

## VIII. SPLIT MOUNTAIN (14,051 FEET)

Ansel F. Hall climbed Split Mountain, sometimes known as the South Palisade, on August 28, 1921. He found no records of ascents between 1910 and 1921, when the mountain was also ascended by H. M. Ellis, L. T. Thorsen, and S. M. Fitton on July 31st, and by Clifton Hildebrand on August 5th.

The first ascent of Split Mountain was made by J. N. Le Conte, Helen M. Le Conte, and Curtis M. Lindley on July 23, 1902. They were followed in 1904, and again in 1905 and 1907, by parties of the United States Geological Survey, who occupied this summit as a triangulation station. On July 31, 1910, J. N. Le Conte revisited the peak with R. M. Price and R. G. Marx. These are all the ascents recorded.

## THROUGH ROARING RIVER GORGE

BY J. B. AGNEW

The public demand of the day is highways, roads, and trails, and there is great need of a trail up Roaring River to open up Sugar-Loaf Valley, the Giant Forest, the Kern-Kaweah, etc.

There were four trails entering Kings River Cañon from the south and as many leaving it to the north and east. The old Shipe Trail, long abandoned, dropped into the cañon some four miles below Cedar Grove. This trail was named for an old miner who came to town periodically with bags of gold-dust. On Christmas Eve, 1872, Shipe was shot by McCrury, who was promptly hanged by a vigilance committee, and people are still looking for the lost Shipe mine.

The lower trail, made by Poly Kanawyer and Jim Clay for early spring travel, enters the cañon about two miles below Cedar Grove, but is never much used.

The main trail, built by Sam L. N. Ellis down the long hill from Summit Meadow, has taken most of the travel for the past twenty-five years. Anyone going into the cañon will never forget this drop of three to four thousand feet in three to four miles.

The fourth trail, known as the Old Independence Trail when I first traveled it thirty-seven years ago, was used by the Putes of Owens Valley for trading or fighting with the Diggers of the San Joaquin Valley long before the white man's day. This trail comes down the east side of Fox Creek, reaching the cañon a short distance east of Cedar Grove.

During September, this year, in company with a hunting party of eight, we picked up a few broken fragments of this old abandoned trail and followed it up to where it crosses the east branch of Fox Creek; here we took up the steep mountain to the east and camped for several days at a little meadow on the north side of Sentinel Ridge. We prospected the south wall of Kings River Cañon and the country along the west of Roaring River to see if it would be possible to build a trail down through Roaring River Gorge.

I was not fully satisfied with just looking down this wonderful gorge, so a little later I took three of our party and six horses from our central camp at Horse Corral, rode up to Mount Mitchell (10,375 ft.), thence along the top of



ROCKY MOUNTAIN MULE-DEER (*Odocoileus hemionus hemionus*)  
Photo by Ansel E. Adams