



SIERRA CLUB  
BULLETIN *November*  
1956

# People You Know

IN 1916 Dr. T. D. Atkinson joined the Sierra Club, and since then he has been on virtually every committee of the Angeles (formerly Southern California) Chapter—except one.

Now he has filled in the gap. Doc will serve as a member of the new Executive Committee for the coming year, along with other new members: *Bill Henderson, John Nienhuis, Irene Charnock, Warren Flock, and Bill Dorris.*

Other chapters also elected new executive committees this fall. Los Padres named *Elaine Bradbury, Ivan Evans, Gladys Swackhamer* and *Jack Wheeler* as new members. Ivan also replaces Barrett as chapter chairman.

New Executive Committee members chosen at San Diego include *Loris Foster, Bob Pamperin, and June Pattullo.*

Southern area rock climbers continue to make news. *Jerry Gallwas, Mark Powell* and *Don Wilson* made a first ascent of Cleopatra's Needle in the Valley of Thundering Water, New Mexico, in September. The 200-foot sandstone pillar is in Navajo country about 50 miles south

of Shiprock and 10 miles from Fort Defiance, Arizona. The climbers had a lot of trouble with the sandstone—pitons put in the first day could be removed with the fingers the second . . . only two of 30 used on the final pitch had to be pounded out, and most of them fell out while the second and third man were coming to the top via an anchor bolt placed by Mark, first up. The summit was very small, just big enough for the three to straddle its two-foot width. . . . On the way home the trio made a first ascent of Chimney Rock, or Bill Williams Monument, near Williams. The climb, 50 or 60 feet of good granite, was quite a relief.

The Angeles Crest highway was opened to Big Pines in November, making the Rock Creek-Mount Williamson climbing area more accessible, which will not be an unmixed blessing. More accessibility means more people and often less accessibility is to be preferred. The road will not be open in winter, however, for the present, so skiers won't get much help from it.

*Winnie Fraser* of Los Padres Chapter reported an adventure in Menagerie Canyon where *Don Teague, Jim Higman, Max Carson, and Steve Illig*, among others, set up camp after dark in mid-October. Seems they spotted three shadowy figures (maybe Indians) lurking around the ridges overlooking their camp. Couldn't identify them and couldn't lure them up to the fire, either. Steve solved it, though, darting off into the darkness and rounding them up. They turned out to be three young fellows from Los Angeles out on a private desert adventure. It is not recorded whether the Los Padres group gave them application blanks, but they should have.

Angeles Chapter's Conservation Committee again put on a booth at the County Fair at Pomona and, thanks to *Ed Fackler* and *Al Burnett*, made it an effective aid in bringing the club and its work to the attention of many who might otherwise not know of it.

*Will Siri* presented pictures of his Peruvian Andes expedition at an annual banquet of the San Diego Chapter, attended by more than 100, thanks in good part to *Nancy* and *Erskine Hazard*, reservation chairmen. . . . *Will Colby* addressed the annual banquet of the Angeles Chapter in October, and no one could do better than he to relate the early growth and development of the club.

DAN L. THRAPP

**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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# Sierra Club Bulletin

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

## First Word on Summer Outings

THE Outing Committee, whose chairman is Dr. H. Stewart Kimball, is in the throes of organizing next summer's program of Sierra Club outings. A meeting was to be held November 30, too late for publication of details of the trips in this issue.

One innovation already decided upon is a new kind of knapsack trip, designed to fill the need of Sierrans who would like to learn to plan and lead private trips of their own.

Such club trips will be limited to 10 persons. Well in advance of the summer, members will meet with the leader to plan menu and route and to consider other details of trip management. They will take part in the purchase of food, and during the trip will participate in trail leadership and camp management.

Each person will thus have the opportunity to take part in the various phases of trip planning and leadership, and to gain the experience necessary to make his own trips successful and enjoyable.

The outing program as a whole will be as extensive and varied as it was this year. There will be High Trips, Base Camps and Knapsack Trips in the Sierra, and trips in those three categories outside California. There will be the traditional Burro Trips, Family Burro Trips and River Trips. River travelers may venture into new territory

### January Directors' Meeting

The next meeting of the Board of Directors of the Sierra Club will be held on Saturday and Sunday, January 19 and 20, 1957, in the San Francisco Bay area.

next summer, besides returning to the Colorado and its headwaters.

Areas involved in conservation battles will be visited, probably including a return visit to Glacier Peak Limited Area in Washington and a trip to the upper San Joaquin country of the Sierra.

As you see, there will be fun and solid fare for every sort of outing enthusiast. Watch your monthly *Bulletin* for details.

### Use Your Handbook

First published in 1947 under the editorship of David R. Brower, *The Sierra Club: A Handbook* is the best single source of information about our 64-year-old organization. Members who read the *Handbook* years ago and filed it on the shelf may be astonished to find, on rereading it, how many of their recent questions it answers.

Why do we say "Sierra" and not "Sierras"? Are mountaineers and hikers automatically conservationists? Does the Sierra Club have any movies or color slides to tell its story? How are the officers of the club elected? What is our philosophy of outings, and has it changed? Where do you look for a list of club publications?

There are hundreds of other pertinent questions, asked almost daily by prospective members, new members, old members—and people who will never be members but who have a perfect right to ask their questions and to receive an accurate reply.

The *Handbook* has the answers. Hand-somely printed in the same format as the

annual *Bulletin*, it runs to 120 pages plus 16 full-page photographs of the natural scene by Ansel Adams. Chapters deal with the club's purposes, its history, specialties (mountaineering, outings, interpretation, publications, conservation study and advocacy, winter sports, lodges and many others), administration and lore. An appendix contains the By-Laws, a chronology and lists of directors and officers and other data, including ski tests and a rock climbing test.

The third printing of the *Handbook*, issued in 1955, is nearly exhausted, although you may be able to obtain a copy, at the regular price of one dollar plus tax, if you act swiftly. A new printing, with information brought up to date, will be off the presses in a month or two.

So many chapter and committee workers are new to their duties, and so many club members received their copies of the *Handbook* nearly a decade ago, that we think this reminder is worthwhile. Any Sierran may be called upon to serve as a public relations man *pro tem*, when a friend or stranger asks a vexatious question about his hobby. We urge you to dust off your copy of the *Handbook* or get a new one; you can't tell the players without a program.

### Committee Enlarges Scope

Continuing under the chairmanship of Helen Verdi, the club's subcommittee on Conservation Education has enlarged its personnel and scope, pursuant to recent recommendations from the Council. Mona Gauger will be Chief of Production, responsible mainly for securing workers and materials; Marian Beck will be Chief of Distribution, to see that finished products are available for use by chapters and others.

The Council recommended an enlarged subcommittee, made up of representatives from all chapters, which could plan a broad program of conservation education for the club. The many helpful and useful projects developed by club and chapter committees can thus be more widely used throughout the club.

Sharing of responsibilities is expected to encourage more activity by members away from the headquarters area.

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On November 1, 1956, the Sierra Club had 10,757 current, paid-up members. This was an increase of 1,146 from the same date in 1955.

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### FWSA Welcomes Members

Sierra Club members are once again taking part in the activities of the Far West Ski Association (FWSA). The association's program is aimed to strengthen organized skiing in the far west. It includes the organization of ski patrols and ski schools, the standardization of ski school classes, and the establishment of huts. Training young skiers for competition is an important function of the association.

The Huts and Mountaineering Committee of the FWSA needs help, and the Sierra Club, with its valuable experience, can lend a hand.

The Sierra Club could field a prominent racing team to compete with the best. This requires regular training and participation in the FWSA's sanctioned events.

Those who wish to join the FWSA and obtain the benefits of dual membership may secure application forms at the Sierra Club office, chapter offices, or at the club's ski lodges. FWSA annual dues are \$2.50 for regular members, \$1.25 for spouse members, and the racing-card fee for those who wish to compete in sanctioned events is \$1.50.

The Sierra Club has been affiliated with the FWSA since November 12, 1955, and is an active member of the Bay Area Ski Federation (District Five of the FWSA).

DON HUBER

### Introducing Phil Greene

The cover picture this month, as well as the Tamalpais area scenes, are the work of the *Bulletin's* new Photo Editor, Phil Greene. A student of photography at the California School of Fine Arts, Phil will assist the staff in all matters pertaining to choice and handling of pictures. He'd like to hear from photographers; address him at 34 Mountain Spring Avenue, San Francisco.

The frost detail was photographed just below Cathedral Spires in Yosemite Valley, in late November.

## Reviewing Highest Climbs of 1956

The mountaineering year of 1956 added a record number of 8000-meter peaks to those which have been climbed. Manaslu, Gasherbrum II, and Lhotse succumbed, leaving only four unclimbed peaks of over 8000 meters (26,240 feet). The four will probably all be attempted in 1957.

The following list, and the accounts of 1956's expeditions in Asia and South America, though incomplete, give some of the highlights of mountaineering in remote areas. They were compiled from American Alpine Club newsletters and *Der Bergsteiger*, a German mountaineering journal.

### 8000-meter Peaks Climbed to Date

Year	Peak	Climbed by
1950	Annapurna	French
1953	Everest	British
	Nanga Parbat	German-Austrian
1954	K2	Italian
	Cho Oyu	Austrian
1955	Kangchenjunga	British
	Makalu	French
1956	Manaslu	Japanese
	Gasherbrum II	Austrian
	Lhotse	Swiss
Unclimbed:	Hidden Peak	26,470 feet
	Dhaulagiri	26,811 feet
	Broad Peak	26,400 feet
	Shisha Pangma (Gosainthan)	26,291 feet

### Expeditions

*Lhotse* (8500 meters). A Swiss expedition put two teams on the summit of Everest and one on the summit of Lhotse, all in the last ten days of May. The ascent of Lhotse had not previously been accomplished.

*Manaslu* (8130 meters). A Japanese party of 12 led by Yuko Maki, who is 62 years old, traveled to Manaslu. Two ascents of the mountain were made in May. This is a well-earned achievement for the Japanese, as they had tried several times to climb Manaslu.

*Gasherbrum II* (8035 meters). An Austrian expedition led by Moravec ascended Gasherbrum II on the 7th of July.

*Mustagh Ata* (7546 meters). A Chinese-Russian expedition reportedly ascended Mustagh Ata, located in the Pamirs.

*Mustagh Tower* (7274 meters). This awesome peak which seemed, at least from Vittorio Sella's famous photograph, to defy all mortal mountaineers, was ascended via its unphotographed side by two expeditions: a British group led by Hartog, and a French party led by Guido Magnone.

*Rakaposhi* (7774 meters). A four-man expedition reached an altitude of 7164 meters on this mountain before monsoon snows forced their retreat. Two Sierra Club members, Bob Swift and Dick Irvin, joined with Hamish MacInnes and Mike Banks for the try on Rakaposhi. Their descent of the mountain was marked by several dramatic moments involving falls, all of which led Irvin to remark that the retreat could be more accurately described as a fortunate escape.

*Chacaraju* (6000 meters) and *Taulliraju* (5830 meters). Both these peaks in the Cordillera Blanca of Peru were climbed by a French expedition under the leadership of Lionel Terray.

*Ojos de Salado* (6880 meters). A German-Swedish expedition led by Mathias Rebitsch traveled to this peak in the Andes of Argentina. Rebitsch reports that he climbed the peak alone, after his Argentine companion, Sergio Domicelj, turned back to a lower camp because of frostbite. Ojos de Salado was first climbed by Polish mountaineers in 1937. It is located in Catamarca province, northwestern Argentina.

*Veronica* (5750 meters). Veronica, near Cuczo, was ascended by a group of four European mountaineers and one Peruvian alpinist.

*Huagaruncho* (5879 meters). This mountain located in the Andes was climbed by a British group on August 17. This was the first ascent of Huagaruncho, the climb being made by Michael Westmacott and John Streetly.

ALLEN STECK



FRANK VALLEY, MARIN COUNTY

Phil Greene

## The Hills of Home

CONSERVATION, we often say, begins at home. While the home grounds of Sierrans are widely scattered nowadays, the green and golden hills of Marin County dominated by Mt. Tamalpais remain the beloved backyard of nearly half the club's current membership, not to mention its founders and builders for generations.

A crowning beauty of the San Francisco Bay Area, Tamalpais had a maximum elevation of 2,604 feet until the Air Force squatted on West Peak and set up its radar eyes and ears there. The summit of East Peak, site of a fire and weather lookout, is at 2,586 feet, accessible to the public, and master of some of the finest views seen anywhere. The mountain's northern slopes, draining into a series of reservoirs serving the county, include woods, meadows and trails in the safekeeping of the Marin Municipal Water District.

It is the southern side of Tamalpais, de-

scending steeply toward the cool redwoods of Muir Woods National Monument, that concerns us here. In whose safekeeping is this majestic vista, nature reserve and pleasuring ground?

Mt. Tamalpais State Park is small, a narrow horseshoe of less than 1,500 acres around the 473 acres of Muir Woods. All the rest of the famous view is privately owned ranch land which to the uninformed tourist has always appeared what it should be: an integral part of the public domain.

One of the private holdings in the best section of Frank Valley, the old Dias Ranch, was acquired about a year ago by two businessmen as a choice tract for subdivision. Other threatened intrusions, including a plan for a garbage dump at the edge of Muir Woods, have been warded off, but this one is imminent. The new owners are willing to sell to the State and have been cooperative in talks with those who would like to have

the property held for future park expansion. But they cannot be expected to delay much longer their plans for real estate development of the 570 acres of valley floor surrounded by beautiful ridges.

Dr. Edgar Wayburn and other Bay Area conservationists, who have long studied the bowl of Frank Valley as an area for picnicking, camping, streamside nature observation, hiking and tourist parking, brought the idea to the Division of Beaches and Parks more than two years ago. Persistent requests for action by the State Park Commission culminated in a full hearing on the subject in San Francisco on November 16.

The five commissioners agreed that the 570 acres, and 1,500 more extending all the way to Stinson Beach, are highly desirable as an extension of Mt. Tamalpais State Park. But they said the \$400,000 or \$500,000 needed for purchase of the Dias tract is not available. In a unanimous resolution, they approved expanding the park when the money can be obtained.

To those of us who have hiked the Dipsea Trail or thrilled to the scenic views from Mountain Theater, Bootjack Camp, Dad O'Rourke's Bench or even Panoramic Highway, this cannot be the last word on the use of Frank Valley. For that matter, any visitor to the present park who reads the census reports and the real estate columns must be aware of the urgency for relieving the pressure of people on their recreational resources in Marin. Crowding in cities creates

slums and claustrophobia, and it does something similar in picnic grounds.

As Edward (Ted) Grubb, president of the Tamalpais Conservation Club, told the commissioners, the 570 acres should take priority, but the long-range need also demands purchase of the wild, beautiful areas of Kent Canyon and Steep Ravine.

What is there to do? One possibility is that funds allocated to other parks in Marin County might be diverted in this emergency. Almost \$300,000 was set aside for Marin in the appropriation bill passed by the Legislature this year.

Another course is to seek an additional appropriation, specifically for the expansion of Mt. Tamalpais State Park. With the legislators preparing for a new session in Sacramento, now is the time for a strong expression of opinion by Sierra Club members throughout California. Like San Jacinto and other problem areas, Tamalpais belongs to all the people of the State.

As an individual who loves the Sierra, you can readily tell your regard for these hills of home. Your letters to your senator and assemblyman at the State Capitol may furnish the persuasion needed to save the park lands around Mt. Tamalpais.\*

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\*Letters will be even more effective if copies are sent to Marin County's Assemblyman Richard H. McCollister and Senator John F. McCarthy, and to Joseph R. Knowland, Chairman, State Park Commission, Sacramento 14.

*Frank Valley,  
flanking Mt.  
Tamalpais and  
providing  
a background  
for Muir Woods  
(Phil Greene)*



# Winter at Norden

*Donner area lodges  
invite snow fans*

CALIFORNIA'S winter playland, the magnificent Sierra, with its fields of snow and rugged slopes holding many of the best ski areas in the United States, has in its midst the Sierra Club's own Clair Tappaan Lodge, Hutchinson Lodge and three touring huts—Benson, Peter Grubb and Ludlow—giving club members the opportunity to enjoy all of the winter's fun.

The Lodges are centrally located, within easy reach of the ski slopes of Signal Hill, Sugar Bowl, Soda Springs and Donner Ski Ranch. New additions in this region are the club's ski tow wing on Signal Hill, the latest in rope tows mechanically, and Sugar Bowl's Mt. Lincoln chairlift. By automobile, skiers may also visit the more distant areas of Squaw Valley, Slide Mountain, Mt. Rose and Heavenly Valley.

The three huts are well dispersed and isolated for those of more adventurous spirit who prefer to see the mountains in their primitive beauty and ski the untracked slopes.

Clair Tappaan Lodge accommodates 150 persons in dormitories and a few cubicles for families. Sleeping quarters contain bunks and mattresses; members and guests bring their own sleeping bags or blankets, soap and towels. Meals are provided from a cen-

tral commissary, and are served family style in the large dining room which doubles as a theater and game room. A large main lounge with fireplace and library wing awaits those who want to join the traditional Saturday night folk dancing, or just relax and read. Other facilities are the drying room for damp clothing, lockers, and a room for repairing and waxing ski equipment.

Rudy Talso is resident manager of the Lodge; Lotte Martens will be cook; Roger Paris is ski instructor and Jim Nicklos will continue as coach for all racing events and Signal's own Sunday Slalom. Everyone—member and guest—is expected to assist in housekeeping chores, as the Lodge is operated on a non-profit cooperative basis. Duties are assigned by choice from a work sheet, and take only a few minutes a day.

Reservations are obtained through the club office in San Francisco, and may be made not earlier than 30 days before the desired week end. Members must accompany their guests, and may make reservations for them on any week end except New Year's and Washington's Birthday, when the capacity of the Lodge is filled by members.

Hutchinson Lodge, located near Clair Tappaan, is available to responsible groups numbering up to 15 people, who are over 18 years of age. This Lodge will be a quiet retreat where people can enjoy the fellowship of good friends. The rate is \$2.00 per night per person, with a minimum of \$10.00 per group per night. Reservations and additional information can be obtained from Rudy Talso, Norden, California.

The lodges are situated at 7,000 feet elevation, about a mile and a half west of Donner Summit on U.S. Highway 40. Transportation may be by private car, with rides



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*On the way to Ludlow Hut—  
last year's photo contest  
winner by Robert E. Frenkel*



## 1957 Winter Rates at Clair Tappaan Lodge

<i>American Plan</i>	<i>Member</i>	<i>Guest</i>
<i>By reservation (a)</i>		
Full week: 28 consecutive units (b) . . . . .	\$26.00	\$31.00
Mid-week: 20 " " (Monday through Friday) . . . . .	19.00	23.00
Week end: 8 " " . . . . .	9.00	11.00
7 " " . . . . .	8.50	10.25
6 " " . . . . .	8.00	9.50
5 " " . . . . .	7.00	8.50
(Minimum reservation 5 units)		
Transportation via chartered bus . . . . .	6.00	6.00

(a) *Reservations* are made at the Sierra Club office, 1050 Mills Tower, San Francisco. Full payment is required. Cancellation charges will be applied as follows:

Cancelled Tuesday (or before) prior to week end . . . . .	\$ .50
Wednesday " " " " . . . . .	1.00
Thursday " " " " . . . . .	2.00

Refunds will not be made after Thursday except in unusual circumstances.

(b) A *unit* is a breakfast, lunch, dinner, or night's lodging.

### *At the Lodge (c)*

Mid-week day, 4 consecutive units . . . . .	5.00	6.00
Mid-week unit, singly . . . . .	1.25	1.50
Extension of reservation, per consecutive unit . . . . .	1.00	1.25
Friday, Saturday, or holiday lodging . . . . .	2.00	2.50
Saturday, Sunday, breakfast or dinner . . . . .	1.50	2.00
Saturday, Sunday, breakfast and lunch . . . . .	2.50	3.50
Signal Hill Ski Tow, all day . . . . .	1.00	1.00

(c) These units are available when the Lodge has not been sold out to reservations.

NOTE: Lodge rates have been increased by \$1.00 per reservation, and from 30¢ to 50¢ per week-end unit. The Clair Tappaan Lodge Committee regretfully decided at its October meeting that this increase would be necessary to meet anticipated expenses.

arranged by drivers and passengers through "Ride Registers" at the Jim Davis Sport Shop in Berkeley, or at the Sierra Club office in San Francisco. Norden, just a quarter mile from the lodges, is a flag stop for Southern Pacific trains and Greyhound buses. A chartered bus, arranged by the club, will again be available each week end, leaving on Fridays from Fremont and Mission Streets in San Francisco at 6:15 p.m., and Berkeley Station at the foot of University Avenue at 7:00 p.m. It will provide direct service to the lodges, arriving shortly after midnight. On its return trip the bus will leave Sundays at 6:00 p.m., arriving in the Bay Area about 11:00 p.m.

Tours to all the Sierra Club huts are regularly scheduled, and planned by capable and experienced leaders. Complete information on tours and requirements will be made

available through the Sierra Club office in San Francisco, the Bay Chapter schedule, and other chapter publications.

LIZ SHEA

**In a forthcoming issue: information and rates for the Sierra Club's lodge and huts in Southern California—it's winter there, too!**

### Report Your First Ascents

The Mountaineering Committee would like to receive brief accounts of any first ascents made in 1956 by Sierra Club members or other climbers which have not previously appeared in the *Bulletin*. The information given in the accounts should include location, time, route, party and any interesting details. Send these to John I. Shonle, 1715 Dwight Way, Berkeley 3, California.

## Three of Our Winter Retreats

The kettle hissed on the glowing potbellied stove. A group sat about absorbing the rich warmth so abundant in the snow-encased hut. The moan of the wind was the only indication of the bitter weather outside. . . . This scene typifies the security and comfort offered by the club's several outlying ski huts which provide unencumbered enjoyment of the snow world for a winter traveler. To a large segment of today's skiers, this world of trackless snow, glistening peaks, and snow-draped firs is unknown, but they need only to ski away from the crowded slopes for a glimpse of totally different scenes.

In the vicinity of Donner Summit, three ski huts are provided, each about five miles from a main road. Peter Grubb Hut, constructed in 1937-38, lies north of Highway 40 and can be easily reached from Clair Tappaan Lodge in a half day's travel. The terrain is simple enough for novice skiers and offers spectacular side trips from craggy Castle Peak. Parties should include, however, one experienced skier. The Grubb Hut, a three-chambered cabin of wood and stone,

faces the eastern, sparsely timbered bowl of Basin Peak and a high ridge which sweeps up to Castle Peak. Although one section is left unlocked, travelers should first check at Clair Tappaan Lodge for a key to the main part of the hut. A cooking stove, a potbellied heater, and a stack of wood are welcome items. A few other comforts are also provided, such as matted bunks, a few basic foods, eating and cooking utensils, lanterns and a first aid cache.

The John Benson Hut is situated high on the crest of the Sierra in the shelter of the northern cliffs of Mt. Anderson. It faces the long ridge toward Donner Summit. This beautiful cabin, built of stone, glass and wood, was constructed in 1949. It is an appreciated resting place for the skier on his way to Squaw Valley and points south. It is also the first in a chain of ski huts which will link Donner and Echo Summits along a fifty mile ski-course. The hut, stocked in a similar manner to Peter Grubb, is left unlocked but again it is best for the skier to check first at Clair Tappaan before starting the five-mile southerly tour. Skiers this year

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## Ski Touring Program, 1957

Here, in condensed form, is the ski touring program which will appear in the San Francisco Bay Chapter schedule for January-April, 1957. Any club member, from any chapter, is cordially invited to participate in any tour which is suited to his level of ability and stamina. Most trips require only 4th class skiing, or better, and snow camping is just the next step for an experienced knapsacker equipped for the cold.

- Jan. 12-13—Peter Grubb Hut (Don Huber)  
26-27—Bill Ludlow Hut (Elsa Bailey, Bob Frenkel)  
Feb. 2-3—John Benson Hut (Don Huber)  
9-10—Ostrander Lake Hut, Yosemite (Paul Grunland)  
22-24—Pear Lake Hut, Sequoia—3-day trip (Al Steck, Herb Steiner)  
Mar. 9-10—Norden—Benson Hut—Squaw Valley (Phil Faulconer, Louise Dunlap)

16-17—Heavenly Valley, above ski lift.

Easy snow camping, downhill skiing optional. (Bert Tolbert, Margaret Jory)

23-24—Desolation Valley. Pyramid Peak area, snow camping. (Hans Ostwald, Will Siri)

30-31—Five Lakes Basin, next to Squaw Valley. Easy snow camping at our next hut site. (Phil Faulconer)

Apr. 6-7—Mt. Lassen. Probably snow camping; inquire. (Earl Oliver, Bob Frenkel)

13-14—Slide Mountain—Mount Rose area, above ski lift. Snow camping. (Bert Tolbert)

May 4-5—Shasta Alpine Lodge (Herb Steiner)

BERT TOLBERT and NEIL ANDERSON  
Co-Chairmen, Ski Touring Subcommittee

*Ski touring group at  
Peter Grubb Hut  
(Robert E. Frenkel)*



can take advantage of Sugar Bowl's newest chairlift to the top of Mt. Lincoln, which will cut the skiing distance to the hut by one-third.

The most recent addition to the Highway 40-50 ski route is Ludlow Hut which was finished last summer. This striking A-frame building with grey-green asbestos shingles blends pleasantly with its dense backdrop of red fir. Simpler than its predecessors, it still provides the basic necessities of a winter tourist: shelter, a good stove, a few pots, and a bit of emergency food. A skier can reach the hut in two days from Clair Tappaan or by a thrilling eighteen-mile run from Echo Lake. The shortest route, however, starts from Chambers Lodge on Highway 89 along the west side of Lake Tahoe. From the paved road, one may ski five miles following the forest road that parallels McKinney Creek, thence southwest at Miller Lakes for about a half mile to Richardson Lake. Ludlow Hut lies 200 yards due east of the outlet. Interesting variations of the trip lie in the snow-sculptured ridge south of McKinley Creek, or via Ellis Peak which is a few miles to the north. Travelers who plan to visit this hut should check at Clair Tappaan Lodge for a more detailed route description.

It is hoped that this winter many skiers will forsake the mechanized world of ski resorts for fascinating and thrilling travel in untracked terrain.

ROBERT E. FRENKEL

## Improvements Add to Ski Huts' Comfort

In the course of the summer repairs and improvements were made to the three ski hut facilities near Donner Summit. For the "hut builders" this was a summer's vacation between the completion last year of the William Ludlow Hut, and the construction next summer of the Bradley Hut.

The major effort centered at Peter Grubb, with a complete interior renovation. A cozy newly floored annex, a freshly painted kitchen, and a new toilet have resulted in a very welcome refuge for the weary winter traveler. Innovations are a cage to contain mattresses, and a light-well which should add greatly to the cheer in the kitchen.

At Benson Hut the roof, battered by the heavy 1952 snows, was repaired, and this spectacular stone hut on the crest of the Sierra is waiting for visitors.

Word has been circulated that at Ludlow Hut the famous "throne" now has a sturdy platform reminiscent of a high diving board, but it is believed that a belay is still needed when opening the roof. The hut has received a few touch-ups and extends an invitation to all.

Bradley Hut, still on the drawing board, will need your help next year. After several scouting trips this summer, the location has been chosen in Five Lakes Basin south of Squaw Peak.

# Sierra Club Council

Varied agenda at  
second meeting

The second full meeting of the newly formed Sierra Club Council was held on October 20 and 21, 1956, in San Francisco. Chairman Kathleen Jackson introduced new Council members who had replaced temporary appointments: Ev Miller from Kern-Kaweah; Virginia Gilloon, San Diego; Elisabeth Crenshaw, proposed Toiyabe; Roy Dubisch, Tehipite; Forrest H. Keck, Riverside; Bill Dunmire, Mountaineering; and Harriet Parsons, Editorial Board. The major portion of the meeting was devoted to organization and discussion of the scope of activity of the Council.

- Cicely Christy, chairman of the Committee on Committees, presented a suggested outline of Council, chapter and committee relations and jurisdictions, pointing out that one of the functions of the Council will be to coordinate many of the club's activities and internal problems. A committee was appointed to study these initial suggestions further.

- After a report from a previously appointed committee, the Council recommended that the conservation education program of the Sierra Club be increased, and that each chapter appoint a representative to the Conservation Education Subcommittee of the Conservation Committee. Helen Verdi, chairman of this subcommittee, led a brief discussion of the problems which exist in the rapidly expanding need for conservation education work.

- Noting that the Board of Directors in January, 1956, had given to the Interim Council the job of coordinating local information and education, the Council then requested the Board to delegate to it the coordination of information and education activities within the club.

- A progress report was made on the study of the scope of the Council undertaken by Clinton Kelley and Ken Turner, and comments and suggestions were invited.

- Bob Howell reported for the Insurance

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## Brower Again Will Head Natural Resources Group

David R. Brower, executive director of the Sierra Club, was re-elected chairman of the Natural Resources Council of America at its tenth annual meeting held in October in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. He was first elected to the post last year, largely due to national recognition of his leadership in the work of the Sierra Club and other conservation groups for Dinosaur National Monument.

The Council was organized in 1946 to provide an exchange of information and to promote cooperation among citizen groups concerned with the renewable natural resources. It is composed presently of 37 national organizations, of which the Sierra Club is one.

Other Council officers, all re-elected for another one-year term, are: vice-chairman, Charles H. Callison of Washington, D.C., representing the National Wildlife Federation; secretary, C. R. Gutermuth, Washington, D.C., Wildlife Management Institute; treasurer, Harry E. Radcliffe, Washington, D.C., American Nature Association.

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Committee that there is a wide variety of procedure among chapters for the insurance of individual items. He will make further recommendations at the next meeting. He also pointed out that any accidents occurring at a club function should be reported immediately to the chairman of the Insurance Committee.

- It was reported that the boundary committee had made satisfactory disposition of the boundary disputes involving the Mother Lode Chapter, and decided that the boundaries as approved by the Council should be recommended to the Board.

- Chapter membership in other outdoor and similar organizations has been a problem confronting various chapters from time to time, and was placed on the agenda of the Council. Since complete information as to present chapter practices was unavailable,

the matter was deferred until the next meeting.

• Council finances were discussed. A \$1,000 budget for the following year had been submitted to the Board of Directors, with the recommendation that approximately one-half of this amount be borne by the club's general fund, and one-half by the chapters on a membership pro rata basis. This would amount to approximately 5% of each chapter's income.

• The post of Treasurer of the Council was created as an advisory position, and Warren Lemmon was appointed to fill that office.

• The next Executive Committee meeting was set for February 2, 1957, and the next full Council meeting for Sunday, May 5, 1957, to follow the Board meeting on Saturday, May 4.

NED ROBINSON

## Members Honored for Work in Conservation

At the annual conference of the California Conservation Council held November 13 at the International House, Berkeley, honor awards for 1956 were presented to the Save-the-Redwoods League and the Sierra Club, "in recognition of long-continued, generous and effective service to the people of California, in the field of conservation education, and in appreciation of far-seeing leadership in the effort to promote coöperation in and understanding of conservation practices which has demonstrated great love of State and Country, respect for the laws of nature, understanding of the lessons of history, and regard for the welfare of the people."

Six Sierra Club members were among the thirty-three individuals who received honor and merit awards. Their names, with excerpts from their citations, follow.

*Nathan C. Clark* — "rare combination of engineer and artist, whose deep esthetic appreciation of the beauty of mountains, deserts, and canyons prompts application to conservation efforts of widely divergent skills, from the most rigorous and unemotional scientific analysis of a conservation problem to the most perceptive and sensitive interpretation, through color motion pictures, of outstanding scenic treasures . . ."

*George Collins* — "who has long worked through the National Park Service for public understanding, appreciation, and protection of our national park lands; able explorer, planner, coördinator of work on behalf of conservation education; frequent participant in and now general chairman of the biennial Wilderness Conference . . ."

*Randal F. Dickey, Jr.* — "teacher of con-

servation, by both precept and example, for many years of work with the Boy Scouts of America; . . . alert and ardent worker for conservation who brings to the task a knowledge of the law as well as of the problems."

*Frederic R. Gunsky* — "capable and discriminating Editor of the monthly *Sierra Club Bulletin* . . . ; imaginative, resourceful, and inspiring leader to whom many workers in conservation turn for help, advice and encouragement; contributor of specialized skills and experience in many hours of devoted volunteer service to the cause of conservation."

*Wallace Stegner* — "writer . . . ; editor and interpreter whose concept of and generously donated work on the movingly beautiful book, *This Is Dinosaur*, was a significant contribution to the public recognition and insistence that Dinosaur National Monument must be kept intact as an important part of the National Park System."

*Lowell Sumner* — "explorer, writer, photographer, and lecturer of unusual competence and sensitivity; able ecologist . . . enthusiastic and effective teacher who readily communicates to others a sense of the richness and importance of our national environment and the necessity of using it appreciatively and carefully."

The official nine-color map of the United States, authorized by Congress and prepared by the Bureau of Land Management, is 5 by 7 feet and is on sale for \$4.00 from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington 25, D.C.

# Books in Brief

## Recent publications for your reading list

Best publication news this month for southern members—or for any others, so far as that goes—was the appearance of the first *Lower California Guidebook*. It is written by Peter Gerhard and Howard E. Gulick, published by the Arthur H. Clark Company of Glendale, and sells for \$6. It is a very comprehensive book, including descriptions of the land, people, local conditions, travel facilities, hunting and fishing, fiestas, history, immigration and customs regulations, and about all the other information you would need for a junket there of long or short duration. Automobile routes of course get most of the attention, but there is a section for places reached by sea, a number of maps, and a good index. Our only question is: why wasn't this done long before?

Conservation reading this month should start off with that copy of "Wilderness Preservation," from the *Congressional Record*, that you received some weeks ago. It includes a speech by Senator Hubert Humphrey, introducing a bill to establish a National Wilderness Preservation System. I know that few people ever tackle reading anything from the *Record*, but make this one an exception! Letters from Dave Brower, Sigurd Olson, and Olaus J. Murie are included.

### *Pines outlive sequoias*

The *Los Angeles Times* in late October printed a story by Glen Binford on the bristlecone pine, a species which recent research demonstrates holds the longevity record among living things, topping the sequoia giants. The *Times* also had the first definitive article on the National Bison Range of Montana, which is a classic example of a big game conservation program that worked.

*Summit* magazine in November has an article on the Mount Hood accident by David Falconer, who says it was one that "should never have happened" and tells why. Louise Werner, who is a regular contributor to *Summit*, writes in the October issue on the

compilation of a "Guide to the Desert Peaks of the Southwest" by the Sierra Club's Desert Peaks Section.

The "Values of the Western Section of the Three Sisters Wilderness Area" are defined by Dr. James Kezer, associate professor of biology, University of Oregon, in the August issue of *Western Outdoor Quarterly*, published by the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs. He figures that the coniferous forests of the western portion "have a potential recreational value even greater perhaps than has the high altitude portion." This is important to realize, Dr. Kezer says, because "it is a tragic fact that the Forest Service has proposed elimination of 53,360 acres of this . . . portion . . . in order to put it under a sustained yield cutting program."

### *Glacier Peak appreciation*

Partly as a result of last summer's base camp and other activities there, the Sierra Club has a growing interest in the Glacier Peak wilderness, and an article in *National Parks Magazine* for October-December will help explain why. John F. Warth, who wrote and illustrated it, says it is "a mountain vacationland of unparalleled variety and beauty." Most of the article deals with the more accessible parts of the area and their approaches, but it concludes with an impressive argument not merely for the preservation of a patch of wild country here and there, but for a full wilderness.

A new threat, perhaps, to the whooping crane is reported in the September-October *Audubon Magazine*—this time a threat from those who would preserve it. The notion of capturing wild whooping cranes in order to breed them in captivity constitutes "a serious threat to the survival of the whooping crane in the wild," the president, John H. Baker, asserts. Remember the identical hassle over the California condor? There are sound arguments on both sides, but there are so few whooping cranes left in the world that we had better not make a mistake.

D. L. T.

## Mountaineering Booklets Make Useful Reading

Two publications of special interest in the mountaineering field are now available. First is the American Alpine Club's 1956 Accident Report. As in the past, members of the American Alpine Club from Boston to Pasadena (including Sierra Club director Will Siri) have undertaken an annual safety survey. This excellent summary of what happened—and, more important, the reason why—is a must for all mountaineers and this year's ski tourers (page 16). Sierra Club members were involved in five of the approximately forty accidents reported. Each accident and analysis carries a lesson for the beginner or veteran climber.

The other publication is a Mountaineering Committee booklet, *Improvised Techniques in Mountain Rescue*, translated by Allen Steck from the German book by Wastl Mariner. It describes techniques usable in the field with items ordinarily found in the climber's rucksack. This little book might save the day—or a life—for you on some future trip.

Either or both booklets can be obtained from Richard C. Houston, 1715 Dwight Way, Berkeley 3, California.

*1956 AAC Accident Report* . . . Free

*Improvised Techniques in*

*Mountain Rescue* . . . . . 25¢

RICHARD C. HOUSTON  
Mountaineering Committee

## Trout Lakes Should Have Golden Harvest

The California Department of Fish and Game has reported that recent checks of several Inyo and Fresno County golden trout lakes planted in 1953, when golden trout stocking was first resumed, revealed good populations have become established. In some cases excellent fisheries have resulted from these plants. In most lakes the goldens appear to have reached the 10-12-inch size class in the three growing seasons since their introduction. In a few lakes the fish have grown to 18 inches or more.

## Almanac

A YEAR indoors is a journey along a paper calendar; a year in outer nature is the accomplishment of a tremendous ritual. To share in it, one must have a knowledge of the pilgrimages of the sun, and something of that natural sense of him and feeling for him which made even the most primitive people mark the summer limits of his advance and the last December ebb of his decline. All these autumn weeks I have watched the great disk going south along the horizon of moorlands beyond the marsh, now sinking behind this field, now behind this leafless tree, now behind this sedgy hillock dappled with thin snow. We lose a great deal, I think, when we lose this sense and feeling for the sun. When all has been said, the adventure of the sun is the great natural drama by which we live, and not to have joy in it and awe of it, not to share in it, is to close a dull door on nature's sustaining and poetic spirit.

HENRY BESTON,

*The Outermost House*

THE GRASS is rich and matted, you cannot see the soil. It holds the rain and the mist, and they seep into the ground, feeding the streams in every kloof. It is well tended, and not too many cattle feed upon it; not too many fires burn it, laying bare the soil.

Stand unshod upon it, for the ground is holy, being as it came from the Creator. Keep it, guard it, care for it, for it keeps men, guards men, cares for men. Destroy it and man is destroyed.

ALAN PATON,

*Cry the Beloved Country*



The problem is clear  
If you bother to think it:  
The trouble with beer  
Is the people who drink it,  
Who, hating to clutter  
Their autos, unload  
Their beer cans (when empty)  
To clutter the road.

—edb

## Bulletin Board

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

THE Mt. San Jacinto Winter Park Authority has requested the State Park Commission to renew its contract for five years, dating from January 1, 1957, at which time its present contract expires. The Sierra Club and other organizations are protesting strongly the renewal of this contract, which would allow construction of a tramway up Mt. San Jacinto. During its ten years of existence, the Winter Park Authority has failed to sell the minimum of a million dollars worth of revenue bonds—an essential part of the original agreement.

- The Executive Committee of the Sierra Club ranks as one of its top local problems the enlargement of the Mt. Tamalpais State Park, and is urging legislation to raise funds for the necessary land acquisition.

- The Sierra Club is opposed to the low-level route for State Highway 89—which would bridge the mouth of Emerald Bay and destroy the most scenic portions of the Emerald Bay and D. L. Bliss State Parks—unless it is proved that there are no reasonable alternate routes.

New mining claims increase the threat of commercial development in the Glacier Peak Limited Area. These claims are probably for low-grade copper ore; although the economic value of this ore is questionable, the scenic value of this superb area is not. Under present mining laws, the Forest Service cannot forestall such development.

The Sierra Club is advocating full utilization of all suitable dam sites on the Columbia River and its tributaries, in order to minimize the threat of future developments which would affect National Parks and National Forest Wilderness Areas. An example of such a suitable dam site is the proposed Paradise Dam on the Clark Fork of the Columbia.

- In the 85th Congress, opening January 3, 1957, look for important bills to (1) make Dinosaur Monument a National Park; (2) create a National Wilderness System; (3) make a reality of our proposed Scenic Resources Review; (4) restrict military land withdrawals of scenic and wild areas. Federal studies on a fish, wildlife and recreation program for the upper Colorado River are being initiated this year. These studies coincide with power development of the area at Glen Canyon, Flaming Gorge, Curecanti, etc. A recreational study of this area was made by the National Park Service in the early 1940's.

Authority to salvage trees for profit in National Parks has been removed from the hands of the Superintendents of National Parks and returned to the immediate control of the Director. This action followed recent complaints regarding salvage logging in Olympic National Park.

Of the 3,700 miles of coastline running from Maine to Texas, only 240 miles are now in Federal and State ownership for general recreational purposes. Three areas of the National Park System—Acadia, Everglades National Parks and the Cape Hatteras national seashore—embrace about half of these 240 miles. Only 640 miles of beachfront remain available for recreational development out of the total 3,700.

- Watch for action in the following National Forest areas: (1) Glacier Peak Limited Area, where we are informed that the Region will announce its preliminary proposals for reclassification some time in January, 1957; (2) the Three Sisters Primitive Area where the decision on new boundaries is still pending in the hands of the Secretary of Agriculture, Ezra Benson.

EDGAR AND PEGGY WAYBURN