



DEADMAN CREEK RECREATION AREA (See page 5)

David R. Brower

# SIERRA CLUB BULLETIN

October  
1956



# People You Know

THE SIERRA CLUB's beloved photographer extraordinary of outings, people and natural beauties, *Cedric Wright*, has been seriously ill from the effects of a stroke suffered early this summer at his home in Lafayette. His friends will be relieved to know that he is improving.

Club director *Ansel Adams* (to identify him only briefly) is leading a four-week photographic tour of Japan. The fortunate group accompanying him will have the opportunity to visit many places inaccessible to the average tourist, and to learn about photography from one of the country's finest and most original artists in that field.

We have a lot of other talented photographers in the Sierra Club, too. For instance, there's *Hal Roth*, whose color photo of a black-tail fawn appeared on the cover of the June issue of *Natural History*. And *Philip W. Tompkins*, whose showing of "Southern Utah Scenes" at the California Academy of Sciences drew an even larger crowd than his 1953 program on the

Valley of the Goblins. This amateur photographer of 72 years' experience (he began at the age of 10) regularly visits remote sections of Utah and other parts of the Southwest; his striking color slides are outstanding.

*Wallace Stegner* of Stanford University has persuaded *Holiday* magazine to turn over to the Stanford library all of its original manuscripts and correspondence from the late *Bernard DeVoto*. Stanford has purchased the DeVoto library, and with this and other augmentations, it should be an invaluable source of conservation material written and collected by one of America's most vigorously outspoken champions of the cause.

One of the judges at the State Fair this year was *Gene Serr* of Davis, in the agricultural products division. *Ken Turner* is pleading for the return of the Mother Lode Chapter "trip book," a valuable compilation of information and statistics which somehow must be still in someone's car or home.

*Bob Rowe* has had another adventure—this time he was the rescued instead of the rescuer, though. On a trip to Chilnualna Falls near Wawona he slipped in the stream and found himself marooned on a rocky islet. Tehipite members *Maury Hunt*, *Ernie Cook*, and *Dr. William Reynolds* provided an uphill log bridge over which Bob pulled himself to safety.

New chairman of Loma Prieta Chapter is *Walter Ward*, replacing *Jim Peabody*, who is now in Vienna. The Loma Prietas have had some delightful outdoor parties during the summer months—for instance, a barbecue at the home of *Russell* and *Dorothy Varian*, with about 60 people enjoying the food, chatter and folk dancing, and another at the Paul Masson Winery in Saratoga, with a panoramic view of the Santa Clara Valley.

The Lemoore *Advocate* in an August issue carried a detailed description of the Bench Lake Base Camp by *Henry Leffert*, the editor and publisher of the paper. Hank is a new member, and he certainly seems to have enjoyed the outing.

*Bruce Cork* is one of the team of four University of California Radiation Laboratory physicists who recently discovered the "anti-neutron," last of the particles predicted by the present theory of atomic nuclear physics.

VIVIAN SCHAGEN

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.

## DIRECTORS

Alexander Hildebrand . . . . .	President
A. Starker Leopold . . . . .	Vice-President
Lewis F. Clark . . . . .	Secretary
Einar Nilsson . . . . .	Treasurer
Richard M. Leonard, 5th Member, Executive Committee	
Ansel Adams . . . . .	Oliver Kehrlin
Elmer C. Aldrich . . . . .	H. Stewart Kimball
Harold C. Bradley . . . . .	Charlotte E. Mauk
Nathan C. Clark . . . . .	Bestor Robinson
Harold E. Crowe . . . . .	William Siri
David R. Brower . . . . .	Executive Director
August Frugé . . . . .	Chairman, Editorial Board

## MONTHLY BULLETIN STAFF

Fred Gunsky . . . . .	Editor
Vivian Schagen . . . . .	Managing Editor
Harriet T. Parsons . . . . .	Associate Editor
Charlotte E. Mauk . . . . .	Dan L. Thrapp
John P. Schagen . . . . .	Peggy Wayburn

Published monthly except July and August by the Sierra Club, 2061 Center Street, Berkeley 4, California. Annual dues are \$7 (first year \$12), of which \$1 (nonmembers, \$3) is for subscription to the *Bulletin*. Entered as second class matter at Post Office, Berkeley, under act of March 3, 1879. All communications and contributions should be addressed to Sierra Club, 1050 Mills Tower, San Francisco 4. \*Reg. U.S. Pat. Off.



# Sierra Club Bulletin

VOLUME 41

OCTOBER, 1956

NUMBER 8

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

## New Staff Assignments on Monthly

**B**EGINNING with this issue of the monthly *Bulletin*, a new division of staff duties is effective. The change was authorized by the Editorial Board at a meeting on September 24.

Principal difference is that Vivian Schagen is now Managing Editor. She will assist in the assignment of subjects to writers and will supervise copy editing, proofreading, layout and the mechanical production of the monthly. Fred Gunsy, as Editor, will continue to be responsible for the general operation, for supervising the staff, and for planning contents and making assignments.

Still a key staff member is the editors' Associate, Harriet T. Parsons, whose experience, wisdom, and knowledge of the club's work are indispensable. Harriet will not only advise and assist the Editor and Managing Editor, but will assume new duties as the delegate of the Editorial Board to the Sierra Club Council.

In the future, a Photo Editor and an Advertising Manager will be named. The Editor would appreciate suggestions concerning persons who are qualified for these positions or for the varied *Bulletin* chores of writing, photography and art work. It is his intention to assign reporters to regular "beats" in the fields of Sierra Club interest and activity. Occasional contributions by others, of course, will always be welcomed.

The *Bulletin* rarely talks about itself. We do so now because we know you will be interested in our new *modus operandi*. By reminding you that we are here, striving be-

hind the scenes to give you an attractive, readable publication with adequate coverage of the club's major concerns, we hope to enlist your cooperation. If you can lend a hand, or have a friend who might, please let us know.

### CTL Credit Curbed

A reminder: If you have a credit account at Clair Tappaan Lodge that dates very far back, you should communicate with the Treasurer, Lodge Committee, Clair Tappaan Lodge, Norden. Accounts will be maintained for a period of three years only, effective December 1.

For details of the new lodge credit policy, see *SCB*, September 1956, page 4.

### Heald Visits Park Site

Weldon F. Heald, author and Sierran who has proposed the creation of a Great Basin National Park in Nevada, was a guest of the National Park Service on a three-day horseback inspection tour of the area in mid-August.

The joint survey with the U.S. Forest Service was made to study the Wheeler Peak-Lehman Caves region. Among the places visited were Lehman Creek, the glacier on Wheeler Peak, Baker Creek, Treasure Lake, Snake Creek and the Big Wash.

An article by Weldon Heald in next month's annual magazine number of the *Sierra Club Bulletin* discusses the proposed Great Basin National Park.



# White Water Races

## Club members compete in international classic

*Although Elsa Bailey, the very active Trips Chairman of the Bay Chapter's River Touring Section, doesn't mention it, she placed second in the national women's single slalom and third in the women's 25-mile down-river race which she describes here.*

The first national white water slalom race took place on the Arkansas River in Colorado this June. It was a part of the annual racing event that has been held there for the past eight years, sponsored by the Salida Chamber of Commerce, the local Fib Ark Club, and now also the American Canoe Association.

White water races are not very well known in this country, but they are not new. The Klamath River races are a tradition in the northern part of California, and the Hoopa Indians, who have always run these waters, are among the best racers—still using their old dugouts.

What particularly impressed me about the Arkansas River races was the friendliness everywhere, and also the good management throughout. There were a half-dozen international champions, including Roger Paris, our ski instructor at Clair Tappaan Lodge; and these contestants, instead of looking down their noses at some of us newcomers, were most friendly and gave us pointers on how to run the river.

There was great camaraderie among all the participants, some of whom were there for a week of practice. Some, even though they were competitors, lent equipment.

The races were well planned and the safety precautions well organized. Several times, as I was maneuvering a tough spot, I could see a trained member of the rescue corps all set to heave a line if I didn't make it; or I saw one of the jeeps scurrying along ahead of me.

There were three races this year: the American national slalom, the international slalom, and the down-river race—all amateur. These, in turn, were divided into men's

---

## Xmas Party: New Plans

The San Francisco Bay Chapter has changed the date of its Christmas Party to December 8, and the location too is new—the Flamingo Room of the Bermuda Palms, near San Rafael, which will be an attractive setting for dancing, entertainment, and a midnight meal.

---

single foldboat, women's single, and "two-man" canoe races. The slalom races are set up with gates to maneuver, similar to skiing slaloms. The evil geni of white water, however, make the contestant go through some of the gates backwards, and go around others in a complete circle despite fast water, rocks and minor rapids.

The down-river race was considered *the* race by many, and was the most exciting to watch. There was plenty of room—25 miles of it. It was estimated that 37,000 people watched this race, including many from a special Denver sightseeing train.

The main winners of these races were: Roger Paris who won the closely contested down-river race with each of the next seven contestants coming in about a minute apart; and Eric Seidel, a new immigrant from Germany who won both the men's single slalom races.

ELSA B. BAILEY

## Dr. Edwin Mauk Dies

We have just learned, with deep regret, of the death of Dr. Edwin H. Mauk following a prolonged illness. His daughter, Charlotte Mauk, is widely known in the Sierra Club as a director, a writer, a mainstay of many High Trips, and an outstanding conservationist. Dr. Mauk was a member for more than 30 years, deeply interested in photography.

The family has asked that in lieu of flowers, contributions be made to the club's Conservation and Memorial Fund. At the family's suggestion, the contributions will provide for exhibit material at Parsons Memorial Lodge, in Tuolumne Meadows, in an interpretative display envisioned by Ansel Adams and the Lodge Committee.



LOGGING AT GLASS CREEK

David R. Brower

## The Fate of Deadman Creek

TO THE EAST of the crest of the Sierra Nevada, the desert land stretches endlessly, with acres of gray sage brush and brown wastelands of pumice flats. It is with special wonder that we find the forests near Mammoth Gap, where the moisture-laden winds from the west sweep through, bringing life to the barren land. These are forests of lodgepole pine, or red fir, and most beautifully, of Jeffrey pine — delightful parklands of rosy-barked giants soaring above the cone-decked forest floor. These Jeffreys march up the sides of the little craters near Mammoth Mountain, and sometimes find their way down to the blue crater-lakes below. Along the "glass flows" the trees come close, and some find a precarious foot-

hold among the black chunks of obsidian.

Through these pine forests course bright-watered streams. On one of them, nearly a century ago, violence was done, and the headless corpse of a miner was found floating in a quiet pool. And so this lovely stream has since been known as Deadman Creek, after the dreadful burden it once bore.

It is not for murder, though, that Deadman Creek concerns us. It is for the 3,000 acres around it, with its fragrant forests, its unique geological formations, and its backdrop of colorful metamorphic peaks. This is an area which, until this year, has remained an exquisite island of near-wilderness in the midst of the onrushing tides of civilization. The Deadman Creek Recreation area has



been no isolated island, however, for although it is near the crest of the Sierra on the west, it has Highway 395 as its boundary on the east. Many men have explored and enjoyed this country—the prospector, the fisherman, the hunter, the lumberman; some have eyed its treasures covetously, while others have felt its beauty so keenly that they said it should have National Park status.

But the Deadman Creek area is Forest Service land, and as such it has been relatively undisturbed for many years. While other areas around it have been cut over, this has survived in its natural state. Until this year, its Jeffrey pines have been allowed to live through their natural life spans, lifting their plumed branches to fill their appointed places in the heavy blue air, and finding their final resting place on a bed of ruddy, sweet-smelling pine needles.

The time has come, however, when the Deadman Creek area is no longer to be untouched. Under the increasing pressures and demands of economic and recreational growth, the Forest Service is opening up this area—and many others like it—for the development and use of man. This is our great concern.

Not very long ago, the development of such an area would hardly have been cause for second thought. There seemed to be a limitless supply of primitive land like our Deadman Creek area just a few decades ago. To “open it up” was a bright challenge. Today, however, there is a very different challenge to the managing of our remaining unused lands: it is full of complex problems, with far-reaching and sometimes dangerous implications. For, today, we have come to the end of one era and the start of another: our frontier is closed, and our wilderness is vanishing. We must husband what is left with great care, for our wilderness resources are invaluable, and irreplaceable. There is no substitute for them.

### *Setting a pattern*

As Deadman Creek, the problem of how a precious piece of primitive land should be developed has come into sharp focus. Here, it involves the Forest Service, for the Forest Service, which has kept this area relatively preserved, is now deciding its fate. And the fate of Deadman Creek is important not only in itself, but for the pattern it is setting. As the story is written here, it will be repeated in many other places where the Forest Service is disposing of its remaining undeveloped areas.

In considering the fate of Deadman Creek, it is necessary to understand just what the Forest Service is. Some of us may think of the Forest Service as being concerned only with our commodity resources, but it is far more than a timber-managing bureau. The Forest Service is actually responsible for some 188 million acres, or close to 10 per cent of our total lands. Initially, this vast acreage was established to protect our timber and watershed resources. Through use and demand, however, and the wise policy of the Department of Agriculture, much of this land is open to recreation, and some of it has been made into a great public treasure of protected wilderness.

In administering these vast holdings, the Forest Service is charged with providing for as many uses as possible of the resources of its lands. (Even its Wilderness Areas, per-



*One of the Deadman Creek area's crater-lakes*

*(David R. Brower)*



*Jeffrey pine forest  
in Deadman Creek  
Recreation Area*

*(Hal Roth)*



haps its most highly protected, and certainly its least developed lands, allow for grazing and mining.) The objective of the Service is "the greatest good for the greatest number in the long run." To attain this end, the principle of "multiple use" is always applied wherever possible.

To facilitate the administration of its lands, the Forest Service began the classification of certain areas of high scenic value as early as the late 1920's. Thus we have our Wilderness and Wild Areas—set up by the Chief Forester and preserved as much as possible in their natural state. (Scenic, Natural, Geologic and Roadless Areas have also been set up, but account for only a very small percentage of total Forest Service acreage.) At the same time, Recreational Areas have been designated—and these are most often developed for intensive recreational use, for car-camping, trailer-camping, summer homes, etc. (By the original Forest Service Act of 1893, mining is permitted anywhere in our forests, and the right of entry to private land is guaranteed.)

The rest—and by far the most—of our National Forest land is not classified for scenic protection: within this large area lie the "timber working circles," established by the local Forest Supervisor, and approved by the Regional Forester. Much of the Forest Service land which we enjoy so much in its primitive state is already in a "timber working circle," or may fall within one some

time in the near future, and so is subject to be cut eventually.

This was the case with the Deadman Creek area: it was a part of the Owens Valley working circle of the Inyo Forest, established in the twenties. Until 1951, its timber was not needed, but at that time the Forest Service scheduled a "sanitation" cut for this area, with recreational use to follow. This was not widely known, and caused no great stir until a similar "sanitation" cut took place in 1952 and 1953 in the area adjoining Deadman Creek, the Glass Creek area. Unfortunately, this cut did not look as though it had been handled with recreation primarily in mind, and it caused a storm of protest from many quarters.

### *Conservationists protest*

When it was realized that a like fate was planned for the Deadman Creek area, conservationists from all over the country joined with local residents in protest. It was pointed out that the forest at Deadman Creek was among the few virgin Jeffrey pine forests left anywhere in the country, and one of special charm. Many people felt that this forest, with its adjoining craters and crater-lakes, and its exciting skyline of Sierra peaks, was valuable enough to receive a "wilderness" classification. But the Forest Service felt that the area was not only highly suited to recreational use—and greatly

needed for such use—but according to Service stands, it could hardly be a “wilderness” with some roads already invading it, and parcels of private land in it.

Then why the “sanitation” cut—or any cut? it was asked. Why not develop this area for recreational use without first holding a timber sale?

The answers given by the Forest Service were several. According to its policy of “multiple use,” the timber management of a Recreational Area was entirely proper. Not only would the harvesting of “overmature” trees benefit the local economy, it would also promote a *healthier* forest (from the timber-management view, a virgin forest is seldom healthy). Furthermore, at Deadman Creek, there was some incidence of beetle-infested trees, and these should be removed to prevent an epidemic. The Forest Service also pointed out that there were many “dangerous” trees (trees with mechanical defects) in this area which might cause injury to campers and so bring on damage suits, a big drain on the Forest Service till. Furthermore, by holding a timber sale prior to opening up this area, it would be possible to build roads which would later be of great benefit and use to the campers and other recreationists.

### *Many questions*

These answers were met with further questions by interested groups: exactly how large was the incidence of beetle-infested trees in the Deadman Creek area? Would removing them really prevent an epidemic, or would it preclude the possibility of “immunization” and needed research? Should local economy be placed above nation-wide enjoyment of this area? Was it really necessary to remove “dangerous” trees, or could Forest Service regulations be rewritten to avoid damage suits from campers injured in a recreational area? Was not the natural cycle of a virgin Jeffrey pine forest important in itself—perhaps more important than having just another healthy, managed forest?

As the issues involved at Deadman Creek took on major proportions, the Forest Service suspended all development until a thorough study could be made. This study

has gone on for several years, and has involved on-the-scene investigation by many interested groups, including the Sierra Club. Out of its own investigations, the Service has evolved a written policy for the development of *all* Recreation Areas, handed down by Chief McArdle in 1954, and the Forest Service feels that this is a major step forward.

This policy, in essence, reiterates the stand taken by the Forest Service in 1953: it provides that (1) a “high risk” cut should be made in preparation of an area zoned for *intensive* recreational use — to remove the “dangerous” trees, the “overmature” trees, the insect-infested trees; (2) a similar cut should be made in surrounding areas of *extensive* use (the back-country or “run-around” areas), which are now zoned “reserved” and which may or may not be developed for recreational use in the future. This policy also provides for a “repeat” cut as needed to keep the “high risk” trees at a minimum. It is, in effect, a statement of “multiple use” for timber-harvesting and recreation. Under this policy, while an area is zoned primarily for recreation, sooner or later, every tree growing on it will be harvested for the sawmill.

Shortly after this policy was made public, the Forest Service marked the trees in the Deadman Creek area and invited interested parties to inspect just what they proposed to cut. This the Sierra Club did in June of 1956, and was convinced that the trees had been marked with conscientious care.

What is the stand of the Sierra Club as to the fate of the Deadman Creek area? Throughout the controversy, the club has taken an active and interested part. We have added some questions of our own to those asked above, for instance: how far should development go in areas zoned primarily for recreation? *Can* the Forest Service open up undeveloped lands for recreation without cutting? Can it not maintain areas of natural forest outside its wilderness areas as buffer zones? If a “high risk” cut is necessary, should it take the 25–30 per cent of merchantable timber as it does at Deadman Creek?

From the answers we have received from



the Forest Service and from intensive on-the-scene study and much thought and soul-searching, the Sierra Club has reached the following conclusions:

1. We approve the zoning of the Deadman Creek area primarily for recreational use.

2. We approve the Forest Service timber management plan for "preparation" of the *heavily used areas* in a recreational zone.

3. We question strongly the Forest Service timber management plan for back-country "run-around" areas in a recreational zone, and doubt seriously that it is either wise or necessary.

Shortly after receiving these conclusions from the Sierra Club, the Forest Service proceeded with its "high risk" cut of the Deadman Creek area as planned, and there is no longer a virgin Jeffrey pine forest there.

We should all consider the fate of Deadman Creek with care. Did we actually make proper disposition of this area? Should the pattern set here be followed extensively? Are we wise to set such a pattern for recreational development at this time? Is it our obligation to plan the management of our comparatively few remaining primitive areas now?

As we answer these questions, and the others raised earlier in this discussion, we should keep in mind those who follow us. Shouldn't we leave some of these questions unanswered, so that they, too, may have the right of choice? Is it really our privilege to make *all* the irrevocable decisions now? Just what kind of a wilderness heritage are we leaving for our children—and theirs?

PEGGY and EDGAR WAYBURN

## Speaking of Conservation

As a member of the Sierra Club, no matter whether you think of yourself as a skier, rock climber, camper, river tourist or tree watcher, you are tagged with the label *conservationist*. Some friends ask your opinions of forestry practices, others *razz* you about being kind to wildcats. Many, who have not had your fortunate introduction to the facts of nature, dismiss you as a mere do-gooder.

How well do you handle yourself when the subject of conservation is discussed? Do you find that the ideas involved are hard to grasp, equally hard to put across?

For generations membership in the Sierra Club has provided opportunities to meet people who understand the essential meaning of conservation, to share with them—around the campfire and elsewhere—one's beliefs and questions and personal hunches in this most important line of thinking.

The time has long passed, of course, when all the club's members, or even the members of a big chapter, could sit down together in one room. It is possible to share ideas in anything like the old way?

Here is a suggestion for chapter leaders and individuals who are interested in this problem. With a little initiative and a minimum of organizing, you can start a discus-

sion group in your local area that will fill a genuine need.

Talk with a few of your Sierra Club friends and acquaintances, choose a favorable time once or twice a month, and get together for a series of brain-picking sessions on conservation.

A slim, readable "text" is available to guide such discussions. It is *Concepts of Conservation*, a 48-page pamphlet published by The Conservation Foundation in New York City. Copies may be obtained, at 25 cents each, from the Sierra Club, 1050 Mills Tower, San Francisco 4.

Besides suggesting "some basic ideas regarding man's relationship to nature and the maintenance of prosperity now and in the years ahead," the pamphlet contains reading lists and film lists that will help you to keep your discussions on the right track. The emphasis is on renewable resources—water, land, plant and animal life.

Whether you end up with a version of the Great Books series, a college-style bull session, or something all your own, we know you will enjoy yourselves. You'll learn some answers and a great many questions. And when you hear the challenging word *conservationist* you'll be ready to speak right up.

# Directors' Meeting

## *Special committee presents Yosemite recommendations*

AS MIGHT have been expected, the Directors' meeting held in Yosemite Valley on September 22-23 gave much attention to Yosemite problems.

There were perhaps sixty persons seated in a rough semicircle under the trees beside LeConte Lodge, and it was fitting that sunshine and the fragrance of cedars and pines, the chatter of jays, and vistas of distant blue-hazed granite helped set the tone of the discussions.

Present to take part in the discussions or to listen with evident interest were all the Directors, the Executive Director, and the Conservation Chairman; Honorary President William E. Colby and Honorary Vice-presidents Horace Albright and Walter Starr; a number of chapter representatives and visiting members; Regional Director Lawrence Merriam, Yosemite Superintendent John Preston, Sequoia-Kings Superintendent Tom Allen, and many others from the National Park Service; Earl Bachman and George James from the Regional Office of the Forest Service; and officials of such organizations as the Wilderness Society, National Parks Association, and California Conservation Council.

### *Report of study group*

As chairman of a special committee, D. Hanson Grubb presented his study group's recommendations for protection of Yosemite Valley from further overuse. One of the recommendations was to remove from the Valley those maintenance operations that could as well be carried on elsewhere. The report also urged "freezing" the number of overnight accommodations in the Valley until impact studies demonstrate whether they can safely be increased within the Valley itself or should be provided nearby, and study of how camping space can be increased without impairment of natural features. It was further urged that the "resort" type of amusement for visitors be de-emphasized, lest those who would seek the park for its own sake be crowded out by those who are

attracted by entertainment features appropriately available elsewhere. The Board approved the recommendations in principle, and urged their early implementation under Mission 66. (Superintendent Preston subsequently indicated that these recommendations and the provisions in Mission 66 "are very close together," and assured the Sierra Club that the details of Mission 66 for Yosemite would be made public after they had been approved in Washington.)

### *Colby's comments*

Mr. Colby, commenting on the report, expressed his opinion that in spite of the heavy use the Valley "is in better shape now than it was 60 years ago," for the insects and dust that prevailed then have been abated and the farming and grazing of that day have been removed. As for crowding—he believes that people always will complain of it. He cited the objection to the crowds expressed by John Muir's friend Mrs. Carr, at a time when there were only fifty persons staying in the Valley all winter. It was considered "a terrible impact," he points out, when 10,000 visitors were in the Valley, and now it is four times that. He does not believe in arbitrary limitation, but urges that the Valley not be made "attractive to the people in a way that is not consonant with park values."

Horace Albright pointed out that there seems to be no way of imposing limitations without discrimination, and expressed his opinion that the Valley is all right as it is. He commented on human gregariousness: "People would rather tie onto one another's tent stakes than drive their own." He also noted rather sadly the change in visitor habits and the attendant diminution of trail use in the parks—but added quickly that he does not advocate one more mile of roads.

Yosemite is not the only national park in which there are use problems. Regional Director Merriam described the concern over impact damage in certain parts of Mount



Rainier National Park. Following considerable discussion, the Board voted:

Considering the fragile quality of the natural environment of primary scenic areas in Mount Rainier National Park, the Sierra Club urges that public overnight facilities at Paradise and Yakima Park within the national park be reduced to accord with the carrying capacity of those areas.

In Olympic National Park problems are of a different type—there the damage is caused by those who come, not to visit the park, but to exploit its resources. The officers of the Sierra Club are seriously concerned by current timber-salvage activity within the park, which is reported to differ little from normal logging operations and to have been extended beyond justifiable application. Dick Leonard pointed out that other conservation organizations have repeatedly protested the salvage operations in Olympic National Park as a dangerous tendency to try to realize a cash return on park resources, rather than letting natural processes go on. The Board voted:

The Sierra Club requests that the National Park Service promptly develop precise written policies defining the occasions, methods, and extent of timber salvage in conformity to the purposes for which national parks are established. The Sierra Club also requests that no further timber salvage contracts be negotiated until such precise policies are established.

With the hope of aiding in interpretation of parks, the Board voted approval in principle of a proposal that the Sierra Club establish a conservation exhibit in Parsons Lodge.

With regard to threats to Glacier National Park, the Board voted:

The Sierra Club opposes the authorization of any dams in the Clark Fork Basin of the Columbia River until flood control needs have been determined and it has been ascertained that the dams proposed will provide needed flood control without affecting Glacier National Park.

There was considerable discussion of the developing Forest Service policy for timber cutting in areas planned for recreational use,

---

## Boardwalk Leads to Everglades Birdlife

The Anhinga Trail, an unobtrusive, zigzag boardwalk in the Everglades National Park in Florida, takes the observer into the heart of the Taylor Slough, where the most remarkable display of birdlife can be seen by walking only a few steps. In this sanctuary, the beautiful egrets, the wood ibis, America's only stork, the anhinga or water turkey, after which the trail is named, the purple gallinule, bitterns, herons, alligators, water snakes, and many other species of wildlife carry on their natural lives without fear of man. Feeding the wildlife is forbidden, and the Everglades are unchanged by human interference.

Edwin Way Teale, whose article in a recent issue of *Natural History* describes this fascinating area in detail, adds an interesting conclusion. "It seems to me," he says, "that this simple wooden path into Taylor Slough is one of the most interesting and successful features to be found anywhere among our natural wonders. Yet its total cost was only \$2,000!"

Isn't this a good example of the simplicity and economy we are aiming for in all our national parks?

---

as initiated in the Mammoth-Glass Creek area and presumably to be applied to the region lying east of the Kern River. The Sierra Club still feels doubtful about some features of the policy. The Directors voted:

The Sierra Club requests the U.S. Forest Service to expedite the planning and zoning for use of the area extending south from Sequoia National Park boundaries to Walker Pass and east of the Kern River, including the approximate boundaries for recreation areas, wild and wilderness areas, and timber-management areas. The Sierra Club also requests that no further timber sales be authorized in this region until these plans are finalized.

As usual the end of the available time was reached long before the end of the agenda. It was the consensus that the next meeting should be held on Saturday and Sunday, January 19 and 20, 1957, in the San Francisco Bay area.

C. E. M.

# Hail and Fair Weather

## Outings encounter whims of climate

THIS SUMMER the mountains offered interesting snow and trail conditions and all kinds of weather. Reports from the National Park Service in the middle of July, from a two-week survey on foot and horseback in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National parks, indicated that many trails were closed because of slides and washouts, and much snow and ice was still present. The snow conditions the length of the Sierra lasted on the high passes through the summer. Snow blocked Muir Pass; Forester was closed; many others such as Donohue were passable only to foot travel.

Since Forester Pass was closed, the High Trip in the Mount Whitney region had to stay south of Forester, although Kearsarge was included in the original itinerary. We know there was rain throughout the Sierra a good part of the summer. From reports, no one got wetter than the Wilderness Base Camp at Bench Lake. It rained every day and/or every night; there was hail; there was thunder and lightning; there were flash floods. Knapsackers and climbers at this camp ruggedly pursued their goals and survived, but they all got soaked. It was a bit drier—or there were a few more days without rain—at the Emerald Lake Base Camp.

As for the out-of-California trips—the High Trip in Glacier Peak Limited Area, Washington, turned into a Base Camp, as the trail was bogged down by the heavy rains, and the packer was unwilling to take his animals over the steep switchbacks with the trail in that condition. Alaska weather is always chancy, and the fabulous knapsack trip to the northern St. Elias Range was disappointed in first ascents and hoped-for summits because of the weather. Otherwise everything was carried out as planned. In contrast, the weather in the San Juan Mountains of Colorado was outstandingly wonderful. A bit of rain the first day led the high trippers to expect the “afternoon storm every day” which the packer predicted, but

---

## 1956 Directory

Now available from the National Wildlife Federation for only 40 cents is the *1956 Conservation Directory*, an annual publication which reaches 96 pages this year, with over 200 new listings. Here are international, national, federal, state and private conservation organizations of the United States, Canada, Latin America and the Philippines, with their officers and personnel. Order from: National Wildlife Federation, 232 Carroll Street, N.W., Washington 12, D.C.

---

it never again materialized until the very last day. And then it wasn't much.

All this *may* mean of course, that next year there won't be wet weather in the Sierra (we can't vouch for the Northwest). You never can tell. But it always pays to take a chance—and take a trip.

## Winter Damage in Redwood Parks

*Many of us have wondered how last winter's floods affected park areas in the northern part of California. An open letter in the Yodeler brought this response from Henry Saddler, former Chief Ranger at Tamalpais, now stationed at Weott. We are reprinting it here in part as we think it will be of interest to all Sierrans.*

Editor:

Weott, California

It is gratifying to know that you wonderful people of the Sierra Club are so interested in our problems. . . .

Our parks in this area all suffered damage but since some was of minor significance this description will cover only the units that received major abuse. The southernmost of these parks is Richardson Grove. Here in the main grove some thirty campsites were lost, either through being completely or partially washed away or through extremely heavy silt deposits. Several utility buildings were destroyed or damaged, some beyond repair, and four larger residences were flooded to a depth of about eight feet. Some trees also came down, but not any large redwoods.

To the north of Richardson Grove the



next units suffering loss were in Humboldt Redwoods State Park. Three operating units of this 22,000-acre park—Stephens Grove, Williams Grove and Burlington Campground—were severely damaged. Many losses here were similar to those at Richardson Grove. At the next unit, Grizzly Creek Redwoods State Park on the Van Duzen River, some of the facilities were damaged and three camp units completely washed away.

The loss of facilities in all of the units mentioned represents approximately \$523,700, including two park-owned bridges and park roads. . . . But our greatest and most irreplaceable loss is to the biotic potential. Some four or five hundred of our most magnificent trees in Bull Creek Flat, Rockefeller Forest area, are gone. Hundreds of tons of precious top soil are now at sea. Spawning and spawning areas suffered extremely heavy

damage. The sad part of all this destruction is that it can be traced to man. Man-caused wildfire and poor logging practices prior to the heavy rains are possibly the two major contributors to the catastrophe. How many more such insults these magnificent trees can withstand I would not venture to estimate, but surely we should make every effort . . . to prevent further man-made injuries to this world-renowned redwood region.

Our Chief Ranger of the Humboldt Redwoods State Park, Mr. Carl Anderson, has taken many color slides of the flood damage, and in particular the damage in the Bull Creek area, and we would be most happy to appear before the club at your convenience, to show them and try to answer any questions regarding them. . . .

Conservationally yours,  
HENRY SADDLER

## FWOC Silver Anniversary

SUSTAINED and growing interest in conservation was demonstrated at the 25th annual convention of the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs, held during the Labor Day week end at Fan Lake, near Spokane, Washington.

More than 175 officers, delegates and guests gathered to enjoy the hospitality of the Hobnailers of Spokane, and they frequently passed up opportunities in the well-planned social and outing program to attend the business sessions and talk conservation.

President Karl Onthank did an excellent job of conducting the meetings and maintained an unusual continuity of interest in major conservation problems. The sessions were enlivened with talks by distinguished guests, including Olaus Murie, President, and Howard Zahniser, Executive Secretary, of the Wilderness Society; John Sieker, the U.S. Forest Service's chief of lands and recreation; and Frank Folsom, William Parke, Henry Harrison and Don Williamson of the Forest Service.

Ned Graves, Western Representative of the National Parks Association, Preston Macey, Superintendent of Mount Rainier National Park, and Lon Garrison, newly ap-

pointed Superintendent of Yellowstone National Park, spoke a number of times. Garrison gave an illustrated explanation of Mission 66 that was brightened by some welcome humor.

David R. Brower and Dr. Edgar Wayburn made a forced-draft trip from the Sierra Club outings in the near-by Glacier Peak Limited Area, arriving in time to supply current information for the discussions of the Wilderness Area proposed to protect the region.

The Resolutions Committee took more than nine hours to screen and rewrite the 28 statements submitted by delegates and member clubs.

For lack of time or needed information, only 12 resolutions and three motions were acted upon and adopted at the final meeting. They will appear in full in the next issue of *Western Outdoor Quarterly*.

The resolutions included:

- Recommendation of a national Scenic Resources Review, to be coordinated with the existing survey of commodity resources.
- Opposition to the proposed Bruce Eddy and Penny Cliffs dams on the Clearwater River, Idaho.

• Urging the creation of a National Wilderness Preservation System as proposed in current congressional legislation.

• Recommendation to the Forest Service for reclassification of Glacier Peak Limited Area, Washington, to Wilderness Area status.

• Request that the Forest Service revise allotments of funds to provide more adequate maintenance of trails.

• Regarding Oregon's Three Sisters wilderness, a request that the present Primitive Area boundaries be retained without reduction until comprehensive studies are made.

• Opposition to extending the time for a construction start on the Beaver Marsh project, Oregon, with a request that the license for construction be revoked.

• Opposition to the present proposal to locate a Shrine of the Ages chapel on the rim at Grand Canyon National Park.

• Suggestion for improving the location of the Olympic Strip Road, Washington.

• Recommendations for changes in routing, maintenance and use of the Pacific Crest Trail system in Washington and Oregon.

• Recommendation of a state inventory of public lands in Washington.

Motions enacted were concerned with:

• Waldo Lake, Oregon; proper protective status proposed.

• Oil leases in U.S. wildlife reserves; review and revocation recommended.

• Dams on the Snake River in Grand Teton National Park; opposition to the proposal.

All the Federation's officers, including Forrest Keck, Deputy Vice-president for California, were reelected. Ora Niemela, who resigned as Editor of *Western Outdoor Quarterly*, was succeeded by Luella Sawyer of Mill Valley, California.

The offer by the Contra Costa Hills Club to be host to the 1957 convention at the City of Berkeley Camp in the Cazadero Redwoods was accepted. Because of the proximity of the site to the San Francisco Bay Area, it is hoped that there will be a large turnout from the Sierra Club. More than 25 Sierra Club members attended the Spokane meeting, and most of them came all the way from Southern California. ART BLAKE,

*Sierra Club Delegate*

---

## Voices of Yosemite

Oh hush the roaring cataract  
And the boom of the waterfall,  
And hear the song of the river,  
The curling brooklet's call.

Silence the wind in the canyons  
And hear the pine boughs sway,  
The note of the hidden warbler,  
The noisy sky-patched jay.

Quiet the calls of the woodland  
For a moment precious and brief,  
And hear the falling needle,  
The twirling yellow leaf.

Oh hush the whispering aspen  
As the sun sinks out of sight,  
And hear the sound of silence  
In the stillness of the night.

PHYLLIS E. ANDERSON

---

## Who's Going?

The U.S. Penitentiary at Atlanta, Georgia, has just requested the Sierra Club to submit a bid for a copy of *Going Light* for resale. The request was accompanied by 3000 words of instructions, including a questionnaire. The editor has offered a free copy if the institution can't come up with an easier procedure. It would cost more than the price of the book to comply with all the requirements!

## A Letter of Thanks

Riverside Chapter received from Mr. Albert W. Marsh of the U. S. Salinity Laboratory at Riverside a letter expressing "appreciation to the Sierra Club for the manner in which you took into your fellowship two of our recent foreign trainees. The experiences they had with you were the high point of their stay in Riverside during the past ten weeks. Frequently some of our foreign trainees find it difficult to adjust to life in a new community, particularly where there is a language difficulty. In some cases they become quite morose, especially during the long week ends. The potentiality of joining with a group such as yours can be of tremendous value to the entire Foreign-Aid Training Program. We hope that future trainees may be privileged to follow the same course."



# Almanac

HERE IS a new sound on the beach, and a greater sound. Slowly, and day by day, the surf grows heavier, and down the long miles of the beach, at the lonely stations, men hear the coming winter in the roar. Mornings and evenings grow cold, the northwest wind grows cold; the last crescent of the month's moon, discovered by chance in a pale morning sky, stands north of the sun. Autumn ripens faster on the beach than on the marshes and the dunes. Westward and landward there is color; seaward, bright space and austerity. Lifted to the sky, the dying grasses on the dune tops' rim tremble and lean seaward in the wind, wraiths of sand course flat along the beach, the hiss of sand mingles its thin stridency with the new thunder of the sea.

HENRY BESTON

*The Outermost House* (New York: Rinehart & Co., 1949)

THE ANT is knowing and wise; but he doesn't know enough to take a vacation. The worshipper of energy is too physically energetic to see that he cannot explore certain higher fields until he is still.

CLARENCE DAY,  
*This Simian World*

AMONG MANY WOODSMEN there is a belief that every color to which a tree is exposed during its life glows when that tree is burned. If you look deep into the coals you can find the pinks and violets of the dawn, the blueness of the sky, the burning brightness of the noonday sun, the angry black of the thunder cloud, the crimson of the sunset, the silver radiance of the moonlight and brilliant transparency of the stars.

NORMAN REIMERS

Wilderness to the people of America is a spiritual necessity, an antidote to the high pressure of modern life, a means of regaining serenity and equilibrium.

SIGURD F. OLSON

Now on TV!

## "Mayor of the Town"

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

## THOMAS MITCHELL

This heart-warming TV show is of *special* interest to all members of Sierra Club. Be sure to watch each week, and tell your friends!

CHECK YOUR LOCAL TV STATION BELOW:

BAKERSFIELD	
KERO-TV 10	Mondays 7:30 PM
CHICO	
KHSL-TV 12	Wednesdays 7:00 PM
EUREKA	
KIEM-TV 3	Saturdays 9:00 PM
FRESNO	
KMJ-TV 24	Sundays 6:30 PM
LOS ANGELES	
KTTV 11	Wednesdays 9:30 PM
SACRAMENTO	
KCRA-TV 3	Thursdays 7:00 PM
SALINAS	
KSBW-TV 8	Saturdays 9:00 PM
SAN DIEGO	
KFSD-TV 10	Mondays 7:00 PM
SAN FRANCISCO	
KGO-TV 7	Mondays 7:00 PM
SAN JOSE	
KNTV 11	Fridays 9:00 PM
SAN LUIS OBISPO	
KVEC-TV 6	Tuesdays 8:30 PM
SANTA BARBARA	
KEY-TV 3	Sundays 6:30 PM
STOCKTON	
KOVR 13	Mondays 8:30 PM
YUMA	
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.

Presented by

**RICHFIELD**

*"Conservation of natural resources means better living for YOU"*

# Bulletin Board

**D**ESPITE PROTESTS by interested local and national groups, the Forest Service has gone ahead with its timber sale of the Salmon Creek area in Cannell Meadows, Sequoia National Forest. Contract for cutting was awarded to the Mt. Whitney Lumber Company.

Senator Thomas Kuchel (California) has stated that he will hold a hearing before a subcommittee of the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee to investigate this sale.

- The Sierra Club has recommended that the Forest Service study the entire southern area of the Sequoia Forest for use and zoning—and has requested that no further timber sales be held until this study is complete.

**We recommend strongly that all Sierra Club members study the platforms of both the Republican and Democrat parties with regard to their respective stands on conservation.**

- The decision is still pending on the boundaries of the Three Sisters Wilderness Area, and will probably be held up until after the election. This is still a crucial conservation matter, both in itself and for the precedent it will set. You may still express your opinion to Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Benson to good effect.

Recent figures from the first national hunting and fishing survey (made under the supervision of the Fish and Wildlife Service) reveal that nearly 25,000,000 Americans spent nearly \$3,000,000,000 for 500,000,000 days of hunting and fishing in 1955.

- Senator Warren G. Magnuson (Washington) has called a hearing of the Senate Interior Committee on the question of removing overnight facilities from Mt. Rainier National Park (as part of the plans of Mission 66). National Park Director Conrad Wirth is coming west to attend this hearing in Tacoma, Washington on October 15.

- The Sierra Club has requested the California State Park Commission to expand the Mt. Tamalpais State Park to its logical limits before impeding real estate developments make such expansion impractical.

## • *Marked items urgent; individuals can help*

- The National Council of State Garden Clubs has published a "Questions and Answers" sheet about salvage logging in Olympic National Park which states that a great deal of healthy standing timber is being removed from this Park under the guise of salvage.

From the *Timber Resources Review*: 25 per cent of timber logged under current logging practices is wasted; by far the greatest volume of our timber comes from cut-over lands; only 27 per cent of our commercial forest land is owned by the government, with 73 per cent in private hands; at present, there are about 3 acres of commercial forest per person in the United States; at our current rate of population increase, there will be 1.75 acres per person in the year 2000.

**Bids for the reconstruction of the famous "21-mile stretch" of the Tioga Road will be let in 1957. It is expected that the road will be completed by 1960.**

- The promotion of "drainage" through the Soil Bank Act is being opposed vigorously by Dakota conservation groups. They state that such "drainage (while increasing agriculture production) increases downstream flooding, depletes surface and underground water supplies, increases run-off, induces soil erosion and destroys irreplaceable wildlife habitats . . . defeats the objectives of the Soil Bank Act."

Should we destroy irreplaceable, invaluable wilderness to keep the plethora of pulps on our newsstands? The National Wildlife Federation questions the ethical content (as well as the accuracy) of the recent Rayonier Inc. advertisement which advocates the logging of Olympic National Park to help the shortage of newsprint.

*The Federation states: "to justify the cutting of forests, the producers of paper products must justify the use of their products as it affects our culture."*

EDGAR and PEGGY WAYBURN