



LAKE BELOW MOUNT COTTER

*Lucy French*

# SIERRA CLUB BULLETIN

*May  
1954*

# People You Know

We don't know a better friend of the parks and wilderness values, nor a more outspoken one, than *Bernard DeVoto*. His "Easy Chair" essays in *Harper's* have often spoken up for our brand of conservation, but never with more devastating effect than in his classic "Let's Close the National Parks," in the October, 1953 issue. As you plan your summer travels in the parks, we recommend that you read or reread that magnificent diatribe. You might also look back in your file of the *Sierra Club Bulletin*; in October, 1952, we, too, warned, using *Martin Litton's* photos, of "Yosemite's Fatal Beauty." We're not trying to frighten you off—just a reminder, among conservationists, that if May has promise, October has premonitions.

It was an occasion for celebration—but it was a quiet and deeply grateful sort of celebration. More than a hundred directors and members of the Calaveras Grove Association had come to the dinner on May 14 at College of the Pacific, at which Dr. Robert Burns, President of the

College and a member of the State Park Commission, was host. They had gathered to look almost unbelievably at one another and tell themselves, "It's done—South Calaveras Grove is saved!" Success, long delayed, at last had come rather suddenly with announcement of the million-dollar Rockefeller gift, assuring sufficient funds for purchase of the superlative grove for a State Park.

Dr. *Harold C. Bradley* was official Sierra Club representative and one of the principal speakers at the celebration dinner. He paid admiring tribute to CGA President *Stuart Gibbons* and Executive Secretary *Adrienne Bradley*.

Dr. Bradley praised the cooperative good work of all the agencies and individuals involved in the work already completed, then went on to point out important work for the future as well.

"A temple," he reminded the Association, "is valuable only as people worship and draw inspiration from it. Worship requires feeling, perception, understanding. Perception of the beautiful may be an inborn character in a few. For most of us the capacity is there, but it requires awakening. It can be cultivated and strengthened by education. Next in importance to the reserving of this superlative temple for people to *look at*—and which we rejoice over tonight—will be the success we have in helping people to *see it*, to *understand*, to *feel* the priceless values of the things they look at.

"*Aldo Leopold*, who stands in our generation as one of those who most clearly understood the value of such temples as this, once wrote, 'Recreational development' (and by that he meant providing places where the emotional ecstasy of worship might be evoked)—'Recreational development is a job not of building roads into lovely country, but of building receptivity into the still unlovely human mind.'"

An exhibition of paintings by the late *Marion Randall Parsons* has been scheduled by the Crocker Art Gallery, 216 O Street, Sacramento, from July 10 through August.

*Byron B. Beattie*, since 1948 Supervisor of the Sierra National Forest, has been promoted to the staff of the Chief Forester in Washington, D.C. His new title: Assistant to the Chief of Fire Control. Mr. Beattie, a native of the San Joaquin Valley and a graduate of the University of California, entered the U.S. Forest Service in 1935.

**THE SIERRA CLUB**,\* founded in 1892, has devoted itself to the study and protection of national scenic resources, particularly those of mountain regions. 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 . . .

## Dinosaur Bill Out of Committee

By the narrowest possible margin, 13-12, the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee approved the Upper Colorado Project (H.R. 4449, Dawson), with Echo Park dam in it, on May 18. The measure now goes to the floor of the House, where, failing of unanimous consent, it must await a place on the calendar to be determined by the Rules Committee.

Now is the time for all good conservationists to come again to the aid of the National Park System, which is gravely threatened, as well as of Dinosaur National Monument, which this legislation plus subsequent appropriation would doom. Conservationists should urge their Representatives to consult the Rules Committee about withholding a rule until there has been time to give the entire project far more study, which it obviously needs (see below). This action will also let a Representative know his constituents' views on legislation the importance of which, in the rush of things, may otherwise escape him.

The House is the place. Prospects are not good in the Senate. Death of the bill in the House is likely *if we don't default*.

If the bill does not get a Rule, it dies with adjournment. If the likelihood of its passing the House is deemed slight, it is not likely to get a rule. The voice of the individual conservationist, out where the grass roots grow, is what counts now.

### Recent Events

Strange and suspicious, if not high-handed, things have been going on since the last *Special Bulletin*. A review of the calendar

may lead you to conclusions of your own, and ideas what to do about it. Forgive what may seem too much about evaporation, for it is that subject which has lately been making headlines in Utah and Colorado, and Interior alleges it's the "fundamental issue."

**January 28.** Sierra Club testimony before the House Subcommittee on Irrigation, pointed out several errors in Reclamation arithmetic. The Bureau's engineer admitted one, remained silent about two, denied a fourth, and glossed over a fifth.

**March 9.** Under Secretary Tudor corroborated the engineer's admission and admitted a further error of 95,000 acre-feet to subcommittee chairman Harrison.

**April 16.** The Acting Assistant Reclamation Commissioner revealed an additional error of 45,000 acre-feet in a letter to Dr. Richard C. Bradley.

**April 26.** The Assistant Reclamation Commissioner sent Dr. Bradley the graph the Bureau presumably used to calculate evaporation, but contradicting their results.

**April 28.** The Commissioner himself sent Congressman Saylor a list of operating levels of reservoirs. These don't reconcile with the basic 1950 Bureau report, basis for the whole project.

**April 30.** Mr. Tudor finally read the Sierra Club testimony, but still thought he had admitted all the errors.

**May 3.** The Sierra Club presented its case to the Hoover Commission Task Force on Water and Power in San Francisco, including a list of evaporation mistakes.

**May 5.** Raymond Moley's syndicated column spoke of major errors in evaporation (beyond those yet admitted). An airmail

letter and Club statement about further errors went directly to Tudor May 9.

**May 13.** The *very day* the full Interior Committee of the House was expected to pass the bill after an hour's "deliberation," Mr. Tudor addressed a letter to Rep. Harrison. In it he admitted the error revealed by his own Bureau in April. He also *ordered a recalculation of all Upper Colorado reservoir evaporation.*

**May 14.** This is the date of an Interior release describing the letter above. Utah and

Colorado papers knew of it well before the release was made generally available May 18 (Interior employee: "We were rather slow about getting it mimeographed").

**May 18.** *By parliamentary maneuvers Representative Saylor was prevented from reading the Tudor letter into the official record,* although he tried desperately to do so. To their everlasting credit, 12 members of the Committee voted against the project. One more would have killed it then and there.

## Arguments on Parade

**POWER:** On May 4 the club released a statement by Alex Hildebrand pointing out clearly that Dinosaur dams weren't needed for power. From his figures: substituting steam for water as a power source, construction costs of \$200,000,000 can be saved, and by the end of the 44-year pay-out period for the dams, there would be \$147,000,000 more revenue from operations, plus other benefits, *plus a national park.* One of those benefits—help for ailing Upper Basin coal mines; there's reputedly enough coal in the Upper Basin to produce the equivalent of Echo Park power for 800,000 years (1250 times Echo Park reservoir's silt life!).

**AGRICULTURE:** Part of the bill provides for participating projects to put water to municipal and agricultural use in the Upper Basin. *If they keep costs down to January 1953 estimates, the average cost will be \$1000 per acre to put water on land worth \$100-150 per acre when it gets there—and this when the Administration is attempting to retire 25,000,000 acres to keep down surpluses! Proponents want the dams built before a soil survey (now required by law) is made.*

**WATER STORAGE:** *If the equivalent of Echo Park-Split Mountain storage is necessary (it won't irrigate an acre directly), it can be handled at great saving in construction cost and with considerable net saving of evaporation loss behind a Glen Canyon dam built just 35 feet higher. The Glen Canyon dam (low) endangers Rainbow Bridge and a protecting cut-off dam with*

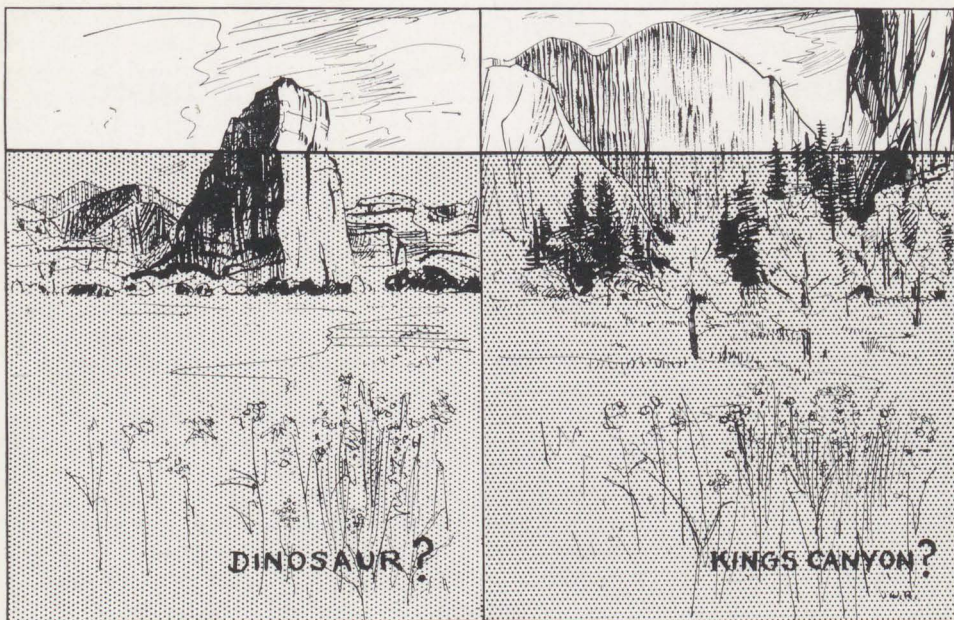
pumping system has been promised. High Glen would require a 35-foot higher cut-off dam. All this can be added for a fraction of the cost of Echo and Split (about 25 millions as against 260 millions).

**PRECEDENT:** You can't unfry an egg. A dam in Dinosaur would really fry one. Much has been made of a so-called promise of dams in Dinosaur. The promise consisted of a withdrawal for reclamation at Brown's Park. A dam here would flood a mile of canyon. Echo and Split would flood 100 miles, but the Bureau doesn't like Brown's Park site.

**IMPROVE SCENERY?** Alarmed by strength of what they like to call nature lovers, pro-dammers urge that Echo Park dam will provide a beautiful lake for millions. They touch up pictures to show before-and-after comparison. Their pictures are always long shots in flat light; touched-in reservoirs are always full. If they wanted a dam on the Potomac they'd probably show long shots of the top of Lincoln Memorial rising above an ever-full reservoir. But we know, and they wouldn't dare show, what would happen to the spirit of the Memorial—even if the lake were always to be full, instead of ever-fluctuating.

Our National Park System stands as a memorial to one of America's finest visions. Dinosaur unimpaired, in its natural grandeur, is one of the very finest parts of the system.

**Will you do your part now to keep it that way?** DAVID R. BROWER,  
*Executive Director.*



*Don't Let Them Drown Our Parks*

## “Wilderness River Trail”

“Wilderness River Trail,” the Sierra Club’s 16mm color and sound motion picture of Dinosaur National Monument, has been in circulation since February 1. (See *SCB*, February 1954.) Charles Eggert’s beautiful film, as most of our readers will know by now, tells in 28 minutes’ running time the story of the Club’s 1953 boat trips down the spectacular Yampa and Green river canyons, and makes a strong appeal against the serious threat to this National Park unit.

To bring you up to date on the use of the movie, we have collected a few statistics:

There are 16 prints of the film in circulation, including four that are booked by the Club office in San Francisco.

As of mid-May, the four copies (one of them purchased by the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs) had had more than 80 showings up and down the Pacific Coast and as far away as St. Louis. Some 6,000 persons attended these showings.

The other dozen prints are available for rent or loan from:

BOSTON: Appalachian Mountain Club.

NEW YORK: National Audubon Society.

Charles Eggert, Barrytown, N. Y.

WASHINGTON: The Wilderness Society or National Parks Association.

CHICAGO: Izaak Walton League.

DENVER: Izaak Walton League.

SALT LAKE CITY: Wasatch Mountain Club.

SEATTLE: The Mountaineers, Inc.

PORTLAND: The Mazamas.

LOS ANGELES: Sierra Club.

PALO ALTO: Loma Prieta Chapter, Sierra Club.

## “Floats on the Yampa”

Sierrans and their friends can now enjoy color slides as well as motion pictures of river trips through the canyons of Dinosaur National Monument. Through the generosity of several skillful photographer members, a set of 35mm slides has been built up that includes geologic high points and the fun of river life as well as the colorful beauty of cliffs and coves.

Address inquiries or booking requests to Visual Education Committee at club headquarters in San Francisco.

## National Park System Changes Studied

A little over a year ago, the Eisenhower administration appointed a survey team to investigate the organizational and fiscal structure and operating policies of the National Park Service. The survey report has now been completed, approved by the Department of Interior, and given to the Park Service to carry out.

At our April meeting Richard Pitman outlined for the committee some of the important changes in structure and policies of the National Park Service that will result from the reorganization.

The organizational structure of the National Park Service was considerably reoriented and functions

### Functions

at each level redefined. The result, according to the report, will be to make more effective the regional type of management used by the Park Service. The function of the Washington office henceforth will be the formulation of policies, procedures and standards. The regional offices will supervise the activities attendant on operating our National Park System and assist park superintendents with their management and technical problems. The park superintendents in turn will have more latitude in the administration of day-to-day problems. Of course, the Park Service was already run on this basis, generally, so it appears that the changes are in the nature of a clarification of procedures accompanied by a decentralization in organization.

There were a number of directives that are of particular interest to the Sierra Club. All areas of the National Park System are to be re-examined to determine if boundaries may be modified to contract present areas, thereby reducing the problems of acquiring inholdings or reducing the problems of management.

Rocky Mountain National Park, which has a considerable amount of private land within its boundaries, and Olympic National Park, whose rain forest is coveted by Northwest lumber interests, were specifically

named as examples where boundary modification might be undertaken.

Another directive asks that a review be made of the standards employed in the construction and maintenance of primary roads in the National Park System because there is indication (according to the survey team) that current road standards are dictated too much from the aesthetic and landscaper's point of view and too little from the practical, utilitarian considerations of the type and volume of use and cost of maintenance.

A directive which we heartily agree with was that the interpretative program be strengthened. Some suggestions were:

1. Extension of the self-guiding trail principle.
2. Increased emphasis on the interpretive program as a unified function within the National Park Service.
3. Use of more general orientation material and facilities such as exhibits, museums and films.

Finally, the Park Service was directed to make a concerted effort to transfer from

Federal jurisdiction  
**Transfers** all areas that are not  
of true national significance

warranting the continued expenditure of Federal funds for development and operation. The survey report mentioned a number of areas, including Platt National Park, Oklahoma; Mound City Group National Monument, Ohio; Natchez Trace Parkway; Lehman Caves National Monument, Nevada; and Millerton Lake Recreation Area, California.

We have subsequently heard that the National Park Service is not considering the transfer of Lehman Caves out of the system.

The Conservation Committee has discussed at length the Millerton Lake proposition and recommended to the Board of Directors that the Club concur in the proposal that Millerton Lake be excluded from the National Park System and placed under state or local administration because this area lacks the required characteristics of outstanding scenic beauty, or scientific or historical significance.

From another quarter we have been told that consideration is being given to the exclusion of Pinnacles National Monument, California, from the National Park System. We understand that the suggestion would include the proposal that it be transferred to the California State Park System. Many members of the Committee felt that the Pinnacles has geologic features that are of impressive scenic beauty and of scientific interest. Accordingly, we would not like to see the Club take a stand on this proposal until it has been more carefully studied.

(Since our meeting, the Executive Committee, acting for the Board of Directors, has accepted both of the above recommendations of the Conservation Committee.)

The Southern Section of our committee reports that an added threat has arisen to Joshua Tree National Monument with renewal of the request of mining interests that the Monument be opened to prospecting and mining, or abolished to free it for such exploitation.

The National Park Service, of course, has protested vigorously, particularly in light of the fact that the area of the Monument was reduced by approximately one-third in 1950 when Congress re-defined its boundaries to eliminate mineralized sections. The Park Service states that the area now remaining in the Monument does not, in its opinion, contain minerals of a kind or value which would warrant commercial exploitation.

## Mining

Inasmuch as it would require an act of Congress to permit mining in the Monument, the proponents of the plan have been agitating for such action. They have persuaded the Riverside Board of Supervisors to pass a resolution asking Congress to allow mining in Joshua Tree.

Coachella Valley business interests are still working for a road across the Monument, so no slide rule is needed to figure out that the two groups are working in unison, hoping that a victory for either group will eventually mean victory for both.

Some time ago, the Committee learned that a bill had been introduced into Congress (H.R. 6386, by Clair Engle) to deed to

## Summer Reminder

One of the reasons you tied that string around your finger—remember?—was to remind you to look for potential state park areas. You'll be traveling, and thinking about places you've seen or would like to see. If they fit the requirements, especially for scenic state preserves, write what you know about them, briefly, to the Conservation Committee at the club office. (See "State Park Survey," *SCB*, April 1954.)

the Mariposa School District three acres of land in Yosemite Valley for school purposes.

This seems to us to be an unnecessary move because the Mariposa School District has occupied the land with school buildings and conducted regular school sessions under special use permit for many, many years with no apparent difficulty. The reason given for the move is that the State of California, which will supply some of the funds for new school buildings, now refuses to do so for structures built on lands not owned outright by the school district.

Members of the Conservation Committee felt that the most serious aspect of the problem was the possibility that school districts all over the country having schools within the boundaries of the National Park System will insist that those lands be deeded to them. Our fears were further strengthened when we learned later that another bill (H.R. 8038) had been introduced to convey 35 acres of Hot Springs National Park, Arkansas, to the Hot Springs School District.

Both of these measures have passed the House and have been sent to the Senate for consideration.

(At its May 1 meeting, the Board of Directors considered the Yosemite matter very carefully and concluded that the Sierra Club is opposed in principle to the alienation of lands in Yosemite Valley for school purposes. The Board suggested that an alternate solution be found.)

JOHN R. BARNARD,  
*Chairman, Conservation Committee.*

## Summer at Norden

*Saturday*

WHAT A wonderful day! The Greyhound brought me practically to the door of Clair Tappaan Lodge last night and I slept like a log till 7:30 this morning . . . my sleeping bag *never* felt so good. I developed my mountain appetite in a hurry. It's fortunate because we had fruit, cereal, bacon and eggs, toast and coffee for breakfast—and was it good! Met a real cute couple when I was doing pots and pans this morning (now I'm free until Monday); and we decided to go horseback riding at Sugar Bowl. We packed a lunch and rode for four hours—I never dreamed the mountains were so beautiful. We saw several lakes and lots of trees and wild flowers. Lunched by a delightful, splashing stream. Am I living—also a little sore. Oh well!



We got back to the Lodge about 3 o'clock, showered, then sat in the living room and chatted with some of the other guests. On Saturdays, Rudy has a barbecue out-of-doors, so about 5 we wandered out and watched him and his crew put the finishing touches on the shish kabob. Besides that there were a huge tossed green salad, baked potatoes, string beans, and watermelon.

Sort of tired tonight, so I watched some kodachromes of climbers in Europe, played bridge for a while and then called it a day.

*Sunday*

THIS 7,000-FOOT elevation is all that it's cracked up to be. I feel great. Chatted with the baby sitter after breakfast. What a deal for parents of little kids—she only charges a dollar a day and she plans games for the children and supervises them in the

## DEAR DIARY

little playground. Then their parents have the whole day to themselves without worrying about Junior.

Went fishing at Frog Lake with two fellows I met at breakfast. Stopped for a dip at Azalea Lake on the way back to the



Lodge. Boy, am I getting tan in a hurry . . . that sun-tan lotion really does the trick. Course, the sun helps, too! After a tremendous dinner—don't see how they do it—we decided to buzz over to Reno. The Cute Couple came along too—had a hilarious time. It's a good thing the Lodge isn't expensive 'cause Reno sure is . . .

*Monday*

GOT UP AT 7 this morning—set tables and served breakfast. It was fun! Then six of us drove to Donner Lake and went water skiing. What a panic! I tried three times before I could get up—then I had the knack and it was great, zooming around the lake like a water bird. The man who rents the skis and life jackets was real nice and gave us a lot of help. We took a picnic lunch with us and sat under the trees to eat. Swam in the afternoon and lolled around the beach.

Learned a new folk dance tonight. It's called a kola and it's real frantic.

*Tuesday*

GOT TO talking with the young botany professor at breakfast. Fascinating man—he took three of us to a little lake behind





. . . *An introduction to the mountains,  
or a happy return—you're invited, too!*

the lodge and told us all kinds of things about the flora and fauna of the area. I may turn into a nature-lover yet! In the afternoon Bob and Dick and I went sightseeing in their car. Saw some of the old mining towns and chatted with a miner who'd lived in that country since '04. Interesting day—sort of restful. After dinner we drove to Truckee to see a movie. Coffee afterward at Donner Lake Lodge.

*Wednesday, Thursday*

**T**OMORROW I'm just going to sit! I'm bushed. But it's worth it. Ten of us hiked to Peter Grubb Hut and stayed overnight. Cooked our own meals and slept late. Delightful. Even got to the top of Castle Peak and signed the register. You can see for miles from there—even saw the lakes we passed Saturday. And am I getting tan! Hope the pictures I took come out well—especially the one of Sally sliding down the snow patch. To bed, right now.



*Friday*

**S**AT UNDER a tree and read. Chatted with some people who'd gone fishing real early and had a limit of trout. They didn't feel like cooking them at the lake so they brought them back to the Lodge and Rudy fried them up—I even got a sample. Delicious.

Went swimming and sunning this afternoon with Bob and the Cute Couple. Maiden's Retreat has the most tremendous gran-

ite shelves that make a natural diving board. Next year maybe I can dive!

Fried chicken for dinner. I must be gaining weight with all this elegant food. But my clothes still fit! Saw the Dinosaur film tonight—it's sensational. And folk danced till I fell!



*Saturday*

**A**WORK PARTY arrived last night, and they're starting to work on the basement. I think I'll come back up some week end when I'm broke—free board and room and all I have to do is work. But the people are so much fun that it couldn't really be work. Swimming at Lake Tahoe and rode in a speed boat. Got back to the Lodge just in time for dinner. Another heavenly barbecue—this time it was barbecued beef. Rudy marinated it overnight and it had been slowly roasting for four hours.

Got into a real deep discussion about philosophy with Bob and the botanist. We wound it up with a beer at Soda Springs.



*Sunday*

**A**ND ALL it cost me was \$28. Nine days in the mountains with wonderful food, delightful people and all that sun. And seven days would only have been \$21. Bob said that Dick paid \$33 since he isn't a Sierra Club member. Still dirt cheap! Got back to the city completely refreshed.

## Pictures Needed from the Summer Outings

Hundreds of excellent photographers, ranging from shutterbugs to professionals, will expend thousands of frames of film on Sierra Club outings this summer. Most Sierrans will be in the mountains, and almost every party will come home with pictures. In an attempt to mobilize this mass movement of color and black-and-white for the club's educational and public relations purposes, Charlotte Mauk, chairman of the Visual Education Committee, recently wrote to outing leaders and chapter chairmen to urge an organized campaign of picture-taking.

The underlying purpose of our outings is to acquaint people with wilderness, "so that they may visit it appreciatively and defend it intelligently," Charlotte said. "It is our aim to build up a collection of pictures, available for loan, that can impress the necessity of wilderness protection on many who would not otherwise know about it."

To help leaders advise competent photographers regarding the types of negatives and color slides that are needed, a list has been prepared. Outing leaders have copies, and others may obtain the list by writing to the Visual Education Committee at the club office.

We already have good coverage of some subjects, Charlotte pointed out—types of terrain, trails, scenic views. What we lack are pictures *interpreting* the experiences of wilderness travel for those who haven't been there.

"We need pictures that not only present scenery to the beholder, but also help him to identify himself with those experiencing and understanding it. That means pictures with people in them—not posing, not looking at the camera, but just living the life of the wilderness country: walking along the trail, climbing, fishing, reading maps, eating lunch, dipping water, pouring tea from a billy can, swimming, preparing a bedsite, botanizing, cleaning dirty camps, cooking meals, taking pictures, mending socks, and so on. And enjoying the beauty and the challenge."

The success of the club's efforts in education depends heavily on the results of this and other picture-gathering efforts. Your *Bulletin* and the newspapers and magazines need black-and-white illustrations. To tell our story effectively to members, friends and the public, we must collect a representative file of good-quality photographs. The SCB applauds Charlotte's approach to the problem. Will you lend a hand?

### Color Competition

Here's a color slide competition that should stimulate interest in photography on the summer outings. A group called the Sierra Colorists has announced awards in a unique contest wherein each person will compete with himself.

Two panels of judges will evaluate members' pictures for quality, interest and beauty. Stars will be stamped on slides to indicate the judges' decisions. One star will denote a "good picture," recommended for club showings. Two stars will identify an "excellent picture," considerably above average. Three stars will mark an "outstanding picture," of exhibition-winning caliber.

An attractive color slide reading, "Sierra Colorists' 1954 Outing Award," will be presented to each member whose pictures accumulate a total of 50 or more stars.

Owen Pearce will be chairman of the San Francisco judging panel, while the Los Angeles group will be headed by Cliff Youngquist. Slides must be received by September 10. They will be carefully handled and returned within three days after judging.

Here are the rules:

1. Print or stamp your name on every slide.
2. Enclose name, address and *return postage*.
3. Send only your good-quality pictures.
4. Mail them in slide boxes to your *nearest* panel.
5. Address Sierra Colorists, c/o Sierra Club, 1050 Mills Tower 703 Philharmonic Bldg. 220 Bush St., 427 West Fifth St., San Francisco 4. Los Angeles 13.

SCUDDER NASH

## Californians On Makalu

*Photos courtesy  
S.F. Chronicle*

**M**AY 15 was the date of our latest letter from the Californians on Makalu when this *Bulletin* went to press, and it was about the date when these pictures were taken. Meanwhile the monsoon was moving in, and undoubtedly our climbers were moving out. You will know more than we do of the results of the expedition. But here are two pictures and some excerpts from letters.

In the photograph below, Bill Dunmire adjusts his gloves at the 21,000-foot camp. Some of his climbing gear is shown. At the right is a glimpse of the camp itself and of the formidable work ahead of the party—the rocky shoulder of the 27,790-foot peak, and plenty of snow and ice.

Will Siri wrote us on May 15:

“At the moment everyone is back in base camp after a week’s struggle above 21,000



feet trying to push Camp 4 up a really mean SE ridge in the face of high winds. After a short rest we hope to be back at it again but this time we hope for the pre-monsoon lull in the winds. Even with good weather, Makalu is going to be a tough mountain; no matter from what side you look at it, it looks like the walls of Yosemite. Most of the mountain is smooth, steep granite. We have about two weeks to finish the job but our success hinges on the weather—and a number of ugly towers on the ridge.”

A letter from Bill Long casts some light on social life at nearly 16,000 feet in the Himalayas. He refers to the condition of James MacFarlane at the neighboring base camp of the Hillary party; Dr. Bruce Meyer had held consultations on the injured climber’s frostbite with Dr. Ball and Dr. Evans.

“Nello Pace, with no one in camp to act as a pincushion, left with his rifle and Ang Tharkey for a trip to timberline and wild sheep. Since then, we have not seen him but have answered his request for more ammunition and listened to tales of leg shots and near misses from the Sherpas. We have hopes for fresh meat any day.

“A climber, John Jackson, from the London *Daily Mail* “Yeti” Expedition breezed through camp en route to Kangchenjunga and stopped by to pay his respects. He had no Yeti skins, but a wonderful beard.”

## A New Ski Hut

A year ago May the Winter Sports Committee prepared a master plan for the location and construction of a series of ski huts between Highways 40 and 50 in the Sierra. This ski course lies approximately on the crest of the range west of Lake Tahoe. A generous gift by Mr. William Ludlow toward the construction of a ski touring hut in memory of William Ludlow, Jr., enabled the committee to make specific plans for location of one of these shelters.

It was agreed that the hut should be situated as near as possible to the northern border of the Desolation Valley Primitive Area, yet on the general skiing course. The vicinity of Richardson Lake, east of Rubicon Springs and south of Miller Lake and McKinney Creek, appeared to fulfill the requirements. This is six miles west of Lake Tahoe.

During the spring, summer and winter months, Bob Frenkel and others made a series of scouting trips to determine the exact location of the hut. The site selected, a grassy meadow bordered by tall red fir on a saddle 200 feet above Richardson Lake, lies southwest of the lake. A small creek nearby gives an adequate water supply.

The region during winter offers interesting wooded running. Especially fine is the descent of the north slope of Lost Corner Mountain. Sourdough Hill develops a corn snow surface and is crowned by a series of flat rocks which invite sun bathing. The skiing to the site from Highway 89 at Chambers takes three to five hours; the downhill return trip takes about two hours.

A lease is now being negotiated with the owner of the property. Ned Robinson, chairman of the project, hopes to have the details ironed out so that construction can proceed this summer. Work party credit will be allowed, and help will be needed.

Ah, wilderness!  
Now melts the snow  
To where the last year's  
Beer cans show.

—edb

*San Francisco Chronicle*

## Federation to Meet

Nesika Lodge, home of the Trails Club of Oregon, will be headquarters for the 1954 annual convention of the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs over the Labor Day week end, September 4 to 6. Located 1,800 feet above the floor of the Columbia River George, the site has superb views up and down the Columbia. Near by are dashing mountain streams, waterfalls, rock climbs of all grades and peaks of spectacular beauty.

The Federation is composed of 31 member clubs in the Far West, and participants in the convention will meet representatives from all the clubs as well as the U.S. Forest Service, the National Park Service, and other agencies concerned with scenic resources conservation. A full program is planned, both for those who take part in the business sessions and for others who come along for the fun.

Reservation blanks may be obtained now from Ramona Wascher, Secretary of the Federation, 2741 Clay Street, San Francisco, or from Jack Dearth, California Vice-President, 298 Upper Terrace, San Francisco. Cost, including meals and lodging, is \$10.00.

## Public Service Lodges

The Lodges and Lands Committee is looking forward to a fine summer season at the club's three public service lodges in northern California, according to Laurence Burnley, Chairman, who reports that:

*Alpine Lodge* at Mount Shasta will have Larry and Laurie Williams in residence from late June through Labor Day to welcome visitors and give directions on the best route up 14,160-foot Mount Shasta.

*LeConte Lodge* in Yosemite Valley will again have Jean Broadwell in residence for the summer months, with her welcome mat out to all visitors, and with help and guidance for those who wish to explore the back country.

*Parsons Lodge* at Tuolumne Meadows will be under the capable care of Jan F. Rigger who, with her husband, Alston Rigger, will welcome members and guests who wish to camp on the club property at the Meadows during the summer months, through Labor Day.

## Organization, Park and Forest Problems

A pleasant beginning to the long organizational meeting of the Board of Directors in San Francisco on May 1, 1954, was the presentation by Honorary President William E. Colby of a gavel made from part of the famous old locust tree on the University of Wisconsin campus. This tree, recently cut down, had a deep influence on John Muir when he was a student there (see *SCB*, March 1954). Mr. Colby presented the gavel to President Richard Leonard, who has followed in the footsteps of Muir as a leader of the Sierra Club.

The President reported on the year's activities, stressing particularly the conservation program, and the leadership the Club has taken to protect Dinosaur National Monument. He reviewed the Club's efforts to date, emphasizing the effective work of Executive Director Brower and of William Losh, Chairman of the Public Relations Committee of the Club, in providing full information to publications and conservation organizations throughout the country. Internally the Club was reported running smoothly, with revised chapter by-laws adopted by all the chapters. As a result of the work carried on by the many club committees, and the improved co-operation between the Club and chapter activities, the Directors are now enabled to devote more time to external affairs without the burden of internal problems.

Following the election of officers for the ensuing year (see Column 2), the reelection of William E. Colby as Honorary President, and the reelection of all former honorary Vice-Presidents, three Honorary Life Members were elected: Charles M. Goethe of Sacramento, Edward Mallinckrodt, Jr. of St. Louis, and Robert W. Sawyer of Bend, Oregon.

Satisfaction was expressed concerning the position of Executive Director, and the board was of the opinion that the appointment of the Executive Director should not be brought up annually as a routine question, but should be considered as on a continuing

basis, subject of course to performance satisfactory to the board. Only by a policy of stability of employment can an effective, long-range program be built. The Executive Director's outstanding effectiveness in the Dinosaur campaign was again stressed with appreciation for his grasp of the many facets of the problem.

A report from Mr. Brower on the status of the Dinosaur controversy followed. (See page 3 for details.)

**Dinosaur** Brought to the attention of the Board was

the comprehensive report of Dr. Richard Bradley of Cornell, who has questioned many of the Bureau of Reclamation's claims as to evaporation rates and computation factors, and also an analysis by Alex Hildebrand of the relative cost of steam generation from sources available in the region as against hydropower, if similarly subsidized, which showed a tremendous saving to the taxpayer. It was again agreed that it was important to interest civic leaders in taking river trips to Dinosaur National Monument, and also that there is need for much more study on the hydrological problems in Southern California and their relation to Colorado River storage projects. It was felt we should support the idea that no legislative action should be taken, pending the report by the Water Resources Task Force of the Hoover Commission on reorganization of the Executive Branch of the Government. The Executive Director was preparing a

### Club Officers, 1954-55

At the organizational meeting of the Board of Directors, held on May 1, the following were elected:

President, Richard M. Leonard; Vice-President, Alexander Hildebrand; Secretary, Lewis F. Clark; Treasurer, Einar Nilsson; Fifth Member of the Executive Committee, Joseph R. Momyer.

statement to be presented to the meeting of the section of the Task Force convening in San Francisco the following week.

A high standard highway has been proposed across Joshua Tree National Monument to connect the communities of Twentynine Palms and Coachella Valley, which road the Park Service has consistently opposed. A motion was carried that the Sierra Club urge instead of a new road the improvement of the present road in accordance with the master plan for the Joshua Tree National Monument, provided that the construction conforms to road standards for national parks as recommended by the Sierra Club in 1949. Such roads should accord with the national park objectives to maintain park values, without being inconsistent with both safety and economy. Another threat to this national monument, brought up by Joseph Momyer, will have to be watched—that of mining claims. (See page 6.)

Various national park items were discussed. Agitation for chair lifts in parks such as Rainier and Rocky Mountain continues, but Lawrence Merriam, Regional Director, National Park Service, explained that the N.P.S. felt that this facility should be confined to tows that can be disassembled in the summer. Mr. Doerr spoke of the policy which encourages winter use in keeping with the preservation of scenic park values, and mentioned eight national parks where the Park Service has given special consideration to the interest of skiers.

President Leonard referred to the memorandum of December 4, 1953, from Assistant Secretary of the Interior Orme Lewis to the Director of the National Park Service, authorizing the reorganization of the N.P.S., including a directive that "on the basis of a comprehensive analysis by the N.P.S. of each area under its jurisdiction, a considered effort should be made for the transfer from Federal jurisdiction of all areas that are not of true national significance . . ." Mr. Merriam stated that he had no instructions yet to initiate study along these lines. John Doerr, Chief Naturalist of the N.P.S., said that matters of transfer will be taken up

with the national conservation organizations before the Service recommends action.

Cheerful news from Millard M. Barnum, Assistant Regional Forester, was that the Forest Service is now

## USFS Lands

completing negotiations for enlargement of the Desolation Valley Primitive Area. This new area would follow natural boundaries, thus materially aiding in its administration. He also spoke on the Forest Service Land Exchange program, which is primarily an exchange of land for land. The exchange of timber rights for land is now banned except as specifically approved by the Secretary of Agriculture. The boundary question of the Three Sisters Wilderness Area in Oregon was reported by Dr. Wayburn, President of the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs, as still under study. Judge Sawyer expressed the view that there would probably be a six months' notice of any further hearings.

Mt. San Jacinto is coming to the fore again. Recently Interior Secretary McKay approved a land exchange granting the south half of Section 12 (now U.S. Forest Land) to the Winter Park Authority as the final link in the right-of-way necessary for the proposed tramway. Meantime the Sierra Club wrote to the Chief of the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management, calling attention to legal defects in the title of the land offered to the U.S. by the Authority in exchange for the south half of Section 12. The Chief of the Forest Service has advised the Club that the questions raised will be investigated and a report requested.

It was reported that the Club officers had urged congressmen to support the administration budget recommendation for the U.S. Forest Service and N.P.S. pointing out that it is no economy to cut the budget on these items in the face of growing use requirements.

Recently several suggestions have been submitted to the Board for changes in the method of governing

## New Ways?

the club, including the selection of directors. Among them are longer terms before reelection, retirement after length of office, and a

council composed of chapter representatives. The directors and others present felt that the harmonious and satisfactory operation of the Board, now of many years' standing, creates a good atmosphere in which to explore any desirable changes, and it was agreed that the President appoint a Special Committee to study the problem and submit a preliminary report next October.

Special note was made of the successful operation of the Clair Tappaan Lodge this past winter, the active program of ski tours sponsored by the Winter Sports Committee, and the comprehensive schedule of outings planned for this summer—the greatest number of trips and widest variety ever offered by the Outing Committee. (More about these activities in this and other *Bulletins*.)

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be held in Los Angeles on October 16.

Detailed minutes of this meeting are available at the Club office.\*

LEWIS F. CLARK, *Secretary*.

\*All of the elected directors were present except Harold E. Crowe, who as Vice-President of the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons was attending a meeting in New York; Oliver Kehrein, who was lecturing in Chico; and Frank A. Kittredge, recovering from a serious illness. Also attending were: Executive Director David R. Brower, Honorary President William E. Colby, Honorary Vice-Presidents Phil S. Bernays, Francis P. Farquhar, Joel H. Hildebrand, Walter A. Starr, and William H. Wright. Six of the ten chapters of the club were represented, and nine club committees. Among other visitors present were the following representatives of the National Park Service: John E. Doerr, Chief Naturalist; Lawrence C. Merriam, Regional Director, Region 4, and Edward D. Freeland, Superintendent, Lassen Volcanic National Park; and, representing the U. S. Forest Service, Milard M. Barnum, Assistant Regional Forester. Also attending were C. Edward Graves, Western Representative of the National Parks Association; Dr. Edgar Wayburn, President, Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs; and Judge Robert W. Sawyer of Bend, Oregon, a member of the Mazamas and guest speaker for the Annual Dinner.

## Almanac

EIGHT P.M.—On river.  
No moon. A deafening sound from the toads, and intermittently from bullfrogs.

It is candle-light. The fishes leap. The meadows sparkle with the coppery light of fireflies. The evening star, multiplied by undulating water, is like bright sparks of fire continually ascending. The reflections of the trees are grandly indistinct. There is a low mist slightly enlarging the river, through which the arches of the stone bridge are just visible, as a vision. The mist is singularly bounded, collected here, while there is none there; close up to the bridge on one side and none on the other, depending apparently on currents of air. A dew in the air it is, which in time will wet you through. See stars reflected in the bottom of our boat, it being a quarter full of water . . . I paddle with a bough, the Nile boatman's oar, which is rightly pliant, and you do not labor much.

HENRY THOREAU, June 15, 1852

. . . Stonehenge is a fascinating example of the effects, for good or ill, which the mental influence of a people can have on the physical inheritance of their land. If its incorporation in a great work of art—book, poem or painting—can immensely heighten the quality and significance of some natural or artificial feature so also it can be debased by man. Cafés and chewing gum, car parks and conducted excursions, a sense of the hackneyed induced by post cards, calendars and cheap guide books has done more to damage Stonehenge than the plundering of some of its stones. It will never again be possible to see it as Constable did when he made his studies, a place of mystery against a background of storms and flying showers; it is doubtful if it could ever again have the deep impact on any man that it once had on Wordsworth; it seems no longer a setting fit for one of Hardy's gigantic, stereoscopic scenes. Men made it and men have destroyed it, the whole action taking place in the realm of the imagination.

JACQUETTA HAWKES, *A Land* (New York: Random House, 1951).

## Along Many Trails

There's still room on some of the summer wilderness outings—and there long since hasn't been any room on a few.

**Nearly Time** Two or three more people could have gone on the first of the Dinosaur trips, now under way (the youngest member of which is just four years old).

The Sierra High Trip—both periods—has plenty of room. High Trippers have lined up for a chance, the first in seventeen years, to go out of California. There is a long waiting list for both the Teton and Glacier trips, and the Sierra is languishing a little. Remember, the Mineral King country—the Kaweahs, Little Five Lakes, Big Arroyo, Lost Canyon—is some of the Sierra's finest, and won't be on the schedule again for several years. The two-week Sierra High Trips start July 4 and 17. Write soon if you can make one.

The first Sierra Base Camp (Bear Creek) still has plenty of room, and the third slightly less, and there's no nicer stream to camp by. The fifth river trip (Lodore) still has room for another twenty people. There is also scattered room for a few burro chasers and backpackers.

So if you thought it was too late, check again with club headquarters.

Justice William O. Douglas, during his challenging walk along the old C & O Canal: "They have refuges for ducks. They have refuges for bass. They have refuges for deer. What's wrong with us people?"

*Olympic National Park Natural History Handbook* by Gunnar O. Fagerlund, the first of a series of handbooks on national parks issued by the National Park Service, is now available from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington 25, D.C., at 30 cents a copy. The attractive booklet includes 67 pages of valuable information on the geology, flora, wildlife and history of the Park, written in entertaining, easy-to-read style and well illustrated with photographs and a map.

From the program of The American Forestry Association: "An essential phase of forest land management is the reservation from conflicting use of areas which render higher public services through recreation and inspiration. Examples of this type of management are existing state and national parks . . ."

The Mountaineers of Seattle have announced for their 48th annual summer outing "one of their most beautiful trips." For the first time

### Rainier Outing

in eight years, they'll circle "The Mountain" (Mount Rainier) on the Wonderland Trail. Members of all outdoor clubs are invited to apply. The complete circuit takes three weeks, July 24 to August 14, but those unable to go for the full period may apply for one or two weeks. For further information about what sounds like a very wonderful trip, write to Outing Secretary, Mary A. Fries, 620 North C, Tacoma 3, Washington.



Parker Severson