

# SIERRA CLUB BULLETIN

*May*  
1957



*George Ballis*

Havoc in the Big Trees    SEE PAGE 10



# People You Know

IF HIS reception by the Angeles Chapter is any indication, *Charles Eggert* (of the Atlantic Chapter) has had a rousing success showing his films of the Colorado River in the western states. Thanks primarily to *Ruth Aiken*, who "managed" his appearance here, more than 750 attended the show and the chapter cleared upwards of \$250 after expenses. Since Ruth had to argue the notion through the Executive Committee, and then majordomo the whole thing, it was largely her triumph.

*Don Clark*, *Graham Stephenson* and *Vern Jones* ascended Picacho del Diablo in Lower California from the east early in the winter. Three others, who preferred to remain nameless, may have climbed Grapevine Peak near Death Valley, but visibility was so poor they don't know whether they made it or not. . . . Several Sierra Peakers are planning a fortnight's climbing trip to the Northwest in August, with *Shasta*, *Hood* and *Rainier* on the list. *John Robinson* is making arrangements.

*Mary Lyle Ryan* of Los Padres Chapter had an unfortunate experience in February, which

might have been serious had she not done exactly the right thing. Separated from a hiking group on Little Pine Mountain, she took the wrong fork, and found herself alone in a heavy fog on Santa Cruz Creek. Thus benighted, she did what any sensible hiker would do, and slept the night out as best she could. No one else knew where she was, however, and a grand search ensued. Happy ending.

*Gladys Swackhamer* led a party of 28 to Inspiration Point in the Rincon area and they arrived to find sharing the inspirational view an ol' houn' dog (without Elvis). "He became a very active member of the group," reported *Bob Parker*.

*Ron Smith*, *Don Clarke*, *Mike Sherrick* and *Vern Jones* made the fourth ascent of Monument Peak in mid-February; six hours round trip in perfect weather with "varying amounts of pitons" used on what they called the "vertical crud."

Eight never-say-die skiers from the Southland, *Chuck* and *Ellen Wilts*, *Bob* and *Peggy Cosgrove*, *Art Widner*, *Tom Kendig*, *Eileen Buch* and *Alberta McArthur*, finally found some skiing out of Clair Tappaan Lodge, hitting Reno Bowl, Signal Hill, and Sugar Bowl, and then had rain at Donner Summit. Stormed all the time they were away, practically.

San Diego Chapter, coöperating with the San Diego Park and Recreation Department, is conducting a mountaineering course consisting of eight lectures, plus three practice climbs and two experience climbs. Lecture topics have included the usual and lecturers were *Aubrey Wendling*, *Don Hamilton*, *Dave Collins*, *Bill Thomas*, *Topper Thomas*, *Jon Lindbergh*, *Jack Haupt* and *Wally Kodis*. About 50 attended at least part of the course.

*Bea Carpenter*, *Jack Froud* and *Leola Blair* led the Songsters' Group of Angeles Chapter in a program of European and American folk songs recently. They missed Ol' Houn' Dog (see above). . . . *Elsie Bell Earnshaw* has returned from the South Pacific and soon heads for Europe. . . . *Eileen Buck* reached home safely four months after starting out around the world. . . . The *Glenn Wheelers* arrived home from the Orient. . . . *Georgie White* toured the Midwest with her river-runnin' pictures. . . . *Bill Dorris'* bus trippers, doing their good deed for the trip, cleaned up trash at the American Potash Recreation Grounds at Trona.

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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MAY, 1957

NUMBER 5

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

## Harold Bradley Elected President

At the annual organization meeting of the Sierra Club, held in Berkeley on May 4, Harold C. Bradley was elected president for 1957-58. Others on the new executive committee are: Elmer C. Aldrich, vice-president; Lewis F. Clark, secretary; Richard M. Leonard, treasurer, and Nathan C. Clark, fifth member.

Kathleen Jackson was re-elected chairman of the Sierra Club Council, as were the other members of the Council's executive committee: Clinton M. Kelley, vice-chairman; Ned Robinson, secretary; and Ruth Aiken and Cicely M. Christy, fourth and fifth members.

### Glen Canyon Outing

Late flash on the summer outings: *It will* be possible to conduct a 1957 River Trip to Glen Canyon on the Colorado. The planned trip had been cancelled before the March *Bulletin* was printed, so this is the only announcement of this outing.

It will be a nine-day trip, with participants meeting at Kanab, Utah, on August 27. Leaving their cars there, they will be taken by bus to Hite, Utah, will float on neoprene rubber boats to the Crossing of the Fathers, arriving there September 6, and will return overland to the cars at Kanab.

Georgie White, experienced trip leader, says the time will be excellent for more exploration of the canyon and river.

In addition to the \$6 reservation fee, there will be a trip fee of \$74, for a total of \$80. Because of the lateness of this announcement, the Outing Committee reserves the right to cancel the trip if not enough persons

sign up by July 1. There are accommodations for 50.

For dunnage and other information, read about last year's Glen Canyon River Trip (*SCB*, March 1956).

### High Trip Correction

Omitted from High Trip information in the March *Bulletin*: Children under 14 need pay only half the trip fee (but the full registration fee) *provided* two children share the same 30-pound dunnage bag.

### Base Camp Change

Here's another reduction in the cost of living in the mountains! On the Sierra Base Camp, instead of the rates for horses and tents given in the March *Bulletin* (page 22), the following will apply: Horses, \$6 per day; umbrella tents, \$15 for two-week period; small sidewall tents, \$5 per period.

### Pictures, Glaciers

Two serious objectives for this year's travels:

1. The *National Geographic Magazine* is interested in obtaining color photographs of Washington's Cascades, particularly of the Glacier Peak region where there will be a Sierra Club base camp-knapsack trip. The magazine, in Washington, D.C., will send copies of illustrations requirements to those who ask.

2. Art Harrison of the University of Washington has asked for field observations of the glacial moraines in the area of Mather Pass, which will be crossed by the second half of the club's Sierra High Trip. Bob Golden, High Trip executive aide, has the details and will be able to advise would-be explorers en route.



## Five Directors

The election of directors on April 13 saw 4,419 votes cast, the largest number in any Sierra Club election thus far. To fill the five positions for three-year terms, under the new By-Laws, the members re-elected Ansel Adams, Elmer Aldrich and Lewis F. Clark, the three incumbents on the ballot, and added Edgar Wayburn and R. Clifford Youngquist to fill the vacancies left by Alex Hildebrand and Einar Nilsson, who declined to run.

Here is a brief introduction to the five elected to the Board:

**Ansel Adams**, Yosemite National Park: Photographer, writer and teacher, noted interpreter of the natural scene in his photography; a club member since 1919 and a director since 1934. President of Trustees for Conservation.

**Elmer Aldrich**, Sacramento: Supervisor of Conservation in the State Division of Beaches and Parks, a club member since 1948 and a director since 1956. Active in Conservation Committee and Mother Lode Chapter.

**Lewis F. Clark**, Alameda: Staff Engineer, Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company;



(Ed Grainey photo)

ANSEL ADAMS

a club member since 1928 and a director from 1933 to 1943, and since 1946. Club president, 1949-1951, and secretary since 1953.

**Edgar Wayburn**, San Francisco: Physician, a club member since 1939, and chairman of the Conservation Committee since



ELMER C. ALDRICH



LEWIS F. CLARK



EDGAR WAYBURN

1955. Vice-President of Trustees for Conservation, former president of the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs.

**R. Clifford Youngquist**, Los Angeles: Civil engineer, a club member since 1923 and a director in 1955-56. Active in Angeles Chapter and the club Outing Committee, manager of Sierra Base Camps since 1955.



R. CLIFFORD YOUNGQUIST

## Tramway in Marin?

Tramway promoters have renewed their efforts to construct a cable route to the top of Mt. Tamalpais in Marin County. Tourists would be carried from the present redwoods in Baltimore Canyon, Larkspur (or an alternate station in Mill Valley) to a terminal on the East Peak, where they might see the view already available to motorists by a good paved road. A bar, restaurant and souvenir sales atop the peak would reimburse the tram operators for their probable losses on the route.

Residents in Marin have shown strong opposition to the scheme, and it may have failed by the time this is read. Use of Water District land is essential, and the District directors can simply deny access. The Sierra Club's Bay Chapter is on record against the plan, as are many other local organizations.

## Howard Memorial

A memorial fund is being collected to finance purchase of additional forest area for Samuel P. Taylor State Park in Marin County, in honor of Adaline Kent Howard who died recently as the result of an automobile accident.

Mrs. Howard, sculptor and art patron, was the daughter of William Kent, donor of Muir Woods National Monument and other park lands.

Contributions, with the request that they be used for this purpose, may be sent to the Marin Conservation League, Dan C. Davis, Treasurer, American Trust Co., San Rafael, or the Save-the-Redwoods League, 250 Administration Building, University of California, Berkeley 4.

## Parks Association Post

Joseph F. Carithers of Tucson, Arizona, has joined the staff of the National Parks Association in Carmel, California, as Assistant Western Representative. He will serve under C. Edward Graves, who has headed the Carmel office since 1953.

Mr. Carithers, former superintendent of Tucson Mountain Park, was an organizer of the Arizona State Parks Association.



**WON'T YOU  
JOIN US?**

*Donner and  
family spend  
their summers  
at Clair Tappaan  
Lodge. All  
club vacationers  
are welcome—  
if they make  
reservations*



## Your Summer Resort at Norden

**T**HOSE who think of Clair Tappaan Lodge only as a winter resort have been missing a lot of enjoyment. The Sierra is a year-round wonderland, and with the coming of spring, it is a happy time just to walk the mountain paths. You can still climb up to the deep snow in many places for skiing, or slide (call it glissade, if you'd rather) down an isolated patch of snow. Everywhere at the snowline, busy little rivulets chuckle as they rush to join incredibly clear streams, flowers blossom through shrinking snow, and all around you is the cool green mountain wilderness. Summer months afford an easier exploration into the Sierra range. The sun is warm, green meadows appear, trout are lurking in the shadow of boulders, chattering grey squirrels and noisy Steller jays resume their bickering. Wildflowers nod in quiet conversation, and with the approach of fall,

colors seem even more dramatic contrasted with the blues of the mountains, the long deep shadows of the forest, the cool sapphire lakes.

Clair Tappaan Lodge, located in the Sierra one mile from Donner Summit on Highway 40, is an easy drive from population centers and offers ample facilities for a relaxing vacation. Initially constructed in 1934, and growing lazily to its present size, the lodge accommodates about 100 people in dormitories and cubicles, with a lounge and dining room for general use. Within the area are facilities for tent camping, if you prefer the more secluded life. Saturday night's barbecue parties are famous, and every evening there are folk dance parties and fireside lounging.

At nearby Lake Tahoe are an 18-hole golf course, boating and water skiing and riding,

and shops for your every convenience; but those who want to "get away from it all" can take a trip to Flora and Azalea Lakes, Benson or Ludlow Huts, or perhaps a climb to Castle Peak. Maps in the main room of the lodge will guide you to expansive views of playgrounds beautiful and lonely.

Summer rates this year for an adult member are \$3.50 per day, \$21.00 per week; adult guests pay \$4.00 per day, \$25.00 per week. Members' children under 12 years of age are \$2.00 per day, \$12.00 per week; guest children \$2.50 per day and \$15.00 per week. The rates include lodging and meals, and apply to consecutive units only. Partial

day rates are available at slightly higher cost per unit.

Everyone will be requested to help in the lodge operation through chores assigned to him. Accommodations are bunks with covered mattresses; sleeping bags or blankets, and all necessary personal items, should be brought. A play area is provided for the children's amusement, and baby-sitter service will be available for a slight charge.

Requests for reservations should be made directly to Rudy Talso, Manager, Clair Tappaan Lodge, Norden, California. No deposit is required.

HELEN M. WAGNER

## Lodge in the Southland . . .

**H**ARWOOD Memorial Lodge is in the San Bernardino County portion of the Angeles National Forest, and is on leased National Forest land at about 6,000 feet elevation. The lodge was constructed by the Angeles Chapter as a memorial to Aurelia S. Harwood, a former president and director of the Sierra Club. The lodge is under the general supervision of the Harwood Lodge Committee of the Angeles Chapter, with two members of the committee from the Riverside Chapter. Glen Warner is the present committee chairman. Keys for the lodge are available at Snow Crest Resort upon presentation of membership card.

**Road Information.** From the vicinity of Los Angeles, proceed eastward along San Bernardino Freeway or U.S. Route No. 66 to Claremont or Upland, at which towns roads lead northward into San Antonio Canyon. Follow the signs marked "Mount Baldy Resorts" past the village of Camp Baldy and on to Snow Crest Resort. Harwood Lodge is across the road from this resort. Driving distance from Los Angeles is about 55 miles.

**Activities.** Week-end parties and festival-day parties are planned by special committees for each party. Except for several parties that are planned each year by the Riverside Chapter, all are events of the Angeles Chapter. Reservations are required for all scheduled parties. All week ends that are

not booked in this way are designated as "open" week ends. Game activities consist of volley ball, horseshoe pitching, and cards. Swimming may be enjoyed at the pool at Snow Crest Resort. For sightseeing or for skiing, one may ride the chair lift starting from a point one-half mile up canyon from the lodge. For Saturday night dancing one



*Harwood Memorial Lodge*

may go to Ice House Resort. For hiking one may choose such objectives as Mt. San Antonio, Mt. Ontario, the ski hut, or San Antonio falls.

**Facilities.** Main rooms in the lodge building include kitchen, dining room, lodge room, dormitories, three family rooms, and a kitchen annex. Dormitories and family rooms have single and double-deck beds with mattresses, for 50 persons. Extra mattresses on the floor can accommodate a few others. Star-canopied, pine-needle bed sites are also available. Bring your own bed roll



and towel. The kitchen has both gas and electric ranges. A modern record player with amplifier is available for parties. Volley ball, net and net poles, and a well graded court are provided for outdoor recreation. Water supply is from a cabin owners' mutual water system.

**Operation.** The lodge is operated and kept clean on a cooperative basis with not more than two hours work by each member or guest for a day or week-end stay. Each duty may be selected from a duty list. For parties, all activities are under the direction of a special committee which provides central commissary. On open week-ends or on mid-week days one may bring and prepare food in the kitchen or may dine out at Snow Crest Resort or at other places in the canyon.

**Rules and Taboos.** Members and guests are to register upon arrival for any stay at the lodge. Guests are to accompany the member and not more than two guests are allowable to any member, except that at work parties the number of guests is not limited. Pets such as dogs are not permitted

in the lodge or on the grounds. Other rules and taboos are posted at the registration desk.

**Costs.** Lodge fees and party rates are for meeting costs of operating the lodge for the event and for meeting overhead costs for such items as supplies, maintenance, insurance and taxes. The present fees and rates are as follows:

*Lodge Fees*

	<i>Part Day</i>	<i>Over- night</i>
Member or spouse of member	\$0.25	\$0.75
Child of member (2 to 12).....	0.15	0.35
Guest (over 12) .....	0.50	1.25
Guest (2 to 12).....	0.25	0.75

*Fun Party Rates (Including Lodge Fee)*

	<i>Week end</i>
Member or spouse of member.....	\$3.25
Child of member (3 thru 12) .....	2.00
Guest (Over 12).....	3.75
Guest (3 thru 12) .....	2.50

*Work Party Rates*

	<i>Week end</i>
Worker .....	\$1.50
Child (Under 6).....	1.00

FRED SCHRADER

## . . . and the San Antonio Hut

**Location.** San Antonio hut is at about 8,400 feet elevation in Angeles National Forest on the easterly slope of Mt. San Antonio (Old Baldy). The hut was constructed by the Ski Mountaineers of the Angeles Chapter, and is under the general supervision of a hut manager. Keys for the hut may be obtained at Snow Crest Resort upon presentation of membership card.

**Directions for Driving.** From the vicinity of Los Angeles, proceed eastward along San Bernardino Freeway or U.S. Route 66 to Claremont or Upland, at which towns roads lead northward into San Antonio Canyon. Follow the signs marked "Mount Baldy Resorts" past Snow Crest Resort to the parking area at San Antonio Falls. The hut is reached by a steep 2½-mile trail, which starts from the fire truck road one-quarter mile above the falls. Driving distance from Los Angeles is about 57 miles.

**Facilities.** The kitchen is equipped with

cooking utensils, dishes, wood burning range and running water. There are 25 bunks with mattresses, and also blankets and sleeping bags for 6 or 8 people. Lighting is by gasoline lanterns. The water supply is piped from a spring to the kitchen sink.

**Costs.** Hut fees are for meeting costs of operating the hut and for meeting overhead costs for such items as supplies, maintenance, insurance and taxes. The present fees are as follows:

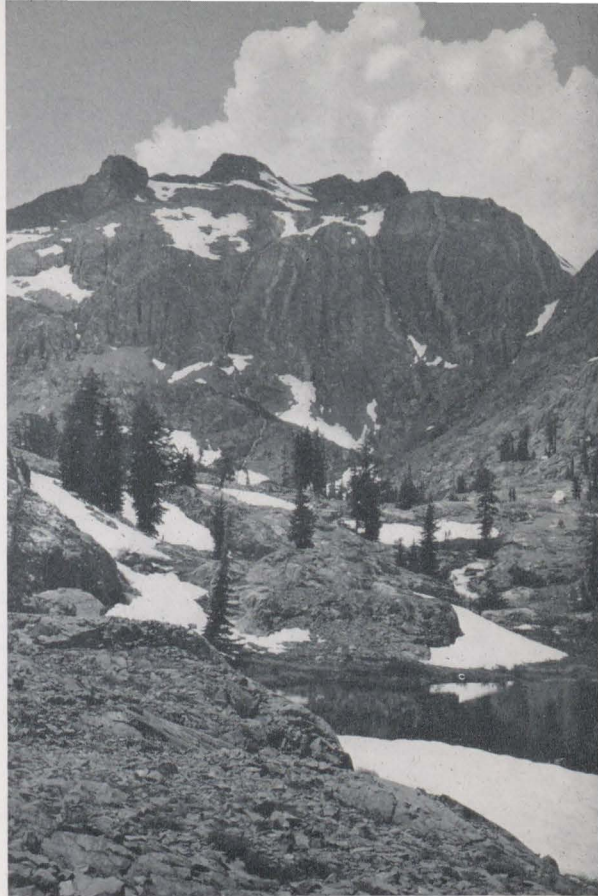
<i>Description</i>	<i>Part Part</i>		<i>Over- night</i>
	<i>Day</i>	<i>Day</i>	
	<i>Without Kitchen</i>	<i>With Kitchen</i>	
Member, spouse of member or member's child over 12.....	\$.15	\$.25	\$.50
Guest .....	.15	.25	.75
Member's child under 12 .....	.00	.00	.00

**Hiker's Reward.** For those who like to hike and carry a pack, the hut offers the appeal of remoteness, long valley views, friendly pines, and the music of a babbling stream.



*Ashley Lake-Iron Mountain country, looking west from Noname Lake. This is in the vicinity of the 1957 Sierra Base Camp, from which knapsackers may make side trips to the North Fork of the San Joaquin.*

*(Cliff Youngquist)*



## North Fork Country Of the San Joaquin

Editor:

Big Basin, Calif.

It is good to hear that the Sierra Club is sponsoring knapsack trips to the North Fork of the San Joaquin River this summer. I visited the area in 1952 and have been concerned lest its scenic values continue to be overlooked.

The fall provides one of the interesting features of this canyon. When the glaciers retreated they left a series of stairs across a wide, glaciated canyon floor. The glacial striations are easily detected in the granite composing the stairs. The river has cut a gorge through the first stair above Sheep Crossing campground, so that the hiker has to proceed up the granite floor of the old glacial canyon while the river fights its way through the gorge. The river comes out of the gorge about half a mile above Sheep Crossing.

Another quiet half mile and one comes to the second granite stair. Again the river has tried to cut through what the glacier was unable to quarry, but here it has not been so successful. The river has started a gorge at the face of the stairway and has managed to cut back about 100 yards diagonally across the floor of the canyon. The river goes over the fall on the east side of the canyon floor and is discharged from its gorge near the west side. Thus, if you are hiking upstream, the roar of the fall is heard long before it is sighted. In fact, the spray is blowing full in your face when its source first comes into view.

Above the fall the river again flows quietly through the wide, U-shaped glacial canyon. In July this area is especially attractive for the stream is lined by azalea in full bloom.

JAMES MCDADE

## July 4 Trail Trip To Three Sisters

A trail trip will be conducted by the Friends of the Three Sisters Wilderness, July 4 to 7, from McKenzie Bridge, some 50 miles from Eugene, Oregon, to a base camp in the vicinity of Lamb Butte. Side trips will be scheduled to Lamb Butte, Horsepasture Mountain, Olallie Mountain, Quaking Aspen Swamp, Wolverine Meadow and other interesting places.

Each person will provide his own food, cooking kit and sleeping gear, but a packer will carry it in. Qualified leaders will assist in observations of geology, fauna and flora.

Reservations should be sent, prior to June 17, to Margaret Markley, 1967 Adams Street, Eugene, Oregon. The fee, covering 30 pounds of dunnage, is \$9.50, or \$1.00 for adults who do not use the packer's services.





*Massive sequoias are beautiful and rare, but they are also sources of lumber. Although the chain saw doesn't discriminate, men could*

## Havoc in the Big Trees

**B**ILLOWING dust follows a jeep pickup into the Camp Lena big trees, 45 miles east of Porterville. The driver stops beneath a perfect sequoia. It is 15-16 feet in diameter, maybe 200 feet tall, perhaps 1800 years old.

The foreman of the crew climbs out with his plumb line to determine the lean of the big tree by sighting up its massive trunk. His three assistants slip into their hobnail boots, unload an 8½-foot chain saw, razor-sharp axes, wedges and sledge hammers.

Knocking over one of these old giants is a big operation.

A veteran of over 20 years behind the axe, Marcus Hunter studies the giant from every angle. His helpers gas and oil the saw. Marcus spends 20 minutes sharpening its teeth with a round file. His helpers hack away at the spongy bark with their axes. Finally they have carved a three-foot wide belt completely around the tree. In many places the bark is over two feet thick. Now its protection is stripped away. The whining saw can sink its teeth into the bare trunk.

Hunter and one helper carry the saw to

the uphill side of the tree. Marcus has decided to fall the giant uphill between a fir and another sequoia. To assure this, an undercut is made on the uphill side. Two steel wedges are driven into the tree about five feet apart. A plank set on the two wedges supports the chain saw until it can chew its own footing in the massive trunk. Marcus primes the saw's engine, yanks the starter cord. The saw digs in. The first cut is driven horizontally four to five feet into the tree. The saw is removed, turned off as Marcus eats a piece of watermelon and silence reclaims the woods. Rested, Marcus opens the second cut two to three feet above the first. He guides the saw downward at a 30-degree angle to meet the first cut and form a triangular undercut.

Tiny mountains of sawdust form beneath the whirring teeth of the saw. Marcus pushes the saw in with his thighs.

The two cuts don't quite meet, so the helpers go to work with axes, wedges, sledge hammers and picks to clear the undercut. Marcus rests. One helper cuts away a section





## *1,800 years to grow — and one day to cut*

of the trunk below the undercut so the big tree will slide easily to the ground. The resounding axes and sledges indicate this is a solid old boy. The men eat lunch.

The helpers rig a scaffold on the downhill side of the tree so Marcus can drive home the final cut. He mounts the scaffold, the saw sputters, chews away. About two hours later and two-thirds done, Marcus stops for another piece of watermelon. His helpers begin to drive wedges into the final cut to "help" the tree fall uphill. Marcus continues sawing. The sledges echo through the woods.

Half-hour . . . the giant starts talking. One hour . . . 300 tons of sequoia lean on the unyielding wedges. Droplets of sap form on the cold steel. The men increase their pace on the sledge hammers. Sweat blossoms on their foreheads, streaks the back of their shirts. Hour-and-a-half . . . the tree talks faster as if to protest. Marcus removes the saw. He and one helper carry it downhill . . . The giant is sawed almost completely

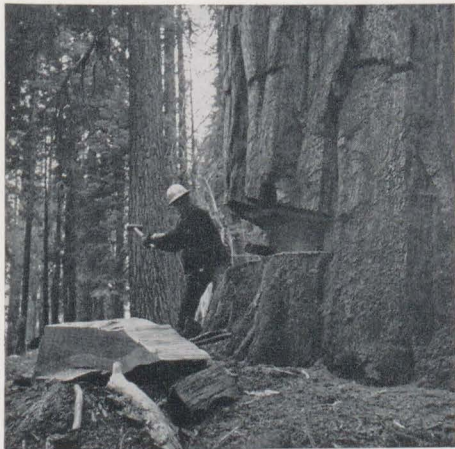
through but will not fall. Heavy sledges thud against the wedges . . .

Hour and 45 minutes . . . suddenly the wedges go "soft." They ping. The old patriarch roars. The men jump off the scaffold. The tree pops and cracks—hangs there as the cut slowly opens . . . six inches . . . a foot . . . three feet.

The giant slides easily off its stump, snaps off two tall firs, strips two others. They waver like wheat in a summer breeze. The earth trembles for three seconds. Branches and cones fall for 15 seconds. Clouds of dust settle in a minute or two. It's all over—nature's 1,800 years of delicate labor undone in one day by four efficient lumberjacks.

There are perhaps 100,000 board feet of lumber in the tree, enough to build about 20 two-bedroom houses. The wood could have been obtained elsewhere, but the beauty is irreplaceable—at least for another 1,800 years.

Pictures and text  
by George Ballis



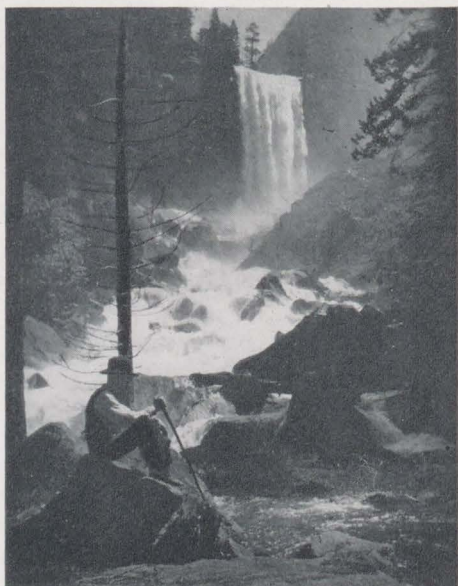


## Muir in Yosemite

These two pictures of John Muir in Yosemite were sent to us by Phil S. Bernays of Glendale, long-time club director, former president and now an honorary vice-president. They were taken late in Muir's life, probably by a member of the Carr family, Muir's University of Wisconsin friends.

Phil Bernays writes that he purchased the two 16-by-20 enlargements about 20 years ago. Recently he has had them copied, and it is from the new negatives that our engravings derive. Although not of outstanding photographic quality, they record the club's first president in characteristic mood amid scenes he was instrumental in preserving, and we are happy to share them with our readers.

Sierrans who would like to own either or both of these pictures, printed from the copy negatives, may request prints by writing to the Photo Editor, *Sierra Club Bulletin*, 1050 Mills Tower, San Francisco 4. Phil Bernays has offered to provide them, in black-and-white or sepia, glossy if desired, at 50 cents each for the 5-by-7 size, or \$2.50 each for the 11-by-14. Make checks payable to Phil S. Bernays.



## Book on Resources

How to conserve this country's natural wealth in the face of rising population and per-capita consumption is the subject of *America's Natural Resources*, a book just published by the Ronald Press of New York.

The volume, edited for the Natural Resources Council of America by a committee headed by Charles H. Callison, is a concise summary of the basic facts about soil, water, grasslands, forests and each of the other major renewable resources, presented for readers who are not scientists.

The book sells for \$3.75. Copies are available from the San Francisco club office.

## Glacier Peak Trip

The Mountaineers, Inc., of Seattle, Washington, announce a two-week summer outing in the Glacier Peak area from July 20 to August 4. It will start from Lucerne on Lake Chelan, and will visit Lyman Lake, Image Lake, Buck Creek Pass and Trinity Mine. Information may be obtained from Mrs. William Chalupny, 5224 - 54th Avenue South, Seattle 18, Washington.





# Sierra Peaks

TO ALL members of the Sierra Club the mountain range of first love has always been the Sierra Nevada. Plans have been made year after year in the fall, winter and spring toward a week or two (or more for the lucky ones) in the high country during the summer. In days not too long past it was infeasible to plan a trip of shorter duration than a week, because of the time involved in getting to the mountains and the six-day work week. Not satisfied with this once-a-year enjoyment of the Sierra, however, a group of Angeles Chapter members have within the last seven years made a number of week-end trips to peaks sufficiently close to roadheads on the east and west sides of the range to permit a short knapsack trip to the base of the mountain, with a climb to the top the following day.

As a result of the definite interest shown in such trips, and through the initiative of Frank Sanborn, the Sierra Peaks Section was formed in the fall of 1955 as an official section of the Angeles Chapter. Prior to this, climbing in the Sierra had been restricted primarily to the conventional summer period from mid-June to mid-September. Now, however, the season has been extended in both directions until in this last year not a month has gone by without some Sierra peak being conquered.

The purposes of the Sierra Peaks Section are three: (1) to develop and expand interest and activity of the Sierra Club membership in the Sierra Nevada; (2) to promote week-end knapsack trips and peak climbs in the Sierra Nevada; and (3) to aid in the conservation and preservation of the wilderness areas of the Sierra, the maintenance of good trails and clean campsites, and the dissemination of general knowledge concerning the range. All of these aims are furthered by our primary activity, climbing Sierra peaks.

The Section maintains a list of so-called qualifying peaks, of which Sierra Club members must climb any six to be eligible for Section membership. At present this list consists of 220 peaks, covering an area from Owens Peak immediately north of Walker

## *An Angeles Chapter group specializes in summits*

Pass in the south, to Dixie Mountain north of Feather River in the north. These peaks were chosen because of their elevation and dominance of an area. The Sierra Peaks Section is primarily a non-rockclimbing group, although a number of rock climbers participate in its activities. Consequently by far the largest number of qualifying peaks are Class 3 or less in difficulty. All of the emblem peaks are Class 3 or less. These latter peaks consist of twelve among the 220 qualifying peaks, any ten of which must be climbed to be eligible for the Section emblem. The twelve are Olancha Peak, Mt. Whitney, Mt. Kaweah, Mt. Williamson, Mt. Brewer, Mt. Sill, Mt. Darwin, Mt. Goddard, Mt. Abbot, Mt. Ritter, Mt. Lyell and Matterhorn Peak.

Trips are scheduled to include easy climbs as well as the more difficult, to appeal to climbers of all states of conditioning and ability.

OTHER activities of the Section include monthly business meetings, picture parties, program presentations at designated chapter meetings, assistance on various club and chapter special activities, publishing the *Sierra Echo*, a bi-monthly Section paper, and investigations of conservation problems relating to the Sierra.

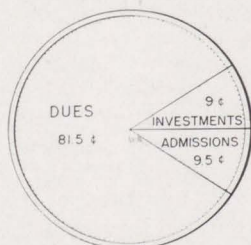
In these ways we hope to promote the Sierra as a wilderness retreat for larger numbers of Sierra Club members, and to extend protection for those wilderness areas in the range not presently within established wilderness boundaries. This we want to do so that those who follow in our footsteps to the summits in the "Range of Light" can enjoy the same exhilaration that we do each time we conquer yet another Sierra Peak.

CHARLES B. MILLER

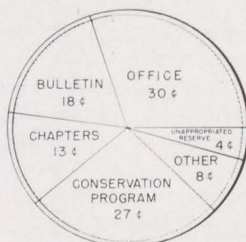


## The Sierra Club's 1957 Dollar

(derived from budget approved by directors in January)



**IN**



**OUT**

81.5¢ Dues, all categories but life members .....	\$64,200
9.5¢ Admissions, less cost of handbook .....	7,500
9.0¢ Investments, less allocation to Morley and lodge funds....	7,100
	\$78,800

29.8¢ Office rent, salaries, expense, retirement (less offsetting from outings, lodge, publications, etc.) .....	\$23,500
18.1¢ Sierra Club <i>Bulletin</i> .....	14,300
12.7¢ Chapters .....	10,000
26.5¢ Conservation program .....	20,900
8.5¢ All other expense.....	6,600
4.4¢ Unappropriated reserve .....	3,500

\$78,800

**Note:** The outing, general publications, and ski lodge activities are self-sustaining. Detailed annual reports of auditor are on file in the San Francisco office.

## A Last Flower

One man's bitter response to the destroyers

FOR some years the sharp, clean peaks of the High Sierra offered me a challenge; the barrenness of the high valleys promised a niche of flowers which demonstrated a beauty dependent on relation; the rising moons turned crags white, spread reflected across lakes, then left as suns rose orange behind them; golden trout gave me food when I was hungry. During the winter these images remained.

In the summer of 1956 I crossed a pass above Glacier Lodge and hiked to Whitney Portal with two friends. The pass was a knapsack route filled with snow and ice—a long, hard climb from 7,000 feet at the road end to 12,000 in the notch. The air was cold

and thin for our city lungs; we were tired and discouraged as we trudged up with heavy packs, but the elation of the summit and the view into the high country amply rewarded our efforts; and that evening, sitting in front of the fire, watching the moon climb over the eastern crest, smoking a pipe and drinking tea, the immensity of the silence and infinity of the beauty erased any desire to return to the comforts of cities.

The next day, gaining our strength and swinging with the harmony of the terrain, we crossed Mather Pass and dropped into the valley by early afternoon. In the first chilling shadows of evening we caught three limits of golden trout; then fried them in



cornmeal, watching them curl in the pan late into the night until the fire burned in deep, low coals, and we became fascinated by the changing patterns of orange and white and red and black as we moved closer and closer to the dwindling circle of warmth to watch them.

**H**IKING, fishing and talking our way through the valleys, climbing over the passes, we spent the long trip to Twin Lakes under Pinchot and to Rae Lakes under Glen in virtual isolation from the world of chaotic movement and commerce—that part of the country was not yet open to stock. Unfortunately Rae Lakes was. This remarkable body of water with Fin Dome rising at one end and a rocky cirque covering the skyline at the other, that Pete Starr described as the “most beautiful in the Sierra,” had been invaded by campers who felt the beauty of the natural setting was insufficient. They had added fireplaces with tin sides, smoky rocks, bits of can. An almost solid line of rusty tin and broken glass stretched, as we incredulously followed it, all around the lake. We camped because there was no place else to go, but that evening our conversation had lost its magic and the fire had lost its fascination.

Quietly we ate our breakfast and left by eight o'clock. Something had happened to the spontaneity of the days before; we were apprehensive and resentful of the people we so frequently met now—not so much of themselves nor of their horses, but of the mess that always accompanied them: the little red raisin boxes, the gum wrappers, the nameless pieces of foil, the traces of people with no respect for beauty and no regard for those who followed. We spoke bitterly of an America that feels uncomfortable outside the garbage dumps that Yosemite and Yellowstone are rapidly becoming. We hoped for something different at Bullfrog.

Here, however, there hadn't even been an attempt to cover anything: campsites were strewn with bits of food and paper, aluminum foil shone in every niche, broken bottles glittered over every rock. The parties that were camped there, and it was crowded, looked pathetically at home upon the trash.

## LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN

**By MYRL C. BOYLE.** Encounters with rattlers, forest fires and mountain lions — Dave O'Donovan's life at a U. S. Forest Service lookout tower in the Modoc National Forest in California makes an exciting story for boys from 12–16. Illustrated by Raymond Abel. **DAVID MCKAY CO., INC.** \$2.75

Three men sat at a table they had had packed in, drinking bourbon out of a bottle; they looked at us and shouted, “Will you look at them damn fools carrying everything!” Someone picked up a bottle, threw it at a rock and yelled triumphantly as the glass shattered on the ground and sprinkled into the lake. Between two empty, rusty cans one last yellow flower stood dirtied by the remains of last night's dinner.

**W**E didn't speak; we walked from camp to camp finding cans of motor oil (I haven't the slightest idea what for), cans of gasoline, rubber tires. We saw the trees cut off with saws, the branches stripped, the lake empty, the streams dirty. A meadow we remembered from several years before which lay about a quarter of a mile from the lake was strewn with sheets of used, uncovered toilet paper in a final ironical insult to the majesty and dignity of the High Sierra.

We still didn't speak; we turned and walked toward the pass that would take us back to the main highway over the eastern ridge. The pack trains were still coming in one after another. A fisherman drinking beer as he rode asked us why we were leaving when “the party's just starting.” We paused when we'd reached the top and looked back; the dark mountains patched with snow almost made us regret that we were leaving, but even this image could not erase the picture of the tiny flower at Bullfrog attempting to establish beauty where beauty was impossible; and we turned for different mountains.

CHRISTOPHER KOCH

## Bulletin Board

**P**ROGRESS report on conservation legislation (as of May 7):

### In the California State Legislature:

Actions of the Legislature continue to be in great flux. Decisions in two fields of major interest to the Sierra Club—State Parks and water control—are being made daily. Now more than ever it is vital to make your opinion known to your legislators. If you do not know the names of your local representatives, your newspaper can tell you.

• *AB 32*, a bill to establish an Outdoor Recreation Resources Study, has passed the Assembly Ways and Means Committee and the Legislative Auditor. It is expected to be approved by the Assembly at an early date.

*A.B. 1361*, a bill to abolish the San Jacinto Winter Park Authority, failed to pass the Assembly Committee on Conservation, Planning and Public Works Committee and was returned for further study by a sub-committee. This puts off the possibility of its passage for at least two years.

• An appropriation of \$1,000,000 to acquire vitally important lands for Mt. Tamalpais State Park—originally provided for in *AB 325*—has been written into the current budget as a line item and passed by the Assembly on May 6. This does not mean that these lands are assured. In 1955, money to acquire Butano Forest for a State Park was voted by both the Assembly and the Senate, but was vetoed by Governor Goodwin J. Knight because it was part of an omnibus bill. Butano Forest was lost. We must maintain constant vigilance if the urgently needed enlargement of Mt. Tamalpais is to be achieved.

• Senator Berry's bills, *S 523* and *524*, would authorize a bridge across Emerald Bay and deface two of the most beautiful State Parks we have. Let Frank B. Durkee,

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

Director of Public Works, Sacramento, know your feelings about this.

A bill to increase the yearly ceiling on State Park expenditures from \$7,000,000 to \$12,000,000 has passed the Assembly Conservation, Planning and Public Works Committee, and is expected to pass the Assembly.

### In Congress:

• Hearings on the proposed Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission (some seven bills concerning this have been introduced into the House and Senate) are scheduled for May 13–15. Chairmen of the two Public Land sub-committees (Interior and Insular Affairs) who will hear these bills are Mrs. Gracie Pfost (House) and Joseph C. O'Mahoney (Senate). The Sierra Club has endorsed strongly the principles of the **Outdoor Recreation Resources Review**.

• Hearings will be held June 20–21 by Mrs. Pfost's group on the National Wilderness System bills (*HR 500* by Saylor, and similar bills).

• The Omnibus Rivers and Harbors Bill—still including a measure to dam the Clearwater River at Bruce's Eddy—has passed the Senate and is scheduled for hearings in the House at an early date. The Sierra Club continues to oppose the Bruce's Eddy dam.

• The Engle Bill (*HR 5538*), which would curb military withdrawals from public lands and regulate the use of lands which were withdrawn, passed the House by voice vote on April 11. It now goes to the Senate, where early hearings are anticipated.

The Neuberger bill to control billboard advertising on interstate highways (*S 963*) has been considered by the Senate sub-committee on Public Roads, but no action has been taken. The Sierra Club opposes billboard advertising along scenic highways.

EDGAR AND PEGGY WAYBURN