

SIERRA CLUB BULLETIN

*October
1957*



RHYOLITE

Harold C. Bradley

Ghost Town's Tin Cans SEE PAGE 2

People You Know

THIS MONTH'S "People" are the chairmen of the various Club committees for the coming year. The list shows several changes from the one published in 1956. A new committee has been established to guide and coordinate the policies followed by groups within the Club; *Alex Hildebrand* will be chairman of this Policy Committee. The Library Committee will be headed by *Will Siri* after his return from a trip to Bolivia. *John R. Barnard* is now chairman of the Nominating Committee, and *A. Starker Leopold* heads the Natural Sciences Committee.

The development of better communications within the Club, through the Council and through the Committee on Committees, widens the geographical field from which chairmen can be recruited, and the new list shows three committees—Legal, Morley Fund, and Policy—with chairmen from the Angeles Chapter. The important subcommittee of the Conservation Committee which is responsible for Conservation Education will also have an Angeles Chapter member, *Camilla Anderson*, as chairman,

with *John De Witt* of Berkeley as Vice-Chairman in charge of exhibits.

The complete list of committee chairmen follows:

Clair Tappaan Lodge: *Robert P. McGillicuddy*
 Committee on Committees: *Cicely M. Christy*
 Conservation: *Edgar Wayburn*
 Editorial Board: *August Frugé*
 Historical: *John P. Schagen*
 Insurance: *Robert P. Howell*
 Investment and Accounting:

Clifford V. Heimbucher

Judges of Election: *Catherine Tubby*

Legal: *Francis M. Wheat*

Library: *William Siri*

Lodges and Lands: *Laurence Burnley*

Membership: *Kenneth D. Adam*

Morley Fund: *Anne (Mrs. Harold) Crowe*

Mountaineering: *Richard Houston*

Natural Sciences: *A. Starker Leopold*

Office Personnel: *Boynton S. Kaiser*

Outing: *H. Stewart Kimball*

Policy: *Alexander Hildebrand*

Public Relations: *William J. Losh*

River Touring: *Bruce B. Grant*

Trails: *Walter A. Starr*

Visual Education: *Charlotte E. Mauk*

Wilderness Conference: *George S. James* and

Robert C. Miller

Winter Sports: *John A. Linford*

CICELY M. CHRISTY

THE SIERRA CLUB,* founded in 1892, has devoted itself to the study and protection of national scenic resources, particularly those of mountain regions. Participation is invited in the program to enjoy and preserve wilderness, wildlife, forests, and streams.

DIRECTORS

| | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| Harold C. Bradley | President |
| Elmer C. Aldrich | Vice-President |
| Lewis F. Clark | Secretary |
| Richard M. Leonard | Treasurer |
| Nathan C. Clark | 5th Member, Executive Committee |
| Ansel Adams | Charlotte E. Mauk |
| Harold E. Crowe | Bestor Robinson |
| Oliver Kehrlein | William Siri |
| H. Stewart Kimball | Edgar Wayburn |
| A. Starker Leopold | R. Clifford Youngquist |
| Kathleen Jackson | Chairman, Club Council |
| David R. Brower | Executive Director |
| August Frugé | Chairman, Editorial Board |

MONTHLY BULLETIN STAFF

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

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

Cover Story

Harold Bradley's unusual photograph, on our cover, was taken a couple of years ago at Rhyolite, Nevada, a ghost town just east of Death Valley.

From 1905 until it was abandoned in 1908, Rhyolite was a city of 8,000, served by two railroads, building for a future which failed to materialize when the mines petered out. Among other things Rhyolite people built was this dump of tin cans.

In desert country, you see, unburied cans merely get rusty in half a century; how long it takes them to rust away to nothing, in that arid climate, we have no idea. Even in the High Sierra, cans last for decades—unless you burn and crush them, and preferably carry them out.

Last year, reports *Steelways*, Americans opened 42 billion cans, or 259 for each man, woman and child in the country.



Sierra Club Bulletin

VOLUME 42

OCTOBER, 1957

NUMBER 8

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

Growing Strength of FWOC

PRESENTATION of a special redwood gavel from the Redwood Empire Association marked the opening of the 26th annual convention of the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs on the Labor Day week end at Cazadero Redwood Camp, hosted by the Contra Costa Hills Club, with Clarence Rust as general chairman. The Federation is now composed of 35 member clubs, including the Sierra Club, and over 270 people attended this yearly convention. Business discussions on internal affairs concerned ways and means of strengthening the Federation to enable it to use its potential resources more effectively in carrying out its program for the promotion of the proper use, enjoyment and protection of America's scenic, wilderness and outdoor recreational resources. The delegates voted changes in the constitution and by-laws to make provision for an executive director, looking to the future when this may become possible.

The program presented a very comprehensive view of conservation interests and issues today, from the standpoint of the governmental services, the national conservation organizations and the member clubs of the Federation. The panel of speakers included E. T. Scoyen and Lawrence Merriam of the National Park Service, covering the status of Mission 66; Earl Bachman and Dick Bowe of the U.S. Forest Service on progress of Operation Outdoors; and Robert Hatch of the California State Division of Beaches and Parks. The 1957 state legislatures and their conservation issues were discussed by Dr. Edgar Wayburn for California,

O. K. DeWitt for Oregon, and Leo Gallagher for Washington; and federal legislation was discussed by David Brower of the Sierra Club, Fred Packard of the National Parks Association, and Stewart Brandborg of the National Wildlife Federation. A panel discussion on current problems and their position to date included the topics of the North Cascades and the Three Sisters.

The convention adopted fifteen resolutions, summarized below. Officers elected for 1957-58 are Pauline Dyer of the Mountaineers (and the Sierra Club) as president; vice-presidents: Chester Powell (Mountaineers) for Washington; O. K. DeWitt (Mazamas) for Oregon; Arthur Johnson (Sierra Club) for southern California, and Robert Howell (Sierra Club) for northern California; and Carl Bauer for Utah. Irma Brown will continue as treasurer, as will Luella Sawyer as editor of the *Western Outdoor Quarterly*.

RAMONA WASCHER

Resolutions Adopted At Convention

Following is a summary of resolutions adopted by the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs at its 26th annual convention. The Federation:

1. Reaffirmed its policy stands taken in 1956 and previous years in opposition to the Mt. San Jacinto Aerial Tramway, to the development of the Upper McKenzie River for power, and to the Shrine of the Ages in Grand Canyon National Park.

2. Reaffirmed its support of a national Outdoor Recreation Resources Review.

3. Commended the Forest Service for its publication of a report, "Problem Analysis; Research in Forest Recreation" by Samuel T. Dana, with recommendations that the studies outlined be speedily undertaken, and decisions which might jeopardize future scenic, wilderness or recreational values be deferred until the findings of such studies are available.

4. Approved the proposal that as large a portion as possible of the Great Basin Range (adjacent to Lehman Caves National Monument in Nevada) be brought within the protection of the National Park Service.

Dams and Roads

5. In connection with the proposal to give national park status to Dinosaur National Monument, extended appreciation to the sponsors of the Colorado River Storage Project for their assurance that no dam or reservoir of the project would be constructed in any national park or monument, and supported a Dinosaur National Park bill in Congress (urging revision of Senator Gordon Allott's bill to clarify the paramount values of the Dinosaur area and their preservation).

6. Opposed the construction of any road across the Sierra Nevada between Tioga and Walker Passes, including the proposed Mammoth Pass Road.

7. Requested the Forest Service to leave in its present natural condition that 53,000-acre portion of the Three Sisters Primitive Area not included in the Three Sisters Wilderness Area, at least until the findings of scientific, recreation and other studies now under way or projected are available.

8. Urged the Forest Service to find a solution for the Waldo Lake Limited Area in the Oregon Cascades which would give it maximum protection as wilderness from commercial exploitation.

9. Urged the passage of bills now before Congress which would authorize the exchange of surplus Federal land on the Olympic Peninsula for private lands within the present boundaries of Olympic National Park, and opposed any bill which would permit the removal from the Park of any lands within its exterior boundaries.

10. In opposition to logging in National Parks, urged that the Park Service's recently announced policy on cutting and use of forest material be reviewed by a committee recommended by the National Parks Advisory Board.

11. In connection with coordination of the specialized skills of the various Federal agencies which administer most of the Northern Cascades area, (a) recommended that the Glacier Peak Wilderness Preference Area be augmented to include all areas (except Cady Pass) proposed by the Mountaineers in 1956; (b) requested the Forest Service to establish a schedule for studies of recreational and wilderness values; (c) recommended that the facilities of other Federal agencies be enlisted and that the Federation and its member clubs be consulted; and (d) urged that no irrevocable encroachment be permitted and that hearings on specific boundary proposals be postponed until the program is well under way.

12. Reaffirmed its support of the National Wilderness Preservation System bill.

13. Recommended that Senate Bill 2359, to change the status of Petrified Forest National Monument to that of a national park, be not enacted.

14. Commended the California State Park Commission for its efforts to gradually eliminate grazing from the State Parks of California.

Water Development Policy

15. Adopted a policy guide concerning various types of water development:

"(a) *Hydro-Electric Power*. In view of the rapid advance of alternative sources of energy and the decreasing role of hydro-electric power in meeting the needs of the future, no important irreplaceable scenic and recreational resources should be sacrificed for the development of hydro-electric power.

"(b) *Flood Control*. Maximum multi-purpose use should be made of sites which do not imperil important scenic resources in providing for flood control which is essential.

"(c) *Irrigation and Domestic Use*. Whenever most of the important scenic resources are in the upstream reaches of rivers, em-

Outdoor Recreation Plan

Aldrich Heads State Survey

Elmer C. Aldrich, vice-president of the Sierra Club and formerly Supervisor of Conservation of the State Division of Beaches and Parks, has been named as executive officer for the statewide Outdoor Recreation Plan (authorized by AB 32). The three-year study will:

(1) Make an inventory of all outdoor recreational facilities, including private and those administered by federal, state, regional and local agencies.

(2) Make a determination of the present needs, and estimates for the foreseeable future. Such estimates will be made on population projections and the rapid trends toward outdoor recreation.

(3) Make recommendations to the Legislature for adoption of an integrated plan to guide legislation in the development of outdoor recreation facilities in the state.

Director De Witt Nelson of the State Department of Natural Resources stated that Aldrich was appointed to this position "because of the breadth of his background directly applicable to administer a staff to study at all levels of government the exploding problem of providing adequate park and

outdoor recreational facilities to meet the demand. This demand is growing at a faster rate than is California's population."

Aldrich has worked with the Department of Fish and Game, the National Park Service, and with the State Personnel Board on civil service problems concerning the natural resource agencies. In his position with the State Division of Beaches and Parks he worked on special administrative studies, such as the Five-Year Master Plan, publicity, park naturalist services and wildlife management problems.

Mr. Nelson further pointed out that the structure specified in the bill creating the study insures a "sounding board" for all interests in outdoor recreation. An Advisory Council will be established representing organizations which are interested in outdoor recreation needs. A Technical Consultant Group from all levels of government will also work closely with the committee and the executive officer. Already departments primarily interested in outdoor recreation in federal agencies and local government have pledged staff services to assist in the cooperative project.

(Continued from page 4)

phasis in the planning of conservation storage should be placed downstream where optimum volume may be stored with minimum area of impoundment. A program of upstream watershed protection should nevertheless be continued and improved on lands utilized for commodity purposes.

"(d) *Other Developments.* In many areas other uses of water, or a combination of other uses with those named above, will come into conflict with scenic resource preservation. In the resolution of this conflict there should be made public a careful appraisal of the tangible and intangible values to be gained and lost through use of alternative plans of development that would not impair the important scenic resources."

Great Basin Park Association Formed

The Great Basin Range National Park Association was formed at a meeting of more than 30 supporters of the proposed park, held August 25 at Lehman Caves National Monument, Nevada. Darwin Lambert of Ely, Nevada, was elected president; Weldon F. Heald of Tucson, Arizona, and Athena Cook of Delta, Utah, vice-presidents; and Glenn C. Osborne of Garrison, Utah, secretary-treasurer.

A sound-color motion picture of the proposed national park area is under production, and other activities of the organization will be directed toward establishment of a park, in eastern Nevada, including Wheeler Peak, Matthes Glacier and Lehman Caves.

Forum Discusses Wilderness Problems

"Preserving Natural Conditions in a World of Technological Dominance" was the theme of a conference arranged by the Nature Conservancy at Stanford University on August 29 in connection with its annual membership meeting. Present were 140 conservationists, scientists and interested individuals from 18 states who heard talks under the headings, "The Impact of Society," "The Outlook for Preservation," and "Our Social Responsibilities."

The keynote speaker, James Bonner of California Institute of Technology, predicted an increasingly serious conflict between technological demands and nature preservation. These demands form an unprecedented pressure on all our resources, but particularly on those wilderness and natural areas where high-grade resources lie untouched.

Donald S. Farner, of the State College of Washington, asserted the scientist's need for large-scale primitive areas. Laboratory experiment will never be a sufficient method for gaining knowledge of an environment, especially when concerned with such problems as large roaming animals and seasonal migrations. Dr. Farner pleaded especially for the preservation of lakes, streams and seashore areas.

Herbert L. Mason, of the University of California, presented the case for small-scale preserves. In California, he explained, there is an unusually high occurrence of rare, localized native plant species. Urban expansion, highway construction, over-grazing and drainage are wiping out many of these areas.

Russell Grater, Regional Naturalist for the National Park Service, described the staggering problem in trying to preserve natural conditions while permitting recreational use of the landscape. Quoting Conrad Wirth's remark, "Our parks are being loved to death," he said the National Park Service is creating new techniques for handling and educating visitors.

Walter P. Cottam, of the University of Utah, climaxed the program with a call for governmental responsibility in preserving

natural conditions on public lands in the West. While advocating in principle the bill for a National Wilderness Preservation System, he expressed concern for loopholes that would permit continued grazing in wilderness areas and national parks and monuments. He urged ecological research to provide information needed by conservationists.

Chairman of the forum was Earl P. Hanson, Deputy Chief of the California State Division of Beaches and Parks, who guided the discussion and commented on the work of his agency in preserving natural conditions. Complete text of the program will be published by the Nature Conservancy, and in accordance with a number of requests, plans are being made for future conferences on the scientific approach to nature preservation.

WILLIAM DRAKE,
*Western Representative,
Nature Conservancy*

Unit Camp Inventor Praised by State

A recent issue of *News and Views*, publication of the California Division of Beaches and Parks, pays tribute to the late Dr. E. P. Meinecke, noted forest pathologist, as the man who originated the "unitized" campgrounds in the state parks.

Such a unit, familiar to California campers and the model for similar systems elsewhere, consists of a bed site, fireplace, food cupboard, table and benches, with charges for the use of the individual site.

Dr. Meinecke, then a research scientist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, investigated the effects of tourist travel on plant life, especially in the coast redwoods, in the late 1920s. One of the results of his studies was the establishment of the policy of individual campsite units by the state park system in 1929.

Dr. Meinecke was 87 when he died in San Francisco last February.

Mountain Talk

A THIRD knapsack trip this summer into what is, for me the classic High Sierra—the Goddard-Evolution country—has led me back to the lively accounts of early exploration of the area in the first few volumes of the *Sierra Club Bulletin*. There were giants in those days!

Theodore S. Solomons, who named the Evolution peaks, and J. N. LeConte, J. S. Hutchinson and their companions in the 1890s and early 1900s enjoyed a rare privilege. They and their long-suffering mules and jacks came first into what Solomons called “the very climax of the Sierra in loftiness, in wildness, in desolation, in grandeur of view.” Their hardships, which were real, brought compensation in the form of solitude, a pioneering independence and an inspired enthusiasm for the virgin scene.

Six decades have seen many changes. Now the area has the protection of national park and national forest status. There is a summer ranger station at McClure Meadow. Automobile roads reach North and South lakes, Florence Lake and other points, including the former Vermilion Valley. Solomons found the nearest food supply “fully seventy miles from the crest in any traversable line”; if he could return he would be able to buy hamburgers, canned soft drinks and motorboat rides just a day’s hike from Muir Pass.

Thus the solitude is largely gone. The little band of charter members of the Sierra Club has grown to a current membership of 12,000. Millions seek recreation each year in the national forests adjoining the Sierra crest, and many thousands assault the back country with pack trains and improved equipment. Where LeConte had to shoot his burro and shoulder a pack for a desperate flight from storm to the hospitality of a sheep camp, there is now a network of horse trails ankle-deep in dust by September.

Despite the changes, I find in the remote peaks and canyons much of the magic that lured the men of the '90s. The big lakes are the same deep blues and greens, the tarns just as icy and clear. The view from the

peaks is splendid and indescribable for the same reasons that left the first climbers tongue-tied. The streams are as musical, the timberline *albicaulis* as enduring, the granite as moon-gleaming. With a careful choice of campsites one may enjoy a modern version of privacy and self-sufficiency.

It is still possible to spend an August day in Darwin Canyon or Goddard Creek Canyon without meeting a person outside one’s own party. By this yardstick the High Sierra remains satisfyingly uncrowded. And I can testify from recent observation that it is still lofty, wild, desolate and grand.

FRED GUNSKY

Tribute to Helen Verdi

For the past ten years the chairman of the Conservation Education Committee has been Helen Verdi (Mrs. J. F. Verdi), who was appointed in 1947 by Arthur Blake, then chairman of the Sierra Club Conservation Committee, to develop the enormous field of public education in conservation.

Helen has found it necessary to resign as chairman and the extent of her devoted service becomes obvious when we try to find a successor. We can estimate what she has done for conservation when we note that plans for the future recommend dividing the work among at least four sub-committees with several persons in each group.

Somehow, Helen has carried most of this load on her own shoulders all these years. We know we can count on her help in the future but she deserves full relief from responsibility for the entire program. The Sierra Club is most grateful to her for bringing the conservation story to hundreds of schools, clubs, civic groups and individuals throughout California.

CICELY M. CHRISTY

Something new: The Outing Committee announces a week-long ski mountaineering tour through Yosemite Park in early April, 1958. Details later.

Bulletin Board

AN INCREASING awareness of the importance of recreational use of National Forest lands is being shown both within the Forest Service and in our legislative bodies. The Forest Service has recently published an exceedingly significant analysis of Forest recreation problems by Samuel T. Dana, Emeritus Dean of the School of Forestry of Michigan. Dean Dana emphasizes the necessity of widespread research before final land use patterns are established in areas of incompatible uses. The Sierra Club commends the Forest Service for preparing this excellent report . . . and urges that Forest Service areas of paramount scenic worth be maintained intact until such research is completed. Specific areas include the Kern Plateau and Alamo Mountain in southern California; the Three Sisters area in Oregon; and the North Cascades area in Washington.

The 85th Congress recognized the importance of Operation Outdoors—the Forest Service's five-year recreation program—by increasing this year's appropriations for recreational areas and facilities from \$3,700,000 to \$8,700,000. It is hoped that a comparable increase will be authorized for 1958.

Secretary of the Interior Fred A. Seaton is announcing a new set of regulations forbidding, with one exception, all oil and gas leasing on federal wildlife refuges. Leasing will be allowed only if proved essential to keep oil and gas under government lands from being drained off into adjacent areas.

The Bureau of Reclamation has withdrawn a portion of the Middle Fork of the Flathead River in Montana (not the North Fork, as stated last month) for a possible Spruce Park Dam. Secretary of the Interior Seaton states, however, that such a with-

Word from Washington and Sacramento

drawal does not necessarily mean "an endorsement of the Spruce Park Dam Reservoir Proposal."

A bill was passed by the 85th Congress setting up a National Wildlife Refuge for the rare sub-species of whitetail deer in the Florida Keys.

The Sierra Club recommends that small-scale experiments in brush burning be conducted before any large-scale program of brush burning is undertaken in southern California.

The Board of Directors has reaffirmed the club stand that Dinosaur National Monument be made into a National Park, and that the proviso voted by Congress to protect all National Parks and Monuments from invasion for non-park purposes be maintained. This means that the club cannot support Senator Allott's bill (to make Dinosaur National Monument a National Park, with a provision for future power withdrawal) in its present form.

200,705,045 visits to State Parks were chalked up in 1956 in the United States, an increase of some 9 per cent over 1955 visits. Over 40,000,000 visitor-days were recorded in California.

The new California statewide Outdoor Recreation Plan (authorized by AB 32) is getting under way with Elmer Aldrich, formerly Supervisor of Conservation of the Division of Beaches and Parks, as executive officer. (See page 5.)

An opinion from the California State Attorney General's office regarding when the monies appropriated by SB 1,000 (the omnibus park bill) will be available, is still being awaited (*SCB*, September, 1957).

EDGAR AND PEGGY WAYBURN