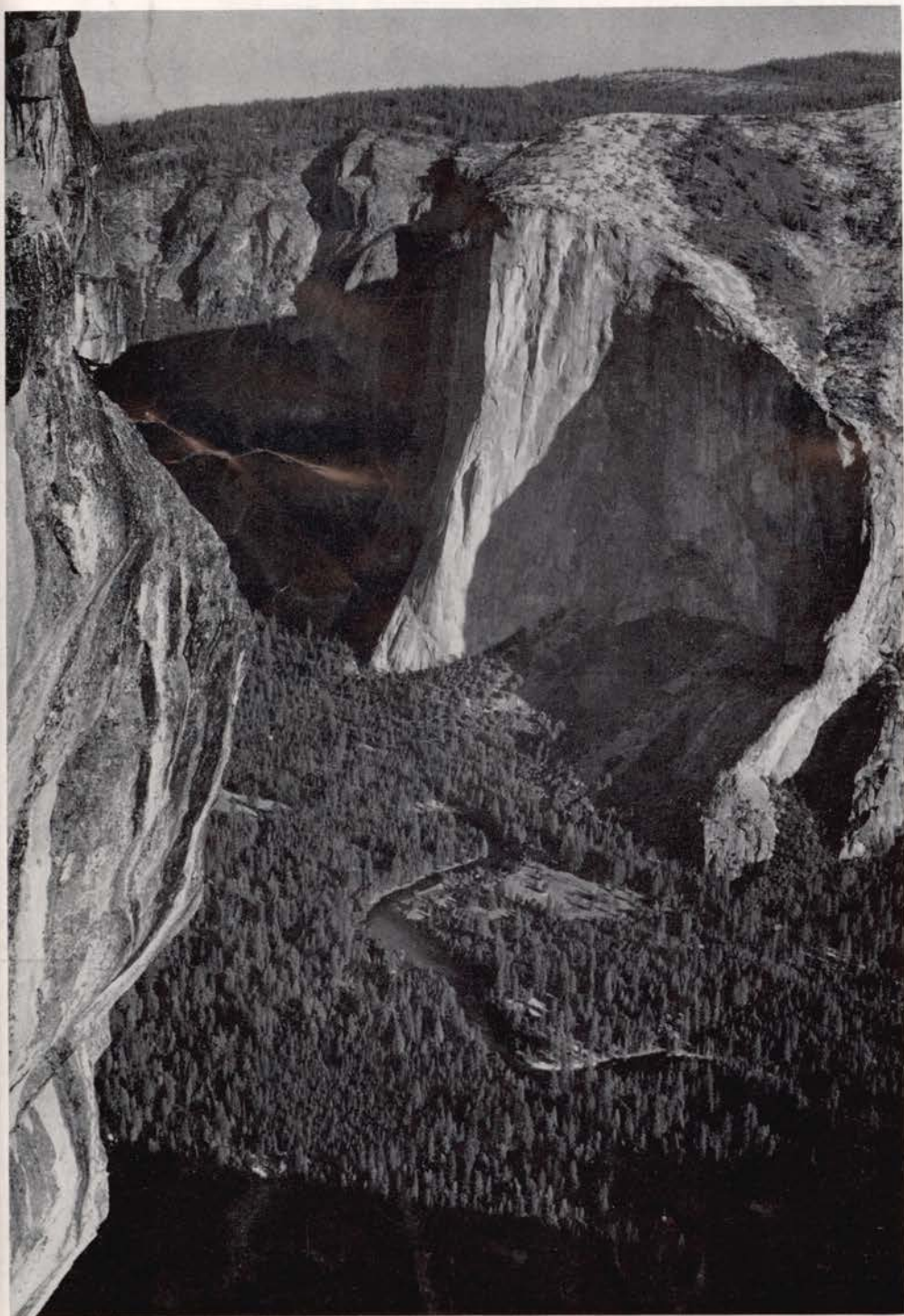


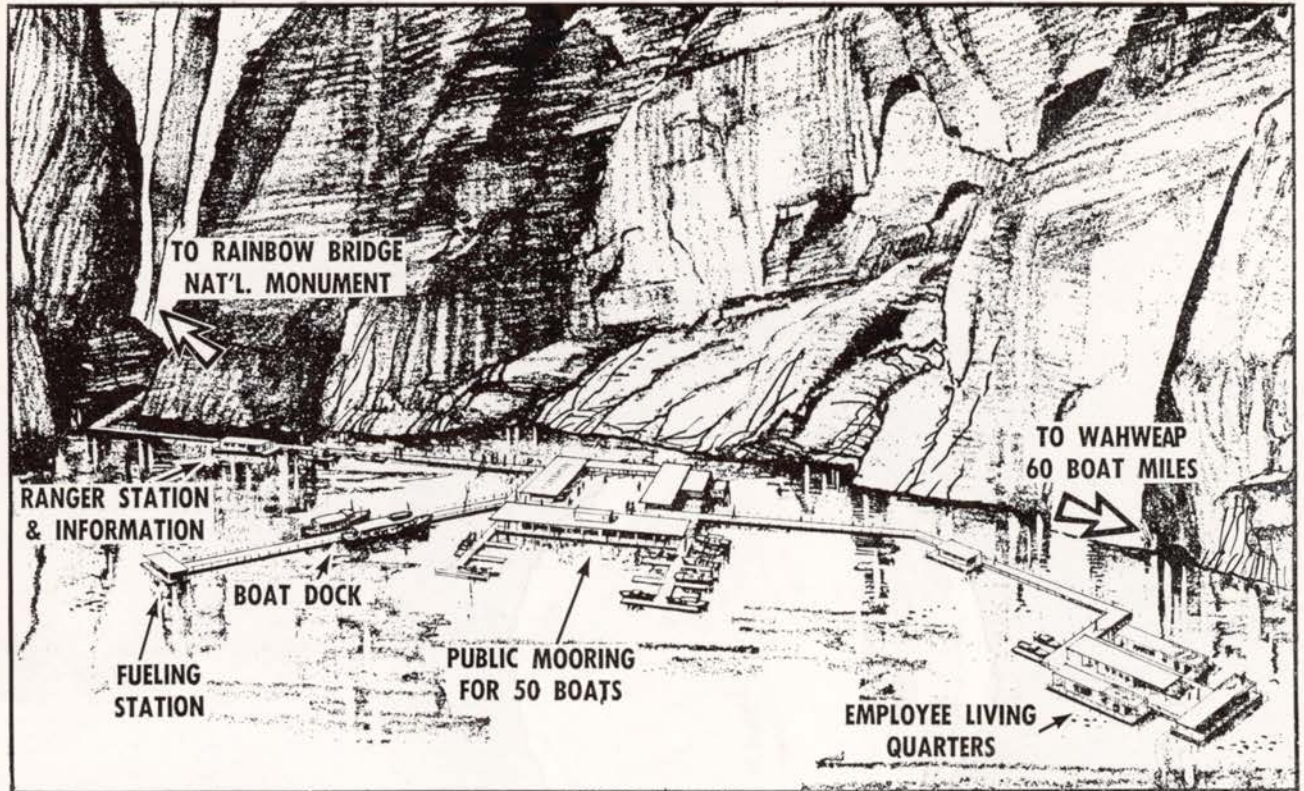
SIERRA CLUB BULLETIN

June 1963



Again and again
the challenge to explore
has been met, handled,
and relished by one generation
—and precluded to any other.

A Campaign to Protect the Grand Canyon



Courtesy
Salt Lake
Tribune

The Uneasy Chair Millions for Motorized Fun and Excuses for Violating Parks

A prime argument the Bureau of Reclamation used to defeat its promise to protect Rainbow Bridge National Monument was the matter of the \$15 to \$25 million cost. Yet within a few months after the agreement to protect a national monument was violated, we learn of a plan to use \$16 million in National Park Service funds to build giant floating marinas and ranger stations, parking areas and campgrounds and picnic areas beside the fluctuating reservoir, waste-disposal systems, and access roads to the new Glen Canyon National Recreation Area.

Above is an artist's sketch of the quarter-million dollar all-floating landing planned for construction 1.7 miles down Bridge Creek canyon from Rainbow Bridge. As a recent *Salt Lake Tribune* article (see "Boating 'Paradise' Forms at Lake Powell" on page 14) makes clear, this is small by comparison with the \$3½ million installation planned for Wahweap, the \$3 million boating facility planned for Hole-in-the-Rock, and the \$2.8 million development for Bullfrog Basin. The *Tribune* columnist notes that, "If Major John Wesley Powell, who first explored this desert country by boat back in 1869, could only see it now he'd be bewildered, to say the least." And we can safely add, he'd probably be appalled—even as we are.

No money for protection of a natural scenic monument; no money to follow through on a promise honorably to preclude impairment of Rainbow Bridge National Monument; no money to make sure that "no dam or reservoir . . . shall be within any national park or monument." But \$16 million for recreational boating, for building "1600-foot long monster" ramps and other plush facilities. And here—just five months after the first diversion tun-

nel was closed on January 21, 1963 (less than three months after the second tunnel was closed on March 13)—federal funds have already been appropriated for the Wahweap and Rainbow Bridge boating facilities. Funds for motorized fun, but none for guarding irreplaceable river wilderness. The public may well wonder just how hard the Park Service fought for the great natural arch and for the national park idea. A public which remains silent, or is preoccupied enough to accept timid rationalization of this kind of violation, can expect no better. Did you write the President or your Congressman? And did you accept without question the appallingly illogical mimeographed excuse that came in response?

Remember, in asking yourself what a lone person can do, how much is being accomplished through dedication, knowledge, and lucidity by a lone woman, Rachel Carson.—*Editors.*



Sierra Club Bulletin

JUNE, 1963
VOL. 48—No. 5

... TO EXPLORE, ENJOY, AND PROTECT
THE NATION'S SCENIC RESOURCES ...

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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COVER: *El Capitan, Yosemite Valley*, by Ansel Adams. From the new *Sierra Club* edition of *Virginia and Ansel Adams' Illustrated Guide to Yosemite Valley*, with new design, illus., foreword. Paper, \$3.95.

The Sierra Club Outing Committee presents
an outstanding opportunity to enjoy a mid-winter
vacation during the height of the Andean summer . . .
with some interesting stops along the way

Chile in '64

*Mount Tronador and
Peulla River, Lake Region
of Chile. Panagra photo*

THE OUTING COMMITTEE has approved the club's first non-expeditionary South American outing for February 1964, summer in the southern hemisphere—providing there is enough interest shown by club members. Visits would be made to tropical rain forests as well as several Andean areas with the chief exploration being in the Chilean-Argentine Lake area of the Andes between San Carlos de Bariloche and Puerto Montt.

This trip is planned for the ordinary club member—one who might go on a High Trip or to Base Camp. It is not a rugged expedition designed for the alpinist, although it is hoped that experienced rock climbers will also want to go. There will be opportunity for some technically interesting climbs, and we have received invitations from several mountaineering groups in South America asking our climbers to be their guests.

The group will assemble in Panama, will keep together for three weeks, and end the official trip in Santiago, Chile. This will make it possible, for those who wish to, to visit other areas en route after the trip. The itinerary is designed so that this can be done for an additional charge depending on the deviation. During the three weeks of the official trip, the members are expected to maintain the itinerary planned. This includes a trip to the wilderness rain forest of Baro Colorado Island on Gatun Lake, where, for research purposes, the Smithsonian Institution has maintained a true example of a tropical jungle, except that this one can be penetrated, explored, and interpreted with the aid of the Institution.

From Panama we travel to Lima, Cuzco, and the Inca ruins of Machu Picu, where we camp overnight in typical club style in the terraced city perched on the steep slopes of the Andes. We then fly to Santiago, Chile, and set up camp on a hacienda outside of Los Andes, a small charming town still showing colonial Spanish influence. From here we can visit the Andes near Portillo and Aconcogua, highest peak in South America. Leaving Los Andes, we travel by train to

southern Chile and Argentina to the famous lake region.

The main wilderness experience of the trip will be centered in this lake area of Argentina and Chile. I can best describe it by visualizing a Pacific Northwest volcanic mountain such as Mount Rainier with its many glaciers surrounded by large blue lakes such as Tahoe away from which run glaciated canyons of Yosemite grandeur. San Carlos de Bariloche is the resort town on the edge of Nahuel Huapi National Park, Argentina. Our plan is for Lou Elliott to bring his river-touring rafts and inflate them at the northern end of Lake Nahuel Huapi, float down the lake to the area around El Tronador, the glacier-covered peak which dominates this area, and set up a base camp. Mr. J. A. Smith, an American teaching at Córdoba Astronomical Observatory, knows this region well. In a recent letter, he said:

"The idea of using rubber rafts to get around the western side of Nahuel Huapi is basically sound. From Puerto Blest you can store the rafts, and proceed on foot up over the "Paso de los Nubes" to Pampa Linda, at the foot of Mount Tronador. At this point you can easily be supplied by truck from Bariloche town; meat is locally available in any quantity upon previous notice. Here you should set up the base camp; Tronador has a hut just at the snow line, eight hours' walk from Pampa Linda, property of Club Andino Bariloche, accommodating say 20 persons per night as an absolute maximum. You could take turns going up from Pampa Linda; the trail via Valle de los Vuriloches goes through beautiful country. From Pampa Linda you could also go off in other directions. Large numbers of horses can be rented there at nominal rates if some of you enjoy that. In short, Pampa Linda would be ideal for you as a camping spot. Good water is available there, by the way.

Mysterious Machu Picchu in Peru, kept hidden by the Incas from Spanish conquistadores, was discovered in 1911 by a young Yale professor. Among the ruins visitors can still see the perfectly sculptured stonework of these ancient masons. Panagra photo



"After breaking camp at Pampa Linda, I would suggest the following: walk along the road back towards Lake Mascardi, and at the extreme western end leave the road and cross over the river to the northern side, passing the foot of Cerro Bonete (a delightful one- or two-day climb for those so inclined) and proceed up the Valle Casa de Lata over the continental divide to Laguna Jacob, a beautiful small lake at 1900 m. surrounded by interesting climbable peaks. From there proceed down the other side, down the Valle Casa de Piedra to Lake Nahuel Huapi and thence to Lloa-Llao where you can hire a launch back to Puerto Blest, pick up your rafts, and go over to Todos los Santos and return. First-class rock climbers should not miss Cerro Catedral, with many unclimbed and seldom-climbed spires.

"P.S. The Club Andino Cordoba, the local mountaineering society to which I belong, has asked me to extend an invitation to any of the members of your organization who are coming to Bariloche in February, to come to the Cordoba area as our guests and to visit the rock climbing area in the Cordoba mountains where

(Continued on page 15)



Staverton Thicks near Woodbridge, England, is probably, in the opinion of British Conservancy experts, the only stand of oaks in England that approaches virgin oak woodland.

Britain's Nature Reserves

By Verna R. Johnston

Photographs by the author



“HERE it is! Look quick!” Hammond pushed his big binoculars into my hands and pointed out on Tring Reservoir. Two Great Crested Grebes faced each other, black “horns” erect, neck feathers spread fanlike into a huge chestnut ruff. From a low floating position their long slim heads and satiny white breasts rose out of the water as if on stilts. They nodded to each other, bobbed and dipped slender necks—then moved closer till breasts gleamed an inch apart, and bill-to-bill, rose high above the silvery surface. As they turned sideways to nod, one mimicking the other, they could have passed for two puffs of feathers on a clear white stick. But now the nods and swaying stopped, the crests subsided to normal for a grebe, they sank back into the water and began to dive and feed. The show was over—one of the elaborate display ceremonials of this species of the ancient grebe family.

“It can’t be strictly courtship,” said our guide, a British Nature Conservancy Warden-naturalist for southeast England, “because they do it at other seasons, too.”

But it was spring at the moment, and in the willows and blackthorns that bordered this National Nature Reserve, an hour’s ride north of London, the chaffinches and British robins sent cheerful melodies into the cold morning air. On the water, coots, moorhens, mallards, and tufted ducks fed and gabbled. Just beyond the far bank, two pair of herons were nesting in the tall ash. Around us the reservoirs lay like shining mirrors in a rural countryside. It was not hard to understand why ornithologists have long found Tring a favorite haunt and why the British Conservancy in 1955 secured a lease from the British Transport Commission to declare these 49 acres a Reserve where transport and conservation interests can be dovetailed.

We stood by locks bearing dates of 1865 and 1867 and

watched a pair of mute swans building a nest of brown reed a few feet from the canal’s edge. The cob worked intently picking up phragmites in his knobbed orange bill and piling them onto the mound, which the pen tried out for size from time to time. I remarked on their tameness.

“Once she takes to sitting, the male won’t let you get this close,” warned our guide. “He turns downright ornery and chases everything and everybody from anywhere near the nest. A blow from his wing can break a man’s leg, you know.”

“But aside from nesting,” I said, “we’ve been approaching these mute swans all day much more closely than we can ever get to our wild whistling swans in the States. These are much less afraid of humans.”

Warden Hammond looked surprised. “Why I’m so used to them I’ve never thought anything about it. They’ll always let you come close. They’ve been protected in Britain for hundreds of years, you know. The Queen owns some, and other blue-bloods own some—and the people would never think of bothering them. It’s a criminal offense to shoot one, so the young swans learn early that they’re perfectly safe. Curious, that!”

Many things, curious and thoughtful, stirred during our month’s tour of Britain’s Nature Reserves. Knowing what has happened to U.S. landscape in just the past 200 years, we had wondered what Great Britain could be like after 2,000 years of timber felling, heavy grazing, burning, clearing, draining, farming. When William the Conqueror “took office” in 1066, one of his urgent problems was already loss of wilderness!

There were many answers to these wonderings. Practically nothing resembling what we call a natural area exists in the British Isles today. Yet in an ironic twist of fate, the British, with virtually no virgin areas left, have recently set up one of

the world's most advanced systems of ecological research and preservation in their remaining habitats.

In 1949 the British Nature Conservancy was established as a governmental branch, to secure and preserve Nature Reserves for "science, beauty, and knowledge." Since its inception the Conservancy has sought out the best semi-wild samples of the islands' original vegetation—or of its disturbed evolved vegetation (the original is often unknown except through pollen studies)—and is preserving, developing and maintaining these areas according to worked-out ecological management plans. In some cases the Conservancy acquires sites on which only a few wild plants still survive, hoping to provide the conditions under which the original community for the site will reconstruct itself, given time. With no virgin areas to turn to for reference, Conservancy ecologists are often left dangling in their search for "what was natural"—and, because of heavy land use, they must frequently tie their programs and research in with the practical viewpoints of farmers who share lands and interests with the Reserves.

In ruggedly arctic Snowdonia National Park in Wales, for example, the Conservancy has set up grassland plots well above timberline (which lies at 800 feet) to study the increasing erosion problem. Where the semi-wild Welsh mountain sheep graze the grass too heavily, there is nothing to replace it, and the unprotected steep slopes creep downward in small landslides. Conservancy studies have shown that grassland plots protected part of the year but open to sheep from April to October, develop a palatable turf thick enough to stop erosion, whereas those protected all the year develop a heavy turf of grasses, not as edible to the sheep.

Soil analysis studies have revealed that lambs raised on umice tuff soil taste better than those on adjacent soils. Also that cobalt, essential to the well-being of animals, is more abundant in basic volcanic ashes and dolerites than in soils derived from acidic rhyolitic rocks.

These are short-term results of a long-term Conservancy emphasis in Britain on research, pure and applied. A glance at the Scientific Staff for the Wales branch shows a Director, four general conservationists, a plant ecologist, a grasslands specialist, two pedologists—one specializing in soil physico-chemicals, one in soil X-ray fluorescence spectrography; a chemical analyst; three warden naturalists; a warden; and secretarial staff. The Conservancy feels a wide responsibility to learn everything fathomable in all the aspects of science

that concern plants and animals, their interrelationships, the survival of relict populations, and the relationships of living things to environment—in order to preserve and develop and maintain its Nature Reserves as the most natural heritage still possible. Crown supported, though on a slim budget, and backed with extensive powers to acquire nature reserves by statutory agreement, as well as by the ordinary processes of purchase or lease, it has set aside over 70 nature reserves since its birth.

To see these reserves is to glimpse some of the charming rural countryside and striking scenery of Britain, with colorful history closely linked. Cwm Idwal, for instance, a 984-acre Conservancy Nature Reserve within Snowdonia National Park, is one of the classic geological sites of the Isles. It was here that Darwin first described the moraines and other glacial relics. Today, Warden-Naturalist Evan Roberts can trace the whole geological history of this Welsh area in the rocks, from Cambrian to recent times. Here stand the four grassy ridges or moraines formed along the edge of a glacier that slowly shrank away from the sides of the cwm (koom). (Cwm: Welsh for a valley surrounded on three sides by mountains.) Above lies the richest arctic-alpine flora in Wales on the volcanic rocks of the Devil's Kitchen. Near the lake is a black, black peat bog that took 10,000 years to grow 15 feet of peat. The bog's contents (phragmites on the bottom, remnants of birches and alders above) yield clear evidence that this rock-strewn alpine valley surrounded by snowy peaks was once a wood.

Newborough Warren, near Caernarvon, Wales, is an entirely different sort of reserve, great sand dunes along the Irish Sea. With a history of tidal inundation and sand encroachment dating back 600 years, Newborough shows all stages of unstable beach to stabilized dune succession. Floristic studies are following the succession of plant and animal life from the new dunes which the cooperating Forestry Commission is building around beach fences to the conifer plantings high on stable ground. At least four species of terns once bred here. Disturbance and nest robbing diminished their numbers, and in recent years herring gulls have increased to such enormity that by the time the terns arrive in May, there is no room left on the sand: the gulls have been paired and in possession of the nesting sites since March. To encourage the terns, wardens are shooting off one-half of the herring gull population on areas

(Continued on page 12)

Ullswater Lake in the English lake country, near Penrith. This lake was saved from threatened reservoir use by the British Council for Nature, an organization of 40,000 naturalists and 220 conservation societies.



Cwm Idwal, the British Nature Conservancy's Nature Reserve within Snowdonia National Park, Wales. Warden-Naturalist Evan Roberts (right); Grasslands specialist John Dale (left).



Directors Launch Campaign for Expanded Grand Canyon Protection

MEETING May 4, 1963, at Goodman's Jack London Hall in Oakland, the Sierra Club's Board of Directors elected officers for the year 1963-64, heard reports from the President, the Executive Director, and various staff members, and acted on a wide variety of state and national conservation issues. The only directors unable to be present were Clifford Heimbucher (en route to Russia), George Marshall (in Israel), and William Siri (near the summit of Mount Everest). Dr. Edgar Wayburn was re-elected as president, with Bestor Robinson as vice-president, Richard M. Leonard, Secretary, Lewis F. Clark, treasurer, and George Marshall, fifth officer. The position of Associate Secretary was re-established and Charlotte E. Mauk was elected. A new position as Assistant Treasurer was voted by the Board (and on June 9, the Executive Committee appointed Walter Ward to this position.)

Honorary President William E. Colby was re-elected, as were the twelve honorary vice-presidents. The Council Chairman reported that the following were elected officers of the Council for 1963-64: Ned Robinson, Chairman; Peter Hearst, Vice-Chairman; Hasse Bunnelle, Secretary; and Bruce F. Austin and Cicely Christy, Fourth and Fifth members of the Executive Committee.

President Wayburn reported an extremely rapid growth in the membership, activities, and responsibilities of the club during the past two years. Membership has expanded from 17,458 on April 30, 1961 to 21,130 on April 30, 1963. During the month of April, 1963, alone there were 660 new members and three new chapter applications. The financial operations of the club for 1962 were about \$750,000 and in 1963 will be about \$900,000.

Executive Director David Brower told of the heavy growth in responsibilities of the Sierra Club during his first ten years as Executive Director. He introduced several members of the club staff, which numbered 33 in April, including part-time personnel. He noted that the growth rate was increasing, the outing reservations were ahead of last year at this time, publications sales had more than doubled, and that as a result, the club was being looked to for help in many fields and many regions.

He called upon Bruce M. Kilgore, Manager of Publications, to present his ideas of a course to be followed in the face of the expanding demands upon the club. Mr. Kilgore pointed out that with such an extremely rapid increase in the opportunities and responsibilities of the Sierra Club, priority

among these *must* be set, with room for inevitable exceptions of higher priority. He pointed out the need to turn down certain new items as they come up for attention. It was his feeling that we had four courses available: (1) to increase the number of volunteers who could work effectively within given club policy, and to delegate more to chapters, whenever existing policy can guide clearly enough; (2) to add to the staff; (3) to expect the staff to increase the existing overload and overtime; or (4) to give priority to principal conservation projects. He suggested a maximum of ten major items at one time. The club should not take a major role in others unless one of the priority items could be dropped or delegated. Nathan Clark stressed that the priorities should be set on the basis of per cent of time devoted to a given subject, with some time reserved for administration and for less important or newer items.

William Zimmerman, Jr., Washington Representative of the Sierra Club, outlined the principal conservation problems under consideration in the Sierra Club's new office in the national capital including Northern Cascades, Wilderness Bill, Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, Land and Water Conservation Fund, and Canyonlands National Park. (See details on page 10 of the April-May SCB.)

The two conservation issues discussed at greatest length during the six-hour meeting were (1) a renewed proposal to realign the south boundary of Sequoia National Park to follow the crest of Dennison Ridge and (2) the club's position on use and preservation of the Colorado River—particularly at the Marble Canyon and Bridge Canyon dam sites and within the Grand Canyon National Park and Monument.

Dennison Ridge Big Trees, Sequoia

The Dennison Ridge proposal would exclude 5400 acres—including a prime Big Tree forest—from national park protection and transfer it to the Sequoia National Forest. Martin Litton pointed out that the Garfield-Dillonwood Grove is continuous across Dennison Ridge and in fact extends into the national forest where there are still some large trees as well as huge stumps of trees cut in the national forest segment of the grove several years ago at Dillon mill. After an extended discussion, it was moved by Randal Dickey, Jr., seconded by Polly Dyer, and carried that:

With regard to the proposed transfer of the southern slope of Dennison Ridge in Se-

quoia National Park, the Board of Directors finds little justification for the elimination of several hundred Big Trees from the national park, and the Sierra Club therefore reaffirms its opposition to such a proposal as not being in the public interest.

Colorado River Canyon

Bestor Robinson reviewed the recent hearing before an Examiner of the Federal Power Commission, resulting in a recommendation by the Hearing Officer to the Power Commission that a permit be granted to the Arizona Power Authority to construct a dam and associated power plants and transmission facilities at the Marble Canyon site, a short way upstream from the present boundaries of Grand Canyon National Park. Robinson explained that this recommendation did not include authority for the Kanab Diversion, whereas the interventions of the City of Los Angeles and of the Federal Bureau of Reclamation, which were denied, did plan to divert the water of the Colorado River beneath the surface of Grand Canyon National Park, thus removing the water from the river within the national park.

David Brower spoke briefly on the plan for "comprehensive" development of the Colorado River, including the implied support of the Kanab Diversion, as set forth by Secretary Udall in his press conference of January 21, 1963, which Brower attended. Brower also described the Secretary's intervention against the Arizona application. Martin Litton carefully explained the situation in detail with maps, based on extensive personal experience throughout the area involved. He made a *very* strong plea for preservation of the full Grand Canyon of the Colorado River.

After an hour and a half of very careful review, it was moved by Polly Dyer, seconded by Lewis Clark and carried that:

The Sierra Club recommends that the Grand Canyon National Park and Grand Canyon National Monument be extended to include the Grand Canyon of the Colorado River between Lee's Ferry and the Grand Wash Cliffs, or that this area be protected by other suitable means, to preserve unimpaired this outstanding scenic part of the river in its natural state, and the Sierra Club opposes any further dams or diversions in this area.

In other actions, the directors:

- commended the National Park Service on the progress of the Mission 66 program as



Despite the fact that logging of *Sequoia gigantea* continues today in areas outside Sequoia National Park—as in this cutting operation (left) some seven miles south of the park near Camp Wishon—the Park Service is still willing to part with 5400 acres of Big Tree land south of Denison Ridge. Photo by George Ballis



Is this the world's largest tree (right)? It may be. Yet, for administrative convenience, it and the entire southern half of Sequoia National Park's Dillonwood Grove of Big Trees may be given away. This grove of many hundreds of sequoias is so little known that the Park Service is planning to give it to the Forest Service. Sierra Club directors strongly object.

it related to Yosemite Valley (Ansel Adams abstaining),

- commended Governor Brown for his leadership in requesting the legislature of the State of California to submit to a 1964 election a new issue of \$150 million in state park bonds,
- urged the U. S. Forest Service to submit to public hearing as soon as possible a proposal for a Wilderness Area in Sequoia and Inyo national forests, adjacent to the south boundary of Sequoia National Park,
- urged preservation of the Alabama Hills area by either state or federal government,
- indicated their willingness to grant to the State of California the Sierra Club's holdings of 26.6 acres in Santa Cruz and Santa Clara counties in the vicinity of "Castle Rock" on deed of gift, with reservation for use only "for park and recreation area purposes for all time"; the deed to be similar in form and timing to the gift deed to the State of California by The Varian Foundation of the 548 acres now owned by the foundation,

- appropriated \$10,000 from the McDuffie Fund to assist in the acquisition of the timber rights on the former Locatelli property on West Waddell Creek of Big Basin Redwoods State Park,
- referred questions relating to the construction of proposed power plants at Bodega Head and in the vicinity of Nipomo (Santa Maria-Oceano Dunes) to an early meeting of the Executive Committee for more complete study and action,
- supported the proposal in the California State Legislature to abolish bounties on mountain lions,
- continued opposition to any change in classification or boundaries of the San Geronio Wild Area.

New Chapters

The Board approved petitions for the organization of three new chapters, in California, New Mexico, and Wisconsin; and delegated to the Sierra Club Council the matters of names, boundaries, by-laws, and other organizational details.

Executive Committee Action

A few of the actions taken by the Sierra Club Executive Committee on June 9, 1963, are:

Bodega Head—Requested that the state legislature pass an appropriate resolution requesting that no further construction on a power plant be permitted at Bodega Head, and that the matter be referred to an interim committee of the legislature for study of an amendment to the Public Utilities Act of California to provide for the consideration of scenic and community values in determining the issuance of a certificate of public convenience and necessity.

Legislation—Noted that the publications and officials of the Sierra Club, with respect to legislative matters, are expected to inform Sierra Club members of the legislative needs of conservation, and of the constitutional right of members to petition or to write to Congress, as

guaranteed by the First Amendment to the Constitution.

Kings Canyon—Advocated the inclusion in Kings Canyon National Park of Tephite Valley and Cedar Grove as described in H.R. 5346 introduced April 1, 1963, by Congressman Sisk.

Grand Canyon of the Colorado—Noted that the Supreme Court has decided in favor of Arizona on the division of the Lower Basin water, making it more likely that Congress will consider bills for a Central Arizona Project. It was a consensus that the Sierra Club would continue to remain a disinterested party with respect to the controversy over the allocation of waters of the Colorado River system, but that the provisions of the club's Water and Power Policy should be reiterated: development of the Colorado River or other waters should not impair major scenic and recreational resources of importance to the nation in order to produce hydroelectric power. (See May 4 Beard action on page 6.)

(Further details in the September SCB.)



The Climbing Classification Controversy

A HEATED debate has been going on for the past several months over the question: "Which climbing classification system should we use—NCCS or decimals?" (For background, non-climbers can check any Sierra Club climber's guide for a description of systems now in use and see "A New Climbing Classification Proposal" by Allan Macdonald in the June 1961 SCB.) The Bulletin editors believe Sierra Club members may be interested in what various climbers are saying in letters (and copies of letters) coming to the club office:

March 19, 1963

Gentlemen:

We are enclosing a copy of an article which will be submitted for publication in *Summit Magazine*, the *Sierra Club Bulletin*, the *American Alpine Club Newsletter*, and other mountain journals. The subject, a *National Climbing Classification System* (NCCS), is especially significant at the present time when several guidebooks are being prepared for many important regions such as the Shawangunks, the Tetons, and Yosemite Valley. If these guidebooks appear in print using different systems, we may rest assured that no truly national system will come to pass in the foreseeable future. Guidebook influence is great. This advance copy is being sent to you in order to gain your backing for this important project. This is not just a wild scheme thought up by one eccentric individual. . . .

The system outlined in this article is the only one suitable for application to all American climbing (rock, snow, and ice) and which also has a chance of nationwide acceptance in time to meet the guidebook deadlines. It is critically important that a national system not be restricted solely to rock climbing; to be truly universal it must cover all types of mountaineering.

Over fifty active climbers from all parts of the country are being solicited by this letter to support the system. You may feel reluctant to jump on the bandwagon before knowing for certain that it will succeed; yet there will be no national system unless we stick out our necks a little bit and unite. The solid backing of all fifty climbers will assure the success of the system. If you are hesitant, at least send in your conditional support of the system, dependent on the majority agreeing in a similar conditional manner. This procedure will minimize your risk. An addressed envelope and card, on which you may easily indicate your reply, was included for your convenience.

LEIGH ORTENBURGER ROYAL ROBBINS
Palo Alto, California Norden, California

• Significant sections of the NCCS statement as it was submitted to the SCB are as follows:

Desirability of the NCCS

It seems reasonable to assume that American climbing as a whole would benefit by a single

system used throughout the country, and there are four specific reasons why an NCCS is highly desirable:

1) An NCCS would be very convenient for climbers venturing into a new region where they have never climbed before. Having already learned the NCCS through climbs in his own local area, a climber would be able to select accurately climbs to attempt in the new region.

2) An NCCS would obviously promote the safety of climbers, since through knowledge of the NCCS gained through local climbing, the climber would avoid attempting in a new region a route having difficulties and problems with which he could not cope.

3) The NCCS would contribute greatly to the understanding and appreciation of the climbing that is being done in regions where we have not personally climbed, and no one has climbed everywhere. . . .

4) The guidebook publishers and mountaineering journal publishers have an interest and responsibility in seeing that their books and journals do not add to the present day confusion. It is reasonable for them to expect all their books, and articles in the case of journals, to use a single frame of reference.

Feasibility of the NCCS

The feasibility of the NCCS may be discussed in three comments:

1) The simultaneous preparation or revision of a number of important guidebooks makes it imperative to establish such an NCCS before any of these go to press. And if these guidebooks, Shawangunks, Tetons, Yosemite, High Sierra, Devil's Tower, all used the same system, it cannot be doubted that such a system would be successful. . . . if even one of these guidebooks uses a system different from the NCCS, the universal acceptance and use of the NCCS would be much more difficult to obtain.

2) There are difficulties involved in devising a system to cover all kinds of climbing such as sound crystalline rock, loose sedimentary rock, snow, ice, and mixed climbing; yet European experience indicates that it is possible to do this, and so in the U.S. it should also prove possible.

3) The establishment of an NCCS requires the existence of climbers who have extensive climbing experience in two or more areas in the U.S. Without this kind of knowledge it would be impossible to establish comparisons between different regions. . . . Today there are indeed climbers with this broad experience. . . .

Essential Characteristics of the NCCS

1) The NCCS must be applicable to all types of climbing in the United States. Snow and ice work, the weakest link in American climbing, must not be ignored in setting up the NCCS. . . .

2) The NCCS must indicate the difficulty of the route. But, as is generally recognized, there are two kinds of difficulty: the difficulty of each individual move or pitch or portion of the climb and the overall difficulty, or challenge, or sense of commitment implied by the entire route. This second factor must take into

account the length of climb (either in distance or time), the weather problems, the ease of escape, the average difficulty of all the pitches, and the difficulty of the hardest pitch on the climb. The NCCS must be able to distinguish between a very short and a very long climb both of which happen to have the same difficulty of the hardest pitch.

3) The NCCS must contain enough categories to convey essentially all the information concerning difficulty that is available; yet there must not be so many categories that almost all climbers will not be able to agree consistently on the proper category for the route in question.

4) The categories of difficulty must be objectively defined. . . . the categories must not be defined by equipment used. . . . the only objective method of defining difficulty is by giving example climbs in each of the various regions for each of the categories. . . .

5) Artificial or direct-aid climbing should be carefully distinguished from free climbing with no implication that it is easier or harder than free climbing. As is well known, it is often much more difficult to climb a pitch free than with the aid of a few pitons for artificial aid.

National Climbing Classification System

The NCCS represents a compromise between various systems which are currently in use, taking the best features of each and omitting the undesirable features. To keep this description short, no lengthy argument will be given here on the pros and cons of the various existing systems such as the Sierra Club system, the Shawangunk system, the Teton system, the decimal system. None of the individuals who contributed to the derivation of the NCCS would have gone to the effort of proposing a new system unless he firmly believed that it represented a considerable improvement over any existing system.

The NCCS will consist of three numbers. First, there will be numbers from 1 to 10 which will denote the difficulty of all free pitches, with increasing numbers indicating increasing difficulty, from trail walking to the extreme limit of free climbing. Second, there will be classes from A1 to A5 to denote the difficulty of artificial pitches, with increasing numbers to represent increasing difficulty. Finally, there will be a numeral from I to VI which will denote the overall difficulty or challenge of the entire route. The crux of the NCCS is given in the lists of example climbs. (See May 1963 *Summit Magazine*).

In the guidebook description of every free route there will then be two numbers, one denoting the difficulty of the hardest individual pitch, the other denoting the overall difficulty. For those climbs that involve artificial climbing, a third number is attached, which indicates the difficulty of the hardest direct-aid pitch. So, for example, the Exum ridge of the Grand Teton would be a II, 4; . . . the north face of Sentinel Rock in Yosemite would be a V, 9, A3.

—LEIGH ORTENBURGER

March 25, 1963

Dear Mr. Brower:

Leigh Ortenburger has now suggested a new climbing classification system, which he is attempting to have incorporated into several guidebooks which are either being written or revised at the present moment. He first propounded this new system in a ten-page dissertation written last spring. His main point, excluding his system, was that we now need a national classification system. We all agree that this is to be desired, . . . (but)—which system?

A group of ten or fifteen climbers, at a recent discussion in Yosemite Valley, were appalled at the thought that he dismissed, in a paragraph, a system that has been used with great success at Tahquitz Rock for a period of ten years, i.e., the decimal system. This system is rapidly spreading to the major climbing areas of this country. It is in common usage at Tahquitz, Yosemite, the Colorado Rockies, the Pacific Northwest, and the desert climbs of the Four Corners area. One guidebook (Tahquitz) has already been published using the decimal system. Three more guides—Yosemite, Pinnacles N.M., and Squamish Chief (B.C.)—soon to be published, use this system.

However, we are not so narrow-minded as to close our minds to Ortenburger's system. If it were truly superior to the decimal system, we would accept it. . . .

However, we feel that a new system should be experimented with by a large percentage of the climbers before such a serious and irrevocable step as incorporating it into a guide is taken. The only exception to this should be if everyone agrees to some new idea. But, obviously, this is not now the case. In theory a new system might sound fine, but in practice it would fail completely. I feel that to delete a popular, proven (in Yosemite) system from any guide and substitute an unproven system would be a gross mistake.

There is an important semantical argument. When one says "class 5," for years the question will undoubtedly be asked (since virtually every climber knows the class 1-6 system) "which class 5, Ortenburger or old?" This is not a minor point.

Perhaps ice climbing doesn't need to be rated; isn't it enough to describe a typical climb as follows: CONTROVERSY PEAK III, 5.7, A2. Ascend 50° ice chute on the N side of the peak until it ends in a rock headwall. The first pitch on the rock is the most difficult (5.7, A2). Above, easy class 5 slopes lead to the top. Allow six hours from high camp.

Both Orrin Bonney and I are using the A1-A5 rating (for artificial-aid climbing) in our guides since everyone we have talked to has agreed that it is better than the decimal system.

I talked with Chouinard around March 1 at great length about the various systems. Although he was one of the main instigators of the Ortenburger system, I was easily able to change his viewpoints. His farewell words were something like: "I don't really care too much about which system is used; they'll both work. But be sure to change over to the A1-A5 rating." Al Steck echoed these sentiments recently (March 25). Royal Robbins, in his last letter to me (March 18) said: "I have one or two

misgivings [about Ortenburger's system]. If you are convinced by these (enclosed) arguments, fine. If you are not, well, fine too."

It sometimes appears that the protagonists themselves aren't really sure about this system.

STEVE ROPER
Berkeley, California

• *In a major effort at trying to bring together the two main factions, the Mountaineering Committee of the Sierra Club discussed the uniform classification system at its meeting on April 6, 1963 (and in a preliminary session prior to the meeting.) The minutes of the meeting record the following:*

"The night before the meeting, the chairman (Nick Clinch), Leigh Ortenburger, Allen Steck, Steve Roper, and Ed Cooper held a meeting in an effort to reconcile differences between supporters of the National Classification System and the supporters of the modified decimal system. The differences were not resolved.

"At the committee meeting Leigh Ortenburger presented the details of the National Classification System. Then the chairman read the letters and material on the decimal system submitted by Steve Roper and Orrin Bonney. Both systems provide for grading the overall difficulties of a climb from 1 to 6. Both systems grade artificial climbing from A1-A5. However, the National System grades the difficulty in the small from 1 to 10, while the decimal system follows the old Sierra Club system from 1 through 5 and then uses decimals after 5. Royal Robbins, one of the originators of the decimal system, stated that he favored the National System. Hervey Voge stated that he intended to use the decimal system in his new *Climber's Guide to the High Sierra*. It was generally recognized that the National System was the more logical of the two, while the decimal system was in use.

"After much discussion the Committee approved the National Classification System in principle and requested Royal Robbins to discuss the matter further with supporters of the decimal system."

• *Subsequent to our receipt of the NCCS description (on the facing page), the May Summit Magazine carried the same article with the addition of the following paragraph:*

"The following list of climbers, representing all sections from the East Coast to the West Coast, are supporting the adoption of this NCCS: Bob Adams, Al Baxter, George Bell, Dave Bernays, Phil Bettler, Bill Buckingham, Ad Carter, Yvon Chouinard, Nick Clinch, Frank Coale, Glen Denny, Bill Engs, Harry Francis, Carlton Fuller, Harold Goodro, George Harr, Al Henshaw, T. M. Herbert, Dick Houston, Dick Irvin, Steve Jervis, Henry Kendall, Layton Kor, Hans Kraus, Larry Lackey, Pete Lev, Al MacDonald, Jim McCarthy, Dick Millikan, Leigh Ortenburger, Sy Ossofsky, Dave Rearick, Court Richards, Royal Robbins, Frank Sacherer, Mike Sherrick, Sam Silverstein, Pete Sinclair, Tom Spencer, Al Steck, Herb Swedlund, Bob Swift, George Wallerstein, Carl Weisner, Aubrey Wendling, George Whitmore, Warren Harding."

Gentlemen:

April 2, 1963

I am starting to work now full time on completing the Shawangunks guide book. . . . In view of the stand taken so far by Steve Roper and in view of the decision made by Orrin Bonney to modify the NCCS system, I will have to modify my stand toward it. I feel that the best thing the Shawangunks guide book can do to unify the country in grading climbs is to use the exact same system as the Yosemite guide book.

ART GRAN
New York, New York

May 1, 1963

Dear Dave:

The decimal system has been so widely adopted that it seems foolish to reject it in favor of a new one-to-ten free climbing pitch rating that I do not think will stand the test of actual usage.

FRED BECKEY
Seattle, Washington

May 6, 1963

Dear Leigh (Ortenburger):

The American Alpine Club Council on May 4 devoted a very substantial portion of its meeting to discussion of its policy regarding the proposed NCCS. Your letter of April 8 was read; Steve Roper's letter of March 27 with two enclosures was read, as were two letters from Orrin Bonney. Art Gran made an oral presentation of his objections to the new system. I telephoned David Brower during the meeting to confirm (1) that the Mountaineering Committee of the Sierra Club had endorsed the [NCCS] but that (2) he proposed to publish the new Yosemite Guidebook using a variation of the decimal system. . . . I pointed out that the AAC currently has a new "Interior Ranges of Canada Guidebook" in press, and last year's Cascade Guide, not using the new system. . . . Someone, sometime, somewhere has to face the temporary inconvenience of a shift to obtain the long run benefits.

. . . The final decision, arrived at without dissent, was to support the new system and to urge its use in all guidebooks. It is hoped that guidebooks currently in process will use the system in parallel with the old system, or at least explain in the introduction the relationship of the new system to the old.

CARLTON P. FULLER, President
The American Alpine Club, New York

May 23, 1963

Dear Carl (Fuller):

I am sorry I have to disagree so distinctly with the AAC Council but I do. Although it is true that sometime, someone, somewhere has to face the temporary inconvenience of a shift to obtain long-range benefits, it may also be argued that someone, sometime, somewhere has to oppose what may be only the temporary convenience of a shift in order to prevent long-run confusion. This latter is what I think the AAC Council should have tried to do. . . .

I am more impressed with the arguments rather than with the numbers of people who opposed the Ortenburger shift. When a matter becomes as controversial as this, the burden of proof is very much on the man who would make the change and upset systems which are

(Continued on page 12)



Pesticides—In Washington and Yosemite

FEW CRUSADERS have been as quickly successful as (Rachel) Carson in provoking Federal action," remarked columnist Doris Fleeson. Within months of the publication of Miss Carson's *Silent Spring*, the President's Science Advisory Committee has issued a 43-page report supporting her warnings of the dangers attached to widespread use of chemical pesticides, and calling for new legislative and administrative action.

The report, released May 15, recognizes the value of pesticides in maintaining food production and curbing insect-borne diseases. Yet it states that "elimination of the use of persistent toxic pesticides should be the goal."

"Misuse of pesticides" accounts for 150 deaths a year in the U.S., the committee found. The potential harm to man from small, repeated doses of toxic chemicals absorbed as residues in food or water or on clothing still is not known. "Many kinds of insect control programs have produced substantial mortalities among birds and other wildlife."

The committee was critical of the residue tolerances set by the Food and Drug Administration: "Decisions on safety are not as well based as those on efficacy," it found. Furthermore, such tolerances are frequently exceeded on "food items marketed within their state of origin" and therefore not subject to FDA controls.

The report also attacks the Department of Agriculture's attempts to eradicate insects in massive sprayings. "Although eradication of a pest population is a laudable goal," the report says, "it is seldom realistic. Control programs by contrast apply pesticides in less volume, to a smaller land area, with fewer undesirable side effects at any one time, yet produce the same economic results. The gypsy moth, fire ant, Japanese beetle, and white-fringed beetle programs, which have been continued for years, are examples of the failure of the 'eradication' approach."

Recommendations are directed to "an assessment of the levels of pesticides in man and his environment; to measures which will augment the safety of present prac-

tices; to needed research and the development of safer and more specific methods of pest control; to suggested amendments of public laws governing the use of pesticides; and to public education."

President Kennedy, in releasing the report, announced that he already had requested Federal agencies "to implement the recommendations in the report, including the preparation of legislative and technical proposals which I shall submit to Congress." And Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman declared that the Department of Agriculture "subscribes wholeheartedly to the Committee's recommendations."

Even before publication of the Science Advisory Committee report, some federal action was under way. The Food and Drug Administration had already begun a re-assessment of the tolerance limits of pesticides in foods. And on April 25, Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall dedicated a

Spraying Tuolumne Meadows

The National Park Service plans to go ahead with its July lodgepole needle miner spray program on 4800 acres of the Tuolumne Meadows area in Yosemite National Park despite the advice of the Secretary's Advisory Board on Wildlife Management raising serious question about the mass application of insecticides in the control of forest insects in national parks. In fact the agency jumped the gun on the previously announced July date and sprayed several hundred acres in late May.

On May 28, 1963, David Brower sent the following wire to Secretary Stewart L. Udall:

"In the face of the recommendation of the Leopold report, and counter to your testimony before the Senate and your promise to us last Thursday afternoon that you would stop the Yosemite spraying planned for last weekend, the spraying took place Saturday, Sunday, and Monday. According to information we consider fully reliable, about 300 acres were sprayed with 1 pound of malathion per 10 gallons of diesel. There

new laboratory at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in Maryland—the first federal installation built specifically for wildlife-pesticide research.

"The work done here may prevent or halt the spread of 'silent springs' that stalk the earth," Secretary Udall said.

Meanwhile, evidence of the effect of pesticides on wildlife continues to accumulate. An analysis of wild pheasants taken from California crop lands where pesticides had been used in "accepted and normal amounts showed poisons in excess of tolerances established for human consumption. As one biologist put it, "These birds are sizzling hot."

This led to a meeting of officials of the state departments of fish and game, agriculture, and public health in which they agreed to work for a halt to aerial sowing of mixed rice seeds and DDT in wild pheasant areas of the Sacramento valley; a study this fall of poison residues in wild pheasants; an increased research into possible dangers both to the pheasants and to hunters who eat the birds.

was 25 percent snow cover on the ground and concern expressed that the malathion was going directly into the water, where it is extremely toxic to aquatic life. Although organo-phosphates such as malathion were formerly thought to have short term residual effects there is increasing evidence that these effects may be long lasting. We understand there was superficial and inconclusive wildlife evaluation. The one caged bird died 24 hours after spraying but there was no control animal. Predators got the caged squirrels during the spray period. There was no fish test. The park biologist was not available.

"It is ominous to us that the Pacific Southwest Forest and Range Experiment Station of the Forest Service, under which the program is evaluated, recently canceled its cooperative agreement with the University of California Department of Biological Control. Evidence was being developed that spraying to control needle miners may damage the natural enemies more than the needle miners.

"We are vitally interested in knowing what forces prevented your keeping your



This panoramic photograph by Josephine Alexander was taken in series and stripped together to show the Doran Park sandpit at right and Bodega Head, left, with the P.G.&E. Atomic Reactor Site construction activity in the center (meteorological tower on far left to record wind directions). Scientists of the U.S. Geological Survey are now conducting an intensive inquiry into the earth formations and any indications of

recent earthquake activity at Bodega Head, and the California Legislature has appointed an interim committee to hold public hearings on the controversial nuclear power plant's possible effects on the public interest. The inquiry will begin early this fall. The AEC has not yet scheduled hearings on the safety of the installation. (See recent Sierra Club Executive Committee action on page 7.)

promise, and permitted an Agriculture agency to spray Interior lands in violation of your own wishes, and in spite of the widest possible public demand that application of pesticides be brought under control. The Yosemite spraying seems to us to contravene the purposes for which the new Patuxent program was initiated."

On June 5, John Mahoney, forester for Region 4, National Park Service, San Francisco, was called from Washington and told to halt the proposed July spraying, according to a report by George Dusheck in the San Francisco *News-Call Bulletin*. Mahoney sent a memorandum to this effect to Yosemite Park Superintendent John C. Preston. "Two days later," Dusheck reports, "in response to another call from Washington, [Mahoney] sent Preston a second memorandum unfreezing the spray project."

In a June 10 wire to Conrad Wirth, Director of the National Park Service, the Sierra Club again protested plans to proceed with the lodgepole pine needle miner spraying program. The club urged Director Wirth "to accept the advice of competent biologists and ecologists and not the advice of foresters or others having a bias in favor of widespread spraying procedures which they believe are desirable under commercial timber stand conditions."

Director Wirth replied on June 13 that, "If there were some effective method other than direct suppression to prevent damage to and loss of lodgepole pine from the needle miner insect, we most certainly would use it. Although you do not agree with us, the action being taken is in the interest of the public. The National Park Service is discharging its responsibilities in conducting this suppression program. . . . The control limit of 4800 acres at Tuolumne Meadows and along the Tioga Road was partially executed on 225 acres of public use sites May 1969. The remainder . . . will be similarly treated early in July. A similar project on 2480 acres in Kings Canyon National Park is also scheduled for execution in July."

Sierra Club Leads Effort to Save Big Basin Redwoods

THE SIERRA CLUB has recently taken the lead in attempting to raise funds needed to save the last large stand of virgin redwoods remaining in the Bay Area. The grove comprises 100 acres of redwoods in the Waddell Creek area near Big Basin Redwoods State Park, fifty miles south of San Francisco. In a sloping canyon, along a stream with many fern dells, the grove resembles a rain forest, because of the dense covering of trees, plants, and moss. Many of the trees, soaring to majestic heights, are probably a thousand years old.

"This is the most magnificent redwood forest south of the great groves of northern California," said Dr. Edgar Wayburn, President of the Sierra Club. "We have been working on this project for the past several years. The trees we are trying to save are in the heart of the future Big Basin Redwood State Park. We feel it is extremely important to save these trees in their virgin state. The land without them means very little, and it will take several hundred years for the forest to come back to its natural condition if the trees are cut. We hope our friends may feel they can help."

When the land was purchased by the Division of Beaches and Parks in 1961, cutting rights were reserved by the Big Creek Timber Company. Funds to buy both the land and redwoods were simply not available at the time. However, Frank McCrary and his sons, Bud and Frank, Jr., owners of the Big Creek Timber Company, were reluctant to harvest this scenic redwood resource if some plan could be evolved to save the grove. They therefore agreed to cut less desirable timber in the tract first to allow time to save the most important grove of trees.

In a last-ditch effort, the Sierra Club, the Save-the-Redwoods League, State Senator Donald L. Grunsky, the California State Park Commission, the Division of Beaches

and Parks staff, private philanthropies, and the timber owners have collaborated.

The owners set a price of \$155,000 on the redwoods, about ten percent more than the price paid by the state for timber in 1961. On May 4, the Sierra Club Board of Directors appropriated \$10,000 from the club's McDuffie Fund as the initial contribution toward making the purchase. Senator Grunsky then obtained the restoration of an old appropriation balance of \$66,800 left over from the 1961 purchase. On May 16, the State Park Commission worked out details whereby the Sierra Club would make the purchase and the \$66,800 appropriation would be applied to it.

Word was spread about the need for funds and contributions were speedily received from the following major donors:

Save-the-Redwoods League\$25,000
San Francisco Foundation 10,000
Varian Associates 5,000
Jim Harkins 500
Melvin Johnson 500
Dorothy Erskine 100
San Jose Mercury-News 100

The timber owners agreed to an extended payment plan to provide time in which to raise the remaining \$40,000, which the Sierra Club is now seeking to raise. If it should be necessary in order to protect the purchase, the Sierra Club may borrow the additional money and use contributions, as they come in, to erase the indebtedness.

The Loma Prieta Chapter of the Sierra Club has started a fund-raising campaign, and many firms and individuals will be approached for donations (tax deductible). If you would like to contribute toward the purchase of a branch, a limb, a tree, an acre, or even the entire holding, make your check payable to "Sierra Club" and mark it "For Big Basin Redwood Trees." The address: 220 Bush Street, San Francisco 4.



An ancient Scots Pine in the Caledonian Forest relic on the shores of Loch-an-Eilein, Cairngorms Nature Reserve, Scotland.

Britain's Nature Reserves

(Continued from page 5)

where the terns will nest. A few pair of terns nested this last year, and hopes are up for a steady increase. Management is a selective tool on most British Reserves.

Reserves such as Woodwalton Fen near Peterborough could not exist without it. Woodwalton's 514 acres of alkaline-loving wet peat vegetation lie nowhere more than two feet above sea level. As adjoining farm lands were drained and the water table lowered, scrub woodland and forest began to invade the drying-out peat. To maintain the fen as a fen, British Nature Conservancy put in extensive dikes and sluices to raise and hold the water level. Woodwalton is famous for several rare aquatic plants and for the Large Copper Butterfly, one of the most beautiful insects in the Isles.

To protect rarities, whether bird or plant or butterfly, some of the Nature Reserves require special permits for entrance. Others have free access. One of the latter is the 40,000-acre Cairngorms Nature Reserve, the largest in Britain and one of the dramatic attractions of the eastern Scottish highlands. Rising at several points above the 4,000-foot contour, it contains many waterfalls, lochs, precipices, crags and scree, arctic-alpine heaths, high moorlands, pine heaths, pine forests, bleak and exposed summits with snow patches that remain all year, and enough other habitats to use up a lifetime exploring.

We came principally to see the relic of the great Caledonian Forest. Warden Archie McDonald's Land Rover bounced us to it—past lovely silver birches lining a tiny creek so clear its bottom rocks looked right on the surface—to Loch-an-Eilein, a blue lake backed by snow-capped rounded mountains, on whose shore rises the finest remnant of Caledonian Forest in

existence. This ancient forest which once covered most of Scotland now remains in isolated fragments. It consists mainly of Scots Pine, Juniper and Birch. The gnarled old Scots pines, 350 years or more old, were personable monarchs—nothing like their homogenized cousins on the Forestry Commission plantations. With roots spread wide for support, the large plated orange-brown trunks curved and twisted skyward, horizontal limbs jutting out powerfully, the whole upper part of the tree a luminous cinnamon that set off the twin green needle clusters. Independent personalities they were, long adapted to the soil and slope, carving out lives of power and endurance in a rigorous environment.

Through the brushy undercover a large grouse-like brown game bird—a Capercaillie hen—picked her way, sedately and with dignity, over the mounds of green mosses and around brown heather, and disappeared gradually into the forest. Chaffinches flitted about the billberry, cranberry and bracken. A lone hooded crow sat on a log beside three carrion crows, a neighborliness unique to this region where their ranges overlap and they hybridize.

On the other side of Loch-an-Eilein a forest of 100-year-old Scots pine had regenerated (through being left alone) into a fine stand of straight-trunked trees. From their cover we drove into the open moor, splashed through stony creek beds up into the red-brown heather that gives the mountainside its color.

"Here you can see the effects of cutting timber for two world wars," said the Warden, "and of our worst enemy, fire." Grass stumps echoed the pine forest that had been—now replaced by almost solid heather.

"But the trees may come back yet," he said, and nodded up the hill. Here and there light green conifers had pushed their way up through the brown heather. "Left alone and protected from fire in this Nature Reserve," he added, "the pines are coming back."

I looked over the brown moor and tried to imagine a forest of colorful patriarchs like the one we had seen on the Loch shore. With luck and dogged protection, someday 350 years from now, someone might see such a sight! And he might see much more—a patchwork of Nature Reserves through all of Great Britain encompassing the best surviving examples of every habitat from coastal sand dunes, shingle spits, salt marshes and sea cliffs to limestone and chalk grasslands, oak, beech, ash and pine woodlands, fens, bogs, heaths, moorlands and mountains. This is the British Nature Conservancy's aim and it is proceeding right on target.

Climbing Classification

(Continued from page 9)

depended upon widely. The advantage in such controversies should not go to the man who can put out the best training aids the fastest. It should not be presumed necessary to reach a conclusion at a given meeting, particularly one that may not have given both sides a full opportunity to present their cases.

DAVID BROWER, Executive Director
Sierra Club, San Francisco

May 14, 1963

Dear Steve (Roper):

... It is interesting to note that in spite of all the recent fanfare for NCCS and at the

meetings of both the Sierra Climbing Committee and the AAC Council, additional guidebook writers have come out in favor of the decimal system, including Hervey Voge for the High Sierra and Bill Putnam for the Interiors Range (now being printed by the AAC).

I originally wrote the manuscript of our new Field Guide to the Tetons using the dual system of NCCS and decimal system, but I found this was only creating confusion among the climbers. . . .

ORRIN H. BONNEY
Houston, Texas

• On June 9, 1963, the Sierra Club Executive Committee recommended to the Publications Committee "that the climber's guides now in process (Yosemite and Pin-

nacles) proceed without delay, utilizing Sierra Club classifications, but also including an adequate reference to and comparison with the proposed National Climbing Classification System." After studying these comments, arguments, proposals, and counter-proposals, we are sure there will be those who will feel much the same as did the famed John Salathé, when he pleaded: "I can't ve chust climb!"—Ed.

The seventh annual Sierra Club Clean-up Work Party is still accepting volunteers (ages 16 to 60 plus) for Aug. 17-25 in Humphrey Basin of the High Sierra Wilderness. Send review of knapsack experience to Fred Eissler, 2812 Panorama Place, Santa Barbara, Calif.

Mountain Peak Registers

SIERRA CLUB mountain peak registers serve many purposes—to record first or unusual ascents, to provide data on natural history, to aid in search and rescue operations, to provide statistical information for the National Park Service and U.S. Forest Service, and, by allowing climbers to record their names and comments, to give them a feeling of achievement. With over one hundred official registers placed up and down the Sierra Nevada, the Mountaineering Committee has a difficult time keeping track of mountain records. Reports from individuals visiting summits are about the only means of checking the condition of register books and their protective containers. If you find a club register this summer, please send a card to Mountain Records, % Sierra Club, 1050 Mills Tower, 220 Bush Street,

San Francisco 4, California, and tell us about the condition of the book and container.

Members have asked what they should do with a book found in poor condition: should they leave it on the peak or bring it down and send it to the club office? If you feel the register will not last another season, it should be replaced, even though it may not be full. Ideally, the person removing a register would have with him an official replacement. Chapter rock climbing sections and peaks sections have replacement books, and a small stock of blank registers is kept at the club office for individuals wishing to assist in register maintenance. In any event, something (a notebook or pieces of paper) should be left in the box. The old records should be sent to the club office with a statement of the adequacy of the replacement register left and of the condition of the container. If the old register is an official club

book or scroll, only information on first ascents need be transcribed from it to the new register. If, on the other hand, the old register consists merely of scraps of paper, all information should be transferred into the new register.

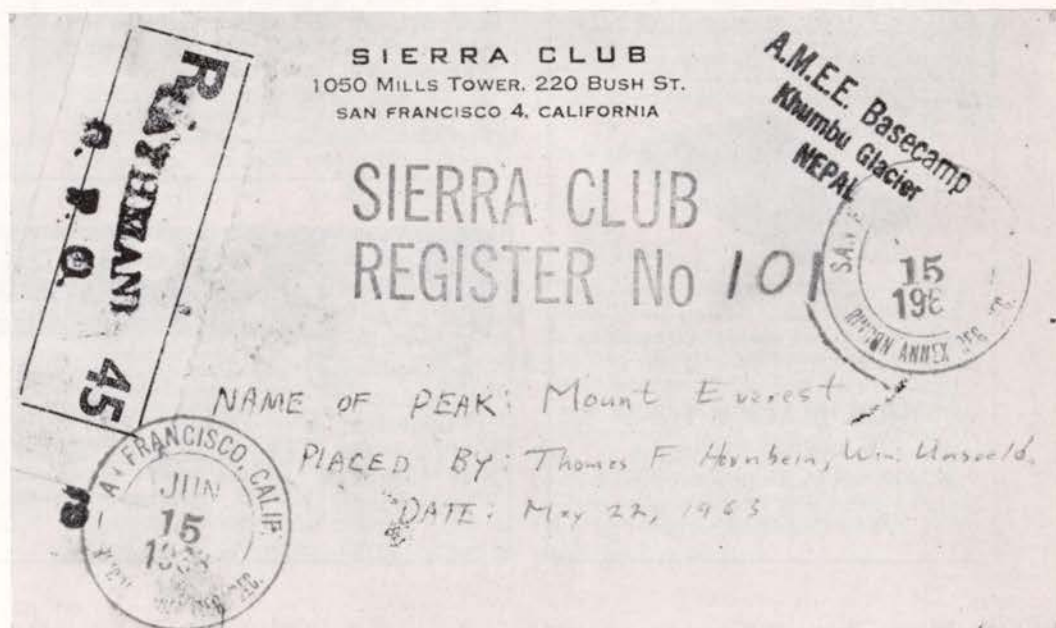
It is important that a pencil, or better yet two or three pencils (or a large pencil cut into three pieces), be kept in each register box. If there is no pencil, climbers are compelled to leave calling cards, various membership cards, and other litter. These are of little value for registration because the date and other pertinent comments do not get recorded. Penciled entries are more durable than pen.

If you would like to assist with the club's register maintenance activities, please let us know.

BILL ENGS
Mountain Records Chairman

Club Register on Top of the World

When the Mountain Records group of the Mountaineering Committee submitted an item to some of the chapter newsletters asking members to participate in the "International Sierra Club Register Year—1963-64," they were partially joking—or more accurately, they were using a light approach to secure members' cooperation in supplying information about the condition of mountain peak registers (see article above). But the members of the U. S. Everest expedition were serious about it, and as the postcard shown at right displays, Thomas F. Hornbein and Willi Unsoeld placed Sierra Club register No. 101 on top of Mount Everest on May 22, 1963 as they made the first ascent by the west ridge. When the card was received in the club office on June 15, 1963, engravings were quickly made of both sides of the card from the original (now in the office safe) and space was borrowed from other news items to be able to let all members enjoy this first for the club. Other Sierra Club participants in the Everest expedition included board member Will Siri and Dick Emerson.



CORRECTION: "Wanted—Homes for Fire Species" by Richard H. Pough in the March 1963 SCB originally appeared in the October 1960 issue of *Wild Flower*, published by The Wild Flower Preservation Society, Inc. Proper reprint credit was inadvertently omitted in our March SCB.

Editors Are Saying

Boating "Paradise" Forms at Lake Powell

Salt Lake Tribune, May 19, 1963

By Mike Korologos

"WAHWEAP, ARIZONA — A floating boat landing near Rainbow Bridge National Monument and a giant recreation complex at Wahweap are awaiting the rising of Lake Powell waters to reach their boundaries. When they do, probably sometime next spring, it'll herald the birth of what is destined to become one of the nation's largest boating-recreation areas.

"The Wahweap and Rainbow Bridge facilities are the only ones for which federal funds already have been appropriated. The over-all picture of the area, however, shows nine major development sites going up along the lake. These will be installed by the National Park Service at a cost of 16 million dollars. All the facilities are off the drawing boards and construction is pending the word from Washington, D.C.

"Sites the Park Service hopes to have in full operation soon and their costs include: Wahweap (headquarters for the Park Service's Glen Canyon National Recreation Area which administers the 1,429,000-acre tract which includes the lake), \$3,404,420; Rain-

bow Bridge Landing, \$248,500; Lee's Ferry, \$1,030,100; Castle Butte, \$1,634,600; Bullfrog Basin, \$2,890,800; Hole-in-the-Rock, \$3,012,700; Warm Creek, \$2,278,200; Hall's Crossing, \$963,550; . . .

"It's estimated that Wahweap alone will draw 500,000 visitors annually and the entire lake one million by 1966. Wahweap will be by far the plushiest of the facilities.

"Its giant floating marina which will house some 50 boats at one time is almost completed and lying on a near-by creek bed. It's scheduled to be finished about the time the rising waters reach it. Once it's afloat it will be pulled into place.

"Eventually, 250 individual campsites will be in use. . . .

"The Park Service also has built three boat launching ramps at Wahweap, two of which will be submerged when the lake reaches its higher levels.

"The permanent ramp is a 1,600-foot long monster of which 1,000 feet are paved. The other 500 feet were built as an economical feature to continue launchings when the lake is at its lowest levels. The ramp is 200 feet wide so there's plenty of room for turning, parking and backing up.

"Facilities at Rainbow Bridge National Monument are also being built in a unique manner.

"The boat dock, fueling station, ranger and information headquarters, employee living quarters and concession facilities will be built at Wahweap and then floated up the lake to be anchored under giant cliffs which guard the entrance to the bridge area.

"When the water reaches its normal highs, boundaries of the national monument

will be 1.7 miles from where skippers park their boats. Before it was a 4.7 mile hike to the area. A few days ago it was less than four miles."

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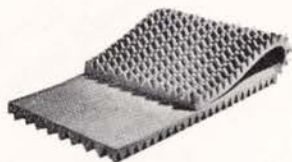
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NOTICE TO MEMBERS: If your *Bulletins* have been arriving in damaged condition, would you please drop me a postcard. In particular, will you tell me if your March and April-May SCB's were better protected (in envelopes).

—Elizabeth Wilson, Sierra Club,
Mills Tower, S.F.



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Mountain Talk

BEHIND plate glass in a dingy building off Broadway is a window display concerning the Fresh Air Fund of a civic-minded newspaper. "Send a boy to camp," says a poster, and there is a scale model of a camp with tiny white buildings and bits of green sponge representing trees.

Photographs, thrice removed from reality, show the great out-of-doors every boy should know. They are pictures of the dioramas of forest and lake scenes which tourists and note-taking students visit at the Museum of Natural History on Central Park West.

This tourist, for one, was struck by the enormous distance from Manhattan's crowded sidewalks and subways to the relatively uninhabited open spaces that roll beneath the east- or west-winged jet airplane. The distance is measured, not in miles, but in generations.

What does the mass of superurban youth today know or care about the consummate experiences to be enjoyed in wild woods, on remote peaks, among breeze-swept dunes, or indeed along country lanes?

In the Museum, hardly glancing at the magnificent habitat groups of ocean birds, a bunch of tough-acting youngsters raced through the vaulted room. One of them caused.

"Say, mister, can those birds kill a man?" He was impatient with the reasoned reply. "Sure, sure, but could they if they wanted? Couldn't they gang up on a man and kill him?"

I was face to face with Alfred Hitchcock's pigeon, not Roger Tory Peterson's.

Later, among displays that teach ecology, earnest students with assignment sheets in hand coached each other on how to identify meadow, stream, forest and swamp. Parents pointed out to wriggling offspring the taxidermists' squirrels, beavers and bushtits.

Notwithstanding the park across the street, the zoo, the Sunday excursion and the Fresh Air Fund, these were people who had been dispossessed.

They could, of course, walk the streets with me and read, "Tour the Pacific Northwest, 15 days, all expenses, \$645." They could patronize the store that offered Inman Walk Shoes. On the 86th-story terrace of the Empire State Building they could feel genuine gusts of wind from the sea.

If they were pedestrians on Madison Avenue, though still dispossessed they could be mental adventurers in grand style. For there at the window of the Carlton Book Shop was *The Place No One Knew*. A few doors away was a Twachtman landscape, brightening the graystone entrance to a gallery. Archaeological and Primitive Art was the stock-in-trade of another establishment.

But what of those infants, gliding past the apartments of their peers in elegant perambulators? What of that urchin begging for pennies in Schrafft's at midnight? What of the classes in public schools 24 and 48?

Will any of them know the rude inspiration Whitman praised in his "Song of the Open Road"? He also praised this same Manhattan, but that was when one crossed by Brooklyn Ferry, not by a roaring monster inside a filthy tunnel.

New York, like Los Angeles and many another metropolitan statistical area, portends the future. The question, as we raise more and more of these piles of steel, aluminum, concrete and glass, for more and more millions of city-bound, fume-breathing, maze-coursing human ants, is how on earth we may keep people in touch with the primitive facts of life.

A few of us, riding our hobby, escape the

urban centers from time to time to take pleasure in the rather scarce wild parks and forest preserves. Vastly greater numbers of city folk escape, if at all, only in their autos.

Perhaps we exaggerate. After all, there have been cities for thousands of years. And it takes a civilized society to learn that it has this problem.

A critical point may have been reached, however, when the majority of city dwellers no longer had their origins outside the city. What Shakespeare brought to London, and Lincoln to Springfield and Washington, may not be derivable from generations without grass roots.

That was an ominous road sign at an underpass for motorists about to cross Central Park. It warned "Squeeze right."

When the squeeze is on, shall we sing of the open road?

FRED GUNSKY



Lake Rupanco and Mount Osorno, Chile. Panagra photo

South America

(Continued from page 3)

we have just constructed a hut. The area is known as "Los Gigantes" and is at the northern end of the Sierra Grande of Cordoba, about 50 km. west of the town of Carlos Paz. The principal peak is 2200 m. and there are many interesting rock climbs in the area. We would be particularly interested if it were possible for some of your rock climbers associated with your training programme to visit us and demonstrate techniques, etc. (Call it foreign aid to an undeveloped country, if you like!) The Cordoba mountains are still relatively unknown, and perhaps you could get to know them a little next year."

We leave the lake area of Chile by way of Puerto Montt (see Nov. 1961 *Sunset Magazine*) and fly to Santiago. Here the official trip ends and you are on your own—to go home directly, to take a side trip, or to do some shopping in the city.

Arrangements for the trip will be made through the Sierra Club office working in conjunction with a travel agency. We shall fly Pan American and Pan American Grace Airways except for local trips within Peru and Chile. Although the assembly point is in Panama each person will be helped to

make flight reservations from his own area to Panama and from Santiago home. Also the necessary travel visas and other formalities will be handled through our agent.

The prices quoted below are bracketed between two figures depending on size of the party. These prices include airfare to Panama and return from Santiago as well as the cost of the official trip.

Approximate Total	80 persons	30 persons
Trip Fees from		
Seattle	\$1,100	\$1,200
San Francisco	1,025	1,125
Los Angeles	980	1,080
Miami	775	875
New York	900	1,000
Chicago	925	1,025
Dallas	940	1,040

To plan further for this trip we would like to hear from persons interested and likely to go. How about it?

H. STEWART KIMBALL
Leader

Club Outings still open: High Trip I, July 21; Base Camp I, July 21; Base Camp 2, Aug. 4; Base Camp III, Aug. 18; Back Country Camp, July 10; Glen Canyon 7, July 10; Glen Canyon 9, Sept. 10; Middle Fork-Salmon 2, July 5; Canoe-Columbia, Aug. 7; Quetico-Superior 2, Sept. 4; Sierra HL 3, Sept. 21; Sawtooth HL, Aug. 6; Goat Rocks HL, Aug. 19; Fourth of July Basin K/T, Aug. 11; Kern River K/T, July 13; Bench Canyon K/T, July 27; Burro 2, July 21. For more information see Feb. *SCB* or write the club office.



David Simons Collection

Northern Cascades Study Team Progress

Because of its great interest to Sierra Club members, the full text of a release on procedures to be followed by the Northern Cascade Mountains Study Team—received just as the SCB was going to press—is presented here. (For background information, see “A Milestone in Conservation Progress” in the January SCB and “Your Washington Office Report” and “Logging the Cascades” on pages 10 and 12 of the April-May SCB.)

ON March 5, 1963, the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior jointly appointed a study team to explore, in an objective manner, all the resource potentials of the federal lands in the North Cascade Mountains of Washington and to recommend the form of management and administration that appears to be in the public interest.

Study team members are Edward C. Crafts, Study Team Chairman and Director of the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation; Dr. George A. Selke, Consultant to the Secretary of Agriculture; Henry P. Caulfield, Assistant Director of Interior's Resources Program Staff; George B. Hartzog, Jr., Associate Director of the National Park Service; and Arthur W. Greeley, Deputy Chief of the U.S. Forest Service.

The study team will prepare and submit a report to the two secretaries on its findings including recommendations as to management and administration, and jurisdictional responsibilities.

This joint exploration of federal lands in the North Cascade Mountains of Washington State was one of several significant principles of cooperation outlined in a letter of January 28, 1963, from the two secretaries to the President advising that the two departments had developed a new conservation policy to help implement the outdoor recreation program of the Administration. This “new era of cooperation” was hailed by the President as a milestone in conservation progress.

The purpose of this statement is to clarify the manner in which the study team proposed to carry out the instructions of the two secretaries.

Area to be Studied

The area of study will comprise all of the federal lands in the North Cascade Mountains of Washington extending from the Canadian border south to State Route No. 5, which is the principal highway between Kosmos, Washington and Yakima, Washington via White Pass.

Resource Studies to be Undertaken

The directive from the two secretaries emphasized that this study is to consider *all* the resources of the North Cascade Mountains of Washington State. It will not be a study merely of the recreation potential, nor a study of historical and jurisdictional conflicts between federal agencies. This undertaking will be on a much broader basis.

Beginning immediately, a series of resource studies will be initiated to provide the factual basis for recommendations. In this endeavor professional personnel will be utilized who are qualified in the various resources to be studied, including personnel from a

number of federal agencies as well as their counterparts from the state government of Washington.

Each of the studies will review not only the resource as found within the basic study area but likewise its effect on an adjacent area or zone of influence.

It is not intended that these resource studies will include recommendations as to agency jurisdictions or other major policy issues. However, the studies may include technical recommendations on policy and management as they might fit into the framework of the study.

The resource studies to be undertaken are as follows: (1) Regional Economy, (2) Water and Power, (3) Recreation, (4) Timber, (5) Minerals and Geology, (6) Fish and Wildlife, (7) Forage.

The target date set for completion of the individual resource study reports is January 1, 1964.

Coöperation with State of Washington

The study team will work closely with the designated officials of the state of Washington during the course of the study and will seek, in due course, the recommendations of the Governor as to the best management and administration of the federal lands in the North Cascades.

Plans for Field Examination

The study team will make a field inspection of the study area during the period July 14–27, 1963. Field officials of the Forest Service and National Park Service are jointly engaged in working out the details of this field inspection.

It is desirable that the study team direct its full attention during the two-week field inspection to becoming acquainted with the study area. Consequently it does not plan to hold meetings or otherwise make public contacts on this field trip.

Field Meetings

There has been great interest in this study. To evaluate public opinion and obtain the views and recommendations of interested people and associations, the study team plans to hold public meetings in the State of Washington. Interested groups and individuals will be advised through the various news sources of the time, date, and location of the field meetings scheduled for the fall of 1963. The study team welcomes thoughts and ideas of any concerned persons or groups prior to the field meetings.

Completion Date of Report

Because of the complex issues involved, there has been no deadline imposed on the study team for a report. However, it is hoped that a report may be completed and submitted to the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior not later than January, 1965.

Inquiries

All inquiries and other correspondence pertaining to the North Cascade Mountains study should be directed to the undersigned.

Edward C. Crafts, Director, Bureau of Outdoor Recreation
Department of the Interior, Washington 25, D.C.