



JEFFREY PINES, INYO NATIONAL FOREST

*David R. Brower*

# SIERRA CLUB BULLETIN

*February  
1955*

# People You Know

THE RECENT convention of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Berkeley brought several Sierrans into newspaper headlines for their varied contributions to the convention sessions. *Arthur E. Harrison* of Portland outlined the possible trend toward a "little ice age" in the Pacific Northwest which seems to be indicated by increased length and thickness of many western glaciers in the past decade. Most spectacular growth has been in the Cascade Range of Washington.

*Dr. Daniel I. Arnon* reported the successful isolation of chloroplasts, the living mechanisms which create sugar in green plants. This is a major step toward the production of photosynthesis outside the living cell long sought by scientists.

*Dr. Joel H. Hildebrand* of the University of California (a former director of the Sierra Club and now an Honorary Vice-President) spoke out clearly at a symposium of the National Association of Science Writers for mutual understanding between scientists and the public. Well known as a champion of academic free-

dom, *Dr. Hildebrand* stated that irresponsible broadside attacks against scientists by government representatives and officials in the name of security and secrecy are actually promoting disunity. At the close of the convention, *Dr. Hildebrand* was installed as president of the American Chemical Society.

Though no trace of the legendary "Abominable Snowman" was found by the expedition to Makalu in the Himalayas last year, *Dr. Lawrence Swan* pointed out to the convention that this legend arose "in a region where speculations sometimes defy the imagination and credibility habitually encroaches upon the incredible."

At the gathering of biology teachers which was a part of the AAAS convention, several of the display panels prepared by *Fred Gunsky* and others for the Conservation Education Section of the Bay Chapter were on exhibition. *Helen Verdi* and *John DeWitt* did the field work for this showing.

Headlines of a different sort were made by four of the club's best known mountaineers, who had a narrow escape from death on a New Year's ski trip near Mount Ralston on Echo Summit. *Kenneth Adam* and three of his weekend guests, *Bill Dunmire*, *Dick Houston* and *Al Steck* (all three members of the California Himalayan Expedition), were trapped by a sudden avalanche which carried them 120 feet and buried them all in snow packed like concrete. *Dick* was able to uncover his face, though the rest of his body was immovable. *Ken* and *Bill* had breathing space under the snow, but that was all. *Al* was buried face down, and soon lost consciousness. By most fortunate chance, another party set out from the *Adam* cabin a half hour later, taking the same route. *John* and *Louise Linford* and *Morgan* and *Marjorie Harris*

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**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.

## Encore! Encore!

The location and arrangements for last year's Annual Dinner and Dance (Northern Section) proved so successful that a repeat performance will be held on Saturday, May 7, at the Hotel Mark Hopkins in San Francisco. A showing of color slides from the California Himalayan Expedition of 1954 will be one feature of the evening. The name of the guest speaker, and other details, will be announced in a later *Bulletin*. However, Chairman Bob Schallenberg says that tickets at \$5.75 per person are already available at the Club office.



# Sierra Club Bulletin

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

## What's Wrong with the Colorado Project?

### A brief statement of disputed questions

#### Concerning Proposed Echo Park Dam

1. Advocates insist, even after demonstration that their figures were wrong, that this dam would save loss by evaporation that would supply water for "a city the size of Denver." This is incorrect. Alternate plans would result in less loss by evaporation.

2. Advocates imply that land nearby in Utah and Colorado would derive irrigation benefits. This is misleading. No water will be available for irrigation or domestic use from this dam.

3. Secretary McKay has stated that the dam would alter but not destroy the scenic beauty of Dinosaur National Monument. This is an error in judgment. The National Park Service was correct when it said the effect would be deplorable. The reservoir would periodically retreat nearly forty miles, exposing 30,000 acres of silted landscape.

4. Some advocates claim that a reclamation withdrawal in the 1938 proclamation enlarging Dinosaur justifies constructing Echo Park dam. It does not. This withdrawal is specific to Brown's Park, where a dam would flood a mile of canyon. The Dinosaur dams would flood 100 miles.

5. Advocates promise recreation for millions. Such choice is unnecessary and would be tragic. We need not flood an irreplaceable scenic sanctuary to provide reservoir recreation which can be had in abundance outside the national park system.

6. Advocates deny the damaging prece-

dent, but precedent means "that which goes before"; and there now exist plans to build dams in nine national parks and monuments. The future will need more parks, not fewer.

#### Concerning the Entire Development

1. The administration's local-state-federal partnership plan for conserving small watersheds will alter the flow of the Colorado River. The effect on big-dam requirements is not yet known and needs to be considered.

2. The present Storage Project encompasses only part of a river basin and tends to duplicate rather than to complement existing costly development.

3. Premature authorization of so questionable a project would prejudice the emerging national water policy.

4. The project is likely to require major redesigning to accord with the pending Supreme Court interpretation of the 1922 Seven State Compact.

5. Financing, based on estimating procedures now proved unreliable, places undue faith on assumed hydroelectric-power revenues for repayment decades hence in an atomic-power age.

6. Excessive water is committed to more agricultural production—and at high altitudes—at the cost of Upper Basin industrial development and national decentralization.

7. Proponents have not given a frank estimate of the ultimate cost—probably to exceed \$13 billion exclusive of interest subsidy.

*Wilderness Conference, March 18-19, Berkeley*

# 50 Golden Rings

*An anniversary salute to  
the U. S. Forest Service*

THE FORESTS are as much a part of the Sierra Nevada, and of the mountains across the world, as are the snowfields and glaciers and the rock-spines themselves. So it was that protection of the California forests weighed heavily in the minds of John Muir and others in those dim, distant years when the Sierra Club was only a vision for the future. It has bulked large in our thoughts ever since.

Not only Muir, but emerging conservationists everywhere had begun to wonder about the fate of America's most massive growing resource, with its vast influence on climate, soil and water, in the latter decades of the 19th century. Anyone could see that the forests were threatened. But no one had done anything about it until these men together met this problem. That is why, this month, we celebrate the golden anniversaries of the establishment of the United States Forest Service and the enactment of a forestry law by the California State Legislature. Fifty golden rings have accumulated for us since 1905—golden in the renewed wealth of forest products, the safekeeping of precious watersheds, the richness of unspoiled scenic values, the protection of wildlife, the

enhancement of our health and well-being and the maturing of our wilderness appreciation.

All of these things may be said to have received a profound impetus in those twin accomplishments of half a century ago.

FORESTRY won the attention of the federal government as early as 1876, sixteen years before the founding of the Sierra Club, but this organization from its birth has lent whole-hearted support to sound plans for protection of the nation's wilderness resources.

In the first volume of the *Sierra Club Bulletin*, in the issue for January, 1896, Professor William Russell Dudley, long our top specialist and authority on forestry matters, noted that national parks—four of them—and 17 federal forest reservations were already in existence, the latter comprising about 17,000,000 acres. Four of these were in California. They were the San Gabriel timber reserve in Los Angeles and San Bernardino counties, 555,000 acres; the Sierra reserve, Mono, Mariposa, Fresno, Tulare, Inyo and Kern counties, more than 4,000,000 acres; the San Bernardino forest reserve, San Bernardino County, 737,000 acres, and the Trabuco Canyon reserve of Orange County, 50,000 acres.

Professor Dudley wrote of the Sierra reserve that it "is the second largest of all the reservations and stretches along the southern Sierra for over two hundred miles, from Yosemite National Park to Mt. Breckenridge, east of Bakersfield, having an average width of perhaps fifty miles."

While he did not offer a program for the club to adopt in this connection, he felt that all public forest land in the nation should be withdrawn from entry pending study.

JOHN MUIR, of course, was in the forefront of the fight for the woodlands.

He reminded the club's annual meeting of November 23, 1895, that "For many years I have been crying in the wilderness, 'Save the forests!'" but very little in a large way



was accomplished until creation of Yosemite National Park in 1890.

"The battle we have fought, and are still fighting, for the forests is a part of the eternal conflict between right and wrong," he said, "and we cannot expect to see the end of it. I trust, however, that our club will not weary in this forest well-doing." Nor has it.

"Every good thing, great and small, needs defense," Muir continued. "The smallest forest reserve, and the first I ever heard of, was in the Garden of Eden; and though its boundaries were drawn by the Lord, and embraced only one tree, yet even so moderate a reserve as this was attacked.

"And I doubt not, if only one of our grand trees on the Sierra were reserved as an example and type of all that is most noble and glorious in mountain trees, it would not be long before you would find a lumberman and a lawyer at the foot of it, eagerly proving by every law terrestrial and celestial that that tree must come down."

The great naturalist was not content alone with preservation. He insisted that it must be *intelligent* preservation.

"Forest management," he said, "must be put on a rational, permanent scientific basis, as in every other civilized country."

ONE OF THE outstanding champions of our incipient conservation movement was President Theodore Roosevelt. In his annual message, a sort of State of the Union speech, to Congress December 3, 1901, he had much to say of forestry, and Professor Dudley termed his remarks "an admirable summary of what the Sierra Club has advocated for nearly ten years." In part Roosevelt said:

"Public opinion throughout the United States has moved steadily toward a just appreciation of the value of forests . . . . The great part played by them in the creation and maintenance of the national wealth is now more fully realized than ever before.

"The fundamental idea of forestry is the perpetuation of forests by use . . . . The preservation of our forests is an imperative business necessity. We have come to see clearly that what ever destroys the forest, except to make way for agriculture, threatens our well-being . . . .

"The forest reserves will inevitably be of still greater use in the future than in the past." He spoke of the value of the forests for users of water, wood and grass, and continued:



"Some at least of the forest reserves should afford perpetual protection to the native fauna and flora, safe havens of refuge to our rapidly diminishing wild animals of the larger kinds, and free camping-grounds for the ever-increasing numbers of men and women who have learned to find rest, health, and recreation in the splendid forests and flower-clad meadows of our mountains.

"The forest reserves should be set apart forever for the use and benefit of our people as a whole, and not sacrificed to the short-sighted greed of the few."

CALIFORNIA was the first state to adopt a forestry law, enacting this in 1885. In 1899 the Sierra Club requested of Congress that all forest lands within the state be reserved immediately. At this time it also was heavily engaged in fighting related federal laws that it regarded as iniquitous. Among these were a Desert Land Act, a portion of the Homestead Act, and a Timber and Stone Act, all eventually modified as the club and other conservation voices had urged. Conservationists had equally good fortune with the State Legislature.

In June, 1904, Professor Dudley could write:

"So far as it has gone, California has pursued a wiser course in regard to forestry matters than any other State. It has supported the United States in every movement to preserve the nation's Sierra forest, and its appropriation of money (for scientific forest fire control) is everywhere spoken of as the most enlightened policy yet adopted by a state."

Meanwhile, vast progress had been made on a national scale. On February 1, 1905, the Forest Service was created in its present form in the Department of Agriculture through merging an earlier Bureau of Forestry and the forestry division of the General Land Office.

The notion of managing forest lands for continued production was a novelty in this country at that time, and the first two Chiefs of the service, Gifford Pinchot and Henry S. Graves, were trained abroad.

**I**T WAS NEAR the end of the big American saw-off, scars of which are with us yet and will plague our children for generations to come. Fortunately wise men saw what had to be done, and were willing to do it.

A system of federal "Forest Reserves" had begun in 1891, under jurisdiction of the General Land Office of the Department of the Interior. These reserves were brought into the Department of Agriculture in 1905, at the suggestion of President Roosevelt.

From the outset it was recognized that coöperation between national and state governments, and between both and private timber owners was essential, and through the years much progress has been made in these directions. Milestones were the 1911 Weeks Act, which laid the groundwork for federal-state coöperation, the Clarke-McNary Act of 1924, which broadened it, and the 1950 Coöperative Forest Management Act, which extended scientific help to private owners.

**K**EEPING PACE has been the use of the forests by an ever-increasing flood of individuals and groups bent on physical, mental and spiritual recuperation and enjoyment.

Last year the national forests reported 35,000,000 visits by persons seeking outdoor recreation. These woodlands are the home for great numbers of wildlife, including nearly a third of the nation's big game animals; they have 81,000 miles of fishing streams and 2,250,000 acres of lakes, all adding to their recreational potential. A policy of multiple use has developed, aimed at perpetuating balanced production and use of all the forest resources for everyone.

The importance of the national forests in

conserving water is indicated by these figures: they help protect the water supplies of some 1,800 cities and towns, of more than 13,000,000 acres of irrigated farmland, of more than 600 hydro-electric power developments, and of thousands of industrial plants.

The cash value of the forests and their products to the nation is suggested, although far from delimited, by comparison of receipts for their uses in 1905, when they came to \$75,000, and last year, when they totaled more than \$67,000,000.

**T**HOSE OF US who love the primeval forests place particular emphasis on the resources preserved in the 79 officially designated "wild," "wilderness," and "primitive" areas of the country, amounting to some 14,000,000 acres. In these remote remnants of original America, as described by the Forest Service, "primitive conditions of environment are preserved for the use and enjoyment of those to whom the wilderness means many things and yields experiences which are unattainable elsewhere."

The forests have gained steadily in public affection. Many a ranger in the beginning had to face a hostile local sentiment. He was pictured in newspaper cartoons as an insolent dragoon riding down women and children, or described as wearing a feather in his hat after the supposed fashion of European foresters, or ridiculed as a misplaced dude or professor. Now he's a hero to almost everyone—in varying degrees, of course.

But if the national forests are a generally accepted pattern in American life today, they are by no means in an unassailable position. The attack upon them has surged and ebbed through the years and recently has again developed strongly. Heavy assaults will continue to appear in various guises before Congress in the near future, having as their aim the transfer of national forest control from the government to the few. These attacks have been beaten down again and again, but they will always recur; as John Muir said half a century ago, "we cannot expect to see the end of it."

We can only determine to do our part today, as he did his so long ago.

DAN L. THRAPP

# People You Know

(Continued from Page 2)

were part of this group, which heard Dick's calls for help and managed to rescue the four skiers after an hour's strenuous work.

Ansel Adams has had an exhibition of his photographs at the California School of Fine Arts in San Francisco which is a general survey of his work in California, the Southwest and New England. Another recent example of Ansel's work is *The Pageant of History in Northern California*, a photographic interpretation published to commemorate the centennial of the American Trust Company.

Yodeeditor *Barbara Tilden* successfully surmounted the difficulty of getting off the Sugar Bowl chairlift at the unloading platform on snowshoes (not so easy to schuss the ramp!), but it certainly confounded the attendant. Perhaps he'll get used to it, though, for the Raquetters of the Bay Chapter are an energetic group who have taken to snow shoes instead of skis.

One of the best attended hikes in Sierra Club history was the conservation hike on October 24, when *Jim Roof* (botanist of the East Bay Regional Parks) and *Henry Saddler* (Chief Ranger of Mt. Tamalpais State Park) led 115 people around San Francisco's Lands End.

The *Loma Prieta* has a new heading and format, and is now decidedly "easy on the eyes." Editor *Eleanor Johnson* is still welcoming suggestions for improvement, however. *Dorothy Varian* and her State Park Survey committee have presented a particularly well thought out report covering potential park sites in their area. *Bob Geisler* of the Rock Climbing Section was responsible for some excellent publicity in the San Jose *Mercury-News* about the Loma Prieta Chapter's climbers, with emphasis on safety.

*Bob Board* of the Tehipite Chapter has been leading work parties to LeConte Lodge in Yosemite Valley to accomplish the improvements and restoration planned there. *George Sessions* is his successor as chapter chairman. *Edith Quibell* and *Maurice Hunt* between them carried off first, second and third prizes at Fresno State College's photography competition last summer with their color slides of the Sierra.

Lots of variety in Mother Lode Chapter trips—*Gene Rowe* led a historical expedition to Columbia State Park; *Doc Charles Higgins* conducted spelunking at Cave City; and *Clare McGee* guided 43 members to Lick Observatory on Mt. Hamilton. To say nothing of an evening program entitled "Traveling the High Sierra on Burro'd Time."

VIVIAN SCHAGEN

# Almanac

*At the beginning of 1876, when snow lay deep upon the Sierra conifers, John Muir took thought for the future of the trees he loved. Commercial interests were intensifying the exploitation of America's basic wealth, mining the slow-grown forests and ground cover as they dug ore from the hills, leaving only devastation. On February 5 of that year the Sacramento Record-Union published an appeal by Muir for legislative action. His article, part of which follows, was entitled "God's First Temples."*

INCREDIBLE numbers of sheep are driven to the mountain pastures every summer, and in order to make easy paths and to improve the pastures, running fires are set everywhere to burn off the old logs and underbrush. These fires are far more universal and destructive than would be guessed. They sweep through nearly the entire forest belt of the range from one extremity to the other, and in the dry weather, before the coming on of winter storms, are very destructive to all kinds of young trees, and especially to sequoia, whose loose, fibrous bark catches and burns at once. Excepting the Calaveras, I, last summer, examined every sequoia grove in the range, together with the main belt extending across the basins of Kaweah and Tule, and found everywhere the most deplorable waste from this cause. Indians burn off underbrush to facilitate deer-hunting. Campers of all kinds often permit fires to run, so also do mill-men, but the fires of 'sheep-men' probably form more than ninety per cent of all destructive fires that sweep the woods . . . .

Whether our loose-jointed government is really able or willing to do anything in the matter remains to be seen. If our lawmakers were to discover and enforce any method tending to lessen even in a small degree the destruction going on, they would thus cover a multitude of legislative sins in the eyes of every tree lover. I am satisfied, however, that the question can be intelligently discussed only after a careful survey of our forests has been made, together with studies of the forces now acting upon them.

# Along Many Trails

NEXT MONTH the *Bulletin* will give you full details on the Sierra Club's 1955 series of outings. Meanwhile you may be thinking of making one of the river trips; here's the revised prospectus, as of now. There will be two Glen Canyon outings, of six days each, beginning May 23 and June 6. In Dinosaur National Monument, on the Yampa and Green, there will be three six-day trips, the first one beginning June 20.

Otherwise the preliminary announcement (SCB, December 1954) is accurate—until further revised. But the Sierra Club isn't the only organization with plans for the summer. Here are some others:

Lake O'Hara Meadows, in Yoho National Park, British Columbia, is the destination of the Colorado Mountain Club. Tentative dates for the outing are July 16 through 31. Participation of Sierrans is invited, and there are good peaks, good trails, and a region "scenically unsurpassed in the Canadian mountains."

Chico State College, as part of its summer school, will sponsor the sixth session of the Eagle Lake Biological Field School, June 20 to July 29. Eagle Lake, in eastern Lassen County, California, is at the extreme western edge of the Great Basin, and touches both yellow pine forest and sagebrush desert. Besides courses in Vertebrate and Invertebrate Zoology, Field Biology, and California Folklore, a course in Conservation of Natural Resources will be offered. Field trips will include visits to experimental forests, fish hatchery and planting operations, waterfowl refuges, an antelope refuge, experimental deer range, forest entomology research, logging, and forest fire control. Costs are low, and students may camp out. Apply before May 15. For information write to Thomas L. Rodgers, Chico State College, Chico, California.

And there's the Audubon Camp of California, at Sugar Bowl Lodge near Highway 40 for its eighth season. This "Door to the Out-of-Doors" for teachers, youth leaders and others who are interested in an introduction to field natural

history will be offered in five two-week sessions, the first one beginning June 26. For information write to the National Audubon Society, 2426 Bancroft Way, Berkeley 4.

Now for a bit of good reading.

Would you like to know the Monterey Peninsula wildflowers better? An attractively illustrated, 40-page pamphlet, *Point Lobos Wildflowers*, will help you. It's published by the California Division of Beaches and Parks, with authentic text by Ken Legg and illustrations, many in color, by Roland Wilson, long-time guardian and interpreter of Point Lobos Reserve State Park. A scientific check-list compiled by Dr. H L. Mason is a valuable feature of the publication, which may be purchased for 50 cents plus 3% sales tax from Printing Division (Document Section), Sacramento 14, California.

We also recommend the August special issue of *Yosemite Nature Notes*, published by the Yosemite Natural History Association, on "Birds of Yosemite National Park." This is a simple, easy-to-use handbook of 80 pages, by Cyril A. Stebbins and Robert C. Stebbins, with identification key and illustrations.

SOMEWHAT MORE technical, but on a subject equally near to our hearts, the National Association of Biology Teachers has recently published the second edition of the *Bibliography of Free and Inexpensive Materials for Teaching Conservation and Resource-Use*, by Muriel Beuschlein of the Chicago Teachers College. Copies are available at 10 cents from Dr. Richard L. Weaver, P. O. Box 2073, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Students will be interested in the announcement by the Nature Conservancy, 4200 - 22nd Street, N.E., Washington 18, D.C., of a \$500 scholarship for graduate study in the field of conservation as related to human population. An outline of the proposed thesis must accompany each application; deadline is April 1, 1955.

## California Conservation Week, March 7-14