



SIERRA CLUB
BULLETIN *September*
1951

Miscellany

COVER: White-bark pines near Mono Pass, Yosemite National Park. By Philip Hyde.

● *Going Light* has done so well that we're taking steps to obtain a second printing before Christmas. For we think—and hope you do—that it would make a good gift for those travelers who'll be planning 1952 wilderness trips shortly after Christmas.

● Fulfilling a commitment to those who have and are purchasing Volumes 1-5 of the *Sierra Club Bulletin*, we now have brought back into ready supply Volume 6 Number 1 (January, 1906). The same New York manufacturer has done the same good job. The new offset edition is large enough to make a reasonable price possible—\$2.

● Bookstores are showing an interest in the new edition of the *Sierra Club Handbook* and have asked for clothbound copies. We now have a limited number of these ready (in green) as well as some of the 1951 annual magazines (handsomely bound in red). As some dealers have commented, the illustrations alone are worth the price (handbook, \$2; annual, \$2.50).

● The 57-year Index to the *Sierra Club Bulletin*, 1893-1949, compiled by George Shochat and Dorothy Bradley, is rapidly nearing completion. Galley proof is now being corrected

and books should be ready in October. There'll be about 144 pages, paper bound. That's a lot of index, but no more than what it takes to unlock the thousands of pages of *Bulletin* that the decades have brought forth. If you have a complete set, you'll have to have the index. If you haven't a set, you'll still be surprised and pleased at the wealth of material (and will some day, we hope, want a set). The prepublication price is \$2.50 (cloth, \$3.50). We know the price will have to be higher after publication, for it is an extremely expensive job to put in type; we'll let you know how much higher soon.

● *The Climber's Guide to the High Sierra, Preliminary Edition* is now out of print. The first regular, complete edition will be out next spring and we urge all mountaineers, past and present, to send in any corrections or additions they have noted, so that final compilation may be sped along. Address them to the Editorial Board and we'll pass them on to Allen Steck.

● Incidentally, we hope you don't mind our frequent stressing of the club's publications program. We're not doing it for personal profit, we assure you; the editors and authors work for nothing—nothing except the pleasure of disseminating the club's purposes in a functional way and helping to build the club's endowment.

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.

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Sierra Club Bulletin

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

For the September Record

Over the Top

A Sierra Club Grove in Butano Forest is one step (the biggest step) nearer with the successful completion of our drive to raise \$5,000. We went over the top with a total of \$5,150, contributed from all over the United States and beyond. There were many others, too, who helped behind the scenes and our sincere thanks go to them for their aid.

As the letters and contributions poured in, it soon became apparent that we just didn't have the manpower to acknowledge the hundreds of contributions. We want all to know that the donations and support are much appreciated. By your generosity a fine stand of redwoods will continue to grow in grace and beauty and be known as the Sierra Club Grove.

J.R.B.

Ah America!

"I love thy rocks and rills, thy woods and templed hills." So runs one of our most popular national songs.

I have seen Americans stand and sing My Country 'Tis of Thee with tears of emotion in their eyes and selfless exaltation in their bearing.

But I just don't believe it.

The more I see of our blasted rocks, dammed rills, cut and burned woods, and bulldozed hills the more convinced I am that the average American has no consideration for them whatsoever. Of if he does, he seems apathetically unmoved by the destruction around him.

We love wealth, prosperity, and growth
We take pride in a high standard of living

We thrill to automatic gadgets, deep freezes, and jet planes. We boast of a mechanical, electrical, atomic civilization wrapped up in a package labelled, "Liberty, Democracy, and the Pursuit of Happiness—Handle with Care." There may be a super-streamlined Frankenstein inside. But God bless America. We love it.

However, there is another America. It is under our feet. It is around us. It is the land we live on—the forests, hills, valleys, mountains, and deserts we took from the Indians.

Do we love this America too? Well, maybe. But it looks to me as if we were so dissatisfied with its general appearance and arrangement that we are trying to change everything about it in the shortest possible time.

For, all over the country powerful interests, representing themselves as the majority, are closing in, bent on despoiling and obliterating every last vestige of original America. Although national parks preserve less than one per cent of our land in primeval condition, giant dams are proposed for four of them, and lumbermen demand the finest forests in a fifth. National forests provide less than one per cent of the nation's cattle-feed requirements, yet embattled stockmen are asking for the forests as their private preserve. Miners and sheepmen want the national monuments. State parks are succumbing to commercial interests. Marshes are drained, lakes emptied, and predators exterminated so that wildlife suffers from unbalance. Each year thousands of acres of timber are indiscriminately hacked and burned, the range is depleted, soil exhausted,

erosion accelerated, streams polluted, air contaminated.

Truly, this is a love that passeth understanding!

Years ago Americans who valued this original America became alarmed at the rapidity with which it was disappearing. They started a movement for the preservation of natural resources, both economic and scenic, which has ever since been known as *conservation*. From it has grown the national parks, national forests, national monuments, the state parks, and all other attempts to preserve some of our natural heritage for the use and enjoyment of Americans who love, value, and appreciate the land they live on. Today,

there are thousands enlisted in the battle to preserve the resources and character of our country. But they are still woefully in the minority.

The front-line minutemen of the revolution fought at Lexington and Concord for the America they loved. Those historic patriots won against great odds. *It can be done again*. But don't wait for orders. Start firing *now!* Join the present-day minutemen by thinking, talking, reading, and spreading the importance of *conservation*.

God bless America—and let's save some of it.

WELDON F. HEALD

(From *The Living Wilderness*, Spring, 1951)

Kings River Power: A Test Case

The Sierra Club and its representatives have worked out a new approach to problems such as have arisen in the Cedar Grove and Tehipite areas. The Cedar Grove area should be watched as a test case to determine the soundness of this method.

In the past conservation organizations have carried on a number of valiant battles for the purpose of keeping dams out of national parks and nearby areas that should be included in the existing boundaries of national parks. Unfortunately, however, there has been no opportunity to enter into the controversy until project plans have been completed and water and power users lined up in support of the project. We have attempted to turn defeats into victories after most of the battlefield has been won by the enemy. Now, however, some progress—from the conservationist's view—has been made in the field of reclamation.

1. The Secretary of the Interior has issued an order prohibiting any reclamation surveys in national parks or monuments without his express permission. Under established administrative procedure this would result in alerting the national park service and through it the various conservation organizations. This order has been made applicable to existing projects.

2. Early release of tentative plans and proposals for reclamation projects is now authorized and directed by the Secretary of

the Interior. This will prevent the completion of project plans in cooperation with water and power users but without the knowledge of those interested in the conservation of scenic and recreational resources of the area involved.

These two orders will give conservation organizations an opportunity to present their ideas and if necessary to engage in battle at an early stage in the development for any reclamation project; provided, however, that it involves the actual invasion of a national park or monument.

A related but equally important problem is the invasion of areas which are not included in national parks or monuments but are necessary for the full utilization and enjoyment of these areas. Cedar Grove and Tehipite reservoir sites are typical of this latter type of problem. They were excluded by way of necessary political compromise from the boundaries of Kings Canyon National Park at the time of the creation of that park. Surveys indicate that both of these areas constitute excellent reservoir sites which would be used in the power development of the Kings River if such use did not result in the impairment of scenic, recreational, and inspirational values of the adjacent national park area. It is probable that if the old procedure were continued the reclamation service would ultimately develop a project report including these two

dam sites in overall plans for utilization of the power resources of the Kings River. Such a project report following the usual form would present no detailed discussion of the economic and engineering feasibility of alternate downstream damsites.

The present plan which was fathered by the Sierra Club and approved by the Secretary of the Interior is that alternate damsites must be analyzed from both an engineering and economic standpoint and to this end a joint field survey by reclamation service and national park service was to be conducted this summer.

We should expect that as a result of such survey we will be presented with a report

that will show in dollars and cents the cost of excluding reservoirs from Tehipte Valley and the Cedar Grove area and the substitution in their places of the next best alternative. The people of the country speaking through their elected representatives can then answer the question whether the preservation of these areas is worth the price. At least we will not be faced with the problem of being told that the power resources of the Kings must go to waste unless these areas are flooded and used for water storage.

This approach to the problem is new. Personally I believe it is sound. Time only can determine whether it will be successful.

BESTOR ROBINSON

Match Your Dollars for South Calaveras

The Summer *Bulletin* of the Save-the-Redwoods League clarified the position of the South Calaveras Grove of Big Trees, although by now the financial situation should be even brighter. At the meeting of the California State Park Commission in San Francisco early in May, the Save-the-Redwoods League stated that it had available \$250,000 for the acquisition of the South Calaveras Grove in accord with the official program of the State Park Commission, provided this sum was matched in equal amount in funds from sources other than the State. This was reported in the June *Sierra Club Bulletin* in the minutes of the Board meeting. In 1944 the League had requested that the State Park Commission allocate \$500,000 for this project for the preservation of the Grove. This was done and later the allocation was increased to \$1,000,000 with the usual provision for matching from sources other than the State.

The *Bulletin* of the Save-the-Redwoods League invited everyone interested to participate in the movement to preserve the South Calaveras Grove and explained how it would be accomplished:

Since the Save-the-Redwoods League has assurance that when \$250,000 is raised, it will be matched with an equal amount, and since this total of \$500,000 in private funds in turn will be matched by the California State Park Commission from Park funds, this will make a total

of \$1,000,000. This should go far to assure the success of the move to preserve the Big Trees (*Sequoia Gigantea*) in the South Calaveras Grove, since Governor Earl Warren and the California State Park Commission have enthusiastically supported the program, and have indicated that at least \$1,000,000 of State funds is allocated to it. A substantial beginning has been made, through the cooperation of the U.S. Forest Service, toward acquiring lands surrounding the Big Trees basin . . .

For the acquisition of the North Calaveras Grove, \$100,000 was contributed through the Save-the-Redwoods League, and \$37,500 through the Calaveras Grove Association, these sums being matched in equal amounts by the State Park Commission. . . .

In order to take advantage of definite pledges in the amount of \$250,000 that have already been made to the League, an equal amount in other private contributions will need to be obtained. Here is how it will work out:

Each dollar contributed to the Save-the-Redwoods League for the South Calaveras Grove Fund will be matched in equal amount from this fund of \$250,000, and the two dollars thus supplied will be matched by State funds, so that each of your dollars, when matched in this way, will provide for a total of four dollars for acquisition of the South Calaveras Grove.

Many contributions of \$5, \$10, \$25, \$100 and more, are being received.

Checks may be made out to Sierra Club, with instructions that they are for the South Calaveras Grove Fund.

Letters

ABOUT TRAILS

U.S. Forest Service, California Region
July, 1951

Sierra Club— . . . Some information on our regional trail maintenance activity may be of interest to you and will help clarify the reason for our limited trail program in the High Sierra area.

Prior to 1948 there were over 20,000 miles of trail in the region and with the limited funds for their upkeep it was impossible to keep the entire system passable. A study was made to reduce the mileage in the system to the absolute minimum that would provide adequate protection, utilization, and administration of national forest lands. This study reduced the system to approximately 16,000 miles.

The average annual available funds for on-the-ground maintenance work on the trail system is approximately \$186,000 for this region, which gives an average of less than \$12 per mile. More than this amount per mile is spent on trails with heavy public use and in areas with rugged topography, and less on trails with light or no public travel. Expenditures on most of the High Sierra trails exceed the average of \$12 per mile per year. On an average the available funds will permit a fair maintenance job on the trails once every three years or, in other words, $\frac{1}{3}$ of the trail mileage worked each year. Most of the High Sierra trails, because of their heavy public use, receive more frequent attention than the average for the region.

In addition to the maintenance of the trail system, the region for the past three years has spent \$50,000 to \$65,000 per year in deferred maintenance and betterment of the trail system. This program has been limited to high priority protection and recreational trails and the type of work consisted of opening up trails closed by brush or slides, relocation of sections of dangerous trails, tread improvement on hazardous sections, and drainage improvement to prevent tread erosion . . . The betterment program for this fiscal year has been reduced to \$21,400 of which \$8,400 is programmed for the following High Sierra trails: Army Pass trail, Bishop Pass trail, Fish Creek trail.

It would be desirable to construct certain new trails and replace existing trails that have been or will be destroyed by road construction, but we feel it is low priority as compared to keeping the existing system passable and

eliminating the hazardous conditions . . . All the available funds are urgently needed to maintain the existing trail system which, as stated before, has been reduced to the absolute minimum.

If available funds were used for the construction of new trails the condition of existing trails on the system would become worse from lack of attention. In addition, the new trails would add to the maintenance job. In our judgment, the construction of new trails is out of the question at the present level of federal appropriations for this type of work.

We assure you that your deep concern lest the wilderness become overdeveloped is mutual. . . .

J. J. BYRNE, *Chief*
Division of Engineering

PHOTOGRAPHS WANTED

San Francisco, Calif., Aug. 23

Editor—As you will see in the current *Life*, our editors have a keen interest in mountain climbing. It has occurred to us that the members of the Sierra Club might well be a source of interesting and exciting photographs of this sort, and we would be most grateful for any opportunity to look at any good pictures you care to submit. The major requirement for such pictures is that they show the breathtaking aspects . . .

We would be most grateful if anyone who has such pictures would submit them to Mr. Richard Pollard. [Time Inc., 100 Bush Street, San Francisco 4.]

ALFRED WRIGHT, JR.
Chief, San Francisco News Bureau

Lyell Base Camp, Sept. 4

Editor—This is to request Sierra Club members to send me any photographs they might have taken of the Lyell Glacier between 1921 and 1931. The ice fall disappeared during this interval and I would like to obtain as much information as possible in order to determine the exact date.

ART HARRISON
5715 30th Ave., N.E., Seattle 5, Wash.

● As long as people are asking for illustrations we may as well add our request: snow scenes for monthly numbers and the 1952 Annual, too. Ed.

Memorial to Willis Linn Jepson

A large section of beach and forest land on Tomales Bay will be set aside as a Willis Linn Jepson Memorial in the projected state park which comprises 850 acres of beaches and wilderness area north of Shell Beach.

Six years ago the Marin Conservation League raised \$15,000, with the promise of the Marin Board of Supervisors to match it, and Shell Beach was bought for \$30,000. The League then managed to get Tomales Bay beaches into the Master Recreation Plan of the Planning Commission and approached the State Park Commission for matching funds to secure more beaches on Tomales Bay as a state park. They agreed, but it took six years to put it over, and then only because the League agreed to give \$10,000.

The Board of Directors of the Sierra Club voted to contribute \$1,000 toward this acquisition. The money was appropriated from the bequest left to the Sierra Club by Charles Cavanaugh, a long-time member of the club who was especially interested in Marin County recreational resources.

In writing to the secretary of the Sierra Club to acknowledge the pledge unofficially, Mrs. Norman Livermore, president of the Marin County Conservation League, told of the idea of setting aside the area:

"We decided to save a large section of Bishop Pines, native trees, wildflowers, etc., in memory of Dr. Jepson, who was a sponsor of and contributor to Shell Beach Fund, and has a chapter in his *Silva of California* about the rare Bishop Pines. He once told Mr. Colby that one of the finest stands of laurel in all California was on the slopes of Tomales Bay Beaches. This section was also recommended years ago by Frederick Law Olmsted in his survey for California Parks, so we felt it would be a fitting memorial to Dr. Jepson, the great pioneer botanist and conservationist. . . ."

"It was most appropriate that you should have used the bequest of Mr. Charles Cavanaugh, for his check was the first one we received when we started our Shell Beach campaign, and his \$1,000 has helped us to create this state park"



Courtesy, Marin Conservation League

Wanted—Clair Tappaan Lodge Manager

The many friends of Henry Cam will be sorry to hear that he is relinquishing his position as manager of Clair Tappaan Lodge. He is leaving the lodge in mid-September, and Dennis Whiles will serve as caretaker until a new manager has been selected by the Lodge Committee.

Applications for this position will be accepted until October 10, and should be addressed to the Clair Tappaan Lodge Committee, Sierra Club, 1050 Mills Tower, San Francisco 4. The letters of application should give all particulars, such as age, experience, references, marital status, and any other pertinent information. This is a well-paid position, with board and lodging provided in an all-year vacation atmosphere. The duties are many and varied, but all related to managing and maintaining a large mountain lodge.

Cigarette Snuffer

Forest fire experts have heartily endorsed the idea of Alex "Tex" Jordan of Vallejo on how to prevent cigarette butts from starting forest fires.

He suggests carrying an empty cartridge of .38 or similar caliber on outdoor trips. Put the glowing end of the cigarette butt in the cartridge, which fits closely around the cigarette and will snuff it out in a few seconds. Frank Jefferson, fire control chief for California region of the U.S. Forest Service, tested the idea, and recommends it.

Hands across the Range

The *Inyo Register* (Bishop) of July 19 carried a prominent front page article entitled "Sierra Club Boosts Area Campground Maintenance Plan." The article started out: "Inyo-Mono's Campground Maintenance Fund received a healthy shot in the arm last week from the Sierra Club, a California organization dedicated to the protection and improvement of the high country. The shot was a \$50 check mailed to the Mono Chamber of Commerce, one of the area groups sponsoring the Maintenance Fund project." The article then quoted the following letter sent by Sierra Club secretary, Richard M. Leonard, to the Mono Chamber of Commerce and other area groups:

A Sierra Club member who lives in Hawthorne and spends as much time as possible in the Sierra, has sent us a copy of your appeal for funds to help maintain campgrounds in the Inyo-Mono area.

As you may know, the Sierra Club is deeply concerned with the matter of Forest Service recreation appropriations. We are aware of the serious need for greater appropriations, and know of the difficulty of obtaining them from a Congress that does not understand the true nature of the problem. The Sierra Club has joined the Izaak Walton League and other groups in repeatedly urging greater USFS appropriations. But until adequate appropriations can be made, we agree with you that the citizens who use and appreciate Forest Service recreational areas should help maintain them.

Many of our members visit the Inyo-Mono region and use the Forest Service camps there, and we deeply appreciate their being able to do so. The Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of the Sierra Club has therefore voted a contribution of fifty dollars toward the important work of maintaining Inyo-Mono campgrounds and thereby alleviating the effects of overuse.

Conservation Committee Named

Under the new chairman, Professor Harold C. Bradley, the club's Conservation Committee is shouldering its pack of problems after the summer pause, to tread again the conservation trail. Arthur H. Blake, who has been leading it efficiently and continuously for these several years, with the pack getting bigger every month despite the items that are cleaned out, deserves to have the responsibility taken over by someone else. The club is very fortunate indeed, that Dr. Bradley is willing and able to be the new leader. All the members of the committee feel that with such leadership they can con-

tinue with the same vigor as before, and although the trail is rough and the packs are heavy, some of the problems may be cleared away, and some of the goals reached on the way to that happy millenium of Conservation As We See It.

You can all help. If you see something in the newspaper or hear a rumor of something which you think should come to the attention of the club, please send it in to the chairman of the committee. Every member of the Sierra Club is an unofficial member of the Conservation Committee, so keep on the alert and help the club carry on its job.