

SIERRA CLUB BULLETIN

April
1956



ENCHANTER'S NIGHTSHADE, YOSEMITE VALLEY

Hal Roth

Mission 66 . . . A Promise for the Parks

SEE PAGE 3

Bulletin Board

*Conservation news
—brief and timely*

AT PRESS TIME California's Governor Knight had not yet signed the budget including funds for land acquisition as proposed in the Five-Year Plan of the Division of Beaches and Parks. But deleted by the Legislature was Cascade Lake, possibly the most beautiful single area proposed . . . The Legislature voted an additional \$4,000,000 out of park funds for the 1960 Winter Olympics at Squaw Valley.

An interim committee of the California Senate has issued an excellent report urging long-range changes in State Park planning. . . . The Sierra Club was represented at recent hearings, and recommended no grazing in State Parks, no invasion of the Desolation Valley Wild Area for power development.

A bill to launch Mission 66, the National Park Service's ambitious 10-year program, is being introduced in the current Congress.

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.

. . . Advocates of "unlocking" all timber resources are again organizing an attack—this time an all-out effort—to reduce the size of Olympic National Park . . . Congressional committees have approved moderately increased appropriations for recreational development of Forest Service lands . . . The fate of the Three Sisters Primitive Area is still undecided.

A National Wilderness System is proposed in a bill being introduced in this Congress by Senator Hubert Humphrey of Minnesota . . . Congressman Lee Metcalf of Montana has introduced legislation to protect Wildlife Refuges from exploitation, except by specific acts of Congress . . . Congressional hearings are being held on Senator Richard Neuberger's bill to reverse the Federal Power decision permitting hydro-electric development of the Beaver Marsh-Clear Lake section of the McKenzie River.

The Upper Colorado River Project (recently approved by the House) is now being ironed out in a conference of committees representing the two houses of Congress.

Johns Manville Company is erecting a new plant in Oregon to utilize lodgepole pine measuring ten inches and less in diameter. The C. and H. Logging Company has proposed to log sub-alpine timber (Mountain Hemlock, Red Fir, Mountain White Pine) in the Windigo Pass area. If successful, these innovations may revolutionize the industry.

Bruce's Eddy Dam, on the upper Snake River, is being opposed by the Sierra Club at current Senate hearings.

PEGGY WAYBURN

Directors' Meeting

Next meeting of the Board of Directors will be held Saturday, May 5, at the Claremont Hotel in Berkeley, beginning at 9 a.m. If necessary, the meeting will be continued on the following day.



Sierra Club Bulletin

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

Mission 66 . . . A Promise for the Parks

THE MISTS of governmental secrecy which have shrouded Mission 66, the National Park Service's current major undertaking, are now beginning to lift, and friends of the Service are being given a closer look at the broad features of this ambitious and promising 10-year program. However, although the best experts in the Park Service have worked for more than a year preparing the Mission 66 program, many important specific details still remain veiled. We are very sorry that our current evaluation is necessarily general.

What is Mission 66? It is a program, prepared under the direction of National Park Director Conrad Wirth, which contains recommendations for equipping the National Park Service to handle an expected 80 million visitors by 1966—the fiftieth anniversary of the foundation of the Service. The objective of the program “is to give the American people on this golden anniversary a park system adequate in all ways necessary for their enjoyment and inspiration—a park system so developed, managed and used that our children and our children’s children will enjoy the values of this, their estate.” The need for such a program, the Service points out, is emphasized by the fact that at present the Park Service is equipped to handle only 25 million visitors yearly, and last year it was overwhelmed by twice that many.

Eight major objectives have been listed for Mission 66: it will . . .

1. Expand facilities and services in the parks to provide over-night accommodations for approximately 54,000 visitors. Present

capacity is less than 26,000. Existing facilities of all kinds—both government and concession—which intrude on unique park features will be relocated in more suitable locations as rapidly as is economically feasible.

2. Provide additional campsites, parking and picnic areas, improved roads and trails and adequate water, power, sewerage and communication systems.

3. Provide the equipment and services which will make the parks and historic areas more meaningful and enjoyable to the public, through an enlarged and more effective interpretive program.

4. Provide adequate operating funds and field staff to manage the areas, protect the resources and provide a high standard of maintenance for all developments.

5. Provide adequate living quarters for field employees who are required to live in the parks.

6. Acquire ownership of all lands within the parks and such other lands as are necessary for protection or use; acquire water rights needed to insure adequate water supplies, and extinguish grazing rights and other competing uses.

7. Institute a coördinated nationwide recreation plan to produce a system of recreational development by each level of government, federal, state, and local, each bearing its proper share of the expanding recreational load.

8. Provide for the continued preservation of large wilderness areas, unaltered and unimpaired, with only the simple facilities required for access, back-country use and protection.

How is Mission 66 to be carried out?

It calls for a year-by-year program of improvement, development and construction with a gradually increasing yearly budget. By 1966, the total "investment" will be approximately \$786,500,000, says a Park Service estimate. And by that time, it is planned that the parks will be in such good condition that no new major construction will be needed; maintenance and operating costs will be lower, and park expenditures can gradually taper off.

Some of the pattern of Mission 66 seems to be outlined in legislation introduced in the present Congress. Senate Bill 3060 (Sen. Joseph O'Mahoney), for instance, provides for a \$480,000,000 "National Park Ten-Year Development Program." This bill asks for \$16,000,000 a year for 10 years for each of three sets of items: (a) construction and improvement of roads and trails; (b) construction and improvement of parkways; (c) construction and improvement of buildings and of privately owned lands and water rights. (It is reassuring to learn that 90% of the proposed money would be used for reconstruction and realignment of present roads.)

SO MUCH for the broad-scale objectives of Mission 66, which seem good and sound to us. We concur with the "whats" and the "whys." Now, what about the all-important "hows"? What about the *details* for carrying out the program? We know, for example, that "probably at least 25,000 campsites will be needed by 1966 (double the present number of 12,000); and further increases thereafter will have to be planned for." We agree that new campsites are badly needed. But where are these campsites to be developed? How will "the further increases thereafter" be taken care of? Other types of facilities within the parks—i.e., concessions—will be given, in effect, subsidization; what about "subsidizing" campsites adjacent to parks? Many questions spring to mind, and we wish we could find concrete answers.

What are our criticisms? Our first criticism of Mission 66 is that we cannot find out enough about it. Recently we attended a briefing held by National Park officials spe-

cifically to acquaint conservationists with Mission 66. We asked numerous questions which the officials coöperated fully in answering. However, we ended up still with only general information. We do not know if the details have yet been worked out.

Our second criticism is that the Park Service has not called on its many friends outside of the Service to participate in the highly crucial planning of this highly crucial program. We understand that it has been put together on the basis of recommendations of field personnel who were instructed to report their immediate needs without consulting a more encompassing master plan.

Our third criticism is based on apprehension. The major emphasis in the publicizing of Mission 66 has been placed on construction and development. The Park Service assures us that the great park principle of wilderness preservation is also being given prime consideration. Lacking details, we have to wonder how these two basically incompatible concepts are being reconciled. Of one thing we are sure. Although Mission 66 is a 10-year program, it will establish a 100-year trend.

The scope and the ideals of Mission 66 are to be highly commended. We are gratified that the Park Service is thinking in terms of long-range, coöordinated planning. We appreciate their foresight and their recognition of the grave dilemma of use, misuse and over-use of park facilities. But a program of the far-reaching magnitude of Mission 66 requires large-scale and expert planning; it requires a pooling of all resources of ideas; it requires a sharing of wisdom and experience, and a close coöperation among experts in the many fields involved.

WE HAVE always been good friends of the Park Service and will continue to be. As good friends, we would like our support of Mission 66 to include active participation as well as passive concurring. We hope that the Park Service will make it possible for us to work *with* them in the development of this vitally important program.

EDGAR and PEGGY WAYBURN

Glacier Peak

Most truly Alpine of our mountains

LAST MONTH, in announcing the summer outings, we referred to an interesting descriptive article, "The Cascade Range in Northern Washington," (SCB, February 1937) in which Hermann F. Ulrichs told of the Glacier Peak Limited Area, goal of a Base Camp, High Trip and Knapsack Trip this year.

Here are some excerpts from Ulrichs' article, selected by Oliver Kehrlein:

"The northern section [of the Cascades] still remains the last great stronghold of almost completely untouched primeval wilderness in the United States . . . and will be regarded as the most spectacular, varied and truly Alpine of all our mountains."

The attraction of the Glacier Peak area lies in its similarity to both the Oregon type of Cascades with its isolated, snowy, volcanic sentinels, and the Canadian Cascades, with interlacing evergreen ranges covered by forests rising high among the glacial tongues from the white-capped summits.

On the west side of the crest, where the knapsackers will travel, "one is . . . struck by the dense and apparently limitless forest, completely mantling the valleys and ridges, [giving one the] impression of being imprisoned in a deep green cavern . . . a world steeped in a perpetual cathedral twilight of dim gold and green half-lights."

"The truly Alpine aspect," says Ulrichs, "engendered by the permanent snowfields and hanging glaciers . . . together with the frequent very precipitous cliff-formation for thousands of feet, contrive to make these mountains seem

Our Mistake

When we make a mistake it is usually the result of sheer ignorance and is a whopper. The picture of Glacier Peak on Page 5 of last month's *Bulletin* is not from Lyman Lake; it is from Image Lake. Thanks to Grant McConnell and Pat Powers for correcting us. Now we see the image.

much more lofty than those twice their elevation in other ranges. The differential elevation between valley-bottom and summits is consistently double that of the Sierra and frequently still greater . . . Mt. Eldorado (8,875 feet) rises 7,000 feet in a little over two miles air-line above the Cascade River . . . Glacier Peak rises 8,500 feet above the Suiattle River at its northern base . . .

"The deep V-shaped, gorge-like valleys of the eastern side have more extensive cliff formation and are even more impenetrable at their heads than their relatives on the western slope. The trail up the West Fork of the Agnes . . . ends in meadows at 3,000 feet elevation, underneath a grand semi-circle of glacier-hung peaks which rise from 5,000 to 6,000 feet above."

The base campers' last and trail camp will be near the junction of the West and Main forks of the Agnes, and their exit trail follows below the crest next described:

"To my mind the finest part of the range is the main divide north of Glacier Peak between Suiattle and Washington passes, especially the first stretch from Suiattle and to Cascade Pass. A rugged complex of fine peaks and impressive glaciers presents a formidable barrier, both east and west."

Ulrichs describes the Base Camp site at Lyman Lake:

"The crowning glory of the Cascades is, for
(Continued on Page 7)

*Upper Lyman Lake,
Lyman Glacier and
Chiwawa Mountain
in background
(Bob and Ira Spring)*



Annual Dinner, Dance Return to Berkeley

Plans are nearly completed for the Sierra Club Annual Dinner and Dance (Northern California), which returns to the East Bay after two years in San Francisco, and will be held at the Claremont Hotel in Berkeley on Saturday, May 5.

This year's speaker will be Charles Connaughton, new Regional Forester for California, well known as a most entertaining and interesting toastmaster.

Following reception at 6 p.m., and dinner at 7, pictures will be shown, and there will be dancing from 10 till 1 a.m. to Murray Petersen's orchestra.

There will be no postcard reminders. Reservations (at \$5.75 per person) should be sent to the Sierra Club office, 1050 Mills Tower, San Francisco, with check and self-addressed envelope.

Walter Huber Heads Interior Advisers

Walter L. Huber of San Francisco, an honorary vice-president of the Sierra Club, was elected chairman of the Interior Department's Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings and Monuments on March 30. He has been a member of the Advisory Board since 1953, and succeeds Alfred A. Knopf as chairman.

Carl I. Wheat of Menlo Park was elected vice-chairman.

Mr. Huber, former president of the American Society of Civil Engineers, was a director of the Sierra Club for 33 years and served as president (1925-27).

The Sherwin Grade

Drivers who have toiled and boiled up the steep, twisting Sherwin Grade of U.S. Highway 395 north of Bishop since Model-T days will be interested in the relocation of the highway that will take place this year.

The new route will climb to the high country on a more gradual gradient and will bypass some of the more difficult terrain.

Sherwin Grade bears the name of one of the region's earliest pioneers, James L. C.

Sherwin, who homesteaded in Round Valley in 1866 and later built the original road over the hill to a sawmill he established on Rock Creek. When Mammoth became a mining camp, he extended this road as a private toll road to that busy center, where he developed another sawmill. The family later moved to Swall Meadow and there, at the foot of the grade, he operated a third sawmill.

The present road over the Sherwin Grade is to be relegated to the past after giving some 40 years of service. May it rest in peace.

SCUDDER NASH

Belmore Browne Book

Belmore Browne's classic, *The Conquest of Mount McKinley*, originally published in 1913, is being reissued this month by Houghton Mifflin (\$6.00). Bradford Washburn, Director of the Boston Museum of Science, has written the introduction and Vilhjalmur Stefansson the foreword.

Frontpiece of the book is a photograph of Mount McKinley by Washburn, and the 41 illustrations are all by Browne.

Photographic Exhibits

Phil Hyde has prepared a 20-print exhibit of photographs of the National Parks and Monuments of the United States, which had its premiere at the Northwest Wilderness Conference in Portland on April 7 and 8.

The exhibit, sponsored by the National Parks Association, will soon go on tour. Phil's pictures of Dinosaur National Monument are in the Long Beach State College Library this month.

A New Magazine

A group of intrepid Club members from the Angeles chapter have embarked on a new venture—publication of a monthly magazine for those who love the mountains.

It is called *Summit*, and Volume I, Number 1 was issued in November by the Acacia Company, 3041 E. Gage Ave., Huntington Park, Calif.

Publisher is Jean Crenshaw. Helen Kilness is managing editor and Lester La Velle and Louise Werner are associate editors.

Memorial Program For John Muir

A John Muir Memorial Program will be held at the naturalist's old home in Alhambra Valley, Contra Costa County, on Sunday, April 22.

Judge Wakefield Taylor is chairman of the event, which will include musical selections, a talk on "John Muir, Son of the Wilderness" by Brother Cornelius of St. Mary's College, and a talk by Arthur Bourne of the Pacific School of Religion on the proposal to form a John Muir Memorial Association.

Muir's grandchildren, and Mr. and Mrs. Henry Sax, who are restoring the John Muir Manor, will be introduced.

The public is invited to attend the program, which will begin at 3 P.M. To reach the site, turn off Martinez-Pleasant Hill Road onto Alhambra Valley Road, and drive about one mile to Strentzel Lane, where there will be signs.

Almanac

APRIL and the sun advancing, the disk rising each day to the north of where it leaped from yesterday's ocean and setting north of yesterday's setting, the solar disk burning, burning, consuming winter in fire.

HENRY BESTON,

The Outermost House

Glacier Peak (from Page 5)

me, the unusually extensive subalpine zone [above 5,000 feet which makes] a rich green fringe between the ultimate edge of the forest and the everlasting rock and snow. Here there are miles of velvety lawn-slopes, carpeted with flowers . . . countless little rills and cascades . . . symmetrical spires of the trees . . . grouped into informal designs, giving a park-like atmosphere to the landscape . . .

"It would be hard to imagine a more striking and felicitous contrast than that between this idyllic, really Arcadian country, of intimate beauty and delicacy, and the almost savage ruggedness and grandeur of the big peaks, the deep valleys far below, and the magnificent panoramas of distant snowy ranges glowing in the soft light."

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Starring one of America's great actors, Academy Award-Winner

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KOVR 13	Mondays 8:30 PM
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KIVA 11	Mondays 9:30 PM

RICHFIELD sponsors this program to promote a better understanding of the importance of natural resources to the health, wealth, and pleasure of every Californian.

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"Conservation of natural resources means better living for YOU"

Along Many Trails

CALIFORNIA'S outdoor recreational areas suffered heavily from the floods and storms of the past winter, and in some cases campers are going to find their favorite places no longer usable this summer.

Though the damage to campgrounds in National Forests is less in dollars than the damage in National and State parks, it may be more injurious to the vacationer. For the Forest Service hasn't the reserve funds available to restore or replace the campsites, while the park services have, generally speaking.

Thirteen Forest Service campgrounds will be closed, by present indications, and their usual occupants will be forced into other camps that are in most cases already overcrowded. They are Patricks Creek and Cedar on the Smith River; Bluff Creek, Beaver Creek and Rocky Bar on the Klamath; Hampshire Rocks on Highway 40; Fiddle Creek on the North Fork of the Yuba River below Downieville; Eagle Fall on Lake Tahoe; Blackbird on Highway 50; Belden on the Feather River; Mineral King campground; the Lower Kern camps between Isabella and Bakersfield, and Deep Creek on the Pit River.

In the State parks, although preliminary damage estimates come to over \$1,000,000, nothing irreparable is believed to have occurred except in the Humboldt Redwoods State Park on the south fork of the Eel. Here some fine trees of the virgin groves of coast redwoods were undermined and toppled by the floods, and silting was so heavy that campgrounds at Richardson, Stephens and Williams Groves may not be opened this summer.

The State park system reports that these storms did it more damage than ever before.

Yosemite National Park suffered heavy damage, with campground waterlines and bridges washed out in many places. Repairs by the beginning of the summer depend on how late the snow stays, especially in the case of up-country bridges like Vernal Fall, Echo Valley and Lyell Fork. These three are to be replaced with steel instead of wood construction. The bridge at lower Yosemite Falls was washed out and may not be replaced this summer, and the old Happy Isles bridge is unusable.

El Portal road was heavily damaged, too.

In Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park some high country bridges were washed out but the worst damage was to roads. The Park Service can take care of its own part of these, it says, and the State Highway Commission has allocated \$1,348,700 to restore two big sections of the Cedar Grove road that had washed out. This road will be open to one-way traffic during the summer. Campground damage will be repaired.

Millerton Lake National Recreation Area suffered some road damage, but the Park Service reports the worst trouble there is that the lake is so full of debris and snags that motorboating and water-skiing will be prevented until late summer or early fall.

OUTSIDE CALIFORNIA the same storms caused damage to parks further north. Rainier lost a bridge, but it has been replaced by an Army temporary Bailey bridge. In Olympic many roads were washed out, but will be repaired during the summer.

There is one general note of cheer. All the *really* high country is just as before, because it was protected by its usual blanket of snow.

JAMES BENET