

JUN 9 1953

SIERRA CLUB BULLETIN

May
1953



HIGH SIERRA NEAR GLEN PASS

Cedric Wright

More Ideas for Summer

SEE PAGES 7-10

Letters

POSSIBLY SUPER

Hester Moore was fifteen last year when she came out from Massachusetts to go on the saddle trip from Carroll Creek. When her club membership card was mailed in August, she was asked how she had enjoyed the outing. This was her reply:

Squantum, Mass.
September 3, 1952

Dear . . . :

I guess there isn't anything I could tell you about the Sierra Trip that wasn't wonderful unless it was possibly super terrifically wonderful. But on second thought I did have one objection. It was entirely too short. It left me almost two months of just wishing I were back in the mountains instead of accomplishing something like I should during summer vacation. If I had my way the trip just plain wouldn't have ended. Never before in my life have I seen such magnificent country in any direction you care to look! It kept me spellbound from one minute to the next. No two views were the same in any way but I felt I just couldn't see enough of any of it. I've been raised right on the Atlantic Ocean and the nearest thing to a mountain in sight are the

Blue Hills, elevation 500 feet at the highest, so 10,000 was quite a way up in my estimation.

Also all the people were so nice and friendly. As a group they were very effective and as individuals they were *all* just swell.

I have pretty well publicised the glories of California around the neighborhood. In fact, I've darn near chewed everyone's ear off about it, so I'm really glad to tell a Sierran, too, that I think the Sierra Mountain Range is as close to paradise as I ever expect to come. Especially when seen through the eyes of the Sierra Club.

Yours sincerely,
HESTER MOORE

News of summer outings as of May 1: Plenty of space on Knapsack and Burro Trips; still room in Base Camp; High Trip just about filled—when you read this the waiting list will have started; the three River Trips are full.

Recently announced is the promotion of Samuel A. King, superintendent of Saguaro National Monument and formerly a Yosemite ranger, to the superintendency of Joshua Tree National Monument, California. He will fill the vacancy left by the transfer of Frank R. Givens to Shenandoah National Park.

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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Published monthly except July and August by the Sierra Club, 2061 Center Street, Berkeley 4, California. Annual dues are \$7 (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. All communications and contributions should be addressed to Secretary, Sierra Club, 1050 Mills Tower, San Francisco 4.

*Reg. U.S. Pat. Off.



Sierra Club Bulletin

VOLUME 38

MAY, 1953

NUMBER 5

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

For the May Record

Our New Officers

At the annual organization meeting of the Sierra Club directors on May 2, the following officers were elected: President, Richard M. Leonard; Vice-President, Harold E. Crowe; Secretary, Lewis F. Clark; Treasurer, Einar Nilsson; Fifth Member of the Executive Committee, Alex Hildebrand.

In order to continue as Executive Director of the Sierra Club, David R. Brower resigned from the Board. In his place the Board appointed Joseph Momyer of the Riverside Chapter, who is chairman of the Southern Section of the Club Conservation Committee, and who has done such fine service in the San Jacinto controversy.

The detailed minutes of the meeting will appear in the June *SCB*.

Knapsackers Organize

In the relatively palatial surroundings of Asilomar, on April 18, 72 Sierra Club knapsackers assembled at the call of Edwin L. (Bob) Braun to decide what could be done to promote the "going light" idea. A fair portion of the proceedings took place along the ocean beach, at the ping pong tables, and in the magic lantern salon, but a serious discussion of knapsacking resulted in an energetic program for the Club and the chapters.

A Knapsacking Committee was organized, with Bob Braun as chairman, to be composed of an official representative of each chapter, the leaders of the Club-sponsored summer knapsacking trips (three this year), and three other members to be appointed by the chairman. The committee is subordi-

nate to the Club Outing Committee, and has two main objectives:

1—To coordinate the knapsacking activities of the various chapters, providing information and guidance and arranging combined trips so that more and better backpacking opportunities will be available throughout the Club.

2—To encourage wide participation in planning and leading the Club-sponsored summer knapsack outings.

Some of the subjects discussed at the meeting were: The reasons for encouraging knapsacking as a special type of mountaineering; ways of promoting it, such as educational programs, publicity, scholarships for youths, and improved leadership; the role of the chapters in leadership selection and training; scouting plans; and the role of the chapters in selecting areas for trips. A group was named to formulate a statement of the responsibilities of trip leaders.

Although members of only three chapters attended—San Francisco, Loma Prieta and Mother Lode—it was decided that participation of all ten chapters should be sought. The possibility that it might be desirable to set up a separate section of the committee in Southern California was left for consideration by the chapters in that area.

The first formal meeting of the Knapsacking Committee will be held in Yosemite Valley on October 3 and 4.

Picture Puzzle

It may have something to do with weight and bulk on the long haul, but there's no doubt we have a problem, namely, too few

Sierrans carry any but a miniature camera on their mountain travels. Result: Too few black-and-white photographs of the size and quality required for magazine reproduction and for display in educational and publicity campaigns.

The scarcity of useful pictures, other than color transparencies (and something remains to be said on *that* subject), long has been of concern to the Editorial Board. The *SCB*, of course, has been privileged to publish the work of many fine camera artists, including Ansel Adams, Cedric Wright and Philip Hyde. But the interests of the Sierra Club have become so diverse that a far wider circle of photographers is called for, if the *SCB* is to illustrate much of the world of mountaineering and conservation on which we focus, from the Coast Ranges to the Arctic and from unkempt camps to undammed parklands.

A point of importance is that our posters and publications require more than pretty pictures; they must have pictures that tell a story, pictures that show graphically not only the beauty of the mountain scene but the *meaning* of a particular land form, a biological habitat, a recreational opportunity, a threat to a national resource. Some of these subjects are not at all photogenic, and they are just the ones we need most urgently to illustrate our message.

Harold Bradley made a set of rather unpleasant photographs that has proved to be exactly the thing to spark a campaign for clean camps. In ten or a dozen exposures he showed the problem of trash dumped willy-nilly beside lakes and streams, and the several steps his party took to clean up a camp site and remove the debris. Dr. Bradley's pictures have been used in window displays, at lectures and county fairs, in several magazine layouts, and most recently in a leaflet published by the Sierra Club which is receiving wide distribution.

Dozens of other problems await their photographic interpreters. Many a subject, in fact, lies just off the trail you are about to follow on your summer trip, high or low. What do you think of joining us in an experiment?

For once, leave your color camera home—or perhaps bring two cameras, one for color

and another that takes a somewhat larger negative, for black-and-white. Keep in mind the objectives of the Sierra Club, keep your eyes open to the total environment in your region (not only the well-composed landscapes), look for contrast and texture and detail, include close-ups of people doing things, and be fairly generous with your film. When you get home, select the most telling of your negatives and make an 8 x 10 glossy print of each.

Mark your calendar now for an autumn date to submit your work to our picture editor, either by mail or in person at the Club office. Whether you produce a single stunning poster shot, a series depicting a new scenic route, the picture-story of an outing, or the documentary analysis of a conservation problem, you will have fitted a piece or two into our editorial picture puzzle.

F. G.

Membership Report

Increase in club membership and organization of two new chapters were noted in the annual report of the Membership Committee to the Board of Directors on May 1. Cicely M. Christy, chairman, also reported progress in the development of a uniform policy to be used in dealing with applicants and the revision of written material sent to applicants and letters sent to sponsors.

The two new chapters are the Kern-Kaweah, centered around Bakersfield, and the Tehipite, around Fresno.

Total club membership increased from 7292 to 7690 during the past year, a 5.5 per cent gain. This does not include 78 members on military leave of absence. Chapter memberships were reported as follows:

	1952	1953
San Francisco Bay	3697	3779
Southern California	1926	1978
Loma Prieta	519	544
Mother Lode	266	275
Riverside	100	123
San Diego	136	164
Atlantic	134	131
Los Padres	80	111
Kern-Kaweah	129
General	434	456
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	7292	7690

Conservation Outpost

In the 83d Congress

At the moment there is one legislative matter of overriding importance to which we are giving full attention. It concerns two identical measures, H.R. 4023 and S. 1491, the first introduced by Representative Wesley D'Ewart (Idaho) and the second by Senators Hugh Butler (Nebraska) and Frank Barrett (Wyoming).

The preamble of these measures says the purpose is to provide for the "improvement and development of Federal lands and to stabilize the livestock industry dependent upon the Federal Range." The bills, in fact, are highly objectionable legislation promoted by a group known as the Stockman's Grazing Committee.

The basic intent of these bills is to weaken the administrative control of the Forest Service over grazing lands in the national forests, to a point where livestock interests will control policies and virtually own the land and grazing rights.

National forests are managed on a multiple-use principle. The Forest Service now grants various types of users the privilege of entering portions of the forests for their activities, under rules and regulations promulgated by the Forest Service.

Under the terms of H.R. 4023 or S. 1491, grazing privileges would constitute a vested right to which all other rights would become secondary. For instance, under Sections 6 and 7 of the bills, grazing permit holders would have *legal* right to first preference at time of renewal and *legal* right to transfer their grazing permits to others, including heirs.

Administrative approval of first preference and transfer has been the policy of the Forest Service through the years, so much so that grazing permit holders have come to rely upon this procedure as an established custom. The move to take control of these matters from the Forest Service is not based on any dissatisfaction with past policy but is an effort to shift control out of the hands of the Forest Service.

Other provisions of the bill, such as the

creation of stockmen's advisory committees and judicial review of certain administrative decisions, are all aimed at dilution of Forest Service control.

In many respects, the serious danger of the measures is not the immediate effect that passage would bring but the basic intent of the long-range program of which these bills are but a first step.

In 1947 heavy pressure was applied by the leaders of the wool and cattle industry to bring the public range into private ownership. Since that time there have been continued efforts to gain control of range lands with various schemes, all advanced by this group. Today's bid for control is different from previous attempts in that it would curtail Forest Service control over grazing lands, leaving for a later coup the physical acquisition of these lands.

The Sierra Club Board of Directors carefully considered the intent of these measures at their May 2 meeting and voted unanimously to oppose them. Dave Brower, Executive Director, pointed out that it is primarily the leaders of the National Wool Growers Association and American National Cattlemen's Association who are promoting this legislation. Hundreds of large and small ranch owners are satisfied with the permit system and its administration by the Forest Service.

Late in May a hearing is to be held on H.R. 4023 by the House Subcommittee on Public Lands under the chairmanship of Congressman D'Ewart. Many will be there to protest this initial step towards liquidation of the public domain. Conservation organizations will be there to argue that the national forests must be open to all proper uses, including recreation. A few livestock men may be bold enough to testify that they welcome the help and direction that the Forest Service provides.

The proponents of H.R. 4023 will be there, too. This may be one of the most critical fights ever waged over our natural resources. Our strongest efforts will be required to save them.

JOHN R. BARNARD

Conserving the Condors

The California Condor has been much in the news since the California Commission of Fish and Game, in November 1952, issued to the San Diego Zoo a permit to trap a pair of these birds. It has been felt by conservationists everywhere, that condors, if they are to maintain their place as a native, wild species, must have complete and rigid protection from all types of disturbance.

The recent action of the Fish and Game Commission, however, has made possible exactly the type of disturbance that could lead to disaster. This action has raised a storm of protest, not only within California, but among people all over the country.

A significant development of this controversy has been the introduction into the Senate of the State, Senate Concurrent Resolution Number 51 by Senators Erhart and McBride. This resolution states in part: "Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly thereof concurring, that the Fish and Game Commission and the Department of Fish and Game be instructed to issue no additional permits to trap condors."

The San Diego Zoo has been actively trapping near the Sespri Wildlife Area, in which nearly all known condors nest, since early in the year. Several methods have been attempted but all fortunately have met with no success thus far. The Zoo, at the time the permit was issued, agreed not to trap during the condor's breeding season, but in spite of this has been doing so far the past two months. In view of this fact and the number of protests received, the Department of Fish and Game has temporarily suspended the permit. Trapping operations cannot be resumed before June 15, 1953.

Again, because of the number of protests, the Commission of Fish and Game feels that the matter should be heard again.

FLASH: The hearing has been held—and the condors lost. Although SCR 51 was passed, the Commission construed it as approval of the San Diego trapping permit, and unless the people of the country can persuade San Diego not to trap, the condors are endangered. All condor experts agree about the danger; the San Diego 200 people know better.

Sugar Pines Saved

The five-year campaign to save for public enjoyment the grove of magnificent sugar pines adjacent to Calaveras State Park has reached the stage where only title work is needed to complete the transaction. An agreement was signed last February covering transfer of the 378.7 acre tract to the United States Forest Service. The transfer was effected under a 1909 conservation law, and the owner of the tract, the Pickering Lumber Company, received a comparable stand of expendable timber on a nearby federal tract.

This grove, containing thousands of pines, some centuries old and as high as 250 feet, is on Beaver Creek in the gorge of the Stanislaus River in Tuolumne County, 125 miles east of San Francisco. Although there are many groves of sugar pines among the forests of the coast, this grove was appraised by Frederick Law Olmsted, who made a survey for California after World War II, as representative of growth "which will probably never be seen again anywhere in the world if a good example of it is not preserved."

On the basis of Mr. Olmsted's report, the State developed a plan for a 5,000-acre park that would include the Calaveras State Park, the sugar pine tract, and the somewhat larger redwood grove two miles south, owned by the lumber company. The State has earmarked \$1,500,000 of park funds toward purchase of the south grove, which is expected to cost several million dollars. Under the present law, the earmarked funds must be matched by money from outside sources. A campaign for the matching funds is being carried on by the Save-the-Redwoods League and the Calaveras Grove Association, which provided the matching funds for the purchase in 1931 of the present Calaveras State Park tract.

101

A speedway never is to me
As lovely as a redwood tree.

—edb

—San Francisco Chronicle, April 30, 1953

Say, Summer's Coming!

We think Clair Tappaan Lodge is a little different. Like all Sierra Club lodges it has a special meaning for the many members who have worked to make it what it is, who laid a stone, nailed a shake, fitted a pipe, puttied a pane, or who washed a dish, swept a floor or cleared a table, in the years of the volunteer work which built it and which carried it on. Through this wide and wonderful cooperation, we have a lodge where members easily reached. Here they can learn to ski, and incidentally find out about the mountains. Here they can hike, and here they can begin to understand what the Sierra Club stands for and what it means by "explore, enjoy, and protect the natural mountain scene"

HOW DOES A BARBECUE STRIKE YOU? Or a picnic? Perhaps you'd just like to snooze under a tree. Try it at Clair Tappaan Lodge this summer. Manager Rudy Talso has a lot of ideas up his sleeve—ideas that will mean fun for you, your family and your friends.

You'll find the Lodge is an ideal spot to relax on a weekend or to spend your two-weeks-with-pay. Situated at a cool, dry, invigorating 7,000-foot elevation, it can accommodate 150 people at a time. The sunny dining room commands a spacious view of the Sierra landscape and you'll find friends and comfortable conversation by the fire in the roomy lounge.

Fun and informality keynote summertime activities. John Quinn, king of the kitchen, promises more of the Saturday night barbecues that drew rave notices last year. Picture large, succulent cuts of beef marinated and slowly roasted over an outdoor wood fire. Tempting barbecue trimmings complement the meat . . . it's a meal to remember!

Scenic spots abound for picnic and swim fun. A short walk on a pine-shaded trail will take you to a picturesque mountain lake. Small, sheltered Maiden's Retreat nestles near Signal Hill. Crater Lake shimmers at the very top of Boreal Ridge. Natural granite shelves at Lake Flora invite diving en-

thusiasts and sun bathers alike. Name your preference and a trail will take you to it.

Bringing the children? For a very moderate fee a capable baby-sitter will plan games and activities for the youngsters while you tread the trails or fish at a sunlit lake. Under her supervision, tots will delight in the playground that's equipped with swings, seesaws, shiny bars, sand-box and horizontal bars. By special arrangements, you can plan overnight trips from the Lodge and rest assured that Junior is in competent hands. If you're bringing the youngsters, drop a note to the Lodge staff to make final arrangements.

Is fishing your weakness? You'll find the Donner Summit area is a paradise for rod-and-reelsters. Splashing streams and quiet lakes offer trout in abundance; many of the lakes are stocked periodically. You may walk to secluded Castle Creek and Paradise Lake, or drive to Lake Tahoe and Donner Lake. Rudy Talso will help you pick the best spot to try your luck.

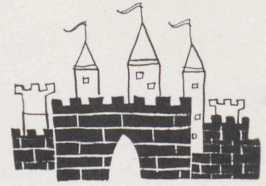
Do longer hikes and climbs attract you? Then consider the nearby huts and peaks. Peter Grubb Hut, in a sheltered bowl at the foot of towering Castle Peak, is a scenic five miles from the Lodge. You may plan a one-day jaunt, or take advantage of the Hut's facilities and stay overnight. The slightly longer trip to Benson Hut commands a fine view in all directions. And rock-climbers can try their skill on numberless crags and peaks in the area. If you want to travel farther and camp out overnight, there are lots of excellent camping sites along trails that are well worth seeing. You





Peter Grubb Hut

White Rock Lake
Paradise Lake
Warren Lake



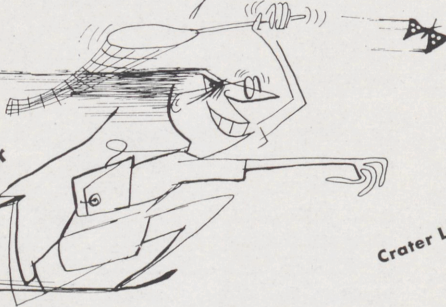
Castle Peak

Buzzards Roost
Sand Ridge



Yuba River

Signal Hill



Boreal Ridge

Crater Lake

Soda Springs

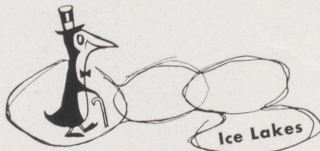
Norden



CLAIR TAPPAAN LODGE

Bay Area

Lake Van Norden

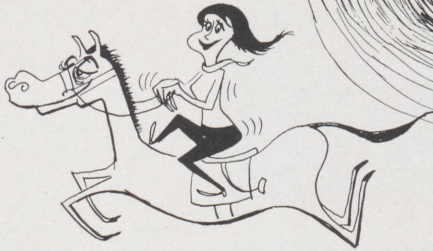
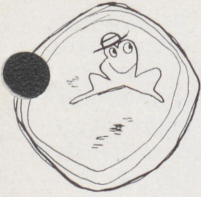


Ice Lakes



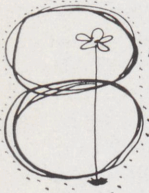
American River

Frog Lake



Azalea Lake

Flora Lake



Squaw Valley

Lake Tahoe

Truckee

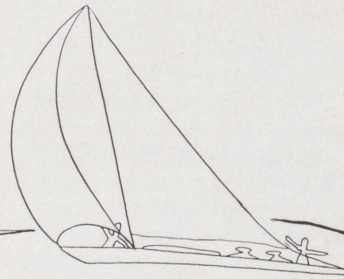
Reno



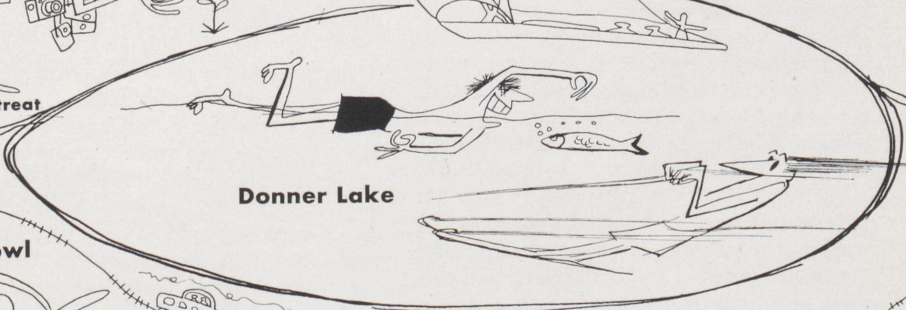
Angela Lake



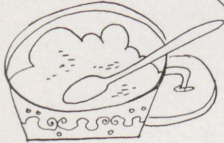
Maidens Retreat



Donner Lake



Sugar Bowl



railroad



Mt. Lincoln



Benson Hut



Anderson Peak

Bob Gumpertz



can set out after a hearty breakfast and be happy with knapsack fare since a hot, square meal will be ready when you return.

How about other sports? You can rent horses at Soda Springs and see the country from saddle-height. Or perhaps water skiing intrigues you after a winter on hickories. You can test your technique at Donner Lake where one of the local lodge managers runs a Chris Craft—he'll provide all the necessary equipment and give instructions if you're a novice. If you choose to see the sights from the comfort of your car, miles of roads beckon. The area is rich in historical lore with forty-niner trails to the south and the Mother Lode gold country to the west.

More interested in flowers than peaks? A wealth of flora and fauna awaits your study. Countless varieties of plants, birds and animals thrive at this altitude and you can spend hours or the entire summer watching them grow and change. Lodge guests may hear lectures and see motion pictures on nature lore at the Audubon Summer Camp at Sugar Bowl. A six-week session, it will open about June 15.



What to do in the evenings? You won't be bored! The Lodge offers a variety of activities—folk dancing, ping pong, bridge, impromptu entertainment, Kodachromes and movies, and social chatter. Or you may prefer a single-feature at Truckee, or Reno's nightlife.

What'll it cost? Surprisingly little! Sierra Club members pay \$3.50 a day or \$21 a week. Their guests pay that fee plus 50 cents a day. The charge for children under six is \$1 a day and for children from six to twelve, two-thirds of the adult rate. Older children pay the guest rate unless both parents are members. If you're just staying at the Lodge overnight or for one or two meals, the rate is \$1 per unit with lunch 75 cents. Guests will pay 15 cents per unit additional. Since Lodge guests bring their own bedding and housekeeping duties are cooperative, the rates can be kept on the low, non-profit basis.

If you're clever with hammer and nails, or just eager to help on a Lodge work party, you'll receive free room and board and priorities on ski season reservations.

When you plan to go to the Lodge . . . please drop a line to Rudy Talso, Sierra Club Lodge, Norden, to let him know you're coming so he'll be sure to have enough food on hand. To get there, drive east on Highway 40 from Sacramento. After you pass the Norden store, look for a dirt road just above the ASUC Lodge—it will take you to the front door of Clair Tappaan. If you come by Greyhound bus, ask the driver to stop in front of the Lodge. And Southern Pacific trains stop at Norden, some 800 feet from the Lodge.

After your stay at the Lodge, the Clair Tappaan Lodge Committee would like to hear your suggestions on policies, management and improvement. Send your comments to Jim Mulholland, care of the Club office in San Francisco.

Photos: The living room, Azalea Lake, and Warren Lake—by Keith Lummis.

Map: Midsummer night's dream by Bob Gumpertz.

Before the Deluge

In what the California Department of Fish and Game terms its most ambitious habitat improvement program yet undertaken, the year 1952 was to have seen 3,300 acre feet of new lake waters impounded and 17 flow-maintenance dams begun in the El Dorado, Stanislaus, and Tahoe National Forests—all financed by the Wildlife Conservation Board with its share of State *pari mutuel* proceeds.

Moreover, the State Division of Water Resources is conducting additional surveys of future dam sites to aid in what is called the long-term stream improvement program of the Department of Fish and Game.

As readers of these pages know, the Sierra Club has favored construction of such dams *outside* primitive areas, and has urged that long-range studies of the effect of such alteration of environment on the biotic community be conducted before any wilderness areas be slated for such development.

It is possible that some of our own ecologists—or members with ecological interests—can help such studies by outlining what they think the studies should cover, as well as by making informal studies of their own.

Whether or not you are an ecologist, you can help by gathering photographs that will be necessary for any “before-and-after” series in future years. Places where we need the “before” photographs are as follows:

El Dorado National Forest: Dams on Smith and Lion lakes on the south fork of Silver Creek; Winnemucca Lake on Woods Creek; Round, Dardanelles, and Showers lakes on the upper Truckee River; and Gilmore Lake on Glen Alpine Creek.

Tahoe National Forest: Big Downey, Lower Loch Leven, Maria, Lower West, and Upper West lakes.

Stanislaus National Forest: Lower Highland Lake, north fork of the Mokelumne River; Bigelow Lake, east fork of Cherry Creek; and Lower Buck Lake, west fork of Cherry Creek. (In all, the Emigrant Basin area is supposed to benefit by improvement of thirty miles of streams and 1,078 acre feet of new storage on the lakes named.)

We also herewith address an open request to Mr. James Roof, who has demonstrated in Tilden Regional Park consummate skill

Cross Reference

Land Grab: For a powerful indictment of “The Sturdy Corporate Homesteader” who has preyed on U.S. public lands, and historical perspective on the current threat, see Bernard DeVoto’s “Easy Chair” essay in *Harper’s Magazine*, May 1953.

in duplicating the habitat of High Sierra species of plants, to jot down for us, preferably in article form, some of the things he has found out about the delicate balance of the gardens developed by nature on Sierra lakeshores and streamsides. We make this request because we recall his saying, if our memory serves us right, that in some places this balance is so precarious that it would require a century to restore what might easily be destroyed in one season. D.R.B.

Fish, Wildlife Director

John L. Farley of Seattle, Washington, has been appointed Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, succeeding Albert M. Day.

Mr. Farley is a graduate of State Teachers College, River Falls, Wisconsin, and the University of Wisconsin. He was for some years with the Pacific Gas and Electric Company, was executive officer of the California Division of Fish and Game, and was in community relations work with the Crown Zellerbach Corporation in Seattle.

Mr. Farley is a member of the American Fisheries Society and a past vice-president, International Association of Game and Fish Commissioners.

Research Fellowships

Harvard University is offering fellowships in natural resources conservation research, each carrying a \$2,500 stipend for one academic year, the university’s graduate school of public administration has announced.

The fellowships will provide training and research in conservation, public administration, economic policy and political science to men who have had experience in resource development and management. Deadline for filing applications is July 15.



THIS IS MAKALU, goal of the 1954 California Himalayan Expedition. The view, from the northwest, shows the upper portion of what may be the most feasible route to the top. Peak in center foreground is Chomo-Lonzo and the north face of Makalu appears in the distance. (Photograph from G. O. Dyhrenfurth's *Zum Dritten Pol.*)

Report on the 1954 Himalayan Expedition

Looking back over the months during which the California Himalayan Committee has been busily consolidating its efforts, one may well say that many advances have been made relevant to all phases of expedition planning. Our last general meeting of April 24 benefited by the attendance of three of our advisory Council: Francis P. Farquhar, David R. Brower, and Einar Nilsson. To this Council, we of the working committee offer our thanks, as we would be farther from our goal without their continued help.

Chairman Will Siri opened the proceedings by outlining plans for the solicitation of funds from sources other than the considerable support already shown by members of the Sierra Club. It is anticipated that sufficient funds will be available by the end of June or July to permit an early selection of equipment and food required by the expedition. Members of the committee have made remarkable progress in selecting and designing special equipment for the expedition. The entire field of expedition equip-

ment has been reviewed and a number of important improvements effected.

Twenty-seven tents will be ordered, costing close to \$2500. One will understand, then, why our first estimate for food and equipment is as high as \$16,500. By next December, the six or seven tons of food and gear will be ready for shipment to India.

Dr. Bruce Meyer, who is well known to many in the Sierra Club, will serve as expedition doctor, and Prof. Nello Pace, University of California physiologist and founder of White Mountain Laboratory, will be responsible for part of the research program.

The committee takes this opportunity to express again its appreciation for the support received from members of the Sierra Club. We accept your generosity with this thought in mind: We cannot promise the summit, but we shall endeavor to carry out the purposes of the expedition in such a manner that you will be proud to be a participant.

CALIFORNIA HIMALAYAN COMMITTEE

Progress (?) on the El Capitan Buttress

It is now time, though I am somewhat reluctant to divulge specific information, to consider the various attempts and near attempts which have to this date been made to climb this arête. Perhaps the first serious try was made by Chuck Wilts and a companion, who climbed the first few leads above the corner, a corner in the strictest sense, for at that point one will find the most direct line of descent to the Yosemite Valley floor. This corner can be reached from below via a more direct route, but fortunately it can be avoided by ascending the talus via the familiar path to the main cliff face on which the Tree is growing, and then traversing over to the right where the climber can now step onto the rock at a more opportune level.

Only recently has interest again been strong enough for action. A number of climbers, including groups from the Sierra Club and Stanford Alpine Club, have participated.

One climber, in the earlier stages of the ascent, where one can view the upper difficulties from a distance, suddenly became seriously afflicted in the upper right-hand arm, that is, the hammering arm. Climbing stopped and the party retreated to its bivouac where it convalesced on hot tea and slouched about in the sunshine doing nothing. Another fell ill via the usual occupational hazard, and was led down the talus grumbling about the soundness of his pitons, muttering also that his remaining Sundays were going to be spent at home.

Another party, of which I must confess I was a member, climbed superbly to the upper main ledge and finding that the "interesting" pitches ahead were wet, lay down and fell asleep. A few hours later they awoke and descended to their bivouac, where they felt too weak to go the rest of the way.

The ascent to the high point in December of last year, however, was marked by vicious activity and some luck. At this time the route to the upper ledge, blocked by a wall of 60 impressive feet, had not been found. There were two possible routes, one merely "interesting" and the other uncommonly "fascinating." (I take liberty of using the

new Broweronian classification.) Assuming the lead, I pondered, then chose the latter lead realizing that I should not advance far, thus throwing the former, more possible delicacy to my companion, Bill Unsoeld. This gambit is quite rewarding and should be remembered, though in this case I suffered many a nervous twitch while Bill climbed the cliff without benefit of piton.

Above, two fine class 4 leads are enough to reach the last outpost of comfort, where the hammering begins. Two more class 6 leads and you begin to wonder just what you are doing. The remaining route defies even the Broweronian code. Should anyone care to test himself, take heed of the "curse" of El Capitan Buttress and avoid rappelling into fetching bay trees by semi-darkness or you'll wish you had stayed home!

A. P. STECK

'Useless' Trees

"Useless trees and shrubs in the West consume and waste almost as much water every year as could be stored in Lake Mead behind Hoover Dam," claims T. W. Robinson, district engineer of the Geological Survey station at Carson City, Nevada, in a report released recently by the Department of the Interior.

According to Robinson, there are two ways by which the tree-wasted water could be saved—either by pumping before trees have consumed it or by *destroying the unwanted vegetation* and supplanting it with more valuable growths. . . .

Current data show a total of more than 11,000,000 acres covered by unwanted vegetation in 14 of the 17 Western States. This acreage consumes 16,750,000 acre-feet of water annually. Considering three States where no data are available and five where data are meager, it is estimated that at least 25,000,000 acre-feet of water are lost each year.

This amounts to twice the average flow of the Colorado River, or about 75 percent of the total storage capacity of Lake Mead.

"Classed as phreatophytes," Robinson reports, "are some 50 different species of plants, *mostly worthless*, whose habit of pumping or lifting ground water, sometimes

from great depths, and dissipating it as vapor in the air costs this nation billions of gallons of water daily. The range of these plants is increasing."

Looking toward the reclamation of at least part of this wasted water, scientists are now studying each type of *unwanted vegetation* to determine how culpable it is as a water robber.—*Los Angeles Times*.

Let's see, now. Aren't there seven projects instead of just one? And costly ones?

1. Clear the natural vegetation which is transpiring too much water.

2. Seed clouds to increase Western precipitation.

3. Concrete-line stream beds to speed runoff to catchment basins.

4. Build check dams to control runoff where it causes erosion.

5. Construct a diversion system, following litigation, to pump the water eastward. (Easterners have a right to the transpired, etc., billions of gallons that wind and gravity have historically moved inland and downward on their crops—all for free.)

6. Add dams to supply power for pumping.

7. When the atomic and anti-saline people have perfected methods of using sea-water, restore natural vegetation. — Ed.

Chapter Point of View

While the Sierra Club is increasingly occupied with problems of national scope, its members in the ten chapters continue to devote a large part of their thought and effort to local and regional interests. In their communities, the chapters are the Sierra Club. The new chairman of Los Padres Chapter, in the Condor Call for April, has expressed the chapter point of view particularly well, and we reprint her message here:

As of March 25th our Los Padres Chapter is at the threshold of a new year. It is the beginning of our second year as a full-fledged chapter of the Sierra Club. The clear, simple, unostentatious leadership of our first chairman, T. Preston Webster, Jr., is a contribution to the Sierra Club and all it stands for. And each one of us who are members of this chapter is fortunate to have

been a part in some small way of this contribution. As time goes on others of us will be asked by election to turn our hands to chapter leadership—and Preston has set a standard which is a challenge.

But each of us has something to contribute! At the very least we can each share with friends and acquaintances the Sierra Club point of view on conservation in its broadest concept—that is, on wilderness, on natural resources, on recreation and preservation, on wild life, on dams, even on some aspects of concessions in some kinds of recreation areas. We can each share (until it wears out!) such a letter as the one which came recently to all of us with the annual club ballot from our president, Dr. Harold E. Crowe. I don't know how many times I have read and reread that letter!

Four points seem particularly important this year: (1) major concern with conservation, working through our strong Conservation and Education Committee, (2) wider participation of our local membership in chapter activity—note that all new chairmen have not held offices before—note larger committees—and we hope more of the membership will drop in at monthly meetings of the Los Padres Executive Committee, which are held the third Tuesday night of every month, except July and August, in the chairman's home, (3) through articles in the *Condor Call* an effort to interpret and pass on for the profit and guidance of all of us the scope and policy of the Sierra Club as directives are received from headquarters in San Francisco, (4) a good job of public relations—more newspaper items about chapter and club, disseminating news of doings, ideas, standards.

Such plans seem more possible close to the inspiration of a great mountain: Recuperating from several weeks of illness, here I can look up at the magnificent jagged crest of San Jacinto, towering straight up from Palm Springs ten thousand feet above the desert floor, silhouetted against a white banner of dazzling photogenic cloud. Partly as a result of the efforts of a great many Sierra Club members there is no tramway to those cloud crests yet! And by our leave may there never be!

KATHLEEN JACKSON, *Chairman*

A Sand County Almanac

Aldo Leopold's "Delights and Dilemmas"

Every once in a cycle we see a sunset so beautiful, a woman so lovely, hear music so enchanting that our minds and imaginations sing for days. The lift of it carries us blithely over a thousand irritants.

Such a moment came to me recently when I picked up Aldo Leopold's *A Sand County Almanac*. I'll not waste time trying to describe it; a quote may do it better. But, reading it, I felt that here was the heart and soul of our feeling for the wilderness, wildlife, for the conservation movement. Here is what all of us are trying to say. I can only urge you to borrow, beg or buy this 20th century *Walden* and plunge into it. It's difficult to get the essence of such a rare work from a fragment, but here is a try:

"One swallow does not make a summer, but one skein of geese, cleaving the murk of a March thaw, is the spring.

"A cardinal, whistling spring to a thaw, but later finding himself mistaken, can retrieve his error by resuming his winter silence. A chipmunk, emerging for a sunbath but finding a blizzard, has only to go back to bed. But a migrating goose, staking two hundred miles of black night on the chance of finding a hole in the lake, has no easy chance for retreat. His arrival carries the conviction of a prophet who has burned his bridges."

—Dan Thripp, in *Southern Sierran*

• The only thing we can think of against this book is its title—a title which does not begin to tell what it should of what the book contains. Aldo Leopold, the father of the wilderness idea, told more in the first two lines of his foreword:

"There are some who can live without wild things, and some who cannot. These essays are the delights and dilemmas of one who cannot."

It was our lucky day when Harold Bradley, who told of Leopold and his book in an annual *Bulletin* two years ago, gave us a copy for Christmas. We have since concluded:

each Sierra Club member should own two copies—one to read again and again, the other to lend!

We have felt that so strongly that we have arranged with Oxford University Press, the publishers, for the Sierra Club to carry a supply for those members who want to find the book easily.

We've also asked Dan Thripp to make more selections from *Sand County*, and we have Oxford's permission to run these from time to time in *SCB*.

Statistics: *A Sand County Almanac, and Sketches Here and There*. By Aldo Leopold. Illustrated by Charles W. Schwartz. Oxford University Press, New York, 1949. Third printing, 1952. xiv + 226 pp. \$4.00.

You may order from the Sierra Club.

Let's not overlook the club's own titles. Does your library have these?

Going Light—with Backpack or Burro (\$2)
Starr's Guide to the John Muir Trail (\$2)
John Muir's Studies in the Sierra (\$2.50)
LeContes Ramblings (\$2)
The new Member's Handbook (\$1)

The Sierra Club, 1050 Mills Tower, San Francisco, always has them.

Illustration by
Charles W. Schwartz
from *A Sand County Almanac*



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SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK, CALIFORNIA
Letters: Morley Fund, Peril on the Level

The Morley Fund

The Morley Fund Committee selects persons to go on Sierra Club summer outings without cost, under the terms of the will of Mrs. Evelyn Morley and through the generosity of others (see SCB May 1952).

Sacramento, February 20

Sierra Club:

The *Bulletin* story a year ago on "The Morley Fund" prompts the suggestion that perhaps the Morley concept could be expanded. Would you accept enclosed check for one other outing (\$50). I prefer that it follow the Morley Fund lines of (a) graduate student (probably from Stanford or California), preferably in biological science.

C. M. GOETHE

Berkeley, February 14

Dear . . . :

Mr. Goethe's gifts have inspired me

It would be a pleasure to me, too, to help someone enjoy a summer outing in high places, as I have done for so many years. With my professional work for 30 years with adult foreign-born, you can understand I would like to have my contribution help give a trip to one from outside our own country—man or woman. However, the Sierra Club knows best; there are no strings on the enclosed check for \$50.

ETHEL ROSE TAYLOR HORSPALL

Berkeley, March 17

Dear . . . :

I am to be paid for leading a knapsack trip this summer. I don't feel that I should accept compensation for my services, but legal complications prevent me from refusing, so I would like to contribute the salary to the Morley Fund for use in sending some deserving person or persons on a Club trip this summer

My suggestion for the use of the money would be that it be used to help defray the expenses of a person on a knapsack trip. Half of the trip fee for each of two people would be satisfactory. I would suggest that the persons be young and leaders in their organizations, so

that what they learn and their impressions of the mountains might be carried back and passed on to their organizations . . .

Sincerely yours,

KYLE D. CORSON

Dangers of Climbing

Fresno, April 1

Editor:

Here's something for your ". . . which shows where the danger of climbing is" series:

On March 22, Jerry Ganapole, Chairman of the Kern-Kaweah Chapter, led a party of would-be climbers from the Tehipite Chapter on a day of climbing in Sequoia National Park. Usually a modest man, Jerry couldn't resist the temptation to show off his skill at walking on dead level turf. Unroped, but within fifty feet of his wife, car and safety, and in full view of his spellbound children, Fate struck this brave man down. He stepped in a gopher hole and suffered the most impressive sprained ankle this physician (a specialist in the other end of the body) has ever seen . . .

LESLIE H. GOULD

