

SIERRA CLUB BULLETIN

*November
1957*



AUTUMN—YOSEMITE VALLEY

Phil Greene

Guide to Sierra Club Books SEE PAGE 4

People You Know

A MOST active summer for Southern California Sierrans was climaxed when more than 350 of them attended the annual banquet at the Los Angeles Breakfast Club. It followed a day-long Director's meeting when Southlanders had an opportunity to observe the wheels in action.

John P. Saylor, U. S. Representative from Pennsylvania, and author of the Wilderness Bill, addressed the banquet, and the reason he rates italics here is that earlier in the day the Directors voted him an honorary life membership in the club. They did it in absentia, you might say, for John drove in from Johnstown and arrived almost at the last minute. In fact, it was rumored that any number of individuals lurked just beyond the range of *Jim Gorin's* eye until they were sure Saylor had arrived and a substitute speaker need not be sought.

Anyway, *Bob and Emily Bear* handled banquet arrangements this year and deserved the good round of applause they drew at the event. Plenty of others helped, though, including *Ruth Aiken, Mary Galton, Dorothy* and *Bob Granger* and a good many more.

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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Chuck Miller reports that a group of climbers, who had better be nameless here, on a Mt. Agassiz climb, spotted a peak they thought was Mt. Goode, spent two hours climbing it, discovered their mistake, and dubbed it Mt. No-Goode.

Speaking, as we were a little while ago, of travelers, rock climbers from down south visited Alaska and Peru during the late summer.

Bobbie Lilley, George Wallerstein, Don Clarke, Bud Bingham and *Jim Sutherland* penetrated the St. Elias range in August. *Bill* and *Jack Dixon, Fred Martin* and *Jac Lasner* had a go at Peru's Cordillera Blanca. They planned to convert Peruvian Indians into Sherpas to help them establish high camps, but first they would have to explain why (in Kechua, yet).

Ivy Foster believed the summer's Yampa-Green River trip was "a sure 'do-it-again!'" and reports that San Diego members along included *Laura Ingram, Jo Blake, Gladys Nelson, Miriam Anderson* and *Betty Wiedmer*, intrepid river rats all! There were, Ivy swears, bagpipes for reveille.

Bud Bernhard, also of San Diego, played a vital role in the rescue of lost hikers in the Sierra San Pedro Martir, of Baja California. All were rescued safely.

John Carlson, George Krat and *Marvin Stevens* wondered whether the Middle Fork of Kings River could be traversed from its mouth below Yucca Point, where it merges with South Fork, to Tehipite Valley, during high water. They couldn't find the answer, so decided on basic research.

They reached the valley in four days, after making a passing acquaintance with 14 rattlesnakes and spending most of their time climbing up or down obstacles they could not by-pass. Conclusion: this route will never be popular.

DAN L. THRAPP

A pre-agenda item when the Sierra Club Council convened in Alameda on October 26 was the request by *Dr. Harold C. Bradley*, club president, for authorization to select, nominate and appoint an assistant to the president. These formal terms cloaked the announcement of his coming marriage to *Ruth Aiken*, Council member and former Angeles Chapter chairman. The wedding will be on November 27 in the chapel at Yosemite National Park.



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

Directors Adopt Wildlife Policy

ADOPTION of a club policy on wildlife, continued support for a safe Dinosaur National Park, endorsement of the Dana report on forest recreation—these and other matters kept the club directors busy for a full day session when they met in Los Angeles on September 28. Following the meeting, which was attended by representatives from eight of the twelve chapters and from several club and chapter committees, as well as a number of guest members from southern California, the Angeles Chapter held its annual banquet. Congressman John P. Saylor of Pennsylvania gave a stirring talk on the proposed National Wilderness System.

Here are some highlights of the actions taken by the Board of Directors:

Dean Samuel T. Dana's report earlier this year on Research in Forest Recreation outlined a program of research. The Board recognizes the need for such research and urged that the Forest Service undertake it soon. They also urged that pending substantial accomplishment of such a research program, national forest areas in which the recreational, scenic and scientific values are likely to be paramount should be preserved from incompatible use.

The Board reiterated its belief that Dinosaur National Monument should be given national park status. The Directors also went on record that the congressional bill to create this park should not contain any wording, as now found in the Allott bill, that would relax or imply any relaxation of the 1956 Upper Colorado River Storage bill's prohibition against dams or reservoirs in the national park system.

The wildlife policy adopted by the Board contained statements on the following aspects of this broad subject: wildlife values, habitat preservation, recreational uses of wildlife, wildlife protection in parks, hunting and fishing, non-game species, rare and endangered species, non-native species, and wildlife research.

In view of continued concern about activities in some of the western national parks, the Sierra Club requests (1) reappraisal of the National Park Service policy on the use of forest materials; (2) that logging in national parks (except of mechanical-hazard trees in developed areas) be discontinued until the policy has been reappraised; and (3) that the reappraisal be conducted by a committee appointed by the National Parks Advisory Board.

Recognizing the divergent opinions regarding the wisdom of controlled burning and the replacement of chaparral by grass in various parts of California, the Sierra Club recommends that before any large scale attempts at replacement of chaparral by grass through burning and reseeded are made on southern California hillsides, controlled experiments of the various conditions be carried out to show whether such practices would be feasible in the long run.

In accordance with recommendations of the club Council, the Board asked the Visual Education Committee to investigate the feasibility of making a motion picture presenting the over-all program of the Sierra Club.

The Sierra Club cooperates with other
(continued on page 6)

Wilderness Books from the Sierra Club

THE SIERRA CLUB's book program attained its scope through the generous bequest of Ynes Mexia, part of which went into a publications fund in 1950 to assist one of the club's original purposes—to publish authentic information concerning mountain regions.

Here is a detailed list to help members and friends know just what we have. We think they are good books to own—or to give for Christmas. There is a lot of pleasure and information in them. Almost all the material has been drawn from experts in the club. Booksellers carry most of the books, and the club office (1050 Mills Tower, San Francisco) has all of them, as well as especially appropriate books from other publishers (see the covers of your 1957 Sierra Club annual magazine). When ordering from the club office, California residents add 4% sales tax.

Going Light—With Backpack or Burro. Edited by David R. Brower.

Chapters on wilderness traveling and camping in general, food and cooking, equipment, map reading, mountain medicine, on children in the wilds, and on the art of burro persuasion. Contributions by Lewis F. Clark, Elizabeth Cowles, Alex Hildebrand, Joel H. Hildebrand, Milton Hildebrand, Mildred Jentsch, Louise H. Klein, H. Stewart Kimball, Richard M. Leonard, Bestor Robinson, and the editor. It is a light-hearted but informative treatment of technique and equipment. One special chapter ought to be in the hands of all couples, either member of which is more enamored of mountains than the other. Fourth printing, 166 pages, cloth, \$2.

Manual of Ski Mountaineering. Edited by David R. Brower, with contributions for the most part by the authors of *Going Light*. Chapters on mountaineering routes, rock climbing, and snow and ice climbing were added to incorporate lessons learned in mountain training in World War. II. The earlier chapters on warmth, shelter, and equipment are of continuing value to people expecting to travel in the snow and cold, winter or summer. The lore of ski mountaineering

itself has remained a constant, and provides a way to add new dimensions to a winter's ski experience—and stretch the ski budget too. 256 pages, illustrated, cloth, \$1.75.

Guide to the John Muir Trail and the High Sierra Region. By Walter A. Starr, Jr. This is the club's hardy perennial, now in its 23d year and 6th printing, and right up to date. If you plan a trail trip anywhere between Sonora Pass and Olancha Peak—anywhere, that is, in the High Sierra—this is a must. And the price is low enough to make it easy to keep a late edition on hand. Includes a big 3-color map in back pocket. The book fits a pocket, too. 144 pages, paper, \$2.



A Climber's Guide to the High Sierra. Edited by Hervey Voge. The book, a memorial to William Shand, Jr., covers cross-country routes, campsites, and mountaineering routes from northern Yosemite to southern Sequoia, worked out by several generations of climbers and explorers. Routes to some 750 summits are described, with maps and notes on approaches, camping, trails, and topography. Descriptions of rock climbs in Yosemite Valley and Kings Canyon included. Historical background with names and dates of first ascents. Illustrations and sketch maps. 316 pages, cloth, \$3.

A Climber's Guide to the Teton Range, by Leigh Ortenburger, who has a first-hand acquaintance with most of the known handholds and footholds in the Teton Range, America's favorite climbing ground. Skillful description of the routes, varying in difficulty from scrambles through flowers, huckleberries, and talus to ordeals on such places as the North Face of the Grand

Beautifully illustrated with maps, diagrams, and photographs. 174 pages, cloth, \$3.

Belaying the Leader: An Omnibus on Climbing Safety. Contributions by Morgan Harris, Richard M. Leonard, May Pridham, Will Siri, Charles Wilts, and Arnold Wexler which have appeared in the *Sierra Club Bulletin* between 1942 and 1955. Articles of timely interest to mountaineers who wish to grow old gracefully or at all. 85 pages, paper, \$1.35.

A Climber's Guide to Pinnacles National Monument. By David Hammack. 20 pages, map, illustrated, 50¢.

The Sierra Club: A Handbook. Edited by David R. Brower. A pioneer conservation force; its contributions and its scope. Illustrated by Ansel Adams. 1957, 120 pages, paper, \$1.00. If you're still getting by with one of the three earlier editions, we think you could use the latest.

Sierra Club Bulletin

Described as "that model of all mountain periodicals" by Ronald Clark in *The Splendid Hills*, the *SCB* has been published since 1893, a year after John Muir and his colleagues joined together to form the Sierra Club. For more than half a century it has told of the battle to protect the wild and beautiful places of the nation—and of the enjoyment those places have brought to the people who have sought to climb, to ski, to explore, to photograph, or just to relax there.

Subscription: 10 issues, including annual magazine, \$3.

Separate annual magazines: 1906–1957, paper, \$2; cloth (1951–54), \$2.50.

Complete set, 1893–1954 and index, original edition, bound, \$375.

Complete set, unbound, \$225.

Complete set, unbound, but with 1950 edition of vols. 1–5, \$135.

Available only in sets: Jan. 1913, 1914, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1928.

Fifty-seven-year Index — 1893–1949. By George Shochat and Dorothy H. Bradley. *Sierra Club Bulletin* magazine numbers up to 1949—the whole 3½-foot shelf of them—

have been made accessible in this compilation. Separate listings of contents by volume, authors, reviews, names, and subjects. 144 pages, paper, \$3.75; cloth, \$4.50.

Volumes One to Five—The First Thirteen Years. The first five volumes of the *Sierra Club Bulletin* (1893–1905), absent from most collections and long hard to get, are now available. They contain some 1,850 pages of excellently presented historical and scientific material and turn-of-the-century mountaineering adventure, pertaining chiefly to the Sierra, together with 224 pages of illustrations.

Price for the set, five volumes, more than 2,000 pages including illustrations, reprinted by offset, in silver-stamped red buckram, \$32.50 (per volume: I, \$10; II–IV, \$7; V, \$6).



Books from Other Publishers

The Sierra Nevada: The Range of Light. The best all-around book yet on the history, resources, and enjoyment of the Sierra. Contributions by David R. Brower, Charles A. Harwell, Weldon F. Heald, Idwal Jones, Oliver Kehrlin, François E. Matthes, Lester Rowntree, Richard J. Russell, Mary Tresidder. Introduction by Donald Culross Peattie. (Vanguard.) 398 pages, illustrated, cloth, \$6.

This Is Dinosaur: Echo Park Country and Its Magic Rivers. Edited by Wallace E. Stegner, with many illustrations (8 in color), chiefly by Philip Hyde, Martin Litton, and Harold Bradley. This is a beautiful book about a beautiful canyon country that almost went under—a constant reminder of the parklike magnificence to be enjoyed in Dinosaur, and of the vigilance that can keep preserving it. An ideal introduction or memento for riders of the wilderness river trail. (Knopf.) 97 pages, cloth, \$5.

Golden Joins Club Staff

Robert V. Golden has been appointed by the club's Board of Directors to be part-time (two-thirds) assistant to Executive Director David R. Brower, commencing November 1. His time will be divided about evenly between duties in the general and conservation work of the club (attending meetings and hearings, improving liaison with outside organizations, and representing the club as occasion warrants), and assistance to the outing program, including planning and leading some of the outings.

Bob has a B.A. in Conservation from San Jose State College, and has had two years of graduate work in Zoology at the University of California. He has worked on various outings during the past nine years. At the directors' meeting in June at Norden, he presented a program for future studies of the impact of outings on the mountains. With his combination of knowledge of outings and conservation, and his ability to get along with people, he should be of great value to the club, and to the Executive Director.

Place Names—Errata

In the first edition of Erwin G. Gudde's *California Place Names* one of three grave mistakes discovered was the omission of the name of one of California's mighty peaks, Mount Humphreys. Mr. Gudde is anxious to know whether his fellow members of the club have discovered other important omissions or have other suggestions concerning corrections or additions. Please address Mr. Gudde at 137 Crest View Drive, Orinda, California.

(Continued from page 3)

organizations through membership in such groups as the Natural Resources Council, the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs, the Far West Ski Association, and the International Union for Conservation. The Board formulated as a policy certain considerations which have guided previous decisions whether to join such outside organizations. Memberships must be approved by the Board, and may be justified when they are judged to be the most effective method of coordination to further club purposes in a significant

Will This Be Our Next Campaign?

"It" came over the horizon silently. Spellbound, I watched this truly amazing sight. You couldn't mistake it for a plane — it didn't even look like one; besides, it was obviously at a terrific altitude, and no high-flying plane ever crossed the heavens that fast. From fairly low on the forward horizon it sped across the sky to disappear below a building behind me in about thirty or forty seconds.

What I saw, of course, was the discarded rocket, just a piece of scrap metal thrown away Up There. We know nowhere on earth is safe, but must we have litterbugs in our Celestial Wilderness too?

HOWARD FROHLICH
in *The Yodeler*

Park Photos Wanted

National Geographic Magazine, which considers Sierra Club members "above average photographers," is now asking for pictures made in any of the 29 National Parks or 88 National Monuments, to illustrate an article by Conrad Wirth, Director of the National Park Service. Color and black-and-white pictures should be sent promptly to the magazine in Washington, D.C., and will be reviewed on an approval basis.

degree, and when the risk of serious divergence of policy between organizations is not deemed to be a problem. Membership in another organization may be approved as a chapter rather than a club membership under certain conditions.

The Board elected the Honorable John P. Saylor, Congressman from Pennsylvania, an honorary life member of the Sierra Club, in recognition of his outstanding contribution toward the preservation of the nation's scenic resources and his interest in the program espoused by the club.

LEWIS F. CLARK

Mountain Talk

When William E. Colby organized the first Sierra Club summer outing in 1901, he scarcely could have foreseen the range and variety of outings we have flung across the American West in 1957. There were 29 trips, from base camps (during the third session at Iron Mountain the commissary was feeding 195 at each meal) to the new small knapsack trips (on the first group-planned trip, to the San Joaquin's north fork, there were six in the party).

In all, some 1500 Sierrans acquired sun-tan, mountain experience, and occasional blisters on club-organized outings this past summer. The cost was minimal: \$44, including the overhead reservation fee, for two weeks of knapsacking, \$56 with burros, \$56 in base camp, \$88 for de luxe living on the high trip.

Where did we go? The March issue of the *Bulletin*, announcing the outings, described 19 sessions in the Sierra for mountain folk of nearly every taste and degree of ability. In addition there were expeditions and excursions to Glacier and Teton national parks, the Selkirks in Canada, Washington's northern Cascades, the Three Sisters and Wallows in Oregon, and Dinosaur National Monument. In May the *Bulletin* announced a fifth river trip, to Glen Canyon on the Colorado—and 49 members joined Georgie White for one of the last passages of this great canyon, which will be flooded by a reservoir before many more summers.

Some of the outings had extra significance because of conservation problems in their areas. Al Schmitz led a group to a base camp in the northern Cascades, past Lake Chelan and Stehekin Valley to the north fork of Bridge Creek; this provided access to a thoroughly wild country of peaks, glaciers and high lakes now being studied for protection under forest or park wilderness regulations.

Several trips explored the north fork of the San Joaquin, in the region south of Yosemite. Among them was the backpacking tour led by Jim Skillin across the Ritter Range from the west; Dike Creek and all of the north fork country above it, Jim report-

ed, are first-rate wilderness with a fine display of water including cascades and large falls, and deserve to be retained in a primitive state as more and more conservationists have been advocating.

Wherever Sierrans gather, there will be reminiscences of high trips and base camps, river trips, burro and knapsack trips. Some of the terrain has become familiar to many, after decades of travel, and it is none the less valued for that. But the remote places have special interest.

Wilderness base campers, for instance, fanned out from State Lakes through the Monarch Divide, the great mountain mass separating the south and middle forks of the Kings River. Few peaks in this area had ever been climbed, and base campers logged 17 first ascents and nine second ascents.

As for the farthest-north trip of 1957, in the Selkirk Mountains of Alberta, nearly 100 people enjoyed a unique opportunity to come to grips with Canadian glaciers. (This group alone had as many participants as the entire summer outing program in 1901.) Before the weather deteriorated, one climbing team reached the top of Matterhorn-like Mt. Sir Donald; others ascended Swiss Peaks and Castor and Pollux. Nearly everyone climbed Glacier Crest.

The main purpose of the trip was to get to the glaciers, and this was accomplished. Oliver Kehrein tells of taking parties all over the glaciers—even underneath, in ice grottoes. Outstanding, he says, were the traverses of Illecillewaet and Asulkan glaciers, the latter bringing the group to the edge of the Dawson Range.

FRED GUNSKY



Bulletin Board

LOOK for action on natural resources measures when the 85th Congress reconvenes in January. 1958 is an election year—this, plus the fact that many preliminary hearings are out of the way, should speed up conservation legislation. Keep in mind these bills which have been carried over:

S 1176 and HR 500: bills to establish national wilderness preservation.

S 846, the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review bill. Already passed by the Senate, this bill has had preliminary hearings in the House and is ready to be reported.

HR 5538, the Engle bill relating to military withdrawals and reservations. Passed by both Senate and House, it was held from the President's signature because of last-minute disagreement over an amendment.

Amendments to strengthen the Coördination Act (Public Law 723 of the 79th Congress). These concern much-needed protection and enhancement of fish and wildlife resources in connection with water development projects.

S 497, the omnibus rivers and harbors bill which still includes plans for Bruce's Eddy Dam.

S 963, to control billboards along new federal interstate highways.

HR 935, the Saylor bill to give national

Word from Washington and Sacramento

park status to Dinosaur National Monument; and S 2577, the controversial Allott bill to achieve the same end while still leaving the gate open for a future Echo Park Dam. The Allott bill in its present form is being opposed by the Natural Resources Council along with major conservation groups all over the country.

Recent hearings on the California Water Plan by a joint committee of the State Legislature heard Sierra Club recommendations for multipurpose water planning, emphasizing watershed protection, erosion control, and preservation of free-running streams for recreational use.

Governor Knight has appointed Robert DiGiorgio of San Francisco and Mrs. Gertrude Harriman of Hemet as the two additional members authorized by the 1957 Legislature for the State Park Commission.

The Sierra Club has endorsed the request of the California Department of Fish and Game to withdraw seven parcels of land from the public domain for recreational use.

Region 5 of the National Forest Service is taking bids for a sanitation cut of Alamo Mountain, an area containing one of the last untouched stands of Jeffrey pines in Southern California. The Sierra Club continues its strong protest against this cut.

EDGAR AND PEGGY WAYBURN

Editor, Associate Retire

With this issue, Fred Gunsy retires as editor and puts on his columnist's cap. "Mountain Talk" (see page 7), which started in our October number, will tell Sierrans about their mountains and about their club—things they might not have known before, things that are sure to interest them.

Fred has served as editor of the monthly *SCB* for four years—years of devoted serv-

ice, often under strenuous conditions, but always giving full measure of his ability, enthusiasm, and idealism.

Harriet Parsons is also retiring from the staff. As associate editor to several *SCB* editors, she has contributed for a long period her wide knowledge of the club, her experience with its work, and her thoughtful judgment in many matters.