



SIERRA CLUB
BULLETIN *February*
1958

People You Know

A REPORT on the recent balloting in Angeles Chapter from *Doc Atkinson* includes the tale of the girl—mercifully unidentified—who wrote in “Please return my ballot; I forgot to sign it.”

Almost everyone else did, though, and the percentage of faulty ballots was said to be low. *Irene Charnock* was unanimously elected chairman of the Angeles Chapter for the coming year, and *Bob Bear* will head the all-important conservation committee. Others taking on new jobs included *Dorothy Granger*, headquarters committee, and *Orville Miller*, membership.

Lucille Peterson heads the San Diego Chapter's executive committee this time, with *Bill Thomas* as vice chairman. *Roscoe Poland*, who has done a superb job with the conservation committee, will carry on. *Arden Houser* is chairman of the Los Padres Chapter executive committee; *Ivan Evans* is vice chairman; and *Wain Prevost* will be conservation chairman.

The *Sierra Echo*, publication of the booming Sierra Peaks Section, carried the results of a questionnaire and some provocative comments

by *Bill Thomas* on club mountaineering. The questionnaire was designed to elicit comments and advice on what the section should undertake by way of activities, and so on. Bill's statement is too long to reproduce here, but he says in part:

“I have long felt that the Sierra Club in general was too lax in training its climbers. The RCS safety test, for instance, is fine if rock climbing is the only thing which a person pursues, but is a miserable prerequisite for general mountaineering. Perhaps there has been a need only for rock climbing training, but our climbers are now traveling farther afield—to bigger ranges—and should have a broader outlook.”

Tyler Van Degrift's death early in December saddened many an old-timer in the southern chapters. He was one of the first to climb all 14 of the Pacific Coast's 14,000-foot peaks, and in his long service to the club had won a host of friends. He had been a member for over 40 years. *E. J. Wightman*, another veteran from Long Beach, also died recently.

Last November 5 marked a milestone in Riverside Chapter history—25 years since the chartering of the chapter. Honored at the meeting were six charter members: *Louise Schmidt*, *Florence Peterson*, *Sylvia Campiglia*, *Katherine Castleman*, *Archie Twogood* and *Dick Weedon*. Also honored were 17 past chairmen of the chapter.

Setting up the first bacteriological laboratory on St. Helena Island, off the coast of Africa, is *Jean Jenkins'* interesting job for the next two years. Under the auspices of the World Health Organization she will assist the British health officers there.

After being inspired by recent climbs of Half Dome, Monument Peak, and so on, *Tom Rohrer* and *Marvin Stevens* girded themselves with whatever rock climbers gird themselves with and faced up to Eagle Rock.

This, Marvin reported, looks from a distance like a “dirty, decaying, conglomerate glob.” Up close, on the other hand, it looks, he said, like a “dirty, decaying, conglomerate glob.” It is right in the middle of Los Angeles and, in fact, a section of the city is named for it. Anyway, the team climbed it. *Don Wilson* noted that Eagle Rock used to be a popular climb, until crumbling rock and disintegrating relationships with nearby residents put a stop to the sport there.

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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*Reg. U.S. Pat. Off.



Sierra Club Bulletin

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

I & E Conference – Its Purposes

YOU HAVE been asked a good many times, "What is the Sierra Club all about?" Are you able to give a satisfactory answer? Or do you search for the right thing to say and finally mumble something about High Sierra outings and, vaguely, conservation?

The Information and Education Conference is for you.

Or as a new member of your chapter's Conservation Committee or Conservation Education Committee, are you wondering just what you're supposed to be conserving, whom you're supposed to be educating and what about?

Come to the I & E Conference.

Is your chapter well organized? Do the officers and committee chairmen know their jobs? Are the meetings businesslike and fun too?

Then join us at the I & E Conference and tell us how you do it!

When teachers ask you for material on conservation, do you know where to refer them? Do you know what the Sierra Club has to offer—movies, slides, panel displays and posters on certain aspects of the subject? Do you know how to obtain them?

The Cover Picture

First in the field of conservation education, John Muir is shown on our cover at the age of 23. With the permission of the publisher, Houghton Mifflin Company, the picture is reproduced from the frontispiece of Vol. I of "The Life and Letters of John Muir," by William Frederic Badè. For other Muir items see pages 5 and 15 of this issue.

In the belief that many chapter workers would welcome an opportunity to express their ideas, share their problems, and get help in answering the questions we have mentioned, the Sierra Club Council is sponsoring the second Conference on Information and Education, to be held in San Francisco the week end of March 15 at the Josephine Randall Junior Museum.

Major emphasis will be placed on clarifying the purposes of the Sierra Club and defining its particular interest in the field of conservation, its "specialty."

Workshop sessions will give practical help in various ways of putting across the Sierra Club "message" to its members as well as to other people in our communities.

Most organizations with ideas or products to sell, carry on their campaigns with professional talent and use the resources of expensive advertising media. We depend mostly on volunteer help and have limited funds.

But we have two priceless assets that no public relations budget can buy: great enthusiasm, and a firm belief in the truth and importance of our conservation ideas.

The I & E Conference will be concerned with how to channel this enthusiasm so that it will bring the most results; how to explain conservation so that it will be meaningful and important to the most people; how amateur workers can aspire to high standards of skill and facility in an effective program of information, education and public relations.

Each chapter (except the Atlantic Chapter) and each of several club committees concerned in these matters will be asked to

send an official delegate. But any Sierra Club member is welcome to participate in all or part of the Conference.

Write to the club office, 1050 Mills Tower, San Francisco 4, for a copy of the Conference program. There is no charge for attending the sessions.

Just bring your enthusiasm and come.

GENNY SCHUMACHER,
Conference chairman

Northwest Wilderness Conference in March

Scheduled for March 22 and 23, 1958, at the Hotel Edmond Meany in Seattle, is the Second Northwest Wilderness Conference sponsored by the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs. General theme will be "Wilderness Recreation in Northwest Conservation." The program for the opening day

includes a panel discussion on wilderness values (economic, scientific, ecological, inspirational, and wildlife), and a debate: "Resolved, an increasing need exists in our society for natural undeveloped wilderness areas." Another panel, on contrasting wilderness philosophies, will be featured on the second day.

Washington, a state with much superlative wilderness now being threatened, provides stimulating examples for the various topics of this conference. Displays of photography, cartography and miscellaneous graphs and sketches will visualize the values in question.

Further information is available from the conference chairman, Chester L. Powell, 7626 S. 114th, Seattle 88, Washington, or Robert N. Latz (chairman on arrangements), 2347 34th S., Seattle 44, Washington.



CONSERVATION EDUCATION EXHIBIT

Steve Miller

Reaching the Public

*Varied display
materials available*

CONSERVATION EDUCATION is a broad term embracing a wide scope of public relations activities. The Sierra Club's Conservation Committee has a subcommittee—the Conservation Education Committee—whose purpose is to operate a program which will help the club gain public interest and support on specific conservation issues.

Under the able and effective leadership of Helen Verdi, this committee has established coöperation with other organizations interested in wilderness conservation, and with the many government agencies which administer the public lands. This has resulted in better understanding between conservationists everywhere, and has demonstrated the integrity of the Sierra Club and the sincerity of its objectives.

Several years ago the committee, with the San Francisco Bay Chapter's Conservation Education Committee, embarked upon a group of display projects. This coöperation has produced a series of photographic panel displays on various phases of wilderness conservation for use in libraries, schools, museums, and stores, at conservation conventions, and in a number of other places. Leaflets on clean camps, and slide sets on natural science, have resulted from work with other committees in the club. In helping teachers to use these materials, the committee has emphasized the need for teaching wilderness conservation and appreciation, along with other forms of conservation, in the public schools.

A list of the conservation education materials available may be obtained from Mona Gauger, 29 Terrace Walk, Berkeley, Calif.

Camilla Anderson is the present chairman of the committee. Some of its future goals include more articles for newspapers and other publication outlets, more active wilderness conservation education programs in the schools, and especially, contact with mass media such as television and movies. It is ready to aid Sierra Club chapters in organizing local conservation education projects and formulating an effective program.

One of the club's great needs is for more

people willing to donate their abilities and time to this important activity. In order to pass on to our children and grandchildren the beauty we enjoy today, every effort must be made to awaken the public to the values in our vanishing wilderness.

JOHN B. DEWITT

Muir Memorial Dedicated

IN MAY of last year the John Muir Memorial Park was dedicated in Marquette County, Wisconsin, in an area identified with Muir's early boyhood. It consists of about 35 acres of land and more than half the shoreline of Fountain Lake, together comprising ideal topography for the park's two intended uses. A recreational unit in the rolling northwest quarter will have facilities for small groups of people, and the bog, woods and meadows of the south half will be preserved as a natural area.

Participating in the dedication services were representatives of the University of Wisconsin (which Muir left more than ninety years ago "for the University of the Wilderness"), the Wisconsin Historical Society, and various state and county organizations which had been active in plans for the park. Mrs. Jean de Lipkau, Muir's granddaughter, unveiled the memorial marker, a massive granite block with the following inscription:

John Muir, foster son of Wisconsin, born in Scotland April 21, 1838.

He came to America as a lad of 11, spent his 'teen years in hard work clearing the farm across this lake, carving out a home in the wilderness.

In the "Sunny woods, overlooking a flowery glacial meadow and a lake rimmed with water lilies," he found an environment that fanned the fire of his zeal and love for all nature, which, as a man, drove him to study, afoot, alone and unafraid, the forest, mountains and glaciers of the west, to become the most rugged, fervent naturalist America has produced, and the father of the national parks of our country.

Board Honors Oliver Kehrlein

IN RECOGNITION of thirty-three years of exceptionally devoted service to the Sierra Club and to conservation, Oliver Kehrlein was elected an Honorary Vice President of the Sierra Club at the meeting of the Board of Directors on January 11. His resignations from the Board and from the Outing Committee were accepted with deep regret.

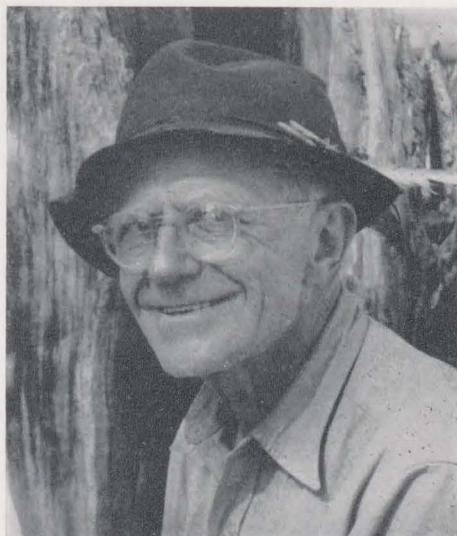
Oliver was appointed to the Outing Committee in December, 1936, after many years of club activity—teaching others the joys and methods of mountaineering, rock climbing and skiing, and helping with the construction of Clair Tappaan Lodge. From then on a great portion of his vigorous energy was devoted to outing leadership almost every season, sharing with others his love for the mountains. He was particularly skillful and earnest in passing on John Muir's wilderness values to people from the cities of all parts of the nation.

His contributions to the knowledge and effectiveness of the Sierra Club were unusually varied. At various times he has aided most of the club committees, among them Mountain Records, Glacier Study, Rock Climbing, Insurance, and of course the Board of Directors. He was elected to the Board in April, 1938.

Heimbucher Elected

The Board of Directors was unanimous in electing Clifford V. Heimbucher to replace Oliver Kehrlein on the Board, and by second unanimous vote elected him Treasurer, to take effect immediately.

The annual income and budget of the club in its conservation, scientific and educational work has risen to \$105,000. The outings, which contribute so much to the interest of our members in preserving the wilderness values of our nation, have grown to a point where for the past two years income and expenditures have been approximately \$100,000 annually, on a self-sustaining, non-profit basis. The club's skiing activities (which also aid in appreciation of the mountains at a different season of the year) have reached a total of \$50,000 per year, on a



OLIVER KEHRLEIN

non-profit basis. The twelve chapters, stretching from Washington, D.C., to Alaska, each have their own financial problems requiring overall supervision. The endowment which has generously been provided to strengthen the club's conservation work has increased steadily over a long period to almost \$300,000.

The rapid growth of the Sierra Club has made it extremely important to have a well-qualified person on the Board of Directors to serve as Treasurer.

Cliff Heimbucher has been active in the Sierra Club for over thirty years. As certified public accountants he and his partner, Francis P. Farquhar, have generously contributed their knowledge to the benefit of the club. For many years their firm has audited the books of the Sierra Club and its outings, all without charge—a very substantial annual contribution to the financial soundness of the organization.

Because of his knowledge of conservation matters in addition to his special professional experience, Cliff has attended many meetings of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee, at their invitation. He has kept in close touch with conservation on a national scale, and for the past three years



CLIFFORD V. HEIMBUCHER

has served as Treasurer of Trustees for Conservation.

Cliff, his wife Verda and their two children have been on seven High Trips, a Base Camp, and a River Trip, and have also been active in winter sports at Cláir Tappaan Lodge. More important to the work of the club, Cliff has served for several years as chairman of the subcommittee on finance appointed by the Outing Committee, and as chairman of the Accounting and Investment Committee appointed by the Board of Directors. Under his supervision the investment income of the Sierra Club has almost doubled in the past three years.

In his professional work Cliff has been president of the California Society of Certified Public Accountants, and a member of the Council (board of directors) of the national professional organization, The American Institute of Accountants.

Annual Dinner

The Sierra Club Annual Dinner (Northern Section) will be held on May 3 at the Leamington Hotel in Oakland. Details of the speaker and program will be announced later by Chairman Georgella Perry.

Saving a Park

FINAL SUCCESS in saving tiny Fremontia Park in Berkeley can serve as an encouragement to keep fighting for protection of our parks everywhere. Seven years ago the City Manager decided that the "cheapest" place to locate a new firehouse would be in a small park already owned by the city. Despite the protests of numerous citizens and local organizations, and the protest of the Sierra Club because of the national issues involved, the City Council in 1954 voted 7-2 to take the "cheapest" way out. Since the area had been purchased by local residents and given to the city expressly for park purposes, a group of loyal defenders of the park carried the matter to the courts. The Appellate Court, however, held that because there was no provision in the deed for reversion of title back to the donors if the city used the area for anything other than park purposes, it must reluctantly conclude that the governing body of the city therefore had the right to use its own judgment as to the "highest use" for the area.

The city then spent \$6,000 in having architectural plans completed and presented as a routine matter to the City Planning Commission for approval, and for permission to build a firehouse in a residential area. Fortunately the Planning Commission, with its background of long-range planning and balancing of values, clearly understood that the use of a dedicated park for a firehouse would not be the "cheapest", nor in the best interests of the city in the long run. The Planning Commission denied the permit and the City Manager appealed again to the City Council. By this time the views of the people were thoroughly known to the Council, some of those who had voted against the park were no longer on the Council, and the new members recognized the importance of the issue. The result was a total and overwhelming victory in support of the park, by a vote of 5-2, which included the selection of another firehouse site and certain reorganization steps to preclude the possibility of another reversal.

RICHARD M. LEONARD



HARLECH CASTLE, Snowdonia National Forest Park British Forestry Commission

England's National Parks

ENGLAND is an old and beautiful country. It has been inhabited since at least 3,000 B.C., the age of the Druids. It was colonized, cultivated and civilized by the Romans, occupied by the Anglo-Saxons and Danes, and finally conquered by the Normans.

In the long centuries of settlement the land has been cleared, plowed and burned; virgin forests have been almost totally eliminated; and primitive areas, except for the wild country in Wales and the Scottish highlands, are practically non-existent.

Nearly all of the British Isles has been in private ownership until very recent times and strict regard for property rights had so restricted access to the fields and dales, moors and fens, highlands and lowlands, that this privilege had to be won for the public before there could be any national parks. In 1884 James Bryce, onetime ambassador to

the United States, introduced a bill in the House of Commons to permit the public to enter private lands "for the purposes of recreation or scientific or artistic study." It was the first effort of the kind, and it took 65 years to get this seemingly modest proposal accepted.

You have to understand this fight to give the people access to the countryside to appreciate the national park movement in Britain. It was only after the passage of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act of 1949 that such public recreation areas became possible. The government could now indicate areas to be dedicated as national parks and grant assistance to local planning bodies to make them accessible.

I visited a few of the British parks last summer. Unlike ours, they are not *reserves* of any kind. In them, the ordinary activities by which people earn their living continue:

farming and grazing mostly, and in the forested areas the cutting of timber.

Control of these areas remains with the private landowners except where the government has purchased tracts for specific purposes, usually as small nature preserves or forest plantations. Under the 1949 act, however, the parks—selected for their outstanding natural beauty—can no longer be defaced “unless there are overriding reasons to the contrary.”

WHEN any major change in land-use is proposed, such as construction of an ugly refinery, digging for minerals, or usurpation for a bombing site, the National Parks Commission can step in and oppose it. The Commission does not always win, but also it does not always lose. The Commission has authority to preserve such areas of scenic beauty from destruction provided it can convince the local planning bodies (who have the final say) that it is in the public interest to keep out factories, mills, mine developments, and even the military. (In England, as here, the armed forces are constantly seeking to take over choice scenic spots even when other suitable sites are available.)

There are now eight national parks in England and Wales, with four more proposed. These, together with the smaller national forest parks managed by the British Forestry Commission, are becoming the great outdoor playgrounds of the British people. Here they can pitch their tents, picnic, bathe in the lovely rivers, sail boats, fish, hike and climb. The government pays 75 percent of the cost of improvements such as campgrounds, parking facilities, trails, and the like. It also assists in the improvement of waterways, removal of unsightly buildings, planting “derelict” land, and clearing footpaths (trails).

The national parks vary in topography, accessibility and size. Rugged Snowdonia in Wales is the largest with 866 square miles, while the craggy Pembrokeshire Coastal Park has only 225 square miles. Some of the parks, like Dartmoor in southwest England, a region of bleak forbidding moors, are remote from centers of population; others, like

the Peak District, are accessible to Londoners and half the population of England.

The visitor is soon convinced that the British people are taking advantage of these recreational opportunities, although not in such vast numbers as in the United States because a much smaller proportion of the population own cars or have the wherewithal for touring. On week ends you can see lines of small cars—some with “vans” attached—moving toward the more accessible parks; campgrounds are filled with gaudy-colored tents; ramblers (hikers) trot along the narrow country roads; fishermen are becoming more numerous; and even rock climbers are increasing in the more mountainous parks.

Accommodations are remarkably cheap. Campers are charged 6 cents a night; fishing permits cost 30 cents; day parking, 6 cents. There are no government-owned hotels, but overnight facilities are available within the areas of most parks. Indeed, good country inns are more numerous now all over England than in Dickens' time. I sampled several and can testify to their friendliness, good food (especially the traditional roast beef), and above all quaint atmosphere.

THE National Parks Commission is making an effort to stimulate public interest in the parks by means of beautifully written and illustrated literature. A booklet on Snowdonia, for example, contains articles on the antiquities of the area, the poetry and literature associated with it, the geology, flora and fauna, as well as information on how to get there, trails, accommodations, etc. Each essay is written by an expert, and in a literary style such as is rarely found in similar American booklets. Merely to read these well-illustrated articles is to develop a strong urge to pick yourself up and go.

The national park movement is, of course, a reflection of the widespread appreciation of scenery and wildlife one finds in the British Isles. Even in the cities this aspect of the British character is manifest. London, for example, is a veritable maze of parks, bedecked with ample flower gardens, frequented by a large variety of birds, meticulously maintained, and heavily patronized.

ANTHONY NETBOY

Do-It-Yourself Conservation

LAST AUGUST a pilot crew of ten Sierra Club members from three chapters gathered cans in the Shadow Lake-Ediza region. The concerted attack upon inconsiderate mountain habits showed clearly the possibilities of scheduling clubwide summer cleanup work parties in addition to the regular summer outings.

In three days we filled forty sacks with burned and flattened cans—an approximate total of 7,000 tin memorials to the ugly insensitiveness of countless campers. Around one campsite—more accurately, a cansite—seven sacksful or 1,200 cans were collected; this in addition to the hard labor of a Sierra National Forest employee, one man against a multitude of cans (Forest Service funds being limited), who, following instructions, had “skimmed off” the most obvious clutter. Archie Mahan, owner of the Agnew-Reds Meadow pack stations, provided the sacks and hauled them out, a service he has offered campers for the last three years.

While we were stoking the hot can fire, bringing in the dead containers and smashing burned tins, the lake visitors became curious. “I thought the Sierra Club was out for pleasure. I didn’t know they worked like this,” one woman remarked. The project was a testimony—an example of do-it-yourself conservation, and we hoped our actions would stimulate others to fulfill their personal responsibilities. Campers asked intelligent questions and listened attentively when we explained club principles and the purposes of our anti-litter campaign.

And we were out for pleasure, too. The cans were in beautiful country. We took time off to hike and climb, and we enjoyed the fellowship on the job and at the campfire. We knew the satisfaction of acting directly to correct in a small and yet educationally powerful way a malady of our time—man’s disregard for the ecological and aesthetic worth of the land.

The Sierra Club Anti-Litter Committee is examining the prospects for next summer’s can hikes. An expedition to the highest

dumpsite in the United States, Mt. Whitney, is being considered as a way to publicize and at the same time cleanse a national disgrace.

The educational task is a major one. Mountain visitors must learn the importance of smashing, burning and hauling out their cans—a technique which we believe should not be compromised. Burying the cans in a small hole or pit creates an unsightly pockmark. The earth covering settles, and the cans are often exposed by rains and thaw or by rodents and bears.

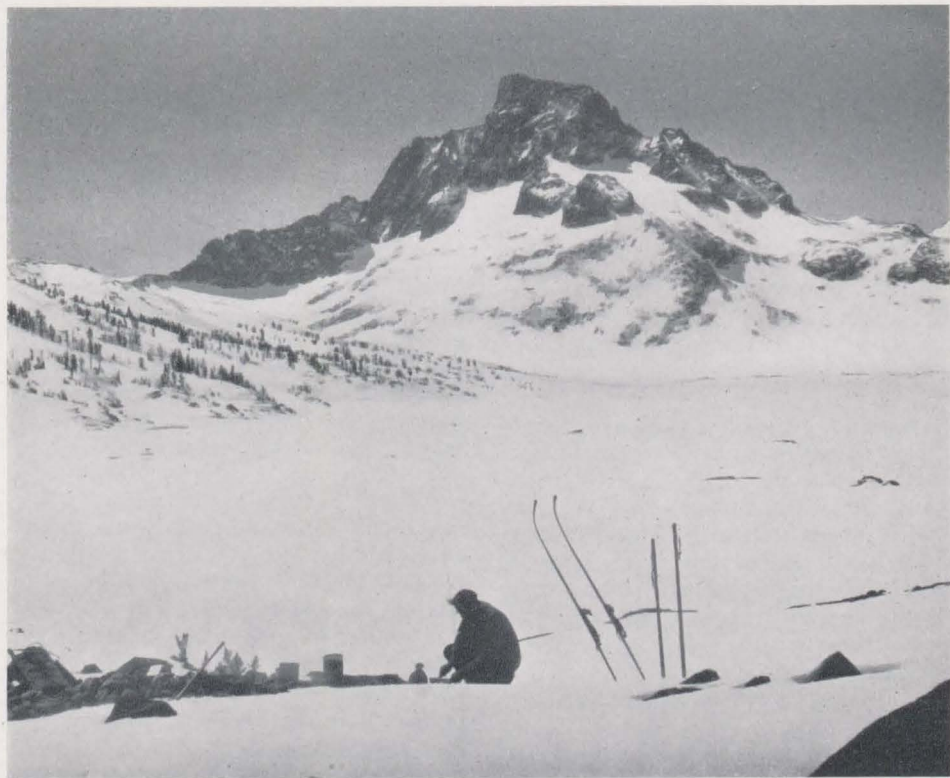
The anti-litter suggestions you mail to the club office will help make the cleanup campaign effective. Organizers and, later, volunteer can-pickers are wanted.

FREDERICK EISSLER

Alpine Centenary

Something special in the way of mountaineering books is now available at the Sierra Club office: the Alpine Centenary, the sixty-second volume of *The Alpine Journal*. It was published in London on the occasion of the hundredth anniversary of the Alpine Club, and includes historical mountaineering articles by such greats as J. Monroe Thorington, Geoffrey Winthrop Young, Tom Longstaff, and Sir Arnold Lunn, as well as a superb selection of photographs. It is well worth the price of \$3.50 (plus 14¢ tax for Californians).

Founded in 1857, the Alpine Club held its Centenary Dinner in London on November 6, 1957. Representatives of forty-one outdoor clubs from all over the world were guests, including Francis P. Farquhar, representing the Sierra Club. Eleven of the twenty-five American members of the Alpine Club, of whom Francis is one, were present. Several members, including Young and Longstaff, had attended the fiftieth anniversary dinner in 1907 and reminisced about original members they had known. Sir John Hunt presided brilliantly. Tenzing, his special guest, was introduced and received an enthusiastic ovation.



BANNER PEAK AND THOUSAND ISLAND LAKE, on the route of the 1958 trans-Sierra ski tour
(Orland Bartholomew)

To June Lake in April

The Sierra Club Outing Committee Trans-Sierra Ski Tour will run between Saturday, March 29, and Saturday, April 5, from Yosemite Valley to June Lake, via Tuolumne Meadows and the main food cache.

If the weather is good, the tour will proceed over Donahue Pass to June Lake. If weather is poor, the options are either Tioga Pass or a return to Yosemite Valley via Cathedral Lakes and Merced Canyon.

Applicants must be competent cross-country skiers with some experience in snow camping and winter mountaineering. Strength, backpacking experience, and reliability are more important than packed-slope skiing experience.

Costs for food and administrative over-

head will be divided among the trip members. These costs should not exceed \$50, including transportation.

All applicants should send a brief biographical résumé, including age and mountaineering experience. No deposit will be accepted until the application has been approved. The trip is limited to 20 members.

Address inquiries to: Alfred W. Baxter, 115 Highland Boulevard, Berkeley 8, Calif.

He who knows the most, he who knows what sweets and virtues are in the ground, the waters, the plants, the leaves and how to come at these enchantments, is the rich and royal man.

EMERSON

Many Problems Before Directors

DIRECTORS, honorary officers, the Executive Director, and committee representatives met in San Francisco on January 11 to discuss a variety of problems. All directors were present except Will Siri, who was in Antarctica.

The Board:

- Directed preparation of a memorial resolution on the death on December 25 of Honorary Vice-President Frederick Law Olmsted, outstanding landscape architect and planner.

- Accepted the resignation from the Board of Oliver Kehrlein and elected him an Honorary Vice-President.

- Accepted the resignation as Treasurer of Richard M. Leonard (who will, however, continue as a director), and expressed simultaneously the appreciation of the Board for his outstandingly capable services as an officer of the club and member of the Executive Committee since 1946 (Secretary 1946–1953, President 1953–1955, Treasurer May 1957 to date).

- In accordance with the By-Laws elected Clifford V. Heimbucher a director, in place of Oliver Kehrlein, resigned from the Board; elected Heimbucher Treasurer and a member of the Executive Committee in place of Leonard, resigned as Treasurer.

- Accepted the report of a special committee appointed by the President to study possible revision of the By-Laws; referred to the committee for further consideration a proposal to revise the By-Laws to permit the Board at their option to elect by majority vote a certain number of directors in addition to those elected by the membership in the annual election (purpose: to provide means for choosing specially qualified persons to serve in important posts—such as Treasurer, Secretary, or Chairman of Conservation Committee—that are becoming increasingly burdensome and that should properly be filled by directors).

Consented to the proposal of the Atlantic Chapter to continue chapter membership in the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference upon its being incorporated.

- Heard an encouraging report from Acting Chairman Wesley Noble on the progress of the Library Committee; approved and provided for that committee's detailed budget for 1958.

- Approved distribution, at the discretion of the Council, of a questionnaire proposed to gather information on skills and capabilities of club members for furthering the club program.

- Accepted with appreciation the gift of the California Himalayan Expedition of about \$1,000 toward establishment of an expedition fund for encouraging exploration and scientific investigation of the high reaches of outstanding mountains of the world.

In their consideration of public matters, the Directors of the Sierra Club try to express broad principles and work for adoption of general policies on which we (and other like-minded organizations) can base sound action on individual problems. To proceed from the specific to the general—hard enough at best—is even harder when meeting time is short. By severely limiting or even omitting other things they wanted to discuss, the directors arrived at conclusions that were expressed in action as follows:

Policy on Wilderness Boundaries

The Sierra Club establishes the following policy in relation to retraction of boundaries of wilderness, primitive, and wild areas to permit another public use:

When a proposal having apparent merit has been made to modify the boundaries in any such area to permit another public use:

- (1) The officers of the club shall refer the proposal to appropriate committees for study—including on-the-ground study if practicable—and for written report.

- (2) After receiving such report the Board of Directors will consider the proposal on the basis of the comparative long-range values to the people of the United States of the existing wilderness and of the proposed nonwilderness public use, including consideration of impact on the remaining wilderness area.

- (3) The club officers will request deferment by the Forest Service of public hearing and

decision until adequate time has passed to permit thorough study of the proposal by interested persons and organizations.

(4) The foregoing shall not apply to the reclassification of primitive areas into wild or wilderness areas.

Proposal for Onion Valley Ski Lift

Having learned of a proposal for construction including a ski lift above Onion Valley, within the boundaries of the High Sierra Primitive Area, the directors stated that, pending further study and action by the Board, the Sierra Club opposes any modification of the Primitive Area boundary lines in the region of Onion Valley for the purpose of establishing a winter recreation area. The proposal was then referred to the Conservation Committee for further study and report and also to the Winter Sports Committee for study and report, pursuant to the policy resolution (given above).

Acquisition of Private Land in Parks

It is important in the public interest for the United States to acquire title to private lands within the National Park System, but the National Park Service may not have funds available to make purchases when opportunities arise. As it is one of the purposes of the Sierra Club to assist in the perfection of the National Park System, the Board authorized the officers of the club, at their discretion, to cooperate with the National Park Service in negotiations whereby the Sierra Club may purchase private lands and improvements within National Park areas (at properly established prices) and hold them for sale to the United States when NPS funds become available. [Such transactions, made possible by revolving funds assigned to that purpose by the Sierra Club and other organizations, have already on a good many occasions helped the NPS or the Forest Service in acquisitions that could not have been made otherwise.]

Educational Work: Two Approaches

The Board learned of a gift to the club (and voted suitable expression of appreciation to the undisclosed donor) of about \$6,000 to establish a revolving fund to provide for publishing in appropriate format a collection of the finest possible expression of creative esthetic photographs of the natural scene; the product is to be sold on a basis to provide continuation of the fund for the same purpose.

The club officers were authorized to express to the national administration of the Boy Scouts of America a suggestion that their national program for featuring various aspects of

Oil, Gas Rules Approved

The threat of widespread oil and gas leasing on federal wildlife lands was ended by Secretary of the Interior Fred A. Seaton on January 8 with his signing of new regulations that establish clear-cut guidelines for that form of commercial exploitation, according to the Wildlife Management Institute. Under the new regulations, oil and gas leasing shall be done on wildlife lands only when and where the Department of the Interior decides that little danger is involved for wildlife and their habitat.

"The regulations I have approved," Seaton stated, "are substantially the same as those published in the Federal Register (October, 1957), except that these regulations make it clear that the final authority to approve leasing in fish and wildlife areas is vested solely in the Secretary."

Conservationists throughout the United States and Alaska are heralding Secretary Seaton's prompt action. Not since 1953, when the bars were lowered on oil and gas leasing activity on federal wildlife lands, have the national wildlife refuges, big game ranges, Alaskan wildlife lands, and federal-state wildlife coordination areas had such well defined protection from incompatible commercial use.

Oil operators on the Kenai National Moose Range in Alaska—site of a major oil strike last year—can continue drilling on leases that were issued before Seaton took office.

scouting ideals emphasize antilitter in its relation to the Scout law of cleanliness.

National Parks Administration

The President was requested to appoint a committee (the majority of whose members shall be directors) to study areas of agreement and possible disagreement between the Sierra Club and the National Park Service on national park policies regarding planning and use.

USFS Land Classification

The President was requested to appoint a committee to study the subject of Forest Service land classifications for all recreational uses.

LEWIS F. CLARK

CHARLOTTE E. MAUK

New Publications

Five recent publications of quite different kinds are of interest to conservationists:

- *National Wilderness Preservation Act*, a 444-page document, published by the Government Printing Office for the use of the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, contains a full report of the hearings held June 19 and 20, 1957. With a map and index, many papers pro and con, and the text of a proposed new draft of S. 1176, the book should be "of permanent value as a reference work about wilderness in the United States," as Chairman James E. Murray wrote.

- *The National Park Wilderness*, a handsome 38-page brochure with magnificent pictures, published by the National Park Service with funds donated by "a friend." This is a brief study of the 85-year record of wilderness protection by the U.S. Government, and a rationale of Mission 66 objectives.

- *Yosemite Nature Notes* for December 1957, the slender, not so elegant, monthly of

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the Yosemite Natural History Association of which many of us are fond, on the subject of the new Happy Isles Nature Center. Described as one of the first Mission 66 projects, the Nature Center is a sort of junior museum, with posters, displays and live exhibits to tell youngsters the story of nature in Yosemite.

- *Outdoor America*, monthly magazine of The Izaak Walton League. The January 1958 issue includes an article by Olaus J. Murie on the far-ranging habits of Alaskan wildlife, especially the caribou, and the need for an Arctic Wildlife Range (now tentatively established by the Fish and Wildlife Service) in northern Alaska. Another special feature is "Conservation Faces the Congress," a center-spread chart previewing resources legislation. In outline form, it gives the title and purpose of bills of interest to conservationists, their status in Senate and House, the position of the Izaak Walton League in relation thereto, and the action indicated for individuals.

- *Wyoming Wildlife*, a special issue for October 1957, published by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. The theme is a warning that productive land can be destroyed by misuse. Dramatic illustrations and text show what has happened in the once fertile valley of Mesopotamia, where agriculture began 70 centuries ago; in Greece, now barren and eroded; in Mexico, where thousands of square miles of forests have been burned; and in our own grasslands in the Great Plains.

Mountain Talk

TO BE a thorough Sierran, it seems, one must be of that blissful minority in love with the mountains, to whom at some time, in some place, there has been revealed all at once the exhilaration and beauty of the rugged, high, wild country.

Think a moment. If you are a Californian, didn't that happen to you in Yosemite?

There was a man who might be called the first Sierran. True, he didn't "discover" the mountains or the incomparable valley. There were already tourists, and accommodations for them, when he came. And the beauty of wild nature had dawned on him earlier, in a thousand-mile walk and before that.

But John Muir pioneered in the Sierra, especially in Yosemite, our way. He traveled on foot and he traveled light. With a sack of bread or perhaps some flour, a little tea, often not even a blanket, he spent weeks alone or with a companion in the high places. Going cross-country, up peaks and down canyons, through brush and the spray of falls, he sought the heart of the wilderness.

Was he a mystic? Yes, and so are we at times. Muir was also a scientist who from his notebooks made important contributions to the knowledge of glaciers, land forms, trees and plants. He had a sharp eye for facts and a shrewd mind.

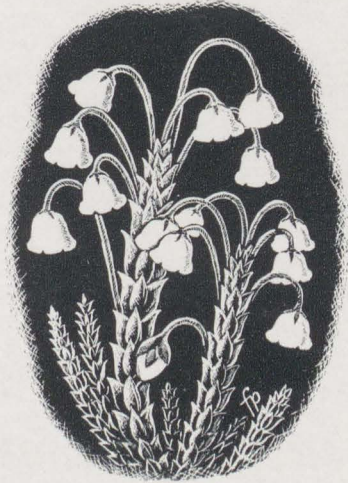
John Muir was thirty when he first saw Yosemite in 1868. It was spring, and you know what the cascading streams are like, the clouds and snow patches and the early flowers. Muir never wrote about that first glimpse. To one of his temperament it must have been soul-shattering.

The next year he found ways of returning. For four years he made his home in the valley, working a little and living much, teaching himself natural history that hadn't been in his college books back in Wisconsin. Fiercely intent, he made many discoveries, many unrecorded first ascents, many intimate friendships not so often with people as with the creatures of a natural wonderland.

He built a cabin near the foot of Yosemite Falls, flooring it carefully in order not to disturb the ferns and mosses, and letting a

little stream run through. He found a cliff-side aerie, Sunnyside Bench, from which he could watch the drama of the days and seasons. He listened, waited, was alert with all the senses. He understood. It was only afterward, and almost unwillingly, that he put his understanding into books.

John Muir was a man of some accomplishments before he came to Yosemite. In later life he was famous and influential. The Sierra



Club and other institutions owe their existence to his inspiration and leadership.

It is when we talk about the wilderness experience, however, that we are most in Muir's debt. In Yosemite nearly a century ago he lived that experience to the full, with a combination of realism and emotional quality that was something new.

As we lay hands on the parks and other wild places, in this changing time, we need to remember how it was when we first saw the wilderness whole. And how it was when Muir saw it, cherished it, and gave us what he could of his unique experience.

FRED GUNSKY

Fernando Penalosa's drawing illustrates one of John Muir's favorite flowers, the white heather (*Cassiope mertensiana*).

Bulletin Board

- Two conservation bills of paramount importance are being considered by the 85th Congress, which reconvened in January: expected to be heard at an early date is a new version of the Wilderness Bill (to provide more adequate protection for our prime scenic lands), which is understood to reconcile the differences of the various bureaus concerned. Reported to the House floor late in January was the Outdoor Recreation Commission Bill, which has already passed the Senate, and the House Interior Committee.

While President Eisenhower's 1959 Budget calls for some cutbacks for the National Park Service, the Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Forest Service, federal dam-building and river development under the Bureau of Reclamation and the Army Engineers are scheduled for increased expenditures.

- Although the House version of the Omnibus Rivers and Harbors Bill deletes the Bruce's Eddy project (which would destroy invaluable wildlife and outdoor resources on the North Fork of the Clearwater River in Idaho), the Senate version contains its authorization. It is therefore likely that the House-Senate conference necessary to iron out the differences in the two bills will have strong pressure from the Senate to reinstate Bruce's Eddy dam. Members of the House Public Works Committee and the Senate Public Works Committee should hear now from conservationists regarding their opposition to this project.

Conrad Wirth, Director of the National Park Service, reports that additional anony-

- *Marked items urgent; individuals can help*

mously-donated funds will make possible a study of the shores of the Pacific Coast and the Great Lakes comparable to the anonymously-financed two-year study recently completed of our Atlantic and Gulf coasts. This provocative and disturbing report is called "Our Vanishing Shoreline."

- Because of the Sierra Club protest, filed last December 1, the "sanitation cut" of Alamo Mountain (involving one of the last virgin stands of Jeffrey pines in southern California) has been delayed, pending a decision of the Chief Forester, Richard McArdle.

This year 10½ miles of the Tioga Road in Yosemite Park will be completed. The entire 21-mile section of the old road is expected to be re-done by 1960, at a total cost of about \$5,000,000.00.

New legislation—similar to that of Senator Neuberger's in the last session of Congress—is being introduced into the Senate and House to control billboards along highways. No single bill has been acted on yet, but early developments are looked for.

- In California, Governor Knight did not include a clarification of SB 1,000 (Chapter 2169)—the Omnibus State Park Bill—in his proposed budget act. It will be necessary now to clear up the ambiguity in this bill, vital to the land-acquisition program of California parks, on the floor of the Legislature. **IT IS OF GREATEST IMPORTANCE THAT YOUR ASSEMBLYMAN AND YOUR SENATOR RECEIVE YOUR VIEWS.**

EDGAR AND PEGGY WAYBURN