

# SIERRA CLUB BULLETIN

*September*  
1952



*MOUNT DECEPTION, BROOKS GLACIER, AND MOUNT BROOKS*    *Bradford Washburn*

Expeditions and the Sierra Club

What is the club's mountaineering function?

SEE PAGES 3, 4

# Miscellany

*Heavy Reading?*—This issue of the *SCB* is not only later than we like to see it, but also fuller of dense pages of type. Next month more pictures. Meanwhile we would call your attention to the record of action of two meetings of the Board of Directors, presented in a new, semi-telegraphic form but still giving the essence of what is currently happening at the many points of contact between the club and today's multitudinous conservation problems.

*Periodicals wanted.*—Because the Club alpin français has no more copies available, the Library Committee would like to hear from any members who could help the club complete its set of *La Montagne*. Issues needed are Number 314 (May-June 1940), 319 (October-November-December 1941), and 325 (April-May-June 1943).

*Guymon Lodge.*—A word about the San Diego Chapter's Laguna Mountain Lodge seems in order, and is taken directly from that chapter's newspaper, *Hi Sierrans!*

"It is in the Laguna Mountain resort area, near the Shrine Lodge . . . It is for the use of members and their guests (members 75¢ over-

night, guests \$1). Obtain keys at the Laguna store (Clay Stuart); present your Sierra Club card there. When you return the keys, your card is handed back to you. Instructions are posted in the lodge regarding operation . . ."

*High Sierra Photographs Wanted.*—An article on the High Sierra—its physical features and the way it is used by various types of outings—is being planned by *National Geographic Magazine*. The magazine's Illustrations Staff is looking for color transparencies to supplement the article. They are mainly interested in photographs with people that show human activities in the mountains—and that also show the scale of things. The transparencies can be 35 mm or larger. We understand that they will be promptly examined and that arrangements for payment will be directly between the photographer and the staff—independent, that is, of whoever may write the article.

Communications and transparencies (carefully wrapped) should be addressed to

Walter M. Edwards  
*National Geographic Magazine*  
 Washington 6, D.C.

**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

VOLUME 37

SEPTEMBER, 1952

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*Should be 7*

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

## For the September Record

### *Dept. of Correction*

It's all so long ago that nearly everyone who reads the *Bulletin* has forgotten about it, but we feel compelled to put the June Record straight.

We were talking about deep snows, Glen Pass, and a ranger who confidently predicted "its opening by June 20." What he said, of course, was July 20. If the printer had only known we meant *July* when we typed *June* in our copy (he has read our mind instead of our copy many times before and we come to expect it), all would have been well. As things worked out, the ranger heard about this mad prediction, we heard about the error, and Glen Pass chose not to open in July at all. The High Trip got over before the end of July, however, thanks to the efforts of energetic shovelers from the Sierra Club High Trip and the Three Corner Round, who put in about forty man days of throwing snow around in order to find the trail. All who followed agreed that it was worth it. The shovelers may think so by now; the last we saw them they were trying to work out a design for a mule-pushed snowplow.

### *Expeditions and the Sierra Club*

If we should assume that for every written and spoken critical question about mountaineering expeditions there are several which are unwritten and unspoken, then about 1.5 per cent of the club membership is dubious of the merits of an expedition to Dhaulagiri or anywhere else—which would be 120 doubters out of 7,500 members. Some amplification is in order.

The Sierra Club has cut out for itself a mission of several facets: it explores, enjoys, studies, protects, and publishes, being chiefly concerned with areas in the U.S. having topography of distinction. Mountaineering is related to some aspects of each of these facets—if facets can have aspects. Secretary Richard M. Leonard sums it up this way:

"Historically, the Sierra Club has long been interested in the exploration of mountains, not only on the Pacific Coast but in remote regions of the world also. The early explorations of the Duke of the Abruzzi and others on St. Elias, on the Ruwenzori, in the Karakoram and the Himalaya, were noted in the Sierra Club *Bulletin* as early as anywhere else in the geographical journals of the world. Sierra Club registers have been placed on the highest peak of Borneo, the highest of the Philippines, the highest of Cuba and Puerto Rico, and in many other areas equally remote. John Muir was an extraordinary mountaineer as well as an extraordinary writer. In the early days Clarence King and Edward Whymper were made honorary members. Notable mountaineering achievements have been made in the name of the club, and have been chronicled well in the pages of its publications. It is well within the historical interest of the Sierra Club for it to be willing and even anxious to approve the leadership of an exploratory expedition to the fifth highest peak on earth. The Sierra Club is not undertaking financial responsibility for the expedition (hence contributions do not involve the conservation funds of the club) nor any control over its freedom of action. Contributions are being received by the club in its capacity both as custodian for the expedition account and



as a scientific, literary, and educational organization interested in exploration of this type in the mountain wilderness of the world."

However violent a sport it may seem to some, mountaineering is one of the many human activities that we've set aside wilderness to accommodate. When we sympathize with and foster those uses of wilderness which do not lead to its fall, we at the same time man the defenses for the areas we mean to protect in the future. The appeal of mountaineering has brought to the club many men who have stayed to fight *for* mountains long after they were willing or able to fight *with* them. Of the fifteen present Directors of the

club, for example, at least thirteen have mountaineering-conservation case histories to which this concept would apply—except that none would admit he was no longer able to climb or ski-mountaineer if he wanted to.

This rationale persuades us. It may fall short for others. Perhaps they would rather look upon the support of mountaineering expeditions (which receive government support in many other countries) as something to come from that part of their budget which supports spectator sports and pastimes, leaving unencumbered that department of the budget which responds to such demands as are made by Butano, Calaveras, and Dinosauro!

## Extract of Directors' Actions, May Meeting

At the annual organization meeting of the Board of Directors of the Sierra Club held May 3, 1952, in San Francisco, the Directors\* took the following action:

¶ Elected the following as officers for the coming year: Harold E. Crowe, President; Lewis F. Clark, Vice-President; Richard M. Leonard, Secretary; Einar Nilsson, Treasurer; David R. Brower, Fifth Member of the Executive Committee. William E. Colby was reelected Honorary President, and, upon motion by Robinson, seconded by Brower, the following persons were elected as Honorary Vice-Presidents owing to conspicuous service rendered in the furtherance of the purposes of the Club: Horace M. Albright, Newton B. Drury, Francis P. Farquhar, Randall Henderson, Joel H. Hildebrand,

Walter L. Huber, Frederick Law Olmsted, Marion R. Parsons, Robert G. Sproul, Walter A. Starr, William H. Wright. Having previously been nominated by Adams, Crowe and Leonard, seconded by Robinson, Howard Zahniser was elected an Honorary Vice-President, note being made of the following evidence of his contributions to preservation of the natural scene and wilderness:

1942 to date—Executive Secretary, the Wilderness Society, Washington, D.C.  
February, 1947—Active participant on behalf of the Sierra Club at the successful San Geronimo hearing before the U. S. Forest Service.  
1948-1950—Chairman, Natural Resources Council of America.  
March, 1949—Participant in the first Sierra Club Wilderness Conference.  
July, 1949—Studied the Gila Primitive Area of

\*All Directors listed on page 2 were present excepting Ansel Adams, who was excused owing to illness.

The Board welcomed Honorary President William E. Colby and requested him to participate in its proceedings. The following visitors were attending at the request of the Board: E. T. Scoyen, Superintendent of Kings Canyon and Sequoia National Parks; Harthorn L. Bill, Assistant Superintendent of Yosemite National Park; Prestin Webster, Chairman of the Los Padres Chapter; Helen N. Daggett, representing the Riverside Chapter; Guy L. Fleming, representing San Diego Chapter; Louis R. Hen-

rich, Chairman, San Francisco Bay Chapter; Bill Henderson, Chairman, Southern California Chapter; (the Atlantic, Loma Prieta, and Mother Lode chapters were not represented. The Atlantic Chapter was, of course, excused because of distance); Edgar Wayburn, Chairman of the Conservation Committee of the San Francisco Bay Chapter; James Mulholland, Chairman of the Clair Tappaan Lodge Committee; Cicely M. Christy, Chairman of the Membership Committee; Milton Hildebrand, Chairman of the Natural Sciences Committee; John A. Linford, Chairman of the Winter Sports Committee.



New Mexico and the Olympic National Park of Washington, both of which have been of particular interest to the Sierra Club.

March, 1950—Attended the North American Wildlife Conference in San Francisco and worked closely with Sierra Club officers on the San Jacinto problem.

March, 1950—Attended the San Jacinto hearing in Riverside.

April, 1950—Studied Dinosaur National Monument and appeared at the hearing of the Secretary of the Interior.

March, 1951—Participated in the second biennial Wilderness Conference sponsored by the Sierra Club.

April, 1951—Studied the controversial Rogue River question which is also under study by the Sierra Club.

May, 1951—Appointed as a member of the Advisory Committee on Conservation to the Secretary of the Interior.

¶ Nominated Arthur H. Blake as Honorary Life Member of the Sierra Club in recognition of his long and devoted service to the club as chairman of several of its committees, particularly the Conservation Committee, and as a member of its Board of Directors for a number of years.

¶ Elected E. T. Guymon a patron member of the Sierra Club in grateful appreciation of his splendid gift to the Sierra Club of the cabins on the Cleveland National Forest in San Diego County.

¶ Approved the 1952-53 budget in the amount of \$51,900, anticipating a temporary deficit of \$2,300 for the fiscal year until the moderate increase in dues becomes effective.

¶ Approved and commended the rapid action of the Executive Committee in appropriating the sum of \$1,875 and lending an additional sum of \$1,875 to the Marin Conservation League without interest to enable the League to match the appropriation offered by Marin County for purchase of 30 acres of strategic private land within the Tomales Bay State Park.

¶ Approved the action of the Executive Committee in connection with its advisory status on budgetary and other matters pertaining to the California Himalayan Committee.

¶ Confirmed the committee chairmen appointed by the President as follows:  
Clair Tappaan Lodge—James Mulholland.

Committees—Lewis F. Clark.

Conservation—Harold C. Bradley.

Editorial—David R. Brower.

Fiscal—C. V. Heimbucher.

Insurance—Robert L. Lipman.

Legal—Robert L. Lipman.

Library and Rooms—Alfred E. Weiler.

Lodges and Lands—Lewis F. Clark.

Membership—Cicely M. Christy.

Morley—Boynton S. Kaiser.

Mountaineering—Allen P. Steck.

Natural Sciences—Milton Hildebrand.

Outing—H. Stewart Kimball.

Pest Control—Charles Townsend.

Place Names—Erwin G. Gudde.

Uniform By-Laws—Marjory B. Farquhar.

Visual Education—Wilbur Twining.

Volunteer Insurance—Bestor Robinson.

Winter Sports—John A. Linford.

¶ Protested dams in national parks or monuments and asked for passage of a bill forbidding dams in national parks.

¶ Congratulated Frank A. Kittredge on his years of fine service in the National Park Service on the occasion of the announcement of his retirement on May 31, 1952.

¶ Welcomed as new Assistant Superintendent of Yosemite National Park Harthon L. ("Spud") Bill, transferred from Mount Rainier after many years experience in the Park Service.

¶ Noted that the bills to provide additional funds for forest service recreation were still in committee owing to opposition from the Bureau of the Budget to a blanket appropriation of a percentage of forest receipts, and owing also to the opposition of the Association of Public Land Counties.

¶ Referred to the Conservation Committee for careful study the Thompson Bill (H.R. 7000) authorizing the Secretary of Agriculture to establish fees for recreational use of national forest areas.

¶ Noted that the Kings River Conservation District had filed duplicate applications on top of the Los Angeles applications in Kings River watershed and that the Sierra Club had protested each of the filings of the City of Los Angeles on the principal grounds that the State of California has no jurisdiction to grant permits for water purposes within Kings Canyon National Park and that the applications at Tehipite and Cedar Grove would be against the public interest.



¶ Authorized the execution of the necessary deed of easement across the Sierra Club property at Zumwalt Meadows in Kings Canyon to provide for the construction of the road to Copper Creek along the route now mutually agreed upon between the Sierra Club and the National Park Service.

¶ Agreed that no legislative campaign should be undertaken within the club without the approval of the Secretary or the Chairman of the Conservation Committee.

¶ Recorded that the club had contributed the sum of \$6,000 to the State Park Commission for acquisition of a portion of the Butano Forest.

¶ Opposed grazing within the Cuyamaca State Park, and opposed it on principle within any of the state parks of California; Harold Bradley was authorized to appear as a representative of the club at the forthcoming hearing on Cuyamaca to be held by the State Park Commission.

¶ Adopted the following resolution:

RESOLVED: The Board of Directors of the Sierra Club, in meeting assembled May 3, 1952, desires to express to the California State Park Commission its sincere and unanimous commendation for action taken by the Commission in refusing the request of the Navy for a bombing range within the boundaries of the Anza Desert State Park. Only by such forthright adherence to the unique objectives for which the state parks were established, to which objectives private sums are generously given, can the parks be preserved from the deterioration which incompatible uses are certain to produce. The refusal of the California State Park Commission in this case will, we hope, be both a precedent and a deterrent to other projects desiring to exploit park values for purposes unrelated to their dedication.

¶ Recognized the desirability of studies to determine which of the public lands withdrawn for military purposes might be used for recreation when that did not compete with military requirements.

¶ Urged the Attorney General to take immediate and forceful action to enforce the President's air space reservation order pertaining to the Quetico-Superior roadless area—a reservation being violated repeatedly with the express intent of testing the legality of the executive order establishing the reservation.

¶ Requested the bounty on killing of bald eagles in Alaska be removed.

¶ Supported the policy of establishing planted strips and eliminating billboards along highways and freeways except under circumstances that make landscaping impracticable.

¶ Commended *Sunset Magazine* for the splendid publicity provided to the Clean Camps Campaign initiated by Harold Bradley and Milton Hildebrand.

¶ Requested the Forest Service to grant a public hearing on its proposal to eliminate a very substantial amount of the Gila Primitive area in New Mexico—the first of the wilderness areas set aside in the United States—and appointed Weldon Heald to investigate the problem and represent the club at such a hearing.

¶ Adopted the following resolution:

RESOLVED: The Sierra Club wholeheartedly supports the efforts of the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs to preserve from exploitation the 55,000 acres of the present Three Sisters Primitive Area lying west of a line defined by Horse Creek and Eugene Creek. It takes note of the protection afforded by the temporary designation of "limited area" for this region. In addition, mindful of studies now in progress by various scientific groups, it urges that the "limited" status be converted as soon as is feasible to that designation which has the greatest stability, offers strongest protection against lumbering, roadbuilding, dams, or commercial use or development, and best assures that the area will continue to be available for recreational and scientific purposes. The Sierra Club is principally concerned with provisions for long-term protection of the area; the Sierra Club therefore urges that proposals concerning the status of the area be studied and adopted or rejected on the basis of what they assure in future as well as present protection.

¶ Urged active studies by the appropriate agencies of the federal government of the problem of establishing an Arctic Wilderness Area of appropriate size to protect the Arctic flora, fauna, and wilderness that now exists in Alaska.

¶ Considered unwise the suggestion that the club attempt to acquire the controversial half of Section 12 of the San Jacinto Primitive area since the club would be subject to eminent domain on the part of the Winter Park Authority and the value of the prop-



erty in the hands of the club would be quite low for these purposes.

¶ Recorded that the amendments of the Articles of Incorporation, which had been submitted to the membership of the club for action at the election of April 14, 1951, had finally been approved by the written vote of the required majority of the membership of the club and therefore had become effective, along with the amendments of the By-Laws pertaining to the purposes of the club when the Certificate of Amendment was accepted by the Secretary of State of California for filing in his office December 16, 1951. Certified copies of the amendment of the Articles have been filed with the county clerks of the county of principal office and in each of the counties in which the club holds real property. Sincere appreciation was expressed to Robert L. Lipman for his skill and services in carrying this matter through to successful completion.

¶ Recorded that Article XVII of the By-Laws had been amended at the April 12 election (as reported in the May SCB, page 28).

¶ Voted that the dues from each Contributing Member, as defined in the newly amended By-Laws, would be allocated as follows: \$7.00 to the General Fund; \$18.00 to the Conservation and Memorial Fund.

¶ Directed that workmen's compensation insurance premiums be provided for all appropriate committees on volunteer workers who were provided with transportation, food or lodging; established a special committee with Bestor Robinson as Chairman to clarify legislation concerning volunteer "employees" with the end of obtaining, if possible, the elimination from classification as "employees" those who receive no compensation other than transportation, food or lodging.

¶ Received the report of the Chairman of the Legal Committee that John L. Miller, who died recently, had left a will providing for \$4,000 to the Save-the-Redwoods League, and one-half of the residue to the Sierra Club and the other half to the Tamalpais Conservation Club "to be used for the extension of the Mount Tamalpais State Park or other Marin County state parks as they

shall jointly agree upon" the amount of the residue not yet being known.

¶ Noted that Juliet Abrahamson had willed \$250 to the club, one-half for books for its mountaineering library and the other half for Clair Tappaan Lodge, but that the attorneys for the estate had decided to request the appointment of a trustee for the estate of a missing person, holding the matter in abeyance until further information is known.

¶ Approved the By-Laws of the Los Padres Chapter of the club, subject to later amendment to comply with uniform by-laws which may be adopted by the Board; took the same action with respect to proposed amendments to the By-Laws of the Southern California Chapter; and expressed to Mrs. Marjory Farquhar, as newly appointed Chairman of the Committee on Uniform By-Laws, the need for action to provide uniform by-laws for the substantial number of new chapters now being formed.

¶ Commended the Clair Tappaan Lodge Committee and the management of the Lodge for the exceptionally fine job performed during an extremely difficult season.

¶ Accepted with thanks the continuing generosity of Mr. and Mrs. D. Hanson Grubb in offering to underwrite the cost of repair and improvement of the Peter Grubb Shelter, constructed in 1937 in memory of their son.

¶ Referred the continuing matter of place names not yet acted upon to the new standing Committee on Place Names under the chairmanship of Professor Erwin G. Gudde.

¶ Expressed to each of the compilers of the 57-year index to the *Sierra Club Bulletin* the appreciation of the club for their splendid contribution and offered to each of them a set of Volumes 1 to 5 of the *Sierra Club Bulletin* in appreciation for their painstaking work.

¶ Established as policy that the club should increase its membership by appropriate and dignified publicity, solicitation and education, but disapproved membership "drives" as such.

*The foregoing has been extracted from the detailed Minutes compiled by Richard M. Leonard, Secretary, which are on file in the club and chapter headquarters.*

## The Tioga Road at Tenaya Lake

In 1883 a primitive route passable for mining wagons was laid out from the Big Oak Flat road near Carl Inn to some silver and lead mines near Tioga Pass. The financial panic of 1883 bankrupted the mining company and the road fell into disuse. The Sierra Club was long interested in this road and contributed \$1,000 when, in 1915, Stephen Mather wished to purchase the road and donate it to the National Park Service. The bridges were repaired, fallen trees cut out, and the road was again opened to travel, still essentially along the original route—closely following the contours of the land in a manner that is fascinating to many people and frightening to others. Owing to the heavy increase in travel to Yosemite and the State's making this a transcontinental route by constructing and substantially improving a connecting road up Lee-vining Canyon, it was considered necessary to raise the park road's standards. An ambitious route was projected through wilderness country north of Mount Hoffmann and in the Ten Lakes region—country never before touched by road. Upon the advice of the Sierra Club the route was revised in 1933 to follow the original location of the Tioga Road more closely, with a direct connection from Crane Flat to White Wolf to avoid crowding all eastbound traffic up the steep grades from Carl Inn. The portions west of White Wolf and east of the Cathedral Peak divide were completed in the thirties to a high standard of gradient and curvature.

In September 1949 the Directors reviewed

the matter of the improvement of the final 21 miles of road and advocated its improvement to a standard approximately equal to that of the road from the Wawona Tunnel to Chinquapin Ranger Station. The Board also requested that the National Park Service and the Bureau of Public Roads undertake reconnaissance surveys to determine whether it would not be possible to protect the beauty of Tenaya Lake by a relatively short by-pass north of Tenaya Lake and Polly Dome, thus avoiding the heavy and rapid traffic at the lake and the possibility of construction scars in one of the park's most treasured scenic areas.

In August of 1950 the reconnaissance survey was completed by Lance T. Bartell, Highway Engineer of the Bureau of Public Roads, Division 7, and V. J. Westley and H. Dean, landscape architects of the National Park Service. They made comparisons (see table) and concluded as follows:

"The Low Line via Tenaya Lake is favored over the High Line via Murphy Creek for the following reasons:

"1) The Low Line has a much easier grade system and stays in generally lower elevations.

"2) The Low Line avoids the bad snow trap encountered at Snow Flat Elevation 8800 on the High Line and has better exposure generally.

"3) The Low Line offers scenic views vastly superior to any that can be had from the High Line with marvelous views of Tenaya Canyon and a large portion of Yo-

COMPARISON OF LOW LINE WITH HIGH LINE

	Via Tenaya Lake	Via Murphy Creek
Total length . . . . .	7.85 mi.	7.90 mi.
Gradient 7% . . . . .	0.0 mi.	1.10 mi.
Gradient 6% . . . . .	0.6 mi.	1.80 mi.
Gradient less than 6% . . . . .	7.25 mi.	5.0 mi.
Maximum elevation . . . . .	8540 ft.	8825 ft.
Good exposure to sun . . . . .	5.85 mi.	2.9 mi.
Fair exposure to sun . . . . .	2.0 mi.	3.0 mi.
Bad exposure to sun . . . . .	0 mi.	2.0 mi.
Snow trap in Snow Flat . . . . .	0 mi.	2.0 mi.
Estimate of cost (1950 prices) . . . . .	\$693,000	\$681,000
Cost of survey, design, specifications and contract document . . . . .	Already complete	\$32,000



semiter Park available at each of the two summits (elevation 8540)), at miles 13.5 and 16.0 along the Low Line.

"4) Taking into account that the survey and design costs would have to be considered on the High Line, it is estimated that the Low Line would be cheaper in the amount of \$20,000.

"5) The Low Line would eliminate the need of constructing and maintaining approximately one mile of spur road into Tenaya Lake.

"6) In conclusion, it is believed by the writer [Bartell] that the Low Line route is not only superior to the High Line route in all engineering aspects, but that it also furthers the primary reason for this field study by traversing areas already opened to the public rather than invading the heretofore untouched primitive region of lakes and mountains lying at the headwaters of Murphy Creek."

Mr. Colby has traversed both alternates and studied them thoroughly. The problem has been discussed fully by the Yosemite Advisory Board and they have concluded that beautiful though Tenaya Lake is, it could not as a practical matter be returned

even to semi-wilderness conditions; it would therefore be wrong to invade additional wilderness and such a beautiful spot as Polly Dome Lake in order to take some of the pressure off Lake Tenaya. The Advisory Board and the Park Service therefore favor the Low Line.

The Advisory Board and Park Service conclusions were discussed at some length in the course of the fall meeting of the Board. It was pointed out, however, that the Low Line also traverses areas heretofore untouched—from Snow Creek crossing to the old-road switchback just below Tenaya Lake, encroaching upon the May Lake and Tenaya Lake trails in doing so; it follows that the choice would seem to be between (1) invading a primitive area and changing the mood of Tenaya Lake, and (2) invading a different primitive area and sparing Tenaya Lake; in the latter course there would be no need for bringing direct impact on the immediate environs of Polly Dome Lake, which could be by-passed to the north.

Realizing that further study was needed, the Directors tabled the question until the November meeting in Los Angeles.

RICHARD M. LEONARD

## Sierra Club Lands

Few members realize the extent of the Sierra Club holdings of land of high scenic quality, preserved in the public interest. Some of these holdings are as follows:

*Mount Shasta*—720 acres in the vicinity of Horse Camp, including the area upon which Shasta Alpine Lodge is situated and the spring and water supply for the lodge.

*Donner Pass*—330 acres, consisting of two beautiful granite-bound lakes with virgin Canadian-zone forest, half a mile from partly cut-over, highly developed commercial area of Donner Pass; 10 acres include the ski tow and the spring and water supply for Clair Tappaan Lodge, which is on a Forest Service special-use permit.

*Yosemite National Park*—160 acres of the finest portion of the Tuolumne Meadows, including the Soda Springs and the best part of the grazing area and scenic value of the meadows. This area was purchased by the Sierra

Club in 1911 at a time when the park administration had no funds available for acquisition.

*Kings Canyon National Park*—80 acres, comprising much of the only meadow and the most scenic portion of the South Fork Canyon, at Zumwalt Meadows.

Each of the properties is held for general public use, with minimum impact through use by the club. All the lands are unfenced and indication that they are private property is minimized. Thus in the national parks and in the national forests the public is free to use the properties in much the same manner as they would use the adjacent public land. The club pays taxes to the appropriate counties, and in some areas provides lodges which are open to the general public. In addition the club maintains several other lodges on special-use permit from the Forest Service and Park Service, these lodges being devoted principally

to the public benefit. While the club cannot continue indefinitely to expand its holdings as a small "park commission" for the public benefit, it is willing to continue to maintain most of the present holdings which it is now administering. In addition to its land and lodges, the club has of course made substantial contributions to acquisition of lands by national parks, state parks, and the Forest Service over the years. Some of these are:

\$1,000 toward acquisition of Tioga Road, donated to the National Park Service.

\$2,500 toward acquisition of Tenaya Lake property, donated to the National Park Service.

\$6,000 toward acquisition of Butano Forest by the State Park Commission.

\$1,875, plus a loan of equal amount, toward acquisition of private land to be donated to Tomales Bay State Park.

\$1,000 toward acquisition of the National Tribute Grove, on the Redwood Highway.

\$1,000 appropriated at the fall meeting of the Board to aid in the acquisition of Butano Forest.

There have been many indirect contributions, totalling many thousands of dollars, appropriated to the effort to protect the Kings Canyon High Sierra, San Geronio, San Jacinto, Jackson Hole, Olympic National Park, and Dinosaur National Monument—to name principal recent objectives.

RICHARD M. LEONARD

## Extract of Directors' Actions, Fall Meeting

The regular fall meeting of the Directors\* of the Sierra Club was held August 31, 1952, at the Sierra Club property in Tuolumne Meadows, Yosemite National Park. The Board took the following action:

¶ Unanimously elected Arthur H. Blake an Honorary Life Member of the club in recognition of his long and devoted services as chairman of several of its committees, particularly the Conservation Committee, and as a member of the Board a number of years.

¶ Set the next meeting for Saturday, November 8, at a location in the Los Angeles area to be chosen by the President.

¶ Concluded, after again considering the acquisition of 190 acres of meadows and 12 hot springs at Blaney Meadows, on the south

fork of the San Joaquin, that it was desirable to control this area in the public interest, but that it did not seem possible for the club to raise the funds required for acquisition. It was the informal sense of the Board that the club would cooperate actively in any attempt to control the area through friendly hands. (See "Sierra Club Lands," page 9).

¶ Postponed, after considerable discussion, the problem of the steadily increasing travel pressure upon Yosemite Valley, in order that further information could be searched out by members of the Board; authorized presentation of the problem in the *SCB*, with request for comments and information from all interested parties.

\*All Directors were present except Bernays (excused owing to travel, in New York) and Kehrlein (excused owing to travel, in San Diego). The following advisers were present at the request of the Board: Honorary President, William E. Colby; Honorary Vice-President, Francis P. Farquhar; Earl Roberts, Chairman of the Loma Prieta Chapter; Bill Henderson, Chairman of the Southern California Chapter; Cicely Christy, Chairman of the Club Membership Committee.

The following visitors attended the meeting at the request of the Board: Harthon L. Bill, Assistant Superintendent of Yosemite National Park; Oscar Sedergren, Chief Ranger of Yosemite National Park; Herbert Ewing, District

Ranger at Tuolumne Meadows; Volney Westley, Landscape Architect at the Regional Office of the National Park Service; Bernard Frank, Assistant Chief of the Forest Service, Washington, D.C., and Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Wilderness Society; Robert Griggs, a member of the Council of the Wilderness Society, and Professor of Botany at the University of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; and Anthony Netboy, internationally known conservation writer.

The Directors instructed the officers to invite to each meeting of the Board the Chief of the United States Forest Service and the Director of the National Park Service, or their personal representatives.



¶ Reviewed tentative plans, drawn up in June 1952, for removal of buildings of Yosemite's Old Village and providing for equivalent facilities southeast of the post office in a new village area; approved appointment of a special committee to study this problem on the ground and to report to the November meeting: Harold Bradley (C), Bestor Robinson, Virginia Best Adams.

¶ Delegated to the same committee the proposal that warehouses and such facilities be moved west of Rocky Point, near the present wood yard used by the Yosemite Park and Curry Co.

¶ Considered a request for information about White Wolf, at which the store and accommodations on 40 acres of private land have now been acquired by the National Park Service and assigned to the Yosemite Park and Curry Co. for operation. In answer to questions Mr. Westley reported that water and sewage improvements must be made, requiring substantial amounts of money before even the present use can be continued. In addition, the company will have to substantially improve the buildings and other accommodations. The water is limited and large use will probably be impossible. It therefore seemed appropriate to consider at this time whether continuation of those facilities was desirable in the public interest, or whether they should be torn down and the area kept only as a campground, or revert to semiwilderness condition. The Park Service felt that the use of White Wolf to accommodate about 100 people at a time would aid in the dispersal of traffic load on Yosemite Valley. Leonard pointed out that dispersal was not a solution to the entire problem, since removal of some people from Yosemite Valley would simply leave vacancies for others to come in from the population centers of the state. Brower felt further that the small number of accommodations realized would require too great an expenditure of Park Service funds that could be better used elsewhere. The Directors approved the development of White Wolf in principle, as appropriate land-use zoning along a major highway. Brower voted no.

¶ Tabled for further discussion at the next meeting of the Directors the matter of the

routing of the Tioga Road in the vicinity of Tenaya Lake (see "The Tioga Road at Tenaya Lake," page 8).

¶ Again considered the problems that have existed since 1915 owing to the fact that the Tioga Road started out more or less as a trail and has now become a high-speed highway. The Park Service has not yet been able to obtain the allocation of funds to construct trails more or less paralleling the Tioga Road all the way from Yosemite Creek to Tuolumne Meadows. The result is that with high-speed modern traffic on portions of this road it is extremely dangerous to mix animals and gasoline. The Directors requested the National Park Service to provide trail funds as part of highway project funds in all relocation and improvement projects for highways. It was particularly urged that this be called to the attention of the Washington office of the Park Service for early allocation of funds to correct the dangerous situation existing along the Tioga Road.

¶ Instructed the officers of the Sierra Club to keep in close touch with mining exploration near Bond Pass and to advise the Bureau of Public Roads, Defense Minerals Administration, Forest Service, and other appropriate agencies that the club wishes to be kept fully advised of any revival of interest in this project. A rumor had been received concerning tungsten mining claims just inside the Yosemite boundary at Bond Pass, and within Primitive Area of the Stanislaus and Toiyabe national forests. A reconnaissance survey was recently made by the BPR to determine the advisability of building a road to facilitate the removal of the tungsten ore. Inquiries have developed the fact that present values of the ore and present cost of the road do not seem to make it practical for the Defense Minerals Administration to undertake the financing of a road. Such development would have an extremely harmful effect upon the Primitive Area and upon the wilderness of the northern Yosemite National Park.

It was further learned that a representative of the State Division of Mines had been conducting geological work inside the northern boundary of Yosemite. Another representative had explained that the survey was



undertaken only for scientific purposes to complete the geological map of the Matterhorn Quadrangle and indicated no "deposit suitable for commercial development within the next ten years." In accordance with the established policy of the Secretary of the Interior, the club expects that no further prospecting of any deposits disclosed by this scientific survey will be permitted within the national park; the officers of the club were instructed to keep in touch with this program and to obtain a copy of the survey eventually for the scientific library of the club.

¶ Confirmed and approved the stand taken by its representative urging full preservation of the entire Gila Primitive Area and its establishment under Regulation U as a Wilderness Area, except for a corridor along the road to the Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument, the corridor to be open for limited development as a recreational area since the road was already established and considerable private land existed along the valley floor. This action followed the Secretary's report of the magnificent support for wilderness principles developed at the Forest Service hearing on its proposal to revise the boundaries of the Gila Primitive Area (New Mexico) to exclude approximately 188,000 acres. Nearly 100 representatives of local interests including American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, chambers of commerce, and national conservation organizations appeared at the hearing on August 7 to state sound reasons for the recognition of wilderness values and the importance of preserving them in this area. The Sierra Club was ably represented by Weldon Heald, former director of the club and chairman of its Conservation Committee, 1945-1946.

¶ Considered the problem raised by the proposal of the Forest Service to revise the boundaries of the Devil's Canyon-Bear Canyon Primitive Area in southern California to permit the construction of a road that would invade the edge of the primitive area but would protect a very popular and beautiful recreational area at Crystal Lake. A spur highway connecting with the Angeles Crest Highway near the center of this area has been strongly urged and appears neces-

sary. The highway engineers propose a road through the Crystal Lake Recreation Area. This would ruin a very popular and highly developed camping and recreational facility used by several thousand campers at a time. The alternative is to route the road down the Bear Creek south slope just north of and parallel to the boundary of the Primitive Area. The road itself will then become the south boundary and will join the dead-end road into Crystal Lake well below the Recreation Area. The Forest Service strongly favors this solution, and a recent directive from the Chief of the Service redefines a wilderness area boundary in terms which makes such a solution possible.

The Board passed the following resolution (Johnson abstaining):

The Board . . . after careful study of the problem of highway construction in the Devil's Canyon-Bear Canyon Primitive Area, believes that the Forest Service has chosen the best solution to this problem.

Although we regret any change that decreases any wilderness reserve, we agree in this case that the proposed change best conserves the recreational values of the region.

We urge that this area be given maximum protection as provided under Regulation U at an early date.

¶ Were assured by the Secretary that the officers would continue carefully to watch the San Jacinto problem. The Secretary reported that the Bureau of Land Management reports no further activities or inquiries for exchange of the south half of Section 12 which is now blocking construction of the tramway. The Districts Securities Commission is now undertaking an informal investigation of its own into the matter of their responsibility for approving the proposed bonds of the Winter Park Authority. The Forest Service reports that the application for exchange of land is still active; it appears that several months will be required before appraisal is likely to be made.

¶ Endorsed national park status for the canyons of the Green and Yampa rivers, and urged action in the next Congress to obtain such additional protection for the area. Prior to this action Harold Bradley reported on his boat trip through the magnificent canyon



of the Yampa from Lily Park at the eastern boundary of Dinosaur National Monument to the dinosaur quarry at the western end—a trip with thrills and beautiful river scenery, but with no risk whatever and at a cost of only \$36 per person for all six days. He felt strongly that the area had high national-park quality, entirely different from that of the canyon national parks of the Southwest.

¶ Referred to the Conservation Committee for study the implications of H.R. 8219 (Mack, Washington), introduced in June, and adding to the National Park Service Act of 1916 the provision that “nothing in this section shall grant to the Secretary of the Interior the authority to exchange timber or other resources within any such park for privately owned real or personal property situated within any such park or monument,” a bill probably intended, the Board realized, to hamper the Park Service. On the other hand, the Directors had previously shared with the Wilderness Society concern lest national-park timber be too freely converted into dollars for any purpose, no matter how great the temporary benefit might seem. Consultation with the Park Service and with other conservation organizations was deemed essential prior to the club’s arriving at a stand should a similar bill be introduced again.

¶ Requested the coöperation of the American Mining Congress in appointing a committee to work with the conservation groups in seeking an end to abuses of the mining laws:

The mining laws of the U.S., enacted in 1872 (antedating the club only 20 years), have never been substantially amended. The pressure of population has meanwhile increased greatly; surface values of land are now worth so much that land is often occupied for purposes entirely foreign to those intended by the original acts—as sites for resorts, gasoline stations, summer homes, timber locations, and other surface uses lacking any actual intent to work the claim for mining purposes. These abuses of the mining laws have aroused widespread indignation, particularly among conservation groups interested in the proper use of the public lands. Many people have promptly

condemned the mining industry and proposed drastic revisions in the mining laws to try to correct the situation. Actually, there have rarely been direct abuses by responsible mining people—the abuses often harm the legitimate operations of the mining industry. Nevertheless, owing to indiscriminate attacks upon the industry and to demand for drastic revision of the laws, the industry has thus far been unwilling to take the initiative in trying to work out a solution to the problem.

It was emphasized that the club will not prejudice the adequacy of the present mining laws and enforcement activities of the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management. Neither will it propose solutions or revisions of the mining laws prior to consultation with those most affected. Horace Albright is now a director of the American Mining Congress, scheduled to meet September 21; it is hoped that an approach of this nature will initiate the coöperation that can effect a solution.

¶ Heard the Secretary report that San Mateo and Santa Cruz counties had each appropriated \$50,000 for Butano Forest contingent upon San Francisco’s contributing at least \$100,000. This total, added to prior gifts by the counties and individuals and matched by the state, would assure acquisition of an area of at least 1,000 acres of the finest portion of Butano. San Francisco will distribute to its voters a brief pamphlet prepared by the sponsors of any measure on the ballot. The Board appropriated not to exceed \$1,000 for publicity in support of the San Francisco ballot proposal, and the Conservation Committee was given the responsibility, through the Bay Chapter’s committee, of preparing and carrying through the project.

¶ Reviewed the splendid work of the Calaveras Grove Association over the past thirty years in leading the campaign that established Calaveras State Park and in carrying on a strong campaign for acquisition of the South Grove—obtaining \$40,000 in cash and firm pledges, persuading the Federal Government to contribute by exchange 1,200 acres of corridor lands between the two groves, and effecting a general understanding of the importance of the Calaveras South

Grove to the nation's conservation program. The Board felt that a further strong campaign for funds should be postponed until after the national elections and assured the association that the club would do all in its power to continue to support the acquisition program.

¶ Commended all who worked on the clean-camps campaign, which has been so successfully waged with the help of sporting goods houses, newspapers, magazines, and radio stations of the state, with particular commendation to Harold and Richard Bradley, Marjory Farquhar, William Losh, and Cedric Wright.

¶ Authorized the President to appoint a special committee to consider the feasibility of a memorial to John Muir, with particular reference to the Muir home in Alhambra Valley, now up for sale.

¶ Expressed deep appreciation for Ralph Mocine's many years of active service on behalf of the club, hoping he could maintain close contact with its activities, even if only on the less-active scale required by recent ill health.

¶ Approved the formation of the Kern-Kaweah Chapter, named Gerald Ganopole as temporary chairman, and directed the secretary of the club to arrange for an organization meeting of the chapter in accordance with the club by-laws. The Board also expressed its appreciation to Ganopole and to the others active in the formation of this, the ninth chapter of the Sierra Club. A petition of 52 residents of Kern, Kings, Fresno

and Tulare counties had been presented to the Board of Directors requesting authorization to form a chapter to include the members of the Sierra Club living within those counties. The Secretary reported to the Board that nearly 100 members resided in that area and that the petition was in good form and order.

¶ Learned with regret of the death of Oscar A. Cook while on the Peruvian high-altitude expedition to study the effect of altitude on the human body. It was understood that death was due to pneumonia at an altitude of 16,000 feet. The directors expressed the sympathy of the Sierra Club to the parents.

¶ The Board briefly reviewed the plans for the Himalayan expedition of the California Himalayan Committee—an independent association of qualified mountaineers, most of whom are members of the Sierra Club and of the American Alpine Club and who are considered by both organizations to be fully competent to carry out entirely on their own an expedition of this magnitude. The Directors wished them continued luck in their preparation.

¶ Placed on the agenda for the November meeting the matter of a thorough study of the membership procedures of the club, with the request that Cicely Christy, Chairman of the Membership Committee, attend that meeting.

*The foregoing has been extracted from the detailed Minutes, compiled by Richard M. Leonard, Secretary, which are on file in club and chapter headquarters.*





# Letters

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STILL FIFTH

Berkeley, August 19

EDITOR—In regard to the letter from Karl Marhenke about the altitude of Dhaulagiri and Broad Peak in the June *SCB: Himalaya*, by G. O. Dyhrenfurth, was published in 1931. The table of altitudes he gives on page 169 was revised after his 1934 visit to the Karakorum and republished in *Damon Himalaya* (Benno Schwabe & Co., Basel, 1935), by the same author. On page 88 of this book he lists Dhaulagiri as 8,176 meters and 26,825 feet. This is fifth on the list. Broad Peak is listed as eleventh highest peak at 8,051 meters and 26,415 feet.

So there is no need for your face to be other than sunburn red. ALFRED W. BAXTER, JR.

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## DINOSAUR STORY

Washington, D.C., July 8

EDITOR—I am sure that if Director Wirth were here he would want personally to congratulate the Sierra Club and all those who contributed to the excellent and factual presentation of the Dinosaur story in the May *Bulletin*. Messrs. Litton and Hyde's beautiful photographs play no small part in making it an eye catcher as well as a thought provoker.

HILLORY A. TOLSON  
Acting Director  
National Park Service

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New York, July 23

EDITOR—My warm congratulations on the beautiful article "The Dinosaur Story" in the May *SCB*. I am greatly obliged to you for the extra copies sent to me, which will be of great help.

MRS. C. N. EDGE, *Chairman*  
*Emergency Conservation Committee*

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## FOR CLEAN CAMPS

Berkeley, July 8

EDITOR—You and Harold Bradley have asked for suggestions for getting campers not to leave dirty campsites. The Forest Service has long had a "leave a clean camp" campaign which is obviously not working.

I believe the key to the whole problem is in

Bradley's article; that is, to appeal to those who do care, not just to keep their own campsites clean, but to repair as much as they can of the damage done by the stinkers who precede them.

The Sierra Club can, and is, doing a great deal along this line. The recent article in *Sunset* is a good example. Furnishing "before and after" pictures to suitable publications will help, as will cooperation with the Forest Service, and perhaps even furnishing them with a slogan expressing the idea, "Leave your campsite cleaner than you found it." If you feel that this idea has merit, I would be glad to put up a suitable prize for such a slogan.

Most campers don't know *how* to keep a camp clean. They don't know about burning cans or flattening them. They don't know about hiding flattened cans under rocks or underbrush, away from the camp, where they will disintegrate and never be discovered.

The *SCB*, the talks you and Pat Goldsworthy have given around High Trip campfires, "space users" in the Sierra Club's calendar of events and the *Yodeler* all will act as little drops of water, little grains of sand to keep the ball rolling in the Sierra Club. This alone will provide a nucleus of example which can spread and be most helpful.

I watched it work this last week end where a lunch stop which had been beautiful on the way into camp was found almost unbelievably littered on the way out and was cleaned up by the group. There was no one person who led the effort or did the work. It was just obviously "the thing to do." If we can only get one out of four campers to realize that it is the thing to do, and know what to do about it, the situation will take care of itself.

ROBERT K. CUTTER, M.D.

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## MORE ON CLEAN CAMPS

Bishop, September 17

EDITOR—The staff on this board is confronted with an increasingly serious problem of water pollution from careless campers and outdoor enthusiasts, particularly in the Inyo-Mono and Tahoe areas.

The June 1952 issue of your *Bulletin* was brought to my attention by the Supervisor of the Inyo National Forest, which I have read with a great deal of interest.

I am planning to request my board to authorize a two-page publication, to be distributed throughout the region through such media as sportsmen's shows, sporting goods shops, service stations, resorts, etc. It is my plan to incorporate some of the information which was written in your pamphlet in the article "Clean-Camps Campaign" by Harold C. Bradley. Also, some of the information about Hector by [yourself].

In order to familiarize my board with the plan, I would like to have seven copies of this *Bulletin*, to be presented to the board members to review.

I am now in the process of trying to get finances for this bulletin through the U. S. Public Health Service. If I am successful in this I will no doubt solicit your club's assistance in the formation of the pamphlet, as well as other clubs of a similar nature, and state and local agencies. Any comments you have regarding this matter would be most appreciated.

J. T. LEGGETT, *Executive Officer*  
State Water Pollution Control Board  
Lahonton Region No. 6

Hermosa Beach, July 9

EDITOR—I returned from a July 4 week end trip to San Geronio to find the June *SCB*. I was very pleased to find such excellent coverage given to the dirty-camp problem, and it rang especially true to me after having just seen the conditions in that area. I have been familiar with the San Geronio Wild Area for many years and have come to love it very much, so I was particularly distressed to find out how serious the situation there has become.

There were many people there, camped at Dollar Lake and in the Meadows, more than I have ever seen before. This is explainable by the new high-gear road from Millbreak to Barton Flats and the new road to the top of Poop-out Hill. Anyway they were there, and although some of the camps were in pretty good shape,

others were positively hideous—clothes and paper scattered all over. Even from the neater camps there was no attempt to dispose of cans which were scattered in a dozen trash heaps marring the beauty of the lovely South Fork meadows. I got the impression that many of the campers were people new to the area and the mountains who perhaps could be affected by publicity on the order of that put out by the club in the Sierra. Something must be done to protect our national forests and primitive areas. Simple decency should require the ignorant camper to keep the mountains lovely. As one who fought at the San Bernardino hearings to keep the primitive area, I hope something can be done to reach the average camper, especially the new camper. A second suggestion is that we urge, whenever possible, that the Forest Service be given the men and the funds to police effectively the camp areas. Anyway, your June *Bulletin* was very worthwhile.

JAMES LEOVY, JR.

San Francisco, July 5

EDITOR—I write to praise the article in the June *SCB* on keeping the High Sierra free of rubbish. But why did you say nothing about keeping the stock out of the campsite? We've gotten to the point where we are grateful to find dry manure to put our sleeping bags on, instead of fresh.

Mrs. MOSES LASKY

● To our corresponding clean-camp advocates—for the letters which appear here and those which couldn't fit—our thanks for many good suggestions that can lead to a still more vigorous campaign before another summer rolls around. As for the stock problem, we fear that the housebroken mule will arrive no sooner than the millenium. One solution is to try not to care. But there must be a better one short of excluding stock (which would require a revolution we wouldn't join). Who has it?