

THE MUGELNOOS

No. 529 January 19, 1977

A newsheet published by and for the Ski Mountaineers and Rock Climbing Section of the Sierra Club's Angeles Chapter.

Subscriptions \$2 per year. This is a 6 page issue.

MUGELNOOS: HAPPY FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY

The year of 1977 marks the fortieth anniversary of the newsheet for the ski mountaineers and rock climbers. The article by Glen Dawson succinctly states the ingredients that have made Mugelnoos the great success that it is. During this year Mugelnoos will publish historical and biographical material on the happenings and the people who have been a part of the Mugelnoos. Barbara Lilley and John Ripley have each contributed excellent articles to this issue. We are still in need of additional material dealing with the formation of the section, the building of the Keller and the Baldy ski huts, what transpired from the days of the first two chairman, Walter Mosauer and George O. P. Bauwens, to the present.

This issue closes with an illustration by Tom Neal. This design first appeared in issue number 2. As the present editor is an ardent cross-country skiing enthusiast, he could not help but notice that the fellow in Tom's illustration is clearly wearing a pair of nordic ski boots. This has caused me no end of consternation. Is it possible in Mother Nature's scheme that the present Ski Mountaineers are an evolutionary deadend, while the main group of ski mountaineers glide ahead to new horizons on skinny skis?

(TR)

"Great oaks from little acorns grow"

When the Mugelnoos first sprouted in January of 1938, Dick Jones and I did not imagine that it would survive 39 years through some 529 issues, published in a variety of places, by a variety of talented editors, and still continue to thrive.

It was Ruth Dyar (Mendenhall) who set the tone of good news reporting and light-hearted humor that has made the Mugelnoos a classic. When Ruth and John Mendenhall moved to Alabama during the war, a dedicated group carried on publication--including Joan Dyar (Clark) and Mary Helen Dawson.

None of us foresaw World War II which scattered the Ski Mountaineers and Rock Climbers around the world, and to diverse vocations and avocations. Nor did we fully anticipate the speed of critical problems of the environment and the great growth of the Sierra Club.

The Mugelnoos records the joys of victories, marriages, children and grandchildren, the sorrows of defeats, accidents and deaths.

The Mugelnoos has been a news sheet of the Ski Mountaineers and Rock Climbing Sections of the Sierra Club and through the years has helped maintain ties of friendship and love.

As I wrote April 13, 1938: "We are all pleased with the success of our Mugelnoos -- and request your continued support."

Glen Dawson

MUGELMAILER! MUGELMAILER!! WHERE ART THOU MUGELMAILER?

Mugelnoos is in need of a Mugelmailer. Mugelnoos plans to pay a data processing firm to address the envelopes and perhaps even to print and to stuff the Mugelnoos newsletter into the envelopes. The new Mugelmailer will manage this operation. Interested persons should contact either Ruth Mendenhall or Tim Ryan.

Due to a change in employment Tim Ryan is forced to terminate, effective immediately, as Mugelmailer. Tim has agreed to continue the responsibility of mailing out the Mugelnoos until June when he will no longer be able to do this.

(TR)

WHO'S WHO IN THE NOOS ROYAL ROBBINS

This article attempts to review Royal Robbins' Climbing career, with a strong emphasis on his association with the RCS. For more complete information on Royal's

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MUGELNOOS STAFF

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NEXT ISSUE : February 16, 1977

DEADLINE : February 11, 1977

MUGELNOOS MEETINGS: Third Weds of each
 month, 7:30 P.M., Lemon Grove Rec Center,
 4959 Lemon Grove Ave, LA. Near Hwd Frwy &
 Melrose. Program, refreshments. Climbers
 skiers and guests all welcome!\$!

C A L E N D A R

Jan 22 Rock climb, Mt. Rubidoux
 Jan 22-23 Checkout ski tour, Mammoth
 Jan 29 Rock climb, Sespe Gorge
 Feb 5-6 Rock climb, Fossil Falls
 Feb 5-6 Ski tour, Pear Lake
 Feb 13 Local Ski tour
 Feb 16 Mugelnoos
 Feb 19 Rock climb, Stoney Pt.
 Feb 19-20 San Antonio Hut Ski Tour

EVEREST, H ARDEST ROUTE

"Everest, the Hardest Way Up," a 75-min.
 color-sound movie of the ascent of the
 SW Face of Everest, will be shown Thurs.
 & Fri., Feb 10&11, at the Embassy Aud.,
 843 S. Grand Ave, LA (plenty of free
 parking). Dougal Haston will attend in
 person. An informal social gathering will
 follow the movie.

Tickets are \$3.50 at the door, and \$3 in
 advance. They may be purchased through
 West Ridge Sports, 11930 W. Olympic, WIA,
 or by mail from Mike Sherrick, 6256 Beamar
 Reseda 91335 (Enclose a SASE and a check
 made out to the American Alpine Club). The
 show is sponsored by the So. Cal. Sec. of
 the AAC

(RDM)

HOW GRAND!

Bob & Luella MacConaghy have joined the
 ranks of Ski Mt. grandparents. Robin
 Leigh Ward, born Feb, 27, 1976, is the
 daughter of Tammie & Tony Ward.

ATHLETE'S FOOT ANYONE?

For those of you who failed to catch
 it, one of the last writings by LA Times
 syndicated medical columnist, Dr. Alvarez,
 suggested the use of common Carbolated
 Vasoline as the best cure for athlete's
 foot. I have been trouble d by this fungus
 for decades, trying all kinds of medica-
 tions without much success. Last winter
 I gave this simple cure a try and it

worked like a charm. It works slowly,
 but it is painless and sure.

(RCF)

LOCAL TOUR G OES IN DEEP POWDER!

The January 9th Local Ski Tour was
 held at Holiday Hill on/in four feet of
 powder, sparkling dry powder snow! The
 tour started at the (crowded) parkinglot,
 went up a service road and reached the
 top of the Holiday Hill lift. A really
 great powder run was made through the
 trees and untouched powder snow back to
 the parking lot. Only one prospective
 ski mountaineer, Duane Nakano, showed up
 and was checked out-- the rest of you
 missed one of the best local tours in
 years!

Seven year old Scott Davie put on
 skis for the first time and did well,
 due to his previous skate board
 experience.

(WD)

FOR SALE -- TWO S. M. OUTFITS

Two complete outfits for the ski
 mountaineer. Skis notched for use with
 climbing skins. Skis and bindings in
 excellent condition. For information
 call or write Richard Mitchell, 210¹/₂
 North Avenue 52, LA, CA 90042 258-2378

OFFICIAL RCS ANNOUNCEMENTS

DEADLINE: January 30 for voting to
 make Glen Dawson an honorary member.

GORGE yourself on climbing at Sespe
 Gorge, January 29. Call Fred Wing, 476-
 4398; or Ed Nissen, 425-6340, for details.

RATING GAME--let John Ripley know
 if you have an O, M, or E LTC rating.

(JR)

BANQUETS: Remember the Angeles Chapter
 banquet March 5th. See old time skiers
 and climbers in action. Send \$6.25 per
 ticket to Angeles Chapter Banquet, Sierra
 Club, 2410 Beverly Bl, LA 90057

WONDERING ABOUT WONDERLAND It's amazing
 how little information there is on the
 Wonderland of Rocks at Joshua Tree NM,
 mentioned in last month's issue. The
 area was first scheduled by the RCS in
 April of 1936! Arthur B. Johnson led.

ROSTERS DE-FILED The RCS files are short
 the issues for the following years: 34*,
 35*, 36*, 37*, 39, 41, 43, 44*, 45*, 46*, 48, 49,
 51 and 68. Asterisk(*) indicates that
 we are unsure whether a roster was pub-
 lished that year. If you can supply
 original or xerox copies of any of these
 contact John Ripley, P.O. Box 1034,
 Downey, CA 90240. Note that some of the
 early rosters were published as part of
 the Ski Mountaineers rosters.

INDIVIDUALS interested in CPR and First
 Aid courses should call LeRoy Russ (213)
 295-9703. He has a schedule of classes
 for the next six months. Courses are
 taught in all of the areas of LA.

PERLON ropes can be safely marked with
 felt marking pens made by MAJOR. This
 brand can be purchased in stationery
 stores.

(JR) & (LR)

CLIMBING see Jones' Climbing in North America, Scott's Big Wall Climbing, the AAC, etc.

Royal Shannon Robbins was born February 3, 1935, in West Virginia. Coming to Los Angeles in 1941, he was raised in the general vicinity of Hollywood.

"Boy Scout trips took me into the mountains, which I learned to love as a wonderful escape from social strife...of the city," Royal recalls. "But I still needed strife, so chose mountaineering as an exciting alternative to hiking, and as a way of pitting my aggressive energies against nature instead of man."

Royal joined the Sierra Club in about 1950, where he "became a safer climber by climbing with men like John Mendenhall and Charles Wilts." In April of 1952 he was voted into the RCS. He thinks that his first Tahquitz Rock climb was the Fingertip Traverse in 1951, led by George Harr. By 1952 he had taken part in four Tahquitz first ascents and in the first totally free ascent of the Open Book. He visited Yosemite Valley for the first time that year, doing the Higher Spire by the Robbins Variation.

Royal was a prodigy in his rapid development, especially for those days. In 1953 (at age 18) he took part in the second ascent of the North Face of Sentinel Rock and made four more first ascents at Tahquitz, all with fellow RCS members. Over the next four years he made many climbs, long and short, including the South Face of Liberty Cap in 1956 (IV, 5.8, A3), a first. Royal was a driving force in a group of Angeles RCS members pushing the limits of both free climbing and big walls in the 1950s.

One Yosemite face was the target of ambitious climbers from north and south, and its eventual ascent was a landmark in American and world climbing: The Northwest Face of Half Dome, done in July of 1957 by Royal, Jerry Gallwas, and Mike Sherrick. The all-RCS party completed this first grade VI climb in North America in 5 days of continuous climbing, opening the way to the really big walls.

Shortly after this triumph Royal ended up in the army, serving 1958-60. When he returned to civilian life he left behind his job as a bank bookkeeping supervisor in IA to live in Berkeley and to devote his full energies to climbing. His contact with the RCS naturally declined with his move, but he was retained for over ten years as a sort of informal honorary member.

With his move Royal set out on the path that within a few years was to make him the world's most famous rock climber. In the period from 1960 to 1970 he made about 50 first ascents in Yosemite Valley and all over western North America. Big walls were his specialty, and he played perhaps the major roll in developing the Yosemite methods and bringing them to world prominence. His ascents on the West Face of the Petite Dru in 1962 (with former RCS member Gary Hemming) and 1965 (with Harlin) brought the new techniques to the attention of a surprised world climbing community. Royal became an international celebrity.

Climbing on into the 1970s, Royal continued to make first ascents, and also he began a string of free (i.e. unroped) solos in the Valley and at Tuolumne Meadows, most of them severe routes. Today he operates Robbins Mountain Shop and the Rockcraft Climbing School, founded 1969. His books on rock climbing (1971 and 1973) have been universally hailed as the best available. Royal now lives in Modesto with Liz, his wife of 13 years. In 1976 he was elected the first RCS honorary member under the new (1973) bylaws.

Today Royal says, "Although no longer driven by the same demon as before, I still love climbing as much as ever. I don't care a whisker whether a climb is hard or easy, as long as it is of good quality and I am with a partner who enjoys it as much as I do."

(JR)

ATTENTION RCS STUDENTS

Don't feel discouraged if it seems that other students have more experience, or that you might not have the strength to climb. Please continue to come out to the practice climbs. You will gain the experience and strength by continuing with the climbs. It takes time and work to gain the experience needed for climbing. You may find that some of the climbing techniques will be easier if you have the proper equipment. It is recommended that you borrow or buy the following equipment for the remaining practice climbs which you will also need for climbing at Tahquitz.

1. Swami belt(about 15-20' of 1"soft tubular webbing) or sit harness.
2. 3 or 4 prussik loops(or use the slings in 3 below)
3. slings: 3 double slings(about 10' of 1"soft tubular webbing)
1 single sling (about 6' of 1" soft tubular webbing)

Students may also attend the following climbs to gain multi-pitch experience before going to Tahquitz this spring. Proficiency cards need not be fully signed off. Please contact the climb leader for assignment to a climbing rope.

Jan 29 Sespe Gorge	Feb 5-6 Fossil Falls	Joshua Tree
Mar 12-13 Joshua Tree	Apr 2 Big Rock	Apr 9-10 Joshua Tree

(JE)

STONY PT. JAN 9

Approximately 40 students and 20 RCS instructors attended the practice session. The reason for reduced numbers of students is uncertain, but some speculate that it may have been due to the Super Bowl Game, the long awaited snow, or the sadistic

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degenerate who drops the bucket. No names will be mentioned to protect the guilty. The weather was fine and all went well.

(JE)

SKI MOUNTAINEERS IN THE 1960's

The decade of the 1960's is remembered as the "Golden Age" for the SMS and other mountain wilderness users. Opening of new access roads (San Gorgonio, Onion Valley, Bishop Creek) and new freeways made getting to the mountains easier, yet there were no permits required or arbitrary camping restrictions. Names of those active during that time still familiar today are John Wedberg, George Shinno, John Mendenhall, Harvey Hickman, Barbara Lilley, Steve Wilkie, Walt Davie, Sy Ossosky--some of whom are no longer as active but still ski, subscribe to Mugelnoos and help out as Mugelnoos editors or leaders of "checkout" tours.

Snow Conditions

Snowfall in the 1960's produced about an even split between light and heavy years. In light years snowfall tended to occur early (in all but 2 years there was good skiing in November and never later than mid December) so that late season tours had to be cancelled. However, 1962 and 1964 were well above normal and 1965 and 1967 received late, heavy snowfall, 1967 broke a 40-year record and 1969 was, of course, the biggest snow year in Calif. weather history. In that year, every tour before early May was either cancelled or relocated to a different area! Roads were closed; tours to San Jacinto via the tramway were held twice.

Alpine Ski Tours

Several ski touring areas were favorites then as now. In the early 60's, the Pear Lake Hut tour was held once a year in March; more often than not deep powder was encountered on the "winter summit" of Alta Pk., providing good footage for the ski mountaineering movie. In 1966 "winter" tours were changed to February (it was easier to get the Hut in those days). Once, after a rain, good spring skiing was discovered on "instant spring snow" on the south-facing slopes of Pk. 11,400'. Also starting in 1966 "spring" tours were held on opening day of fishing season (to avoid the Crowley Lake traffic). On this weekend, in 1966 the real Alta Pk. was climbed, in 1967 the best powder snow ever was enjoyed right to the cars & the road to Wolverton was still closed, in 1968 the "backside" run was discovered; in 1969 the trail markers were just melting out (the Feb. tour had been cancelled due to a big storm).

A tour to San Gorgonio was scheduled every year; the Edelweiss Hut (located below the Little Draw) still existed in the early 60's. With the discovery of the east-facing gully on Mt. Charlton and usually reliable water at Dry Lake (a cold place to camp but until recently it was still possible to enjoy evening campfires there) this area has continued to prove quite reliable for late March tours, especially since the road was paved in the late 60's. (Prior to that, "mud" chains were often required and once a car stuck in deep mud completely blocked the road to Poopout Hill.)

Tours were also scheduled to Onion Valley every year; after the opening of the new road in 1963 this area has continued to be reliable for April car camp touring, often providing both powder and spring snow in Robinson Basin and toward Kearsarge Pass. Even in low snow years the north-facing slopes below University Pk. provided good skiing. In 1965 there was 10' of snow in Robinson Basin in May!

Tours to Lamark Col were also scheduled regularly in May (alho not always successful due to occasional icy winds) as the snowcover is quite reliable and the road is plowed to Aspendell at least. On warm spring days good skiing was enjoyed down the south slopes of Lamark Pk. In 1967 their campfire at Grass Lake sank 8 feet and did not reach bottom!

The Baldy Hut was not scheduled due to unreliable snow but about every 2 years a tour would be relocated there from the Sierra (this was also the "Golden Age" as it was prior to the discovery of the Hut by the BMMC!). Excellent spring skiing was found.

Successful Memorial Day Weekend tours were held to Mt. Shasta (1961), to the Sawtooth Ridge (1963, 65), Muir Hut (1967) and Mt. Ritter (1969). Two tours to Bishop Pass were both stormed on; other exploratory tours to Trail Peak, Maysan Lakes, Laurel Lake ~~****~~ (including the infamous ski descent of the Bloody Mtn. couloir), McGee Creek, Big Pine Creek, San Jacinto, White Mtn, Whitney, generally tended not to be rescheduled due to special problems with snow conditions and/or access roads. With the opening of June Mt. ski area (1961)--first the Face and then the upper chairs--tours were more ~~****~~ likely to be cancelled in event of a storm and relocated there for the powder skiing!

Summary

Other noteworthy events during this decade include the taking of all the footage for the Ski Mountaineers movie and having a work print made (money for completion would have been available had it been followed through at the time); Passing of the "Big Badge" test by 5 people in 1961, last time taken; moving of meeting date and place from second Thursday at Arroyo Seco Playground (you should have heard the noise there) to third Wednesdays at Lemon Grove; start of the ski touring equipment talks; developing and eventually printing basic equipment and safety rules as new types of both downhill and back-country skiing equipment appeared in the market, with equipment checkouts required for all newcomers (checkout tours began in the 70's); revision of the SMS By-laws to provide for the Mugelnoos Committee; and finally in 1969 the raising of Mugelnoos subscription fees to \$2.00 per year.

THE ABOMINABLE SKI MOUNTAINEER DOES EXIST

As a snowshoer, this article is written in reply to the article written by and for the ABOMINABLE SKI MOUNTAINEER (hereafter referred to as ASM). Like many undesirable species the ASM exist on the winter slopes of California mountains.

The ASM existence is considered abominable because of its habit of leaving Choo Choo tracks all over the mountains that favor the snowshoer. As the snowshoer glides peacefully over the snow seeking the serenity of the winter mountain setting, the beauty is vulgarly blighted with Choo Choo tracks converging from all directions like Grand Central Station. The quietude is broken by a herd of ASM screaming down the slopes like a bunch of Banshees. When the snowshoer gets to his revered campsite all he finds is a big charred hole melted in the snow around which a herd of ASM has performed some strange ritual.

Apparently the ASM lacking intelligence gets lost and wanders into snowshoe country while trying to find his way back to the rest of the herd which can be found in their natural habitat at Mammoth, Big Bear, Baldy and Badger Pass.

Ask any Nature lover and he will tell you the obvious that Nature intended the winter mountain setting for the snowshoer. After all, didn't Nature give us the Snowshoe rabbit? Who ever heard of a Ski rabbit?--(The editor is aware of the existence of one known to millions as Jack Rabbit Johnson) For those of you who accept the Darwinian theory, it is a well known fact that the ASM evolved from the Snowbunny and mistakenly believes that the regal winter mountain is his home instead of the manicured slopes.

It is firmly believed by this snowshoer that the ASM with his Choo Choo tracks should be Chattanooga bound.

(NOTE: This report is based largely on my own personal observations and on material published in MUGELNOOS, and articles published in True, Backpacker, Mad, Playboys, Out, and the National Lampoon plus details furnished by special consultant Sergeant Preston of the Yukon.) -- Editor comment, Perhaps next month we'll hear from an ABOMINABLE SNOWMOBILING SKIDOEBRINER. (JP)

MORE PAID UP MUGELNOOS SUBSCRIBERS:

N. Madsen	K. Wiesemann	M. Heishi	B. Dixon
M. Snowden	J. Gedaugas	S. Klein	E. Davilier
J & P Davis	E. Unge	C. Shaw	F. Cordova
J. Hoste	T & C Ross	J. Wiggins	J. Barnett
H. Ory	R. Wade	V. Lloyd	D. Burdett
D. Wallace	A. Takach	M. Collinsworth	M. Swingle
J. Cook	J. Inskeep	M. Stankevitch	P. Hawthorne
L. Finegold	R. Spiek	M. Levy	D. Vandershaff
R. Appleman	W. Voss		

FIRST TRAINING SESSION

A perfect day at Stony Pt. on December 12 signaled the first training climb sponsored by the RCS training committee. This years students seem to be the most advanced of any passed groups. 62 of 69 students showed up which reflects the enthusiasm of the present recruits.

The training program has been revised to meet the needs of this years more experienced student, as well as the beginner. This years training will also cover the use of more up to date equipment.

A special thanks to the RCS members who served as instructors. They showed as much enthusiasm as the students. Any Member or soon to be member, willing to help at these training sessions are welcome.

(AC)

DROUGHT ENDS IN DELUGE - HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF

Just as happened last year, a long drought was broken by a massive storm which dropped up to 6 feet of snow in So. Calif. mountains, thus assuring that allski tours schuled in this region("checkout"; Baldy, San Gorgonio) will GO. Unfortunately, just as last year, very little snow fell in the Sierra north of Olanca and the future of all Sierra tours, including Pear Lake, is still in doubt. Ski Mountaineers who headed north for the weekend of Jan 8-9 found extremely marginal skiing conditions at June. ~~The ski area~~ Mammoth was only able to operate its lower lifts on about 2 feet of snow. Thanks to reports of hazardous road conditions (untrue), the locally heavy snow and the Super Bowl, lift lines at both areas there were short or non-existent and the skiing was excellent. But at least two more feet of snow is needed before these Sierra areas can offer good skiing again. So keep THINKING SNOW!

(BL)

RINGING OUT THE OLD & RINGING IN THE NEW

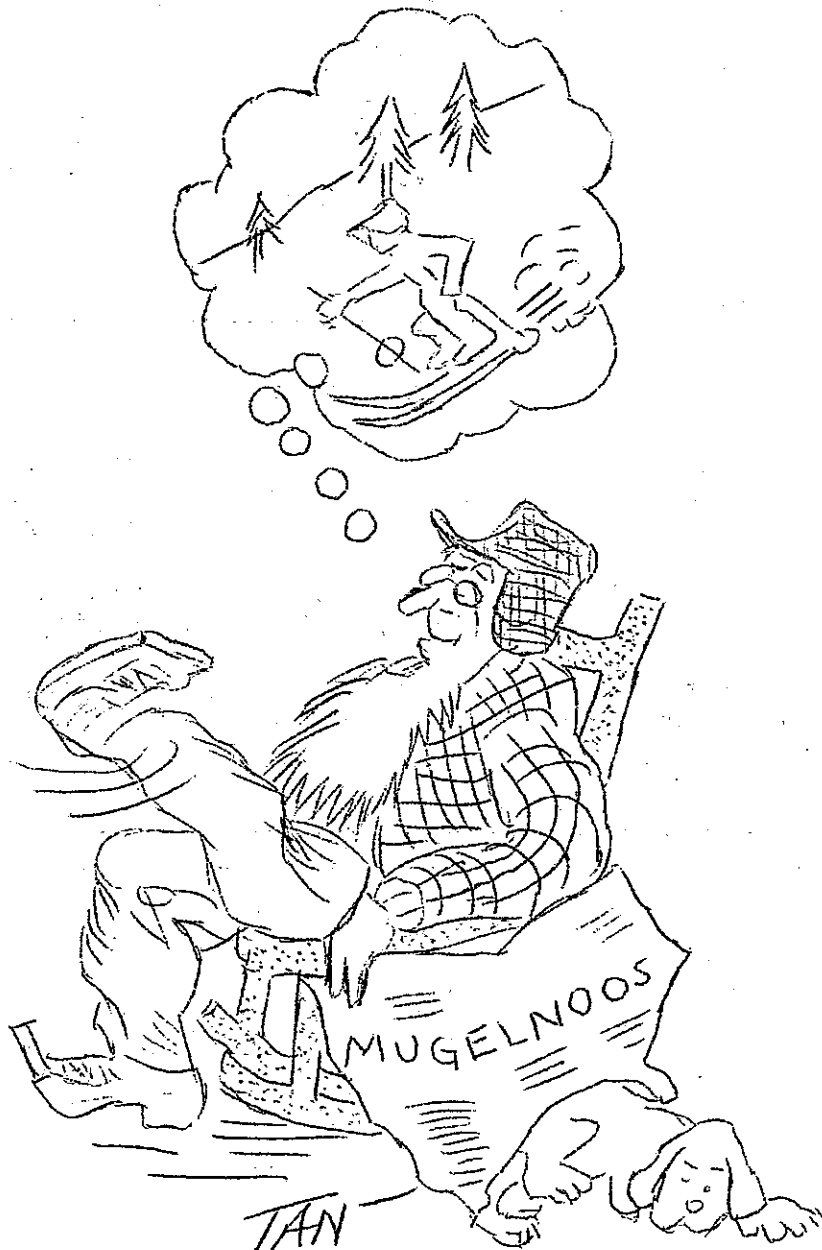
Over the long New Year's weekend Andy Fried, John Mendenhall and Tim Ryan journeyed to Yosemite to enjoy the newly fallen snow. On Dec 31 the trio set out on the Glacier Point Road from Summit Meadow at the terribly late hour of 10 A.M.. The tour was made possible by 6-8 inches of new snow over a firm base of asphalt. Snow conditions were none too good and the trio used a combination of parafin and surfboard wax to keep the snow from freezing to the skis. After a 2 P.M. lunch the group became strung out. John put his vast experience to good use. He arrived back at Andy's van before dark to spend the next hour and a half alone reading the latest Wall Street Journal. Tim, who had been in the lead, turned off the road and scrambled up Sentinel Dome where he enjoyed the impressive views of the Diving Board and Half Dome silhouetted against a snowy sierra. Andy, an ever faithful companion, attempted to catch up to Tim but instead wound up skiing all the way to Glacier Point. By the time Andy figured out what had happened Tim was well on the way back. Fortunately for Tim the temperature dropped rapidly and Andy was completely cooled off when he reached the van.

On New Year's Day the snow was in much better shape since the mercury had plummeted to -12°F during the night. The trio was joined by Barbara Schoetz. Barbara & Tim skied around the Bridalveil Campground while John & Andy set off through the woods toward Deer Camp. No problems developed and a halt to the day's skiing was called at 4 P.M.. The group resolved that more mountainific adventures were of order for 1977. The first wasn't long in coming.

On Jan 9, Barbara and Tim were joined by June Lane and a prominent Ski Mountaineer for a local tour on Frazier Pk. This tour was made on 2-4 feet of powder, the kind normally found in Colorado. The view from the summit lookout was outstanding. The southern sierras were plainly visible. You could practically touch Baldy and the rest of the San Gabriels. In the far distance to the southeast several islands were floating in the sky, probably San Geronimo and San Jacinto. The foursome departed the peak at 3:25 P.M. and bombed the seven mile downhill run in 65 minutes.

What kind of skis did we use on these adventures, you ask? Why skinny skis, of course!

(TR)



HAPPY FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY