



PACK TRAIN BELOW BISHOP PASS

*Philip Hyde*

# SIERRA CLUB BULLETIN

*April*  
1952

# Miscellany

Charles J. "White Mountain" Smith, superintendent of Zion and Bryce National Parks, will retire on April 30, at the age of seventy. A veteran of approximately three decades with the National Parks, he has always upheld the high ideals of the National Park Service, and by his friendly and cooperative attitude has been particularly successful in the handling of public relations.

His successor is Paul R. Franke, Assistant Chief Naturalist, who has already served twice as superintendent of Zion and Bryce Canyons in his twenty-four years in the Park Service, and is well equipped to fill the position again.

From the Seattle Mountaineers announcement has come of plans for their 1952 Summer Outing, to be held in Glacier National Park, July 19 to August 3. Base camp will be close to the road, eliminating necessity for pack trains, but arrangements can be made for trips into the high country with lodging at Park Service chalets. Plans call for climbing, swimming, fishing, trail trips, launch cruises on the lakes, and nightly campfire entertainment. Applications are limited to 125, and members of other clubs of like purpose are welcome. Further particulars may be obtained from the Outing secretary, Miss Betty Fenton, 4710 - 22nd N.E., Seattle 5.

The Alpine Club of Canada will hold its 1952 Camp in the Assiniboine area, July 21 to August 3. Members of other recognized mountaineering clubs will be welcome.

*Fuji threatened?* Some Japanese business men would like to operate a cable car for tourists to the summit of Fujiyama, Japan's sacred mountain. Fortunately, it would be sacrilege for the Shinto pilgrims to ride to the summit, so there is opposition there. And the Japan Nature Protection Association has circulated pamphlets which state "mountain climbers build character through hardships." Let us hope this argument and that of the faithful prevail.

Sierra Club members contributed the illustrations and story for the article on cleaning mountain camp sites which appeared in the May issue of *Sunset Magazine*. The editor was more optimistic than the author in stating that tin cans may rust away in four years, and the original manuscript calculated that there will soon be 415 cases of cans per mile of the John Muir Trail. The title of the article should therefore read "20,000 [not 415] rusty tin cans per mile."

**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

Harold E. Crowe . . . . .	President
Lewis F. Clark . . . . .	Vice-President
Richard M. Leonard . . . . .	Secretary
Einar Nilsson . . . . .	Treasurer
David R. Brower . . . . .	5th Member, Executive Committee
Ansel Adams . . . . .	Alex Hildebrand
Phil S. Bernays . . . . .	Arthur B. Johnson
Arthur H. Blake . . . . .	Oliver Kehrlein
Harold C. Bradley . . . . .	Charlotte E. Mauk
Marjory B. Farquhar . . . . .	Bestor Robinson

HONORARY PRESIDENT . . . . . William E. Colby

## HONORARY VICE-PRESIDENTS

Horace M. Albright . . . . .	Walter L. Huber
Newton B. Drury . . . . .	Frederick Law Olmsted
Francis P. Farquhar . . . . .	Marion R. Parsons
Randall Henderson . . . . .	Robert G. Sproul
Joel H. Hildebrand . . . . .	Walter A. Starr
William H. Wright . . . . .	

## EDITORIAL BOARD

David R. Brower . . . . .	Chairman and Editor
Harriet T. Parsons . . . . .	Associate Editor
Ansel Adams . . . . .	F. M. Fryxell
John R. Barnard . . . . .	Erwin G. Gudde
A. J. Biggins . . . . .	Fred Gunsky
Arthur H. Blake . . . . .	Charlotte E. Mauk
Joan D. Clark . . . . .	Marion R. Parsons
August Frugé . . . . .	Vivian Schagen
Blanche Stallings . . . . .	

## COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Conservation . . . . .	Harold C. Bradley
Library . . . . .	Alfred E. Weiler
Lodge . . . . .	Lewis F. Clark
Membership . . . . .	Cicely M. Christy
Mountaineering . . . . .	Allen P. Steck
Natural Sciences . . . . .	Milton Hildebrand
Outing . . . . .	H. Stewart Kimball
Winter Sports . . . . .	John A. Linford

Published monthly except July and August by the Sierra Club, 2061 Center Street, Berkeley 4, California. Annual dues are \$6 (first year \$12), of which \$1 (nonmembers, \$3) 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 club policy matters should be addressed to: Secretary, 1050 Mills Tower, San Francisco 4.



# Sierra Club Bulletin

VOLUME 37

APRIL, 1952

NUMBER 4

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

## For the April Record

### *Climber's Guide*

*The Climber's Guide to the High Sierra* has been awaiting completion only because the editors wish it to be as accurate as possible, and more information is necessary to attain that goal. The sections already completed and included in the "Preliminary Edition" are also being revised. The William Shand Memorial Fund, set up through the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. William Shand in memory of their son Bill, makes it possible to publish the complete guide, and revise and augment it from time to time.

Those of you who have found discrepancies in the sections already published please send in your corrections to Allen Steck, 3017 Wheeler Street, Berkeley, if you have not already done so.

The program is extensive. Those persons working on the various sections need the information that you may have on little-known areas of the Sierra or new routes on some of the well-known peaks. Following is a list of compilers and their regions:

Bob Swift, 1505 Spruce Street, Berkeley—Northern Yosemite, Tioga Road as southern boundary.

Ed Robbins, 1833 Berkeley Way, Berkeley—Cathedral Range, Sierra Crest from Dana to Lyell.

Fred Jones, Independence, Calif.—Piute Pass to Kearsarge Pass.

Bill Dunmire, 2701 Benvenue, Berkeley—Yosemite Climbs.

George Bloom, 2705 Ridge Road, Berkeley—Mammoth Pass to Piute Pass.

Ray Van Aken, 513A Nimitz, USNOTS, China Lake, Calif.—Great Western Divide,

south of Franklin Pass and the crest south of Whitney.

Bob Smith, 1148 Kottenberg Ave., San Jose—Kings River climbs, Middle and South Forks plus Monarch Divide.

Mr. A. J. Reyman (with Mildred Jentsch) has recently completed a section on the Kaweah Peaks and the Great Western Divide down to Franklin Pass, which will not appear until the final printing.

Please act now and send in your information—the *Guide* must be completed this year.

ALLEN STECK

### *Cyrus Washburn*

In the death of Cyrus Washburn, on April 9, the Sierra Club has lost a valued member and well-loved friend. A life member of the Sierra Club, "Cy" had been active on numerous committees, was for several years chairman of the San Francisco Bay Chapter, and was always ready to give his vigorous and enthusiastic support to any project of the club. He could always be counted on to put through anything he had undertaken to do. His activities extended further than the Sierra Club; he had served as president of the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs, the California Alpine Club, West Point Club, Tamalpais Conservation Club, and as a member of the San Francisco Council of Explorer Boy Scouts.

Because of ill health he had retired to Banning, but his interest in all the conservation and outdoor organizations with which he was associated had continued. His loss will be deeply felt by all his friends and colleagues.

## Directors Adopt Work Guides

Consideration of a plan for decentralizing and expanding some of the Sierra Club's conservation work and for determining its proper scope was the principal item of business for the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Sierra Club in the San Francisco headquarters on February 9, 1952. A carefully thought out proposal had been presented to the Board in November by Director Alex Hildebrand, whereby much of the club's activity could be handled by chapter officers in line with a clear policy guide and according to specific delegations of authority.

Present at the meeting were all directors except Clark, Kehrlein, and Robinson; representatives of all chapters except Atlantic (for obvious geographic reasons) and Loma Prieta; Honorary President William E. Colby and Honorary Vice-Presidents Walter L. Huber and Walter A. Starr.

The Conservation Administration guide and procedure had been distributed to the directors last fall, and was now reviewed and discussed in detail. A few suggested revisions were made, and both the policy guide and the conservation administration regulations were adopted by the Board. The directors, by formal resolution, thanked Barbara and Alex Hildebrand for their thorough and effective work in preparing the material.

Among other items considered by the Board were these:

### *Himalayan Expedition*

Alfred W. Baxter, Chairman, and Will Siri and Richard Houston of the California Himalayan Committee, presented a carefully worked out plan for an expedition of Sierra Club members to the Nepal Himalaya in 1953. The Board endorsed the California Himalayan Committee as well qualified to undertake its objective, and voted that the Sierra Club may act as an agency to receive and administer funds publicly subscribed for the expedition.

### *Los Padres Chapter*

The Board received a petition for the formation of the "Los Padres Chapter" of the Sierra Club, including members in Santa

Barbara, Ventura, and San Luis Obispo counties. The petition was approved, and the chapter will be officially chartered when the Board receives and approves its by-laws. Great appreciation was expressed to the leaders in the Santa Barbara area responsible for the formation of the chapter.

### *Kings River Power*

The City of Los Angeles had filed applications on February 6, 1952, to revive and expand earlier filings for power dams and reservoirs on the Kings River. Three of the proposed sites are far within Kings Canyon National Park, at Simpson Meadow, Paradise Valley, and at Copper Creek. Two others, at Cedar Grove and Tehipite Valley, are in areas that, although of high national-park calibre, are just outside the boundaries of the park. The officers of the club were unanimously authorized to protest the applications and to lead a campaign for protection of the national park.

### *Dinosaur National Monument*

The Secretary reported briefly on the present status of the plans of the Bureau of Reclamation to build power dams within Dinosaur National Monument.

Conservation interests have so far been able to prevent introduction of an authorizing bill into Congress. Text and photographs for a special Dinosaur issue of *Sierra Club Bulletin* are at hand for publication at an appropriate time.

### *Yosemite Advisory Board*

The directors were gratified to learn that the National Park Service had appointed Honorary Vice-President Frederick Law Olmsted to succeed the late Duncan McDuffie on the Yosemite Advisory Board. Mr. Olmsted, a member of the original Yosemite Advisory Board, has carried on the fine professional work of his father as the outstanding landscape architect of the United States and advisor to the state and national parks.

### *Dues*

The Board concluded that it was no longer possible to operate without increased fi-

nances, and unanimously recommended to the membership three amendments to the By-Laws of the Club, whereby annual dues would be raised by \$1.00 for regular memberships, with corresponding changes in other memberships; initiation fee reduced

to \$5.00, and provision made for contributing memberships at \$25.00 per year. (These proposals were submitted to the membership in ballots for the election of April 12, 1952, and overwhelmingly approved.)

RICHARD M. LEONARD, *Secretary*

## On Roads and Principles

[Last winter rumors current in Wyoming that the road on the West Side of the Snake River in the Grand Teton National Park was to be improved by paving and adding certain constructions, stirred some conservationists to protest. A letter from Olaus Murie to the National Park Service to obtain the truth back of the rumors, brought the reassuring answer that the request for improving the road had come from local people, and that the Park Service had no intention of drastically changing the road or building any other intrusions on the historic West Side Road.

However, the following statements of wilderness and park principles, with which the Park Service was in complete agreement, were so admirably set forth in Mr. Murie's letter, that we are reprinting them here.—Ed.]

### *The West Side Road*

I am greatly concerned over the proposal to pave the West Side Road leading up from Wilson. In fact it came to me as a great shock. Those of us who have lived here and have become familiar with these intimate values of one of our foremost parks would hope to see these particular values perpetuated. At one time I wrote up some notes with the intention of publishing an article on the appeal of that road which winds through the woods in such an informal manner, overhung with bushes, skirting beaver ponds, and in every way representing the kind of pioneer country road that appeals to the imagination of poet and artist. This is the simple road that leads to the famous Moose ponds where people in the quiet of the evening can drive in, park their cars, and look at the moose. In fact it has become an important feature of this National Park as a remnant of an earlier culture that mitigates

the intrusions on wilderness that it otherwise might have.

Driving along this road the glimpses we have of the few log cabins in the area seem less an intrusion by the fact that the road itself is in character. Put this road on a streamlined pavement basis and this concept will be shattered. The road itself will not be in character with the surrounding forest and from its formal position the occasional cabins still remaining will take on the nature of intrusions.

It had been our understanding over the years that the blueprint of the new park that we had envisioned for this valley stipulated that development should be confined to the area east of Snake River and that every effort was to be made to nurture the wilderness aspect of all the area to the west. We were to spare this area from every possible intrusion and development and maintain it as the very best that we can achieve of the joint occupation of Nature and Man.

I suppose from the standpoint of the administrative draftsman's board with gadget form terminology like "overlook," etc., the qualities that I am here trying to describe may seem trivial, but I believe that they are the very essence of the thing we are trying to keep. I believe these values become apparent more particularly to the personnel who live with them day after day and breathe them into their being; and to all those visiting enthusiasts who unconsciously receive their inspiration from just such values. I have had the experience myself of going into a strange place, trying at first to absorb the significance of what I see before me and at such times I have often been conscious of the extreme enthusiasm of companions who were very familiar with the area and conscious of the values which I myself had not yet perceived at first glance. It

is with this in mind that I make the plea that the judgment of those who have lived with Grand Teton National Park, both in and out of the Service, be given considerable weight in vital decisions of this kind.

I am aware of the motivations of some of the people who would be proposing another streamlined highway at the very base of the Tetons. I shall not go into that here; it would be too long a story for this letter.

This West Side Road can be improved without losing its present character. All bridges should be maintained in a safe condition. Graveling and grading should be accomplished with a view to making it safe in all kinds of weather; possibly in one or two spots a curve could be straightened, but the present meandering road should be maintained. In short, make it safe for driving, but do not emphasize it as a through-way. We have plenty of highways in Jackson Hole and let us concentrate on keeping *them* in good condition. The county and federal government both should be willing to agree that the paved highways we now have should be maintained in optimum condition. As it is now these paved highways are the worst that

one encounters anywhere in the whole country. I simply cannot understand how there could be an honest motivation for another paved highway along the West Side of Snake River with the potential facilities we already have on the established ones.

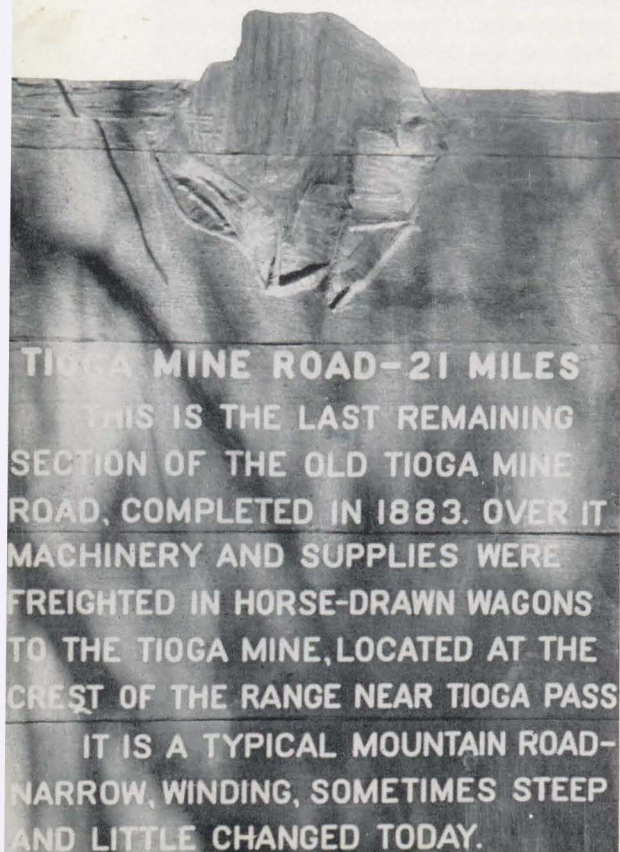
#### *On the Erosion of Principles*

I am pleased to know that you have conferred with the leaders of those who opposed us in this long and bitter fight. That is the proper thing to do. Unless we on our side maintain a generous and cooperative attitude toward all people we cannot expect the same from them. But there is a great danger in readily acceding to every request that comes from the opposition, when such requests impinge upon the value of that which we are dedicated to preserve (for example, the road on the west side of the valley). Such a process is comparable to soil erosion. Little by little we lose a particle until we have nothing significant left to defend. I believe we have won the respect of many of our opponents by the very fact that we fought for well established principles . . .

There is significance to all this that I think we are not always mindful of in our day to day existence. The National Park ideal cannot stand alone. It derives its validity from its importance to human society, and the possible contribution it can make to the future of mankind. I suppose it is trite to keep referring to our international situation. But certainly there is a fundamental truth in that we are now striving for national integrity and maintenance of national standards. I think it is all the more important that we meticulously avoid the pitfalls of giving in on principle in order to win superficial favor. The result can be that we will end up having the local commercial interests dictating the administration of the National Park. As part of the erosion process this could spread to the entire park concept and we would take a long step downward in quality. I am thoroughly convinced that the

PARK SERVICE SIGN, TIOGA ROAD  
". . . the kind of pioneer country road that appeals to the imagination of poet and artist."

SIERRA CLUB BULLETIN, APRIL, 1952



**TIOGA MINE ROAD—21 MILES**

**THIS IS THE LAST REMAINING SECTION OF THE OLD TIOGA MINE ROAD, COMPLETED IN 1883. OVER IT MACHINERY AND SUPPLIES WERE FREIGHTED IN HORSE-DRAWN WAGONS TO THE TIOGA MINE, LOCATED AT THE CREST OF THE RANGE NEAR TIOGA PASS**

**IT IS A TYPICAL MOUNTAIN ROAD—NARROW, WINDING, SOMETIMES STEEP AND LITTLE CHANGED TODAY.**

public responds to firmness on principles. It is a deep-seated impulse in all of us.

As these thoughts have been rushing in on me compelling utterance I am conscious of the fact that I have in mind not only the Park Service but the other services as well, and not the least the conservationists themselves. I would like to stress it to all were

it not for the particular application that concerns us here.

Finally, please keep in mind that I realize that my personal judgment is not infallible, but I wonder if the following thought would not be acceptable to all of us: National Parks are national, not local.

OLAUS MURIE

## Himalayan Expedition Planned

The dream of a Himalayan expedition manned and organized by members of the Sierra Club is several steps nearer realization. The California Himalayan Committee, with official endorsement from the Sierra Club Board of Directors and the American Alpine Club, has initiated requests through the State Department for permission to enter Nepal.

If political permission is forthcoming, a party of ten, including Ansel Adams as photographer and Dr. Lawrence Swan as biologist and interpreter, will leave Berkeley in February 1953 for an assault on one of the major 8000-meter peaks in Nepal. Although alternative mountains are being considered, Dhaulagiri (26,800 feet) in northwest Nepal will probably be the main objective. This peak is the fifth highest of the world's summits.

The heavy cost of a Himalayan expedition will require that the financial resources of the climbers themselves be substantially augmented. Preliminary inquiries have indicated that part of the cost may be met from publication, public-performance, and motion picture rights, and part from donations of

matériel. Individual contributions must also be sought. The Executive Committee of the Sierra Club has agreed to receive and administer funds subscribed by the public and to return them should a change in the international situation preclude the expedition's starting. The climbers themselves have agreed that, should receipts from rights and subscriptions exceed the expedition costs, the excess would be contributed by them to an Expeditions Fund. The expedition's Committee of Advisors will be published soon.

The California Himalayan Committee wishes to express its sincere appreciation to the Board of Directors of the Sierra Club and to the President and Council of the American Alpine Club for the generous help extended during preliminary planning stages of the expedition. The members of the committee are: A. W. Baxter, Jr., chairman; Allen P. Steck, secretary; Oscar Cook, William Dunmire, Richard Houston, Fletcher Hoyt, Fritz Lippmann, William Siri, Lawrence Swan. We would be grateful for continued support by all those interested in mountains and mountaineering.

A. W. BAXTER, JR.

## Mountaineering Memoranda

An optimistic note is brought into the international picture by the news of climbing expeditions to many mountains of the world. It is not only good news for climbers, but it is good cheer for all of us, as it seems to bring back, even if only in a small way, the days of peace and friendliness, when, although it took longer to get *to* foreign countries, it was easier to get *into* them.

Aconcagua was climbed by a Mexican-

Chilean party led by Chilean Army Captain Rene Gajardo, instructor of mountain climbing troops, early in January.

A French expedition, sponsored by Le Club Alpin Francais, Le Groupe de Haute Montagne and La Federation Francaise de la Montagne, has succeeded in making a first ascent, on February 2, of Fitz Roy in the Patagonian Andes (c. 11,500 feet).

A Swiss expedition, composed of eight

climbers and four scientists, planned to leave in March for an attempt on Mount Everest.

A German Himalayan expedition, sponsored by the Deutsche Alpenverein, will attempt an ascent of Chomo Lönzo near Makalu this year.

We hear that the Lyonnaise Section of the Club Alpin Francais is organizing an expedition to Greenland in 1952.

A British expedition, led by Eric Shipton, left in March for Cho-Oyu in the Himalayas, as a trial trip for a major attempt on Mount Everest in 1953. Dr. L. Griffiths Pugh, physiologist, will accompany the expedition to study the effect of high altitude on the climb-

ers, and to conduct research in physiological problems.

Under the sponsorship of the University of California Division of Medical Physics and the Air Force Air Medicine Branch, particularly for the purpose of studying the physiological reactions at high altitudes, a group of our own climbers plans a mountaineering expedition in Peru this summer. It is hoped that much will be learned that will aid in high altitude climbing.

And next year, as you have read on page 7, the California Himalayan Expedition hopes to send climbers to attempt the ascent of Dhaulagiri.

## Fifty-Seven-Year Index Published

The cumulative index to the *Sierra Club Bulletin*, 1893-1949, is out at last. Those who ordered ahead of time are lucky, for the price must now be, for the 144-page book, \$3.75 if paper-bound, \$4.50 if bound in red buckram; the edition size is small and the cost per page for such intricate composition is high. Publication of this work is a Sierra Club milestone, and we're happy to quote from the editor's note in the book:

"Diligence is not the word for it, nor is devotion. But there must have been a great deal of each, plus high regard for an organization and its journal, to have led two people into compiling and contributing to the Sierra Club this index to the first fifty-seven years of the *Sierra Club Bulletin*. It would have been project enough had the detailed examination of seven thousand pages of text and seventeen hundred plates been divided equally between the two compilers. But each did the whole thing. George Shochat began his work many years ago. He had all but completed it when Dorothy Bradley,

in the course of a long convalescence from a skier's spiral fracture, undertook the same project without knowing of the parallel work. Those who have given the art of indexing much thought, and who know that it is by no means a mechanical, impersonal task, will appreciate the Sierra Club's good fortune in having complementary approaches—and in having two members so willing to integrate them. On behalf of all readers of the *Bulletin*, we wish to express our sincere gratitude to Mrs. Bradley and Mr. Shochat for unlocking the pages of the first thirty-four volumes so expertly. We hope an editor fifty-seven years hence will be as fortunate.

Publication of the index is expected to increase interest in back files of the *Bulletin*. All are still available, thanks to the republication by offset of Volumes 1 to 5 (\$32.50 per set in red buckram) and of Volume 6 Number 1 (\$2, paper). There is a special discount to members on these offset publications.