



MAKALU FROM BASE CAMP

California Himalaya Committee

SIERRA CLUB BULLETIN

*October
1954*

People You Know

There have been many changes in the Sierra Club Library in the last sixteen years. Like the club itself, the library has grown immensely, and become almost too much for the Library Committee to cope with. However, the committee has worked faithfully and quietly, year after year, accomplishing more than most of the club members realize. Books and periodicals come in, swamping the receiving shelves. Some must be acknowledged, library cards provided, numbers printed on backstrips; if periodicals, eventually they must go out to be bound. This, and much more, has the committee in a continual state of trying to catch up.

That it has kept above water at all, and has grown and expanded, and accomplished much in the last two decades, is due chiefly to *Alfred Weiler*, who from 1938 to 1954 held the thankless position of chairman. Committee members have come and gone, and sometimes Al has been the only one on the job Tuesday night. At the end of a heavy day in his own office, it has not always been easy. The club is fortunate to have had such a devoted chairman for

this hardworking and usually unsung committee. We sing of it now and its retiring chairman with gratitude and appreciation.

It is fortunate also, that *Mary Margaret Jones*, who has worked for some time with Al on the committee, has been appointed as his successor. Next time you are in the San Francisco office, take a look around and try to imagine what the Library Committee has done and what it has to do. Perhaps you would like to come down and help them; they could use you.

Dr. Will Siri, leader of the 1954 Sierra Club expedition to the Himalayas' fourth highest peak, 27,790-foot Makalu, will be featured speaker at the October 16th annual banquet of the Angeles Chapter.

The dinner program will follow an all-day meeting of the Board of Directors, open to any members who care to attend and conducted, as in previous years, at the Edison Company auditorium, 601 West Fifth Street. This annual meeting starts at 10 a.m. and will continue after a break for lunch until late in the afternoon, if the agenda is as heavy as usual.

President Dick Leonard, of course, will preside and a good attendance is urged.

Dick also will introduce *Dr. Siri* at the banquet. Tickets cost \$4 each and the reception-dinner-program-dance will begin at 6:15 p.m. at the Los Angeles Breakfast Club, 3201 Los Feliz Boulevard. Dress is semi-formal. *Dr. Harold E. Crowe*, probably the best-known Sierra Club member in the Southland, will be master of ceremonies.

Will Siri is to illustrate his narrative with colored slides, since motion pictures taken by expedition members are not yet ready.

Dr. Siri is expected to be a worthy successor to such speakers as *Lowell Sumner* and *Olaus Murie*, who addressed Southern California dinners in previous years.

Chairman *Mary Galton* reports that a folk dance exhibition will be a feature during the intermission and that dancing for everyone to *Jim Petr's* orchestra will follow. Conservation and summer outing pictures will be shown.

Others on the banquet committee include *Walt and Bernice Hening*, reservationists; *Dulcie Adams* and *Adele Oglo*, decorations; *Anne Crowe*, *Ellen Wilts*, *Cliff Youngquist* and *Oscar Mitchell*, hospitality; and *Freda Walbrecht* and *Herb McEwen*, publicity.

—D.L.T.

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.



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

Makalu: The First Attempt

IN THE SEVERAL MONTHS since the Makalu expedition returned to California, its members have become more or less rehabilitated and, with only occasional lapses, are now adjusted to the genteel habits of civilization. It seems probable, though, that no one in the group will ever be quite the same. The overwhelming impact of a first exposure to the Himalaya together with the two years' struggle to get there must leave a permanent mark on the psyche.

There is no dishonor in being defeated by an "Achttausender," and certainly on the first attempt the odds are heavily stacked against reaching the summit. Still none of us can deny the sharp sense of frustration we felt as we descended for the last time to Base Camp on June 3rd after our final bid for Makalu's summit.

For two weeks, in dense clouds and storm, team after team had pushed from Camp 3 at 21,000 feet to Camp 4 and upward over the steep south face toward the crest of the southeast ridge. Each time they were stopped short of the ridge top by thick clouds and exhaustion. The climbing was tricky and difficult, demanding the installation of a complete stock of hardware including rock and ice pitons, rappel pickets, fixed ropes and a rope ladder.

On May 31, Bill Long and Willi Unsoeld set out for the last determined effort, taking with them the three best Sherpas—the only three left in fit condition. Two days later, through a brief break in the clouds, a tiny figure was seen on the crest of the ridge silhouetted against the clouds. They had reached the ridge and placed Camp 5 at

something over 23,000 feet. As far up the ridge as they could see, the route was considerably easier but it was now too late to push farther. With the weather growing progressively worse and the monsoon only a day or two away, there was no alternative for us but to retreat to Base Camp while it was still possible. Above Camp 3 the snow was hip deep and sliding constantly.

THREE SEPARATE assaults had been made on Makalu's southeast ridge, each separated by a short period of recuperation at Base Camp. Toward the end of April, on the first attempt, the Col at 21,000 feet, the site of Camp 3, had been reached. On the second assault, everything needed for the climb to the summit was stocked in Camp 3 while climbing teams reconnoitered the slopes above and dug Camp 4 into a steep snow slope. The last assault in the latter half of May was an all-out attempt for the highest possible altitude. The strong wind had abated but in its place came persistent clouds and storms which in the end defeated us.

While the climbing was hampered by poor weather, the research program was not. Whenever a climber came down from the mountain he was automatically a "specimen" and became exclusive property of Nello Pace for two days. No one ever became entirely inured to the physiological tests but we were so startled by the changes that occurred that everyone took a keen interest in them. These studies have now proved to be more successful and revealing than even Pace had anticipated. Aside from

their significance as a contribution to human physiology they may have an important influence on the management of men subjected to prolonged stress whether it is at high altitude or sea level.

With his bottles and nets Larry Swan gave the insect and reptile life of the Arun and Barun Valleys a very bad time; he also never passed up collecting a plant specimen that was not already in his bulging press. Occasionally when the clouds broke he dropped the insect nets and took to the theodolite. Bill Dunmire's collection of birds and mammals and Bill Long's rock collection and geological notes have been turned over to the two Universities for further study, while Swan's collections will go mainly to the California Academy of Sciences.

Though not formally affiliated with the Sierra Club, the Makalu expedition was, in fact, a Sierra Club venture. The expedition was manned by club members, it enjoyed the counsel of the Executive Committee, and Sierra Club members contributed more than 40 per cent of the funds that were used.

I think it is hardly necessary to express the very sincere gratitude the expedition men feel for the generous support that was given. Perhaps motivated by a sense of obligation, every man on the team worked like a demon to make the expedition a success in every way possible. During the coming months we hope to bring to everyone a little of the color, excitement and achievements of the expedition through lectures, color movies and publications. —WILL SIRI.

A Critical Time for California's Parks

On September 24, 1954, a simple ceremony in Sacramento made the State of California richer by some \$66,000,000, and set off what may develop into a historic struggle for survival of the State Park System in an era of booming population and ever higher costs. The State received a check for \$22,-041,994.66 from the Federal Treasury, under terms of the Submerged Lands Act. Another \$43,897,048, which had been impounded by the State, was released at the same time.

All this money had accrued from oil and gas royalties from offshore lands in the three-mile marginal belt. It represented real wealth, extracted from the public lands in our time and irreplaceable in the future. The issue that presents itself, in terms that will be made very clear in coming months, is this: *Shall this income, and royalties that continue to accrue, be invested in conserving another form of real wealth, namely beaches and parks, or shall it be spent out of the State's general fund and its origins be forgotten?*

There are many legitimate demands on the State Treasury. To mention only one—and one that will be mentioned repeatedly by opponents of the Sierra Club's position—there are the schools. No question about it, educational needs are severe and urgent. In fact, \$66,000,000 would be a drop in the

bucket if applied to this purpose. Why should not the schools obtain their support from the conventional sources of revenue which finance them in other states?

California's unique system of parks had its beginnings in 1865, when Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove of sequoias were made the nation's first state park. Those areas are back in Federal ownership, of course, but in 1902 the Big Basin area was set aside by the Legislature as the first coast redwood preserve. The State now has 131 parks and monuments, valued at \$42,-000,000 and comprising 600,000 acres.

The modern attitude toward the park system dates from 1927-28, when the Legislature created the State Park Commission, provided for a survey, and established the matching-funds method of land acquisition. It was in 1928 that the people voted a park bond issue of \$6,000,000.

At the close of World War II, when California came to be the target of the vast immigration that still continues, and when it had become obvious that real estate prices were bound to go sky-high, a park acquisition fund was set up by the Legislature. This fund was to receive 70 per cent of offshore oil and gas royalties, although new action by each Legislature would be necessary to appropriate actual funds for

the purpose. Then came a Supreme Court decision, in 1947, which caused the impounding of royalties until last month.

It has been known for some time that these oil millions would be back in California's pocketbook, and many hands around the State have been poised for a quick touch. To protect its statutory interest, the Division of Beaches and Parks has been ready with a Five Year Plan for land acquisition and park development. The battle will be joined in the next few months, specifically when the Legislature convenes in January.

There is much that park conservationists may do to aid their cause at this time. Politics aside—and there are politics aplenty in this controversy—two big jobs face Sierrans.

For several months the club's Conservation Committee has been at work, through the chapters, in surveying present and potential State Park areas. The reports are coming in, and the material being compiled will be used both in criticizing the Five Year Plan, constructively, and in implementing our basic agreement with its intent. The club's survey is by no means at an end. Further details on potential scenic parks will be required, and welcomed.

Secondly, every member of the club must exploit every opportunity, in this critical period, to support the principle we have suggested—that since oil and gas royalties are derived from use of an irreplaceable natural resource, they should be spent for a purpose that would conserve another type of natural wealth. Beaches and parks, otherwise forever beyond the reach of the people, can be purchased in the next five years if the Legislature is persuaded to maintain the 70 per cent royalty formula. If this revenue is diverted to other purposes at this time, we foresee a future of poverty for a Division of Beaches and Parks dependent on handouts at the whim of sometimes indulgent Legislatures.

Sierrans who believe in the values, both ideal and practical, of the California Park System, must stand now and be counted. Their opponents are numerous, on their feet, and talking fast.

Three New Books

Although these books will be reviewed in the next annual *SCB*, we think that, as they have just been published and are of particular interest to Sierra Club members, mention should be made of them now.

Year after year John Muir's books enchant new readers and continue to give pleasure and solace to old friends. And every so often some one is impelled to do something to call attention again to one of the finest of nature writers. Edwin Way Teale is the latest to do this, in *The Wilderness World of John Muir*. Illustrated in black and white by Henry B. Kane, this new selection of some of the best of Muir's work will be welcomed by all his admirers.

Those who have been taking part in the river trips may feel that Wallace Stegner's latest book, *Beyond the Hundredth Meridian*, is their special meat, because it is about John Wesley Powell, whose most dramatic achievement was his leadership of the first expedition down the Green and Colorado Rivers, including the Grand Canyon, in 1869. The book is more than that, however, and the reader will be fascinated by the story of this remarkable man and his extraordinary accomplishments and contributions. It is an important biography, beautifully written and thrilling to read.

You already know about *A Climber's Guide to the High Sierra*, edited by Hervey Voge (see advertisement in annual *SCB* 1954). It is an attractive little book, pocket size, just the thing for a Christmas present for your climbing (or hiking) friends. Take a look at it and you'll decide you need it for your own mountaineering library, too. It is a fine job, carefully and accurately done by experienced climbers, and is a worthy addition to the Sierra Club publication list.

—H.T.P.

Progress

Along our fathers' roads were trees
Which nowadays one seldom sees,
For we, along low ways and high,
Have poles and wires against our sky.

—edb

Federation Acts on Conservation Issues

The 23rd annual convention of the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs was held September 4 to 6 at Nesika Lodge, home of the Trails Club of Oregon, with 180 persons registered. Although the convention was primarily a business session, the program included hikes to points of interest and evening entertainment featured a skit by officials of Region 6 of the U.S. Forest Service on how *not* to act in Forest Service camps. Ed Neubauer was chairman of the convention committee.

Among the speakers were J. Herbert Stone, Regional Forester; Preston Macy, Superintendent of Mount Rainier National Park; Miss Harlean James of the American Planning and Civic Association; Newton B. Drury, Chief of the California Division of Beaches and Parks; Arthur R. Kirkham of the Portland *Oregonian*; Fred Cleator of the Washington Parks and Recreation Commission, and Chester Armstrong of the Oregon State Parks.

These officers were elected for the year 1954-55: Dr. Edgar Wayburn (Sierra Club), president; D. S. "Jack" Dearth (Tamalpais Conservation Club), California vice-president; Byron Graff (Sierra Club), California deputy vice-president; Alfred Schmitz (Mazamas), Oregon vice-president; Richard Brooks (Mountaineers), Washington, vice-president; Jack White (Wasatch Mountain Club), Utah, vice-president; Ray Sims (Obsidians), treasurer, and Ramona Wascher (Sierra Club), secretary.

An invitation was accepted from all member clubs in Southern California, including the Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club, to hold the 1955 convention in that area, probably at Idyllwild on Mount San Jacinto.

Following is a summary of resolutions adopted by the Federation:

1. Principles expressed in 1953 resolutions were reaffirmed:

- a. Urging that Dinosaur National Monument be given National Park status, and opposing the sacrifice of unique and irreplaceable values there.
- b. Supporting the effort to create an

Arctic wilderness preserve.

- c. Recommending that mining laws be changed to retain for the people the resources on public lands not actually needed in exploiting a mineral claim; to protect important values other than minerals; and to enable efficient administration of public lands on a multiple-use basis.

2. The National Park Service was commended for its policies favoring only those public-use activities which do not adversely affect the natural scene. It was suggested that the Secretary of Interior make an emphatic declaration in support of the present principles of the National Park system.

3. Any permanent aerial tramway or lift on Mount Rainier was opposed, as well as any other forms of commercialized recreation in Mount Rainier National Park.

4. Appreciation was expressed for co-operation of the Forest Service in the Federation's efforts to study the Three Sisters Wilderness Area boundary problem, and the 1952 Federation stand was reaffirmed that the western boundary should be the high ridge west of Horse Creek known as Horsepasture Mountain-Ollallie Mountain Ridge.

5. The Regional Forester was commended on his recommendation to set aside Mount Washington and Diamond Peak Wild Areas in Oregon, and it was urged that this action be taken as soon as possible.

6. The Federation will cooperate with the Forest Service in study of the Glacier Peak Limited Area in Washington as a proposed wilderness area, to the end that suitable boundaries may be established including both alpine country and lowland timbered valleys.

7. In view of the threat of logging and commercial use of some 18,000 acres of privately owned land in the scenic Columbia River Gorge, the Federation commended the plan of the Columbia River Gorge Commission for acquisition, development and administration of this area, and urged the State of Oregon to provide funds immediately for land acquisition.

8. The Washington Game Commission, in conference with other State and Federal agencies, was requested to seek means of preserving mountain goats in their natural habitat, and to discontinue the hunting of these animals pending results of study.

9. The Federal Power Commission was requested to deny the application of the Eugene Water and Electric Board for power developments on the upper McKenzie River, and to rescind the 1911 withdrawal of this area for power purposes. The Forest Service was commended on its administration of the McKenzie River Area for recreational use while preserving its natural features.

10. Congress and the State Legislatures were urgently requested to provide funds to the National Park Service, the U.S. Forest Service and the State Park and Highway agencies, for the purpose of setting up and maintaining overnight campsites in areas not now adequately provided with them.

11. Member clubs and associate members of the Federation were requested to initiate litter bag campaigns and educational programs in their own communities, to combat the menace of litter strewn along highways and in other public areas. They were asked to encourage oil companies, highway departments and others to promote a program of trash containers and disposal, and to request authorities to find means for more adequate enforcement of pertinent laws.

—RAMONA WASCHER

Burro Trip Contest

If you have been toying with the idea of writing up that burro trip you took this summer with the burro-wrestler's contest in mind, get on with it—there is still time. The contest announced in the April *SCB* is still open. As you may remember, Mr. C. M. Goethe of Sacramento has donated a prize of \$50.00 to be awarded the writer of the best burro trip article contributed to next year's *SCB* annual.

The article may be any length; it must tell of a private mountain trip with burro or burros (not a club-sponsored outing) during the summer of 1954. Deadline for entries is now December 1, 1954.

Almanac

SUDDENLY, along these trails, I find myself conscious of music. There is no sound, yet the inner meaning of music is there. Always music of noble, simple form—music, the structure, the huge rafters of which blend well with the sculpture of mountains. Handel, Beethoven, Brahms, Bach. Such music sounds silently along the trails . . .

I am not alone in believing that the finest moods are rarely found in cities. I am not alone in believing that amidst mountains we are in touch with an elemental rhythm and pulse, bringing inspiration to those who see and feel. When the mountains awake a thought, a melody, sing it with you, one realizes how urgently man needs that spirit of mountain, that spirit of song, as it arises fresh from the heart of nature. Across high green lakes, this intangible something speaks, in wave lines of checkered sunlight and shimmer of wind rippling . . .

Fundamental beauty haunts the high country, like a majestic hymn. It floats in the cold sunny air—the brilliant mountain air. It makes of sunlight a living thing. It floats in cloud forms, filtering changing floods of light, in patterns ever clothing the mountains anew. It arrives in deep voice of river and wind through forest, swelling the chorus, giving it universal breadth. As a mysterious deep sound it flows from out the heart of mountains, with a kindness infinitely soothing, majestic . . .

Listen to the birds on these high ridges, feel this sundown fusion in the quality of things. How similar their song and the sunlight. The beauty of sunlight filtering through the forest is mirrored in the song of robin and thrush. The song and the sunlight are equivalents. Both are like streams of gold weaving through the forest. The light seems to gather overtones, transfusing light with sound. The light and the bird song float in minor shades and intervals, all music through the forest.

—CEDRIC WRIGHT,
"The Words of the Earth"

Handwritten notes at the top of the page include "M.P.", "H-635", and a circled scribble.

Along Many Trails

SOMETHING for nothing? Well, it's as near cost-free as we can make it. No box tops, coupons, gimmicks or gadgets. All you need is the desire to come skiing at Clair Tappaan Lodge some week end this winter, and the ability to forecast the weather. If you are lucky you can win a free week end at the Lodge.

All you have to do is to complete the form at the bottom of this page and guess the time and date that the snow will reach a depth of thirty (30) inches behind the Lodge.

The rules of this contest are very simple and are designed to give everyone an equal chance.

1. Each Sierra Club member is entitled to *one* entry. Disqualification will result if you send more than one guess.
2. Entries must be postmarked before December 1, 1954.
3. In the event the snow depth is reached before December 1, the winning entry must be postmarked at least five (5) days prior to the winning time.
4. In the event of two or more winners, duplicate awards will be made.
5. Free week end is applicable anytime during the ski season '54-'55 except holiday periods . . . (Christmas, New

Year's, Washington's Birthday and Easter).

6. Free week end consists of 8 consecutive units (meals or lodging) at the Lodge only. It does not include transportation, lift or tow.
7. Free week end is non-negotiable and non-transferable.

That's it! Just fill out the form and send it to Rudy Talso, Manager, Clair Tappaan Lodge, Norden, Calif. And keep your fingers crossed.

The purpose of the contest is to acquaint you with the fact that skiing actually starts a lot earlier than most think. The best powder snow conditions generally occur early in the season when the temperatures are usually colder. Snow may fall any time from early October and the thirty-inch depth can happen early or late. Remember the Donner Party was trapped by deep snow in early October, skiing is generally possible by Thanksgiving, and the usual opening date of the resorts is mid-December.

This is the second annual snow contest. Pessimist Walter Shroeder won last year with a guess around the 10th of January, missing the true date by two or three days. Can you do better?

—JIM MULHOLLAND.

Rudy Talso, Manager: Clair Tappaan Lodge, Norden, Calif.

I think the snow will first reach a depth of 30 inches this winter at Clair Tappaan

Lodge on.....(date).....at.....(time)

Name.....from.....(Chapter)

Address..... Win or lose I plan on skiing at Clair Tappaan Lodge times this winter.