

Traumatic beginnings gave birth to the “Annual Death March,” a weekend backpacking adventure eagerly awaited by members and friends of HMWC CPAs and Business Advisors, a seemingly all-business bunch of Certified Public Accountants. In 1979, several of them thought it would be fun to drive to the Sierra Nevada Mountains and then walk to the summit of Mt. Whitney, the highest peak in California. A whole weekend would be spent to make the hike especially easy. Obviously knowing nothing of backpacking in the rugged mountains at high altitudes, these fellows were lucky to survive this misadventure. Typical of their naivete, they discovered at the last moment that a wilderness permit was needed. When none was available for the popular direct route to Mt. Whitney, they were not the least bit suspicious at the ease with which they were able to get a pass for an alternate route that turned what was to be a 20 mile hike into a 45 mile “Death March!” The rest is history.



*Following a successful career, Author Gerald Herter, CPA, shifted focus to recount adventures experienced along the way. Hiking through the American West or tapping the ancient mysteries of far off lands, he and his wife, Lori, continue to seek adventures. They live in Southern California.*

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# From Ledgers to Ledges

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