



SIERRA CLUB  
BULLETIN

*May*  
1950

# Miscellany

*FWOC Convention:* All conventions need committees and President Lewis F. Clark has appointed a committee to arrange for the convention of the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs for which the Sierra Club is host: Tillie Smedberg, Richard N. Burnley, Sid Bymel, Jack Dearth, Emerson LeClercq, and Cy Washburn.

Clair Tappaan Lodge, at Norden, is the place, and Labor Day week end (September 2-4) is the time.

Plan to attend. If you've ever been to one you know what a good time you'll have; if you haven't, come and meet other people who love the out-of-doors as you do, and discuss problems of mutual interest. Representatives of all Western outdoor clubs will be there.

Reservations are now being accepted for meals and lodging from Saturday noon through Monday lunch at \$8 per person. There are many single bunks in the women's quarters and men's annex, and a few small cubicles for married couples.

Plan to bring warm clothing (it can get cold at 7,000 feet elevation in September) as well as your sleeping bag and toilet articles.

Reservations, maps, and information may be obtained by writing to Sierra Club, FWOC Convention Committee, 1050 Mills Tower, San Francisco 4. (The Lodge will be open prior to and after the convention.)

CY WASHBURN

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Cover: High Sierra rock garden. By Ansel Adams.

*THE SIERRA CLUB*, founded in 1892, has devoted itself to the study and protection of national scenic resources, particularly those of the mountain regions of the Pacific Coast. Since these resources receive best protection from those who know them well, the club has long conducted educational activities, under the committees listed below, to make them known. Participation is invited in the program to preserve wilderness, wildlife, forests, and streams.

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# Sierra Club Bulletin

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NUMBER 5

...TO EXPLORE, ENJOY, AND PROTECT THE NATURAL MOUNTAIN SCENE...

## On the Bending of Twigs

### *Calling All Teachers*

*First question:* When did you, as a student or pupil, first become aware of an interest in wild things—and through that interest of the importance of wildlife and wild-land scenes (of the biotic community, if you will) to man and the world he claims as his own?

*Second question:* What have you, as a teacher, done to implant this interest in those as young as you when you acquired it, or what do you think you and other teachers, by giving and receiving Sierra Club assistance, can do to see that students will duly appreciate the natural world—even sooner than you did?

These are long questions, but they are important. The natural world is retreating farther and farther, physically speaking, from the classroom. The retreat can become a rout unless teachers can show the students how to appreciate and protect that world.

The vast Sierra Club membership includes people at all levels in the field of education—from university presidents to preschool teachers. The club can contribute outstandingly to the nation's welfare if these teachers will help the club to develop a program of furthering conservation education.

What are your ideas and recommendations? The club has no fortune to expend on this program, but it has a wealth of

talent and knowledge—yours if you will contribute it. You can best suggest where the unified efforts of the club's teachers are most effectively to be directed. Should we concentrate on federal and state educational agencies or develop a grass-roots organization, in which the club's widespread membership can make county and city boards of education—or even individual schools—more aware than they are of education's need for conservation?

The field of conservation education is not new, but there is nevertheless much yet to be done. The West should lead, for it has most at stake. The club's fifty-eight year program has been to protect natural resources; it cannot be a well-rounded program until we are sure that our children are learning to cherish what has been protected for them, and that they feel the importance of protecting these resources for their children in turn.

A lot of twigs are being bent these days. What can you do—through, with, and for the club—to see that the bend is right?

Your ideas are needed—and your offer of whatever time you can spare. Lists of teaching materials, ideas, and suggestions for building a program in the schools are now being assembled and teachers may enjoy the benefit of this service. Please write to Mrs. F. Verdi, Chairman, Education Section of the Conservation Committee, 962 Euclid Avenue, Berkeley 8, California.

D. R. B.

## San Jacinto: Report on a Hearing

The cause of wilderness protection was well served at the San Jacinto hearing at Riverside on April 20-21, when conservationists from all over the country appeared to speak against granting a right of way across Forest Service land to permit the building of a tramway up Mount San Jacinto's east face into the San Jacinto State Park.

Among the fifty-three who spoke for retention of the primitive status of the mountaintop area were not only famous conservationists, representing national organizations, but also private citizens speaking as individuals. This evidence of widespread concern for natural-area protection was in significant contrast to the local interest of the thirty-six speakers for the tramway, nearly all of whom were connected with Palm Springs business or with chambers of commerce.

### *National Organizations Heard*

These national organizations were represented by these speakers: The Wilderness Society by its Director, Dr. Olaus J. Murie, of Moose, Wyoming; The National Parks Association by its Executive Secretary, Devereux Butcher, of Washington, D.C.; National Audubon Society by its District Representative, Mrs. J. H. Comby, of Los Angeles; Izaak Walton League of America by its Western Representative, J. W. Penfold, of Denver; Sierra Club by the Vice-President, Dr. Harold E. Crowe, of Los Angeles; the American Planning and Civic Association, National Conference on State Parks, Wildlife Management Institute, and American Nature Association, by their versatile official, Howard Zahniser, of Washington.

### *Conservationists Present United Front*

Mr. Zahniser's multiple duties typify the coordination through which conservation groups everywhere are gaining in strength and effectiveness: it seems to be the style for officers and leaders of any given organization to hold membership—in not office!—in several others. So many

of the representatives of other groups were also Sierra Club members that the hearing room looked somewhat like the site of a club reunion.

The Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs was represented by its President, Harry C. James, of Altadena; and there were spokesmen for numerous California or local organizations—scientific, conservation, or recreational—and for units of national groups. The Southern California, Riverside, and San Diego chapters of the Sierra Club were ably represented by Nathan C. Clark, Joe R. Momyer, and Judge Charles C. Haines.

### *Eighty-Nine Speakers Heard*

The hearing lasted all through Thursday and much of Thursday evening, and was concluded on Friday morning. The meeting was opened with remarks by the hearing officer; then the proposed tramway operation was described by the attorney and the engineer for the Winter Park Authority. They were followed by Guy L. Fleming, formerly district superintendent for the state parks, who gave the history of establishment of the San Jacinto State Park and presented evidence that the intention of the founders had been to maintain the entire mountaintop area in its primitive condition. Thereafter speakers for and against the proposal were called on alternately, in an order roughly determined by lot.

Individuals who had not applied previously but who wished to be heard were given time after all scheduled speakers had been called on, and some of the most interesting viewpoints were presented at this time.

### *Tramway Opponents Deny Self-Interest*

It was gratifying to see how many of those defending the primitive area evidenced a sincerely altruistic interest in preservation of scenic resources for the benefit of others than themselves. Proponents of the tramway had repeatedly asserted that they were interested pri-

marily in making the beautiful wilderness accessible to all the thousands upon thousands of people too old or too infirm to travel into it by trail, but still entitled to the opportunity for a fine view. The best rebuttals to these arguments came from the least rugged. One of the speakers was an 82-year-old woman who stated that she had been on foot to the top of the mountain, but was ready now to step aside for younger sightseers who were willing to travel into the wilderness without altering its status. Another speaker—not young, but still vigorous—declared that when he got too old to go up on his own feet he didn't want a \$10,000,000 contraption to haul him up! A number of people spoke of the availability of other fine views from existing roads and from aircraft.

#### *Decision to Come From Washington*

The tremendous amount of evidence amassed at the hearing, together with some 3,300 communications received by the Regional Forester, must be carefully analyzed and tabulated before they are sent, with a recommendation, to Chief Forester Lyle Watts, in Washington. The Chief Forester must then make a recommendation to the Secretary of Agriculture, who will send his recommendation through the Bureau of Land Management to the Secretary of the Interior, to whom the Winter Park Authority originally made application for the right of way but who, in turn, consulted the Forest Service. The long interbureau course that must be followed in the effort to make a sound decision on a complex problem cannot be traveled quickly, and it will be some time before the outcome is known. Conservationists still have an opportunity to present their views at least once along that course. When Agriculture's recommendation has been transmitted to Interior's Bureau of Land Management, expression of public sentiment should again be very valuable. Sierrans and all who love the wild places will do well to keep thinking and talking of what San Jacinto—and all the primitive areas

it stands for—can mean to the future, and to be ready to present further (or renewed) arguments for the protection of San Jacinto.

#### *Membership Lauded for Help*

Sierra Club members responded so gratifyingly to the request that they write to the Regional Forester that the club office has received carbon copies of several hundred excellent letters. There must have been many more. These *individual* expressions of views on wilderness preservation are important, and their public-spirited writers are to be congratulated. May your pen grow ever mightier!

C.E.M.

#### *Ski-Tour Season Successful*

Ski touring is developing satisfactorily as a popular, although still somewhat specialized, club activity.

Owing to the limited time available on week ends, no extended trips were undertaken by the club. Attempts were made to have new members participate in the planning and leading of trips.

During the month of April the ski tourists visited the following places: Pear Lake, Sequoia National Park, a party of 6 and one of 7; Ostrander Lake, Yosemite National Park, parties of 21 and 28; Mount Lassen, a party of 12; Twin Lakes, near Echo Summit, 6; and Pyramid Peak, a snow-camping party of 13 skiers.

There have been 23 parties comprising 75 people, at the newly-opened Benson Hut since the first of the year. More than 80 have visited Peter Grubb Hut.

Trips were also planned for Mineral King, the Sonora Pass region and Mount Lassen for later in the spring.

Most satisfying to report is that the ski touring seems to be developing as it should, with the skiers learning the way to do it safely and well. All the trips were conducted without accident.

EMILE LACRAMPE, *Chairman,*  
*Snow-Camping Committee.*



BASE CAMP COUNTRY  
At the head of the  
Middle Fork of Bishop Creek

By A. E. Taylor

## Base Camp Adds Commissary Members

Due to the great number and variety of interesting features which the Base Campers will want to visit, the following additions have been made to the announcement commissary list.

While John Thomas Howell will assume charge of natural sciences during the second period, Enid Michael will lead the botanical and bird-study trips on the first two weeks. Mrs. Michael will be long remembered for her excellent work as a ranger-naturalist in Yosemite, and for her bird walks last year on Base Camp.

The medical responsibilities of Camp will be assumed by Dr. Ernest Rodgers of San Francisco during the first session and by Dr. Pierre Walker on the second. Both men stand high in their profession and are familiar with outdoor hazards. We hope that we won't need them but it will be comforting to know that they will be around, just in case.

To aid the Base Campers in their off-trail explorations into the little-frequented glacial amphitheaters and their gemlike lakes, we have induced Merle Wilson and Cliff Youngquist to undertake the responsibility of leading these trips. Any one who has followed these two men on previous outings will know what a privilege it will be to hike with them again this summer.

Jim Koontz has wired that he anticipates making several extensive knapsack trips and possibly climbing in the 14,000-foot Palisade group of peaks. If sufficient demand becomes evident he may take a party through the fascinating Enchanted Gorge.

From the above announcements, it is apparent that Bob Thompson and Oliver Kehrlein intend to do a lot of loafing—at least their wives hope so.

OLIVER KEHRLEIN

## Emergency in Yosemite Valley

When a forest fire gets started in a National Park, it is recognized as an emergency. Every resource is mobilized to meet it. Money is found; men and equipment hired; rangers are sent in from their regular posts of duty; economy and the limitations of the budget no longer tie the hands of the Superintendent. We all agree

that this is the thing to do—because the damage done is tangible; it can be estimated in terms of acres burned, or millions of board feet destroyed, or in terms of forest beauty converted into an unsightly blackened mountainside.

When the amphitheater in Camp Fourteen, Yosemite Valley, after sixteen years

of splendid service in the Ranger Campfire Programs, was recently condemned as unsafe, very few outside the immediate Service staff were aware that an emergency had developed. There was no cloud of smoke, no roaring flames, no fire-blackened mountain. The loss is intangible—but just as great and just as real as the loss of trees. It means there will be no interpretive programs this summer or next, for the Yosemite visitors who have flocked to them in the past, six nights a week, upwards of fifteen hundred strong, to learn to know their Park. Camp Curry's resort-type entertainment will have a clear field and no competition from the Park Service. This outstanding opportunity to help great masses of visitors to see, to understand and to appreciate the park will have been abandoned until 1952 when it is expected funds will become available. And yet it is clear that the value of the park is not measured by the number of people who check in and out of its portals, but in the degree to which these people are able really to see and understand the things they see.

#### *An Educational Emergency*

When fire recently swept up Rancheria Mountain some ninety thousand dollars were found and spent to check it. It is safe to say not one visitor in a thousand ever sees Rancheria Mountain, even from a distance. Not one visitor in ten thousand explores its slopes. One quarter of the funds made available for this emergency will rebuild the amphitheater. The National Park Service wishes to spend \$180,000,000 on roads; \$108,000,000 on new roads; \$78,000,000 in realigning old roads. It wishes to spend another \$170,000,000 on parkways. Two blocks of the planned Tioga Highway, at an estimated cost of \$200,000 per mile, will provide the amphitheater and permit this valuable program to go on uninterrupted.

It is probable that the campers themselves, when they get to the valley and find the Ranger program abandoned, will voice their protests. By that time it will be too late for this season. They will crowd

the already overcrowded Curry campfire, where they will see and hear the sort of thing they are accustomed to in the commercial entertainment of their home towns. But gone will be the chance to lead them, six nights a week, fifteen hundred strong, into an understanding of the deeper values of their park.

#### *Can We Be of Help?*

The Sierra Club Directors felt so strongly that this educational program must not be allowed to lapse, that they passed unanimously a resolution urging that the necessary steps be taken immediately to restore this facility.

Every great enterprise, like the administration of our national parks, has funds available for an emergency. There are projects for which funds have been allocated, which cannot be begun for a year or two. For that period these funds lie idle. Funds for the amphitheater will be available in 1952. Temporary interchange of funds to meet just such situations is common practice in all large operations. It is sound business practice. It is sound conservation practice. It can be done. If enough of us care to keep Yosemite a Park, rather than another commercial recreational resort, this is the time for quick action in the form of protest letters, so that the emergency will be recognized as such, and met.

ARTHUR H. BLAKE

## Election Results

A total of 3,056 votes was cast in the annual election of directors of the Sierra Club on April 8, 1950. The following directors were elected for the ensuing year: Ansel Adams, Phil S. Bernays, David R. Brower, Arthur H. Blake, Lewis F. Clark, Harold E. Crowe, Glen Dawson, Francis P. Farquhar, Alexander Hildebrand, Oliver Kehrlein, H. Stewart Kimball, Richard M. Leonard, Charlotte E. Mauk, Einar Nilsson, and Bestor Robinson.

## SADDLE TRIP CANCELED

The sign-up for this year's Saddle Trip has been so small to date that the Outing Committee feels obliged to cancel the trip. Members interested in this type of vacation are referred to the John Muir Trail Trips being conducted in July and August by Joseph C. Wampler, as announced in the February number of the *Bulletin*.

It's too late to make any difference this year, but for next year's plans the Outing Committee would appreciate hearing from former saddle trippers concerning their reactions to the 1950 plans and what they would like for another season.

### *With Backpack and Burro*

There are still a few openings left for all four Burro trips (which travel in the region covered by the last two weeks of the High Trip—Tuolumne Meadows and south) and on the Sierra and Glacier National Park Knapsack Trips. Details of the trips are in the February *Bulletin*.

## Stereoreconnaissance—

It has probably long been suspected that the High Trip leader, upon reaching a new area, selected sites for women's, men's, and married camps while flat on his back recovering from his mad dash along the trail—and with no reference to terrain. The leader protests; he hasn't been this lazy. Nonetheless he now has facilities that will permit campsites to be selected with even less effort—a set of three-dimensional aerial photographs of the remote Yosemite regions the six weeks of High Trip is to visit this summer.

These photos are wonderful things. Without leaving his fogbound Berkeley hilltop, the leader can count trees to be camped under, lakes to be fished, routes to be climbed, and glaciers to be visited. The only thing the photos won't show is how deep the snow will be along the way. The California Coöperative Snow Surveys' May *Bulletin* indicates that there will be plenty. We feel a certain satisfaction, in looking at the snow-depth record, at having postponed the start of the High Trip

BENSON LAKE, Northern Yosemite

By Ansel Adams





## —A High-Trip Innovation

nearly two weeks, for we must cross Snow Pass this year.

We'd run a pair of these stereophotos herewith, but the last time we did (May, 1949, *Sierra Club Bulletin*) we never heard the last of it, and several hundred members went wall-eyed trying to read the photos. Instead we include some easier-to-interpret Ansel Adams photos of the country to be seen, and will take the stereo collection—and stereoscope—along on the trip for people who want to see where they've been and where they're going next.

The High Trip sign up, incidentally, is coming along well, but the third period still has plenty of room for more names. We're expecting to have quite a delegation of big names in conservation along to look over the Mount Dana-Minarets Primitive Area and to contemplate means of giving it maximum protection (see March *SCB*). Come along and let them know what you think about the problem! It's great country. D. R. B.

## Castle Rock Spire Climbed

The first ascent of Castle Rock Spire in Sequoia National Park was made on April 28 by five climbers from the Rock Climbing Section of the San Francisco Bay Chapter. This needle of granite has long been one of the outstanding climbing problems of the area. Even on close inspection its vertical and sometimes overhanging walls seem almost devoid of connecting cracks and ledges suitable for climbing. Only on the upper portion of the northeast face does the high angle of the rock lessen in degree. Here, also, the rock is somewhat broken and shows possibilities for a few handholds and belay points.

The climbers, Jim Wilson, Will Siri, Bill Long, Phil Bettler, and Al Steck, spent two and one-half days on the rock in making the climb. After an initial 300-foot traverse of fourth- and fifth-class pitches from the notch out onto the northeast face, the route goes almost straight up and is almost entirely sixth class. The first pitch above the traverse goes up a

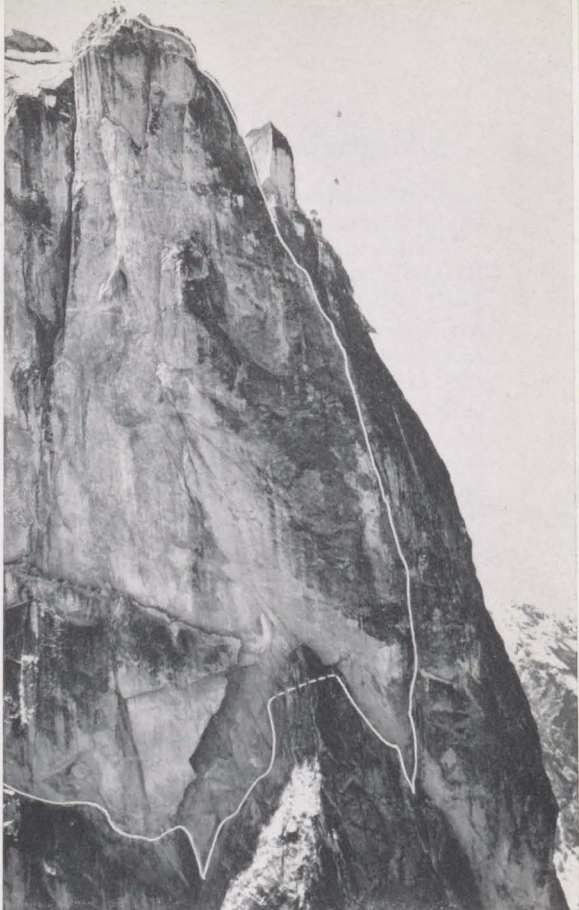
By Ansel Adams

RODGERS LAKE, Northern Yosemite



vertical, right-angle chimney about 60 feet. The top of the chimney is blocked by a horizontal overhang. Two expansion bolts were required to get around and above this overhang. A few feet above and slightly to the right of this point one attains the relatively broken face which ranges from 80 to 85 degrees in angle. Except for the summit pitch the rest of the climb is on this pitch. The total vertical climbing from the notch is about 500 feet.

On the first day Steck, Long, and Wilson made about 300 feet to the previous high point attained last fall by three members of the party. They set up a fixed rope at this point and came down to the traverse ledge for the night. The next morning Siri, Bettler, and Wilson prusiked up the fixed rope and continued the climb. Two of them made the summit at about 5 P.M. and, setting up a fixed rope from a point about 50 feet below the summit, came down to the bivouac spot on the traverse ledge. The next morning the other three went up the fixed ropes and on to the top, making it about noon. A full account will appear in the 1951 magazine number. PHILIP C. BETTLER



CASTLE ROCK SPIRE—the final route

*By Philip C. Bettler*

## Fair Exhibit Planned

Again this year the Sierra Club is planning an exhibit for the California State Fair. The theme of the display will be "Wilderness: Enjoy it—Protect it," with special emphasis on the Sierra Nevada, which contains California's largest wilderness area.

The recreational side of the exhibit will feature equipment used in various mountain outings—winter and summer—illustrating ways of enjoying the wilderness without destroying it. The public may learn the need for protection from posters showing the value of wilderness watersheds, proper grazing control, and clean camping habits.

The exhibit booth must be manned for

twelve hours a day during the Fair (Sept. 1-10) and any member who can spend a few hours in the booth during that time is cordially invited to get in touch with the Sierra Club office. Judging by the experience of last year, the job of meeting the Fair-going public and explaining the Sierra Club is both pleasant and interesting. CICELY M. CHRISTY



## Board Holds Organization Meeting

All fifteen directors were present at the annual organization meeting of the Board on May 6, 1950, in the club rooms at San Francisco. Also present were the Honorary Chairman of the Board, William E. Colby, and Honorary Vice-Presidents Joel H. Hildebrand and Walter A. Starr. The following officers were elected: Lewis F. Clark, President; Harold E. Crowe, Vice-President; Richard M. Leonard, Secretary; Einar Nilsson, Treasurer; David R. Brower, fifth member of the Executive Committee. The Honorary Vice-Presidents were unanimously re-elected.

The Board noted with regret that the office of Honorary President of the Sierra Club was vacant owing to the death of the beloved Joseph N. LeConte. It was the sense of the Board that the position had been created to honor John Muir, who, however, had continued actively as president of the club throughout his life. It was felt particularly appropriate that the tradition of Muir and LeConte could be carried on by recognizing the magnificent contributions of the third great pioneer of the Sierra Club, William E. Colby. Most—fifty-six years—of his life service has been in the interests of conservation and the work of the Sierra Club. William E. Colby was unanimously elected Honorary President of the Sierra Club.

### *San Jacinto Tramway Hearing*

A brief report showed that the conservationists had been well represented at the Forest Service public hearing in Riverside. In addition the Regional Forester has received more than 3,300 letters, which will be considered in preparing the recommendation to the Chief of the Forest Service.

Letters received by the Sierra Club from conservation leaders in many parts of the country enthusiastically applaud the energy and ability displayed by Joseph R. Momyer in organizing the San Jacinto campaign. High praise was also expressed for a splendid economic and engineering study prepared by Nathan

C. Clark. The Board adopted a formal resolution of sincere appreciation to these two for their unselfish and capable contribution to the cause. The Secretary also reported that Dr. Harold E. Crowe had made a fine presentation of the Sierra Club's views, and E. W. Cunningham and Judge Charles C. Haines had submitted extremely good briefs covering legal points which may result in blocking plans to invade the State Park. More about the hearing is given elsewhere in the *Bulletin*.

### *Forest Service Programs*

The Board discussed the need for a positive program of recreation development in nonwilderness areas, to offset pressure for development of areas set aside as wilderness. The Board approved in principle H.R. 2419, providing that ten per cent of forest revenue should be returned to the forest for recreational development.

When the Forest Service, after the public hearing in 1947 on the San Geronio Primitive Area, had finally concluded that the highest public use of the region would be as a primitive area rather than a highly developed ski resort, it did not end all problems in connection with it. The Forest Service at that time agreed that access to the edge of the area should be facilitated by construction of a road to the top of "Poopout Hill." The Conservation Committee and Winter Sports Committee made a study of the need for parking areas, sites for commercial development, lodging, sanitary, and first-aid facilities. The Board approved the committees' recommendations (see p. 15).

### *Mount Dana—Minarets Wild Area*

The threat of a mining road into this beautiful region, formerly a portion of Yosemite National Park, has aroused great interest throughout the United States. (See March 1950 *SCB*.) A subcommittee of the Conservation Committee under Frank Young is being set up to

devote full time to this important project. The Board authorized the officers of the club to work for preservation of the high recreational values of the region, either through national-monument status or by return to Yosemite National Park.

#### *Mount McKinley Cosmic Ray Laboratory*

The proposal to establish a laboratory for cosmic ray research near the summit of Mount McKinley was discussed and the following resolution was passed:

"The Board of Directors of the Sierra Club adheres to the principle that the national parks should be kept free from all activities not consistent with their primary purpose. No exception should be made to this principle except when it can be clearly shown that the welfare or the safety of the nation requires it. The Sierra Club recognizes the great importance of cosmic ray investigation to the national welfare, and the unique position of Mount McKinley for such research because of the scarcity of sites of comparable height near the North Magnetic Pole. The Board hopes, however, first, that full consideration will be given to possible alternative mountain sites, such as Mount Sanford; second, that if the Mount McKinley site is after all selected, then all structures and approaches will be kept to the standards of appearance prescribed by the National Park Service; and, third, that no substantial areas or approaches will be closed to the public."

#### *Discussions on Other National Parks*

Conservationists have been glad to note the cooperation being offered by the Wyoming delegation to Congress in trying to arrive at a final solution of the problems involving Jackson Hole National Monument. Identical bills introduced in the Senate and House provide that the entire Grand Teton National Park and all but small portions of Jackson Hole National Monument should be consolidated and become a new "Wyoming-Jackson Hole National Park." It was agreed that the boundaries suggested for the new park are satisfactory; subject to appro-

priate amendments to be worked out with other conservation organizations, the Board favored in principle the objectives sought by these bills.

It was felt that the Organ Pipe National Monument, owing to its size and unique type of growth, is worthy of national-park status. The Board favored in principle the bills to create the national park, subject to appropriate amendments of details that may be recommended by the Conservation Committee.

There has been a good deal of anxiety over bills concerning power development on the North Fork of the Kings River. The Board was glad to receive assurance from both Representatives Helen Gahagan Douglas and Cecil White that their bills, H.R. 6919 and H.R. 5264, had never been intended to harm the Kings Canyon National Park and that they would both support amendments to make it clear that park values must be protected. Mrs. Douglas quoted and promised to support the views expressed in a statement by Secretary of the Interior Chapman on March 20 to the Public Lands Committee:

"Attention is directed to the portion of Section 2 of H.R. 5264 which authorizes and directs the Secretary of the Interior to conduct investigations, surveys and studies for the purpose of planning 'development of the full hydroelectric power potential of the entire Kings River watershed, . . .' (Page 3, lines 2 to 4.) If this language is left in its present form it would weaken the guarantee against intrusion of water control development in Kings Canyon National Park. That guarantee is inherent in the Act of March 4, 1940, establishing the Park (54 Stat. 41).

". . . It is my belief that only as a last resort should National Park areas be used for purely economic purposes.

"Accordingly, it is urged that item '(3)' of Section 2 of H.R. 5264 be re-drafted to read as follows: '(3) development of the full hydroelectric power potential of the entire Kings River watershed, with the exception of that portion of such watershed now included in Kings Canyon National Park . . .'

"We further assume that even with the adoption of the suggested amendment to Section 2 of H.R. 5264, it would not be intended that power development should necessarily take precedence over all other potential uses. There are two possible sites for power development in the area which would be investigated, namely, the Tephite site on the Middle Fork of the Kings River and the Cedar Grove site on the South Fork of the Kings River, adjacent to Kings Canyon National Park. Both of these sites have very great value, both scenic and recreational. It might ultimately be decided that these values outweigh the values for economic use.

"Accordingly, the Department intends to consider the plans for resource development with plans for other potential uses so that the final decision will be based on the best uses of the area in the public interest."

#### *Trails and Roads in the High Sierra*

Walter A. Starr, Chairman of the Trails Committee, reported that the National Park Service has just adopted a formal trail plan for the national parks of the High Sierra. He stated that it was fortunate that this came just at the time of the complete revision of the *Guide to the John Muir Trail*, so that the new information can immediately be made available to all who travel in the high country. Upon recommendation of Mr. Colby the Board authorized the Committee to recommend that the Park and Forest services complete the identification of the John Muir Trail by small signs at appropriate intervals.

Harold Bradley, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Roads of the Conservation Committee, explained the various current proposals for additional highways across the Sierra Nevada, pointing out that many chambers of commerce are urging either realignment and highly improved standards for present highways or entirely new roads across the mountains. After discussion, the Board of Directors adopted a general policy that the efforts of the Sierra Club be concentrated on preserv-

ing the park and wilderness values of Yosemite, Kings Canyon, and Sequoia national parks, and the High Sierra wilderness area, and that the Sierra Club bring about a general conference on trans-Sierra highways, with all interested agencies represented. It is hoped that such a conference will result in the recognition of these values, with concentration on improvement of the highways over Sonora Pass and Walker Pass, with no new highways being authorized except, as a remote possibility, a highway across Mammoth Pass. The Chairman of the Conservation Committee, Mr. Blake, was authorized to appoint a subcommittee to arrange the conference.

The difficult problem of routing a road across the Zumwalt Meadow property of the Sierra Club was solved by the fine and patient negotiation of Mr. Brower's special committee on Kings Canyon development, which was commended by the Board. The officers of the Sierra Club were authorized by the Board to grant to the Government of the United States, without compensation, an easement for a road to proceed up to, but not beyond, Copper Creek, with the condition subsequent that the easement would terminate should the road ever be extended beyond Copper Creek. This easement is to be by the high route across the Sierra Club property agreed to in the April 13 conference between the Sierra Club, the National Park Service, and the Bureau of Public Roads.

#### *Other Kings Canyon Developments*

The directors also carefully considered the revised plans of the National Park Service for developments in the vicinity of Copper Creek upon completion of the road. The directors were gratified to see from the plans designed by Mr. Westley in January 1950, and approved by the Director of the National Park Service, that all changes in the natural condition of the area had been restricted to terrain west of Copper Creek.

It was recalled to the Board that in accordance with the National Park Service

report of 1947, prepared by Frederick Law Olmsted and published in the *Sierra Club Bulletin* of December 1947, the plans should keep all overnight accommodations down in the Cedar Grove area. It was the understanding of the Board that this would include the overnight accommodations for packers, extra stock, equipment, feed, etc., all of which would remain at the pack base at Cedar Grove, permitting the valuable land at Copper Creek to be used only for a ranger contact station, parking and picnic area, and a corral no larger than necessary for the number of stock and personnel required to service trips starting out on a given day.

#### *Yosemite Interpretive Program*

Ansel Adams discussed the plight of the Park Naturalist's evening programs at Camp 14 in Yosemite Valley. The Board directed the President to write immediately to the Director of the National Park Service, insisting that under no circumstances should this vital function of the National Park Service fail in Yosemite Valley.

#### *Report on the Lodges*

Richard N. Burnley, Chairman of the Lodge Committee, reported that owing to bad weather conditions this season, as well as to the depletion of its reserve by substantial contribution to financing of construction of the Benson Hut, the Clair Tappaan Lodge Committee would not have sufficient funds available from this ski season income to continue the necessary reconstruction required by housing authorities. The Board thereupon authorized the Executive Committee and the Clair Tappaan Lodge Committee to work out temporary financing on a loan basis.

It was reported that Shasta Lodge needs quarters for the custodian, and that the custodian for this year would be willing to undertake construction, using native rock as building material. The Redington Fund had carried the suggestion from the donor that it be used for improvements at Shasta Lodge. The Executive Committee was authorized to work

with the Lodge Committee to plan construction of a custodian's stone hut.

The Board again expressed sincere appreciation to the family of M. Hall McAllister for his generous gifts in connection with the Shasta Lodge, both during his life and in his generous bequest, and authorized the placing of a plaque, at the Shasta Lodge, in memory of M. Hall McAllister.

The Board authorized the expenditure of the Walter Mosauer Memorial Fund for the purpose of completing additions to the Keller Peak Ski Hut, a suitable plaque to be placed there in memory of Walter Mosauer, founder of the Ski Mountaineers Section of the Sierra Club.

William Dorris, Treasurer of the Southern California Chapter, reported on the status of the improvements at Harwood Lodge. He stated that the chapter had \$1,000 on hand and hoped to raise an additional \$2,400 by subscription. He also pointed out that there is a balance of \$400 in matching funds still available from the \$1,500 appropriated by the Directors from the general funds of the Sierra Club at the meeting of May 1, 1948.

#### *F. C. Baily Proposed Gift*

At the meeting of the Board in November 1949, the generous offer of Mr. Fisher C. Baily was considered by the Board. (See December SCB.) A special committee was appointed to discuss details with Mr. Baily. One of the conditions suggested by Mr. Baily would be that the Sierra Club maintain a full-time watchman on the property; it was felt, however, that the club could only accept the property in trust for preservation in perpetuity as a wild area, with a life interest for Mr. Baily if he desires it, but with no further commitment concerning management of the property.

#### *Short Reports*

Glen Dawson reported on negotiations with the owners of Mitchell Caverns, near Needles, who wish to see the site established as a state park. It was the opinion of the Board that the proposal has suf-

ficient merit to justify careful study by the State Park Commission. The officers were directed to request that such a study and appraisal be made.

After careful discussion and review of the large number of prepublication orders, the Editorial Board was authorized to republish Volumes I to V of the *Sierra Club Bulletin*. The Executive Committee was directed to determine the specific funds to be used for the purpose.

The report of the Membership Committee was received and approved, with an expression of appreciation for the excellent work of the committee. The report showed that the membership procedures adopted in 1946 are working in a satisfactory manner and that only very minor administrative changes are desired. Those changes were authorized.

The Winter Sports Committee was authorized to explore means of the club's again participating in activities of the Far West Ski Association.

#### *Foreign Students*

The possibility of arranging for Sierra Club outings without cost for one or two outstanding foreign students studying in California was suggested in a letter from Mrs. Harold Crowe. The Board agreed

that this insight into the high aesthetic opportunities available in America and the type of unselfish protection of those opportunities as exemplified by the Sierra Club would be of great value to these students, who are likely to become leaders in their own countries. The program was accordingly approved, with authorization to the Outing Committee to handle the details.

#### *Committee Appointments*

Chairmen of the following committees as appointed by the President were approved and confirmed: Conservation, Arthur H. Blake; Editorial, David R. Brower; Fiscal, Clifford V. Heimbacher; Library and Rooms, Alfred E. Weiler; Lodge, Richard N. Burnley; Membership, Cicely M. Christy; Outing, Richard M. Leonard.

#### *September Meeting of the Board*

The meeting was set for 10 A.M., September 3, 1950, at Clair Tappaan Lodge, this to coincide with the annual convention of the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs to be held at the Lodge September 2-4.

RICHARD M. LEONARD,  
*Secretary*

## Recommendations for San Geronio Development

(Approved by the Board of Directors at the May Meeting)

#### *Parking Areas*

Parking areas should be so arranged as to necessitate a minimum of timber removal. This can probably best be done by the use of widened road areas, as at Snow Valley, in the San Bernardino Mountains, along a loop road on top of Poopout Hill (hereafter, "the hill"). This road with parking areas should wind somewhat among the large trees on top of the hill in order that there be a minimum of cutting of this beautiful timber. It is probably desirable that the road be in some form of loop in order that traffic may flow in one direction and that congestion may be avoided.

Eventually, if congestion becomes too great, it is recommended that additional parking areas be developed on the flats at the foot of the hill.

#### *Ski Hut Sites*

If it is decided to reserve sites for ski huts along the east and west sides of the hill, adjoining the central parking area, it is recommended that these sites be granted only to organizations that are capable of giving maximum use to the area. To this end the sites should only be granted after submission of plans and evidence of financial ability and intention to complete construction promptly. A

rather wide selection of sites would be available in this area.

In general, it is felt that all buildings, roads and parking areas should be held sufficiently below (to the north of) the summit ridge of the hill as to be concealed from view by skiers and hikers on the trails and slopes further south into the Primitive Area.

#### *Commercial Facilities*

Commercial facilities requiring substantial investment should be kept away from the hill for several reasons, as follows:

1. There are no slopes in the immediate vicinity suitable for tows.
2. Summer and fall use would be insufficient to support such facilities.
3. The hill area should be kept uncommercialized and as natural as possible.

If the Forest Service deems it advisable that there should be any substantial commercial development, it is recommended that this be on the main highway, preferably as a Forest Service concession.

#### *Sanitary and First-Aid Facilities*

It is recommended that the following facilities be provided:

*At the hill:* A substantial building housing toilets and first-aid facilities, as well as administrative facilities. This building might well contain a warming room.

*At the South Fork meadow* (when use

justifies it): A compact building housing adequate toilet facilities plus a small storage room containing necessary first-aid equipment (toboggan, stretcher, blankets, first-aid supplies—possibly some provision for emergency heat and food in case of an accident or lost skier). Also there should be some form of tin-can and rubbish disposal.

*At, or in the region of, the Edelweiss Hut:* A small shelter with first-aid facilities is desirable in this area, owing to its remoteness. The Edelweiss location is probably ideal to service the upper ski slopes. It is also felt that the Edelweiss Hut itself may serve this purpose for many years to come, and that it is desirably inconspicuous.

#### *Administration*

It is recommended that a skiing ranger, with knowledge of avalanche craft, be assigned to the Barton Flats Guard Station on a year-round basis for both summer and winter administration.

#### *Conclusion*

In conclusion, it is felt that such an over-all plan as this would provide for maximum balanced use and enjoyment consistent with safety, of the whole Recreational and Primitive area by all classes of users, both summer and winter, within the framework of Forest Service Primitive Area regulations.