



RESCUE PARTY AT STATION 865, TENAYA LAKE

See Pages 3-7

SIERRA CLUB BULLETIN

*October
1958*

People You Know

A VERY important date for Loma Prieta Chapter was June 18, on which the chapter celebrated its 25th birthday at the ranch of charter member *Frank Duveneck*, the site of Loma Prieta's formation. More than 125 people were on hand to commemorate the occasion.

Celebrating the 25th year of their own contract in July (and in Yosemite) were chapter chairman *Rolf Godon* and his wife, *Gerda*. Incidentally, it was *Rolf Jr.* (not Sr., as erroneously reported in this column) who made such an excellent showing in the Donner Memorial Snowshoe Race last winter.

The Pacific Northwest Chapter has an interesting distribution of its 193 members: 87 in Oregon, 77 in Washington, 12 in Alaska, 6 each in Idaho and Montana, and 4 in British Columbia! This accounts for all but one, and where is *he*?

Mother Loders had a booming time in Death Valley last spring, what with *Cris Roman* getting stuck in a museum locomotive stack! Ten of the chapter's less unconventional climbers (who probably stick to rock chimneys) were

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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featured in a picture story titled "Cliff Hangers—and Why They Do It" in the *Sacramento Bee*.

Lots of enthusiasm has been expressed in all quarters over the latest (and elegant) issue of the *Argonaut*, the Atlantic Chapter's publication. Its format and conservation coverage are noteworthy, and the covers present a beautiful color view of Jackson Lake and the Tetons.

It reports the loss of *Dick* and *Win Noyes* to Eugene, where he will be Professor of Chemistry at the University of Oregon.

Irving Shapiro, health education consultant of the National Social Welfare Assembly, has arranged a conservation project with a comic book publishing house.

We were sorry to hear of the death last spring of *Bob Clayton*, who although he suffered from muscular dystrophy, was a first-rate mountaineer with Tehipite Chapter.

The 1958 American Karakoram Expedition which successfully climbed Hidden Peak (26,470') was composed largely of Sierra Club members: *Nick Clinch*, *Dick Irvin*, *Tom McCormack* and *Bob Swift*. We hope to hear more about this later.

Kenneth Davis, who used to be one of the club's most active skiers and climbers, has returned to the San Francisco Bay area after four years as the director of reactor development for the Atomic Energy Commission in Washington. He is now a Bechtel Corporation vice president.

A recent TV performer has been *Tom Elliott*, who demonstrated his watercolor technique on KQED. Some of Tom's paintings of Bay Region and Sierra scenes were exhibited recently in the clubrooms. He has been conducting a series of classes in watercolor at the Artists' Coöperative in San Francisco.

Vivian Breckenfeld's latest book for teenage girls, "White Water," is dedicated to *Barbara Tilden*, who was "technical advisor" on the boating portions of this story of foldboating through Lodore Canyon.

Corinne Albinson, formerly executive director *Dave Brower's* secretary, is now assistant secretary at the American Alpine Club in New York.

The famed British mountaineer and author, *Geoffrey Winthrop-Young*, ("Mountain Craft," "On High Hills") died on September 6 at the age of 81.

Redwood Chapter, our newest, has issued its first schedule of hikes, car-camping and other activities. Outing chairman *R. V. Stephens* has arranged a lively variety of trips.

DORIS BROWN



Sierra Club Bulletin

VOLUME 43

OCTOBER, 1958

NUMBER 8

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

Tioga Protest: What Happened Below Tenaya

Press reports of stop orders and start orders on the controversial Tioga Road have been incomplete or based on inaccurate information. The summary below can be fully documented in club files. Like most chronologies, it is not easy reading, but it explores a question important to the future of national parks: How compulsive is road design?

IN WHAT would appear to be a tragic disregard of protests from the principal conservation organizations concerned with national-park protection, road engineers are proceeding to dynamite and bulldoze one of the primary scenic exhibits in Yosemite National Park to make way for the last park stretch of the realigned, high-speed, trans-Sierra Tioga Highway, part of Mission 66.

Proposed alternatives that would have avoided all major damage are going unused. More than three miles of the new route rip into what was hitherto unspoiled national park wilderness, including some of Yosemite's most extraordinary glacier-polished terrain — that the Director tried to spare — and all this in spite of the requirements of the National Park Act of 1916 that park use be so regulated as to preserve the parks unimpaired for all generations.

How did it happen? "And where," some people have been asking, "was the Sierra Club?"

After years of controversy about excessively high standards for park roads, assurance was given in late 1955 that standards would be dropped satisfactorily for the last 21 Tioga miles. Therefore, as soon as the enormity of the imminent damage at Tenaya Lake was disclosed by the start of construc-

tion in the fall of 1957, protests were lodged. Nothing changed. Correspondence from National Park Service Director Conrad Wirth showed, however, that with the help of the club's Honorary Vice-President Walter L. Huber he had succeeded in getting the Bureau of Public Roads (Department of Commerce) to reduce the road's width about two feet. The project was under way again in late spring of this year—violently.

90-Day Saga

The Sierra Club Board of Directors met in Tuolumne Meadows July 4 and most of the directors saw what was happening. The concern was not so much about excessive width to be surfaced (34 feet) but about insistence on low grades and gradual curves, both horizontal and vertical — there must be no double line to discourage passing over the crest of a hill; there simply must be no troublesome hill.

On July 7 club director Ansel Adams, acting as an individual, directed a strong protest to the Secretary of the Interior; a field inspection by local Park Service officials followed on July 13, attended by Mr. Adams and former club president Alexander Hildebrand, in the capacity of citizen. The results of this inspection were apparently reported

*Below Tenaya—unique on
the Tioga Road, and where the
road was not supposed to go.*

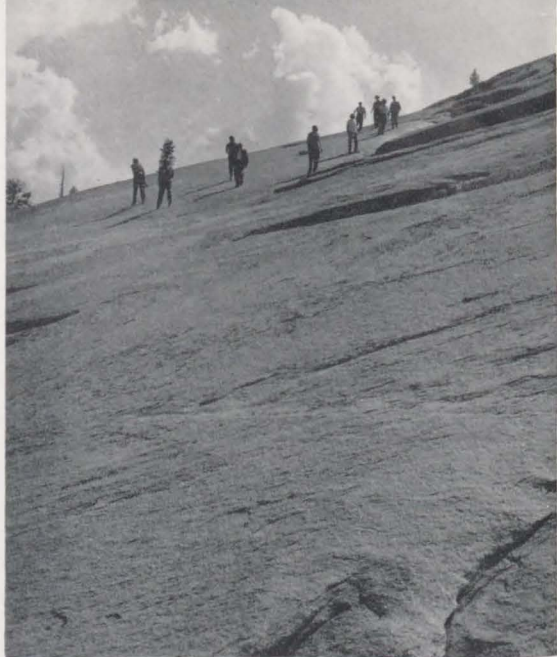
to Assistant Interior Secretary Roger Ernst in such a way that he could assume that the matter had been cleared up to the satisfaction of all. Not so. But in any event the damage at Tenaya Lake itself was now done, just as it was already done for the last 21 miles of Tioga Road realignment, and conservationists would have to look to the future.

Almost all the rest was done, but not quite.

Just west of Tenaya Lake, and from there for some three miles to Snow Creek, nothing had yet happened but the cutting of trees along the planned route. Here the major scars to come from heavy blasting across exposed slopes could be avoided. So could any further invasion of this park wilderness. A few generations would bring trees back; only another ice age would restore the wilderness. This section had gone out for bid on an expedited basis as an anti-recession measure. The plans had been advertised for bid on April 8—the same day the regional engineer of the Bureau of Public Roads had surnamed them—before any Park Service official surnamed them as “recommended” or the Park Service Director signed them as “approved.”

Director Wirth to the Rescue

On August 3 the Sierra Club executive director walked this last line, taking photo-



graphs of the terrain to be impaired, and on August 4 the club wired Director Wirth asking that this portion be held up until he could bring his own landscape-architect's skill to bear. On August 5 Wirth telephoned instructions to the Western Office of Design and Construction to take steps to hold up. The Bureau of Public Roads wanted it in writing, and got it next afternoon. Club president Harold Bradley inspected the region that afternoon and found the drilling proceeding on this portion well into the evening. Next day the NPS reported the work stopped on the eastern part of the three miles. On August 19 the Director himself was on the ground for his own inspection. He walked from station 890 to 822—some 7,000 feet to a control point governing the most critical part of the three miles—but was dissuaded by his staff from walking the rest of it.

Named by President Bradley to represent the club on that trip were Mr. Hildebrand and executive director David Brower, accompanied by his assistant, Robert Golden. It was their clear understanding on that trip

*Director Wirth at
Station 822
(Photos by David Brower)*



*Afternoon sun on the
burnished slope. On
August 19 it was still there.*

that the Director agreed in principle to a minor rerouting that would save some major damage, the exact route subject only to engineering details. This understanding was shared by director Bestor Robinson, whom Wirth had specially invited on the inspection trip, and club secretary Lewis Clark, with whom Wirth discussed the matter privately the following evening in Berkeley. National Parks Association president Sigurd Olson received the same impression from Wirth in Stehekin shortly thereafter in the course of the annual meeting of the Council of The Wilderness Society. Wirth left a few days later for an international conservation meeting in Greece.

Perplexity in the Field

In Wirth's absence it was learned by chance and confirmed on September 18 that local Park Service officials had interpreted his instructions to mean that the highway could follow a route which would inflict even more damage than the original plan and were prepared to go ahead with it. Sierra Club protests of this interpretation to the Acting Director — protests joined by the Executive Secretary of The Wilderness Society — had brought no response by September 23.

Secretary of the Interior Fred Seaton was then in San Francisco and was expecting to hear from the Sierra Club about Tioga. He

did, being jointly invited by the Sierra Club and the National Parks Association to see the controversial area with their representatives. Unable to go himself owing to a conflicting engagement on the East Coast, Mr. Seaton sent his assistant, George Abbott. Mr. and Mrs. Abbott, Anthony Wayne (Tony) Smith, new executive secretary of the National Parks Association and Joseph Carithers, his Western representative, and Brower met Yosemite Superintendent John Preston and landscape architect Volney Westley on the Tioga Road on September 25 and proceeded to the scene of controversy.

The previous afternoon Brower had made a last-minute check with the Park Service Regional and Western Construction offices, both in San Francisco, to make certain that the inspection would be blast-free. He found that though neither office was certain, both expected that construction was being held up until the Director returned from Greece on September 28 to make the final decision. On the ground, however, it was discovered that drilling was noisily proceeding far to the west of the agreed-upon waiting point (Station 865) and was thus well out on the spectacularly glacier-polished slope the conservationists had hoped to save. Superintendent Preston said that the Director knew that this further drilling was going on (along the route club representatives had understood the Director to instruct his staff to avoid). Mr. Abbott said that he had specifically checked with the Washington office of the NPS and had been assured that further work here would await the Director's decision.

The NPS representatives later assured the visitors (a) the Director had asked only that the alternatives be studied; (b) that the drilling had proceeded only to the point where the NPS route and the club-proposed alternative joined (but the drilling went *up* where the alternative would go *down*) and (c) there would be ample time for the Director's decision because blasting in the area drilled would not take place until late the following week (which would be about October 3). Delay beyond that time, they said, would result in another costly hold-up of the

project; the earlier hold-up had cost \$77,000. From Mr. Westley it was learned that detailed engineering data had not yet been calculated for any alternative but the choice of the local Park Service officials — a route still higher and more damaging than the NPS original — although at that time fifty-one days had elapsed since the stop order.

Confusion in the News

Almost immediately after this inspection a news story from Yosemite quoted Superintendent Preston as expecting the Director to decide in favor of the local officials' preference instead of the "12% grade" the NPA-Sierra Club alternative would require (actually it would have been less than 10%, which Associate NPS Director Eivind Scoyen had written on September 18 was acceptable to save scenery or expense). Preston was also reported to have said that the alternative would give motorists a view inferior to what the NPS planned from a parking area (enlarged to hold 65 cars) that would be blasted and bulldozed on the glacier-polished slope, a view which would give a 180-degree sweep, allowing tourists to see Tenaya Lake and Half Dome (in opposite directions) at the same time. Great stress was placed on this.

Actually, the far superior view — a magnificent 360-degree sweep with a photographers'-paradise foreground — would be far more accessible from the proposed alternative, and the glacier-polished slope would be unspoiled and spectacular from the alternative viewpoint, instead of being a shattered foreground of cut and fill.

A later news story from Yosemite claimed that the alternative would have required "a hike" to this viewpoint. It would have meant a stroll closely approximating that required of visitors to the Lincoln Memorial, an observation that Mr. and Mrs. Abbott, both from Washington, D.C., readily agreed to.

The first of these stories prompted a long wire from the club to the Secretary on September 29 summarizing the elements of confusion and pointing out the current inaccuracy in news. At this time the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs, long sharing Sierra Club concern about park road standards, joined the protest. NPA executive

secretary Tony Smith had already filed a detailed statement on alternatives and the Sierra Club views were in full harmony with it.

The next day a telephone call from Washington indicated that the prediction that blasting could wait had been inaccurate; the decision must be made immediately or there would be another costly delay. Later events showed it was made that day.

The Story of Defeat

For four days the club received no further word from the Service or the Department. On October 3 Brower returned from a speaking engagement before the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Conference in Denver to find news stories announcing the loss of the club's battle and stating that construction had resumed, essentially on the route preferred all along by the Park Service. But the road had been moved "10 or 12 feet" downhill and two curves had accordingly been "tightened."

On October 3 President Bradley traveled westward over Tioga on his return from a prolonged field trip to various parts of the country. Box after box of dynamite, he reported, was being hauled out onto the glacier-polished slope and he expected blasting that night. Without identifying himself, he asked a principal foreman on the job if there had been any work stoppages on that part of the road. As Professor Bradley recalls it, the foreman replied: "We're laughing about that one. The papers have talked about stoppages but we've never stopped once. We've never lost a day."

The O. Henry Ending

But also on October 3 Director Wirth sent the club a file of material which showed that he, upon his return from Europe and in consultation with George Abbott, had immediately and vigorously applied himself to rescuing what could still be rescued so late in the season.

On Wirth's orders: Two curves were indeed tightened—enough to require that travelers reduce speed to the 45-mph park limit. A planned 27-foot fill across a high granite

bowl was reduced to 10-12 feet (making it some 50 feet narrower) and moved to follow the terrain better. The grade was steepened here and thus the line was moved about 140 lateral feet farther down the glacier-polished slope. It could have been nearly 400 feet down (and 100 feet lower in elevation) had work not proceeded a third of a mile beyond the agreed-upon waiting point in Mr. Wirth's absence, thus requiring that the Wirth alternate and the "adamant" routes meet almost in the center of the burnished slope and therefore too high on it. The superb viewpoint knoll will thus be a little farther from where the traveler stops his car than it need have been; but few of them, it may be presumed, are likely to object to a short walk in the park.

The best had been made, thanks to the Director and the backing of the Secretary, of what has been termed an "incomprehensible" situation.

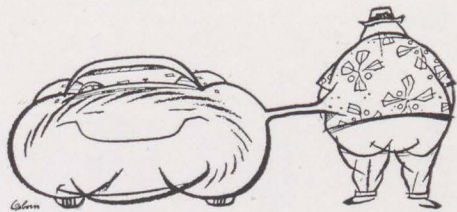
But too much had happened too soon. The unscarred view west from the Tenaya basin and north from Clouds Rest is gone; and the most spectacular, most educational, most exquisite exhibit of glacier polish along the entire length of the Tioga highway is destroyed for the duration of this civilization, as was the shining shore of Tenaya Lake and the unique canyon above it. The change of pace the visitor gets as he enters this road is but a change from moderate to fast. The grades are easy, the curves can all be driven at least at the park speed limit and the straightaways at far beyond that limit; house trailers will pass with ease.

Perhaps the road engineers had advance information from Detroit that the progressively newer cars are going to be still longer, lower, wider, faster, and finnier and it just had to be. And so for all their vision, the men who wrote the National Park Act couldn't know what impairment Detroit was going to tell the public to require in the national parks, and how pervasive the dictates would be among the designers of park roads.

D.R.B.

As long as there is anything worth fighting for, we'll have to fight.

JOHN MUIR



What's Good for Detroit . . .

Artist Robert Osborn illustrates in *The Insolent Chariots*, by John Keats (Lippincott, 1958, \$3.95) what he thinks Detroit thinks we look like. Mr. Keats's "rapier tipped with wit, edged with anger and forged with the facts" tells about what the modern automobile — the 1958 "dream boat" that becomes the 1961 "dog" — is doing to 1958 people, and that includes the people who feel the hurry-compulsion in the national parks.

"Quickly the automobile became the nagging wife," Keats writes. "She grew sow-fat while demanding bigger, wider, smoother roads. The bigger and better the road, the fatter she became, and the fatter she grew, the greater her demands for even bigger roads." And the "super-highways to be completed by the end of 1975 are already hopelessly inadequate in terms of the number and kind of automobile Detroit expects to spew forth in the next *twelve* years."

Throughout the book, readers who think about parks will be able to interpolate what will happen to the parks — national, state, and local — if people continue to accept the myth that this total collaboration is necessary. They might reflect, as they ride the jetstream across the parks and are tempted to applaud frivolously because the road is so easy to relax on, that something vaguely similar is true of the fourth and fifth martini. But oh, the hangover! D.R.B.





Suburbanitis, San Pablo Reservoir and the 3 V's

LITTLE SHORT of an H-bomb could clear space on Manhattan Island for another Central Park, or in San Francisco for another Golden Gate Park. Truly years-ahead thinking kept these two famous park areas from being engulfed by random development in the first place. And vigilance, vigorously applied, has kept opportunism outside these parks for the many decades since they were first set aside.

Those three Vs, vision, vigilance, and vigor, are in great need now as development accelerates its course in the San Francisco Bay Region, and particularly in the East Bay. A 3-V program is essential to keeping islands of wildness, beauty, and open space in what has been one of the world's most attractive places to live.

Anyone who has spent the postwar period in the Bay area knows how rapidly its wild and rural lands are vanishing. Think back to what was here in the early 'forties and fly over it now!

Look at the Westlake vicinity, "where the latter-day lemmings poise" at the Pacific's brink. Look eastward to bulldozers' playgrounds in the East Bay hills; eastward farther still to where Greater Walnut Creek promises to sweep from Suisun Bay south to Sunol and westward into the hills themselves. Look southward to the remnant orchards and truck farms that hardly separate the tracts; and throughout the area, look at the widening, lengthening, choking freeways

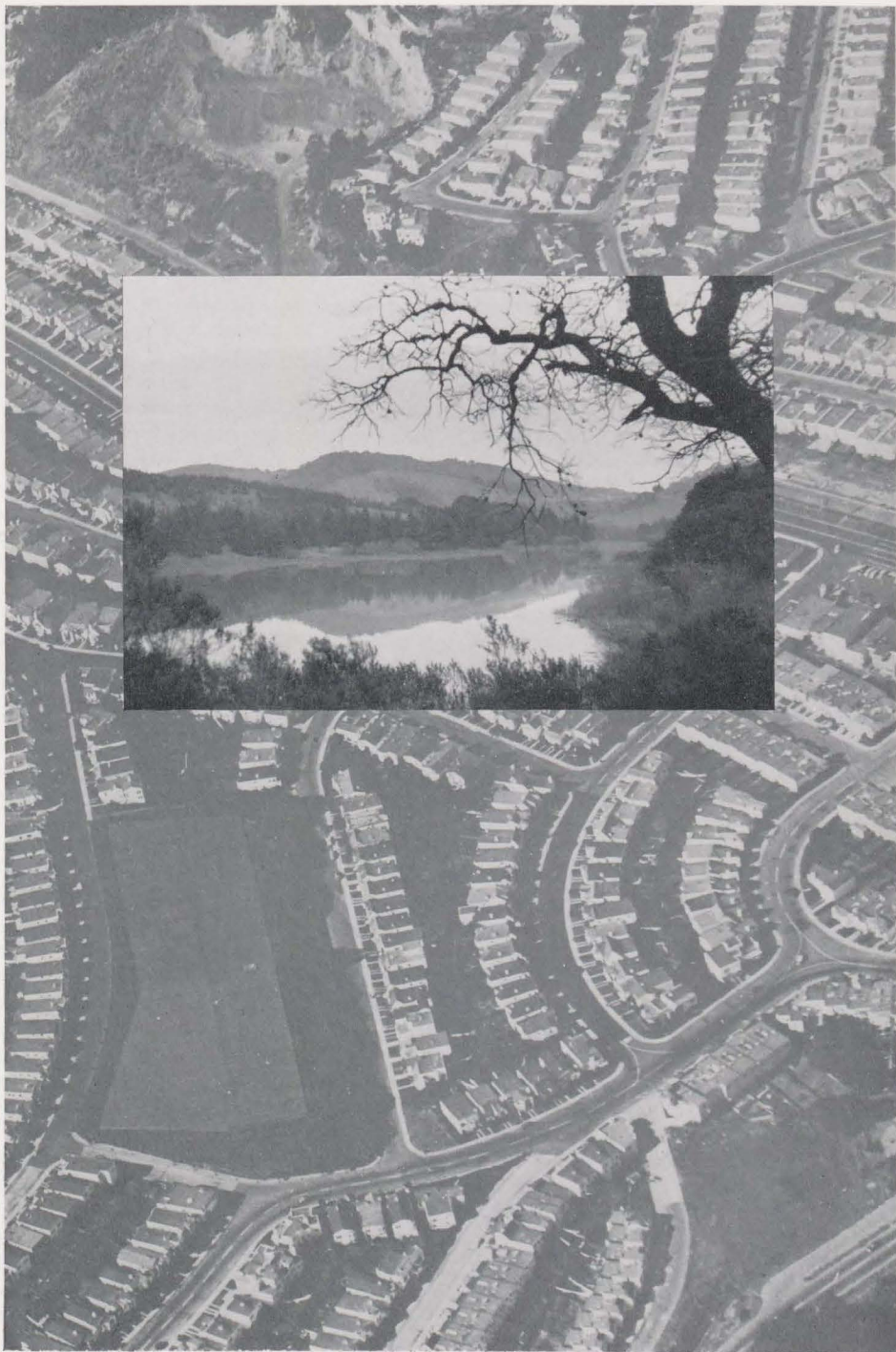
that seem to obsolesce even as the governor cuts the ceremonial ribbon.

Everywhere are the signs of rapid growth and the resultant mixture of glee, hand-rubbing, concern, and horror that goes with it, depending upon who is the receiver and who the giver. If you are the realtor, subdivider, construction company, supplier of building materials, or the banker, lawyer, or salesman who services these agencies, you probably love it. But if yesterday's quiet patio abuts the new freeway, or you're trying to find a place to park, or to stretch the educational facilities for your children, or if you see the peripheral emporiums luring your customers away, or you are seeking elbowroom, countryside, and a slice of sky on a week end, then you're probably not so sure — and wish the smog smarted less and was translucent.

You may even have started to wonder if this constant doubling of growth may not be putting life's things-worth-having on a half-life basis.

This phenomenon—Paul Sears and Wallace Stegner call it cancerous—is now crowding toward San Pablo Reservoir, one of the most attractive areas remaining of the as-yet-unroofed parts of the East Bay hills. The symptoms are seen by the people concerned

*San Pablo photo by
Larry Williams*



about Point Reyes, Mount Tamalpais, the urbanization of Napa Valley. They can be diagnosed in the uninterrupted march toward the Sierra foothills of Greater Sacramento, or the decimation of orange groves in the Los Angeles Basin. The seemingly inevitable prognosis is a greater Greater New York having both a South 1984th and North 1984th Street and soon a West 1984th Avenue — numbers carrying on because names ran out.

For growth itself is growing; and although unmitigated glee about it is now tempered to uneasy glee, no plateau yet shows clearly on the horizon. California is certain to exceed New York in population before anyone has examined the price tag on this new laurel. The San Francisco Bay Area will share the cost. And that cost will include the loss of too much of what people came for and stayed for unless these things are rescued by people who care. It is easy to understand that the real-estate and construction-company people will be too busy for the rescue until the eastbound and westbound bulldozers have collided on the crest of the hills where the oaks once grew. To them, a man's patio is park enough; let him plant his own oak there.*

Is There an Answer?

But the rest of us, adopting the three Vs, can effect the rescue. As William H. Whyte, Jr., an eminent editor of *Fortune*, has urged, let us acquire the necessary open land now, then decide at our leisure how right we were all along to have done so. What we get now will still be open in a decade or two if we overbought — and can be disposed of at a handsome profit if our heirs and assigns so elect. What we don't get will surely be closed,

*Entirely aside from the fact that probably less than one per cent of the population have a patio, it should be remembered that patios, for a very large part, are used by adults as a place to munch potato chips, tell stories, and drink beer. Patios are also the scenes of great childhood activity — the activity of waiting for father to finish barbecuing the hamburger, whereupon they, the children, gulp and run. Run where? To the park and playground, of course.

THE PRINTER

[That's right; our printer.—D.R.B.]

and we shall ourselves have foreclosed some inalienable rights of the next generation, which may need open space far more than we do.

At all events, let the public hold fast to such public land as that held by the East Bay Municipal Utility District in the San Pablo Reservoir basin. Let Californians inquire also whether there is need to change the laws to provide that such public lands shall be used for public purposes and not be put up, without recourse, for disposal for private benefit. A point worth bearing in mind: if it should be argued that this land must be disposed of because there is no other place to build, then this is the clinching argument that what the public needs here is not more roof, but more park — clearly dedicated park.

The moratorium principles the Sierra Club has urged for the National Outdoor Recreation Resources Review apply in the East Bay — hang out the "Closed During Inventory" sign until there is ample time to study. We *know* there will be demand enough for housing to justify subdividing the entire area and a lot more too. It will take no study to predict this. But we also know we can't ignore Isaiah's admonition, "Woe unto them that build house to house . . ." and that there must be open space, park and recreation space, green islands of sanity, to relieve the paving. We don't know how much space, but we are at long last trying to find out — in national, state, and local studies.

By the time we find out, there isn't likely to be enough left to meet the need — so stock that can be held during inventory will be just that much stock in hand to be drawn upon immediately or rationed, whatever the count indicates. If there should happen to be a little extra open space left over, there will be no dearth of enterprising individuals ready to sell it to individual people as soon as the public sells it to them.

The cogent argument is to keep the Bay Area's public lands public. This may not please the bulldozer-directed subdivider and hangers-on. But it will prevent the short-changing of people — people who live around the Bay now, or who will some day want to because its beauty wasn't drowned in the rising tide.

D.R.B.

President Names Commission Members

President Eisenhower has named the seven citizen appointees to the new National Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission. Those appointed are:

Dean Samuel T. Dana, School of Natural Resources, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor; Mrs. Katherine Jackson Lee, member of the American Forestry Association Board of Directors, Peterboro, N.H.; Bernard L. Orell, vice-president of the Weyerhaeuser Lumber Company, Tacoma, Wash.; Joseph W. Penfold, conservation director, Izaak Walton League of America, Washington, D.C.; Laurance S. Rockefeller, civic leader

In order to obtain substantially larger values in highway beauty by more skillful techniques in location, two requirements have to be faced. One is essentially a matter of *education*—primarily further education of highway engineers in the esthetic aspects of their professional work not hitherto sufficiently stressed in their training. The other is a matter of *personnel* in that there are a great many worthy and capable people among engineers (as in other walks in life) who cannot, even with the best of training and the best of good will on their own part, develop very skillfully artistic judgments; so that existing highway staffs may need supplementing by individuals whose technical qualifications are accompanied by inherently keener esthetic discrimination.

FREDERICK LAW OLMSTED
"Highways and Landscapes"
American Planning
and *Civic Annual*, 1935.

and conservation enthusiast, New York City; M. Frederik Smith, Council of Conservationists, public relations executive and conservation leader, New York City; and Chester S. Wilson, former commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Conservation, Stillwater, Minn. Rockefeller will serve as chairman.

Conservationists view the appointments as being fairly representative of the many outdoor recreations and the resources upon which they are dependent. Considering also the eight persons who constitute the Congressional members on the Bipartisan Com-

mission, all portions of the nation except the Southeast are represented.

Members of Congress named to the Commission are: Senators Clinton P. Anderson (N.M.), Richard L. Neuberger (Ore.), Arthur V. Watkins (Utah) and Frank Barrett (Wyo.) and Representatives Mrs. Gracie Pfost (Idaho), Al Ullman (Ore.), John P. Saylor (Pa.) and John J. Rhodes (Ariz.)

The Commission is to inventory national recreational resources, project expected recreational usage into the years 1976 and 2000 and recommend means of meeting anticipated needs, reporting finally by September 1, 1961. It would have the guidance of a 25-person Advisory Council representing various geographical areas, agencies and organizations and recreational pursuits. The Commission has been appropriated \$50,000 for the current fiscal year out of a total authorization of \$2.5 million.

Great Basin Film in Color and Sound

Latest addition to the Sierra Club's collection of films is "Great Basin Range—Nevada," in color and sound. It shows the main features of the proposed Great Basin National Park (*SCB*, Dec. 1956 and Jan. 1957), including beautiful shots of the underground world at Lehman Caves, and of 13,000-foot Wheeler Peak and its glacier. The varied ecology, natural history and fine scenic qualities of the high Snake Range around the peak are fully described.

The film is available to clubs or groups without charge (except for postage or other shipping costs). Running time is thirty minutes. Arrangements to show it may be made through Mona Gauger, 29 Terrace Walk, Berkeley, California. The National Parks Association, Washington, D. C., also has a copy of the film, which it rents for \$5.

The Great Basin National Park Association (which produced the film) had its second annual meeting in July at Lehman Caves. More than 80 people traveled up to the high country under Wheeler Peak—the largest group ever to penetrate the area. Plans are being made for a similar outing next year, and more exploration of the region.

Record Attendance at FWOC

HIGHLIGHTS of the 1958 Convention of the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs included record attendance (approaching 300), a beautiful site and fine facilities (the Boy Scouts' Camp Meriwether, on the Oregon coast near Tillamook), and early-morning tidepool exploration followed by an outdoor breakfast.

Speakers were as usual varied and excellent, discussion sessions too short for all that the participants wanted to say once they had got warmed up, activities so numerous and attractive that one wanted to be everywhere at once, and contacts with new people rewarding.

Programmed talks brought convention members increased understanding of the problems of administration of our public lands and new knowledge of the threats to those lands. Small discussion groups provided for exchange of ideas and experiences of FWOC member clubs. The Convention adopted resolutions presented below. And out of the meeting as a whole came encouraging knowledge that none of us is alone in working on problems, that we have many colleagues, and that the success of any one group in a problem of mutual concern is helpful to the entire Federation.

Resolutions Adopted

The resolutions adopted by the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs at its 27th Annual Convention may be summarized as follows. The Federation:

1. Reaffirmed: support for the establishment of Dinosaur National Park, the request for studies in forest recreation as recommended in the Dana Report, and opposition to any trans-Sierra road between Tioga and Walker passes.
2. Recognized the superb scenic quality of the North Cascades; commended the U. S. Forest Service for the protection it has thus far afforded the region, in view of the limitations of law and funds, and urged continuation of that protection; but also recognized the inability of the USFS, under law, to pro-

tect both the wilderness core and the partly developed gateway areas, and therefore requested the Congress to direct the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, to conduct a study of the North Cascades area between the North Cascades Primitive Area and Stevens Pass, in the State of Washington, and recommend to the Congress how this region's wilderness, scenic, wildlife, and recreational resources may best be protected by law.

3. Urged the Secretary of the Interior to have the National Park Service and the Bureau of Reclamation complete surveys and promptly make public all feasible methods for safeguarding Rainbow Bridge National Monument, with protective structures

Influence of man on vegetation in China 2,260 years ago:

"The Bull Mountain was once covered with lovely trees. But it is near the capital of a great state. People came with their axes and choppers; they cut the woods down, and the mountain has lost its beauty. Yet even so, the day air and the night air came to it, rain and dew moistened it. Here and there fresh sprouts began to grow. But soon cattle and sheep came along and browsed on them, and in the end the mountain became gaunt and bare, as it is now. And seeing it thus gaunt and bare people imagine that it was woodless from the start." (Mencius—372-289? B.C.)

ARTHUR WALEY

The Way and Its Power

to be completed by the time Glen Canyon Dam is completed; also requested that opportunity be afforded for public consideration of the detailed plans before they are put into effect.

4. Urged the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service to provide essential visitor facilities at national wildlife refuges.

5. Urged studies by the National Park Service in cooperation with the Great Basin Range National Park Association looking to the establishment of the Great Basin Range National Park.

6. Expressed its belief, with respect to standards for road construction in national parks: that decisions on whether a road shall be built, and where, have irreversible effects on the natural scene; that such decisions should be based on wilderness protection and esthetic considerations as well as engineering considerations. Urged the National Park Service to promptly study, adopt, and publish the standards which are henceforth to be adhered to for National Park roads, seeking in this study the cooperation of representative conservation groups.

7. Commended the sponsors of the National Wilderness Preservation System bill (S. 4028 and H.R. 13013), and urged speedy reintroduction and passage in the Eighty-sixth Congress.

8. Recognized the value of the Mount St. Helens Limited Area, including Spirit Lake and environs, for family and youth group recreation, and appreciated and expressed support of the endeavor of the U. S. Forest Service to consolidate an area with defensible boundaries by acquiring by exchange land not now under USFS jurisdiction; also urged the USFS to maintain in a wild state the area known as "the lakes region" north of Spirit Lake; and offered assistance in accomplishing these objectives.

9. Recognized that the present Ocean Strip in Olympic National Park is one of the last opportunities to preserve a primitive oceanscape; recognized, also, that as alternative commercial road sites are available (including 20 miles of superlative ocean right-of-way from Ozette River to Cape Flattery), it is feasible to keep this remnant of wilderness ocean front roadless and at the same time serve community needs; therefore urged the National Park Service to keep Olympic National Park's wilderness Ocean Strip roadless, and to explore with the State of Washington the possibility of extending NPS jurisdiction to the beach.

10. Urged agencies administering lands not now designated for other purposes to defer decisions on ultimate disposition of such areas until findings of the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission are announced and the public has had adequate opportunity to review proposals for

utilization of these lands. (Examples listed: Alpine Lakes Limited Area, together with the Salmon La Sac region and the Mount Stuart range, Washington; Waldo Lake Limited Area, Oregon; Kern Plateau, California.)

11. Commended sponsors and supporters of the act establishing the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission; requested the Commission, in its appraisal of the needs of the future, to give especial attention to these important principles:

Gateway or Buffer Areas. Some of the increasing recreational demands now falling on wilderness (which is insufficient to meet them) may be satisfied by partially developed lands. Semi-developed lands contiguous to actual wilderness can (a) provide an entryway to the wilderness and (b) lessen the impact on wilderness of activities whose effects are felt at a great distance, and therefore keep the *effective size* of the wilderness areas as large as possible.

Competing Land-Use Demands. Growing populations create increased demands for wilderness and similar outdoor recreational opportunities at the same time as they create increased demands for the potential commodity products of those lands. Evaluation of the competing demands should be based on the possibility of finding substitutes for commodities and the impossibility of finding any substitute for wilderness.

Public Lands Near Population Centers. The needs of urban communities for open spaces increase even as the open spaces disappear. Where there are sizable areas of public or quasi-public lands near cities, it is important to defer their use for industry or construction until adequate open-space recreation for the expanded community is assured.

CHARLOTTE E. MAUK

Aiming for tidy streets, the town of Windsor (Berkshire), England, has notices on its litter boxes in *fifteen* foreign languages. We thought we had mainly English-speaking litterbugs, but maybe this would help! And here's a sign we can all understand, used in many national parks and monuments:

"Take nothing but photographs—
Leave nothing but footprints."

Plans for 1959 Outings Studied

At its September meeting the Outing Committee roughed out *tentative* plans for the 1959 program of wilderness outings, most of which will probably be firm by January and formally announced in the *March Bulletin*. This advance notice will allow all hands to start dreaming.

The tentative outlook:

High Trips.—4 weeks out of Kings Canyon (7/5-8/1), 10 days each in Wyoming's Wind River Mountains (8/6-16) and the Sawtooth country of Idaho (8/9-19).

Base Camps.—6 weeks high on Piute Creek (7/11-8/15) and a Back Country Base Camp in Goddard Canyon (8/2-15).

Specials.—Olympic National Park (8/10-21) and Northern Cascades (8/2-29).

High-light.—Northern Yosemite & Tilden Lake (7/19-8/1).

River Trips.—Glen Canyon (6/21-29), Yampa (7/5-11), Lodore (7/12-18), Salmon (7/26-8/1), Rogue (8/2-8).

Burro.—7 weeks in all in Sequoia National Park (7/12-8/29).

Family Burro.—Two 2-week periods crossing Mather Pass, starting 7/19 and 8/2.

Knapsack Trips.—Many, all over.

And another clean-up trip is in the offing and a new "Threshold Trip" (family knapsack, close to roadhead, with fathers doing the relaying of gear over the short distance and small children carrying the cornflakes) being contemplated.

Tentative is still the word.

The wilderness furnishes the best environment which remains in the country for physical adventure. It is difficult to overestimate the importance adventure assumes in the longings of innumerable vigorous people. Lack of opportunity to satisfy such longings undoubtedly is responsible for much unhappiness, for a considerable portion of the crime which is so often committed as a means of self-expression, and, if we are to believe William James and Bertrand Russell, even for war.

ROBERT MARSHALL

MOUNTAINEERING BOOKS

NEW AND OLD

Catalogues issued

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New in the Library

The Library Committee reports that recent acquisitions in San Francisco include the following:

The Book of the Mountains. A. C. Spector-sky. Appleton-Century-Crofts. Stories, anecdotes and poems about mountains throughout the world, with beautiful illustrations.

A Dictionary of Mountaineering. R. G. Col-lomb. Blackie and Son, Ltd., 1957. Definitions, names, and terms and their explanations, used by English-speaking mountaineers in Britain and on the Continent.

Everest: From the First Attempt to the Final Victory. Micheline Morin. John Day. A detailed account of the ten expeditions which attempted, over 32 years, to conquer Mt. Everest.

Mont Blanc and the Aiguilles. C. Douglas Milner. Robert Hale, Ltd., 1955. An account of two centuries of exploration, illustrated with photographs by the author.

The Mountains of My Life. Ashenden. Wil-liam Blackwood, Ltd. The author tells of his journeys in Turkey and the Alps.

Rocky Mountains. Frank S. Smythe. Adam and Charles Black, 1948. Illustrated with photographs, this book relates the adventures of an English hiker in the American and Canadian Rockies.

The Picture of Everest. Alfred Gregory. Ben Johnson and Co., Ltd., 1954. Some of the finest color photographs of the famous 1953 expedition are found in this book.

The Mariposa Indian War, 1850-51. C. Greg-ory Crampton. University of Utah Press, 1957. Diaries of Robert Eccleston: the California Gold Rush, Yosemite, and the High Sierra.

Mountain Talk

THEY CALL it the "American Alps," that section of the Cascade Range in northern Washington which swings east from a region of heavy glaciation to one equally spectacular but of drier climate. Although the country is dramatic—steep, rugged, glacier-hung—it is easy to approach, flower-strewn and pleasant for camping.

I haven't seen it yet, but it's an irresistible goal, like the Olympics of the Washington coast. One area is a national park and the other should be; that's another story.

Sierrans returned to the North Cascades for three weeks of pack trips and high camps last August, led by Al Schmitz of Portland. In the party were Edgar Wayburn, the club's conservation chairman, and his wife Peggy. I'd like to pass along some of their comments.

From Chelan to Stehekin village, a boat trip of 55 miles on Lake Chelan provides a unique entry into the wild.

Stehekin means the Way Through. From the village to Bridge Creek runs a 17-mile road, built to serve mines which, Ed says, littered the mountains with more metal than they took out. The miners' loss is our gain, for a sky-blue bus now takes visitors to Forest Service camps.

Then the road is impassable to cars and you start hiking. Trapper Mountain guards the route up the valley to the high country.

It happened that 1958 was a year of drought. For 61 days there was no rain, yet even this year there had been miles of flowers in the long meadows. In mid-August the deep blue of gentians answered that of the sky over the passes and great peaks.

The Wayburns visited all three of the canyon-and-pass areas in which the club camped. Each was different.

On the North Fork of Bridge Creek was the "camp of many waterfalls." The country was wild and fierce, dominated by precipitous slopes of Mount Logan and Mount Goode. Everything was on a large scale: thundering falls, a turbulent stream, hemlocks swept down avalanche tracks.

Park Creek Pass was around 7000 feet, the timberline, but it was friendlier, thickly

grown with tall grasses, gentians and stars of Parnassus.

Cascade Pass was a splendid Alpine region. There were views of glaciers five miles across, and of massive mountains named Eldorado, Formidable, Magic.

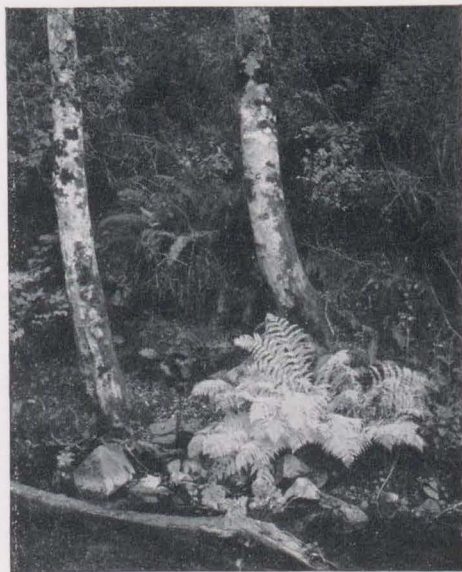
Wildlife was abundant. Campers saw bears, marmots, conies, and handsome weasels wearing russet coats and cream vests. A notable bird was the ptarmigan. Bridge Creek gave the fishermen limits of trout, and swimming was good in the lakes.

Peggy Wayburn completed her description with a string of superlatives. There are more glaciers in the North Cascades than in Glacier National Park, she said; more waterfalls than in Yosemite; more flowers than on Mount Rainier; more lift than in any other range in the continental United States; more climbing possibilities than in the Tetons.

Others agree with the superlatives. A Cascade park, according to experts, would "outrank in its scenic, recreational, and wildlife values, any existing national park."

Well, I'm convinced. You'll find me with loaded pack at the Stehekin bus, first chance.

FRED GUNSKY



Bulletin Board

• *Wilderness Bill hearings announced*

THE CALIFORNIA State Park Commission has approved the acquisition of over 3,000 acres for expansion of Mt. Tamalpais State Park, including portions of the Dias Ranch and the rest of Frank Valley as well as the Steep Ravine and Warm Springs areas overlooking the Pacific Ocean, and has directed the Division of Beaches and Parks to proceed with appraisals and negotiations.

The highly scenic area of Bodega Head (on the Sonoma coast, California) which was included in the State Park system's Five Year Plan for acquisition, with a portion being considered by the University of California for a marine biological station, is reportedly being condemned by the Pacific Gas & Electric Company for a power plant.

The United States Forest Service has been requested by the Sierra Club to withhold exploitation of two hitherto undeveloped areas—Waldo Lake, in the Oregon Cascades, and the Kern Plateau, south of the High

Sierra, pending the survey of these areas by the President's Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission. In both instances, the Forest Service has refused the request.

The Point Reyes Seashore Recreation Area proposal (Marin County, California) has gained the support of many local groups and interested citizens, who are working to assure further study and full consideration of the area. On the other hand, the County Board of Supervisors, listening to the objections of local ranchers and realtors, voted against approval of the proposal.

Have we considered the full moral implications of harvesting our last magnificent forests when at least 25% of the timber will go up in smoke with our current milling practices (National Forest Service Timber Resources Review)—and an untold percentage of wood pulp products will go into throw-away third class mail, comics and pulp magazines?

Field hearings on the all-important Wilderness Bill are scheduled to take place in Bend, Oregon (November 7), San Francisco, California (November 10), Salt Lake City, Utah (November 12) and Albuquerque, New Mexico (November 14). Any person or group wishing to testify in person at any of these hearings should notify promptly Senator James E. Murray, Chairman, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, Room 224, Senate Office Building, Washington 25, D. C. Those who wish to submit a written statement for the hearing record should send it to Senator Murray, stating in which hearing testimony it should be printed.

EDGAR AND PEGGY WAYBURN