lunn

Liana Nain Spinks

Undated Ervin: Bewker. S.C. ski tour climbed up in snow. Here I come Mt.
Clark.
Debby³⁶⁸

7 June 1970 David Lunn³⁶⁹ and Bruce Morris³⁷⁰ guided us up – first climb for
most of us.
Tony Gromme³⁷¹
Jody Buchalter³⁷² 1st climb
Gordon Danielson
John Karon,³⁷³ Palo Alto
Liana Nair Spinks

³⁶⁸ This entry is probably associated with the April 11, 1970 Sierra Club Ski Touring ascent.

³⁶⁹ Lunn's other ascents of Starr King: October 15, 1961, July 7, 1962, June 9, 1973, January 14, 1974

³⁷⁰ See also October 15, 1961

³⁷¹ Associated by publications with the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center

³⁷² Recent graduate from Carlmont High School

³⁷³ PhD in Mathematics from Stanford.

June 15, 1970

Wendell Taylor
PAUL TAYLOR Age 17

Colm McGlibery

From SE Saddle
Our first (YCG) Class 4
Climb

June 18, 1970

Sta Louise

Chick Brown

nic climb. Thirsty weather
From Oberlin Ridge the 1st.

June 20, 1970

CHRIS DENNY

JOANNE DENNY - first roped Mt. n.

(and she found a carbimex at
the base of the N.E. grass crack)

Warm, slight breeze scattered
clouds - and both children home
with the babysitter: Freedom!

June 15, 1970 Wendell Taylor³⁷⁴
Paul Taylor³⁷⁵ age 12
Colin McGlibery
From SE Saddle
Our first (YCG) class 4 climb

June 15, 1970 Stu Langdoc³⁷⁶
Dick Berry
Nice climb. Threatening weather. From Ostrander Rocks this AM

June 20, 1970 Chris Denny³⁷⁷
Joann Denny – first roped Mtn. (and she found a carabiner at the base of the N.E. grass crack) Warm, slight breeze, scattered clouds – and both children home with the baby sitter: Freedom!

³⁷⁴ Wendell Taylor also climbed Starr King on July 16, 1973.

³⁷⁵ Paul Taylor also climbed Starr King on April 24, 1976.

³⁷⁶ Stu Langdoc is today active in Castle Rock State Park (California) trails and preservation (source: Fred Glover).

³⁷⁷ Chris Denny's other ascents of Starr King: May 20, 1962, September 7, 1967, July 7, 1968, October 26, 1969, August 7, 1971, June 4, 1972, July 21, 1973, October 12, 1974

July 20, 1970 322 pm

climbed from south saddle
thunderstorm coming

Art Wagley
Waverly Crosby
Jerry Keating
Rob Veech
Elton Fletcher

July 4, 1970

where was all the crowd!
Burke + Nancy Zane

JULY 18, 1970

climbed from South Saddle
Hazy day. Beautiful
views

Les Asboe - Hansen
Roger Rump
Stanford

(June?)

July 20, 1970 3:22pm Climbed from south saddle, thunderstorm coming

Art Westy

David Cosby

Jerry Keating³⁷⁸

Rob Reed

Elton Fletcher

July 1, 1970 Where are all the crowds!

Burke Zane³⁷⁹

Nancy Zane

July 18, 1970 Climbed from south saddle. Hazy day. Beautiful view.

Pe Asboe-Hansen³⁸⁰

Roger Route,³⁸¹ Stanford

³⁷⁸ Keating is a noted climber of the Sierra Peaks Section of the Sierra Club

³⁷⁹ Burke Zane's other ascent was on July 14, 1971

³⁸⁰ Asboe-Hansen is a name from biochemistry at Stanford, but the first name does not match so I am reluctant to make the conclusion definite.

³⁸¹ PhD in physics, worked at Stanford. He also climbed Starr King on June 19, 1971.

SEPT 5 1970
FIRST ASCENT
NW FACE
III 5.9

KEN BOCKE
MARY Bomba
BEAUTIFUL
CLIMB
DARK NOW.

Sept 5 1970 First Ascent NW Face
Ken Boche³⁸²
Mary Bomba³⁸³
Beautiful climb. Dark now.

³⁸² The dates of his other ascents of Starr King: May 30, 1970, June 14, 1972, June 5, 1980.

³⁸³ Other first ascents in Yosemite Valley: The Cow Left, Marginal

Sept 19, 1970

Jay W. Niles RGS, SP
Robert Paterson Coltech

SEPT 20, 1970

NICE DAY BUT A LITTLE
TOO WINDY

Summit { Jeff Summi
Cliff Anderson 1st Peak
Digo { John Reed

October 13, 1970

Art de Soede

Diana Dee Heimann

Ray Magnusson

Oct, 30, 1970

J. Richard Hechtel,

Redwood City

Herbert R. Rickert UCSB

Tim Hodgson Oct 31

First time rock climbing
didn't even slip

Sept 19, 1970 Jay W. Wiley RCS SPS
Robert Patenaude³⁸⁴ Caltech

Sept 20, 1970 Nice day but a little windy.
Jeff Simori, San Diego
Cliff Anderson 1st Peak, San Diego
Rita Reed, San Diego

Oct 13, 1970 Art de Goede³⁸⁵
Diana Dee Heiman
Roy Magnuson³⁸⁶

Oct 30, 1970 J. Richard Hechtel³⁸⁷, Redwood City
Herbert Rickert UCSB
Tim Hodgson. First time rock climbing. Didn't even slip

³⁸⁴ He received his PhD from Cal Tech in 1972

³⁸⁵ This group appears to be associated with the Sierra Peaks Section of the Sierra Club. The SPS web site has information about the peak from member trip reports at <http://angeles.sierraclub.org/sps/default.htm>

³⁸⁶ Magnuson's other Starr King ascent was on October 4, 1975

³⁸⁷ Richard Hechtel was awarded the Francis P. Farquhar Mountaineering Award in 1985, and his daughter, Sibylle, became quite a rock climber with participation in three first ascents in Yosemite Valley.

Oct. 30 - 1970
John Somerville
"Nice day... for somethin'"

Oct. 30 - 1970

Richard Gabriel

climbed for a friend
who couldn't make
it - Tedi

Oct 30 - 1970

Jay Simoneaux
Hot Damn - Nice!

Oct 30, 1970 John Somerville. “Nice day fer somethin”

Richard Gabriel. Climbed for a friend who couldn't make it - Judi
Jay Simoneaux. Hot Damn – Nice!

11/1/70 Alex Lindsay Junior Museum
"IN MEMORIAM" Alpine Club

"Teri Chapman" S.E. route

"Gene Geary"

"Al Hunt" Steve de Kijzer

"Mark Aho" Lynn Escalante
Rosanne Chambers

Chris Valle-Kiastre

This climb can be blamed
directly on KAREN KARI,
who chickened out at the
last minute! (well, actually, she had a cold)

11/1/70 Alex Lindsey Junior Museum Alpine Club. SE Route
Steve de Keijzer
Lynn Bialoskurski
Roseanne Chambers
Chris Valle-Riestra³⁸⁸

“In Memorium”
“Teri Chapman”
“Gene Geary”
“Al Hunt”
“Mark Aho”

This climb can be blamed directly on Karen Karl who chickened out at the last minute. (Well, actually, she had a cold.)

The “In Memorium” group is likely those who did not make it all the way. One person in the group, Teri Chapman, had an ascent on June 22, 1977.

³⁸⁸ Graduated from the U.C. Boalt Hall

WED DEC 30

HI GEORGE K.

Mike Mendez

11 April '71 10:30 AM



Perfect Spring conditions so made ascent of N Face in summer climbing uniform of jock strap/scanties, sombrero + crampons.

Jack Pettigrew.

Rome Pettigrew

Al Cooper (no sombrero) .



Dec 30 1970 Wed. Hi George K.³⁸⁹
Mike Mendes

1971

11April '71 10:30 AM. Perfect spring conditions so made ascent of N. Face in summer climbing uniform of jockstrap/scanties, sombrero and crampons.
Jack Pettigrew
Rona Pettigrew
Al Cooper (no sombrero)

³⁸⁹ The only George K. in the register is George Keshey who climbed Starr King on July 5, 1971.

April 28, 1971

We reached summit
about 8:00 each AM.
Climb was easy but
very beautiful lots of
snow and ice, on our
way to Clark Range
now hope to have a
good trip. The weather
is clear and warm.

Jack Klasnik

Cal P. Anderson

Dynamite Bros.

MAY 30, 1971

THE DOLT STRIKES
AGAIN

April 28, 1971 We reached summit about 8:00 o'clock A.M. Climb was easy but very beautiful lots of snow and ice on our way to Clark Range. Now hope to have a good trip. The weather is clear and warm.

Jack Klasnik

Carl P. Amundson III

Dynamite Bros.

May 30, 1971 The Dolt³⁹⁰ Strikes Again

The May 30, 1971 solo climber in threatening weather signs himself "The Dolt". He is William (Bill) Feuerer who also made also made an ascent of the peak on October 22, 1955. He was probably in Yosemite Valley for the Memorial Day weekend to hawk his equipment as the new climbing season unfolded and made a quick dash up Mt. Starr King. Sadly, within seven months this great manufacturer of climbing gear was dead at age 39, a suicide by hanging on Christmas Eve 1971. Bill was a slow speaking, gentle person, and so became nicknamed "dolt" by another climber. It stuck and he named his business after it. Even today the Dolt and his equipment are legendary in the rock climbing community.

³⁹⁰ Feuerer also ascended Starr King on October 22, 1955

May 30, 1971

Leader: Conrad Grundke
Lorrie Grundke, Greg Lewis
Pat (Dusty) Lewis, Howard Lewis
Snow coming down as we
came up the last pitch. Bad.
Party below has retreated.

June 5, 71

VERN MUIR Boy Chpt. RCS.
Solo from South col.
Finally able to enjoy some good
climbing weather. Maybe summer
is here!

Fearless leader: ~~Pat~~ ~~Conrad~~
Memorable day: June 19, 1971

We came from Fald Alto ~
Sarah Maria
CHARLIE SINCLAIR
LINDSEY CLARK
PATTY GREEN
ROGER ROUTE

May 30, 1971 Leader Conrad Grundke³⁹¹

Lorrie Grundke

Greg Lewis

Patty (Dusty) Lewis³⁹²

Howard Lewis³⁹³

Snow coming down as we came up the last pitch. Bad. Party below has retreated.

June 5, 1971 Vern Mohr Bay Chapt RCS. Solo from South Col. Finally able to enjoy some good climbing weather. Maybe summer is here!

June 19, 1971 Memorable day. We came from Palo Alto

Roger Route, Fearless Leader³⁹⁴

Sarah Mavis

Charlie Sinclair³⁹⁵

Lindsey Clark

Patty Green

Because the date of the climbs for Conrad Gundke's party and that of The Dolt (previous page) were the same, I was curious to know if they climbed together. I was able to contact Conrad and he had these comments.

This was an annual, "first climb of the year" outing for us. It was not a group Sierra Club outing in 1971, although the two families were Sierra Club RCS members from San Jose. I always enjoyed leading the climb since it was easy and allowed us to get our wives up to the summit.

Howard Lewis³⁹⁶ wrote a climbing book, "You're Standing on My Fingers", a family record of their climbing activities. I don't recall if it

³⁹¹ Grundke's other ascent of Starr King was on May 31, 1968

³⁹² Pat Lewis' entries are on May 30, 1964, and May 31, 1968.

³⁹³ Howard Lewis' entries are on July 5, 1963, May 30, 1964, and May 31, 1968.

³⁹⁴ See also July 18, 1970

³⁹⁵ Also climbed Starr King on May 21, 1977

included much from the Sierras since Howard and his family came from the New York area and much of the book was with reference to the Shawangunks.

As I recall, there was no one else on the Southeast face in 1971, however, when you are on the summit you cannot see any of the alternate routes so someone could have been there without the other party being aware of them. We were not aware of any other climbers on the peak while we were there.

Conrad also sent along a photo looking down the climbing route.



May 1971 on the Southeast face route

I bought a copy of Howard Lewis' book on the secondary market, and it was a fun read. Lewis presented an accurate picture of packing and climbing in the 1950's and 1960's. After the dedication he had a quote, "The charm of mountain

³⁹⁶ Under the name of H. Warren Lewis published in 1969 in Berkeley by Howell North Books.

climbing lies not in the climbing, in success, nor in failure, but in the great range of emotions provoked through these physical experiences. – Frank Smythe”

The characters in the book include Howard, Dusty (wife), Greg (son) and Dee (daughter) plus others mentioned along the way. Some in this register were Dave French, Bill Scoville, and Fred Beckey. Contrary to Grundke’s assertion, the book is not mostly about the “Gunks”.

July 3, 1971

DON JORGESEN

CAM McLEOD

JIM BEAVERS

out
of Seattle, Wa
Starling keeps
the pattern of a
mighty fine (so far)
run about the
country. off to
Mt. Clark.

July 3, 1971 Don Jorgensen

Cam McLeod

Jim Beavers

Out of Seattle, WA. Starr King keeps the pattern of a mighty fine (so far)
run about the country. Off to Mt. Clark.

July 5, 1971

SIERRA PEAKS SECTION

SIERRA CLUB, ANGELES CHAPTER

SCHEDULED TRIP

TOM COSGROVE, LEADER

GORDON MACLEOD, ASST LEADER

Debra MacLeod

Tom Arnold

GEORGE K. FISHER

Jim Thibodeau

Hot Shit! July 12
110°F

2 out of three made
it. the other with possible
frost bite waiting at bottom.
4th climb in 17 days, 2nd
and bitter a Sunnyside Bench. I
think I'll go take a bath, my
companion won't come to the
top till I put my arms down.

Drinkel Brothers

Jimmy Murphy

Up N. side gd climb, gd view
good day, hot lemonade

(THIS is quite a log).

Jim Dadd
other griv

July 5, 1971 Sierra Peaks Section, Sierra Club, Los Angeles Chapter Scheduled Trip
Tom Cosgrove, Leader
Gordon McLeod, Ass't Leader
Barbara McLeod
Tom Annlus
George Keshey
Don Thibodo

July 12, 1971 110 degrees F. Hot Shit! 2 out of 3 made it. The other with possible frostbite waiting at the bottom. 4th climb in 12 days, Lyell and Ritter and Sunnyside Bench³⁹⁷. I think I'll go take a bath, my companion won't come to the top till I put my arm down.
Grivel Brothers
Jerry Murphy³⁹⁸
Up N. side, good climb, good ---, good day, hot lemonade (this is quite a log).
Jim Dodd, other grind

³⁹⁷ Sunnyside Bench is an area to the right of Lower Yosemite Falls

³⁹⁸ Murphy also climbed Starr King in July-August 1972 and on April 24, 1977.

July 14. Pecten + Mammals; FORSYTH
DIG SITE DADDY

I'm thirsty
If you could only know
How much I want some snow

July 14 71
Burb Zone - Climbing, heads the
exped. 7/15/71

FRANK "A. HUN" OF
KERRERE ROCKS"

Chris Denny - 6th ascent

August 7, 1971

Bill Hotlap

John Elezarian

9-5-71

I.L.W.U. TRAVELING

STEWART CLIMBED THIS PEAK
TO SURVEY FOR POSSIBLE SHIP-
PING CANALS FROM SAN FRANCISCO
TO LEE VINING AND TO SECURE
WORKING JURISDICTION. THE

July 14 71 Peter + Plougher + Forsyth

Dig it daddy

I'm thirsty. If you could only know how much I want some snow.

Brian Zane

Burke Zane³⁹⁹

Climbing heals the spirit

Frank Herrera "A hunk of rock"

August 7, 1971 Chris Denny⁴⁰⁰ – 6th ascent

Bill Hastrup

John Eleazarian

9-5-71 I.L.W.U. traveling steward climbed this peak to survey for possible shipping canal from San Francisco to Lee Vining and to secure working jurisdiction. The steward's name is Russ Lamson – He was helped by three men from P.M.A – The view from here is grand – but can't see a great future for deep ocean shipping at this time. For the P.M.A –

³⁹⁹ Burke Zane's other ascent was on July 1, 1970

⁴⁰⁰ Chris Denny's other ascents of Starr King: May 20, 1962, September 7, 1967, July 7, 1968, October 26, 1969, June 20, 1970, June 4, 1972, July 21, 1973, October 12, 1974

STEWARDS NAME IS RUSS
LAMSON, - HE WAS HELPED
BY THREE MEN FROM P.M.A. -
THE VIEW FROM HERE IS
GRAND - BUT I CAN'T SEE A
GREAT FUTURE FOR DEEP OCEAN
SHIPPING AT THIS TIME.
FOR THE P.M.A. -

9-5-71 - NOTHING ELSE TO DO
TODAY SO WHAT IN HELL -
Why not? *Post Waterbury*
Carly Mallett
Bill Cluse
Bay Chapter RCS

9-5-71 -
UP FROM THE
VALLEY (Happy Jobs) IN
2 1/2 hrs.
~~BULLSHIT~~ NED GILLETTE

9-11-71 VIA S.W. SADDLE
must have just missed Ann Kat!
MIKE SHERRICK
NATALIE SHERRICK
Weather here's better than Alaska.

9-5-71 Nothing else to do today so what the hell – why not?
C.G. Wastenbruul
Larry Malliett
Bill Clyde
Bay Chapter RCS

9-5-71 Up from the valley (Happy Isles) in 2 ½ hours. [following this] Bullshit
Ned Gillette.

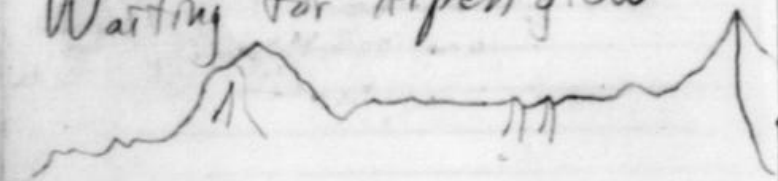
9-11-71 via SW Saddle. Must have missed Wm Kat!
Mike Sherrick⁴⁰¹
Natalie Sherrick
Weather here's better than Alaska.

Regarding Ned Gillette's entry, someone took exception to his recorded time from Yosemite Valley to the peak summit. However, Gillette was a collegiate cross country champion and an Olympic athlete and quite a fantastic adventurer, mountaineer, skier, and so on. One needs to be careful in making judgments. Gillette was killed by bandits in Pakistan. His career was so well covered that there is no lack of information to be found about him on the Internet. "Gillette's extraordinary string of adventures included the first one-day ascent of Mount McKinley (in 1978, with Galen Rowell), the first American ascent of China's 24,757-foot Muztagata (1980), and the first telemark ski descent of Argentina's Aconcagua." Outside Magazine, November 1998

⁴⁰¹ Mike Sherrick was on two first ascents in Yosemite Valley, and they were good ones: the Northwest Face of Half Dome and the Sacherer Cracker. Mike and I were together on the first ascent of Mt. Senyala, a sandstone peak near the Havasu Indian Reservation in Arizona.

Last night above Nevada falls,
some bears ripped off our food.
Hope they enjoyed the chocolate party.
Only thing we've had to eat today
is some real spongy trail cookies
and some (ugh) soybeans.

Waiting for Alpen glow



good at

Marc Dilley

Ken Huie, (I think it was Ken Berger)
Turkey Tech, Turlock, Calif.

We can't wait
for some food
Thank you for the sucker found
in the register, we will leave
some delicious soybeans.

Undated Last night above Nevada Falls some bears ripped off our food. Hope they enjoyed the chocolate jerky. Only thing we've had to eat today is real srongey trail cookies and some (ugh) soybeans. Waiting for Alpenglow. Good art
Marc Dilley⁴⁰²

← (I think it was Ken Burger)

Ken Huie

Turkey Tech, Turlock Calif.⁴⁰³

We can't wait for some food. Thank you for the sucker found in the register, we will leave some delicious soybeans.

⁴⁰² Dilley also ascended Starr King on June 23, 1973

⁴⁰³ California State University Stanislaus at Turlock California

1/6/71

Came down mono
tail head. tried with
side full one snow
no gut,

Come up south
route.

Beautiful day
Doug M. S. Low
Mike Riley

2 Feb. 1972

Don Stone Saratoga, Calif.

West Valley College Sing
via snow shoe from
Badger Pass

Dave Wickis Corvallis, Oregon
Westmont College - So Fine!!!

To the Nichols 2-2-72
NVC - camp Saratoga, Ca.

IF YOU LOOK AT
CLOUDS REST, (NORTH)

YOU WILL SEE OUR ROUTE
BELOW.

11/6/71 Came up from Mono trailhead. Tried North side, full of snow, no guts.
Came up south route. Beautiful day.
Doug McLean
Mike Riley

1972

2 Feb 1972 Don Stoner, Saratoga Calif. West Valley College Gang via snow shoes from Badger Pass.
Dave Willis⁴⁰⁴, Corvallis Oregon, Westmont College – So Fine!!!
John Nicholas, WVC, Gearys Saratoga, Ca
If you look at Cloud's Rest (North) you will see our route below.

⁴⁰⁴ Willis also climbed Starr King on November 30, 1974, September 26, 1975, January 2, 1976, January 3, 1976, January 12, 1976, January 13, 1976, January 24, 1976 and January 25, 1976. Westmont College is in Santa Barbara CA.

WISH BECKY' WAS HERE

MIKE PECK

4-22-72 Ted Herman

FUCKING OUTRAGEOUS

Santos 4-22-72

What it is, I know what
it is it's cool Jordan Kulis

4-22-72 RAUGHER You in a
bag you got to bug out. Jus don't
look beyond coolness.

4-29-72 Tim Duffy
Steve Brewer
Carl Schoder

Will Spiegelman

Louise Wilson Rausch

Pat Drepane

Bill Rausch

From saddle. Fine weather

Undated Wish Becky was here.

Mike Peck

Ted Herman

4-22-72 Santos⁴⁰⁵. Fucking outrageous

Gordon Kulis⁴⁰⁶. What it is, I know what it is it's cool

Plaucher⁴⁰⁷ You in a bug you got to bug out. Jus don't lose your coolness.

4-29-72 Tim Duffy⁴⁰⁸

Steve Brewer⁴⁰⁹

Carl Schoder

Will Spiegelman

Louise Wilson Rausch

Pat Greene

Bill Rausch⁴¹⁰

From saddle. Fine weather.

⁴⁰⁵ Santos' other ascent was on June 22, 1972

⁴⁰⁶ Kulis' other Starr King ascent was on June 21, 1972

⁴⁰⁷ Plaucher's other Starr King ascent was on June 21, 1972

⁴⁰⁸ This appears to be an outing of the Sierra Peaks Section of the Sierra Club

⁴⁰⁹ Steve Brewer and Jim Bridwell climbed Cerro Torre in 1979 - Climbing Jan/Feb 1980, Supertopo.com. This was hard core mountaineering.

⁴¹⁰ Rausch also climbed Starr King on October 8, 1966

STANFORD ALPINE CLUB

5-28-72 → Guy Stone
via East Face Peter Dixon

Darion Hopkins

Roger Lockney

We think of you Bob over there in
Pongo Pongo!

6-3-72 Climbed via SE Saddle
nice weather but thunder
storm approaching

Lloyd Brown

HARRISON SMITH ESQ

Hugh Stanton

6-4-72 CLIMBED BY
NORTH FACE

BOB CARLSON

BOB YOUNG

BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

FAIR WEATHER

5-28-72 Stanford Alpine Club via East Face

Peter Dyson

Darien Hopkins

Roger Gocking⁴¹¹

We think of you Bob over there in Pongo Pongo⁴¹²

6-3-72 Climbed via SE saddle. Nice weather but thunder storm approaching.

Lloyd Brown

Harrison Smith Esq

Hugh Stanton

6-4-72 Climbed by North Face.

Bob Carlson

Bob Young

Berkeley Calif. Fair weather

⁴¹¹ Roger Gocking was active in the Stanford Alpine Club in the 70's and did a couple of first ascents in the Sawtooth Ridge and elsewhere in the Sierra Nevada (Source: Fred Glover).

⁴¹² Probably refers to Pago Pago, American Samoa

June 4, 1972

Tehipite Chapter - Sierra Club
Overcast, thunder!

Christopher Denny - 7th ascent
Michael Swilich
Paul Leavitt
John Pasmuwan
Merk Alley
Good good!

12 ASCENT
"THE CLEAN MACHINE"
S.W. FACE 7 bolts 4 nuts Opine

4 pitons II 5.8
700 ft of 3004-?!

JUNE 14, 1972

KEN BACHE

Jim Harrison

ARMADILLO ROCK GROUP
VALLE DEL PUEBLO YOUTH SECTION

June 4, 1972 Tehipite Chapter –Sierra Club. Overcast, thunder!

Christopher Denny⁴¹³ – 7th ascent

Michael Svilich

Paul Leavitt

John Rasmussen

Merle Alley⁴¹⁴

Isabel Good

June 14, 1972 1st Ascent

“The Clean Machine”

S.W. Face 7 bolts, 4 nuts 0 pitons

4 pitches II 5.8

700 ft of 3rd ←!?!?

Ken Boche⁴¹⁵

†Tim Harrison⁴¹⁶, Armadillo Rock Group, Vulgarian Youth Section

⁴¹³ Chris Denny’s other ascents of Starr King: May 20, 1962, September 7, 1967, July 7, 1968, October 26, 1969, June 20, 1970, August 7, 1971, July 21, 1973, October 12, 1974

⁴¹⁴ Also climbed Starr King on May 30, 1959.

⁴¹⁵ The dates of his other ascents of Starr King: May 30, 1970, September 5, 1970, June 5, 1980.

⁴¹⁶ First ascent of Anchors Away in Yosemite Valley. Tim Harrison’s death was in Yosemite Valley in October 1973 when a bolt hanger came off to which he was anchored. He and his partner fell to their deaths. Harrison is still remembered in the climbing community for, among other things, his unusual method of hitch hiking with a trailer he pulled along. (Supertopo.com).

June 14 (I'm not sure that's
right - it is Friday though) '72
Did a lot of thinking about
some of the moves coming
up the S.E. saddle route - came
from the west, tearing my
legs apart in some bad brush.
Back to L.A. tomorrow - it's been
a good week. Look at the pretties
some more and then split.
Steve Patchett UCLA

JUNE 21 It's a nice day again
it has been for 6 days, Dig it Daddy
Dordon Kulis
Dig it Daddy Laughter again.
Kevin Nelson for the first
time

JUNE 22, What a trip! ^{At}
we came up right a step you
Gretchen Sambor
Well here I am again ^{Eight}
not just as spaced as
last, time still far out.
Jan-Lor

June 14 '72 (I'm not sure that's right – it is Friday, though)⁴¹⁷

Did a lot of thinking about some of the moves coming up the S.E. saddle route – came from west, tearing my legs apart in some bad brush.⁴¹⁸

Back to L.A. tomorrow – it's been a good week. Look at the pretties some more and then split.

Steve Patchett UCLA

June 21 1972 It's a nice day again. It has been for 6 days. Dig it Daddy.

Gordon Kulis⁴¹⁹

Plaughter again⁴²⁰ Dig it Daddy

Kevin Nelson⁴²¹ for the first time.

June 22 1972 What a trip. We came up right after you

Gretchen Sambo & Eight

Well here I am again not just as spaced out as last time still far out.

Stan Santos⁴²²

⁴¹⁷ June 16, 1972 was a Friday

⁴¹⁸ In all likelihood referring to the Manzanita on the southwest approaches to the domes.

⁴¹⁹ Kulis' other Starr King ascent was on April 22, 1972

⁴²⁰ Plaughter's other Starr King ascent was on April 22, 1972

⁴²¹ Nelson's other Starr King ascent was on May 25, 1974

⁴²² Santos' other ascent was on April 22, 1972

30 June 1972 on the cab onto

Bill & Pat Burke USC

July 1, 1972

Vi Grasso, SPS

Dave Valone Δ

Ed Tracy

Doug Mantle

BOB MERLIHT $\frac{SPS}{2} + 1$

Paul Ripstein Sr

George W. Gifford F38

July 8 (?), 1972

Sailed N. Face on the
way to Mt. Clark. Slightly cloudy,
a good day to die.

Mark McPherson

(MARK McPHERSON -
a little later)

30 June 1972 or thereabouts

Bill Burke

Pat Burke

UCSC

July 1, 1972 Vi Grasso⁴²³ SPS

Dave Wallace /7\⁴²⁴

Ed Tracy

Doug Mantle⁴²⁵

Bob Herlihy SPS/2 + 1

Paul A. Lipsohn Sr.

Jon Hardt⁴²⁶

George W. Hubbard 38

July 8(?), 1972 Soloed N Face on the way to Mt. Clark. Slightly cloudy, a good day to die.⁴²⁷

Mark McPherran. A little shaky.

In addition to his Angeles Chapter awards, Doug Mantle has also been recognized by national Sierra Club with the Francis Farquhar Mountaineering Award in 1994. He has climbed the highest mountain on each continent, including Everest in 1992. In his role of outings leader, he has been a sterling motivator and trainer, making major in-the-field efforts to develop new leaders and to assist his fellow mountaineers in attaining their goals.

⁴²³ Grasso's other ascent of Starr King was on August 11, 1974

⁴²⁴ This is the first entry in this register where a small peak symbol over a number appears for a member of the Sierra Peaks Section of the Sierra Club. It signifies, in this case, that this ascent is the 7th peak on the SPS list for this climber. In the transcription here forward I bracket the number thusly, /7\⁴²⁴, to show the peak symbol.

⁴²⁵ Mantle's other ascents of Starr King: October 4, 1975, August 7, 1983.

⁴²⁶ Other Starr King ascents on August 11, 1974, August 26, 1977

⁴²⁷ From a line in the 1970 movie "Little Big Man", starring Dustin Hoffman.

Umgang Winterogill
Jerry Murphy (Lewell Bros.)
S.E. Saddle

August 4, 5:00 PM by SE. Saddle;
pleasant day with haze and slight cloud
COVER. Christian L. Straight from Sta. Maria,
Calif. and ^{HI. CHRISTIAN 11}
^{D. HALLER 10-82}
DICK WILKINS

8/20/71 Frank Losifosse

8/20/71 Had to bivvy on
the Northwest Cal - Severe
Snowstorm - lost 1/2 of our
party of 15. Charles Wiggitt
Men View, Calif

Jim Cook SAN JOSE

13 SEPT 72

Michael & Zoran
Joanne Cross

Undated Marg Wintersgill
Jerry Murphy⁴²⁸ (Grivel Bros.)
SE Saddle

August 4, 1972 5:00PM by SE saddle; pleasant day with haze and slight cloud cover.

Christian L. Straight from Sta. Maria Calif. and [later] Hi Christian!!
Dick Wilkins D. Haller 10-82

8/20/71 Frank Lovinfosse

8/20/71 Had to bivvy on the Northwest Col – Severe snowstorm – lost 14 of our party of 15

Charles Wyatt Mtn View Calif
Jim Cook⁴²⁹, San Jose

13 Sept 72 Michael D. La Lane⁴³⁰
Joanne Cross

⁴²⁸ Murphy also climbed Starr King on July 12, 1971 and April 24, 1977.

⁴²⁹ Cook also ascended the peak on October 8, 1966.

⁴³⁰ La Lane's other Starr King ascent was on October 17, 1973

Sept. 20th 1972

Alton Stone - New Hampshire

Paul Yewell - Massachusetts

N. C. O. B. S.

By N.E. Route - extremely enjoyable
clear cool - some high clouds

Oct. 13 1972 12:00 Noon

J. Bradley Schmitt, Garden Grove S.C.

James H. Smith, Georgetown

Up S.E. Route in rainy
weather. Hope we can get off
before the STORM hits.



"The two spheres"

What it takes
to climb
Starr King!

Where is Joe O'flaherty?

Sept 20th 1972 Alton Stone, New Hampshire

Paul Yewell, Massachusetts

N.C.O.B.S.

By NE Route. Extremely enjoyable, clear, cool, some high clouds

Oct 1 1972 12:00 Noon

J. Bradley Schmitt⁴³¹, Garden Grove S.C.

James H. Smith, Georgetown. Up SE route in rainy weather. Hope we can get off before storm hits. [ART WORK] What it takes to climb Starr King! Where is Joe O'Flaherty?

⁴³¹ See also July 11, 1974

May 28 '73 12:00 noon
Jean + Rick Abbott - part
of 2.5. East face
"Fred" is with us but he
won't hatch for a few months.
We needed extra rope to tie
around Jean's big belly.

Done all rats

(Repair to protection, net mortality)

June 7 '73

Dave Waterman sky via
the most devised route possible. WDEA

6.9.73 David Linn

~~Mike Gravin~~

Suzanne LeJew
SHERMAN GROOME

Celeste Fendell

Jim Smith

Brent Harris

June 10, 1973

Jim Beardsli Fresno

Tevinius Laboratories

1973

May 28 '73 12:00 Noon

Jean Abbott

Rick Abbott

Party of 2.5. East Face. "Fred is with us, but he won't hatch for a few months. We needed extra rope to tie around Jean's big belly.

Done all nuts (Refers to protection, not mentality)

June 7 73 Dave Waterman. Solo via the most devious route possible. "WDFa"

6-9-73 David Lunn⁴³²

Mike Gravina

Suzanne LeDrew

Sherman Gromme

Celest Fendell

Jim Smith

Brent Harris

June 10, 1973 Jim Beanahi, Fresno

Tevenians Laboratories

⁴³² Lunn's other ascents of Starr King: October 15, 1961, July 7, 1962, June 7, 1970, January 14, 1974

June 16, 73
"Jolly John Galsowsky" No Rope
done in safer loops" VGC

Jerry Kauffman.
Its 32°, I'm wearing shorts,
I'm freezing, I wish I brought
a rope, hope we get down.

June 23, 1973

ASCENT VIA EAST FACE - S7
LIGHTNING ABOUT TO STRIKE.
BETTER GET OFF A NICE CLIMB

Ken Berger
Mac Dilley

July 9/73

Gaston: "Emilio, you forge Ha
dee dubees?"

Emilio: "Wee Wee Gaston, but
I breeng dee carabeners"

June 16, 73 “Jolly John Gallansky”. No rope. Done in sofa loafers. UGC
George Kauffman. It’s 32 degrees, I’m wearing shorts, I’m freezing, I
wish I brought a rope, hope we get down.

June 23, 1973 Ascent via East Face – 5.7. Lightning about to strike. Better get
off. A nice climb.
Ken Berger
Marc Dilley⁴³³

July 9 '73 Gaston: “Emilio, you forgettin dee dubees!”⁴³⁴
Emilio: “Wee wee Gaston, but I breeng dee carabeeners.”

⁴³³ Marc Dilley is a well known climber and photographer of the North Cascades.
Dilley also ascended Starr King in September or October 1971 (undated entry)

⁴³⁴ Refers to famous alpinists Gaston Rebuffat and Emilio Comici. Identity of
writer(s) unknown.

Gloria, fuck it!

KMA, YMF, SMD

Wendell and Mino Lou Taylor
32 Edgemont Cir. Walnut Creek
Calif - July 16, 1973

July 21, 1973
N.E. Shower-filled crack
Chris Denney st ascent
URMAS FRANOSCH

Miles Grant

We bolted the register so it
won't be turned over to soak
in the winter. The second
hole is drilled. Use another
bolt in it if you have a spare.

[Gratuitous profanities not transcribed]

July 16, 1973 Wendell Taylor⁴³⁵

Mina Lou Taylor

32 Edgemont Cir. Walnut Creek Calif.

July 21, 1973 NE Flower filled crack

Chris Denny⁴³⁶ – 8th ascent⁴³⁷

Urmias Franosch⁴³⁸

Miles Grant

We Bolted the register so it won't be turned over to soak in the winter.

The second hole is drilled. Use another bolt in it if you have a spare.

⁴³⁵ Wendell Taylor also climbed Starr King on June 15, 1970.

⁴³⁶ Chris Denny's other ascents of Starr King: May 20, 1962, September 7, 1967, July 7, 1968, October 26, 1969, June 20, 1970, August 7, 1971, June 4, 1972, October 12, 1974

⁴³⁷ It was on this ascent that Chris Denny also made the remark at the beginning of the register asking climbers to not remove pages of the register for souvenirs.

⁴³⁸ Franosch had 12 first ascents in Yosemite Valley. He is a well known Telemark ski expert at Mammoth Mountain. Franosch's other Starr King ascent was on October 12, 1974

Sept. 9, 1973

Ascended via E. face; removed two old pins
~~pins~~ (by hand) which were sitting in the
cracks.

Dave Altman Camp 4
Dean Durfee, Berkeley

OCT. 14, 1973

FAST CLIMB AFTER HIKE FROM
MONO MEADOW. BEAUTIFUL DAY.

PETER SCHUBART - BERKELEY
John McMurry Santa Cruz
(Larry Blaszczak (in spirit))
John Mueser
1st Peak
Tallahassee, Florida

OCT 17, 73

Michael & Barbie
Elizabeth A. Bibby (representing DeGnan's Gift
shop and 'DeFlambe')

OCT. 22, 73 My hands are
practically frozen, but we made
it.

Kurt Riedel } Both from
Rik & Riedel } Woodside, Cal.

Sept 3, 1973 Ascended via E face; removed two old pins (by hand) which were sitting in the cracks.

Dave Altman⁴³⁹, Camp 4 Yosemite

Alan Durfee⁴⁴⁰

Oct 14, 1973 Fast climb after hike from Mono Meadow. Beautiful day.

Peter Schubart, Berkeley

John McMurry, Santa Cruz

Larry Blaszcak (in spirit)

John Musser, 1st peak Tallhassee, Florida

Oct 17, 1973 Michael La Lane⁴⁴¹

Elizabeth A. Bibby (representing Degnan's Gift Shop and "De Flames")

Oct 22, 73 My hands are practically frozen, but we made it.

Kurt Rieder⁴⁴²

Rik Rieder⁴⁴³

Both from Woodside Cal.

⁴³⁹ Dave Altman had 8 first ascents in Yosemite Valley

⁴⁴⁰ Alan Durfee is a professor of Mathematics at Mt. Holyoke

⁴⁴¹ La Lane's other Starr King ascent was on September 13, 1972

⁴⁴² Kurt Rieder had 1 first ascent in Yosemite Valley.

⁴⁴³ Rik Rieder had 13 first ascents in Yosemite Valley.

Oct. 27, '73

John Muir

Nice register for historians. Warm,
clear. Some snow on route.

George Anderson
Optim Station
Big Meadows,
Yosemite, California.

1974 nice summit for contemplatives.
warm, clear. Some water in meadows.

Ravenswood High School
E. Redwood City
January 14, 1974
Plenty of snow crampon
ed right up, Randy Sexton
Marg. Rosemore
Redwood City
can see the coast range
Jane Tracy Fer Gates

Oct 27, '73 John Muir

Nice register for historians. Warm. Clear. Some snow on route.

George Anderson

Opim Station, Big Meadow, Yosemite California

Nice summit for contemplatives. Warm, clear. Some water in mortars.

1974

January 14, 1974 Ravenswood High School, East Palo Alto

Plenty of snow, cramponed right up.

Randy Sexton, Redwood City

Margi Rusmore – can see the Coast Range

Jane Tracy

Fer Gates

Whoever made the October 27, 1973 entries with Muir's and Anderson's names had a knowledge of history as the Opim Station was a post office in Big Meadow which only lasted about a year beginning in 1882. George Anderson, the second ascender of Mt. Starr King, had a cabin in that locality. The statement "some water in mortars" refers to the natural pot holes on the lower dome coming up the southeast route (Anderson's).

cont from last page

Victor Kress

David Lunn - Such an enjoyable job!
MIKE MORRIS

BK Witt March 74

A A Beckman " "

JF Sturm " "

MAY the 25th 1974

Wendy Russell

HIGH

Kevin Nelson - Dad time
DIG IT DADDY #2

Bill Heiman "finally"

Paul Roehl - 5-26-74

~ 29 May 1974

Bill Sommers } Palo Alto

Martha Coulton }

George Whitmore } Kingsburg

Frances Whitmore }

Con't from last page
Victor Kress
David Lunn⁴⁴⁴ – such an enjoyable job
Mike Morris

March 1974 BK Witt
AA Backman
JF Sturm

May the 25th 1974 Wendy Rosin
HIGH
Kevin Nelson⁴⁴⁵ – 2nd time. Dig it Daddy #2

5-26-74 Bill Heiman⁴⁴⁶ “Finally”
Paul Roehl⁴⁴⁷

29 May 1974 Bill Sommers, Palo Alto
Martha Coulton, Palo Alto
George Whitmore⁴⁴⁸, Kingsburg
Frances Whitmore, Kingsburg

June 12, 1974 Came up the east face. Never found the route, but did easy 5th to here.
Sierra Slim (Bruce Slayman)
Frank Fiveleven (Alan Bartlett⁴⁴⁹)
Long Live the SLA (Sierra Liberation Army). Our first goal is to exterminate the Yosemite Institute – Founders of the Screamers.

⁴⁴⁴ Lunn's other ascents of Starr King: October 15, 1961, July 7, 1962, June 7, 1970, June 9, 1973

⁴⁴⁵ Nelson's other Starr King ascent was on June 21, 1972

⁴⁴⁶ Heiman's other Starr King ascent was on April 10, 1977

⁴⁴⁷ Roehl's ascents were on April 10, 1977, July 17, 1977.

⁴⁴⁸ Whitmore also ascended Starr King on October 10, 1953, April 30, 1960, April 9, 1961, October 26, 1969 and April 29, 1979.

⁴⁴⁹ Alan Bartlett participated in nine first ascents in Yosemite Valley.

Up the southeast face
had a good time, beautiful
day. Hi Linda K.

Mark Carver 6/20/74
Point Loma College S.D.
God sure does mighty fine work
Love it - Daisy Cousinet 6/20/74
U.C.B.

6/20/74 Beautiful?
Came all the way with
shin splints, ouch. But
worth it for sure
Peri Turrentine
Tom Turrentine
- Santa Barbara

7-5-74

Helena Jackson
Santa Rosa

Doug Dunham
Berkeley
- (also with shin splints!)
Neophyte climbers (our
first "big climb") came up NE

- 6/20/74 Up the southeast face. Had a beautiful time, beautiful day. Hi Linda K., Mark Carver, Point Loma College S.F.
Daisy Cuisinot. UCB. God sure does mighty fine work. Love it.
Peri Turrentine. Beautiful! Came all the way up with shin splints. Ouch.
But worth it for sure.
Tom Turrentine⁴⁵⁰
- 7-5-74 Helena Jackson, Santa Rosa. (Also with shin splints!) Neophyte climbers (our first “big climb”).
Doug Dunham, Berkeley. Came up NE

⁴⁵⁰ Professor at U.C. Davis

Crack with enuf equip. for
an army of climbers. After we
got over being scared we had
a lot of fun climbing. Saw a
humming bird on the summit. We
could hardly ask for a better
day, and hope yours is at least
as good!

7-11-74

young, healthy & happy.
Made a nude ascent up S.E. face
Sun energy!! *and Jim was glad to
be alive!!* Ishy Appleby

Starrk naked on Starr King.
2nd ascent via S.E. face. Beautiful
day after 3 days of winter, 360°
view.

Erud Schmitt

Climbed totally "clean"

crack With enuf equipment for an army of climbers. After we got over being scared we had a lot of fun climbing. Saw a hummingbird on the summit. We could hardly ask for a better day, and hope yours is at least as good!

7-11-74 Young, healthy and happy. Made a nude ascent up SE face. Sun energy!! And I'm so glad to be alive.

Leslie Appling⁴⁵¹

Starrk naked on Starr King. 2nd ascent via S.E. face. Beautiful day after 3 days of winter. 360 degree view.

Brad Schmitt⁴⁵². Climbed totally "clean"

I was concerned that Ms. Appling might, at this later stage of her life, object to her entry being made available to others, so I contacted her, and asked if it was OK. She replied in the affirmative and also said,

Hi Bill, that brought a smile to my face!

I have no problem with that entry being included.

Shoes, harness and shades - a great way to climb!

⁴⁵¹ In a list compiled in 2007 by Ed Hartouni (Supertopo.com) of first ascents nationwide in rock climbing by all female teams, Leslie Appling had three. The list contained only 23, so she has to be counted as one of the most adventurous female climbers – as her attire on Starr King would suggest.

⁴⁵² See also October 1, 1972

July 13, 1974

TED VOGEL, Grand Rapids
Mich.

BOB PAUW - Riverside, Calif

TOM De Roo Wyckoff, N.J.

CURT De Roo Grand Rapids Mich

1ST Ascent SSW Face

from 30' chipped stump at base
friction up ^{ice} 250' to vertical wall
pass on right and friction up to
summit ~~II~~ class 4 or low ~~class~~ 5
very little protection available
all out ascent

- great Lunch - sardines
& crackers (crumbs)

- Climbing all summer!
Rockies, Tetons, Cascades ...

+ at least we didn't have to open
the sardine tins with our ice
axes this time!

July 13, 1974 Ted Vogel, Grand Rapids Mich.

Bob Pauw, Riverside Calif

Tom De Roo, Wyckoff N.J.

Curt De Roo, Grand Rapids Mich

1st ascent SSW Face. From 30' charred stump at base friction up left 250' to vertical wall, pass on right and friction up to summit. II Class 4 or low class 5. Very little protection available. All nut ascent.

Great Lunch – Sardines & cracker (crumbs). Climbing all summer! Rockies, Tetons, Cascades...

And at least we didn't have to open the sardine tins with our ice axes this time.

August 8, 1974

No ropes, scared shit-
less up NE face.
Looks like Jim King
of the Mountain right
now — John Bevan
right out!

S.P.S. August 11, 1974
Jon Harst - 2nd time

Vi Hrus (as good as the 1st!)

Ray & Ward

John Roth Sr. M

Al Toering ^{on} Sierra Dome Section

Betty Sowers

Lu Peterson

Betty Kehler

Selores Holladay.

George R. Davis

Walton Kehler

Rich May

August 8, 1974 John Bevan No ropes, scared shitless up NE face. Looks like I'm King of the Mountain right now. Right on!

August 11, 1974 S.P.S.

Jon Hardt⁴⁵³ – 2nd time

Vi Grasso⁴⁵⁴ (as good as the first!)

Roy L. Ward⁴⁵⁵

John Roth S.C. /4\

Al Toering. Sierra Domes Section

Betty Sowers

Lu Petitjean

Betty Kabler

Delores Holladay

Jon Hardt

George R. Davis⁴⁵⁶

Walton Kabler⁴⁵⁷

Rich May

⁴⁵³ Other Starr King ascents on July 1, 1972, August 26, 1977

⁴⁵⁴ Grasso's other ascent of Starr King was on July 1, 1972

⁴⁵⁵ Ward also ascended Starr King on July 21, 1975

⁴⁵⁶ Davis also ascended Starr King on August 30, 1981

⁴⁵⁷ Kabler's other Starr King ascent was on August 8, 1976

Alvane McKee
Gary Richardson
David J. Burdett
Patricia J. Lawrence
Jon Pettigrew 63 178 togo!
Joseph Young 45 - wow
Bernie Pettigrew
Earl Kester 45

Aug 13/74
from saddle
Nanc King

Paul Dines Aug 16/74
Saratoga, Calif.
N.E. Face. Hete manzanita

Steven Klimowski with
Astnam Valley, N.Y. P.D.

Duane McRuer
Gary Richardson
David F. Burdett
Patricia Lavengood
John Petitjean /63\ 178 to go!
Joseph Young /45\ – Wow.
Bernie Petitjean
Earl Kessler /45\

Aug 13/74 From saddle
Dave King

Aug 16/74 Paul Davis, Saratoga Calif. N.E. Face. Hate Manzanita.
Stephen Klimowski with P.D. Putnam Valley N.Y.

Duane McRuer was a graduate of Cal Tech with a Masters Degree who became known as the father of aircraft control systems. He was also an avid mountaineer and contributor to the Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club, which he joined in 1962. He played a major role in creating the Leadership Training Program for the Sierra Club. He was the Chair of the Sierra Peaks Section of the Sierra Club in 1976. He climbed all 297 mountains contained on the SPS list by 1985, and by 1997 had visited or climbed the high point in all fifty states, save one, Mount McKinley in Alaska. He also climbed all of the 97 mountains contained on the Sierra Club's Desert Peaks list twice. He was awarded the Sierra Club's Oliver Kehrlein Award for Outings Leadership (1997) and the Sierra Club Angeles Chapter's Lifelong Service Award (1998) among many other honors. Duane continued to climb peaks well into his eightieth year. His energy, endurance, and knowledge of geology made him a favorite and inspirational companion to all who accompanied him on the many hiking trails and climbing routes here in California and across the United States.⁴⁵⁸

⁴⁵⁸ This writeup about Duane McRuer was lifted in part from the website, <http://www.ccst.us/news/2007/20070202mcruer.php> Much was written by Doug Mantle who climbed the peak on July 1, 1972, October 4, 1975 and August 7, 1983

Dear old patient Borsky
brought me up here for my
3rd climb that experience
I can fly.

Lynn Hammond
- 6/21/74

B. Johnson

October 12, 1972
Chris Denny, SE saddle
7th ascent (for him, not the
rock)
Ellen Searby, Angels Camp
URMAS FRANOSCH

Rob Frick + Russell Kohler
NW Face somewhere

8/21/74 Dear old patient Beverly brought me up here for my 3rd climb. Neat experience. I can fly.
Lynn Hammond
B. Johnson⁴⁵⁹

Oct 12, 1972[1974] Chris Denny⁴⁶⁰ SE Saddle, 9th ascent (for him, not the rock)
Ellen Searby, Angels Camp
Urmars Fransoch⁴⁶¹

Rob Frick
Russell Kohler
NW Face somewhere

Urmars Fransoch made the following comments about this venture to Mt. Starr King:

Our ascent was definitely in 1974, not 1972.

Ellen Searby, who climbed with Chris Denny and me, is an interesting person with a long history in Yosemite. She was close friends with Warren Harding and was at the top to greet him on the first ascent of the Nose of El Capitan in Yosemite Valley. When I knew her in the mid 70's she was an avid cross country skier and member of the Yosemite Nordic Ski Patrol with Chris and me. She spent summers flying around solo in the Alaska bush in a single engine plane. The last I heard about her was that she was growing wine grapes near Sebastopol, CA.

Chris Denny is a remarkable person. He was a mentor to me and numerous other young wannabe climbers. His patient and encouraging

⁴⁵⁹ Beverly Johnson was a party to nine first ascents in Yosemite Valley. She was one of the truly great female climbers. She died in a helicopter crash on April 3, 1994 in Nevada. This ascent is the first all female ascent of the peak, coming two years after the passage of amendments to title 9 of the Equal Employment Opportunity Act which gave women more chances to excel in sports.

⁴⁶⁰ Chris Denny's other ascents of Starr King: May 20, 1962, September 7, 1967, July 7, 1968, October 26, 1969, June 20, 1970, August 7, 1971, June 4, 1972, July 21, 1973

⁴⁶¹ Fransoch's other Starr King ascent was on July 21, 1973

instruction and passion for the mountains had a lot to do with my decision to pursue a life of climbing. Back then we felt that reaching a summit, inaccessible by other means, was a more worthy climbing objective than just climbing up some face to an anchor. I chuckle now when I think of the arduous approaches we endured just to climb to the summit of some obscure pinnacle. With Chris I climbed Sentinel Spire, The Block, Split Pinnacle, The Rostrum from the notch, Pulpit Rock, as well as the east face of Mt. Whitney.

I can't overstate the influence Chris had on the course of my life. I credit him with inspiring me to follow a healthy life, when I could easily have gone in other directions. Growing up without a father, Chris gave me valuable tips that I would have missed during a crucial time. I remember he told me once that bowling alleys were good places to pick up women. That one I never did follow up on!

October 19, 1974

Alan W. Rusk

Jim Murphy

Paul Burns

Oct. 19, 1974

E. Zorostra.

Bart O'Brien, East Face
A fine route of three
itches. This is my first
October peak and a fine
one at that.

November 30, 1974

Easy ascent from saddle,
beautiful 4-shirt weather with
a view of the coast range. Hope
everyone has as good an ascent
as ours.

Dave Chapman

Duane Allen

Dave Willis

October 19, 1974 Alan W. Rabak

Jim Murphy

Paul Burich, E. Face Rte.

Bart O'Brien⁴⁶², East Face. A fine route of three pitches. This is my first October peak and a fine one at that.

November 30, 1974 Easy ascent from saddle, beautiful T-shirt weather with a view of the Coast Range. Hope everyone has as good an ascent as ours.

Dave Chapman

Duane Alleman

Dave Willis⁴⁶³

⁴⁶² One first ascent in Yosemite valley

⁴⁶³ Willis also climbed Starr King on February 2, 1972, September 26, 1975, January 2, 1976, January 3, 1976, January 12, 1976, January 13, 1976, January 24, 1976 and January 25, 1976.

NOV. 30, 1974

Jurgen Schlicker

It feels good to be alive.

Jim Graydon

DENNIS WAESPI

Ross Rumpino

Climbed from the saddle

on Dec 15/74

Ray Jewell

Tom Felts

May X

Mike Fandl

Dave Hitchcock

JUNE 15th 1975

CLAYTON B. WARDLE

WRL Finney Fresno

Nov 30 1974 Jorgen Schlicker. It feels good to be alive
Jim Grayden
Dennis Waespi

Dec 5/74 Rosso Rompino. Climbed from the saddle.
Ray Jewell⁴⁶⁴
Tom Felts

1975

May X Mike Fandl
Dave Hitchcode

June 15, 1975 Clayton B. Wardle
Mel Simons, Fresno

⁴⁶⁴ Jewell's other ascents of Starr King: October 5, 1968, October 6, 1968, July 5, 1969, April 11, 1970.

The Karma Kids:

F. M. Quad (Richard Clauson) Sacramento

F. R. Fed (Robert Graham) Oakdale

June 16, 1975

SE saddle
Low putting top of Mt Lyell

"WE DON'T DO SHIT!"

Gene H...
Please write to Wessley
San Carlos

Climbed up North wall. No
hardware... and pitons up
my route. First came up

manzanita on South
then notch between
this and East knob. Left
Virginia

Plenty of thunderheads. Heavy
Thursday. Please

tell me about anything
interesting. That's my Swiss
Army knife down by scrawny trees
below piton

June 16, 1975 The Karma Kids

F.M. Quad (Michael Clause) Sacramento

F.R. Fed (Robert Graham) Oakdale

SE Saddle. Now putting off to Mt. Lyell. "We don't do shit!"

Undated Glenn Huggins. Please write 96 Wessex San Carlos CA 94070

Climbed up North Wall. No hardware so I was shocked to find biners and pitons up my route. First came up damned Manzanita on south then passed notch between this and east knob. Left Virginia -----. Plenty of thunderheads. Snowed heavily Thursday. Please tell me about anything interesting. That's my Swiss Army knife down by scrawny trees below piton

June 22, 1975 Afternoon

Tim & Terry McNAMARA
(LA) (A, Mt.)
would like all of you
later day people to kindly
remove your dapers and
pitons and give your
regards to our brother
Pat who didn't make it.

CAVE OF THE SADDLE
NO AID. WE ARE
GETTING STONED AND
READING THIS BOOK.
STASHED SOME POT
BY BOOK HOLDER
SEE YOU TOMORROW
ON MT. HOFFMANN

June 22, 1975 Afternoon

Tim McNamara, (LA)

Terry McNamara, (A², MI)

Would like all of you later day people to kindly remove your diapers and pitons and give your regards to our brother Pat who didn't make it.

Came up the saddle no aid. We are getting stoned and reading this book. Stashed some pot by book holder. See you tomorrow on Mt. Hoffman.

June 28, 1975

SHELDON MOOMAU

June 28, 1975

Joyce Kiel
First Climb

Tren Barrett - Salvador, Ca
Bill Schuler - BULL SHIT

LEAN MUSON

†

BILL MORRIS

Beautiful climb escaped all
of holiday valley summer crowd

July 5 1975

SE saddle

clear & warm
9:45 am

my dad is Tom

Mar 17 '66
69

June 28, 1975 †Sheldon Moomaw⁴⁶⁵
Joyce Kiel. First climb
Tren Bartlett – Silverado CA
Bill Schuler – Bull Shit

July 5, 1975 Leah Muson
Bill Morris. Beautiful climb escaped all of holiday's valley summer crowd. Clear and warm 9:45 AM. My dad is Tom Morris '66 '67⁴⁶⁶

⁴⁶⁵ Sheldon Moomaw was killed in a fall on Noshaq, a 24,580 peak in Afghanistan, on July 28, 1978. American Alpine Journal, 1979.

⁴⁶⁶ Tom Morris ascended Starr King on July 15, 1966 and July 21, 1967.

JULY 21, 1975 10:45 AM
SUNNY WEATHER

Cerro Rancho SPS 128
Ray & Wood 2ND TIME

July 27, 75

Best Climb this year

Don Robertson

Rich Ramos

Don lead the hard parts
& I prussicked S.E.
saddle

Sept 21 1975

Bill T Russell
Don T Russell

July 21 1975 10:45 AM. Super weather.
Cuno Ranschau, SPS /128⁴⁶⁷
Roy L. Ward⁴⁶⁸ 2nd time

July 27, 1975 Best climb this year.
Don Robertson
Rich Ramos
Don led the hard parts and I prussicked⁴⁶⁹. SE Saddle.

Sept. 21 1975 Bill T. Russell⁴⁷⁰
Dave T. Russell

⁴⁶⁷ As the number 128 indicates, Ranschau was an active mountaineer in the Sierra Peaks Section of the Sierra Club. He also climbed Starr King on August 1, 1980.

⁴⁶⁸ Ward also ascended Starr King on August 11, 1974

⁴⁶⁹ The prusik knot was invented by an Austrian mountaineer, Karl Prusik, 1897-1961. It served as a method of ascending on a rope before Jumar and other ascenders.

⁴⁷⁰ Bill Russell had 14 first ascents in Yosemite Valley.

Sept 21, 1975

SE Saddle

Bill HAUSER, AMC

Dan Dobbins, Sacramento

~ 26 September, 1976 ~

Ascent from Half Dome via
tyrolean traverse on 4 miles
of monofilament line shot
from a water pistol.

Dave Willis, Corvallis, Oregon

Lois Lorenson, Detroit, Mich.

SEPT. 28, 1975

PAM SULLIVAN (NICKS BLACKLEDGE)
THREATENS TO ESCAPE WITH OUR
WATER IF WE DO NOT DESCEND
TO THE SE SADDLE SOON.
ADIOS MUCHACHOS, CABALLEROS,
SEÑORITAS!

BUD RICE

ALEX MOAD

Sept 21, 1975 SE Saddle
Bill Hauser, AAC
Dan Dobbins, Sacramento

26 September 1975 Ascent from Half Dome via tyrolean traverse on 4 miles of monofilament line shot from a water pistol.
Dave Willis⁴⁷¹, Corvallis Oregon
Lois Lorentzen⁴⁷², Detroit Lakes, Minn

Sept. 28, 1975 Pam Sullivan (Alias Blackledge) threatens to escape with our water if we do not descend to the SE saddle soon. Adios muchachos, caballeros, señoritas!
Bud Rice
Alex Moad

⁴⁷¹ Willis also climbed Starr King on February 2, 1972, November 30, 1974, January 2, 1976, January 3, 1976, January 12, 1976, January 13, 1976, January 24, 1976 and January 25, 1976.

⁴⁷² Lorentzen's other Starr King ascents were on January 2, 1976 and January 26, 1976.

Sept 28 - 1975

S. Harris Sacramento
D. Wallace Richmond

Oct. 2nd 1975

J.P. and Eva de St. Croix
Rich Tobin

Too much smoke from
"let burn" fires to make
a fine view. But nice
climb!

Oct. 4, 1975

Doug Mantle - 2nd time

Mike Trebet

Barbara Magnuson

Ray Magnuson 2nd time

EAST FACE RT. 5.7 II OCT 16, 1975

With CRUJENKO

? JOHN R. WALTMAN

1st technical
climb. Blood
on one hand and
one arm only



Sept 28, 1975 J. Harris, Sacramento
D. Wallace, Richmond

Oct 2nd 1975 J.P. de St. Croix⁴⁷³
Eva de St. Croix
Rich Tobin
Too much smoke from “let burn” fires to make a fine view. But nice climb!

Oct 4, 1975 Doug Mantle⁴⁷⁴ – 2nd time
Mark Goebel⁴⁷⁵
Barbara Magnuson
Roy Magnuson⁴⁷⁶ – 2nd time

Oct 16, 1975 East Face Rt, 5.7 II
†Will Crljenko⁴⁷⁷
John R. Waltman – [my] 1st technical climb. Blood on one hand and one arm only.

Mark Goebel: My first climb of Starr King on 10/4/75 was with Doug Mantle, and Roy & Barbara Magnuson. In July of 1975 Doug, Roy, I, and others had successfully summited Mt McKinley/Denali. Doug, Roy, and Barbara have climbed all the peaks on the Sierra Peaks Section of the Sierra Club list. Doug has completed the list at least 6-7 times and still continues to re-climb the list.

⁴⁷³ One first ascent in Yosemite Valley, Tangerine Trip

⁴⁷⁴ Mantle's other ascents of Starr King: July 1, 1972, August 7, 1983.

⁴⁷⁵ Goebel's other ascent of Starr King was on July 3, 1979

⁴⁷⁶ Lowdermilk's other Starr King ascent was on October 13, 1970

⁴⁷⁷ One first ascent in Yosemite Valley, True Grit. Died in an avalanche in 2005 - Supertopo.com

FIRST CLIMB
AT 11⁵⁰ A.M., SUNDAY
DECEMBER 7, 1975, FROM
THE South East Saddle.
WE HONOR this climb on
behalf of the Nation's
200th birthday AND
our home town,
MARTINEZ, CA,
100th birthday.

THIS will be A DAY to
REMEMBER!

DUNCAN A. SCHAEFER
James D. Lindley

12/7/1975 First Climb at 11:50 AM Sunday December 7 1975 from the Southeast Saddle. We honor this climb on behalf of the Nation's 200th birthday and our home town, Martinez, CA 100th Birthday. This will be a day to remember!

Duncan A. Schaeffer

James D. Lindley

BICENTENIAL CLIMB!

JANUARY 2, 1976

FIRST ASCENT OF THE NEW YEAR,
VIA SOUTH EAST SADDLE APPROACH
JEFF BARTON - GRAND MARAIS, MN
Dan Price - Wintertrex 1976
Lois Loring " " MN.
Dave Willis
Nancy Parker - Dick Savidge

January 12, 1976 - Westmont College
Ascent via SE Saddle approach
Melting snow on friction point
Beautiful, sunny day, a bit windy
First climbing experience for:
Tim Koopmans - Watsonville, Ca
Ken Prickett - Huntington Beach
Thanks Dave Willis + Jeff
Barton for your patience
Craig McLeod - Santa Barbara

LAWRENCE HENRY CATES

JAN 12, 1976 - WOODSIDE, CALIF.

Pamela Helmick
Jan. 12, 1976 Marina, California
Westmont College.

1976

January 2, 1976 Bicentennial Climb! First ascent of the new year via southeast saddle approach.

Jeff Barton⁴⁷⁸, Grand Marais, MN

Dan Price⁴⁷⁹ – Wintertrek 1976

Lois Lorentzen⁴⁸⁰ - Wintertrek 1976

Dave Willis⁴⁸¹ - Wintertrek 1976

Nancy Parks⁴⁸²

Dick Savidge⁴⁸³

January 12, 1976 Westmont College, Wintertrek I

Ascent via SE saddle approach. Melting snow on friction point.

Beautiful sunny day, a bit windy. First climbing experience for:

Tom Koopmans, Watsonville Ca

Ken Prickett, Hungtinton Bbch Cal.

Thanks Dave Willis and Jeff Barton for your patience.

Craig McLeod, Santa Barbara

Lawrence Henry Cates, Woodside Calif.

Pamela Helmick, Marina California, Westmont College

Wintertrek was organized by Dave Willis at Westmont College in order to introduce others the wilderness. It was no mean feat getting his group of people up Mt. Starr King in January, and not without risk had the weather turned. However, the years of 1976 and 1977 were extremely dry, to the point of water rationing in many towns in California, and this certainly worked in Wintertrek's favor. Westmont College is a Christian liberal arts college in Santa Barbara with

⁴⁷⁸ Other ascents on January 12, 1976, January 24, 1976 and January 25, 1976

⁴⁷⁹ See also January 13, 1976

⁴⁸⁰ Lorentzen's other Starr King ascents were on September 26, 1975 and January 26, 1976.

⁴⁸¹ Willis also climbed Starr King on February 2, 1972, November 30, 1974, September 26, 1975, January 3, 1976, January 12, 1976, January 13, 1976, January 24, 1976 and January 25, 1976.

⁴⁸² See also January 12, 1976

⁴⁸³ See also January 12, 1976 and January 13, 1976

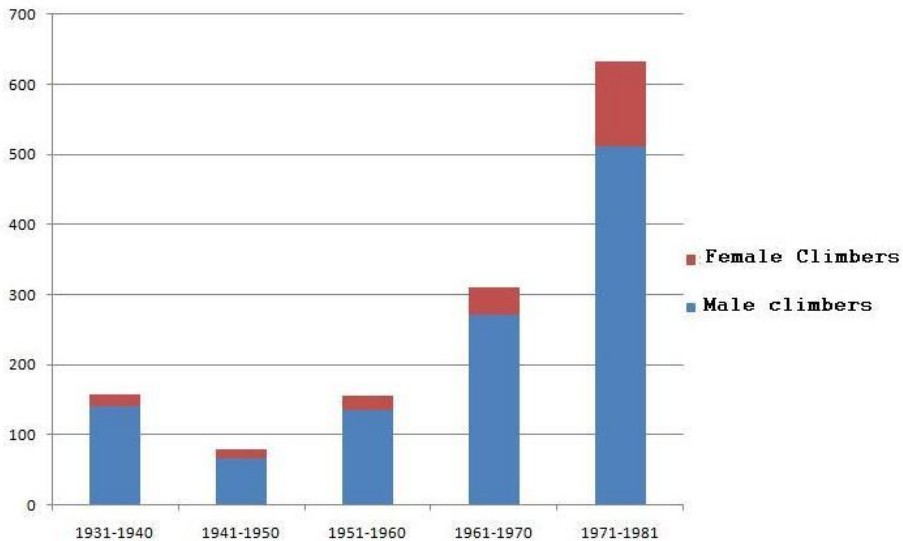
an enrollment of about 1400 students, and it is a testament to Willis' drive that he got such a group out in the wilds in winter. Willis today works for conservation causes in southern Oregon. The next eight pages of the register are from Willis' Wintertrek. Some of the entries are quite touching as they are from neophytes with no previous connection to the granite domain.

The registers give information about the increased participation of women in the activity of rock climbing and peak bagging. Year by year statistics of women climbers of Mt. Starr King are not informative as the numbers are too small. In order to be able to spot trends, the data has been summarized at the 10 year level:

Years	Male Ascents	Female Ascents	Percent Female
1931-1940	141	16	11.3
1941-1950	66	13	19.7
1951-1960	135	21	15.6
1961-1970	271	39	14.4
1971-1981	511	121	23.7
Total	1124	210	18.7

The post World War II decades show a significance increase in the participation of female climbers on Mt. Starr King, decade by decade, in the number of female ascents.

The first all female team to climb the peak was on August 21, 1974 by Bev Johnson and Lynn Hammond. The first solo climb by a female climber was on September 7, 1976 by Celia (no last name given).



Kent Partridge
Westmont College
Linda Manning
I'm writing
because my hands are
shaky & I don't think
I'm happy to be here
DAVE WILLIF

I still look like I'm
the best looking guy
to be here
~~Lowell John Rouse~~
Westmont College
Where the Hell is El Sbrante?

2nd time in a week?
side a charm
Nancy Parks

JEFF BARON
GRACE MORRIS 1/12
Dick Scudgy

Kent Partridge, Westmont College

Laura Manning. I'm writing weird because my hands are so shaky but I think I'm happy to be here.

Dave Willis⁴⁸⁴

Lowell John Rouse, Westmont College. It still looks like I'm the best looking guy to be here. Where the hell is El Sobrante?

Nancy Parks.⁴⁸⁵ 2nd time in a week? 3rd's a charm.

1/12/76 Jeff Barton⁴⁸⁶, Grand Marais Mich
Dick Savidge⁴⁸⁷

⁴⁸⁴ Willis also climbed Starr King on February 2, 1972, November 30, 1974, September 26, 1975, January 2, 1976, January 3, 1976, January 13, 1976, January 24, 1976 and January 25, 1976.

⁴⁸⁵ See also January 2, 1976

⁴⁸⁶ Other ascents on January 2, 1976, January 24, 1976 and January 25, 1976

⁴⁸⁷ See also January 2, 1976 and January 13, 1976

WINTER TRUCK I
(Westmont Still)

- JAN 13, 1975 -

BEAUTIFUL DAY

- Ralph E. Byrd -

What the Bleep is El So beautiful

than the last day

R. Mills Sandberg

Jan 13, 1975 from Santa Barbara, CA

John Mark Lutzell, Costa Mesa

Love dirt, first ever, want more

[Jim Ray - Jan 13, 75 Derby, Kansas
I wonder if Winter Truck II will make it.

Hit rocks - what a climb!

If I could only see me now.

O Owen Clark - Seattle, WA.

I can see clear to the
city. John Beard

Westmont College
w love to Karen McArthur
1-13-76

Some people
to the

Jan 13 1976 Winter Trek I. Beautiful day.

Ralph E. Byrd. What the bleep is El. Sobrante. I wanna come back.
Thanx Lord.

R. Nils Sandberg from Santa Barbara

John Mark Ludall, Costa Mesa. Loved climb, first ever, want more.

Jim Roy, Derby Kansas. I wonder if Winter Trek II will make it.

Owen Clark, Seattle WA. Hot rocks – what a climb. If you could only
see me now.

John Bearss, Westmont College. I can see all the way to the City.

Karen McCarthy. I love it.

Winter Trek - Westmont College
Jan. - Daniel Martin Solis (100)
Eagle Rock, Calif.
13/76 It sure is beautiful from
up there.

DAVE WILKS
DICK SAVIOSE

Daniel J. Price

Jan 24/76 Winter Trek, Westmont College

Jerry Peters
Don Chang - Chula Vista, CA.

Jan 24 Jina Mullin - Colorado - (C.S.)
Sure is comparable simply out-
rageous!

WHAT A CLIMB + VIEW -
FOR MY FIRST ASSENT,
IT MAKES ME WANT
MORE - RANDY [unclear] CA.

SORRY TO BEAT YOU UP, DAVE!

Jan 13/76 Wintertrek Westmont College

Daniel Martin Solis. Eagle Rock Calif. It sure is beautiful from up here.

Dave Willis⁴⁸⁸

Dick Savidge⁴⁸⁹

Daniel J. Price⁴⁹⁰

Jan 24/76 Winter Trek, Westmont College

Don Chang, Chula Vista CA

Tina Mullins – Colorado – (C.S.). Sure is comparable simply outrageous

Randy Baron, L.A. CA. What a climb and view – for my first ascent, it makes me want more. Sorry to beat you up, Dave.

⁴⁸⁸ Willis also climbed Starr King on February 2, 1972, November 30, 1974, September 26, 1975, January 2, 1976, January 3, 1976, January 12, 1976, January 24, 1976 and January 25, 1976.

⁴⁸⁹ See also January 2, 1976 and January 12, 1976

⁴⁹⁰ See also January 2, 1976

Almost as rough as the
high risers in New Jersey.
A lot prettier sight though.

Don Leisy

1-24-76 Barbara Currie
I don't believe it. It's
so beautiful! What a
climb

1-24-76 I hope I can
get down from
here. Liz Quena

Praise God - almighty

I made it up. I
doubt if I'll ever do
it again! Judy Anderson

D. Willis

1/24 Wheaton
Illinois

JEFF BARTON GRANO MARIS MN 1/24

Dan Leisy. Almost as huge as the high risers in New Jersey. A lot prettier though.

Barbara Currie. Downey, CA. I don't believe it. It's so beautiful! What a climb.

Liz Guerra. I hope I get down from here.

Judy Anderson, Wheaton Illinois. I made it up. I doubt if I'll ever do it again.

D. Willis⁴⁹¹

Jeff Barton⁴⁹², Grand Marais, MN

⁴⁹¹ Willis also climbed Starr King on February 2, 1972, November 30, 1974, September 26, 1975, January 2, 1976, January 3, 1976, January 12, 1976, January 13, 1976 and January 25, 1976.

⁴⁹² Other ascents on January 2, 1976, January 12, 1976 and January 25, 1976

Jan. 25, 1976

Winter trek II - Westmont College
(Farmer Fred) Santa Barbara
Fred McIntosh - 1st ascent up

Starr King, was great. So
clear you could see the coastal
Range. Come up S.E. saddle
via skateboard, leaving to
catch the face of Half Dome
before the sun goes down.

1/25/76

Dave Spencer - another member of
Westmont's Wintertrek. Randy, you
may have beat me up, but
did you climb up the west
face on a one-handed handstand?
I did. Time for lunch, Bay, do
I hate sardines. Well people,
I love you all, Bye for now.

January 26, 1976

We made it! - Way to
develop those calves! It's so
beautiful and peaceful up
here. - Worth the tired bod.

Mary Jane Ferrone

Jan 25, 1976 Wintertrek II – Westmont College, Santa Barbara

Fred McIntosh (Farmer Fred) – 1st ascent up Starr King, was great. So clear you could see the Coastal Range. Came up SE saddle via skateboard, leaving to catch the face of Half Dome before the sun goes down.

Dave Spencer – another member of Westmont’s Wintertrek. Randy, you may have beat me up, but did you do the West face on a one-handed handstand? I did. Time for lunch. Boy, do I hate sardines. Well, people, I love you all. Bye for now.

Mary Jane Ferrone. We made it – way to build those calves. It’s so beautiful and peaceful up here – worth the tired bod.

1/25/76

John Allen Hammeiland, Jr. - Hand
- torn up but well worth it. Fabulous
view. First of line to scale a moun-
tain. What a Bonanza!

This is the warmest you have had
up here. No bad Danheiser coat
spell. ~~But~~ he let feed bot to
much & gets ~~not~~ wet

- Marcia Rainor - Wintertube II

Praise God!! is beautiful Sunday
excursion - no sweat! has... hurt like
hell, feel like i'm in heaven. Never
hurt so bad from last Dray's fall but i
have never felt like i've accomplished so
much. God is good and i feel great.
Homebaby! Go for it baby cakes!

fly like an eagle /
and be free

right on Westmont

John Allen Hammerland, Jr. – Hands torn up but well worth it. Fabulous view. First of line to scale a mountain. What a Bonanza!

Matt White. This is the warmest time I have had up here. Too bad Danheiso can't spell puff he left red box too much I gess.

Marcia Rainer – Wintertrek II. Praise God!! A beautiful and sunny excursion – no sweat! Ha,.. hurt like hell, feel like I'm in heaven. Never hurt so bad from last days fall but I have never felt like I accomplished so much. God is good and I feel great. Home baby! Go for it baby cakes! Fly like an eagle and be free! Right on Westmont

1-25-76 Sharon Gohl from
Glendale Calif. with Westmont's
II Wintertrek! what a beautiful
Sunday and great climb!
Awsome! we can see the coastal
range - what a way to
celebrate your Bday, Carol,
wish you were here! Happy
Birthday - Sis!

SE Saddle Ln.

Jeff Barrow Grand Marais MI 1/25

R. Craig Squire "On top 1/24/76

of SE Saddle! Definitely
one of the high points in my life,
(next to Holly Hornberg and the
Stuttgart Steppers, that is)

C. Daniel Van Noppen
Newbury Park, CA.
"Speechless"

1-26-76

What a beautiful world Lord!
Robyn Holsinger to
Tsuchung, Taiwan

1-25-76 Sharon Gohl from Glendale Calif with Westmont's II Wintertrek! What a beautiful Sunday and great climb! Awsome! We can see the coastal range. What a way to celebrate your B-day, Carol, wish you were here!
Happy Birthday –Sis!
Jeff Barton⁴⁹³, Grand Marais MN

1/26/76 R. Craig Squire “On top of the world” Definitely one of the high points in my life (next to Holly Hornberg and the Stuttgart Steppers, that is.)
C. Daniel van Noppen, Newberry Park CA. “Speechless”
Robyn Holsinger, Taichung, Taiwan. What beautiful world Lord!

⁴⁹³ Other ascents on January 2, 1976, January 12, 1976 and January 24, 1976

1-26-76 - Wow! Never thought
I would do something
like this. Praise God I
did & I thank Him
for the strength. What
a view! what a feeling
Cheryl Anne Perry
Fremont, CA.

1-26-76

"In the beginning God
created the heavens and
the earth"

Praise His name!

Paul K Hoffman

Jan 26 1976
When I come again
with you who ever
you are Hi Charlie
EVERY doing his love you
climb? ~~Charlie~~ Bicentennial
Lewin

LOAS Lorentzen
DAVID WILLIAMS

Cheryl Anne Berry, Fremont CA. Wow I never thought I would do something like this. Praise God I did and I thank him for the strength. What a view. What a feeling.

Paul K. Hoffman. "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" Praise his name!

Charles Irwin. When I come again with you who ever you are. Hi Charlie I love you doing his Bicentennial climb?

Lois Lorentzen⁴⁹⁴

David Willis⁴⁹⁵

⁴⁹⁴ Lorentzen and Willis' names are spelled correctly here to correct an attempt at humor by whoever wrote them. Lorentzen's other Starr King ascents were on September 26, 1975 and January 2, 1976.

⁴⁹⁵ Willis also climbed Starr King on February 2, 1972, November 30, 1974, September 26, 1975, January 2, 1976, January 3, 1976, January 12, 1976, January 13, 1976 and January 24, 1976.

Ben Brian - 1/26/76
Colorado Spgs. Colo. -

Can hardly believe I made
it. Its too beautiful to
describe! (Almost as nice as
Colorado Rockies!)

3/14/76 Gene White, AAC -
Chris Jones, ACF
R.D. CAUGHRON AAC

In the year of little snow

3/21

76

ate mesquite
started from
camp NE
climbed

1/26/76 Bev Brian, Colorado Spgs., Colo. Can hardly believe I made it. Tis too beautiful to describe! (Almost as nice as Colorado Rockies!)

3/14/76 Gene White, AAC⁴⁹⁶
Chris Jones,⁴⁹⁷ ACG
†R.D. Caughron, AAC
In the year of little snow⁴⁹⁸.

3/21/76 Ate mescal started from camp NE climbed [see next register page]

†Mr. Raymond David Caughron, Energy Management Consultant from Berkeley, CA, USA was found dead by two members of the Swiss Expedition on 26th April 2002 at the altitude of 7200 meters (Makalu La). Due to bad weather Mr. Caughron was forced to bivouac on 25th April 2002 at Makalu – La (7200m). Mr. Caughron was buried at the same spot where his body was found.

R.D Caughron, was one of the twelve member International Makalu 2002 Team led by Piotr Pustelnik permitted to climb 8463 meter high Mt. Makalu I during the spring season of 2002. A sad day in the mountains... Everest.com

⁴⁹⁶ Gene F. White led a remarkable life, intellectual, social, outdoors. He died in 2009, and a beautiful “In Memoriam” article about him is in the 2009 American Alpine Journal, pages 381-382, written by his partner on this climb, Chris Jones.

⁴⁹⁷ Assuming this is the same Chris Jones, he has two first ascents in Yosemite Valley.

⁴⁹⁸ A severe drought afflicted California in 1976.

down through
saddle around
found non-hard
was ascent
along snow
granite N.W.
Righteous!

MARCH 22, 1976

INJURED w/out protection ON
WEST slope yesterday. Began ascent
ON N.N.W. snow bank but
waited until this a.m. to ascend
w/ an ice axe for protection. THE
KING HATH REAPED HUMILITY
& RESPECT FROM ME & ALLOWED
MY ASCENT. 'A FINE FINE DOME'

ROBERT BUTLER, LA JOLLA
CALIFORNIA

VERY MILD WINTER WITH LITTLE SNOW
REMAINING PARTICULARLY ON S. FACING
SLOPES

down through saddle around found non-hardware ascent along snow granite NW Righteous!

March 22, 1976 Injured without protection on west slope yesterday. Began ascent on N.N.W. snow bank but waited until this A.M. to ascend with an ice axe for protection. The king hath reaped humility & respect from me & allowed my ascent. "A fine, fine dome"

Robert Butler, La Jolla California. Very mild winter with little snow remaining particularly on S. facing slopes.

• March 22, 1976

N.N.W Snowfield
Interesting.



Tom Soaks
La Solla CA.

P.S. Tom Gilmore, Bob Butler, & Me
on to Clark today.

March 26 1976

BOWEN WONG & CLIFF NEIGHBOR

snuck up the NW slope no aid holding
our breath all the way, special thanks
to Tom Bob & the other guy who gave
us extra gas to melt snow.

Leggo my car Aunt Polly!



March 28, 1976

Solo ascent up N.E.
Snow slope, loose drifting snow
from last night etc snow fall.
Where's the Summit Joint?

Herb Devis

March 22, 1976 N.N.W snowfield. Interesting.

Tom Souls, La Jolla CA

P.S. Tom Gilmore, Bob Butler and Me on to Clark today.

March 26, 1976 Bowen Wong

Cliff Neighbors

Snuck up the NW slope no aid holding our breath all the way. Special thanks to Tom, Bob and the other guy who gave us extra gas to melt snow. Leggo my ear aunt Polly!⁴⁹⁹

March 28, 1976 Solo ascent up N.E. slope, loose drifting snow from last nites lite snow fall. Where's the summit joint?

Herb Davis

⁴⁹⁹ *Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain – aunt Polly lifts Tom by his handle, an ear. The reference here seems oblique.

3-27-76

From SE saddle - Bob Rubin
Berkeley

4th class? Mike Scherer
Berkeley

More like S.S! Doug Mortimer
↑
shit UC Berkeley

4/24/76 Any women interest in
becoming a climbing partner
get ahold of

Paul Taylor 3rd classed
very enjoyable no people
or anything to screw the
day up ~~Smoke on~~ Paul Taylor
32 E 9th St
Walnut Creek CA
74676

Even though bug larvae
may be in my brain
LSD would be quite tasty
Mike Lazaga

3-29-76 From SE saddle

Bob Rubin, Berkeley

Mike Scherer, Berkeley 4th Class?

Doug Mortimer, UC Berkeley. More like 5.5

^

Shit

4/24/76 Paul Taylor.⁵⁰⁰ 3rd classed. Very enjoyable no people or anything to screw the day up. Any women interested in becoming a climbing partner get a hold of Paul Taylor, 32 Edgemont, Walnut Creek CA 94596. Even though bug larvae may be in my brain LSD would be quite tasty.
Mike Lazaga

⁵⁰⁰ Paul Taylor also climbed Starr King on June 15, 1970.

5/14/76

Kathy Brockman +
BOB Harrington -
WEST FACE ROUTE! NEAT
But it's getting dark + I
must get back to camp -
no time to write - Had
a swell day.

5/15/76 Hayward, Cal.

Very nice. Tried
twice before in bad
conditions. 3rd time
is a charmer.

Russell Hodgson

5/15/76 Hayward Cal.

my first ascent and
a good one at that.

Dan Hoff

5/11/76 Kathy Brockman

Bob Harrington

West face route! Neat. But it's getting dark and I must get back to camp
– no time to write. Had a swell day.

5/15/76 Russell Hodgson . Hayward, Cal. Very nice. Tried twice before in bad
conditions. 3rd time is a charm.

Dan Hoff, Hayward Cal. My first ascent and a good one at that.

5/19/76

EAST FACE - CLEAR +
BEAUTIFUL

MARK SPENCE
San Carlos, Cal

Scott Broth → B.G. Ohio

John H. Lakey
S.C

Terry, Montana

5/26/76

WEST FACE - 7 OR 8
5^M CLASS PITCHES OF
GOOD CLIMBING - BEAUTIFUL
WISH I HAD A DOOR.

ERRETT ALLEN

Mike (oid) Corbett

5/19/76 East face. Clear and beautiful.

Mark Spence, San Carlos Cal

Scott Brodt, B.G. Ohio

John H. Lakey⁵⁰¹, S.C., Terry, Montana

5/26/76 West face – 7 or 8 5th class pitches of good climbing – Beautiful. Wish I had a doob.

Errett Allen⁵⁰²

Mike (oid) Corbett⁵⁰³

⁵⁰¹ John Lakey had 15 first ascents in Yosemite Valley.

⁵⁰² Allen had no listed first ascents in Yosemite Valley, but he was one of the hard core. He also ascended Starr King on October 10, 1979.

⁵⁰³ Mike Corbett had 12 first ascents in Yosemite Valley. Oid was a nickname. He did two ascents of the dome on this date, May 26, 1976. His other ascent of Starr King was done on October 10, 1979.

BACK AGAIN - THE
SAME DAY - UP THE
EAST FACE - NOT
AS NEAT AS WEST
FACE.

ERRETT ALLEN
Mike (oid) Corbett

sometime in June 76
chuck Pratt - Lois & Jeanne

also sometime June 76
WILSON & NUIASKMA

June 21st

Jeanne Walter } IN
Lois Alexander } spirit
Bill St. Jean

Back again – the same day – up the east face – not as neat as west face.
Errett Allen⁵⁰⁴
Mike (OiD) Corbett⁵⁰⁵

Sometime in June 76 Chuck Pratt⁵⁰⁶ – Hi Lois and Jeannie

Also sometime June 76
Wilson & Muiashima

June 21st 1976 Bill St. Jean
In Spirit: Jeanne Walter, Lois Alexander

⁵⁰⁴ He also ascended Starr King on October 10, 1979.

⁵⁰⁵ Corbett did two ascents of the dome on this date, May 26, 1976. His other ascent of Starr King was done on October 10, 1979.

⁵⁰⁶ Chuck Pratt, one of the all time great climbers in Yosemite Valley, had 46 first ascents there. He apparently knew that a couple of young ladies were on their way up Mt. Starr King in the following days and thought of a sly thing to do – make a run up the peak and leave them a message. As the register reveals, Pratt's effort was for naught as the ladies did not make the climb.

JOE (MOUNTAIN GOAT) ^{JUNE} 76
dig it!

July 2, 1976
Climb - NE FACE 3RD
CLASS - like the friction
fairly hot. day about 95°
Michael Campana

July 10, 1976
Vagabond Mountaineering Club
Eve Ugg
Dan Campbell
Mary Ann Bell
Pete Ackerman
FRED CAMPAUSEN
Barbara Robert 193
China Lake
1976

June 76 Joe (Mountain Goat). Dig it!

July 2, 1976 Michael Campana. Climb the NE face 3rd class – like the friction.
Fairly hot day about 95 degrees.

July 10, 1976 Vagmarken⁵⁰⁷ Mountaineering Club

Eve Uigo

Dan Campbell

Mary Ann Galbraith

Pete Ackerman

Fred Camphausen, China Lake Mrg

Barbara Reber /93\

⁵⁰⁷ Vagmarken is Swedish and may mean “road signs” or “markings”.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS
AFTER FIRST ASCENT

Wandered up NE slope
Tim Schiller - Fresno, CA
Dove Aldrich - Syracuse, NY
via Cambridge, MA
FAR-Eastern Tiddlywinks
and Mountaineering Ass.
has scored again
... dedicated to Jeffro Lang
who is still stuck at MIT
but will make it here
some day.

Clear day, nice, calm, but
a bit of haze.
July 24-1976

Aug 8, 1976
fine day - beautiful clear weather -
you can see forever. Left my wife
& 4 month baby below with they
could see this sight. RJC.
leader Walter Kohler
assistant Ron Jones

One hundred years after first ascent

July 24-1976 Wandering up NE slope.

Tim Schiller – Fresno CA

Dave Aldrich – Syracuse NY via Cambridge MA

Far Eastern Tiddlywinks and Mountaineering Ass. Has scored again.

...dedicated to Jeffro Lang who is still stuck at MIT but will make it here someday.

Clear day, nice, calm, but a bit of haze.

Aug 8, 1976 Fine day – beautiful clear weather. You can see forever. Left my wife and 4 month baby below wish they could see this sight RJ

Walton Kabler⁵⁰⁸, leader

Ron Jones, assistant

⁵⁰⁸ Kabler's other Starr King ascent was on August 11, 1974

Richard J. Labrecque

Jed From M

Rick Ross
전 전 나

first climb class 4

Mary Sue Mead

Jameson Pinson

Chuck Stein M

Harry Bragner

Jed Pinson

Randal Shuster

Leo Kennedy

Karen Anderson

Thomas K. Fry (CSU/LCAMS)

Sally Fry

Harold Mifode

Bob Ayers, SPS

It was here in the
year of 19 hundred 76.

Gordon D Smith

Aug. 8, HA

Richard J. Labregue
Jack Grams /83\
Rick Ross. First climb class 4
[Character signature]
Mary Sue Mead
Anna Lou Pinson
Chuck Stein⁵⁰⁹ /33\
Harry Brumer
Ted Pinson
Randall Shuster
Leo Kennedy
Karen Anderson
Thomas K. Fry
Harold McFadden
Bob Ayers, SPS
I was here in the year of 19 hundred 76
Gordon D. Smith⁵¹⁰

Aug 8, HA

The month of August, 1976 marks as close as one might guess to be the 100th year anniversary of the first ascent of Mt. Starr King.

⁵⁰⁹ Stein also climbed Starr King on July 10, 1977.

⁵¹⁰ Smith also climbed Starr King on July 9, 1977.

Even my Thoughts must be
important. What I do must
travel pretty far, I can't
even step on a blade of
grass, without the troubling
of a star.

Bob Nicholson

San Jose, 1976 Aug. 8

Breakfast is a box of wheat
thins!

Ellen Caldwell

Cupertino, Ca Aug 8, 1976

Life is a happy hour!

Gail Hall

Saratoga, CA 8/8/76

Fantastic!

Steve Martel

Los Altos, Calif. 8/8/76

Love it

Phil Johnson

Sunnyvale CA 8/8/76

Aug 8, 1976 Bob Nicholson. San Jose Even my thoughts must be important.
What I do must travel pretty far, I can't even step on a blade of grass,
without the troubling of a star.⁵¹¹
Ellen Caldwell, Cupertino CA. Breakfast is a box of Wheat Thins.
Gail Hall, Saratoga CA. Life is a happy hour!
Steve Martel, Los Altos Calif. Fantastic!
Rita A. Johnson, Sunnyvale CA. Love it.

⁵¹¹ This appears to come from the poet Francis Thompson, "All things by immortal power, Near or far, Hiddenly To each other linked are, That thou canst not stir a flower, Without troubling of a star".

8/11/76

West Face on a
beautiful sunny day.
Granite, sun and the
love to rock climb a
beautiful combination in
such high place.

Roy Gillam
Jane M. Hertel

* Aug. 17, 1976 (100th anniversary)
* Mike DePatie } via west
AND... } face in semi-
} threatening
} weather

Xsa Campbell } Good luck
L. Campbell } Tony & Paul on
} the south face of the
} column they did it!

M. DePatie - Later that day via the
east face - rather uneven
+ full.

Carrying on the Conroy tradition we
left work at the Wawona Hotel yesterday
to return to work today at see clear and
sunny, slept on the slopes. Hello fur,
9/13/38.

8/11/76 West Face on a beautiful sunny day. Granite, sun and the love to rock climb a beautiful combination in such high place.

Roy Gillam

Jane M. Hertel

Aug 17, 1976 (100th Anniversary) Via west face in semi-threatening weather. Good luck Tony and Paul on the south face of the Column. They did it!

Mike De Patie

L. Campbell

Later that day via the east face – rather uneventful.

Mike De Patie

L. Campbell

Undated⁵¹² Carrying on the Curry tradition we left work at the Wawona Hotel yesterday to return to work today at 3:00. Clear and sunny, slept on the slopes. Hello Pouv, 9/3/38⁵¹³

⁵¹² This entry has no names associated with it and is undated. It appears to be in proper order, so sometime in August, 1976 is assumed. The reference to 9/3/1938 is a mystery - only one ascent on the peak was made that day by Kat, Pellegrino and Emanuel.

⁵¹³ This reference is not clear. Three names appear in the register for September 3, 1938: John Emanuel, Fred Pellagrino and William Kat. None appear for March 9 (European date notation). Emanuel is the name for the Messiah and pouvoir is power, so perhaps this is a religious reference.

"Just to dance beneath
the diamond skies..."
Aug 23, '76 Dave Ansel

Aug '76 - P. Glendon.

NORTH TORRANCE MOUNTAIN DEER
8-28-76 RICHARD L. HUDSON
Jon Burgasser
JOE BURGASSER

SEPT. 5 - JOSIE FREINBERGAST
SAN FRANCISCO
12:10 and clouds + storm
to the east.

SEPT 5, 1973 - 36 YEARS AND
ONE DAY OLD - NOT BAD FOR
AN OLD MAN!

9/5/76 - LOOKS LIKE RAIN (2:10)
WE BOOGIED UP - DELIGHTFUL
MIKEY WELLBORN - Carmel
Jack Holmgren - Carmel
FRANCES CHOLEWA (Venice, Ca.)

Aug 23, '76 “Just to dance beneath the diamond skies...”⁵¹⁴
Dave Ansel

Aug 76 P. Gleason

8-28/76 North Torrance Mountaineers
Richard L. Hudson
Jon Burgasser
Joe Burgasser

Sept. 5 Josie Prendergast, San Francisco. 12:10 and clouds and storm to the east.

Sept 5th, 1973 36 years and one day old – not bad for an old man.

9/5/76 Looks like rain (2:10). We boogied up – delightful.
Mikey Wellborn, Carmel
Jack Holmgren, Carmel
Frances Cholewa (Venice, CA)

⁵¹⁴ A slight change of a line to “Hey Mr. Tambourine Man” by Bob Dylan.

9/7/76 Noticed the rock + thought
I'd run up on my way home
Quite a bit more than I expected
Beautiful! Celia

OCT 11 1976: Beautiful month
this has been, I'm so glad I
live here! Starr King is great.
More congratulations to Tony
of the previous page * on
his ascent of the direct route
on half dome 10-~~7~~-76 with Al
Bard. And I am most grieved
to report the death of Bob Lock
on 10-6-76 on the south face
of Mt Watkins 😞 He was an
excellent climber. Mishie you
must see this place! Love all
must go it's cold!

Rita
Whitney
(I have yet to
climb Mt Whitney)

9/7/76 Noticed the rock and thought I'd run up on my way home. Quite a bit more than I expected. Beautiful!
Celia

Oct 11 1976 Beautiful month this has been, I'm so glad I live here! Starr King is great. More congratulations to Tony of the previous page * on his ascent of the direct route on half dome 10-7-76 with Al Bard. And I am most grieved to report the death of Bob Locke⁵¹⁵ on the south face of Mt. Watkins. He was an excellent climber. Mishie you must see this place! Must go it's cold! Love all,
Rita Whitney (I have yet to climb Mt. Whitney!)

⁵¹⁵ Refers to Bob Locke. In his honor a climb was named in Yosemite Valley, "Bob Locke Memorial Buttress"

UPON A BRIEF READING OF THIS REGISTER
I'D SAY I'M ENTITLED TO SOME SORT OF
RECORD ASCENT, CONSIDERING MY HANDICAPS.
THE PLASTER FULL LENGTH LEG CASTS
NEVER REALLY BOTHERED ME TILL I GOT
ON THAT 300-4TH CLASS FRICTION
OUT OF THE S.E. SADDLE. BUT
THE FOURTEEN STITCHES IN THE BOTTOM
OF EACH FOOT AND THE PING PONG BALL
TUMOR IN MY LAUDUS MAXIMA CERRA-
BELLUM DROVE ME NUTS THE ENTIRE
2 1/2 HOURS IT TOOK ME TO GET
HERE FROM WAWONA. NOW THESE
FACTS ALONE SHOULD PLEAD MY CASE,
SO I WON'T MENTION THE FACT THAT
I HAVEN'T SLEPT FOR TWO DAYS
AND ^{HAVE} EATEN NOTHING BUT MELISSA
~~TEA~~ FOR JUST AS LONG.

AND IN CLOSING I'D LIKE TO SAY
THAT EVEN THE MOST INSECURE
FISHERMAN HASN'T GOT AN INCH ON MANY
A MOUNTAINEER WHEN IT COMES TO
LYING THROUGH HIS TEETH.

STEVEN SEREDA
AHWAHNEE WATER
PERPETUAL SARCAST

10/13/76

10/13/76 Upon a brief reading of this register I'd say I'm entitled to some sort of record ascent, considering my handicaps. The plaster full length leg casts never really bothered me till I got on that 3rd-4th class friction out of the SE saddle. But the fourteen stitches in the bottom of each foot and the ping pong ball tumor in my laudius maxima cerrabellum drove me nuts the entire 2 ½ hours it took me to get here from Wawona. Now these facts alone should plead my case, so I won't mention the fact that I haven't slept for two days and have eaten nothing but Melissa for just as long. And in closing I'd like to say that even the most insecure fisherman hasn't got an inch on many a mountaineer when it comes to lying through his teeth.

†Steven Sereda, Ahwahnee Waiter, Perpetual Sarcast

Michael Brocato furnished this information to me about Steven Sereda in 2012: Steve died in an accident near Cloud's Rest on August 17, 1979. No one witnessed Steve's death. He was on a solo backpacking trip to Cloud's Rest and did not return as scheduled for work in the valley. The investigating Rangers think he was free climbing and fell off some overhanging rock.

Hope Mark Makes it up. left him
Sick down on the S.E saddle

upon such a great view,
and exciting climbs too.

What more can I do?
Than drop my Jaw,
Stricken with awe.
and frown about
going Back Down!



Joseph Genovese

10-15-76

(FRIEND OF STEVE'S)

AWOOOOO! ROCK DANCIN
ON KING BENEATH
THE AZURE, BUT
FOR A TEQUILA STOMACH
I NEED A CURE, SURE.

Mark Bright
10-15-76 (FRIEND OF STEVE
JOE'S)

Eric Simpson

Doug Keeley

27 Nov 76

10-15th-76 Hope Mark makes it up. Left him sick down on the SE saddle.

Upon such a view
and exciting climb too
What more can I do?
Than drop my jaw,
Stricken with awe
And frown about
Going back down

Joseph Gendron (a friend of Steve's)

10-15-76 Awooooo! Rock Dancin on King beneath the azure, but for a Tequila
stomach I need a cure, sure.

Mark Bright (a friend of Steve and Joe's)

27 Nov 76 Erik Simpson⁵¹⁶

Doug Keely

⁵¹⁶ Also climbed Starr King on September 8, 1979

Dec. 28, 1976

Mid-afternoon.
Warm day (yet I'm
now cold). Cirrus clouds
at all points of the
compass. Ascended the
NE Face - very athletic!
The Lord has been with
us all day - Praise His
Name!

Bob Cooper - Newport Bch,
Calif.

~~EXOXO~~ ROB AUTEN - SANGAREL CA

○ Reg Reiswig - San Juan Capistrano
my first climb - came up the
NE face - was told that it
was a low 5th class climb -
I'm afraid of heights by the
way.

Dec 28, 1976 Mid afternoon, warm day (yet I'm now cold). Cirrus clouds at all points of the compass. Ascended the NE face – very athletic. The Lord has been with us all day – Praise his name!

Bob Cooper, Newport Bch, Calif

Rob Auten, San Gabriel CA

Reg Reiswig, San Juan Capistrano. My first climb. Came up the NE face – was told that it was a low 5th class climb – I'm afraid of heights, by the way.

1977

Feb 13, 1977

I was looking for snow and ice, but no dice. Our main problem has been finding water. The sky is clear and the air feels about 70° F. We used the S-E Ridge.

Doug Mansur, Mt. View, Calif.
Dan Mansur

February 20, 1977

Came up from SE-saddle. Windy, and the clouds look threatening! Dubious about our 100 ft. rope on the rappels down. My first multi-pitch lead.



Barbara Greene Berkeley, Calif.

Very exciting hope we beat the storm down! (2 women lead)
Pat Bohng Berkeley

Jim & CAIT HANCHETT 2/20/77

1977

Feb 13, 1977 I was looking for snow and ice, but no dice. Our main problem has been water. The sky is clear and the air feels about 70 degrees F. We used the SE ridge.

Doug Mansur, Mt. View Calif.

Dan Mansur

February 20, 1977 Came up from SE saddle. Windy, and the clouds look threatening! Dubious about our 100 ft. rope on the rappels down. My first multi-pitch lead.

Barbara Greene, Berkeley Calif.

Very exciting hope we beat the storm down (2 woman team!)

Pat Bohng, Berkeley

2/20/77 Jim Hanchett

Cathy Hanchett

3/6/77

CLIMBED UP SOUTHEAST
FACE. VERY WINDY &
ICED UP. GOT OFF ROUTE
ON 2nd PITCH, BUT WE
MADE IT.

John Barbella
Steve Williams

SAN JOSE, CA

PAUL ROEHL
WITH BROKEN FINGER

Bee Seeman Apr 10 1977
"were be dragons"

3/6/77 Climbed up southeast face. Very windy and iced up. Got off route on 2nd pitch, but we made it.
John Barbella⁵¹⁷
Steve William⁵¹⁸

Apr 10, 1977 Paul Roehl⁵¹⁹ with broken finger
Bill Heiman.⁵²⁰ “Here be dragons”

Some register entries have skeptical comments about the handicaps other climbers have alleged. Paul’s story is that he and a climbing partner were on the way up the Glacier Point Apron to climb Coonyard Pinnacle. While they were on Monday Morning Slab, Harry Daley Route, a rock fall began from above on Glacier Point which included a block of granite which was of “freight train” size. To avoid death, Paul unclipped from his anchor and jumped over the west side of Monday Morning Slab to seek shelter in the open book. The problem was that he picked up speed so fast in leaping that his fall became uncontrolled, so he grabbed for a small ledge, arrested his fall and waited for certain death. In the process of reaching out and grabbing the small ledge Paul said he “felt like Batman but broke a finger.” The giant boulder hit where his belay stance had been and wiped out the bush and destroyed all trace of his pack. He concluded with “I loved climbing on the apron but there was always occasional rock fall. We were on our way up to Starr King within the hour with the finger nicely taped up.” No rock fall on Mt. Starr King - nothing is above it. Paul said in another place, “Starr King is a great place... distant yet close by, a beautiful hike culminating in beautiful granite. First time I went up there it felt almost mystical; signing the very old summit register felt like an honor, an act of communion with so many great climbers that had also been there.”

⁵¹⁷ Barbella had eight first ascents in Yosemite Valley

⁵¹⁸ William had three first ascents in Yosemite Valley

⁵¹⁹ Roehl’s ascents were on May 26, 1974, July 17, 1977.

⁵²⁰ Heiman’s other Starr King ascent was on May 26, 1974

MEXICAN CLIMBING TEAM -
NEW ROUTE ON S.W. FACE -
FOLLOWS VARIOUS LFT. FALLING
FLAKE.

APRIL 15-77

CLAUDIUS MAXIMUS ELECTUS
GENERAL HARMOND BERUSKI

Kernel Kickback saying

"Where's the Muff"

DAMN IT CLAUDIUS YOU FORGOT
THE RAINIER'S

24 APRIL 1977

Mt. Hamilton Hiking Club
BLAIR AYDELONTE

Faith Thompson - my first Mt.

Jerry Murphy - my 2nd

(NO ITS NOT -) → See July 1971 &
July 1972

ITS A VERY WIND DAY

5/15 /77

E. + W Faces solo. Warm
+ clear B. Road

April 15, 77 Mexican climbing team - New route on the S.W. face – follows large left facing flake.

Claudius Maximus Erectus⁵²¹

General Harmond Beruski

Kernel Kickback saying, “Where’s the muff”.

Damn it Claudius you forgot the Rainier’s

24 April 1977 Mt. Hamilton Hiking Club

Blair Aydelotte

Faith Thompson – my first Mt.

Jerry Murphy⁵²² - My 2nd (No its not – See July 1971 and July 1972)

It’s a very windy day.

5/15/77 E. and W. faces solo. Warm and clear.

B. Read⁵²³

⁵²¹ This name is an alias for Claude Fiddler, a climber with four first ascents in Yosemite Valley. He did not reveal the other true names, so they will not appear in the index. Fiddler is also a co-author of several climbing books.

⁵²² Murphy also climbed Starr King on July 12, 1971 and in July-August 1972.

⁵²³ Ben Read had one first ascent in Yosemite Valley. Ben Read was also on an American Alpine Club exchange group to the old Soviet Union in 1978 – American Alpine Journal 1979 –where he participated in several first ascents.

21 May 1977 W. Howard Saunders

Dirk Kuizenga. (USA!)

Bobby Addison

Charlie Sinclair

Jim Murray

Paul Zorabedian

June is an interesting book

Philbert Deseneux June 77

Leaping Lizards!

12 June 1977 - Up from the north east.

Following in my father's footsteps. - Pon Haru-Uaiue

My first climb ever! Rosa Duffin

What a difference to the Alps

Paul Jager Buchtsbad-

W-Germany.

21 May 1977 W. Howard Lowdermilk⁵²⁴

Don Kuizenga (USA!)

Bobby Addison

Charlie Sinclair⁵²⁵

Jim Murray⁵²⁶

Paul Zorabedian

June 77 Philbert Desenex. Sure is an interesting book. Leaping Lizards!⁵²⁷

12 June 1977 Ron Harris-Warrick Up from the northeast. Following in my father's footsteps⁵²⁸.

Ross Duffin. My first climb ever!

Paul Bayer Berchtsbad – W. Germany

⁵²⁴ Lowdermilk's other Starr King ascent was on July 19, 1980

⁵²⁵ Also climbed Starr King on June 19, 1971

⁵²⁶ Also climbed Starr King on July 12, 1969, July 19, 1980

⁵²⁷ "Leaping lizards" an exclamatory phrase put into popular use by the newspaper cartoon strip "Little Orphan Annie".

⁵²⁸ Ronald Harris-Warrick's father was Morgan Harris, one of the great early climbers in Yosemite. See entries for Morgan Harris dated July 27, 1937 and May 21, 1957.

6/22/77 - Came up west Face
Sure seems easier than S.F.
Beautiful day fine drink

Rich Holloway - H.S.U. Arcata

Mike Hodgson - U.C.B. Berkeley

June 25/77 - ^{Bradbury Alpine}
Nothing to it! ^{and} I hope McDonnell
Overed belly good to be here
Yours Truly
- Ten Chapman

July 9, 1977

Robert S. Lim

Saratoga, Ca.

John Wiley
member, The Potatoes

SCOTT Hewett

- Saratoga, Davis, Berkeley

"the human ping-pong ball"

Chris Yager

Davis, Cal.

6/22/77 Came up West Face. Sure seems easier than 5.8. Beautiful day, fine climb.
Rich Holloway. H.S.U.⁵²⁹ Arcata
Mike Hodgson, U.C.B. Berkeley

June 25, 1977 Breakaway Alpine Club
Hope McDonnell. Nothing to it. Incredibly good to be here.
Lois Frisch
Teri Chapman

July 9, 1977 Robert S. Lim, Saratoga CA
John Wiley. Member, the Potatoes
Scott Hewett – Saratoga, Davis, Berkeley. “The human ping pong ball”
Chris Yager, Davis Cal

⁵²⁹ Humboldt State University

July 9 (New 14 year
old phenomenon)
UNscheduled VAGMARKER Trip

Eric DeLano

Wendell DeLano ^{MS}

Borden Smith ^{MS} ← STILL
COUNTING

We are the cake
walk kids -



(Yet) Don't forget it!

By the way,

Those who pass through
the portals of insanity

and return

Know Reality *HA*

* FOOT NOTE TO SPS.

HI GREGG V.

THAT ONE INCH WEBBING

IS GOOD FOR RAPPELLING

It is that rapelling ©

July 9, 1977 Unscheduled Vagmarken⁵³⁰ Trip

Eric De Lano

Wendell De Lano /35\ (New 14 year old phenomenon)

Gordon Smith⁵³¹ /infinity symbol\ still counting

We are the cake walk kids – don't forget it! Those who pass through the portals of insanity and return...know reality GS

Footnote to SPS. Hi Greg V. That one inch webbing is good for rappelling or is that repelling

⁵³⁰ Vagmarken is Swedish for “Road Signs”

⁵³¹ Smith also climbed Starr King on August 8, 1976.

JUZY 10

24 PEOPLE
3 HRS

*** OFFICIAL ***
*** GENUINE ***

~~All American~~ S.P.S. Trip
COMMUNIST

CHUCK STEIN - LEADER - 2nd TIME
GENE MACK - ASST LDR [66]
Bill BIRNBAUM - LEADER
Ray Vernon [38]

Paul Parsons
Linda Parsons [31]
Michael A. Hill [11] [1966]

JON Z. INSKEEP
Jon Z. Inskeep [31]
JOHN MACK
MACK GUNN

Ed Onberg
Shuck Pospisil
Richard Akaria
Ed Rubin
Don Bartell [38] Yoli Pover! [32]

Rob Maul
Bob Mason
John Hellman [139]
Mary Bihl
Allen Conrad

July 10 24 people 3 hrs.
Official Genuine ~~All-American~~ Communist S.P.S. Trip
Chuck Stein⁵³² – Leader 2nd time
Gene Mack – Asst. ldr /66\
Bill Birnbaum – Leader
Greg Vernon /56\
Paul Parsons
Linda Parsons /2\
Michael A. Stein 1
John Inskeep /3\
John Mack
Mark Conrad
Ed Omberg
Chuck Pospishil
Richard Akaure
Ed Lubrin
Don Bartell /128\
Yeti Power
Rob Mauk⁵³³
Bob Mason
John Hellman /139\
Mary Bihl
Allan Conrad

⁵³² Stein also climbed Starr King on August 8, 1976.

⁵³³ Also climbed the peak on July 3, 1979

Steve Mauk
Jim MacLay
MARY ONBERG

12 July 77

Theresa Rutherford
Jim it

July 17, 77 I like this book!

Chris Whitworth

DAK ROEHL

JOHN NEVILL JOWNER

→ I came here with the
guys above who said I
couldn't be published written.
So I won't. But I came
here with the ghosts of Mrs.
Cielson, Blair, Clyde, Harding etc.
So I'm happy anyway ←

Jeff Van Middlebrood
July 17, 1977

Steve Mauk
Jim Maclay
Mary Omberg

12 July 77 Theresa Rutherford
Jim Erb

July 17, 77 I like this book!

†Chris Whitworth
Paul Roehl⁵³⁴
John Neville Joyner

Jeff Van Middlebrook. I came here with these guys above who said I couldn't be profound within. So I won't! But I came here with the ghosts of Muir, Eichorn, Starr, Clyde, Harding⁵³⁵ etc. So I'm happy anyway.

Jeff Van Middlebrook sent the photo on the following page. It was taken on Starr King on July 17th, 1977. His comments:

“That's me on the right in the photo, with the short-short running shorts and dark blue T-shirt. I don't recall if the photo was taken at the summit of Starr-King or at the base. Paul Roehl took the photo.

The other three guys to my left were John Joyner and Chris Whitworth, both of whom signed the register. The guy on the end was Bill Farrel

A year after this photo Chris fell 400 feet off the Glacier Point Apron to his death when his rope somehow came out of his harness as he was leading a hard pitch.”

⁵³⁴ Sierra Club Rock Climbing Section trip led by Paul Roehl. Roehl's ascents were on May 26, 1974, April 10, 1977, July 17, 1977.

⁵³⁵ No evidence in this register that Muir, Starr, Clyde or Harding made it up Mt. Starr King. Only Eichorn on July 10, 1941.



July 17th 1977 on Starr King

Blue Panel - with preceding
group.

Red Cone July 30 - 1977
I'll spend into next
time!

AMDAHL CORPORATION

1ST ASCENT 30 JUL 77

MIKE REED

Howard A. Landman (HAL 947)

If 470V/6's weren't air cooled
I never would have made it!

P-1536

UP YOURS BIG BLUE!

Bill Farrel – with preceding group.

July 30 – 1977 Bob Cone. I'll spend nite next time.

30 Jul 77 Amdahl⁵³⁶ Corporation 1st ascent

Mike Reed

Howard A. Landman (HAL 9009)⁵³⁷

If 470V/6's weren't air cooled I never would have made it. P-1536

Up yours Big Blue!⁵³⁸

⁵³⁶ Amdahl was the only serious competition with IBM (Big Blue) in the mainframe computer market at the time of this register entry. IBM computers required chilled water to cool them whereas Amdahl came up with a method of air cooling its processors, thus the reference to 470V/6's being air cooled.

⁵³⁷ The initials of Landman, HAL, were also the name of the computer in the 1968 movie 2001, A Space Odyssey. Landman changed the numbers of the movie model, HAL 9000, to suit himself as HAL 9009.

⁵³⁸ Today Amdahl is but a faint memory and IBM marches on.

26 AUG 77.

Joe Vasilik

M. MARLIO CLARK - TRIM

Ann L. Cavaliere

Joseph Cavaliere

John Russo

Claire Beckman

Don Hunt

Frank McDaniel

Carl Byington

Sept. 4 1977

3:00

MIKE HENNINGER

GORDON SEELE

Also climbed Sept 13, 1952

15 Oct 77 warm perfect day

Bob Boyles

Herb Buehler

hal winton

20 NOVEMBER 1977

ALAN BALDWIN

ANDY BARKER

26 Aug 77 Joe Vasilik⁵³⁹

M. Marlin Clark
Ann L. Cavalieri
James R. Cavalieri
Geivor Vilsson
Claire Beckinen
Jon Hardt⁵⁴⁰
Frank McDaniel
Carl Byington

Sept 4, 1977 Mike Henninger
Gordon Seele⁵⁴¹.

15 Oct 1977 Warm, perfect day
Bob Boyles
Herb Buehler
Hal Winton

20 Nov 1977 Alan Baldwin
Andy Barker

⁵³⁹ This was a Sierra Peaks section of the Sierra Club climb.

⁵⁴⁰ Other Starr King ascents on July 1, 1972, August 11, 1974

⁵⁴¹ Seele also climbed Starr King on Sept 13, 1952 with Joe Fitschen and Jesse Baley.

May 20 1978 12:00 ^{last} first
 Becky Fishburn - lots of snow this year!
 Stan Fishburn
 First of the year



W.F. DUNE
 DRAWN BY
 STEPHEN LYNN
 JUNE 2, 1978
 FIRST RENT
 NORTH TREE, SOLO
 A MINUTE'S VIEW
 OF A PART OF GOD'S
 CREATION! WARM, SUNNY
 DAY... BEAUTIFUL!

1978

May 20, 1978 Bob Fishburn. Lots of snow this year!
Stan Fishburn. First of the year

June 2, 1978 Stephen Lyman. First ascent North Face, solo. A marvelous view of a part of God's creation! Warm, sunny day... Beautiful!
[a drawing of Half Dome from the summit of Mt. Starr King. This view is not visible from Yosemite Valley]

June 10, 1978

Excellent view, still lots of
snow, fine climb on E Face

Bruce Maxwell

Jerry Bock

JUNE 18, 1978

BILL SANDERS

RICHARD AGNOS

July 2, 1978

ERTC MYNE

JOHN BEDI

Wilson Bros. Make
Another Conquest 27-78

June 10, 1978 Bruce Maxwell

Jerry Bock

Excellent view, still lots of snow, fine climb NE face

June 18, 1978 Bill Sanders

Richard Agnos

July 2, 1978 Eric Myne

John Bedi

Wilson Bros' make another conquest.

August 28, 1978 East Fair

Doug Loring
Jon Blagburn

Found 2 nuts - thanks whoever. we will
make good use of them. Spliff time. ⁹⁻²⁰⁻⁷⁸

Dail Wilts

Dave Field

Janet Wilts

Chuck Wilts

78 - 10 - 8

Carl Heller

} Occasional

Bob Joy

} Pecks

Mike Rente

} Gong

Dennis Burge

Chris Osterman

} China Lake, CA

August 28, 1978 East face.

Doug Lorima
Jon Sleighand

9-20-78 Found 2 nuts – thanks whoever. We will make good use of them. Splifl time.

Gail Wilts
Janet Wilts
Dave Field
Chuck Wilts

78-10-8 Carol Heller, Occasional Peaks Gang

Bob Joy, Occasional Peaks Gang

Mike Renta, Occasional Peaks Gang

Dennis Burge, Occasional Peaks Gang

Chris Osterman, Occasional Peaks Gang, China Lake CA

Chuck Wilts was a rock climber, writer, and professor at Cal Tech. He had first ascents at Tahquitz Rock and four such in Yosemite Valley. His wife, Ellen, accompanied him on two of the first ascents. The Cal Tech website had this: “The Doctoral Prize named after Charles H. Wilts has been instituted by his Caltech colleagues and was endowed by his friends, students, and colleagues as a lasting tribute to the scientist, the teacher, and the man he was. The mark of his science was excellence. His teaching was rigorous and his demands were high, but attainable when his own path of exactitude followed. Most of all, it is the man that the prize wants to honor. He loved nature enthusiastically, had a disarming personal simplicity with an engaging smile and laugh, and possessed an unbending integrity and rectitude he placed above any concerns for fame, power, or profit. He deeply respected his fellow men. The Charles Wilts Prize is awarded every year to one EE graduate student for outstanding independent research in electrical engineering leading to a PhD.”

Reynolds number ~ 8000 in Nevada Falls
OCT 21, 1979

Beautiful (4th Class?) Climb.

Visas approach from Lumpy Isles.

Amy Boyer (from latitude 38)

STOKER Aer (FUCHS "A") P.P.Y.C.

This climb dedicated to Carol Kodq
who became a mother a few short
days ago and couldn't be with
us. Plowshare Expeditionary
Forces on top at 4pm.

Chip DILLAN - CAPITOLA, CA

March 25, 1979 - 2:30 pm

up from Sixth saddle

Nathan Hoover 187 JORC

Jim Watter

Thomas Aström SWEDEN

Douglas NIMIS Livermore

JAMES HOOPER 137 SPS Sierra Club

Bill Hoover (2nd Ascent) SPS AC Tesla Ca

Vicky Hoover SPS 187

Oct 21, 1978 Reynolds number ~8000 in Nevada Falls⁵⁴². Beautiful (4th Class?) Climb. Vicious approach⁵⁴³ from Happy Isles.
Amy Boyer (from latitude 38)⁵⁴⁴
Stroker Ace⁵⁴⁵ (Fuckin "A"). D.P.Y.C. This climb dedicated to Carol Koda who became a mother a few short days ago and couldn't be with us.
Plowshares⁵⁴⁶ Expeditionary Forces on top at 4pm.
Skip Allan – Capitola CA

1979

March 25, 1979 2:30 pm up from south saddle
Nathan Hauer /187\ JOPC
Jim Watters
Thomas Astrom, Sweden
Douglas Norris, Livermore
Frances Hoover /134\ SPS Sierra Club
Bill Hoover⁵⁴⁷ (2nd ascent) Tesla CO
Vicky Hoover SPS /189\

⁵⁴² The Reynolds Number comes from Fluid Mechanics. In this case the writer is saying that the Nevada Falls are really full and thrashing and crashing. A number of 4000 indicates a fully turbulent liquid, so 8000 is off the scale.

⁵⁴³ The spelling here may say that the writer was an engineer. He can write about fluid mechanics but cannot spell "vicious" or "approach".

⁵⁴⁴ The 38th parallel goes through San Francisco as indicated by a plaque in the San Francisco Civic Center. Or perhaps she is from the Demilitarized zone between North and South Korea.

⁵⁴⁵ The name of a fictional racing driver from a 1971 book, *Stand On It*. The Burt Reynolds movie came out in 1983, six years after this register entry.

⁵⁴⁶ Plowshares was often used to denote a peace movement.

⁵⁴⁷ Bill Hoover also climbed Starr King on April 11, 1970.

Justine Konior from
Fresno, Calif. with Sierra
Club outing. Happy I
made it to the top. Made
it in snow with an ice
axe. April 29, 1979

Tom Kallos I still love
you, I hope you can
read this some day.

Justine Konior

I hope no one ^{I THINK}
thinks I'm crazy. ^{YOUR}
^{CRAZY}

Nancy Collins April 29, 1979
beautiful up here

Nancy I agree it's
beautiful up here.

George Whitmore - Fresno
(Justine, Nancy, George, and Doug
via snow on N. side - very
easy, rope not needed)

d^s/Harwell Apr 29-79

Fine snow & view

April 29, 1979 Justine Konior from Fresno Calif. With Sierra Club outing.
Happy I made it to the top. Made it with snow and an ice axe. Tom
Kallos I still love you. I hope you can read this someday. Justine Konior.
I hope no one thinks I'm crazy. [added at right] I think your crazy
Nancy Collin. Beautiful up here.
George Whitmore⁵⁴⁸ – Fresno. Nancy I agree it's beautiful up here.
(Justine, Nancy, George and Doug via snow on N. side – very easy, rope
not needed.)
D.S. Harwell.⁵⁴⁹ Fine snow and view.

⁵⁴⁸ Whitmore also ascended Starr King on October 10, 1953, April 30, 1960, April 9,
1961, October 26, 1969 and May 29, 1974.

⁵⁴⁹ Douglas Scott Harwell, probably a grandson of Charles A. “Bert” Harwell
(September 10, 1931 ascent). D.S. Harwell was born in Fresno, California, the town
to which C.A. Harwell relocated when he left the Park Service.

They laughed !!! Said no way -
to slippery - fish bait, I said
up S.E. saddle from Happy Isles
gotta get back in time to party in
the valley 5 00h
WOOOWW ~~~~~ one too many puff
of the killer red tob. I wonder how
my Marshall would sound up here ?

Alan Swanson
Sunday May 27 1979
Cupertino Calif



JUNE 13, 1979
Via NNE FROM MONO
DON PALMER MEADOWS
BEAUTIFUL, HAZY DAY
Kyle Atkins Soulsbyville

JUNE 16, 1979
FROM JE SADOLE
BILL SORENSON
BOB DWYER

May 27, 1979 Sunday. They laughed!!! Said no way – too slippery – fishbait, I said. Up SE saddle from Happy Isles. Gotta get back in time to party in the Valley...(puff).....(puff).....(puff)..... ooh woooww – one too many puffs of the killer red leb. I wonder how my Marshall would sound up here?

Alan Swanson.⁵⁵⁰ Cupertino Calif.

June 13, 1979 Via NNE from Mono Meadows.

Don Palmer. Beautiful, hazy day.

Kyle Atkins. Soulsbyville

June 16, 1979 From SE Saddle

Bill Sorenson⁵⁵¹

Bob Dwyer

⁵⁵⁰ Swanson had nine first ascents in Yosemite Valley. He is also mentioned in Secor's guide to *The High Sierras: Peaks, Passes and Trails* as well as the American Alpine Journal.

⁵⁵¹ Sorenson had four first ascents in Yosemite Valley. He also climbed Starr King on September 9, 1967 and July 7, 1968.

July 3, 1979

Sierra Peaks Section

Sierra Club Angeles Chapter

Ldr. DALE VANDALSEM

ASST Ldr. NORM ROHN

Mae [unclear] 2x AAC

Dick Rohn

June Lane

Betty Cameron and time

Bob Wark

Jane Clark

Sherr O'Haver M

John Bachus 68

Jackie White Van Dalsem

Gisela Klemm

ROLAND PESANTE M

BRADBURY, CA

Roy E. Johnson

Chiff Cameron

[unclear signature]

Kern-Kaweah Sierra Club Trip

July 7, 1979

DICK BANNER, leader

GARY L. LANDERS - ASST.

July 3, 1979 Sierra Peaks Section, Sierra Club Angeles Chapter

Dale Van Dalsem, Ldr.

Mark Goebel⁵⁵² 2x AAC

Lex Rohn

June Lane

Betty Cameron 2nd time

Rob Mauk⁵⁵³

Jane Clark

Sheri O'Harah /8\

John Backus /68\

Jackie White Van Dalsem

Gisela Kluwin

Roland Pesante, Bradbury CA /40\

Roy E. Schumann

Cliff Cameron

Alba Hal

July 7, 1979 Kern-Kaweah Sierra Club Trip

Dick Banner, leader

Gary L. Landers – Asst.

Mark Goebel reported the need for proper foot gear: “My second climb of Starr King on 7/3/79 was with the SPS. I wisely brought along a pair of running shoes for the friction climb up from the SE saddle. The trip leader was unable to lead it in his heavy mountain boots, but I was able to in my soft shoes, and then belay the others up.”

⁵⁵² Goebel's other ascent of Starr King was on October 4, 1975

⁵⁵³ Also climbed the peak on July 10, 1977

JULY 19, 1979

CHARLIE (DAD) MURRAY

MARK SNYDER

LEE (DAD) SNYDER (51 YRS OLD YOUNG)

CLIMBED FROM MONO PARKING AREA AND
SLEPT OVERNITE ON TOP. FIRST
PEOPLE TO SLEEP ON TOP STARR KING.
WE THINK SOMEONE HAS BEEN HERE
BEFORE US. Probably NORMAN Clyde

Delaney Higgins Aug. 4, 1979

Wild Bill Higgins

We've been after this
sonuvabitch for 2 years
and oh it feels so good!!

Sept. 8, 1979

George Sinclair

Erik Simpson

Climbed E. Face via 5.8
variation - nice day - no H₂O

Sept. 23 or 25, ~~I'm~~ not sure

forssa Dumstan

luck day found 3 nuts

July 19, 1979 Charlie Murray

Mark Snyder

Lee (Dad) Snyder (51 years young). Climbed from Mono parking area and slept overnight on top. First people to sleep on Starr King. We think someone has been here before us. Probably Norman Clyde.⁵⁵⁴

Aug 4, 1979 Delitey Higgins

Wild Bill Higgins

We've been after this sonuvabitch for 2 years and oh it feels so good!!

Sept 8, 1979 George Sinclair

Erik Simpson⁵⁵⁵

Climbed E. Face via 5.8 variation – nice day – no H2O

Sept 23 or 25, not sure Lissa Dunstan.⁵⁵⁶ Luck day found 3 nuts.


⁵⁵⁴ This is one peak Norman Clyde never got to, or if he did, the page which held his name was removed from the register.

⁵⁵⁵ Also climbed Starr King on November 27, 1976

⁵⁵⁶ Lissa Dunstan married her climbing partner, Lloyd Johnson (See next page for his entry)

NICE DAY - GOOD VIEW - NO SNOW
NO BUGS (AT ALL) - CAN SEE 360°
PERFECTO - SMOKE DOPE - EAT FOOD -
HAVE FUN - CLIMB MOUNTAINS!
HAVE WOOPIE -

I MISSED IT 2 YEARS AGO,
NOW, I'M HERE! O-BLA ROCK D

LLOYD A. JOHNSON 

Oct 10 1979 dead
head!!

HUGH JANUS
Aries Dragon
BUSTER HYMEN

Rocky Cliff
CHUCK DEBER

Erett Allen

Mike (old) Corbe →

Nice day - good view – no snow. No bugs (almost) – can see 360 degrees perfecto – smoke dope – eat food –have fun –climb mountains!
Make Woopie. I missed it 2 years ago, now I'm here! O-boy rock!
Lloyd A. Johnson. Dead head!!

Oct 10 1979 Hugh Janus⁵⁵⁷

Yerasis Dragon

Buster Hymen

Rocky Cliff

Chuck Debeer

Errett Allen⁵⁵⁸

Mike (Oid) Corbett⁵⁵⁹

⁵⁵⁷ Allen and Corbett are probably the only names that represent people, although one never knows (for a counter example, see the entry for Claudius Maximus Erectus on April 15, 1977).

⁵⁵⁸ Allen did two ascents of the dome on May 26, 1976

⁵⁵⁹ Corbett did two ascents of the dome on May 26, 1976.

16 Oct 79

Tom Kinbrough

Anne Cooling ^{Bunker} Madison, Wisc.

June 5 1980 (^{off trail} Bohl Ascent)

Brian Smith ^{Bum Deal 2 months}
Stoked Surfs up ^{no waves}

Peace, Love, & Many Bongz!

Waiting for the 8.0 Earthquake

SMARTI:

~~STOKING ON STARKING:~~

~~INCREDIBLE EFFECTS!~~

STOKING ON STARKING:

ALMOST AS GOOD AS SEX!

Larry Troupe (In Spirit)

Fellow Bohl

(alias Snake)

This is Bitchin Ass! 0861/5

Hope we see a quake. 2/10/80

So beautiful - GODS COUNTRY

Sequoia

Bohl's
AS.

19 Oct 79 Tom Kimbrough⁵⁶⁰
Ann (Coolidge) Bunn, Madison Wisc.

1980

June 5, 1980 (Official Bohl Ascent)

Brian Smith. Stoked. Surfs up. Bum deal 2 months no mares. Peace
Love and many bongos! Waiting for the 8.0 earthquake
Shakti:

Stoking on Starr King

Incredible effects!

Stoking on Starr King

Almost as good as sex!

Larry Troupe (in spirit). Fellow Bohl (alias Snake)

This is bitchen ass! Hope we see a quake. So beautiful – Gods country

Bohls A.S. Sequoia

⁵⁶⁰ Two first ascents in Yosemite Valley

6/5/80

For health, strength, beauty, challenge
Thank you God.

Out of Transition zone + on top!
TETE LI

6/5/80

Jagged peaks, snow lain slopes
Granite Domes, The Sierran High.
Mahogany.

Peace love, & many Bergs.
The infection spreads!

June 5-80

David Ginn

Sierra Institute does it all!
(and right.) Jay in

Charlie Casey 6/5/80

DORIE GROSS

KEY ROUTE - GOOD TO BACK WITH THESE
FINE PEOPLE. GOOD VIEW + GOOD MEMORIES
OF OTHER TIMES HERE! BERG HEIL!

- 6/5/80 For health, strength, beauty, challenge Thank you God. Out of transition zone and on top.
Telè li
- 6/5/80 Jagged peaks, snow lain slopes
Granite Domes, The Sierran High
Mahogany
- 6/5/80 Peace love and many Bongs – his infection spreads!
David Gira
- 6/5/80 Sierra Institute⁵⁶¹ does it all! (and right)
Jay
- 6/5/80 Charlie Casey
Dorie Gross
Ken Boche⁵⁶² – Good to [be] back with these fine people. Good view and good memories of other times here! Berg Heil!

⁵⁶¹ Sierra Institute referred to here is a natural history program run by Humboldt State University in California. Some ascenders here preferred to use “camp” names, e.g., Mahogany, Jay.

⁵⁶² The dates of his other ascents of Starr King: May 30, 1970, September 5, 1970, June 14, 1972

7/4/80

what a great day
for the 4th of July

Curt Schreier

Jan. Hansen

Redding, CA

JULY 13, 1980

MARK SPENCER (SOLO)

GALT, CALIFORNIA

- NE FACE FROM MONO MOUNTAIN,

THE DESCENT IS GOING TO

BE SPIDRY!

July 19 1980

W. Howard Fowdermilk

Chris Mlemchuk

Beth Notton *

Jim Murray

--- Northampton, MA

7/4/80 What a good day for the 4th of July
Curt Schweizer
John Henslaken
Redding CA

July 13, 1980 Mark Spencer⁵⁶³ (Solo) Galt, California – NE face from Mono
Mdw. The descent is going to be spooky!

July 19, 1980 W. Howard Lowdermilk⁵⁶⁴
Chris Keemchuk
Beth Norton – Northampton MA
Jim Murray⁵⁶⁵

Mark Spencer contacted me and sent in some photographs of later ascents and registers. They do not fit in this book here, so I have included them as Appendix 2. Mark and Shirley Spencer⁵⁶⁶ are the authors of the climbers guide to *Southern Yosemite Rock Climbs*.

⁵⁶³ Eight first ascents in Yosemite Valley

⁵⁶⁴ Lowdermilk's other Starr King ascent was on May 21, 1977

⁵⁶⁵ Also climbed Starr King on July 12, 1969, May 21, 1977

⁵⁶⁶ Mark Spencer has had nine ascents of Mt. Starr King, one in the period covered by this book on July 13, 1980.

JULY 20, 1980

WALT SHIPLEY, "THE BEARS ARE EVERYWHERE" DON'T KNOW HOW LONG WE CAN HOLD OUT UP HERE, 2 DAYS FROM CURRY.

John M Fisher - Back to the Valley of Beavs - Bye - Fish via the west - will descend to the SW ??

July 20, 1980

Mike Cohen + John Glasgowsty, S.F. Lots of fun, but hardly what I call 425 class! But then, "chacun à son goût"

AUG 1, 1980 Angeles Ch.

SPS trip

• COX: Chris Ranschen ^{FUT}

• ASST: Don Sparks → 145

Michael Larr 155

PETE YAMAGATA

VENTURA
NORTHERN ALPINE SIG.

MARSHALL LIPS CO.

M 162

Bob Emerick

July 20, 1980 Walt Shipley⁵⁶⁷, “The bears are everywhere.” Don’t know how long we can hold out up here, 2 days from Curry.
John M. Fisher – Back to the Valley of Bears – Bye – Fish. Via the west – descend to the SW.

July 20, 1980 Mike Cohen⁵⁶⁸
John Glokowsky – S.F. Lots of fun, but hardly what I would call 4th class! But then “Chacun a son gout” [Everyone has his taste]

Aug 1, 1980 Angeles Ch. SPS trip.
Cuno Ranschau⁵⁶⁹ /2X\ Ldr
Don Sparks /145\ Asst
Michael Lair, Ventura /155\
Pete Yamagata⁵⁷⁰ /62\ Forthban Alpine Sec., Mother Lode Ch.
Bob Emrick

⁵⁶⁷ 71 First ascents in Yosemite Valley - Shipley was at it from 1967 to 1993.

⁵⁶⁸ One first ascent in Yosemite Valley.

⁵⁶⁹ Ranschau also climbed Starr King on July 21, 1975.

⁵⁷⁰ Yamagata is a serious peak bagger with over 1300 ascents. He has a good website with photographs at www.petesthousandpeaks.com/

1:20pm 9/6/80
Great register. Nothing is worse
than the Sierra Club continually taking
down the registers to god knows where!

Impressive view of Clark range.
Hope I make it back down.

Tommaso
Meredith

Sept. 22, 1980

Don Reid

N.E. CRACK

Nita Torres

Nice place to watch
the moon.

Oct 11 80

Scott Veit H

SOLO My God love

Be WHIT you.

December 30, 1980

Mark Blanchard
Johnny Krejci

skied from Badger Pass Area to
Trail on Glacier Point Rd., Walked the East.
came up from saddle. We brought our
cameras, but forgot our bermuda shorts
and Hawaii SHIRTS, when does winter

9/6/80 1:20 PM. Great register. Nothing is worse than the Sierra Club continually taking down the registers to god knows where. Impressive view of Clark Range. Hope I make it back down.
Tom Maso, Merced Lake

Sept. 22, 1980 Don Reid⁵⁷¹

Nita Torres

NE Crack. Nice place to watch the moon.

Oct 11, 1980 Scott Verth. Solo. My God love be whit you.

December 30, 1980 Mark Blanchard⁵⁷²

Johnny Kreijei

Skiied from Badger Pass Area to trail on Glacier Point Rd. Walked the rest. Came up from saddle. Brought our cameras, but forgot our Bermuda shorts and Hawaii shirts. When does winter [continued on next page]

Nita Torres' recalled another Yosemite hazard, hornets that nest in the ground: "Somewhere during the first two miles, I stepped on a ground hornet's nest and the little bastards stung me in a couple of places. Ouch! One of the hornets flew under my Vuarnet sunglasses and I thought I was going to get stung in the eye. I was screaming (like a girly girl) and Reid rescued me by quickly pulling off my glasses. The rest of the trip was fun. Loved the remote feeling. We ran into no one. Reid took me up the easy route, gorgeous views, fire burning in the distance, beautiful moon. Oh the sweet memories."

⁵⁷¹ 72 first ascents in Yosemite Valley from 1971 to 1992.

⁵⁷² One first ascent in Yosemite Valley.

start. It been 70° all day. Le
couché de soleil était formidable.

Fred Beckay }
Rick Nolting } Jan 10, 1981
5 am

Anthony Walton + Ray
Echols carried two para kits
up + were taking off to
land at Mono Meadows

SUNDAY 24 MAY, 1981 1608 ILYICH
AXAKOWSKY, NICEVILLE FL 32578

Monday May June 1st 1981
August west and party
reach summit with much
ado about nothing. Long live
wilderness to hell with WATT
and RAYGUN. Lovely day.

JAMES C. Quinn June 1, 1981
GLAD TO BE HERE! HOPE TO BE BACK

JUNE 1, 1981
A BEAUTIFUL DAY, A BEAUTIFUL VIEW
AND EXPERIENCE TO REMEMBER ALWAYS
LAURENCE G. GIBSON WESC
INSTITUTE

Eat The Rich Running Club

start. It been 70 degrees all day. Le couche de soleil etait formidable.
[The sunset was amazing]

1981

Jan 10, 1981 5pm

Fred Beckey⁵⁷³

Rick Nolting

Undated Anthony Walton

Ray Echols

Carried two para kites⁵⁷⁴ up and we're taking off to land at Mono Meadows.

May 24, 1981 Sunday.

Igor Ilyich Axakowsky, Niceville FL 32578

June 1st, 1981 August West and party reach summit with much ado about nothing. Long live wilderness, to hell with Watt and Raygun.⁵⁷⁵ Lovely day.

James C. Quinn. Glad to be here! Hope to be back.

Lansing, A beautiful day, a beautiful view, an experience to reflect on always. Sierra Institute. UCSC Eat the Rich Running Club.

⁵⁷³ One of the all time great mountaineers from the Pacific Northwest, Beckey has made perhaps more first ascents than any American climber and has a peak named for him in Alaska. He has also authored several books. Beckey and Nolting were together on a 1983 expedition to a peak in China – American Alpine Journal 1983.

⁵⁷⁴ The use of various types of parachutes and gliders is not generally permitted in wilderness areas today.

⁵⁷⁵ Watt and Raygun refer to the Secretary of the Interior at the time, James Watt, and President Ronald Reagan. Watt was the enemy of environmentalists, and “Raygun” refers to the President in a manner suggesting that the Strategic Defense Initiative, also known as “Star Wars”, was not the writer’s favorite topic.

WHERE ARE THE ALTOIDS? PATTY RYAN

↑ ?? JUNE 9, 81

KATE HARVEY

Laurel Field School
What are you all up to on your compass?
Where are you now? Are you sure - Question #4.
Erica Hendrick

June 2, 1981 Sierra Institute

Jimmie Froehlich - Berkeley Coffee Tim

Annette Emig
Mary-Boyd Finch Boudreau
Deborah Austin / Santa Cruz
Nicholas "Pierre" Wallerstein, Esq.
Mark C. Takano "I got the
Altoids, gang!"
Kip Siegel

JUNE 10 1981

1st OFFICIAL MAZAMA CLIMB.

Brian Holcomb Jon Maybell
Liz Zimmerman Steve Reeck
Bill McClelland

Where are the Altoids?!! Patty Ryan June 1, 1981

Kate Havley

Erica Hendrick, LeConte Field School

What is the peak at 61 degrees on your compass? Where are you now?

Are you sure – Question 4

June 2, 1981 Sierra Institute

Dennis Frolich. Berkeley. Coffee Time.

Annette Emig

Mary Boyd Finch Boudreau

Geoffrey Austin Santa Cruz

Nicholas “Pierre” Wallenstein, Esq.

Mark C. Takano “I got the Altoids, Gang”

Kip Sieger

June 10 1981 1st Official Mazama⁵⁷⁶ Climb

Brian Holcomb

Jon Maybell

Liz Zimmerman

Steve Reeck

Bill McClelland

⁵⁷⁶ A mountaineering organization in Portland, Oregon

JUNE 17, 1981

Murphy's Law Expedition
Summit - Rich Romero of Glacier Pt.
BASE CAMP - ANNE E. OREGON

July 9, 1981

Joel Robison
Tom Chasteen
Great view!

Aug 22, 1981 - Sat.

Daniel W. Mulheisen
Larry Machleder 1591

Left main meadow @ 7:00 on top
at 12:00 - glorious day!
glorious dirt!

7 AUG 83

Wow my 1st peak w/SPS

Doug mantle 3X

Johnuch

June 17, 1981 Murphy's Law⁵⁷⁷ Expedition
Summit – Rich Romero of Glacier Point Base Camp
Ann E. Oregon

July 4, 1981 Joel Robinson
Tony Chasteen
Great view!

Aug 22, 1981 Sat.
Daniel W. Mihaljevich
Larry Machleder /159\
Left Mono Meadow at 7 a.m. on top at 12:00 – glorious day! Glorious
climb!

7 Aug 83⁵⁷⁸ Wow my first peak w/SPS Jeb Busch
Doug Mantle⁵⁷⁹ 3X

⁵⁷⁷ Anything that can go wrong, will go wrong.

⁵⁷⁸ Unable to determine correctness of date.

⁵⁷⁹ Mantle's other ascents of Starr King: July 1, 1972, October 4, 1975.

SPS Climb 8-30-81

Dave Perkins leader

John McDermott

Jay Citrus

George R Davis 2X Crst.

Mary McManus 103
Senior Emblem - yipee!

R. V. SECOR

JACK KOSHEAR

VIC COPELAN

Lance Dixon - O.O.P.L. 74

C.A.C.
(WTF/DON'T)

8/30/81

CAMPBELL ALPINE CLUB

DARYN DODGE - solo'd it from Y.V. on my
day off from the N.P.S. NO AID! frictioned
it to the top. Saw the people above
on the S.E. some below Star King;
thought I was crazy. I'm beginning
to think that too!

Daryn Dodge DAVIS U. STUDENT
CAMPBELL ALPINE CLUB

8-30-81 Dave Perkins leader

John McDermott

Jay Titus

George R Davis⁵⁸⁰ 2x Asst

Mary McMannes Senior Emblem – Yippee! /103\

R.J. Secor⁵⁸¹

Jack Koshear

Vic Copelan

Lance Dixon J.O.P.L. /74\

8/30/81 Daryn Dodge, Davis U. student Campbell (home town)

C.A.C

(We don't)

Campbell Alpine Club

Solo'd it from Yosemite Valley on my day off from the National Park Service. NO AID! Frictioned it to the top. Saw the people above on the S.E. Dome below Starr King; thought I was crazy. I'm beginning to think that too!

⁵⁸⁰ Davis also ascended Starr King on August 11, 1974

⁵⁸¹ Secor is the author of "*The High Sierra: Peaks, Passes and Trails*", a climber's guide.

July 17 82

NICE thoughts, nice
view, nice day.

Life is good.

UNAIDED SOLO

CARL
ERIKSSON

1982

July 17 82 Carl Erickson. Nice thoughts, nice view, nice day. Life is good.
Unaided solo.


Lake Sam: Section Cup

960

Little Gem Suction Cups were illustrated in the 1955 Sierra Club Handbook, and the picture below was added here to give the reader a clue as to what the cryptic entry means:

78

THE SIERRA CLUB



LITTLE GEM SUCTION CUPS

For high-angle friction climbs. With the use of the Little Gem Suction Cups even the most difficult overhangs become child's play.

CAUTION: Not suitable for use on sandstone.

5-17-90

Had to get into the original Auguste
John from
Joel Hanson



1990

5-17-90 Had to get into the original register.

John Frome⁵⁸²

Joel Hudson

This entry was placed after the book had been superseded by a later volume, and was perhaps written on the last page where the art work was already in existence.

⁵⁸² Name difficult to make out.

Appendices

Permissions

Approval to use microfilm images in a context other than in this book should be requested from the University of California Bancroft Library. To create this book I asked and received approval.

Otherwise, use is unrestricted from my viewpoint. Giving credit would be the right thing to do.

Mark Spencer's Photographs

From Mark Spencer's ascents of Mt Starr King.



September 16, 2010 - Mark Spencer, Shirley Spencer and Dan Dion

The next pages are photos by Mark Spencer of later registers. I transcribed the pages and included names in the index, but the entries are not included in the statistical tables. Perhaps one day someone will photograph the entire registers on the peak for inclusion here.

May 15, 1982

Wet snow (10'?) + avalanche
from NW face. Did from
SE saddle. Snow level in
woods 7000' approx.

Sparrow - will get back
after dark. Nice to read my
Mom & Dad's names that's all.

Ron Hudson, 62
congrats to Rick on 1st
Sierra peak (83 base grad)
MY FIRST SIERRA PEAK !!

CAN'T BELIEVE I MADE IT!
MUCH THANKS TO RON HUDSON,
INTERPID LEADER. HOPE THE
LUNICS GET HERE TO READ
THIS —

RICK ANGLIN

Credit: Mark Spencer

May 13, 1982 Much snow (10'?) and avalanche prone NW face. Did from SE saddle. Snow level in woods 7000' and soft. 6 pm now – will get back after dark. Nice to read my Mom and Dad's names 7/28/1939.

Ron Hudson /63⁵⁸³

Congrats to Rick on 1st Sierra peak (83 BMTC⁵⁸⁴ grad)

My first Sierra peak!! Can't believe I made it! Much thanks to Ron Hudson, intrepid leader. Hope the Lunics get here to read this.

Rick Anglin

⁵⁸³ Ron Hudson has been active in the Sierra Peaks Section of the Sierra Club for many years as a participant and leader of trips. His parents on the July 28, 1939 entry were George Hudson and Mary Koch. Fred Hudson was Ron's uncle.

⁵⁸⁴ BMTC stands for the Basic Mountaineering Training Course sponsored by the Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club. It was renamed the Wilderness Travel Course (WTC) around 1987.

NOV 6 1982

5 1/2 hrs from
Happy Isles, to
find the summit
warm, sunny and
great views of
snow covered
peaks. It can't
be November but
this is the Sierras.

Carl Hanke
Rick Henke

Credit: Mark Spencer

November 6, 1982 51/2 hours from Happy Isles to find the summit warm, sunny
and great views of snow covered peaks. It can't be November, but this is
the Sierras.

Carl Hamke

Rick Henke

6/20/86

- The first register
fascinating - Wm. K. T. was
amazing. Enjoying climbing
on the satellite domes after
a trip up Salthe Wall and El Cap.
The rock, views, & back of
climbers are refreshing after the
Valley scene below. Have done
2 routes on the lateral dome to SW.
A 3 pitch 5.9 right facing barbs on
E side & a 4 pitch 5.10d face
climb up water attack on W side.
Try them - the rock is solid
orange.

Tom Addison

6/21/86 Happy Midsummer! We
just climbed the right
Fanning Flake system starting
at the bent lodge pole pine
on the southern side and

Credit: Mark Spencer

6/20/86 The first register is fascinating. Wm Kat was amazing. Enjoying climbing on the satellite domes after a trip up the Salathè Wall on el Cap. The rock, views, and lack of climbers are refreshing after the Valley scene below. Have done two routes on the larger dome to SW. A three pitch 5.9 right facing book on E side and a four pitch 5.10 face climb up water streak on W. side. Try them – the rock is solid
Tom Addison

6/21/86 Happy Midsummer! We just climbed the right facing flake system starting at the bent Lodgepole pine on the southwest side and...

veering slightly left. 6
full pitches (one 5.9, two 5.8
and the rest 5.6-5.7). Very
nice route (may not have
been done before?). Started
at 6:45am and topped out
at noon!

Tom Addison

Scott Pond

7/4/86

Tom Ferguson

Bob Ferguson

Jerry Rivera

Eric W. Turner

Crystal Sierra (Trif)

Jeff Koehler & Jeff (her
Kopke) Voss

... veering slightly left. 6 full pitches (one 5.9, two 5.8 and the rest 5.6-5.7). Very nice route (may not have been done before?). Started at 6:45am and topped out at noon!

Tom Addison

Scott Pond

7/4/86 Tom Ferguson
Bob Ferguson
Terry Rivera
Bruce W. Turner (my first Sierra Peak)
Jeff Koepka (nervous)

Probable 15+ ascent.

7-5-86 South Face

8 pitches - low 5⁺.

Tom Rogers Jan Torn

Bob Care Vic Madrid

Wayne Campbell

7-10-86 NOV-505 5110

(NO INSURANCE) 5110 UP.

Dave Johnson 122

Nancy Gordon 136

A class 5 peak

Dave Rhoad 1571

R.J. SECOR 3X

U.T. 5111/15 101

7-16-86 Paul Merrick

"No pain, no gain"

It was a pretty

easy climb and a

lot of fun. It is

a great view but

a little windy.

Credit: Mark Spencer

Probable 1st ascent

7-5-86 South Face. 8 pitches – low 5th.

Tom Rogers

Jan Turner

Bob Care

Vic Madrid

Wayne Campbell

7-10-86 Non SPS Trip (No insurance this yr)

†Dave Dykeman /222\⁵⁸⁵

Nancy Gordon /136\[\]

1 Class 5 peak

Dave Pertt /37\[\]

R.J. Secor⁵⁸⁶ 3x

UJ Sayer /19\[\]

7-16-86 Paul Merritt “No Pain no gain” It was a pretty easy climb and a great view but a little windy.

⁵⁸⁵ Dave Dykeman died in September 1996 on Devil’s Crag in the Sierras.

⁵⁸⁶ Other ascents in the period covered by the book were on August 30, 1981 and September 1, 1986

These are only three
people up here right
now. but 11 more
comming up. 7/17/86
Robin plankinton Age 14

It is a pretty
easy climb except
for one part when
I had trouble I
am the 3rd one up
here out of my
group. It is so
lovely here you
can see every
where, forever,
I am from
Mendocino Park.

Laura Drexage
age 11 July-17-86

Credit: Mark Spencer

7/17/86 There are only three people up here right now but 11 more coming up.
Robin Plankington Age 14

7/17/86 It is a pretty easy climb except for one part when I had trouble. I am the
3rd one up here out of my group. It is so lovely here you can see
everywhere, forever. I am from Menlo Park. Laura Drexinage Age 11

August 17th 1987

Last year I was on
El Cap, this year
Stein King - good way
to spend my birthday!
Go Buckeyes!

Queen Sheriden

BACK AGAIN -
WILL I EVER
LEARN?

MIKE CORBETT
1987 - AUGUST

Aug 17 Sunny haze -
but whadda view -
Connie climbed to
saddle -

See Sheriden

Credit: Mark Spencer

August 17th '87 Last year I was on el Cap, this year Starr King – good way to
spend my B-day.
Go Buckeyes!
Gwen Schneider

August 1987 Back again – will I ever learn?
Mike Corbett⁵⁸⁷

Aug 17 Sunny haze – but whadda view – Connie climbed to the saddle.
Lee Stetson

⁵⁸⁷ Other ascents in the period covered by the book were on May 26, 1976 and
October 10, 1979

~~NOV~~ SEPTEMBER 9, 1986

R. J. SECOR - 4X

Rob Roy McDonald

SEPT 18, 1987

MARK SPENCER

- OAKHURST CA

VIA SE SADDLE TO 5.5

SEPT 19, 1987

MARK SPENCER

- CLIMBED UP AGAIN FROM

A CAMP E. OF MOLL

MEADOWS. CLIMBED 5

ROUTES ON THE DOME

INCLUDING 2 NEW ONES.

MOST OF THE CLIMBING

WAS FREE SOLO WITH A

SELF BELAY ON THE 5.8 + 5.9

PITCHES. A TOPO IS ON

THE FOLLOWING PAGE →

Credit: Mark Spencer

September 1, 1986

R.J. Secor⁵⁸⁸ – 4X
Rob Roy McDonald

Sept 18, 1987

Mark Spencer⁵⁸⁹
Oakhurst CA
via SE Saddle II 5.5

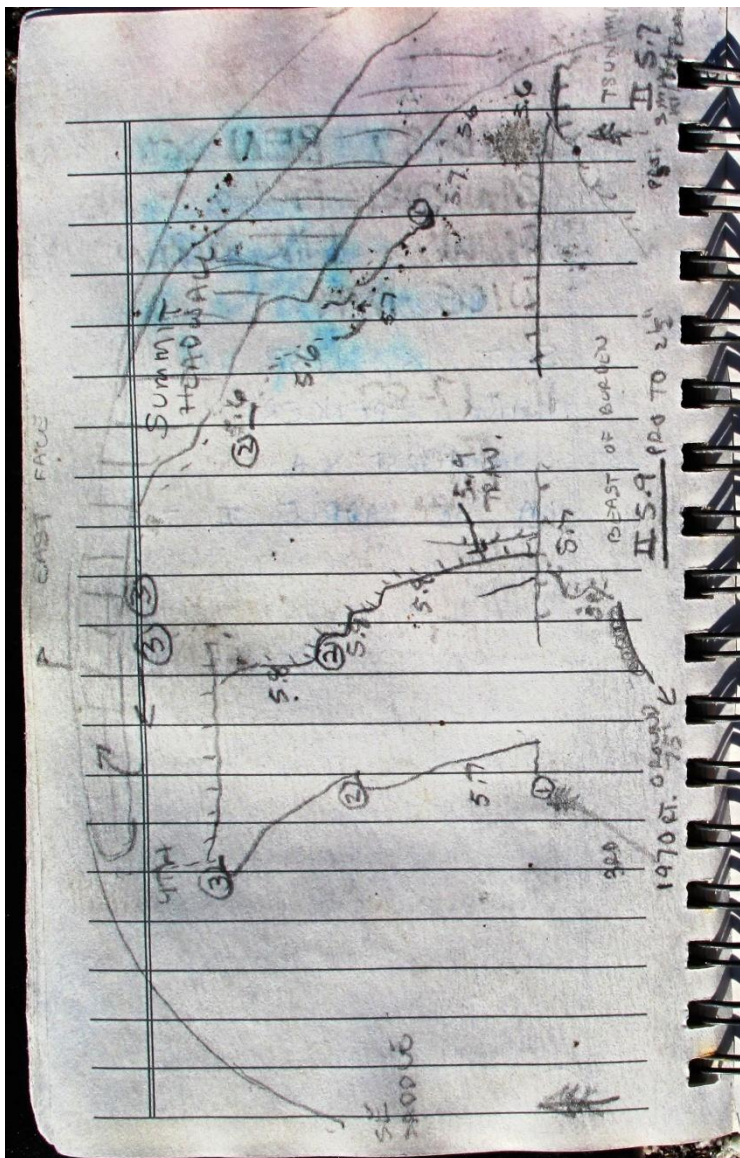
Sept 19, 1987

Climbed up again from a camp east of Mono Meadows. Climbed five routes on the dome including two new ones. Most of the climbing was free solo with a self belay on the 5.8 and 5.9 pitches. A topo is on the following page--->

Mark Spencer

⁵⁸⁸ Other ascents in the period covered by the book were on August 30, 1981 and July 7, 1986

⁵⁸⁹ One ascent in the period covered by the book on July 13, 1980.



Credit: Mark Spencer

Hi Ben! Dave
10-90

10-10-87 BEN SCHIFRIN

RAN OVER FROGS MAND

MDWS - 1 hr, 45 MIN.

NICE DAY.

10-17-87

Fred Feldman

Marianne Balog

Mammoth Lakes CA

TRANCE

MASTERS

11-9-87

Lynn Murphy - Cit. of World

Kerry Andersen - Berkeley

Steve White - Berkeley

1 hr from summit of Half Dome!

Yeah!

Credit: Mark Spencer

10-10-87 Ran over from Mono Meadows. 1 hr 45 min. Nice day
Ben Schifrin

Hi Ben! Dave 10-90

10-17-87 Fred Feldman
Marianne Balog
Mammoth Lakes

Trundle Masters

11-9-87
Lynn Murphy – Citizen of the world
Kerry Andersen – Berkeley
Steve White – Berkeley

1 hr from summit of Half Dome! Yeah!

Feb 7, 1988 fr. SE note b.

Gus Benner

RD Caughron

L. D. Wilson

Jerry Bock

3/12/88

Levi V Reeves, Clovis Cal

Brian West - Seal

Beach

May 21, 1988

Aaron Schuman

E. Miya

Rock & S Age How

for Retired Hackers

Well interesting in

clunkers - Well

How do we get

down - 1 - 9 mm

Rope . . .

Credit: Mark Spencer

Feb 7, 1988 From SE notch

Gus Benner

R.D. Caughron⁵⁹⁰

L.D. Wilson

Jerry Bock⁵⁹¹

3/12/88 Lenni V Reeves, Clovis Cal

Brian West – Seal Beach

May 21, 1988

Aaron Schulman

E. Miya

Rock of Age Home for Retired Hackers.

Well, interesting in clunkers.⁵⁹² Well how do we get down - 1 – 9mm rope...

⁵⁹⁰ One ascent in the period covered by the book on March 14, 1976.

⁵⁹¹ One ascent in the period covered by the book on 10, 1978.

⁵⁹² “Clunkers” refers to the wrong kind of shoes or boots for friction.

• ~~to~~ be continued
We hope!
Oh - Rescued
once before
Did N. & will
Rescued S.

Only 2 years + 8 months
later & exactly 3 from
my last visit. So nice to
be back, but my
partners aren't joining
too well on this thing!
Oh well.

Walter J Flint - ops
5/24/88

Credit: Mark Spencer

... to be continued

We Hope!

Oh – Defeated once before. Did N and will descend S

5/24/88 Only two years and eight months later (exactly) from my last visit. So nice to be back, but my partners aren't fairing too well on this thing! Oh well.

Walter J. Flint – Yos.

USE PENCILS ONLY - PENS WILL
BLEED THROUGH PAPER WHEN DAMP

Please Keep Entries Brief

Fill other
register first!



Sierra
Bear

Credit: Mark Spencer

Use pencils only – pens will bleed through paper when damp

Please Keep Entries Brief

Fill other register first!

Sierra Bear

Inside cover to the fourth register. First entry on 10/1/1990

MT. STARR KING
9,092

OCTOBER 1, 1990

MARK SPENCER - YOSEMITE, CA

RAN UP FROM THE GLACIER POINT ROAD
AT MONO MEADOWS IN 1 HR 40 MIN.
CLIMBED UP FROM THE SE SADDLE - S.E.

~~B.F.D.!~~ ~~B.S.!~~

~~BULLSHIT~~

I DID IT IN 23 MIN!
August 9, 1991

JOHN LAWLER SAN JOSE CA
FROM MONO MEADOWS VIA
SE SADDLE ON WAY TO
TRAVERSE CLARK RANGE

Keith Hannah Ans 9, 1991
Nashville, TN, Also going
to Clark Range (Beautiful Scenery)

Credit: Mark Spencer

Mt Starr King
9,092

October 1, 1990 Ran up from the Glacier Point road at Mono Meadows in 1 hr 40 min. Climbed up from the SE Saddle 5.5.
Mark Spencer⁵⁹³

B.F.D.! B.S!⁵⁹⁴

Bullshit
I did it in 1 ~23 min

August 9, 1991 From Mono Meadows via SE Saddle on way to Clark Range
John Lawler, San Jose
Keith Harrah, Nashville TN. Also going to Clark Range (Beautiful Scenery)

⁵⁹³ One ascent in the period covered by the book on July 13. 1980.

⁵⁹⁴ Unknown person or persons taking exception to Mark Spencer's time up the peak.

7-22-95

L.V.V. Rangers - Foot Patrol



Don't Think we can't Find you!

Mike Grate.....

Kevin Flynn

7/25/95

HEY BUDDY! NICE VIEW
EH? GOOD FOR YOU, NO MEAT!

LAMP YOSEMITE INSTITUTE

MOUNTAINEER ON, BUDDY!

HANS MANSKE YI

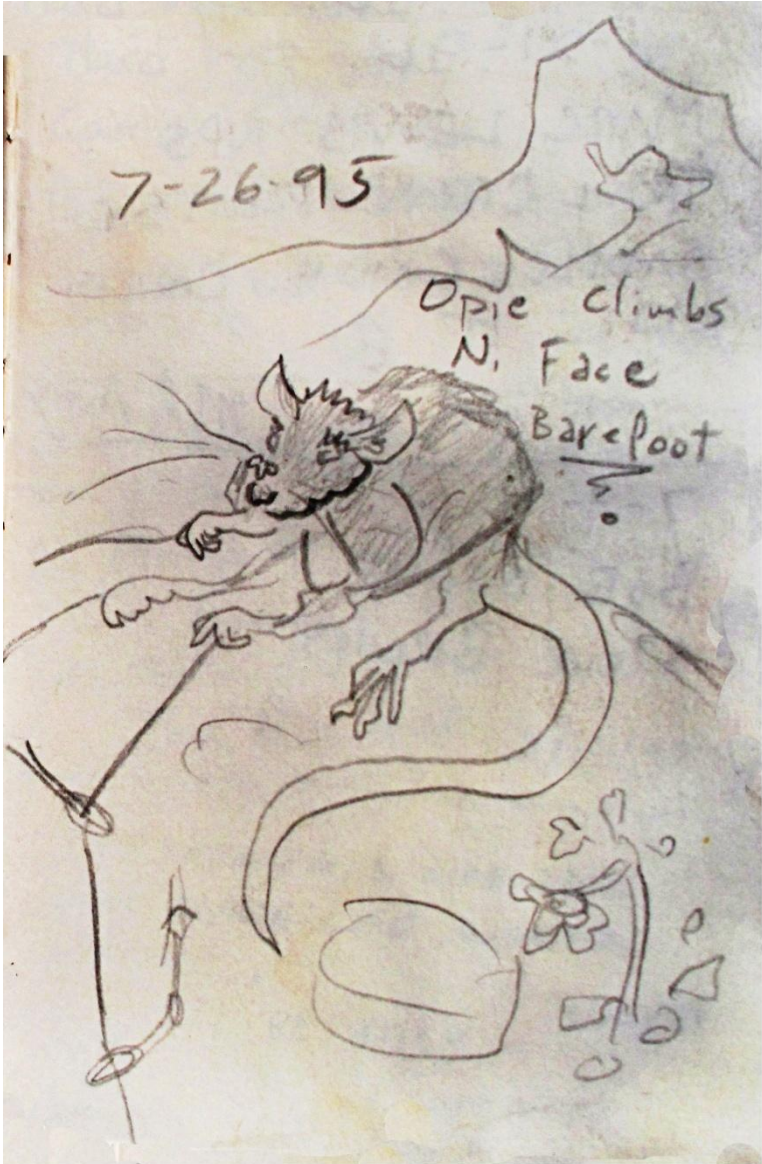
Enjoyed last night's stay at
the bottom. Julius Kessler

Credit: Mark Spencer

7-22-95 L.Y.V.⁵⁹⁵ Rangers – Foot Patrol and don't think we can't find you!
Mike Grate
Kevin Flynn

7/25/95 Hey Buddy! Nice view, eh? Good for you, no meat! LAMP Yosemite
Institute. Mountaineer on, Buddy!
Hans Manske YI
Enjoyed last night's stay at the bottom.
Julius Kessler

⁵⁹⁵ Little Yosemite Valley.



Credit: Mark Spencer

7-26-95 Opie⁵⁹⁶ climbs N. Face barefoot.

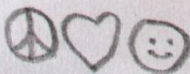
⁵⁹⁶ Perhaps a name to be associated with Peter and Iona Opie of children's literature fame?

Mark and Shirley Spencer

Climbed the south side, nice to finally be at the summit of the dome I drew in our guidebook! Beautiful sunrise on Half Dome! Last time we tried to get up here, we got turned around by a storm. Sharing another adventure with our great friend Dan Dion!



Sept. 16, 2010



Dan Dion

Sept. 16, 2010 Mark⁵⁹⁷ and Shirley Spencer

Climbed the south side, nice to be finally at the summit of the dome I drew in our guidebook! Beautiful sunrise on Half Dome! Last time we tried to get up here we got turned around by a storm. Sharing another adventure with our great friend Dan Dion!

Dan Dion

⁵⁹⁷ One ascent in the period covered by the book on July 13, 1980.

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