

SIERRA CLUB BULLETIN

*March
1952*



HUMMOCKS AND LAKE NEAR SILVER PASS

Cedric Wright

Announcing the
1952 Wilderness Outings

... all the familiar trips, and a new one.

Photographs by Cedric Wright.

SEE PAGES 6-15

Miscellany

A date to be marked on Sierra Club calendars is May 3, when the Board of Directors will hold the annual Organization Meeting in San Francisco. Following the meeting there will be the northern section of the Annual Reunion Dinner and Dance. It will be held at the Claremont Hotel, in Berkeley, and the price is to be \$4.50 per person. The Annual Dinner is a wonderful time to see your familiar friends in unfamiliar garb and to exchange greetings and reminiscences, so save the date. Postcard announcements with further information will be mailed soon.

The continued growth of the Sierra Club—in membership and in influence—is reflected in the increase in centers of local activity. New chapters are being formed at a rate that may yet reach an average of one a year since 1948.

Members residing in Santa Barbara, Ventura and San Luis Obispo counties have presented to the Board of Directors of the Sierra Club a petition for formation of Los Padres Chapter. The petition was approved at the February 9 meeting of the Board, and an organization meeting set for March 25 in Santa Barbara. The group will at that time elect officers and draw up by-laws; with acceptance of those by-

laws by the Board, Los Padres Chapter will be officially established.

The group centering in Santa Barbara has already been active in conservation and educational work as well as in local outing activity, under the principal leadership of T. Preston Webster, Jr.

Oh, yes—that statistical limb we got out on. Los Padres will be the club's eighth chapter. We're counting on the Kern-Kaweah group (reported in the January *SCB* by its earlier name, Kern-Sierra) to attain chapter status before the year is out. Then the record may read:

Southern California Chapter, 1911; San Francisco Bay, 1924; Riverside, 1932; Loma Prieta, 1933; Mother Lode, 1940; San Diego, 1948; Atlantic, 1950; Los Padres, 1952; Kern-Kaweah, 1952.

How soon will we have chapters in Washington, Chicago, Portland, Fresno?

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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 NATURAL MOUNTAIN SCENE...

For the March Record

Snowfall Outdoes Heald

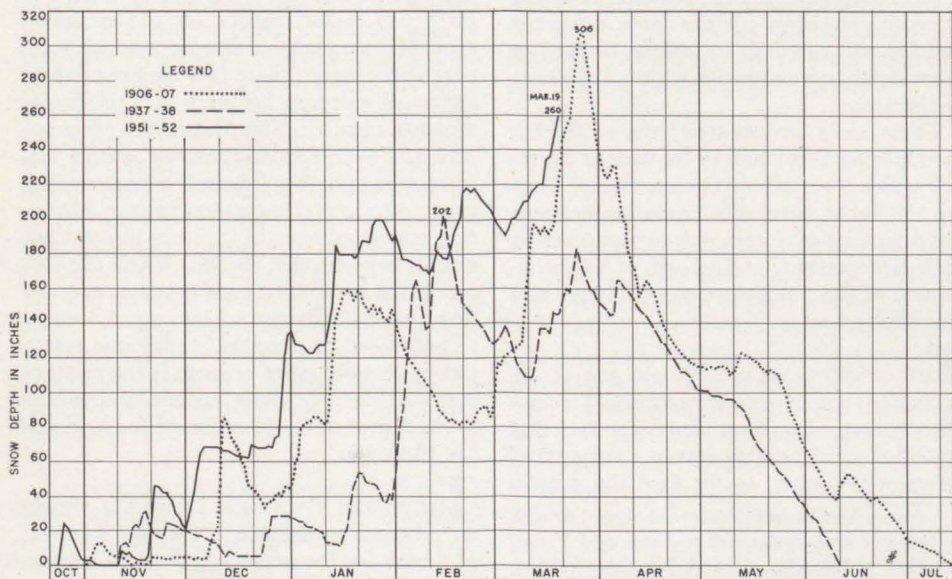
With architect John P. Schagen's chart we show that this winter's snowfall is not only heavy, but also that it is much heavier than expected by Weldon Heald, whose predictions we have been talking about in this column ever since we ran his "Sierra Snows—Past and Future" in the 1949 Annual.

For 1952, Mr. Heald predicted a 600-inch snowfall, or if not that much, 500 inches anyway. And what fell at Donner Summit up to March 20? A seasonal fall of more than 740 inches—a total Heald didn't expect un-

til about 1980. Another four feet and we'll outdo history.

The chart doesn't quite do justice to the maximum depth on the ground; although no more than 268 inches was recorded at Soda Springs (March 20), Donner Summit had 312 inches. Since the 1906-07 total of 306 inches was recorded at Donner Summit, not Soda Springs, we may assume

- We've seen the deepest pack yet.
- We can ski at Clair Tappaan long after June 1.
- Skis won't be out of order on the summer outings. But the snow may be bumpy.



Record-year snow depths at Soda Springs and Donner Summit.

Park Philosophy and Calaveras South Grove

By FREDERICK A. MEYER*

RECENT problems in the long struggle to add the South Calaveras Grove of Giant Sequoias to the state park system are causing us to re-examine the very foundations of our park philosophy. Because the principles involved are of such vital concern and general application in many park units, a discussion of them may be of interest apart from their direct bearing on the South Calaveras Project.

Because of the difficulty of raising matching funds before logging operations enter the area, we are confronted with a proposal that the State accept the valley of Big Trees Creek after selective logging with the exception only of the bottom and lower slopes of the basin which are actually occupied by the giant sequoias. (This would considerably lower the purchase price, on account of the value of the timber removed.) In support of this proposal it has been claimed, in effect, that cut-over lands are more suitable for park purposes than heavy virgin timber; that selective cutting of old-growth timber is wiser land management practice; and that anyway practically all the large old pines and firs will succumb to insects, disease, or other destructive agencies within a relatively few years.

These ideas are not new; the writer has encountered them before in various forms and under a variety of circumstances. They are the result, first, of a confusion between the principles of *forest management* and of *park management*; and second, of a misconception of the true nature of park ideals and philosophy.

THE QUESTION at issue is not one of determining the correct procedure of scientifically managing forest lands. The fact that sustained-yield forestry involves removal of old-growth timber, to increase the growth

* Forest Technician, California State Division of Beaches and Parks. From *News and Views*, monthly publication of and for the Division, January, 1952.

rate of the remaining trees, is becoming more generally appreciated. But while this activity is among the duties of the Division of Forestry, as it is of the U.S. Forest Service, it is not a function of our own organization.

A recent issue of the *National Parks Magazine* contained an editorial discussion of the term "conservation" which, as now used, properly includes sustained-yield management of forest lands and of other natural resources. The editorial contended that the park function is not conservation in this sense, but is "nature preservation," and urged the observance of this distinction.

The State Park Commission has characterized and described the place of our park system as being "to preserve, in perpetuity, areas of outstanding natural, historical, or recreational interest of which the people otherwise would become deprived." Frederick Law Olmsted, in his 1950 General Report to the Park Commission, gives the above quotation in full and then enlarges and comments upon it significantly. He sets forth two major reasons for the establishment of state parks, or functions which state parks may serve; these two may overlap to almost any degree, but each still retains its separate identity. The first is the *preservation of features* having notable scenic, historic, and scientific interest, wherever they occur; the second is the *provision of recreation* opportunities and facilities in locations where they are most needed. Where the former is the controlling consideration, acquisition and maintenance of the area as nearly as possible in its original condition is essential. Where the latter purpose is the primary one, considerably more latitude is allowable in the degree of modification of the land and the landscape.

THE SOUTH CALAVERAS Project is clearly an outstanding instance of the establishment of a park for the preservation of an impressive natural feature. This feature, the pri-

meval forest of Big Trees Creek, including the Sequoias, was designated as Unit 1, and is the heart of the project. Unit 3, embracing the Beaver Creek sugar pines, was added as a secondary feature of the same type. The value of these lands for park purposes is entirely dependent on their remaining as primeval forests. If any of the timber is cut, they are no longer the outstanding examples of forest development which makes them important state park material. Most of the remaining units in the project are included for other reasons, namely, to provide a corridor to the existing park, or buffer areas, or space for development. These units can, and probably will, be logged, without loss of value for the intended purposes.

It is, of course, always necessary to locate carefully the boundaries of an area being set aside to preserve a natural feature. In the Calaveras South Grove the area has definite natural boundaries which, as a minimum, must not be violated. The entire valley of Big Trees Creek is a complete biological, as well as topographical, unit in itself, although the extension of the logging railroad across the lower end makes this an allowable, if regrettable, stopping place. Division or reduction of this natural unit, as contemplated in the proposal referred to, would greatly endanger the integrity of the remaining area. In my opinion, there is no possible doubt: the logging of the upper slopes of Big Trees Creek would induce erosion; would exaggerate the temporary and seasonal fluctuations of the stream, probably causing it to be muddy some of the time; would cause subtle but significant changes in humidity, and probably not-so-subtle changes in the wind pattern, perhaps with serious results. In short, we would be failing to preserve this outstanding area substantially in its natural condition, and thereby failing to fulfill the prime objective of park acquisition for this particular area.

THE CONTENTION that the majority of the trees in an old-growth forest are a liability is, from the *park* standpoint, entirely fallacious. If it were true, as claimed, that these trees (except the Sequoias) will die and disappear all within a comparatively short

time, leaving a healthy but less impressive forest of younger specimens, then it would not have been possible for the early settlers to have found such magnificent timber as they did, throughout the mountains. Surely, there would have been some parts of the forest where the old trees had died out and given way to the younger ones. The fact is that our mixed forests of the Sierra Nevada are "all-aged," rather than "even-aged." Even among the larger and older trees of comparable size, there is a wide variation in age and an equally wide variation in individual life expectancy. Sugar pine trees are mature at about 200 or 250 years; but some of them will live to be 500 or 600, and possibly even older under the most favorable conditions. The overmature trees will of course disappear, singly or in groups, under the natural processes that have been functioning for millenniums; but, under the same processes, there should always be others to replace them.

The vital importance of extending the principles of scientific forest management to all lands, public and private, where timber production is the rule can scarcely be over-emphasized. But park lands are not included in that category. Our parks must be neither woodlots nor tree farms. We are preserving primeval forests, because they *are* primeval, and because the primeval is inspiring.



Planning a Summer Trip?

We hope everyone will bear in mind two new publications that should help summer plans for mountain trips:

1) *Going Light—With Backpack or Burro*, tells about the technique and equipment for traveling light and having fun at it.

2) *Starr's Guide to the John Muir Trail and the High Sierra Region* (4th ed.) explains itself fully in the title.

The second book is a Sierra Club institution by now; the first almost became one before we published it. Each is \$2 plus tax, at the club office or your bookstore.

Who knows? *Manual of Ski Mountaineering* (\$1.75) may be helpful this summer too.

Wilderness Outings—General Information

Outings are open only to members of the Sierra Club or similar clubs. With the exception of children under 12, all members of a family must be members of the club. Applicants for membership are eligible.

Since the trips are at high altitudes and fairly strenuous, all persons must be in sound health, and a *physical examination is strongly advised*. Those intending to go should take some local walks and climbs to get into condition. Shoes that are to be worn in the mountains should be used and checked on these preparatory trips.

Transportation is usually by private car.

The Sierra Club outing is a cooperative enterprise and each person partaking of the benefits assumes his share of the responsibilities, both financial and for help on the trip. The fees listed will probably cover the expenses; the management reserves (but has seldom exercised) the right to levy small additional assessments.

New Payment Plan

New this year is a \$5 RESERVATION FEE (per person per trip period) which holds your place for you until the DEADLINE DATE. We hope this will help you to help us plan ahead by speeding your reservation along.

DEADLINE DATE for reservation and full

payment is one month before the date that your particular trip starts.

The TRIP FEE (see table) may be sent in with the reservation fee or at any time up to the deadline date. The trip fee must be paid by the deadline date or the place will not be held for you if there is a waiting list. If reservations are made or trip fees are paid after the deadline date, the trip fee is increased by \$5.

REFUNDS. The reservation (overhead) fee is not refundable. The trip fee is refunded in full if you cancel a week (or longer) before your trip-period starts; after that there can be no refund unless your place is filled.

When making reservations please:

- 1) Remit to "Sierra Club."
- 2) Include names and addresses of all persons for whom reservations are made.
- 3) Specify trip and period wanted (by name and by number or date).
- 4) Let us know whether transportation to roadhead is desired or can be provided for others whose names the office may suggest.
- 5) For Burro, Family Burro, or Knapsack trips, please give age, sex, and (briefly) relevant experience of all participants.
- 6) For Saddle Trip, please give height and weight, too.

Trip details will be sent you later.

<i>Outing</i>	<i>Starting dates</i>	<i>Trip fee</i>	<i>Dunnage</i>
HIGH TRIP	1: July 13, Onion Valley 2: July 27, Division Creek 3: August 10, South Lake	\$73 per period; \$55 for children 14 or under*	30 lbs.
BASE CAMP	1: July 6, Florence Lake 2: July 20, Florence Lake 3: August 3, Florence Lake	\$40 (children \$30)*	30 lbs.
BURRO	1: July 6, Carroll Creek 2: July 20, Carroll Creek 3: August 3, Carroll Creek 4: August 17, Whitney Portal	\$42*	25 lbs.
FAMILY BURRO	1: August 3, Tuolumne Meadows 2: August 17, Tuolumne Meadows	\$135 per family*	300 lbs. per family
KNAPSACK	Sierra: July 5, Cedar Grove Rainier: August 15	\$39* \$35*	15 lbs. 15 lbs.
SADDLE	June 29, Carroll Creek	\$155*	50 lbs.

➤ * Please add to each fee the nonrefundable \$5 reservation charge.

JOHN MUIR TRAIL
BELOW PINCHOT PASS



Announcing the 1952 Wilderness Outings

For members and would-be members—thirty weeks of wilderness magic

Up above the heavy forest belt and beyond the last of the steep mountain roads is the open high country to which Sierra Club parties have been turning since 1901—turning to it for the restoration of body and spirit that only the wilderness can provide in such full measure. And this year, for the forty-seventh time, mountain-wise leaders will help newcomer and old-timer alike to travel through and enjoy that high country—and, having enjoyed it, leave it unharmed.

Six different types of outing will meet the varying needs of all, from uncertain beginner to confident veteran. The 1952 menu offers, all told, three two-week periods each of High Trip and of Base Camp, two of knapsack trips, four of the usual burro trips and two of burro trips for families with young children, and a ten-day saddle trip.

The rich array of opportunities is another indicator of the growth of the Club. For many years the High Trip met the needs of those who sought assistance or companionship in their mountain travels. Today a variety of trips permits two or three times as many to visit and enjoy the high country.

The outings are for members of this club and of clubs of like purposes. We welcome

those who join to come on the trips. We know that a gratifying number of new members will remain to take more and more outings and to participate in the good work of the club. You who already know and cherish the wilderness—both as a refuge and as a challenge—are urged to assist others in coming to know it.

The strength of the club varies with the number of members who love the high places, value their peacefulness, enjoy seeing others enjoy them, and will seek means of keeping them unchanged and beautiful. We still have Sierra wilderness today because those who traveled its trails yesterday had us in mind. We hope today's trips may help tomorrow's.

[Further general information about club trips is given in the Member's Handbook. The club office can answer questions not answered here or in the Handbook.]

C.E.M.

The Outing Committee:

H. Stewart Kimball (chairman), Herbert L. Breed, David R. Brower, Alfred R. Dole, Patrick D. Goldsworthy, Louis R. Henrich, Oliver Kehrlein, Richard Leonard, George Templeton, Cliff Youngquist.




BENCH LAKE AND ARROW PEAK . . .

. . . one of the climax campsites for the coming High Trip



MULES OVER THE SNOW?

Silver Pass looked like this in 1938. High Trippers will probably find similar scenes and excitement on this summer's high passes.



The Forty-seventh Sierra Club High Trip

Three two-week periods starting July 13—
Bubbs Creek Headwaters, Sixty Lakes
Basin, Twin Lakes, Bench Lake, Upper
Basin, Grouse Meadow, The Palisades.

THE scenic climax of the Sierra crest is in store for those who are in on the beginning of the second half century of the High Trip. And we have promise, in the current snowy winter, that the Muir Trail sky-land we are to visit will be even more beautifully alpine than usual.

As always, we have tried to plan the High Trip so that you will move often enough to see new vistas and horizons but never so often, so far, or so rapidly that you can't linger to appreciate them.

WHAT WE'LL SEE

First Period—July 13 to 26 Onion Valley to Sawmill Pass

Starting at Onion Valley, high above Independence, we take the easiest pass into the mountains in this part of the Sierra—Kearsarge Pass—and drop down past Bullfrog Lake to Charlotte Lake campsite. From this familiar ground we move to a camp in Gardiner Basin, which no Sierra Club trip has visited yet, but which has been very highly spoken of by those who have seen it, including Walter Starr, Jr. On the next move, the stock crosses Glen Pass to Sixty Lakes

HIGH TRIP CAMPFIRE ABOVE TWIN LAKES. High Trippers who have watched the embers from this site will never forget the surrounding scene.



Basin. There is a cross-country substitute (passable to burros) for those who like to leave the trail now and then. Sixty Lakes Basin is less famous than Rae Lakes only because it is off the main Muir Trail. The next move takes us up to a camp at Twin Lakes or at Woods Lake (depending upon the situation and the terrain)—either of them a beauty, but the former better known to Sierra Club high trippers for one of the most beautiful campfire sites of all. Here the lucky few who are continuing for more than two weeks stay put (not literally, of course) while the first-two-weekers leave the mountains by way of Sawmill Pass and a spectacular drop to Owens Valley.

Second Period—July 27 to August 9 Via Cartridge Pass to South Lake

Sawmill Pass is not an easy way into the mountains, so we take two days to cross it, with one of those early starts that people groan about before dawn but are relishing within the first half hour. The first camp is high and cool, on the east side of Sawmill Pass, which we then cross on a move to Twin Lakes—just as rewarding for the second-two-weekers as for the first, whom we join there. The entire party now crosses Pinchot Pass. The next camp—Bench Lake—is one we'd waste words on by describing. Ask anyone! We pity the mules but not ourselves as we cross Cartridge Pass to Marion Lake, less well known than Bench but no less beautiful. Then down to the Middle Fork of the Kings and up its magnificent canyon, rich in river scenes no high tripper has seen since his youth, to Grouse Meadow camp, close under the Devil's Crags. Finally, up LeConte Canyon into well known country again—Dusy Basin and the high open spaces under Mount Agassiz, Mount Winchell and North Palisade. Here the second-two-weekers depart over Bishop Pass to South Lake.

Third Period—August 10 to 23 Via Mather Pass to Sawmill Pass

Reversing last year's last steps, we travel to Bishop Pass from South Lake and join the holdover party in Dusy Basin. We then reverse the second 1952 period but change passes, substituting Mather Pass, on the

Muir Trail, for Cartridge Pass. Consequently, the move from Grouse Meadow takes us to Palisade Lakes, close under Middle Palisade, instead of to Marion Lake. The mules will have an easier time of it on more familiar ground as they travel sideways but hardly ever down on the south side of Mather Pass. The Bench Lake and Twin Lakes camps will be the same as the second two weeks, and the final move will take us in one day up and all the way down Sawmill Pass to one of those most familiar of Owens Valley sights—freshly bathed but still bronzed high trippers in Bishop.

Alternative

As all old-time High Trippers know, the itinerary published at this time of the year is not so much prediction as it is an educated guess. The chief assumption in the itinerary above is that we will be able to get over Glen Pass shortly after mid-July. If at that time we find that this winter's heavy snows have produced a small new glacier at Glen Pass that will prohibit the passing of stock until two weeks has been spent in shoveling or melting, then the present plan is to spend the first two weeks up and down Bubbs Creek, with camps at Charlotte Lake, Gardiner Basin, Center Basin, and Lake Reflection. The second two weeks would then be the same as the first two as originally planned, and the third two weeks would go in the opposite direction—Sawmill Pass to Bishop Pass by way of Mather Pass. We have a secret wish that the snow on Glen Pass be too deep for mid-July crossing, if only because of our recollection of the camp we have in mind near Reflection Lake. It is on a bench just above the lake on the way to Harrison Pass; the Club has never camped there before. We rank it with Upper Milestone Bench and Darwin Bench as the finest in our Sierra experience.

WHAT THE TRIP IS LIKE

High Trips follow an approved formula for high mountain pleasure. Mules, duly persuaded by the packers, carry the load—the food, dunnage, and commissary equipment. Skilled hands organize the camp and prepare the mountain meals. Trip members



MOUNTAIN CONTEMPLATION—HIGH AND LOW, on your schedule with friends of your choosing—that's the need the High Trip tries to provide for. The prerequisites? Ability to walk the trails and to sleep out in timberline country.



carrying their minimum noontime needs choose their own pace, companions, and route to the next campsite. We move a day, rest a day or two, move again, and so on, through a matchless wilderness.

People who haven't been on a High Trip are usually dubious about their chances of enjoying a large party. People who have been on High Trips find that watching a fair cross-section of the populace, from children not yet in their teens on up to old hands in their seventies, and seeing their pleasure, is an important part of the fun of the trip. The mountains are big; there's solitude galore for those who seek it. Those who want it all the time will not enjoy a High Trip.

There's always plenty to do on a High Trip—natural sciences to study in their habitat; mountaineering, rock-climbing, and map-reading instruction, fishing, photographing, campfire entertainment, the moving-day circuses wherever the mules and packers are, the thrill of moving to new places every day or so . . . and there'll be plenty *not* to do for those who want a quiet place in the half-shade.

COMMISSARY

The commissary crew will be nearly the same as last year's: the trip will be led by Dave Brower and Pat Goldsworthy; Jim Harkins and Paul Kaufmann will have the cooking in hand; Bob Golden, Charlotte Mauk, and Al Carpenter will be the principal logisticians; other old hands and new will round out the crew—and once again we expect to have medical students all over the place. The Mt. Whitney Pack Trains mule strings will be under the able management of Bruce Morgan, assisted, we hope, by all last year's packers.

The commissary crew on a High Trip has to be large—it takes manpower to make and

break camp—but it is never large enough. As long as there's a High Trip there'll be ample opportunity for volunteer wielders of ax, shovel and hotcake or trout turner.

THE COST

The total cost will be \$78 for a two-week period, \$60 for children under fourteen (but check with the management to see how far under they can be and still be likely to get along. Last year Kenny Brower, at six and a half years, had enough fun to want to go again immediately—and his parents felt the same way about it). In setting this fee we have corrected our last year's over-optimism, which led us to try a deposit of \$68 (children \$50), and left the trip handsomely in the red, even after a \$5 assessment per person. Packing, food, and club overhead have since all gone up a little; hence this year's increase. We hope the figure doesn't seem too high to you. It is so much higher than we had hoped it would be that it has occurred to us in our facetious moments that we should try to imitate the television salesmen: not mention the total price at all, but merely say that \$4 a week between now and trip time will swing it. Our motto might be, "For less than you spend on gasoline, you can walk."
D.R.B.

THE PACKING CREW, 1950. We hope most of these men—and the friends behind them—will be back.



Saddle Horse Trip

The 1952 Saddle Trip, a ten-day circle ride, will start June 29 and end July 8 at Carroll Creek Pack Station, near Lone Pine. The itinerary will cover some of the outstanding scenery of the southern Sierra, including the highest point in the United States, the finest unspoiled wilderness canyon remaining in the Sierra, the native habitat of the renowned Golden Trout, and a succession of memorable meadows, forests, lakes, streams, waterfalls, and mountain flower gardens.

What the Trip is Like

The Saddle Trip, first taken in 1939, is similar in every way to the well known "Trail Rider" trips sponsored by the American Forestry Association. In fact, the stock, packers, commissary, and equipment are identical; only the sponsorship is different.

The trip is comparable to the "cavalry" that used to accompany the High Trip in years gone by, but presently offers attractions not found on any of the other club trips, as follows: (1) There is a higher percentage of traveling time on the trip, hence riders are able to see more country. (2) The trip is smaller in size (limited to 20). (3) Riding is obviously easier on the corporosity. (4) The unsurpassed Sierra scenery can be assimilated better from a saddle. (5) Riders are permitted 50 pounds of dunnage. (6) The grub list is second to none. (7) The privilege of riding horses and getting to know mules is one that grows more rare as we grow more mechanical.

Itinerary

The itinerary will include Mulkey Pass; Little Whitney Meadows; Golden Trout Creek; Lower Funston Meadow, finest camping spot in Kern Canyon; Junction Meadows; the High Sierra Trail up Wallace Creek; Crabtree camp, under the shadow of the Whitney Range; a side trip (perhaps part way on foot if the top is too snowy) to the summit of Mount Whitney, with its justly famous and breathtaking view; Guyot Pass to Rock Creek; Army Pass, Cottonwood Lakes; and down Little Cottonwood Creek to road's end at Carroll Creek.

This year's trip will be led by William V. Dorris, long an active leader in the Southern California Chapter. Bill was co-leader of the Monument Valley trip. He has organized and led pack trips and is familiar with wilderness camping in the Sierra and in the Canadian Rockies. He will be ably assisted by Bruce Morgan, owner-manager of Mt. Whitney Pack Trains, who will be in charge of packing and commissary.

IKE LIVERMORE

Burro Trips

No previous mountaineering experience is necessary for enjoyment of a Burro Trip. Indeed, it is assumed that nobody can tie a bowline, throw a diamond hitch, bake with a reflecting oven, or even pick a good campsite. Ample opportunity is provided to learn all these things along with leadership, use of map and compass, burro psychology, and other phases of mountaineering. The graduate of a Burro Trip should be quite capable of planning and conducting small, inexpensive trips of his own. This opportunity for learning is one of the purposes of the trips.

All are expected to share in camp "work" and in care of stock on the trail; however, one can plan to have part of most afternoons free and there will be about six layover days on which camp is not moved. There will be plenty of time to make cross-country trips, climb peaks, fish, and swim.

Carroll Creek is the base at which trips start and end; *exception*: trip 3 ends and trip 4 begins at Whitney Portal. (There is an easy car shuttle between the roadheads.) Itineraries (naturally subject to change): 1. (leader to be announced) via Cottonwood Pass to the Kern, Wallace Creek, Timberline Lake, out over Army Pass; 2. (leader, Jim Barrett) via Siberian Pass to Crabtree Meadow, Wright Creek, Timberline Lake, out Army Pass; 3. (leader, George Templeton) Army Pass and Wallace Creek to Milestone Creek, back to Timberline Lake, out over Whitney Pass; 4. (leader, Bob Braun) Whitney Pass and Wright Creek, Milestone Creek, Wallace Creek, Army Pass. Each trip has been planned to give opportunity for all

to climb Mount Whitney and some of the other fourteen-thousand-footers.

These trips have become more and more popular, but are still limited to twenty members, so early sign-up is advisable.

GEORGE TEMPLETON

Family Burro Trips

This year, for the first time, the Outing Committee is offering two two-week burro trips especially for families with young children. In the past no trips have been planned specifically for families who prefer to move about at a small child's pace yet do not feel ready to plan and manage their own outings. The Family Burro Trips are planned to fill these needs and to provide opportunity for families to learn to carry out their own trips.

For several seasons a group of Sierra Club members has been experimenting with burro trips for families. (See "A Children's Burro Trip," *SCB*, June, 1949, and "Babes in Sierra-Land," *SCB*, March, 1948.) Their trips have been so successful that they are now ready to assist other families on similar trips.

It is planned to center this year's Family Burro Trips in the region north and west of

Tuolumne Meadows. This permits a highly scenic itinerary on which the usual moving day will involve about five to seven miles and a climb of some 1,000 to 1,500 vertical feet. The trips will include several layover days, providing ample opportunity to take side trips, wash clothes, fish, or loaf. Layover days are important, particularly in the early part of the trip, as they provide for rest necessary in the toughening-up process, and for leisurely recreation. It is during layovers that the children improve their acquaintance with the surroundings, according to the age level: the stones and twigs, the wading pools, frogs and pollywogs, fish in the brook and on the hook, swimming holes and sites for small-scale hydraulic engineering, the mountain flora and fauna, the peaks.

Those who have been on family burro trips agree that four and a half is usually about as young as a child should be to enjoy such a trip. Age, however, is not so important a criterion as self-reliance and ability to walk the necessary distances without undue fatigue. Because the burros are loaded to their full capacity of roughly 100 pounds there is no room—at least at the start—for a tired child to ride.

Each family brings its own food and does its own cooking. This has been found desirable because families often differ greatly in their eating habits, and with children there is not sufficient help to organize an effective central commissary. In addition, when a family operates as a unit there is an opportunity to develop greater fellowship and understanding between the members. Food costs are not included in the trip fee.

There will be three burros per family. This allows 300 pounds for food and dunage (excluding what is carried in rucksacks or is worn), apportioned to food, clothing, and gear to suit the needs of the individual family. An opportunity to pick up a food cache half way through the trip will permit a little more leeway on clothing and equipment.

Advice on food and equipment, as well as advance instruction, will be given by the leaders at pre-trip meetings in the Bay area and through correspondence with families elsewhere.

ALFRED R. DOLE

FAMILY BURRO-TRIP CANDIDATE?



"Where the hell is that spatula?"

(HIGH TRIP QUIZ: What prominent HT lineage is represented here? The only clue needed is the foregoing quote.)



EVOLUTION LAKE

Base Camp

In Evolution Basin

For years Base Campers have eyed the Evolution country, longing for an opportunity to explore leisurely its many spectacular canyons and glacial basins. The problem of getting into this remote area will now be solved by ferrying the members across Florence Lake and thus cutting the trip into camp from three days to two—two easy hikes of eight miles each.

Members will enter the Sierra from the west via Fresno, the historic Toll House Grade, Shaver Lake, Big Creek (with its gigantic hydroelectric plant), Huntington Lake, and Kaiser Pass, from which they can view the Minarets from the west, and finally park their cars at Florence Lake.

The trail to camp will follow the South Fork of the San Joaquin through the park-like series of Blaney Meadows (with a stop-off at the dude ranch and hot springs), up Evolution Creek and its cascading falls, and into the oft-described Evolution Valley. The

HUT IN MUIR PASS



exact location of camp will depend on snow conditions.

Since the beauties of Evolution Valley and Basin are so well known, we will here concentrate on the other attractions scheduled for our regular program of hikes from camp.

1. Closest to camp is the McGee Lakes Basin—a tempting haunt for fishermen and photographers—succinctly described by a High Tripper as “Another World! Wonderful!”

2. An easy climb from camp brings us onto Glacier Divide and its breath-taking Balcony, discovered by Bill Colby in 1925. The Balcony juts out from the Divide like the prow of a ship, with glaciers breaking away from both sides and the great expanse of Humphreys Basin below. This is an exceptional vantage point from which to photograph that most photogenic of peaks, Mount Humphreys.

3. An overnight trip is being planned to the famous Muir Pass during each session, thus making this unique experience available to everyone. To really know and appreciate this rugged pass, one must spend the night there (in or near the stone shelter) and witness the dramatic impact of the sunset and sunrise with the deep purple shadows filling the upper reaches of the Enchanted Gorge and the Kings Canyon, and the orange alpenglow highlighting the wild array of peaks and lakes. Climbers will find the Muir shelter a ready base for their attacks on the nearby Mounts Goddard, Huxley, Darwin, Fiske, Haeckel, and Wallace, the Black Giant, Scylla, Charybdis and some whose records show no previous ascents.

4. Circle tours will be organized up Goddard Canyon to follow the San Joaquin River through box canyons, up spectacular waterfalls and to its source at Martha Lake. Return will be via the Davis chain of lakes and the Goddard group of glaciers.

5. The customary “grannie” climb will be to the summit of Mount Spencer—that sharp pyramid in the center of Evolution Basin with its perfect 360 degree panorama of all the peaks in the territory.

6. Many will find a mountaineering climax in the exploration of Darwin Canyon with its series of deep blue lakes, sheer walls

and hanging glaciers. Those wishing to inspect these should bring ice equipment.

7-8-9. For the more strenuous members, three special trips will be organized: two through the Enchanted Gorge and one to Red Mountain Basin. Those wishing to participate in these extraordinary side trips should note when they are scheduled:

During the first session, a four-day knapsack trip will be made down the Enchanted Gorge and up Goddard Creek. These two canyons will be more spectacular than usual, packed and choked with heavy snow, and with Disappearing Creek living up to its name. During the last two weeks, this trip will be repeated in reverse, when snow will be less of a problem. As far as we know, this will be the first attempt to ascend the Enchanted Gorge.

During the second session, a stub camp will be established in Red Mountain Basin, west of Hell-for-Sure Pass. From this stub camp we will explore a scenic territory new to the Club, dotted with lakes and surrounded by dark metamorphic peaks of the Le-Conte Divide. This is virgin climbing country, with many summits as yet (presumably) unclimbed. Among the outstanding features are the Devil's Punchbowl with its amphitheater setting and sandy swimming beach, Disappointment and Horse-shoe lakes, and the pater noster series of Indian Lakes—a veritable fisherman's paradise.

The above list is only suggestive of the type of activities that will crowd the Base Camp program and will be added to or varied according to the desires of the members. Each special trip will be organized and led by one of the following experienced leaders, all well known to Base Campers: Cliff Youngquist, Morgan Cuthbertson, Bill Evans, Bill Wallace, Ben Mason and of course Peter Friedrichsen, Bob and Ned Thompson and Oliver Kehrlein.

In addition there will be the usual in-camp activities with Enid Michael and Peter Raven in charge of natural sciences; Dean Curtis devising menus and Ned Thompson handling pots and skillets; and, caring for our medical needs, Doctors Ernest Rogers, Ernst Wolff and Isolde Loewinger.

OLIVER KEHRLIN



AT McCLURE MEADOW

Knapsack Trips

If you like freedom and independence, like to travel cross-country, can carry your own gear plus food for two or three days, then knapsacking is the way for you to live in and see the mountains. The knapsack trips try to teach you how to be completely independent and self-sufficient—and like it. They also go into isolated mountain areas where there are no trails. In this way you can develop even more a sense of getting along in the wilderness and enjoying those areas that are least touched by civilization. There are hiking days; there are also layover days for individual hobbies—whether photography, fishing, climbing, or washing socks.

Each person must be in good enough physical condition to carry his own gear (15-pound limit), plus knapsack, plus 10 to 15 pounds of food and community gear. This is not really difficult, especially for people who have gained experience on a few week-end knapsack trips. However, these trips are considerably more strenuous than the others conducted by the Outing Committee. Consequently, the knapsack trips are not recommended for those who have not had some previous experience in this mode of travel.

The Sierra knapsack trip will be in Kings Canyon National Park, starting July 5. The tentative route is from Cedar Grove to

MOUNTS GODDARD AND McGEE FROM MUIR PASS



Sphinx Creek, Charlotte Lake, Gardiner Basin, Sixty Lakes Basin, Upper Basin, along the base of Muro Blanco, and out to Cedar Grove. This will enable the party to visit several seldom seen and unusually beautiful areas.

The out-of-state knapsack trip will be in Mount Rainier National Park. The Sierra

Club has not visited this area since the 1905 High Trip. This year's trip will follow the Wonderland Trail around most of the mountain. The trip will assemble near the end of the West Side Highway on Sunday afternoon, August 3, and will come out at Paradise on Friday, August 15.

LOUIS R. HENRICH

The Morley Fund

Through the generosity of the late Mrs. Evelyn Morley, the Sierra Club can offer outings to several guests, without charge. Mrs. Morley included in her will a bequest of \$20,000 to the Sierra Club "to defray the expense of taking, as guests, on its annual pilgrimage, persons who could not otherwise afford to go, giving preference to university professors or teachers."

When the Morley bequest was announced after Mrs. Morley's death in 1950, a committee was appointed to make recommendations on administration of the Fund, as follows: Boynton S. Kaiser (Chairman), Lewis F. Clark, Mrs. Anne Crowe, Mrs. Roxana Ferris, Joel H. Hildebrand, and Richard M. Leonard. The Committee is not yet prepared to announce fixed rules, but has made these recommendations: 1). The "giving preference" clause should be interpreted broadly to include not only members of college and other teaching staffs but also leaders in youth organizations, college students or teachers from other countries, and persons expecting to make conservation a major part of their work. 2). The most important criterion in selecting recipients of Morley Fund grants is interest in and support of Sierra Club objectives. 3). Membership in Sierra Club should not be a factor in selection. 4). A person will not ordinarily be eligible for a second outing. 5). The Committee will attempt to select a representative group of persons each year. 6). The procedure should

avoid a large number of nominees, thereby keeping to a minimum the number of persons disappointed if not selected—and also keeping the work of the Committee within reasonable bounds.

The Morley Fund became available to the Sierra Club in time to provide outings for eight persons in 1951.

This year approximately \$600 income will be available, which will provide about 11 two-week trips. The Committee has agreed that its individual members shall be responsible for making representative nominations distributed approximately as follows: four foreign students (two each from Southern and Northern California); one Boy Scout and one Girl Scout; two graduate students (probably from Stanford and California), preferably in biological sciences; two grade or high school teachers (one each from Los Angeles and San Francisco areas); and a worker in the conservation field. Although most nominations are already made for this year, suggestions for consideration in the future (or possibly for alternates this year) will be welcomed by the Committee.

The Committee recognizes its responsibilities and opportunities for long-term conservation results, both in this country and abroad, and is anxious to develop the best possible policy and procedure. The Committee would appreciate suggestions on these matters.

BOYNTON S. KAISER