



SIERRA CLUB  
BULLETIN *March*  
1951

# Miscellany

We urge you to vote in the annual election, not only for the Directors, but especially on the proposal for amending the Articles of Incorporation and the By-Laws. A majority of the entire club membership must indicate consent, in order to effect these changes. Please don't fail to vote.

*Science in Action*, the television series created by the California Academy of Sciences, continues to prove a great success. We understand that it rivals the Lone Ranger in popularity with many of the school children, and teachers and parents are very enthusiastic. Sponsored by the American Trust Company, it is shown Thursdays, 7 to 7:30 P.M. over KGO-TV Channel 7, San Francisco. Take a look at *Science in Action*—you will be entertained and you will learn a lot.

The second printing of the Handbook is now off the press, and a very nice looking job it is, we think. The first printing appeared as the November 1947 issue of the *Sierra Club Bulletin*. Now, largely owing to the effort and skill of Blanche Stallings, the first printing has been revised and brought up to date and appears as a separate publication of the club. Special thanks are due to William E. Colby for the new

article on Muiriana, to Milton Hildebrand for revising "The Sierra Club and Science," and to Cedric Wright for the signature of his photographs. It is free to new members, \$1 to old (who have the earlier edition).

*Annual Dinner (Northern)*. We have just received word that the principal speaker for the northern dinner will be the new chief of the California State Division of Beaches and Parks, the Sierra Club's Honorary Vice-President, Newton B. Drury. Further details about the occasion were in the February *SCB*.

*Cropping*. Photographer Cedric Wright has sent us a card praising the February *SCB* with its outing announcements *et al.*, but has added that the bleeding of photographs (running them off the edges of the page) should be punishable by death. Naturally, we don't agree; but we will have to admit that some of Mr. Wright's and Mr. Hale's peaks were, owing to our slip-up, overdecapitated. We still intend to avoid bleeding our display prints in the Annual.

*Cover (uncropped)*, by Francis Whitaker. Such beautiful powder must have fallen in years gone by—surely not in 1951!

**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 enjoy and to preserve wilderness, wildlife, forests, and streams.

#### DIRECTORS

Lewis F. Clark  
Harold Crowe  
Richard M. Leonard  
Einar Nilsson  
David R. Brower  
Ansel Adams  
Phil S. Bernays  
Arthur H. Blake  
Glen Dawson  
Francis P. Farquhar

*5th Member, Executive Committee*  
President  
Vice-President  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Alex Hildebrand  
Oliver Kehrlin  
H. Stewart Kimball  
Charlotte E. Mauk  
Bestor Robinson

HONORARY PRESIDENT . . . . . William E. Colby

#### HONORARY VICE-PRESIDENTS

Horace M. Albright  
Newton B. Drury  
Randall Henderson  
Joel H. Hildebrand  
Walter L. Huber

Duncan McDuffie  
Frederick Law Olmsted  
Marion R. Parsons  
Robert G. Sproul  
Walter A. Starr  
William H. Wright

#### EDITORIAL BOARD

David R. Brower  
Harriet T. Parsons  
Ansel Adams  
John R. Barnard  
Barbara N. Bedayn  
A. J. Biggins  
Arthur H. Blake  
Joan D. Clark  
August Frugé

*Chairman and Editor*  
*Associate Editor*  
F. M. Fryxell  
Weldon F. Heald  
Charlotte E. Mauk  
Marion R. Parsons  
Vivian Schagen  
Blanche Stallings  
Allen P. Steck

#### COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

*Conservation*  
*Library*  
*Lodge*  
*Membership*  
*Mountaineering*  
*Natural Sciences*  
*Outing*  
*Visual Education*  
*Winter Sports*

Arthur H. Blake  
Alfred E. Weiler  
Richard N. Burnley  
Cicely M. Christy  
Allen P. Steck  
Milton Hildebrand  
Richard M. Leonard  
Kenneth D. Adam  
Alex Hildebrand

Published monthly except August by the Sierra Club, 2061 Center Street, Berkeley 4, California. Annual dues are \$6 (first year \$12), of which \$1 (nonmembers, \$2) is for subscription to the *Bulletin*. Entered as second class matter at Post Office, Berkeley, under act of March 3, 1879. Contributions and changes of address should go to address above; communications on matters of club policy should be addressed to the Secretary, 1050 Mills Tower, San Francisco 4.



# Sierra Club Bulletin

VOLUME 36

MARCH, 1951

NUMBER 3

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

## For the March Record

### *All of It*

Several readers have told us about a situation described by Drew Pearson in his February 12 "Washington Merry-Go-Round." Unfortunately, the report was confused about which agency has jurisdiction over the national forests, claiming as it did that the forests are under the Department of the Interior while the timber is under the Department of Agriculture. The report goes on to say that Defense Mobilizer Wilson has been told by lumbermen that the additional lumber he wants for defense construction can be taken from the national forests; Wilson was said to want all of it.

What we have reason to fear is that the lumbermen were not talking about national forests, from which they are now getting timber, but about national parks. We had our say on this subject back in 1947, when they attempted to lop off part of Olympic National Park. We were then, and we are now, in favor of good sustained-yield lumbering practices. But we opposed then and oppose now those who covet the virgin forests of the national parks, whether they want either to crop those forests or to mine them. What the parks can add to the nation's stockpile of lumber is negligible compared to what lumbering can subtract from the nation's parks. If we fight waste, we can get by very well with the crops that our nonpark timberlands can produce. If we won't fight waste, the timber that will be left when we destroy what is outside the parks will be too scant to save us, and we had

better start right now to look harder than we have been looking for substitutes.

Nor is it necessary to look to government alone for the fight against waste. Every time you or we choose to use something once and burn it, instead of cleaning it and using it again, we are taking something from the soil that we're not putting back. What we save in time and convenience we lose in resources. Every day there is less to lose, and it costs more of the time we have saved to buy the things we have made scarce. It's not a vicious circle; it is an ever-diminishing spiral.

No, we are not going to presume to say how man should slow down his dizzying trip toward the center of that spiral—and his own end. But we do say that anyone who feels he should have "all of it" should be brought up short.

### *Letter from Nebraska*

We will have to take a stand of some sort on the excessive use of natural resources in the name of national defense. If we can believe Drew Pearson such an attack on lumber at least has already begun.

An attack on natural resources in the name of national security is perhaps the most difficult of all to evaluate and to combat if the evaluation so dictates. It is difficult to disentangle conflicting ideas and emotions. On the one hand we know full well the dire consequences of excessive logging, of dams in the wrong places, of overgrazing, nonconservative farming practices, exploitation of what may be our last mineral

resources, and the bleeding off of our oil reserves. And on the other, it is true that our very existence is at stake. But it is not in one way alone that this is true.

To make the problem even more difficult, those who may preach moderation or conservation may well find themselves labeled Communists by both the well-meaning and, naturally, the opportunists who are sure to be present. It is hard to believe that merely by name-calling the lumber interests might completely defeat all efforts at moderation, but this is a distinct possibility. We must realize this and decide and act in spite of it.

### A finite world

During the last century in particular man has exploited natural resources with what seems almost to be a demoniacal fury. One gains the impression that we have been filled with an evil spirit urging us ever on to destruction. Surely the thought of the morrow has been not ever-present in the minds of the exploiters. Perhaps it has at root the feeling that we are still living in frontier conditions with unlimited space still before us, or that the new generations growing up with stories of the boundless horizons of the past are unwilling to come to grips with a finite world. Whatever it is, the word "unwise" can hardly be used to describe the attitude.

About a half-century ago certain men became aware of the vanishing of our resources and they became vociferous against the malpractices that were hastening the day of ruin. They sought first of all to place our natural resources on a sustained-yield basis, or, barring that, to use our resources wisely and not extravagantly. "We must think of our children," they said. They wished to preserve as living museums certain regions of exceptional beauty and grandeur for themselves, their children, and their children's children. "It is well that we be able to see the sort of world our forefathers lived in." And they added, "—It might even help us to realize that we still ultimately depend on our environment for life at all."

A curious thing developed with the years. We began to find that the sort of world we were creating was one having too quick and nerve-wracking a pace for man. And

the ideal place to which we could turn for a breath of reality was to these museums. There we could retreat to find ourselves and to regain (and sometimes to gain for the first time) a peace of mind all too often lost completely in city living.

A great number of people who had experienced this rejuvenation by the wilderness banded together and fought the cash-register-ringing philosophy. Their efforts have slowed the rate of new depredations to a fast walk. Given time, they may even carry the day and win proper recognition for the policy of conservation and moderation.

But now a new emergency has arisen.

We have felt that a government was significant and worthwhile *only* because it represented individuals and made it possible for them to live richer and fuller lives. This is a relatively new and very revolutionary idea in history.

An old doctrine has recently gained new life. It is the idea that the state alone has any intrinsic worth. Individuals have emergent value only, they become significant only in serving or furthering the state. This is distinctly not a revolutionary idea, though perhaps it was 4,000 or 6,000 years ago.

For a reason I cannot understand we are afraid of this new life in the old monster. *We* have the revolutionary idea, not they. We should carry our new idea to them and be on the offensive.

War will not destroy ideas except so far as it destroys people. If we seek to destroy Communism we shall not be successful if we try to do so by force of arms alone. Nor shall they succeed in destroying democracy by force of arms alone. Arms we must have, but the real battle is on a different plane altogether. To choose one instead of the other method is to choose crampons instead of an ice ax for glacier or ice-climbing—safety requires both.

I fear too many people feel that the job is essentially in hand when an army of three and one-half million men is available. This is not so. The job must be begun before a single new factory gets into operation, before the army is nearly complete. We must make democracy work not only here but abroad also.

What do we have to do?

We must build or refurbish new factories and the other items of war production and use. We must make them produce, all of which takes great quantities of raw materials. This is *per se* inconsistent with conservation (as a matter of fact war and conservation are almost antonyms, are they not?) but, it no doubt must be done.

However we must be ever alert that the line is pushed back only as far as is absolutely necessary and no farther. We must urge attempts to find substitutes for wood and gasoline and for the other items whose supply is limited. For some there are no substitutes—watersheds for example (and these are protected by trees). We must seek to develop better ways of farming that will not require the use of the plow (a notorious choker of rivers and lowerer of water tables). We must grow more food without dumping the soil into the oceans, and grow more animals without overgrazing the soil or watersheds, particularly the watersheds.

We must remember that if we lose our

watersheds and soil and mineral resources and our rivers, that no outcome of the war, cold or hot, can be successful. We can defeat ourselves in a variety of ways and the one through exploitation is likely to be just as fast and less reversible than any other except the excessive use of atomic bombs.

I therefore urge that we support the continued effort to be reasonable in our demands for raw materials. Perhaps lumber as a watershed holder as well as a necessity for life is the most important of all. Substitutes for oil can be made at slightly increased cost, old refined or new methods can keep a supply of metals available, and there must be more substitutes for many of the commercial uses of trees, if not for their value as a protector of watersheds.

We are the temporary custodians of the world and untold numbers will hold us responsible for our actions. Let us live up to that responsibility.

RICHARD C. SILL,  
*Brace Laboratory of Physics*  
*Lincoln, Nebraska*

## Directors Hold February Meeting

A late-winter meeting of the Sierra Club Board of Directors was held February 17 in San Francisco. All directors were present except Phil S. Bernays, who was hospitalized for eye surgery. Also present were Honorary President William E. Colby; Honorary Vice-Presidents Joel Hildebrand, Walter Huber, and Walter Starr; chapter representatives Robert Geisler (Loma Prieta), Vernon Bengal (Mother Lode), Edgar Wayburn (San Francisco Bay), and Arthur Johnson (Southern California); and committee representatives Cicely Christy (Membership), Allen P. Steck (Mountaineering), Alfred E. Weiler (Library), Harold Bradley and Nathan Clark (Conservation).

Among items considered by the directors were the following:

*Investments.*—The Treasurer reported that the Fiscal Committee established by the Board had recommended certain rearrangements of club investments, and that the recommendations of the Fiscal Committee had been carried out by the officers.

*“Going Light—With Backpack or Burro.”*  
—Brower, as Editor, had presented to the Executive Committee an analysis of expenditures and expected receipts from authorized projects under the Publications Fund. This analysis indicated that by December 31, 1951, there was enough leeway in the fund to finance an additional project. He stated that two publishers seemed willing to undertake the project, but that there were several advantages in the club's publishing the book. It was the conclusion of the Executive Committee that publishing a manual of instruction on how to explore and enjoy the mountain regions of the West with lightweight knapsack or burro packing would be an educational project in keeping with the purposes for which the club was formed. The Executive Committee accordingly approved spending up to \$2,000 for the production of a back-pack manual similar in format to the *Manual of Ski Mountaineering*. The Board of Directors confirmed and approved this action.

*Starr's Guide.*—The Secretary told the Board that Walter Starr had made another substantial contribution to the Publications Fund to provide a wide distribution of *Starr's Guide* to officials of the Forest Service, the National Park Service, and other administrators concerned with the High Sierra. The Board voted its appreciation for the continued interest and support of Walter and Carmen Starr in making it possible for the Sierra Club to publish such a fine book for those who travel Sierra trails.

*San Jacinto.*—The Board considered carefully a letter from Lyle Watts, Chief of the Forest Service, which stated that the Service was considering a compromise of the San Jacinto controversy, by turning over the disputed right-of-way section to the Winter Park Authority in exchange for primitive land elsewhere. The Forest Service hoped to minimize harm to the San Jacinto Primitive Area by requiring certain conditions, intended to protect the public interest and to prevent further invasions of the San Jacinto Primitive Area.

After discussing these proposals, the Board unanimously voted that the club would continue uncompromising opposition to any tramway into the San Jacinto State Park or the San Jacinto Primitive Area. The directors concluded that construction of the tramway would destroy the wilderness on Mount San Jacinto regardless of the restrictions that might be imposed and regardless of who held jurisdiction over the land. Any compromise would be a double loss. Not only would the tramway destroy the wilderness of Mount San Jacinto, but there would also be a damaging precedent of national concern.

*State Park Matching Funds.*—Bills have been introduced into the State Legislature to reduce private matching funds for acquisition of new State parks from 50% to 25% or 33⅓%. Constantly increasing taxes have seriously reduced the private funds available for philanthropy. It is now about as difficult to obtain from 25% to 33⅓% of the purchase price of a park as it has been in the past to obtain 50% from private sources. Many much-needed acquisitions, such as the Butano Forest and the South Calaveras Grove of Big Trees, have been

blocked or delayed owing to lack of private funds. Such areas may well be lost forever unless bought by the state now. Some have suggested that acquisition of suitable park lands is a social obligation of the entire state, and should not depend upon private philanthropy. New York State started on a matching-fund basis and finally ended by outright purchase.

The Board voted Sierra Club support of legislation to reduce private-source matching requirements to not less than 25% in acquisition of new state parks.

*Conservation Education.*—The Board authorized that Audubon Camp scholarships be given to two teachers this summer, the selection to be under supervision of the Morley Fund Committee. Brower voted no (opposed to granting funds from dues to individuals in special groups).

*Representation at Conference.*—The President was authorized to appoint a delegate to represent the club at North American Wildlife Conference and Natural Resources Council meeting in Milwaukee on March 4 to 6, 1951. The President appointed Prof. A. Starker Leopold, an authority on North American wildlife and a member of the Conservation Committee.

*Tahoe Beach Property.*—Louis de F. Bartlett (a charter member of the club) reported to the Board that he owned a half interest in a thousand feet of beach property near the state line on the south shore of Lake Tahoe. He was anxious that the property should be preserved for the public benefit and has therefore proposed to the State Park Commission that he give to the State a sufficient portion to permit purchase of the rest of the property on a matching basis. The officers of the club strongly endorsed acquisition of additional beach property at Lake Tahoe.

*Pundt Hut.*—Alex Hildebrand reported that the Winter Sports Committee had selected a general location about four miles outside the northerly boundary of the Desolation Wilderness Area. A hut, at this site, within week-end travel from the ski center at Squaw Valley, would also permit trips south through the wilderness to Echo Lake.

*Director of the National Park Service.*—A press release of the Secretary of the In-

terior under date of February 6, 1951, announced the resignation of Director Newton Drury, effective April 1, and the appointment of Arthur E. Demaray as the new Director of the Park Service. The following motions were unanimously adopted:

RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Sierra Club desires to express to Newton B. Drury its appreciation of the distinguished service he has rendered as Director of the National Park Service during the past ten years, and that it welcomes his continued participation in the counsels of the club in his capacity as an Honorary Vice-President.

RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Sierra Club congratulates Arthur E. Demaray upon his appointment to the position of Director of the National Park Service following his many years of devoted service in other capacities in that service, and pledges to him its coöperation and support.

*Place Names.*—Oliver Kehrlein had suggested to the Board of Directors that appropriate peaks be named for past presidents William Badè, Robert M. Price and Clair Tappaan. The suggestion is to be cleared with appropriate agencies before referring back to the Board of Directors for determination whether to transmit it to the Board on Geographic Names.

*Amendments.*—The Articles of Incorporation of the Sierra Club were drafted by John Muir and Warren Olney and adopted June 4, 1892. Providing originally for a life of fifty years for the corporation (the maximum then permissible), they were subsequently amended to provide for perpetual existence. No other amendments have been adopted.

In the long interval of fifty-nine years some of the original purposes of the Sierra Club have been fully accomplished. It seems advisable to restate the purposes in accordance with modern conditions and, at the same time, to clarify the status of the club as a non-profit corporation and to provide flexibility in the number on the Board of Directors. Since a majority of the members of the club must approve such amendments, it gives an opportunity to simplify the By-Laws with respect to the procedure for nom-

ination and election of directors and to change slightly the time for first payment of dues, so that newly elected members may not be penalized by the ninety-day waiting period. It is requested that each member express his opinion on the amendments.

*Chapter By-Laws.*—For several years the Board has wished to establish uniform by-laws for each of the chapters of the club. After some discussion the President was authorized to appoint a Chapter By-Laws Committee—consisting of himself, two additional members at large, and one representative of each chapter—to report to the May meeting of the Board.

*Atlantic Chapter.*—The directors approved the tentative by-laws for the Atlantic Chapter, subject to any amendments necessary for conformity to uniform by-laws.

*Santa Barbara Group.*—The directors were glad to hear that an energetic group in the vicinity of Santa Barbara was carrying on local activities for the Sierra Club, and that the Southern California Chapter, within whose jurisdiction this area falls, would encourage formation of a new chapter there. This was the unanimous sense of the Board.

*Library Policy.*—A preliminary report by August Frugé, Chairman of the Library Policy Committee, was read to the Board; it included the conclusion that a circulating library would cost approximately \$3 a book per circulation and that a reference library seemed preferable for the Sierra Club. After thorough discussion, the Board unanimously established the policy of the Sierra Club that its libraries should be for reference only and not for general circulation. The Library Policy Committee will continue a study of how to make the reference library most effective.

*Harwood Lodge.*—At the meeting of December 2, 1950, the directors had authorized the Treasurer to advance the sum of \$1,500 to the Lodge Committee for use at Harwood Lodge. Whether this should be a loan or a grant was to be determined by the Board at its next meeting. (The funds had not yet been advanced.) After some discussion, the Board of Directors unanimously agreed that the General Funds of the club would contribute to the work at Harwood up to \$1,500,

as matched by the chapter (from new money other than operating income from Harwood Lodge).

*Francis P. Farquhar.*—After twenty-seven years on the Board of Directors, Farquhar regretfully retired. He advised that, while he would not accept nomination for election in April, nevertheless he would always be available for consultation and with intense interest in the purposes of the club. He recalled that when he was first elected to the Board of Directors in 1924, he had been appointed as the Sierra Club delegate to the National Recreation Conference at Washington, D. C., and the State Parks Conference at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. He still had a pocket memorandum of notes he had made at the time of the conference. The memorandum was considered so appropriate by the Board that it is reproduced here:

NATIONAL CONSERVATION MOVEMENT  
Expand the National Recreational Conference to make it part of a National Conservation Program.

Revive the Conservation spirit—crystallize it—adding all the lessons of the past 20 years to the Roosevelt movement. Make it scientifically economic.

Do not put it all on one plane, but make it a graded program—complete conservation of some things, conservative use of others. Make it nation-wide, expressing the idea in East and West, North and South. Even link the outlying possessions. Make a fair division between exploitation and preservation in Alaska and the islands.

In all this give the National Parks their due place—full preservation of choice areas.

Illustrate in the Nation what we are striving for in cities—a zoning ordinance.  
May 1, 1924.

*Glen Dawson.*—The Board regretted to learn from Glen Dawson that owing to his business and family responsibilities his name would not be on the forthcoming ballot; he hoped he would later be able again to accept nomination.

RICHARD M. LEONARD, *Secretary*

#### *Powder Snow. Remember?*

This is what Sierra ski country looked like in years when the Big Oak Flat Road was not opened in March.

By Francis Whitaker

