



**CHINA LAKE MOUNTAIN RESCUE GROUP**  
**P. O. BOX 2037**  
**RIDGECREST, CA 93555**



**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

DECEMBER 25	Christmas	Claus
DECEMBER 30-?	Mt. Whitney Mountaineer's Route	Hinman
JANUARY 7/8	Helicopter Practice	Mason
JANUARY 9	Meeting	Finco
JANUARY 10	CLMRG Policies and Procedures Lecture	Hine
JANUARY 14-16	North Palisade and Environs	Huey
JANUARY 17	Map and Compass Training	Renta
JANUARY 21-22	Ice Climbing, June Lake	Mason
JANUARY 28-29	Cross Country Ski Trip, Jordan Hot Springs	Roseman
FEBRUARY 4-5	Saline Valley Search Practice	Mitchell
FEBRUARY 7 & 9	Avalanche Lectures	Adams
FEBRUARY 11-12	Avalanche Training & Bivouac Practice	Adams
FEBRUARY 13	Meeting	Hine
FEBRUARY 16	Search Case Studies	Lucas
FEBRUARY 18-20	Snowshoe/Ski Trip, White Mountain	Renta

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*I am honored to have my Certificate of Appreciation now framed and displayed on the wall of my trophy room. I love the spectacular yellow jersey and the orange hat, both emblazoned with identification insignia. I put them on and felt like an old bonfire. My grandchildren gathered around and wanted to touch me, but I backed off because I was too hot. Whenever I get on some of the lesser summits down here I'll jump into this gear momentarily in token celebration. Meanwhile it goes under glass in my trophy room."*

**- Russ Huse, after the Anniversary Banquet**

## SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATIONS

<b>88-23</b>	<b>10/18-19/88</b>	<b>Search Finco</b>
<b>Cuyamaca Rancho State Park</b>		

We received a call from Sierra Madre SRT around noon on Tuesday, 18 October. A seven-year-old boy was lost in the Cuyamaca Rancho SP in San Diego County. Mary Schmierer coordinated the call out; Betty Meng assisted.

Ron Leiser, Gary Cunningham, Phil Wilson and I met at the hut at 1700. Due to transportation problems (i.e. lack of vehicles) we did not leave until 1800. We arrived at base camp at the Green Valley Falls Campground at 0030 on Wednesday, 19 October. Lt. Partain, San Diego County Sheriff's Search and Rescue Team, explained that they had search dogs in the field; they would not need us until the morning. We were directed to a Boy Scout camp to sleep.

We arose early and were back in base at 0600. There, we got more information on the search. On Sunday, 16 October, Jesus Antonio "Pepin" Morales-Garcia had wandered off from his campsite to look for pine cones. The Park called San Diego County immediately after the boy was reported missing.

The search on Sunday and Monday concentrated near the campsite. On Tuesday it expanded, and today it would concentrate in a nearby area where tracks had been found and search dogs were alerting. Also, a large number of marines from the San Diego Marine Corps Recruit Depot would continue to search through the heavy brush near the camp. Ab Taylor, from the US Border Patrol and founder of the Hug-A-Tree program, was also involved. Ab was checking all newly-found tracks to see if they could be Pepin's. Don Starke of San Diego MRT sent us to the staging area for breakfast and to await our assignment. A helicopter was to overfly the area at first light to determine possible search zones through the dense Manzanita and brush. At 0900 teams were given their assignments and fielded. We were to cut for tracks across the road from the campground.

As teams finished their assignments they returned to the staging area for meals, prepared by the Salvation Army, then went back to the field. At approximately 1645 a marine from MCRD found the boy.

The marines carried Pepin to where he could be picked up and transported to base camp. From there,

a Life Flight helicopter flew him to the hospital. The hospital reported that Pepin was mildly hypothermic and moderately dehydrated, but there were no signs of injuries. After the examination, Pepin asked for the hamburger and shake he had been promised by the marines.

Pepin was found between 1.5 and 1.75 miles northwest of his camp. It was reported that he said he wandered around during the day and at night would hike to one of the fire roads to sleep because it was warm on the roads. It was not determined why he did not stay on the road.

The Salvation Army had dinner waiting for all the searchers. After dinner, the teams debriefed and we headed home. We arrived in Ridgecrest at 2330.

<b>88-24</b>	<b>10/20-21/88</b>	<b>Alert Hine</b>
<b>Snow Creek</b>		

Linda Finco received a call from Arnold Gaffery of Sierra Madre SRT at 1115 on Thursday, the 20th. He was requesting tracking teams to look for Randy Smith, who had just been reported six days overdue from a hiking trip. The teams were to spend the afternoon searching for clues before further resources would be committed. Base camp was at the Snow Creek campground, NW of Palm Springs.

I responded to Linda's beeper request for a leader. Due to the lunch hour, I could not gather a team soon enough to be able to arrive before dark. I called the Sierra Madre answering machine and committed us as an alert team if further resources were required. When the Thursday afternoon searchers and Friday's Sheriff's investigation failed to produce any clues, the alert was secured. The time was 1400 on Friday.

Other members involved: Green, Roseman, Castro, Cunningham, Speck and Antonsen. Mary Schmierer was the Coordinator, assisted by Telephoner Betty Meng.

<b>88-25</b>	<b>10/27/88</b>	<b>Search Stogsdill</b>
<b>Lava Mountains</b>		

CLMRG Coordinator Mary Schmierer called me at about 1843 with the news that her mother, Virginia Boyd,

along with two friends Ed and Florence Albright, were overdue from an outing somewhere in the Lava Mountains. The trio are devoted rockhounds and had gone to this area 23 to 25 miles SW of Ridgecrest to enjoy the weather and hunt for whatever it is that rockhounds hunt for. Their intentions were to return to Ridgecrest no later than 1500.

Mary had already called the Kern County Sheriff's Office, who in turn called the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Substation in Trona. Gary Frock of the Trona Substation asked the Barstow SAR unit to respond. Mary was concerned that it could be some time before Barstow could be in the field and, not knowing the extent of the problem along with growing worries about her mother, asked me if CLMRG could field a team. I told her that I would call Trona to make sure that we would not be stepping on any toes if some CLMRG members with 4WD vehicles began a hasty search.

Prock concurred that this would be a good idea, and requested that we also send someone who knew the area over to Trona to assist him and the Barstow team when it arrived.

We assembled at the hut and were on the road by 1930. Dick Compton, a fellow rockbound and friend of the overdue people, was our guide. Dick knew the area very well and said he had a good idea where the group had gone. The areas to search narrowed considerably with his knowledge and his familiarity with the overdue party. He was sure that they had gone into one of the two canyons which were their favorite haunts.

At about 2030 we turned off Trona Road to the east and into the desert. Virginia Boyd and Florence Albright were spotted headed west on foot and within several hundred yards of the road. Virginia was exhausted and thirsty, but otherwise appeared in good condition. We later odometered the distance they had walked as 11.1 miles.

Florence said she felt well enough to continue with us to where Ed waited with their disabled vehicle. CLMRG member Mike Mason transported Virginia back to Ridgecrest and to alert the sheriff of the situation. Ed and the vehicle were located at 2130. He was in good condition and happy to see that his wife was okay. We jump started the vehicle and were all back in Ridgecrest by 2330.

Other members participating: Hine, Finco, Renta, Martin and Leiser.

#### Conclusions:

1. Maybe senior citizens should be exposed to Hug-A-Tree. The group would have been found almost as soon, if they had all stayed with their car. It would certainly have been safer to do so.

2. When we found Virginia and Florence, I should have sent two members with Mike back to Ridgecrest. Had there been problems, Mike would have needed the help.

3. The Trona Substation may call us on local problems now that they know we exist. (They are now on our mailing list - ed.)

4. The Ridgecrest Substation could have suggested that CLMRG and IWVSAR were available for emergencies within the local area.

5. It is important to use local talent whenever available. Dick Compton's knowledge was very helpful in locating the search area. Without Dick and the assistance of Florence Albright the task would have taken all night, or longer. Thanks to you both.

88-26	11/13-17/88	Search I
Yosemite Valley		Hine

CLMRG participated in the search for Donald Buchanan, age 86, who was reported missing on Saturday, 13 November. He was due back from a three day solo trip to Half Dome the previous day. Mr. Buchanan had spent a great deal of time in the Half Dome area since the early 1920's and had been training for this trip for some time.

An eyewitness later reported seeing him on the Half Dome trail on Wednesday. The NPS began searching Saturday in moderate weather. A foot of snow fell that night and Sunday.

Huey and I arrived in base camp early Monday: Roseman, McDowell, Harris and Castro would arrive the next day.

The NPS had initiated the Incident Command System (ICS) early and had good control of the resources available and search strategy. During the next three days we were given various assignments in the Little Yosemite Valley area.

Monday we worked with an Explorer Search and Rescue team to do a grid search of the Lost Lake area. Tuesday we worked with members of Bay Area MRU, IWVSAR, and a Mariposa County SAR team, to search

the trails between Happy Isles and the top of Nevada Falls. This did not include the Mist Trail, which the NPS preferred to search themselves due to the level of danger associated with the icy steps.

Wednesday we worked with the NPS in a line search between the Half Dome trail and the Clouds Rest trail. Most of this day was spent in a gentle snowfall. MRA, ESAR, NPS, WOOF, California Rescue Dog Association (CARDA), the California Youth Authority, three helicopters (one equipped with an IR scanner), and others searched and researched. Unfortunately, by Wednesday night no clues had been found. The NPS suspended the large scale search, and we left for home. Sheila Rockwell was the In-Town Coordinator; she was assisted by Telephoner Betty Meng.

Comments:

1. The base camp personnel were exemplary during this search. They stressed safety, continued to update information about the subject, provided hot meals, and presented a confident and positive attitude to the field teams. The assignments were well thought out and explained to the teams doing the searching. Each team was debriefed when it returned to base, and was encouraged to provide suggestions or concerns.
2. Once again it was demonstrated how hard it is to manage a twenty-five man line search through mountainous terrain.

<b>88-27</b>	<b>11/23-24/88</b>	<b>Search/Recovery</b>
<b>Death Valley</b>		<b>Lucas</b>

Driving north on Highway 395, we would sometimes see a trim, sandy-haired jogger near Cartago. Don Henze, killed in climbing accident in Death Valley at age 60, will be missed.

Betty Meng called me about 1800 on 23 November looking for an operation leader for a search in Death Valley. I conferred with Tom Stogsdill, who had received the initial call, and we decided to initiate a full team call out. Sheila Rockwell began that while I found out more information.

A CRMRA call out was being coordinated by Sierra Madre. An experienced male climber was 24 hours overdue on a climb of "Fremont Yellow" peak near Natural Bridge, just east of Badwater. Rangers had found his car at the parking lot, but high winds had hampered a helicopter search of the area. They wanted

mountain rescue people to start searching at 0800 the next morning.

At 0500, seven of us (Bob Rockwell, Cunningham, Buf-fum, Ostermann, Speck, Antonsen and Lucas) met at the hut. We loaded gear and drove to the Furnace Creek Ranger Station. There we were briefed along with searchers from Sierra Madre SRT, San Diego MRT, Ventura County SAR, CARDA, and Death Valley NM. The search centered on the mountains just east of Natural Bridge. Teams headed by Rockwell and Buf-fum were helicoptered to Peaks 5488 and 5486, while I stayed to help in base camp. Other teams were sent east from the parking lot and west on the Lemonade Spring trail.

About 1000 the helo crew spotted Don Henze on a small ledge. He had apparently fallen over 200 feet while trying either to traverse a vertical gully or to rappel down it. The search turned into a body recovery effort.

Teams were recalled while available climbers from San Diego MRT and Death Valley NM were helicoptered to a ridge above the victim. Although not involved in the recovery, CLMRG stood by in case we were needed. Climbers had to rappel down to the body and put it into a litter flown in by helo, then hook the litter back on the 150-foot rope suspended from the helo. This sounds simple, but because of the incredibly loose, dangerously steep rock, it took all afternoon. The recovery team was flown out at 1700, after the sun had set behind Telescope Peak.

Comments:

The Rangers had prepared detailed assignments and furnished each field crew with Xerox copies of maps and briefing sheets. The ICS was used and worked well.

If ever you should have to sling load a stretcher below a helo, Miner Harkness (SMSRT) has a technique you should know. Tie one end of a long rope (ours was 150') to the bottom of the helo. On the other end, tie a pack or sack weighted with 15-20 pounds of rocks. Below the sack of rocks tie the stretcher. When the helo takes the empty stretcher up to the rescuers and they untie it, the sack of rocks stays on the rope to keep it from flying up into the helo rotor blades.

3. The rescuers at the accident site used the Park Service frequency to communicate with base camp, leaving those with the MRA frequency in the dark as

to what was going on. However, 150 miles away back in Ridgecrest, member Roger Meng had his HAM set tuned in, capitalizing on the information being relayed by the radio repeater network. He said it was just like being there in person, and kept Sheila informed every few minutes by telephone! So much for secure communications.

<b>88-28</b>	<b>11/24/88</b>	<b>Alert</b>
<b>Red Rock Canyon</b>		<b>Hine</b>

On Thanksgiving evening, Al Green was telephoned by the Kern County dispatcher requesting a CLMRG standby. Two teenage girls were stranded on a ledge 100 feet down a 300-foot cliff in Red Rock State Park. Park Rangers were on the scene, attempting a rescue. We were to respond if additional assistance was required.

A half hour later, we received word that the girls had been retrieved. By that time, twelve members besides me had committed to the operation: Bob Rockwell, Linda Finco, Lee Lucas, Bob Adams, David Silverman, Gary Cunningham, Frank Buffum, Chris Ostermann, Doug Speck and Kit Antonsen. Sheila Rockwell was the Coordinator, assisted by Telephoner Betty Meng.

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From the Los Angeles Times:

The skeletal remains of a missing Goleta couple, who were reported missing in January 1986, were found last month in Saline Valley. They were in a shallow grave about seven miles northeast of where they had been camping. Recent rains had eroded the grave site. Someone walking nearby found a human skull and reported it to authorities.

Barry Berman, 36, and his wife Louise, 52, were identified through dental records. The remains showed no obvious signs of violence, according to Sheriff's Lt. Jack Goodrich, but he said, "Our opinion is that its foul play."

The Bermans had been staying at a campground at Saline Hot Springs on the morning of 6 January, 1986, when they took a walk in the desert wearing tennis shoes, jeans and thin shirts.

At the time of their disappearance, an extensive search involving six agencies failed to find a trace of them. Their 1987 Nissan pickup truck was airlifted

out of the valley, and investigators found that valuables in it had been untouched.

CLMRG was involved with the initial search (see '861). We were on the scene again (see '86-2) when a psychic whose assistance had been enlisted by the family suggested several new areas to search. And again (see '87-5) after two dowsers from back east concluded that they knew where the couple was buried. The bodies were found far from any of these locations.

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Liz Anderson, CLMRG Life Member and Talus Pile editor for many years, retired some time ago and moved to Lincoln, Nebraska. There, she has been taking some classes at the university and writing poetry, using images out of her past. She mailed several samples to Al Green recently, never expecting to see them in print, we are sure. But Liz should know that Talus Pile editors have no honor! Actually, Liz, we thought this one was quite good:

**RESCUE BASE AT LONE PINE**

***The desert east of the airport  
lies hidden in the night.***

***Venus pierces the cold dark  
beyond the weedy runway.***

***Dogs bark fretful messages  
across the Reservation.***

***A coyote yaps to the west.  
The night shortens toward daybreak***

***Aiwa wind touches our faces  
Fe huddle between the trucks  
our boots crunching on the gravel.  
Flashlight glows an a time-check***

***The nightdark splits north to south  
tearing along the skyline.***

***The sky becomes sky - separate  
from the ragged edge of the hills***

***Faking birds stir and question  
radios crackling to life.***

***Rousing from left-over night  
this day begins at first light.***

## SAD NEWS

Long time supporter Lolette Dalbec died of a stroke on 19 November 1988. Stan and Lolette have been the best of friends with the China Lake Mountain Rescue Group since the early 1970's. They were selected as Life Subscribers to the Talus Pile because of their monetary support and because of their close relationship with the Group.

I remember the occasion which brought us together. It was a late-night call for a search in the Sierra Nevada. CLMRG was mobilizing, and Liz Anderson needed a place where she could leave her dog, a large German shepherd, for a few days. She called Casa K-9 Kennels - owned by the Dalbecs - and apologized for getting them out of bed, but it was an emergency of sorts. Liz explained why she could not wait until morning. The Dalbecs were intrigued with the idea of local volunteers going to such lengths to help out a complete stranger in trouble, and accepted the animal.

When the search was over and Liz went to retrieve her dog. Stan and Lolette refused to accept payment. They felt that in that way they were contributing to the success of the operation. Then they gave us a donation.

In subsequent years, they donated heavily to the Group. Also, every now and then a Dalbec customer would be particularly pleased, and want to give a tip. Instead Lolette would say something to the effect: "we don't accept tips, but we'll collect a donation for Mountain Rescue", and hold out a jar.

At the end of each year, they would give to an even \$50 or \$100, suggesting that Lolette never fooled us a bit!

The CLMRG annual summer party is always held to honor and visit with our friends who support us in many ways. The Dalbecs have religiously attended those occasions for the last 15 years, and have always seemed genuinely entertained and pleased with the slides, food, conversation, friendship and comradery which pervade the evening. And we have enjoyed them too.

To the right is a copy of a letter which we received and which was printed in Talus Pile <sup>1</sup>35. It is being repeated now because it portrays a mutual feeling which existed at that time, and which grew stronger in later years.

Stan, we share your sorrow.

August 18, 1976

Dear Nice People of Mountain Search + Rescue:-  
Stan and I thank all of you for a delightful evening.  
Such yummy food in so pleasant a garden, complete with fire pit (which was very welcome), among a lively conversant group of warm people, is a memory to be cherished. Also we always enjoy your slides and the information and progress they show. Stan + I are proud of you.  
Stan + I do so very little really - for a Group which does so much. I only wish we could not only do more ourselves, but find some way to give consistent aid and enthusiasm from more of the local public. We sure do keep trying on both Counts! Suggestions would be helpful.  
Again I'd like to express our pleasure and interest in The Talus Pile. It keeps us stay-at-homes in close contact with your individuals. We are gladdened to read of your successes and mourn with you in your trail trips - we do read it with empathy.  
Thanks again! Most sincerely,  
Stan + Lolette Dalbec

## 30th ANNIVERSARY BANQUET

The CLMRG 30-year celebration *was* held at the Carriage Inn on November 5, 1988, and was an evening to remember. Important agency representatives attending included Lt. Carl Sparks from the Kern County Sheriffs Office, Sgt. Dan Lucas from the Inyo County Sheriff's Office, Capt Kenneth Kelley from the Naval Weapons Center, and others. We can thank CLMRGers Bob Huey, Daryl Hinman, Mike Mason and Mike Renta for the success of the evening. It *was* clearly a lot of work but the results were well worth it!

There were three main speakers, with Tom Stogsdill acting as MC (mission coordinator?). Long time member Frank Buffum spoke of "30 Years in Action" with the CLMRG. Sgt. Lucas told of his view of what we provide in the way of SAR support to Inyo County. Russell Huse, also a long time member (emeritus) talked of the early days, and how they relate to the modern days and may provide insight to the future days. CLMRG longevity awards, in the form of certificates, hats, and tee *shirts*, were handed out to everyone with at least 5 years of active service.

From the standpoint of the Talus Pile, there *was* enough information presented to provide material for the next 30 issues! As a start, let's summarize some of Frank's data which were current as of 5 November:

- we now average about 30 operations per year
- we have had a total of 567 operations
- most of our operations begin in the summer, and on weekends
- a third of the time we get called off before we get into the field
- half of our field operations are searches; one fourth are rescues; *the* remainder are retrievals of injured or deceased persons
- most calls are for adults who are hiking, climbing or camping
- most of our operations occur in the Mt. Whitney area, followed by Yosemite and the Palisades
- we have had 8 operational calls from other states (two from Alaska), and 13 from other countries
- we have brought out 405 people alive:
  - 191 people who were lost
  - 214 people who were stranded, injured or sick
- we have not found 60 people (this is undoubtedly our most difficult type of operation)

## DONOR'S CORNER

Donations have come in from Lois Adamsen (Carl Heller's sister), Greg and Diana Rogers (Greg is an ex-member who recently moved to Colorado), CLMRG Life Member Russ Huse (twice in the past two months). Terry and Virginia Stirling (friends of Erich Eichmann, who died on the East Buttress of Mt. Whitney - see \*73-23), and Clark Trowell (ex-member, living in Lone Pine).

Ed and Florence Albright, and Virginia Boyd (see #85-25 in this issue) contributed, as did long time donors Robert Trousdale and Fred Bode.

Several donations have been made in the memory of Lolette Dalbec: Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Pashley of Corona Del Mar, CA; Mr. and Mrs. William Harris of *Nashua*, NH; and Ms. Dorothy Gould of Inyokern, CA.

Traute Peterson (mother of Corinna Peterson, CLMRG member who perished in August, 1983) sent us a very generous check, and a nice note saying how much she appreciated receiving the Talus Pile. Because of her financial support over the years and her deep interest in the Group, she has been designated a Life Subscriber to the Talus Pile by CLMRG. Thank you, Ms. Peterson.

And we thank all of you. Our effectiveness on operations is a direct result of how well we are equipped, and that takes money. Your generosity is in a real way helping to save lives.

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### **MORE GENEROSITY**

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In a different vein, readers will recall that CLMRG Charter Member Ray Van Aken died in September. We took up a collection at the 3 October monthly meeting, and sent a check to the American Cancer Society. We received a nice letter from both the Society and from Ray's widow, Jane.

Also, on 16 December, a string quartet from the Burroughs High School Orchestra was "hired" to play Christmas carols at the annual CLMRG Christmas party. The BHS Orchestra is raising funds to pay expenses for a trip to London in June, where they have been invited to perform (one of only three from the United States). Several at the party were sufficiently appreciative of the good music to dip into their own pockets and add to the cause.

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### **EDITORS' CORNER**

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You may note that the column "Past Training Events" is missing. This column was an experiment, and appeared in the last two issues. We have decided to drop it as a regular feature for a number of reasons. Probably foremost is that it took a lot of time to compose: it had to be concise, yet complete, and contain a certain level of humor lest it be merely a long listing of places, dates, and names.

Secondly, it turned out to be an effort to keep the column down to one page (we are an active organization!); length is important because the postman charges us one stamp for five sheets, and an extra sheet almost doubles the mailing cost (as well as adding 20% to the printing cost). We are sensitive to the expense because our donors expect their contributions to go directly toward our effectiveness in search and rescue. The Talus Pile is an important part of our record-keeping process, and performs a vital public relations function, but we need to minimize its cost.

Finally, accurate records of members' activities are kept by the Qualifications Committee, and it is not necessary to repeat them in each Talus Pile issue for everyone to see. Doing it now and then is sufficient. The significant thing is that readers get the impression that we have an active training schedule, including climbing - different kinds of climbing - for conditioning, for route familiarization, to stay knowledgeable about each other's capabilities and limitations .. and it is fun. Secondly, we actively support that schedule, with many hours and days devoted by the membership, in order to keep important skills honed.

So "Past Training Events" will not be a regular feature. Hopefully, we will rather have the opportunity now and then to mention where we have gone, who went, and in a nutshell make some of the members' names a little more familiar to the readers who are somewhat on the periphery of CLMRG. But only now and then.



From an article in the Los Angeles Times:

What would Muir think were he to scramble up a spruce today and survey the American landscape?

"The high-tech environmental challenges would boggle his mind," said M. Rupert Cutler, president of the Washington-based Defenders of Wildlife.

At the same time, though, the basic issues are the same now as they were when Muir was launching the movement, he said: "The contest between those who favor a stewardship approach to the environment, who see man as part of a natural ecosystem as opposed to those who want to make a fast buck off resources is very much - the same."

"I think Muir would be as despondent as hell," Pritchard said. "I think he would wonder what change had occurred in the psyche of man, that he would be willing to tolerate what we now accept as the norm."

"I think that he would go back into the wilderness and wonder, 'How is it that mankind is really so incapable of committing himself to understanding the importance of silence in his daily routine, the importance of the diversity of wildlife in his daily routine, the importance of clean skies and naturally flowing water in his daily routine?'"

"I think Muir would have a hard time making it today."

The renowned free-soloist Peter Croft, on the subject of young climbers contemplating similar unroped feats on steep faces:

*"Don't ever do it for any reason than for yourself. Because if you do fall as you're falling hundreds of feet to the ground you'll realize you've had an awful joke played on yourself"*

Another article in the Los Angeles Times:

A bow hunter from West Virginia, who paid \$59,000 for his permit, claimed the first desert bighorn sheep of the second hunt in California in 115 years. Jim R. Ryan of Madison, W. Va., bid that sum at an auction last March for the privilege of hunting alone, ahead of the eight hunters who drew tags in a Department of Fish and Game lottery and will start hunting Saturday at two sites in the eastern Mojave Desert.

- Last year's hunt ended a moratorium on bighorn hunting that had been in effect since 1873. Despite interference from anti-hunt activists, all nine hunters were successful, including Bob Howard of Palm

Springs, who had bid \$70,000 for the exclusive advance hunt. Inc money goes into a DFG fund for bighorn management.

Ryan, who operates a coal mining business in Danville, W. Va., shot an 11-year-old ram in the Marble Mountain area west of Needles at 3:15 p.m. of his third day out. Using a 125-pound-pull bow, he brought down the animal with one shot from 50 yards.

With the kill, Ryan, a bow hunter for 30 years, completed a personal "grand slam" of the four North American bighorn species: desert (or Nelson), dall, stone and Rocky Mountain.



—From the cover of the 1988 book on Accidents in North American Mountaineering



From The China Lake  
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