



BASE CAMPERS AT CRABTREE LAKES

Steve Miller

SIERRA CLUB BULLETIN

*March
1955*

People You Know

THIS STORY is from a southern California newspaper. Seems an Idyllwild group was discussing the proposed San Jacinto tramway and it was argued that the back country "should be made accessible to everyone." Came the retort, "The churches are open to everyone, but you don't ride in on a motorcycle." I am sure it was a Sierran who said that.

Things are looking up in the San Diego chapter since *Kathy Langsdorf* bought a life membership by splitting the cost with her father, *Dr. Gordon* of La Jolla. She put up \$20 and he put up matching funds of \$20 times 4. *Virginia Gilloon* is new chairman and the chapter now boasts more than 200 members. One interesting project being undertaken is a "This Is Your County" project Virginia started. It provides programs illustrated with color slides showing what the county has to offer in the way of parks and scenic attractions; secondly, the danger of losing these things through carelessness, fires, litter; and thirdly, what to do about it.

Clara E. Breed, San Diego City librarian and Sierran, has been chosen "Woman of the Year"

by the local women's clubs, according to *Ivy Foster*, our SD reporter.

Rock Climbing Section Chief *Jerry Galwas* worked almost a dozen neophytes up Picacho Peak, and even got them down safely again.

Dewey Kelly is abusing his taste buds with toasted sugar cane around the campfire, instead of marshmallows . . . "Incredible, irresistible, all but inaccessible Tajo Canyon" was explored by *Omar Conger*, *Henry Mendolf* and *Don Rappolee* of the SD Rock Climbing Section.

Parker Severson, chairman of the Desert Peaks Section of the Angeles Chapter, is disgruntled at the progressive littering of desert wilderness areas. Litter, he finds, invariably follows improved roads and greater accessibility. Even on Kofa Peak in December he found "several bushels" of Geologic Survey batteries.

Other new officers of Desert Peaks are *Jerry Zagorites*, vice-chairman; *Marion Dean*, secretary-treasurer; and *Willard Dean*, member-at-large.

Russell E. Groff, editor of *The Condor Call*, publication of Los Padres Chapter, wondered whether anyone reads his work, because President Eisenhower's name was misspelled in one issue and no one called Groff to task about it. He should misspell some member's name—and duck!

Newest section of this chapter is the Twenty Peaks group, open to members enthusiastic about climbing the score of peaks near Santa Barbara, most of them under 5,000 feet.

Angeles' Ice Skating group, 35 of them, went to Dollar Lake in the San Bernadinos for their annual party last fall, and were favored by six to 10 inches of ice. *Mary Greer*, deluded by 80-degree temperatures in Los Angeles, bet leader *Chuck Gerckens* a steak there would be no ice at the lake. T-Bone.

New Angeles Chapter executive committee: *Bob Bear*, chairman; *Ruth Aiken*, vice-chairman; *Mary Galton*, secretary; *Lloyd Balsam*, treasurer; and *Carl Jensen*, *John Mendenhall*, *Parker Severson*, *Louise Werner* and *Sparky Wilson* . . . The Rock Climbing section is now led by *Don Wilson* with *Howard Talkington*, vice-chairman, and *Art Schutt*, secretary-treasurer . . . Don Wilson, at 22, is the youngest
(Turn to Page 7)

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.

On the first of this month, the Sierra Club had 9,175 members. This figure represented a gain of 869 since the same date in 1954.



Sierra Club Bulletin

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

Reservations Open for Summer Outings

A number of unexpected, last-minute problems have conspired to delay final decisions by the Outing Committee on details and prices of the club's 1955 summer outings. Dr. H. Stewart Kimball and his committee, realizing the urgent need of members for information, are hard at work ironing out the difficulties.

The April issue of the *Bulletin* will carry full details — but don't be alarmed; we intend to have that issue in your hands very soon. There will be a description of each trip, prices, names of leaders and all the pertinent facts. For good measure, among other features there will be many fine pictures of the country to be traveled, and advice for Sierra fishermen by a top authority, Charles McDermand.

Meanwhile your boss wants to know your vacation plans; your wife wants to know; perhaps you want to know, too. Reservations, accompanied by the \$5 fee, will be accepted at the club office in San Francisco after March 1, based on the following tentative list of trips. Many details and prices will be similar to last year's. (Be sure to check the final announcement in the April *SCB*.)

High Trips: Northern Yosemite, two trips, two weeks each, beginning July 10 and 23. Grand Teton, August 7-15. Glacier, August 17-26.

Base Camps: Minaret Lake, three trips, two weeks each, beginning July 3, 17 and 31. Kern Wilderness, two weeks beginning July 17. Mount Rainier, two weeks beginning August 7.

River Trips: Glen Canyon, two trips, *eight* days on the river, beginning May 23 and June 6. Dinosaur, five trips, *six* days on the river, beginning June 20 and 28, July 6, 14 and 22.

Knapsack Trips: Kings Canyon, two weeks beginning July 2. Marble Mountains, one week beginning July 16. Washington Wilderness, 10 days beginning August 8. Yosemite for beginners, eight days beginning August 20. Mount Whitney, eight days beginning August 27. Mount Waddington glaciers, two weeks beginning August 15.

Burro Trips: Piute Pass to Mono Pass, three trips, two weeks each, beginning July 10 and 24, August 7.

Family Burro Trips: Kings Canyon, two trips, two weeks each, beginning July 31 and August 14.

Wilderness Conference

The Fourth Biennial Wilderness Conference will be held March 18 and 19 at the Hotel Claremont in Berkeley, with the Sierra Club again host to hundreds of outdoorsmen, park and forest officials, packers, scientists and others from all parts of the country who are interested in "Building a Policy for Wilderness."

Under the direction of the distinguished co-chairmen, Dr. Harold C. Bryant and Dr. Harold C. Bradley, an outstanding panel of authorities will present the views of the packer and guide, the park and forest administrator, the scientist, and the conservationist.

All interested persons are urged to attend the sessions; there is no registration fee. Discussions will take place Friday, March 18, between 9:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., and the following day between 9 a.m. and 3:15 p.m. The only charge is for the dinner Friday, which will be followed by a program featuring Lois Crisler with a report and pictures on "Animals of the Arctic Wilderness." Advance reservations for the dinner are advised.

California's Parks

ON DECEMBER 19, 1952, the California State Park Commission approved a program, developed by the Division of Beaches and Parks, which contemplated the enlargement and improvement of the state park system, over a period of five years, at a cost of \$64,000,000. A plan of this magnitude was possible financially because of a national political situation which seemed to promise an early settlement, in favor of the coastal states, of the dispute over ownership of offshore lands. California's interest in this settlement was the huge fund which had accrued from royalties paid to the state on oil extracted from these so-called tidelands, 70 per cent of which by law would be available to the park system upon appropriation by the State Legislature.

Title to the tidelands has finally gone to the coastal states, the impounded tidelands oil royalties have been released, and the California Legislature, during the coming months, will decide how the money shall be allocated.

Because of the size of the royalties, which have accumulated since 1947, and because state legislators are now under considerable pressure to increase expenditures without increasing taxes, there is much pressure to expend these funds for general purposes. From other quarters come requests for funds for California's school program, highways, an expanded fish and game program, state hospitals . . . all worthy programs. Senator Randolph Collier (Del Norte-Siskiyou counties), has introduced a bill which would allocate the funds among all the counties under an area-population formula to be spent on publicly owned lands for recreation purposes only.

Comprehensive, Realistic

It is at this point that the tremendous importance of the Five-Year Program is evident—an importance even greater following its up-to-date revision, issued January 1, 1955 and incorporating many changes because of events since its initial compilation. No other group contesting for control of

Tideland money and the Five-Year Program

these funds has such a comprehensive, realistic plan as this. Furthermore, the plan has been well publicized to the Legislature and many of the members already favor its adoption. Because of its strategic character, Sierra Club members should be familiar with its provisions.

If the royalties are made available for the state park system, the Five-Year Program contemplates that they will be spent as follows:

Maintenance and operation of State Parks for 5 years	\$22,731,000
Acquisition of 31 new beaches, parks, and monuments	26,750,000
Development of existing and newly acquired units	10,009,000
Roadside rests	2,600,000
Riding and Hiking Trails	1,999,000
Total	\$64,089,000

Maintenance and operation expenses are included in this list because oil royalties have been the source for these expenditures for many years, even during the period of impoundment, when general funds were used in anticipation of repayment after the dispute was settled.

Matching Funds Question

The \$26,750,000 earmarked for acquisition of 31 new areas is predicated on the supposition that the Legislature will revoke the matching funds principle. This would simplify the financial problem that has attended many state park projects in recent years (notably Butano). Of course, abandonment of the matching provision would also involve a greater hazard of having inappropriate units brought into the state park system (for instance, the Palace of Fine Arts in San Francisco).

At right, family recreation at D. L. Bliss State Park, Lake Tahoe. By John Shrowder.

The Park Commission's policy on this matter is that the matching provision should be continued except by act of the Legislature in special cases where projects approved by the Commission have failed for lack of matching funds.

The 31 acres mentioned for acquisition in the Five-Year Program include beaches along all of the 15 coastal counties; river and bay beaches in Alameda, Contra Costa and San Mateo counties; inland parks in 33 counties, and additions to many existing beaches and parks. Actually, there are far more than 31 additional areas listed, but this appears to be the approximate number which can be acquired in five years with the money available.

The \$10,009,000 earmarked for development includes the addition of nearly 3,000 camp and picnic units; additional parking facilities, primarily at beach parks; group camps for youth organizations, and rehabilitation of historic buildings.

300 Roadside Rests

Those of us who have traveled through Oregon have noticed the small wayside picnic areas which have been established along

the highways. In response to demands for similar development in California, the Five-Year Program calls for 300 roadside rests with picnic tables, water (when close at hand) and trash receptacles. To reduce fire hazards, no stoves or fireplaces would be provided.

The final item included in the \$64,089,000 total is for the completion of the Riding and Hiking Trail started nearly 10 years ago. It is a 3,000-mile low-level loop trail encircling the perimeter of California. About 500 miles of this has been completed to date, principally in southern California.

The recent revision of the Five-Year Program mentions another project, not considered previously, which we hope will receive the careful attention of the Legislature. This plan concerns the rerouting of Highway 101, which now winds through the famous redwood groves in northern California. In 1953, a bill to widen this highway and take out the "killer" trees that allegedly were causing accidents was beaten in the Legislature. In its place, a resolution was passed which called upon the Division of Highways and Division of Beaches and Parks to explore jointly the feasibility of a high-standard by-



pass to the east that would spare the priceless redwoods in Humboldt State Park.

This survey has now progressed to a point where it reveals several possible ways in which a four-lane highway might be constructed around the redwood area, but close to it, without destroying the values which the Humboldt Park was created to preserve. The Five-Year Program suggests that the present Highway 101 through the park be turned over to the state park system to be maintained as a parkway. Oil royalties would be used to help construct the bypass.

It seems to us that this is a very worthwhile suggestion and possibly the only practical way to accomplish this vital purpose.

We believe that support of the Five-Year

Program and continuation of the principle of earmarking 70 per cent of tidelands oil royalties for state park purposes should be the most important state conservation project in early 1955. From now until June, the Legislature will be considering the many bills which have been introduced for the disposition of these funds. During this period California's park conservationists will have the important task of publicizing and "selling" the Five-Year Program. Its acceptance and the continued use of oil royalties to carry out the program is California's guarantee of an adequate park system in the years to come, when Californians, to put it mildly, will be more numerous.

JOHN R. BARNARD,
Chairman, Conservation Committee

National Park Service Advisers Named

With the recent appointment of Carl I. Wheat and Dr. E. Raymond Hall to the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings and Monuments, the state of California is well represented. Mr. Wheat, who lives in Menlo Park, and has law offices in San Francisco, is the author of numerous legal and historical works pertaining to California. Dr. Hall is chairman of the Department of Zoology at the University of Kansas. Before that he was professor of vertebrate zoology and curator of mammals at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology at the University of California, and at one time was with the U.S. Biological Survey and the California Department of Fish and Game.

The Sierra Club also is well represented on the 11-man board. The nine other members are: Alfred A. Knopf (chairman), publisher of that fine comprehensive book *The National Parks: What They Mean to You and Me* (and of the new book on Dinosaur, which will be out around the time you receive this *Bulletin*); Major General U. S. Grant, III (vice-chairman), engineer and conservationist, who has been so articulate in the argument for alternate sites for the Echo Park Dam; Charles G. Woodbury (secretary), horticulturist, conservationist, and member of the Sierra Club; Horace M. Albright, former director of the National

Park Service, president of the U.S. Potash Co., and an Honorary Vice-President of the Sierra Club; Walter L. Huber, engineer and conservationist, long-time member of the Sierra Club; and another Honorary Vice-President; Bernard De Voto, author and editor, staunch upholder of national park ideals, and an Honorary Life Member of the Sierra Club; Dr. Turpin C. Bannister, head of the Department of Architecture, University of Illinois; and Harold S. Wagner, director-secretary of the Akron (Ohio) Metropolitan Park District, and also a member of the Sierra Club.

Brower's Odyssey

Executive Director David R. Brower is off to the conservation wars again. When he left in mid-February for various points, mostly in the East, these were his main objectives:

In Washington, the hearings of the Senate subcommittee on irrigation and reclamation beginning February 28, and the House subcommittees beginning in mid-March. The subject, of course, is the Upper Colorado River Storage Project.

In Montreal, the 20th North American Wildlife Conference, March 14-16.

And back to Berkeley (if it can be done) for our own Fourth Wilderness Conference.

People You Know

(Continued from Page 2)

person ever to chairman the RCS in this chapter. He's a biologist . . . *Muir Dawson*, bibliophile and mountaineer on at least two continents, has been named to the southern California section of the club's Editorial Board.

Hiking to San Antonio Ski Hut in mid-fall, *Steve Wilkie* saw two bighorn rams on steep rock beside the falls.

Roy Gorin, new Conservation head for the Angeles Chapter, is also in charge of ski tests for this year, with *Charles Wilts* in charge of the Ski Mountaineering tests.

Riverside chapter's newssheet, *Palm and Pine*, is heading into its sixth year under guidance of *Crystal Karstens* and *Dorothy Seller*. *Joe Momyer's* idea to begin with . . . *Betty Smith* claims a Riverside party saw 400 quail take off at one time on the ranch of *Dr. E. G. Loomis*.

Georgie White of the Angeles Chapter has been named to organize and promote interest (as if there weren't plenty of that already) in a River Touring Section.

Joe Momyer was honored by the California Conservation Council at its annual meeting at San Francisco in December for his "long, continued and generous service to the people of California in the field of conservation."

New chairman of the Angeles Chapter's Natural Science Section is *John Nienhuis*, veteran of almost every job that needs doing in the club. *Ed Peterson* has contributed an outline of distinctive natural areas of southern California for the benefit of serious natural science students. *Wally Tinsley's* carefully detailed notes on what to see and where to see it have added much to Natural Science trip enjoyment.

DAN L. THRAPP

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VERNON HOWARD

700 Rolph St.

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Almanac

MARCH 8, 1880.—I write this down in the country again, but in a new spot, seated on a log in the woods, warm, sunny, midday. Have been loafing here deep among the trees, shafts of tall pines, oak, hickory, with a thick undergrowth of laurels and grapevines—the ground cover'd everywhere by débris, dead leaves, breakage, moss—everything solitary, ancient, grim. Paths (such as they are) leading hither and yon—(how made I know not, for nobody seems to come here, nor man nor cattle-kind). Temperature today about 60, the wind through the pine-tops; I sit and listen to its hoarse sighing above (and to the *stillness*) long and long, varied by aimless rambles in the old roads and paths, and by exercise-pulls at the young saplings, to keep my joints from getting stiff. Blue-birds, robins, meadow-larks begin to appear.

NEXT DAY, 9th. — A snowstorm in the morning, and continuing most of the day. But I took a walk over two hours, the same woods and paths, amid the falling flakes. No wind, yet the musical low murmur through the pines, quite pronounced, curious, like waterfalls, now still'd, now pouring again. All the senses, sight, sound, smell, delicately gratified. Every snowflake lay where it fell on the evergreens, holly-trees, laurels, etc., the multitudinous leaves and branches piled, bulging-white, defined by edge-lines of emerald—the tall straight columns of the plentiful bronze-topt pines—a slight resinous odor blending with that of the snow. (For there is a scent to everything, even the snow, if you can only detect it—no two places, hardly any two hours, anywhere, exactly alike. How different the odor of noon from midnight, or winter from summer, or a windy spell from a still one.)

WALT WHITMAN,
Specimen Days

Skiing week ends swiftly passed
Linger in a plaster cast.

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Razzle-Dazzle on the Colorado

CONGRESS is hearing the arguments once again on the dams in Dinosaur. The bills for the Upper Colorado River Project are moving through the Washington hopper, and conservationists across the country are once more fighting hard to stave off invasion of the National Park system.

Last year the conservationists won. They marshalled their valid arguments and saw reason prevail. This year is a different story. The opposition, with strong support from the Administration, has entered the skirmish right from the start. And the battle to save Echo Park from the dam-builders is turning into an extraordinarily bitter one.

Chambers of Commerce and politicians from the Upper Basin states have raised a slush fund running to nearly \$100,000 to fight for their many-billion-dollar baby, including their coveted dam in Echo Park. They have hired propagandists, and the Upper Colorado Commission has set up a lobbying office in Washington.

The propagandists are proving adept at misinformation.

Item: They worked up the Navajo Indians to perform a widely-publicized "war dance" in support of the White Man's dams, although there's no controversy over the projected Navajo dam, and the Indians will get not a cent of benefit from Echo Park.

Item: They decided the name Echo Park might "confuse" people into thinking a park was at stake, so they now call the area Pat Lynch Hole. Locally, the park is indeed known as Pat's Hole, after an early settler, but the propagandists add the phrase in every press release: ". . . recently renamed Echo Park." The fact that Major Powell, explorer of the Colorado, named it Echo Park shortly after the Civil War and before Pat ever arrived, deters the propagandists not at all.

Item: At great cost, the propagandists are mailing weekly illustrated stories to newspapers all over the country, telling glowingly of the future beauties of the "Yampa-Lodore Playground" and the wonderful fertility of land to be watered by the acre-feet behind Echo Park dam. The fact that Echo Park dam will irrigate no land concerns the propagandists not at all, nor do they worry that their playground would quickly become a fluctuating, silted morass.

Item: They have prevailed upon the Luce empire, publishers of *Time* and *Life*, to back them. *Time's* backing started last August with a eulogy of Interior Secretary Douglas McKay in which the magazine dismissed Echo Park defenders as "professional nature lovers . . . all of whom wear shoes and live in houses." McKay, by inference, is presumably barefoot and lives in a tepee along the Potomac wilderness. Only a few weeks ago *Time's* objectivity slipped again when it dismissed its opponents as a collective made up of "dinosaur fanciers and Southern California."

Item: They sneaked into an otherwise objective Collier's magazine piece on Echo Park a wildly distorted chart purporting to prove that the dam would not drown the canyons of Dinosaur. The chart has long been exposed as a phony because its vertical scale of canyon depths is totally unrelated to its horizontal scale of canyon widths.

With all this razzle-dazzle and dishonesty, the Upper Colorado spokesmen smell victory in the current session of Congress.

It will take a lot more than the good will of conservationists to defeat them and to preserve for all Americans, including those in the Upper Colorado Basin, the sanctity of the National Park system.

DAVID PERLMAN