



CLIFFS ON YAMPA RIVER, DINOSAUR NATIONAL MONUMENT

Martin Litton

SIERRA CLUB BULLETIN

*November
1953*

People You Know

Richard Houston and four fellow climbers of the California Himalaya Committee brought the lowdown on a high peak to the annual meeting of the San Francisco Bay Chapter, held October 11 at Bootjack Camp on Mount Tamalpais. They told the history of their group and details of its plans for the 1954 attempt on Makalu, world's fourth ranking summit (27,850 feet). It wasn't all talk, for they set up tents and equipment of a simulated "Camp Six." Dick's colleagues were *Alfred Baxter, Jr., William Dumire, Allen P. Steck and Fritz Lippmann.*

Alice Eastwood, noted botanist and Honorary Life Member of the Sierra Club, is being honored through establishment of an Alice Eastwood Grove in Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park by the California Spring Blossom and Wild Flower Association and other friends. The

grove is east of the Redwood Highway, about fifty miles north of Eureka.

For more than three score of her ninety-four years, Alice Eastwood has contributed to the knowledge and beautification of California. She served the California Academy of Sciences as Curator of Botany from 1892 to 1949, headed the California Botanical Club from April 1892 to 1952. An early member and past president of the Tamalpais Conservation Club, she assisted in the preservation of "The Mountain" as a State Park.

Contributions are being sent in care of the Save-the-Redwoods League, 250 Administration Building, University of California, Berkeley.

Robert F. Duryea, USAF, circuit-riding chaplain among the islands of the Central Pacific "where the average land elevation is seven feet and the only mountains are those that roll eternally on the warm, moisture-laden trade winds," says in a letter that "the power of association is remarkable. A wet board-walk on Kwajalein smells precisely like the wooden bridge across the Kern below Tyndall Creek when a thunder shower has just passed. Rain on coral sand sounds very much like rain on granite sand if you want it to badly enough. Moreover, you can stand with your back to the strong morning sun on Johnston Island, close your eyes, and picture yourself scrubbing the breakfast dishes beside Evolution Lake. And when a great, sharp-tailed frigate-bird soars high enough into the tropic sky, you can easily pretend that he is an eagle riding the updraft of some mighty granite wall."

August Frugé, manager of the University of California Press, has been appointed Chairman of the Sierra Club Editorial Board and Editor, as part of the reorganization made necessary when *David R. Brower*, former Editor, became Executive Director of the club. *Fred Gunsky* now edits the monthly *Bulletin*, assisted by a staff to be chosen both from within and without the Editorial Board. *Harriet Parsons* continues as associate editor.

Plans of the Editorial Board, discussed at a meeting in September, are to bring out the next annual magazine in April or May, 1954. As we've told you, writers who want their articles considered for that issue must place copy in the hands of the Editor by December 15, 1953.

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 Sierra Club, 1050 Mills Tower, San Francisco 4.

*Reg. U.S. Pat. Off.



Sierra Club Bulletin

VOLUME 38

NOVEMBER, 1953

NUMBER 9

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

For the November Record

Wilderness Voice

There is a strain of pure, old-fashioned radical thought in America that arrived with the first settlers and has had diverse expression through great and lesser prophets; Whitman, Thoreau, Audubon, Muir are a few of the great ones. Their business, in part, has been "to relate the values of wild country to personal experience and personality."

Dr. Olaus Murie, President of the Wilderness Society, is an heir of Thoreau and Audubon. A field biologist to begin with, he has continued to grow, intellectually and emotionally, beyond his investigations until today he speaks with full authority for a concept that has grown, too. His is a voice for the wilderness in the year 1953.

On April 14, 15 and 16, at Pacific University in Forest Grove, Oregon, Dr. Murie delivered three lectures which distill the essence of his mature thought and of his active life in far places. Speaking on "Wild Country as a National Asset," he urged "the saving of landscape itself—saving a mountain, a bit of desert, a forest, a river, not for what materials they furnish, but for the help they might be to us simply by remaining mountain, desert, forest, and river . . ." The quiet eloquence of his words cannot be conveyed by piecemeal quotation.

Now these lectures have been published, appropriately in *The Living Wilderness*, edited by Howard Zahniser for the society of which Dr. Murie is the chief officer. The entire Summer number of the magazine is devoted to the text, together with several

of Dr. Murie's own illustrations and his reference notes. This is a document to preserve, for it may rank among the great utterances of a philosophy that we share. It is also a document to spread among all friends of the natural scene, for it contains the precious seed of ideas and emotions that must be strengthened to compete with dams, dollars and careless destruction.

Copies of the significant and attractive Summer issue of *The Living Wilderness* may be obtained at 50 cents each from The Wilderness Society, 2144 P Street, N.W., Washington 6, D.C.

Mid-Century Forum

A nationwide forum to be held in Washington, D.C., December 2 to 4, has been called by Resources for the Future, Inc., a non-profit corporation for research and education in the field of natural resources. The agency has received a grant from the Ford Foundation to conduct this "Mid-Century Conference on Resources for the Future."

Conference Chairman Lewis W. Douglas has appointed members of a steering committee which includes representatives of the industries concerned with raw materials, and of conservation organizations and groups interested in long-range problems bearing on resources. Because of the large number expected to attend the conference, in addition to the general sessions the conference will be divided into eight sections in which most of the work will be done. We hope to have a report on the conference from Executive Director David Brower, who will represent the Sierra Club.

Western Outdoor Clubs' Convention

The 22d annual convention of the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs met September 5 to 7 at Berkeley Camp on Echo Summit, near Lake Tahoe, with the California Alpine Club acting as host to members and delegates from 31 mountaineering and hiking clubs.

From the first session on Saturday afternoon, with reports from member clubs, to the final session on Monday, over 260 persons enjoyed a program ranging from hikes in near-by Desolation Valley and swimming in Echo Lake to business sessions with reports on the year's activities of the Federation as well as those of member clubs, talks from representatives of the National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service and State Division of Beaches and Parks, and evening campfires. Dr. Budd Smith was general chairman of the convention.

These officers were elected for the year 1953-54: Dr. Edgar Wayburn (Sierra Club), President; D. S. (Jack) Dearth (Tamalpais Conservation Club), California Vice-President; B. D. Henderson (Sierra Club), California Deputy Vice-President; Alfred Schmitz (Mazamas), Oregon Vice-President; Edward F. Best (Hobnailers), Washington Vice-President; Harold Goodro (Wasatch Mountain Club), Utah Vice-President; Glen A. DeGross (Trails Club), Treasurer; Ramona Wascher (Sierra Club), Secretary; Betty D. Morse (Washington Alpine Club), Editor of *Western Outdoor Quarterly*.

Nesika Lodge, of the Trails Club of Oregon, was selected as 1954 convention site.

The Federation passed resolutions on conservation which are summarized:

1—Principles recognized in resolutions at the 1952 meeting were reaffirmed (a) on the desirability of a law to prohibit the construction or operation of dams, reservoirs, or water storage projects which would adversely affect the national parks or national monuments; (b) urging all clubs to aid and encourage Clean Camp campaigns in their localities.

2—Wilderness Areas. It was suggested that in the reclassification of areas that

have been previously set aside as U.S. Forest Service Primitive and Limited areas (a) more aggressive action be taken in the areas now considered for wilderness status; consideration be given to expansion of these areas; (b) additional areas be investigated for consideration as wild and wilderness areas; and (c) efforts be made to strengthen the protection of wilderness areas against all conflicting uses.

3—Arctic Wilderness Preserve. Recent studies in Alaska indicate that a portion of the Arctic landscape must soon be placed under public protection if any of it is to retain primeval qualities. In northeastern Alaska is a large undisturbed area which contains a wide variety of Arctic scenery: Typical Arctic tundra, foothills, and a fine section of the Brooks Range, on whose warmer southern slopes are spruce forests, lakes and extensive game population. Preservation of this area as an Arctic Wilderness would provide an ecological research laboratory of great importance and a recreational area of highly interesting possibilities. In recognition of this, it was resolved to support an effort to create an Arctic Wilderness preserve, and stimulate interest in the project by publication of information.

4—Dinosaur National Monument. As this unique system of canyons faces the threat of extinction through building of the proposed Echo Park and Split Mountain dams (a) it was urged that the area of the Monument be given National Park status; (b) the Federation opposed, as before, any sacrifice of this area; and (c) the Secretary of the Interior was urged to insist that alternate reservoir sites, which are available, be substituted.

5—Olympic National Park. In view of continued efforts to reduce the size of the Park, and because the Governor of Washington has appointed a committee to study its boundaries, the Federation restated its views. It was noted that the Department of the Interior is opposed to any change in the present boundaries. Resolved to (a) advise the Governor's Committee of the Federation's views; and (b) commend the Secretary of Interior for his statement.

(Concluded on page 7)

The 1954 Wilderness Outings

A Preliminary Announcement

The most comprehensive program of outings ever contemplated in Sierra Club history took form October 10 at the fall meeting of the Outing Committee held at the home of Dr. H. Stewart Kimball, committee chairman.

Of particular note, in addition to the California outings, there will probably be eight others—four more River Trips, two High Trips (in Grand Teton National Park and Glacier National Park), a Base Camp in the Three Sisters Wilderness of Oregon, and a Knapsack Trip in Jim Bridger Wilderness of Wyoming.

To aid members and their friends who may wish to participate, an early announcement of intentions is published here at the request of the committee. The club has always endeavored to announce its trips early in order that various administrative agencies, private groups, and packers can learn where the club plans to go. Dates and places may be considered reasonably firm unless they are indicated as tentative. It is still too early to announce exact costs, but it can be said that the trips will cost approximately what they did in 1953. *Last year's* figures are given for those who don't remember what they were. Figures do not include the non-refundable \$5 registration fee per period.

Members, or applicants for membership, who wish to be high on the list may make reservations now by sending in the registration fee and designating the trip desired. It is hoped that this procedure will spread the administrative load of conducting what promises to be a banner year for wilderness outings. A survey several years ago indicated that about one-third of the members of the Sierra Club joined initially to participate in wilderness outings. Six decades have demonstrated, in the long-term interest these people have shown toward the purposes of the club, that from the outings comes not only a marvelous opportunity for wilderness vacations but also renewed strength for a

club that has undertaken heavy conservation obligations and is fulfilling them.

High Trips

Sierra High Trip will start from Mineral King, July 4. First two weeks will travel by way of Hamilton Lakes and Kaweah gap in Nine Lakes Basin, Five Lakes, and out by Sawtooth Pass. Second two weeks will go over Franklin Pass following 1949 itinerary, ending with last camp at Lost Canyon and departure from mountains over Sawtooth Pass. (\$78.)

There will be two other High Trips, the first in Grand Teton National Park from August 1 to 7, the second in Glacier National Park from August 9 to 19.

River Trips

Four six-day trips down through Dinosaur National Monument, starting June 13, June 21, June 29 and July 7. One trip may start from Gates of Lodore instead of Lily Park, enabling those who have previously traveled the Yampa to change the scenery for the first part of the trip and visit magnificent Lodore Canyon. (\$55.)

Base Camps

Six weeks of Base Camp in Bear Creek, Sierra National Forest, starting July 4, for two-week periods only. (\$35.) Limit will be 167 persons.

Another Base Camp on Crabtree Creek, close to Mount Whitney, from July 18 to 31. Crabtree Base Camp limited to 75 persons.

Oregon Base Camp will be in the Three Sisters Wilderness Area from August 8 to 21.

Knapsack Trips

Take a deep breath—there are a lot of them planned. First, another one-week trip in the Trinity Alps, July 11 to 17. (\$18.)

Sierra knapsack trip, July 3 to 17, from north fork of Kings River to White Divide and Hell-for-Sure Pass. (\$37.) A second one-week Sierra knapsack trip is planned for August 8 to 15 (tentative).

Another tentative knapsack trip, for beginners, will be an easy one, August 1 to 7, from Glacier Point, crossing Clark Range at Red Peak Pass and returning to Yosemite Valley.

Out-of-state knapsack trip from August 8 to 22, probably in the Jim Bridger Wilderness Area of Wyoming. (\$37.)

Burro Trips

Three burro trips, starting July 11 and ending August 21. All will enter the mountains through Kearsarge Pass. First two will probably make the circuit of Glen Pass, Woods Creek, Bubbs Creek; third will probably go south by Whitney and out over Army Pass. (\$45.)

Family Burro Trip

One trip, out of Tuolumne Meadows, August 1 to 14 (tentative). Reservations must be in prior to March 31, 1954; maximum number of burros per family, three. (Two parents, or one parent and one child, \$65. Each additional child up to three, \$20; all others free.)

Department of Statistics

A total of 1,200 people enjoyed 14,000 man-days of wilderness travel last season on Sierra Club outings. Since we can safely assume that each day added at least a month to the productive life of each participant, if we then assume that each participant is paid what he is worth, it follows that the 1953 outings added a good ten million dollars to the nation's economy. This figure may not be easily identified in the bank clearings, but just the same it's there—give or take one or two millions. We go into this fantastic arithmetic chiefly to suggest that the value of wilderness is not what people spend for gasoline to take them there but in the renewal of the human resource that comes back.

Parks Association

The National Parks Association, with headquarters in Washington, D.C., has increased its membership 50 per cent during the past two years, reports Executive Secretary Fred M. Packard. To meet the challenge of stepped-up attacks on the integrity of the national parks, and to carry out an expanded program of information and education, the Association is currently seeking funds. An anonymous donor has offered \$3,000 for staff expenses, if this amount is matched by contributions from other sources. Half the matching amount has already been raised.

California Works at Teaching Conservation

AS CONSERVATIONISTS we look to the future, and we shall find that everything is lost if we fail to enlist the coming generations on our side. While we fight the legislative, administrative and public use battles of the 1950s, at the same time we must reach the youngsters on whom the burden of the struggle will fall in the 1960s, '70s and '80s. Thus we are deeply concerned for the success of the recent movement to bring conservation education into focus in the schools.

The California Department of Natural Resources activated an office of Conservation Education in May, 1949, to carry out a long-term, cooperative program with the State Department of Education to promote the teaching of conservation in the public school curriculum. On the fourth anniversary of this program, in which the Division of Fish and Game has also been associated since 1951, Edward F. Dolder, Chief of Conservation Education, summarized the major accomplishments:

1—Publication of a *Guidebook for Conservation Education*, widely distributed in California schools.

2—Holding of regional conferences, once a year, "to convene regional representation of industry, agriculture, commerce, labor, education, civic groups, conservation organizations, the press, and government, to develop an awareness of regional conservation problems, and a willingness to work for wise use of our natural resources."

3—Preparation and distribution of school wildlife leaflets and other children's publications, as well as teachers' guides and texts on *Camping and Outdoor Education* and *Where Rivers Are Born*.

4—Preparation of conservation readers at the fourth and seventh grade levels.

5—Revision of requirements for the secondary teaching credential to include conservation as a major subject.

6—Aid in teacher training activities, aimed at bringing conservation attitudes and materials to classroom instructors. This included assistance in developing and providing consultants for summer field schools.

These long-range efforts, together with the detailed day-to-day work of Mr. Dolder's office in preparing exhibits and information releases, securing qualified instructors, conferring with many organizations and individuals, and otherwise promoting the cause of conservation education, deserve the highest praise and continued support of the Sierra Club and its allies. Most of us are self-made protectors of the natural scene, but here's a chance to help develop a generation in which conservation is as normal a function of the mind and hand as any other branch of economics or of citizenship.

Outdoor Clubs

(Continued from page 4)

6—Mining Claims. Legitimate mineral developments can and should be encouraged, when coordinated with protection and full public use of renewable surface resources. However, under the present mining laws, a large number of claimants are taking advantage of opportunities to obtain, at public expense, rights and interests not truly mineral in character; and also these laws handicap the administration of public lands on a multiple-use basis. It was resolved that the Federation try to bring about legislation to change the mining laws in order to (a) retain for the people resources on public lands, or the value thereof, which are not actually needed in the exploitation of the mineral claim; (b) protect public lands having important values other than mineral; (c) assist efficient administration of public lands on a multiple-use basis.

7—Joshua Tree National Monument. The Federation commended the National Park Service for denying the request for a road through the heart of this area.

8—Public Use Facilities in National Parks and Forests. Provision of \$250,000 during the past year for the improvement of sanitary facilities in the national forests was commended, but it was urged that this supplement be greatly increased to provide more adequate funds for maintenance, operation and development of facilities for public use in the national parks and forests.

RAMONA WASCHER

The wind that makes music in November corn is in a hurry. The stalks hum, the loose husks whisk skyward in half playful swirls, and the wind hurries on.

In the marsh, long windy waves surge across the grassy sloughs, beat against the far willows. A tree tries to argue, bare limbs waving, but there is no detaining the wind.

On the sandbar there is only wind, and the river sliding seaward. Every wisp of grass is drawing circles on the sand. I wander over the bar to a driftwood log, where I sit and listen to the universal roar, and to the tinkle of wavelets on the shore. The river is lifeless: not a duck, heron, marshhawk, or gull but has sought refuge from the wind.

Out of the clouds I hear a faint bark, as of a far-away dog. It is strange how the world cocks its ear at that sound, wondering. Soon it is louder: the honk of geese, invisible, but coming on.

The flock emerges from the low clouds, a tattered banner of birds, dipping and rising, blown up and blown down, blown together and blown apart, but advancing, the wind wrestling lovingly with each winnowing wing. When the flock is a blur in the far sky I hear the last honk, sounding taps for summer.



Conservation is getting nowhere because it is incompatible with our Abrahamic concept of land. We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect. There is no other way for land to survive the impact of mechanized man, nor for us to reap from it the esthetic harvest it is capable, under science, of contributing to culture.

That land is a community is the basic concept of ecology, but that land is to be loved and respected is an extension of ethics. That land yields a cultural harvest is a fact long known, but latterly forgotten.

*Excerpts from Aldo Leopold's
A Sand County Almanac.*

Along Many Trails

Mount McKinley, 1953

For the second straight summer Mount McKinley was enveloped in cloud when we arrived at Wonder Lake on June 15. It continued to remain hidden during the next eight days while we relayed food and equipment to McGonagall Pass (elevation 5,700), the doorway to the Muldrow Glacier. On the ninth day we four, David Collins and Thomas Steinburn of Seattle, Keith Hart of Fairbanks, and I, were confined to our small tent by a deluge of epic proportions, during which we had cause to regret the fact that the Logan Tent was not waterproof.

He who would climb Mount McKinley must be prepared to move even though wind, cloud and snow say no. From the head of the Muldrow Glacier we moved up Karstens Ridge in cloud so thick that one's companion on the rope could just barely be made out. Our reward for persistent labor was clear and sunny skies above the 16,000-foot level.

Keith Hart did not share in the reward; in fact, he remained in the tent at 17,000 feet owing to sunstroke while we three, having waited a day for his recovery, went on to the summit (elevation 20,300) on July 12. In the upper Harper Glacier basin the strong smell of sulphur had us searching in vain for fumaroles, though we knew the core of the mountain to be granite; only on our return did we learn of the eruption of Mount Spurr on the coast. Our route to the summit hit the ridge above Denali Pass, mounted a shallow bowl to a point south of the rock fang known as Archdeacon Tower, and continued up the final 800-foot rise leading to the summit ridge. A cold wind from the south hurried us off the summit after an all-too-short stay of ten minutes; we descended the west slope direct to Harper Glacier and camp.

On the return, Karstens Ridge, with an accumulation of two feet of fresh powder snow, posed an avalanche problem, resolved by our

setting them off ahead as we went. The slope of greatest danger in this respect, the steep Cockscomb, refused to budge, even while all four of us were on it.

FRITZ LIPPMANN

Ascent of Mount Robson

Mount Robson, in British Columbia, has a valid claim to being a rugged peak to climb. The weather and its effect on snow conditions play the major roles in either allowing or preventing an ascent. Technical difficulties are few, but the many storms and their peculiar habit of maintaining an ice cap of considerable size on the summit (elevation 12,972) had repulsed all attempts on the peak since it was last climbed in 1939. This summer, however, was different. One party, headed by Don Claunch of the Seattle Mountaineers and including Gerrit T. Bratt of the Sierra Club, found a way through the summit ice cap, reaching the top on July 28 via the classic, though hazardous, route on the southeast glacier. The weather remained favorable and another Seattle party gained the summit a week later by the same route.

Our party, including Will Siri, Bill Long, Bill Dunmire, Dick Houston and me, was in the process of establishing the first camp beneath the lower ice-fall as this second Seattle party was descending from its successful ascent. Continuing up the glacier on the following day we noted the unstable condition of the snow: There were few spots on the glacier which were not covered with avalanches that had fallen during the preceding hot, cloudless days. At high camp (about 10,500) the main difficulty was to get safely across the ramp, heavily scarred by avalanches, which allowed further progress to the upper ice and snow fields. Once across this ramp, which avalanched in front of our very noses, we advanced through heavy winds and dense fog to the summit.

ALLEN STECK