

SIERRA CLUB BULLETIN

April
1953



TIMBERLINE CAMPFIRE NEAR MOUNT LANGLEY

Cedric Wright

Conservation Outpost

Funds, Dams, and Redwoods

SEE PAGES 6-8

Miscellany

Northern Dinner.—Conrad Wirth, Director of the National Park Service, will be guest speaker at the Sierra Club's northern annual banquet, to be held Saturday evening, May 2, at Hotel Claremont, Berkeley. This will be the usual festive occasion—a chance to meet the new officers and directors, who will have held their organization meeting that day, as well as the club's distinguished guests. Dr. Harold Crowe will be master of ceremonies. Dancing will follow. Customary, but not at all necessary: formal attire.

Reservations (at \$4.50) should be made soon at the San Francisco office, together with any requests for special tables.

Clean Camps Leaflet: Just off the press is a new, simplified version of the problem of Hector, the Garbage Collector, and Harold Bradley's diagnosis and remedy for his plight (*SCB*, June 1952). Requests for this illustrated presentation of "Clean Camps" material have mounted into the thousands, and the leaflet has been prepared at Club expense to meet the demand. Various groups will find it a useful educational aid, and it is suggested that they contribute 2 cents per copy to help defray printing costs when requesting copies. Address inquiries to the Club office in San Francisco.

Equipment Needed.—The Morley Fund Committee, which selects persons to go on Sierra Club summer trips without cost, under the terms of the will of Mrs. Evelyn Morley and through the generosity of other members, is

in need of some outing equipment to lend to individuals, particularly foreign students, who do not have such equipment. Several sleeping bags, pocket rolls, dunnage bags and ground cloths are wanted. Those who would like to donate items are invited to send them to either of the following: Mrs. Anne Crowe, 635 South Westlake Avenue, Los Angeles 5, or Boynton S. Kaiser, 705 Hilldale Avenue, Berkeley.

If you wish further information on the Morley Fund, see *SCB*, March 1952.

More trips to Dinosaur: Heavy demand has shown that one wilderness outing down the Green River Canyons isn't enough. Two more have been added, each limited to fifty, each with six days on the Yampa and Green. Starting dates are: No. 1, June 13; No. 2, June 22 (more than filled); No. 3, July 5. There's a possibility of a fourth, starting July 13.

Bulletin deadlines: Chapters, committees and individual members are invited to contribute brief articles on subjects of club-wide interest. Be concise, but include the pertinent information. It's too late to submit new material for this year's annual. To be in time for a monthly issue, copy must reach the editor on or before the first day of the month.

Election results: Incumbent members of the Board of Directors were retained in the recent election, except Phil S. Bernays who was not a candidate. The vacancy thus created was filled by the one new director, Frank A. Kittredge.

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 to make them known. Participation is invited in the program to enjoy and preserve wilderness, wildlife, forests, and streams.

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*Reg. U.S. Pat. Off.



Sierra Club Bulletin

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

For the April Record

Tour of Duty

THROUGH the good offices of its Secretary, the Sierra Club has made a good start in developing, not too formally yet, a nationwide committee of speakers and listeners.

It's sort of an on-the-spot committee in two senses of the term; its members have to be on the spot, and they're often *put* on it too—whether in Washington, New York, Sacramento, or Portal, Arizona, to pick a few towns at random. In these far-flung places we've needed people who could listen in carefully at meetings and, at the right moment, stand up and say persuasively and knowingly what the Sierra Club thinks.

The millenium will arrive when all members know so much about the club program and have so few other things to do that they can all serve on this committee. Meanwhile, the directors feel that they should occasionally supplement the present committee by shipping someone direct from San Francisco to present our case on distant shores.

This is what they did last March, when it became apparent there was to be what amounted to national conference week in Washington. The Executive Director went East to attend meetings being held by the Natural Resources Council, the Wildlife Management Institute, the Izaak Walton League, the National Wildlife Federation, and the Chief Forester of the Forest Service. To fill the calendar, hearings were held by House committees on the Baker Bill (forest receipts) and the Johnson Bill (dams in parks).

SUCH WEEKS are almost dangerous. You see and talk to so many conservationists (there were 1300 people at the Wildlife

Conference, for example) that you tend to assume there is enough safety in numbers, so why not sit back, relax, and light a pipe?

But as soon as you stop counting people, and listen instead to what they are saying, you know you can't relax, and you are ready to agree with the appraiser of the Conference, C. H. D. Clarke, of Ontario, Canada, when he points out:

"... our resources are like a bank, a bank on which all our cheques are drawn, and heaven help us if they ever start to bounce!

"We feel upon us the condemnation of the prophet Ezekiel 'Ye have drunk of the deep waters and ye have fouled them with your feet.' . . . You Americans sometimes sing 'I love thy rocks and rills, Thy woods and templed hills,' but rill is fast changing its meaning by its association with erosion. . . . If our children are to be happy we have two alternatives, either to stop singing such songs and instead prepare them to accept the kind of future they are going to get, or to do something about the management of renewable resources and prepare for them the kind of future we think they ought to have. . . . Somehow we must strive to give husbandry a place in the esteem of our culture equal to horse power

"Conservation is a grand thing until the greater need for all cuts off the immediate good for a few."

THESE italics are mine, because these words seem to me most telling. They can enable us to single out the old problem that has appeared in a hundred new guises since the year 1953 began, and that requires our having our insight checked regularly.

Mixed generously with the worries that must beset us, there was reassurance. When

Fred Packard pointed out, at the Johnson bill (H.R. 1038) hearing, that Congress has invariably protected the parks, it was reassuring to hear Representative Dawson (Utah) say, "That will continue to be the case."

It was equally reassuring to see the turnout of proponents of the Baker Bill—there wasn't even room for the SRO sign.

It was inspirational to receive, by airmail, two superb reports (totaling 80 carefully engineered pages, single space) on the illogic of the San Jacinto tramway proposal, prepared back in California by a talented club member, Nathan C. Clark, in ample time for the deadline.

And it certainly warmed the hearts of Natural Resources Council of America members to hear Dr. McArde, Chief Forester, say: "I'm very strong for Wilderness Areas. If we don't take some steps to set aside some places where, as someone said, 'the hand of man has never set foot,' there won't be any such areas." Dr. McArde then went on with one of the strongest statements in support of wilderness you'd ever hope to hear. That was on Friday the 13th, too. I was inclined to say (but didn't) that I'd go catch my train now; anything more would be an anticlimax.

I remembered other words of Mr. Clarke's, when he spoke of a man who was "free from the mildew of discretion that cannot help but bloom on public servants." Certainly we had not witnessed indiscretion; but neither had we found the slightest trace of mildew.

These are the merest abstracts of highlights of a highly informative trip—a trip that made the magnitude of the conservation problem ahead of us all too clear, but which also gave clear indication that organizations such as ours are growing to meet the problem, and are going to.

D.R.B.

Wilderness Conference Soon

Attracting conservationists from all over the country, the third biennial Wilderness Conference, sponsored by the Sierra Club, will be held May 15 and 16 at the Hotel Claremont in Berkeley. Federal and state

agencies and national and local conservation organizations will be represented among the speakers and participants. A feature of the 1953 Conference will be the wilderness of Arctic Alaska, which many hope can soon be brought under formal protection. Starker Leopold and Lowell Sumner will show and discuss fine color pictures of the area, which they have studied extensively.

It Begins at Home

Conservation, for Sierrans, is by no means always a matter of national problems or of controversy in Sacramento or Washington, D.C. Starting with clean camps and a good example for our immediate posterity in the Scouts and other youth groups, it includes education, publicity, promotion of civic efforts, and a dozen varieties of action at the home-town level.

Here is a sampling of the current local conservation work of Sierra Club chapters:

Southern California.—A conservation booth was sponsored at the Riverside County Fair and National Date Festival, held in Indio during February. Features included an exhibit of "Clean Camps" posters, material on proposed dams in Dinosaur National Monument, and 1,000 copies of a plea for preserving desert values.

Atlantic.—Three thousand miles away, the Atlantic Chapter participated in a public meeting in New City, Rockland County, New York, where a vehement protest was registered against the proposed extension of rock blasting and quarry operations by the Trap Rock Company in the very shadow of High Tor. (Shades of Maxwell Anderson's Broadway play!)

Kern-Kaweah.—Bakersfield members, perhaps recalling some torrid summer afternoons, are following the progress of State negotiations to acquire nine new ocean beach areas in the Monterey Peninsula region. Nearer home, they are strongly advocating passage of H.R. 1038 in the present Congress, which would prohibit the construction of dams within or affecting the national parks—Kings Canyon, of course, included.

San Francisco Bay.—A two-year study of recreation areas in Marin County, with em-

phasis on Mount Tamalpais State Park, is bearing fruit in plans for acquisition of new lands for the park, both for recreational use and to protect the watershed of existing park property. In preparation is a master plan for conservation and recreation throughout Marin, to be worked out in collaboration with officials and with other civic groups.

San Diego.—Preservation of areas in Anza Desert State Park was among the leading topics when Harold Bradley visited San Diego conservationists in February. Construction of a major highway through the northwest portion of the park is being opposed because this would damage integrity of the desert wilderness.

Riverside.—A program is being initiated for State park acquisition of Mitchell's Caverns and the surrounding area in the Providence Mountains. Another project receiving regional support is the new Idyllwild School of Conservation and Natural Science, with credit offered by Long Beach State College.

Olympic Controversy

The executive order of former President Truman which enlarged the Olympic National Park, has brought much praise, but it has also brought much criticism, especially from the lumber interests in the state of Washington. Among the critics is Representative Russell V. Mack of Washington, who asks for a non-partisan commission of experts to study the Olympic National Park and make recommendations to Congress as to what it believes to be the most practical boundaries for the park.

In a long letter published in the *New York Times* of February 15, he takes issue with a *Times* editorial which had praised the President's action, saying that the editorial writer was probably not fully informed on all the facts about the park. This was answered by another editorial of the same date, so neatly, from *our* point of view, that we have obtained permission to reprint it here:

... Representative Russell V. Mack of Washington adds nothing substantially new to the attacks he has been making on former President Truman's recent order . . . Nevertheless, we will endeavor to reply to Mr. Mack's principal arguments point by point.

(1) Mr. Mack says that "a park of 900,000 acres is entirely too large." The fact is that the area of Olympic Park is still slightly less than that originally authorized by Congress in 1938. It is far smaller than Glacier or Yellowstone.

(2) Mr. Mack says this park would "lock up" large amounts of valuable timber and other resources. This is the key to his argument and betrays a fundamental failure to appreciate just what a national park is for. As defined by law, its purpose is to preserve areas of natural beauty in such a way "as will leave them unimpaired for future generations." Of course national parks "lock up" some resources—in this case a jungle-like rain forest that has been aptly described as one of the world's wonders.

(3) Mr. Mack says the boundaries include areas unfit for park purposes. The fact is that not more than 2,000 acres within the entire park have been put to agricultural use. As for swamps and wilderness, they are in themselves highly desirable for wildlife preservation. We are not talking here about another Central Park; we are talking about preserving a real slice of primeval America, from snow-topped mountains to ocean beaches.

(4) Mr. Mack says some of the trees are "over-ripe and should be cut." But the whole point of preserving this forest is to preserve it intact, including its normal life-processes of growth, maturity and decay.

(5) Mr. Mack says the Park Service once recommended excision of 56,000 acres and that, anyway, all he wants to do is to put the deleted lands under the Forest Service. The Park Service a few years ago did consent to such a reduction in order to stave off a threat of even greater magnitude. But when this effort at appeasement proved futile, the Park Service reversed itself. There is no doubt where it stands today. If the lands in question are transferred to the Forest Service the "only change" as Mr. Mack puts it, is that they will be logged.

In brief, if local Washington interests are too shortsighted to see the permanent values (commercial as well as spiritual and esthetic) in a 900,000-acre Olympic National Park, then it is up to the rest of us to make sure that the nation is not deprived of this priceless and unique asset.

Summer Workshops

This is a compilation of conservation courses to be offered during the coming summer. Early applications are advised. *Audubon Camp of California*. Sugar Bowl Lodge, Norden. Five 2-week sessions begin-

ning June 17, July 1, 15, 29, August 12. \$95.00 per session, includes field trip transportation, board and room. Two units upper division credit for each of one or two sessions, through Sacramento State College. (\$7.50 per unit.) Write National Audubon Society, 693 Sutter St., Room 201, San Francisco 2. (After June 10 write to Norden.)

Huntington Lake Workshop. Field Studies in the Out-of-Doors. August 3-15. For teachers and leaders of recreation and youth groups. Special camp ground; bring own equipment, provide own food. Two upper division credits, \$15.00. Write Dr. Lloyd G. Inglis, Fresno State College, Fresno 4.

Idyllwild School of Conservation and Natural Science. On Mount San Jacinto, Riverside County, Conservation Workshop, June 22-July 3, two upper division and graduate credits, through Long Beach State College. Teaching Aids for Conservation Education, July 6-16, 1 unit. Use and Enjoyment of the Out-of-Doors, July 13-17, August 3-7, 1 unit. Tuition and fees \$15 per unit. Lodging and board \$4-\$4.50

per day. Write Director, Dr. Robert P. Durbin, Long Beach State College, Long Beach.

Santa Barbara Institute of Nature Study and Conservation. August 10-22. \$23.00 tuition, including field trips. Two units upper division credits to teachers and college graduates; certificates of attendance for others. Write University Extension, 906 Santa Barbara Street.

West Coast Nature School. Three 1-week sessions beginning June 14-20, Mendocino, Woodlands; June 21-27, Sequoia National Park; June 28-July 4, Mammoth Lake. Tuition \$18.00 per week. Variety of accommodations available each location. Two $\frac{1}{4}$ college credits. Write % San Jose State College, San Jose.

Yosemite Field School. Workshop in Interpretive Methods. For college graduates interested in teaching natural history in schools, camps or parks. Eight weeks, June 28-August 21. No tuition. No college credit. Certificates of Attendance. Personal costs approximately \$185. Write Box 545, Yosemite National Park.

Courses in Conservation at Summer Sessions. Address Deans of Summer Sessions for Courses in Conservation: Chico, Humboldt, San Diego, San Francisco State colleges and others.

Conservation Outpost

In the 83d Congress

During the recent North American Wildlife Conference in Washington, D.C., hearings were held on the *Baker bill*, H. R. 1972 (national forest receipts) and the *Johnson bill*, H. R. 1038 (dams in national parks). These were preliminary hearings held while many conservationists were in Washington and available to testify in behalf of the measures.

Dave Brower, who very ably represented the Sierra Club, reported that the House Committee on Agriculture, which heard the arguments for the *Baker bill*, must have been impressed with the demonstration of the great need for the development and maintenance of facilities for public use in national forests.

More hearings will be held. Meanwhile it is important that congressmen know of the wide support and need for this measure. Five arguments for it:

1. The present condition of recreational facilities in the national forests is poor, in some areas even endangering health.

2. The last development of recreational facilities of any consequence was by the Civilian Conservation Corps, over 15 years ago. With lack of funds for maintenance, much of this development is worn out.

3. Population increases and other changes have resulted in much heavier public use of national forests. In 1941 public use of national forests amounted to about 18 million visits. In 1951 there were 30 million visits—an increase of 66 per cent!

4. Roads into national forests, originally constructed for logging operations, are opening new areas for recreation which require development funds to provide campgrounds and proper sanitary facilities.

5. With the exception of a small appropriation in 1947, no funds have been made available for rehabilitation of recreational facilities since 1941. As a result, increased use of the national forests for recreation has left facilities woefully inadequate. National forest receipts last year amounted to \$70,000,000 and likely will reach \$80,000,000 in the year ending June 30, 1953. Thus, under the *Baker bill*, a maximum allowance

of \$5,500,000 would be available for a program of rehabilitation and expansion of public use facilities in national forests during the summer and fall of 1953.

The *Johnson bill*, H. R. 1038, to prohibit dams in national parks and monuments, was given a hearing before the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs. Initially, some committee members expressed doubt that additional legislation is necessary to protect against encroachments of water and power development, but the enumeration of the consistent attempts to build dams in parks and monuments and the many other good arguments advanced in favor of the bill convinced most of them that the legislation is necessary.

In his presentation, Dave Brower complimented the Congress on their past record of protection of national parks and monuments, but stated that a 1953 statement of policy is needed to supplement and clarify the original intention of Congress that these areas should remain in their natural state.

Further hearings are also planned for the *Johnson bill*, so it is important to write to your Congressman concerning this legislation, too. In this case, letters of support may play an even more important role in promoting this legislation, as its need, though manifestly important, is not as popularly or generally recognized.

Several new bills were introduced recently, among them these two:

Mining Laws—S. 783, introduced by Senator Clinton Anderson of New Mexico, is designed to protect the surface values of lands in national forests by separating the surface and subsurface rights on mining claims made under the mining laws. The law as it now stands allows any person to locate on unclaimed lands in national forests to prospect for and mine certain minerals (including pumice and gravel). At the same time that this "mining activity" is carried on, the locator may utilize the land surface for other commercial or private enterprise (resorts, lumbering, grazing, or summer homes). S. 783 would allow only that surface activity which is necessary to mining operations.

The bill has been referred to the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs.

Bridge Canyon Dam—H.R. 2971, introduced by Representative Harold Patton of Arizona, would authorize the construction of a dam at Bridge Canyon, just outside the boundary of Grand Canyon National Monument. The bill authorizes the dam "to be constructed to an elevation of not more than 1877 feet above sea level." The reservoir created by a dam of this height would raise the water level of the Colorado about 675 feet above stream bed, flood the canyon for the entire length of the Monument and extend into Grand Canyon National Park almost to Kanab Creek. The mouth of Havasu Canyon would be inundated to a depth of about 85 feet.

H.R. 2971 has been referred to the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs.

In the State Legislature

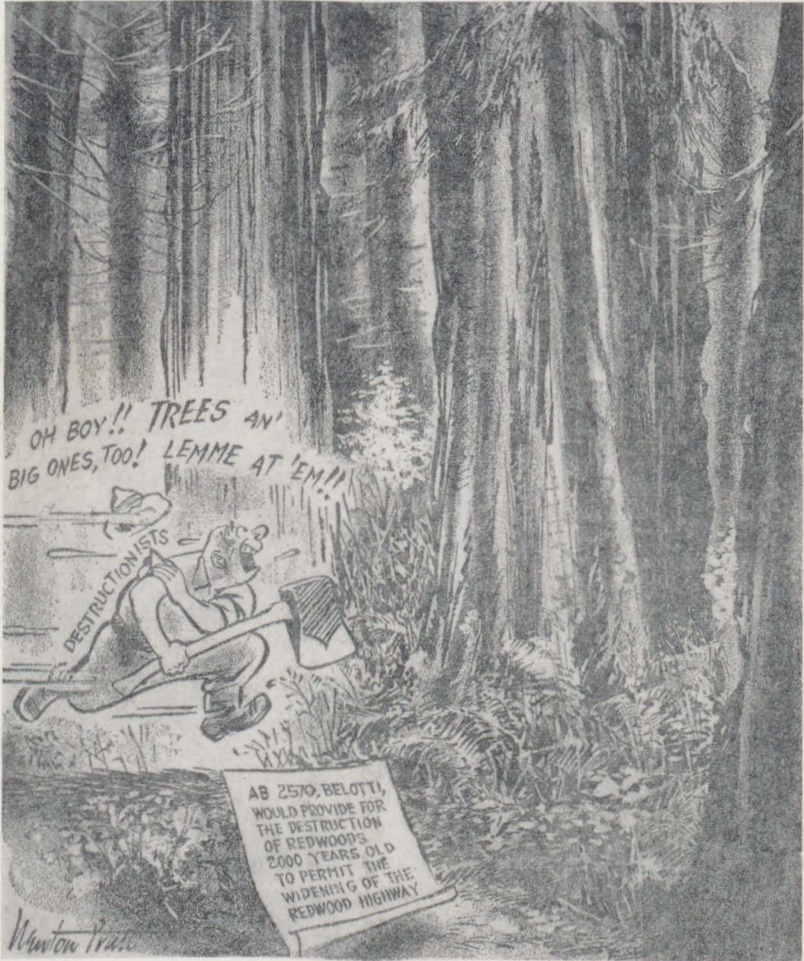
The February *Bulletin* reported on a bill introduced into the State Legislature, S. 69, which would permit highways to be built across state parks. Requests for state highways were to be granted unconditionally by the State Park Commission.

This directly threatens the coast redwood parks made possible by the donation of millions of dollars of private funds.

Various amendments have been proposed, both for this bill, S. 69, and its companion, A.B. 2570. But the threat remains, essentially as described by Harold Bradley when representing the club at a hearing before the Senate Committee on Natural Resources in Sacramento: "We strongly oppose the bill as written because it gives to an outside agency, the State Highway Commission, the authority to determine the future history of any state park. It divests the State Park Commission of both authority and responsibility for planning and preserving parks."

Sponsors of this legislation—resort owners *et al.*—have argued variously that we could pay for the highway widening out of receipts from lumber from roadside redwoods, which are "killers" anyway, and behind each of which are redwoods just as beautiful (killers also?). They have worked the killer argument to death. Certainly no

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SAN FRANCISCO
SAN MATEO COUNTY



THE FOREST'S PRIME EVIL

Sacramento Bee

one likes highway carnage, but it could be pointed out that it is better for the crash-prone to hit trees than to kill innocent oncoming motorists head-on (a superficial comment on a superficial argument).

No one argued this way when California

was raising funds to save the redwoods. In any event, there are alternate highway routes to be studied which can save the redwoods safely. Individuals can help by sending their views promptly to their state representatives.

JOHN R. BARNARD