

# Sierra Club

BULLETIN/SEPTEMBER 1970



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# EDITORIAL

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This autumn, and yearly thereafter, the Sierra Club and the Sierra Club Foundation (a separate and fully tax deductible, nonprofit corporation) will appeal for funds to support the vastly increased, nationwide activities of the Club membership. In the past, support from members and friends has provided the financial margin for environmental action which could not be supported by membership dues alone. Even so, numerous worthwhile conservation projects were stalled for lack of funding.

Gifts to the Sierra Club itself will help it continue to be legislatively active. As you know, this last year the Club staff organized and led the battle to defeat the infamous Timber Supply Act. Club efforts were crucial in obtaining full funding for Point Reyes acquisitions and in replenishing the Land and Water Fund. We are now engaged in a massive effort to stop the anti-social and environmentally destructive supersonic transport (SST) program. Major legislative efforts lie ahead to accelerate abatement of air and water pollution and to provide better planning for legitimate power and land use needs. The commodity-oriented and biased report of the Public Land Law Review Commission will doubtless give rise to a number of major congressional battles, as important as any ever fought before.

Gifts to the Sierra Club Foundation can be used to support the non-legislative programs of the Sierra Club itself, with full tax deductability for the donor. In the past, many legal efforts of the Club have been funded through Sierra Club Foundation grants. With such help, the Club, through court action, stopped a proposed expressway in the Hudson River, brought about cancellation of a timber sale in a superlative *de facto* wilderness area in Colorado and held up — we hope, permanently — the Disney Mineral King project. Crucial legal actions are now in progress to save the magnificent wilderness of southeast Alaska from a massive timber sale to foreign interests and to protect Chesapeake Bay and Lake Michigan from thermal pollution. New actions are necessary to obtain broad, public oriented interpretation of the Environmental Policy Act and to press the advantage derived from growing awareness of the need to attack pollution forcefully.

The Foundation in the past has also helped fund the Club Campus program to work directly, and through chapters and groups, with thousands of interested students on university and high school campuses. The Foundation has helped the Club sponsor and participate in national conferences on wilderness problems and population growth. The Foundation has supported important conservation research and the production of new films about Miner's Ridge in the Northern Cascades, Olmos Basin near San Antonio, and DDT. In addition, the Foundation has assisted the Club with its publishing program, now returned to full operation with publication of *Everglades*. Original books in paperback form have been added to the Club's list — for example, "Ecotactics" — and more are coming. A new series of "land form books" is planned and also a series on forthcoming critical issues, for example, problems of water resource development and its environmental impact.

Through contributions to the Club or the Foundation, you can make possible continuation of all these important activities. Please respond to the appeal coming shortly, and help us to be more successful during the coming year.

Phillip S. Berry  
President



# Sierra Club

BULLETIN/SEPTEMBER 1970

VOLUME 55 · NUMBER 9

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

COVER: Bristlecone pine, oldest living thing on earth. See page 4.

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CREDITS: Cover, 4, 5, 6, 7, J. W. Mish • 9, Gus Bundy • 9 upper left, Phillip Hyde • 14, Susan Landor • 18, 19, 20, 21, Joseph N. LeConte; these photos were taken by "Little Joe" LeConte, son of Joseph LeConte, around the turn of the century. • 24, Jane Southwell.

Art Direction: Mark Nobles

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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Published monthly, except in January when a special Outings issue is also published, by the Sierra Club, 1050 Mills Tower, San Francisco, California 94104. Annual dues are \$12 (first year \$17) of which \$3 is for subscription to the *Bulletin*. (Non-members: one year \$5; three years \$12.00; single monthly copies, 50c). Second-class postage paid at San Francisco, California. Copyright 1970 by the Sierra Club. All communications and contributions should be addressed to Sierra Club, 1050 Mills Tower, San Francisco, California 94104. \*Reg. U.S. Pat. Off.

# NEWS

## SST

As this issue of the Bulletin goes to press, the Senate Transportation Subcommittee is winding up hearings on the \$290 million appropriation for fiscal 1971 for the supersonic transport plane. Floor action was expected sometime in the latter part of September. As the Senate vote drew nearer, conservationists were encouraged by the number of scientists, economists, and members of the Senate who were making clear their doubts about the environmental impact and economic desirability of the SST program. Early in August the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's *Study of Critical Environmental Problems* urged a delay in production of supersonic transport planes because of evidence that the planes could alter the world's climate. Later in the month a subcommittee of the House-Senate Joint Economic Committee issued a report calling for an end to further federal financing of the SST. Subcommittee chairman William Proxmire said the SST program represents "a gross misallocation of public funds." As the appropriation measure moved closer to floor action, Sen. Robert Griffin of Michigan, Senate Republican whip, joined the growing number of Senators who had publicly announced that they would vote against the SST appropriation.

## AUTO MAKERS SUED

A suit requiring General Motors, Ford, Chrysler, and American Motors to install pollution control devices on all cars sold in the past 17 years was filed in the Supreme Court by 15 states. The suit also asks the court to order the auto makers to develop a pollution-free engine. The states allege that the auto makers have conspired among themselves to prevent development of anti-pollution equipment. The suit claims that as a result of this conspiracy, the plaintiff states have had to spend large sums of money for pollution control, and the people of the states have had to live in an "unhealthy environment contaminated by unnatural atmospheric pollutants emitted by motor vehicles manufactured by the defendants." The states filing the action are Illinois, Washington, Arizona, Colorado, Hawaii, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, Rhode Island, Vermont and Virginia.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

**ACTION NOW**  
**PAGE 12**

# BRISTLECONE





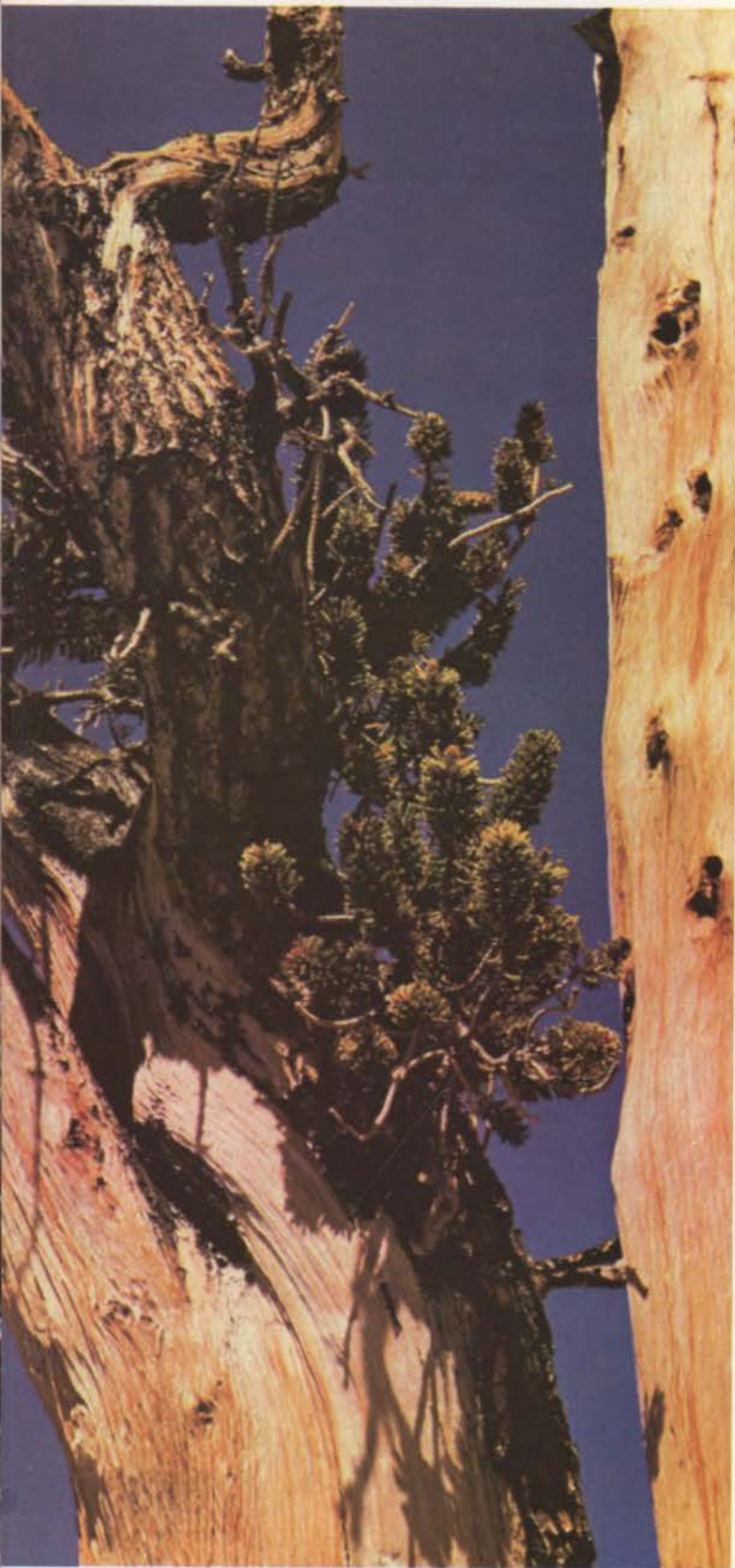
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Photographs By J. W. Mish

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*High in western mountains  
Dwell the oldest known  
Living things on earth;  
The Bristlecone Pine.  
Magic, ancient,  
Some have stood  
For nearly 5000 years,  
Each,  
Partly dying,  
Partly living,*





*In delicate, precarious,  
Perfect  
Balance with nature.  
Offering  
Their message through millenia:  
The goal of all life  
Is living.  
But,  
In this age of destruction;  
Of goals guided by  
Electronic mentalities,  
Mechanical muscles,  
Institutionalized appetites,  
The message goes unheard.  
Man's alchemy  
Brings life to barren fields,  
Yet whole species disappear.  
Antic,  
He levels mountains,  
Fills valleys,*

*Exulting in his  
Apparent control  
Of nature;  
Deluded by self-promises  
Of immortality;  
Busy,  
Seeking the answer  
To a question answered  
Long ago.*



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# PYRAMID LAKE

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By Fred Gunsky

Indian land is a dwindling asset in white America, to paraphrase a chapter title in *Our Brother's Keeper*, the hard-hitting book published last year by the Citizens' Advocate Center. Several pages were devoted to a particular Indian land problem, that of Pyramid Lake.

The Northern Paiutes who own Pyramid have been struggling to keep that asset from dwindling, and they have had some help from the Sierra Club. The complications of their struggle, of which the outcome remains in doubt, are instructive for those of us who believe conservation of natural resources must be kept a humane pursuit and that conservationists would be cold indeed if they failed to take into account the impact of resource programs on the lives of people—particularly powerless and poor people like the few hundreds of Paiutes who make their home at Pyramid Lake.

Publication by the Sierra Club in 1968 of the book, *Almost Ancestors*, confronted readers with the faces of nearly vanished California tribesmen ("there but for the grace of God go we"). In the Southwest and in Alaska, in recent years, native concerns have begun to merge with those of conservationists—although sometimes with serious differences of position.

Early this year some of us who had been wearing one hat while dealing with natural resources and another headdress for Indian affairs decided to try an experiment. We formed the Indian Lands Subcommittee of the Northern California Regional Conservation Committee, held our first meetings, made field trips to Alcatraz Island and Pyramid Lake, Nevada, and invited Indian spokesmen to interpret their points of view to the Sierra Club. High on our agenda were the continuing threat of an Eel River dam to Round Valley (and dams on other Northern California Indian lands), the Pyramid Lake water problem, preservation of archaeological sites, and the difficult challenges by Indian groups on Alcatraz and the Pit River.

Through a newsletter, informational mailings, chapter publications, the *Bulletin*, meetings, discussions, and policy recommendations, the Indian Lands Subcommittee will test the sensitivity of Sierra Club leadership and membership to Indian needs,

Indian rights, and Indian demands. We may also be able to influence Indian thinking on the conservation of certain values in Indian lands—although how presumptuous can the white man be? Indians respected the American land and treated it well long before others set foot on it.

Pyramid Lake is a prime example of how the white man has acted without any respect for the land. It is the "Tahoe of the desert," thirty miles long and from four to eleven miles wide, an expanse of fresh water surrounded by barren mountains and sagebrush flats less than an hour's drive northeast from Reno. It is fed almost entirely by the Truckee River, which rises in California, flowing north and east and north again before it ends in Pyramid Lake.

The Indians who are headquartered in the town of Nixon, Nevada, at the mouth of the Truckee, are descendants of the tribe that greeted John C. Fremont there in 1844 and feasted his hungry exploring party with fat cutthroat trout, "boiled, fried, and roasted in the ashes," all they could eat and more. The native Lahontan cutthroat no longer survive, but planted ones are still caught. For how many years no one can say, because upstream diversions not only shrink the shoreline but threaten to create a dead salt lake in which fish such as the trout and the unique *cui-ui* will not live.

James Vidovich, the tribal chairman, commutes to work as an electrician from his home in Nixon, and others also have jobs off the reservation. Some raise livestock. Most of the Paiutes, however, are only seasonally employed if at all. Without the income from fishing and boating fees, tourist spending, and the fish they catch, these people could not maintain themselves as a community. Remember that the community and its native forbears have inhabited the shores of the lake for nine thousand years, and that in 1859 the United States government set aside the area as a reservation that made economic sense only if the lake continued to provide subsistence.

That was the way it was until 1905, when the first diversion took water out of the Truckee for the Newlands reclamation project. Derby Dam and the Truckee Canal tap a considerable part of the flow to be pooled with that of the Carson River, so that the Truckee-Carson Irrigation District may water farms



*"So long as there is a lake, a stream, a forest, a grass land, you must manage it, you must dam it, channel it, reforest it. You must restock the streams, create wildlife preserves, spending all your energy first destroying, then trying to undo that destruction by further destruction. But can you not leave one thing untouched, can you not leave one people alone? Can you not honor one promise? Can you not respect even one lake, and one stream, one nearly extinct breed of fish and one natural pelican rookery, and one natural lake — the greatest of the great lakes left from the days of the great glaciers?"*

Testimony by James Vidovich, Chairman, Pyramid Lake Tribal Council, Sacramento (1969)



and ranches around the town of Fallon. What is left drains into the Stillwater Wildlife Area north and east of Fallon—a marshy haunt of waterfowl, part refuge and part hunting area, that ironically uses water destined by nature for Pyramid Lake where the great Anaho Island colony of white pelicans may perish if the level goes on sinking.

You begin to see the economics and the politics of this problem. Nevada is a frontier state with an especially fragile agricultural base, a desert state demanding heavily on sources of water in the Sierra Nevada. Judged by outside standards, the Newlands Project produces crops of marginal value and its management of the water appears to be exceptionally wasteful. But try to argue, in a Nevada court or legislature, for old Indian rights against the newly developed rights of the ranchers at Fallon!

The fact is, nevertheless, that for more than six decades, except in a few very wet years, Pyramid Lake has not received enough inflow to maintain its level. In that time it has dropped more than eighty feet. The loss is clearly marked on the pyramid, a rock whose contours suggested the name given the lake by Fremont, and which is no longer an island but is connected to the shore. Mud flats surround the mouth of the Truckee; the lake is several miles shorter than it was, and the water surface has contracted by more than fifty square miles.

It will not have escaped the thinking of readers familiar with Federal bureaucracy that the Bureau of Reclamation (parent and manager of the Newlands Project) and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (White Father and agent of the Paiute tribe) are both within the Department of Interior, along with the Bureaus of Land Management and Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, which also share some responsibility for what happens to Pyramid Lake. The Indians were not consulted or reimbursed for their prospective losses when the diversions took place, and to this day the Bureau of Indian Affairs has failed to prosecute what seem to many the unquestionable rights of the Paiutes to an adequate supply of water for their reservation and their lake.

The history of protest and counteraction is fairly recent. Fifteen years ago the states of California and Nevada began to negotiate a compact to divide formally the water supply of Lake Tahoe and three rivers, the Truckee, Carson and Walker. As the compact took shape and hearings were held, the position of the Indians became clear. It was that regardless of other uses being made of the water of the Truckee, which essentially were about to be confirmed by the interstate agreement, they were entitled to a sufficient

flow to maintain Pyramid Lake. They said the compact should guarantee them such a flow. Opponents said it was not within the scope of such a document to allocate water for specific uses, that all it could do was to divide the total supply in two parts, leaving to the states how it should be allocated. The Paiutes could certainly file suit to establish their rights, said the lawyers and lawmakers.

Counsel for the tribe asserted that language in the compact would force them into hostile Nevada state courts, when their only hope was to sue in a Federal court. It was on this point, when the California-Nevada Interstate Compact had been approved by the Nevada legislature and was before the California legislature for similar action in 1969, that the Sierra Club joined the controversy on the side of the Indians. Seeking to preserve a great scenic and recreational asset, the Club rallied public sentiment and presented testimony that played a key role in preventing passage of the bill. Instead, it was made the subject of an interim study by the Assembly Committee on Water.

Several important changes in the text were recommended by the study committee, and were incorporated in the bill in 1970 when it became A.B. 1350. The Paiutes and their attorney continued to object. The Sierra Club, prodded by the brand-new Indian Lands Subcommittee, reviewed the subject and reaffirmed its policy that Pyramid Lake should be maintained at its present level or higher, and that the Club supported the Paiutes in their efforts to that end. In 1970 the Indians' efforts, aided by the Club, resulted in additional amendments permitting the Indians to sue for Pyramid Lake water rights in state or federal courts. The Club then agreed that the compact as amended in the California Assembly did not adversely affect the Indians' rights and should no longer be opposed in California.

The bill was passed by the California Assembly and Senate before adjournment; it will have to go back to the Nevada legislature for further action. The next move will be in Washington, where Congressional ratification is required. Not only has the Department of Interior expressed its own objections to portions of the compact, but the Sierra Club, through its Legal Committee, has promised all necessary legal steps to assure adequate Truckee water for Pyramid Lake, which steps will include opposing ratification of the Compact by Congress until adequate provision is made by Nevada and the Secretary of Interior to eliminate or substantially decrease diversions from the Truckee basin to the Carson basin and to guarantee increased inflow to Pyramid Lake.

(The June 1970 issue of *American Heritage* contains an extended account of the Pyramid Lake controversy by Alvin M. Josephy, Jr. He terms the lake the "victim of a uniquely unsavory case of the plundering of natural resources.")

The Sierra Club and its members can avail themselves of two immediate approaches to action on this problem. One is through continuing support and publicity for Assembly Joint Resolution 49, introduced by George W. Milius and passed by both houses of the California legislature. The resolution, suggested in the Club's testimony on the compact in 1969, urges the Secretary of Interior to coordinate activities of the various bureaus within his department in order to solve the problems relating to management of the Truckee-Carson river system. It is specific in pinpointing waste of Truckee water at Fallon, and regarding conflicts of interest centered in the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Bureau of Reclamation.

Letters to Secretary of Interior Walter Hickel and to California and Nevada members of Congress, explaining the importance of A.J.R. 49, will help to emphasize the issues.

A second approach, and the one the Paiutes are convinced offers their only real hope, is a suit filed in Federal court in Washington, D.C., in August, 1970. This lawsuit will be costly and may take years. Sierra Club cooperation and assistance, both in research and in prosecution of the case, would be a logical next step; the Legal Committee is giving serious consideration to intervening on the side of the Paiutes.

Aside from a redistribution of the Truckee's flow, there appear to be several avenues to securing more water for Pyramid Lake. Each of them presents economic, political, technical or legal difficulties. Cloud seeding over the watershed may bring more precipitation and increase the flow. Ground water in the desert may be found and pumped to the lake. If there were money and motivation, purchase of water rights in the Newlands Project area would solve the Indians' problem.

"There is no cheap or palatable solution," Robert Eiland, Assistant Director of the California Department of Water Resources, said recently. He is a member of the Secretary of Interior's special task force on Pyramid Lake, which has held many hearings and listened to many proposals. The Paiutes have refused to participate, a position that Eiland considers regrettable. "Certainly a wrong was committed in the past," he said, "but we have to face the fact

that a lot of people live in Reno and Fallon. To give more water to Pyramid, you have to take it away from the city or the farms."

Talking with Jim Vidovich, with tribal attorney Robert Stitser and his predecessor Robert Leland, with Eiland and with others, members of the Indian Lands Subcommittee of the Sierra Club's Northern California Regional Conservation Committee have found that it isn't that simple. It isn't simple at all, as Eiland himself pointed out. Practical men disagree, because there is a question of values.

Lining the irrigation ditches would reduce waste, but would cost money. Cutting the amount of water that reaches the Stillwater Wildlife Area would save some for Pyramid Lake, but each area has its advocates. If there were no interstate compact, years from now, the Tahoe Basin might use much more water and leave less for all downstream Nevadans, not just the Paiutes.

Where, then, do Indian needs, Indian rights and Indian demands come into the picture? That is the question to which the Indian Lands Subcommittee is addressing itself. Club policymakers and spokesmen at this time do not necessarily embrace the rights of Indians to use their lands in any way they see fit. Pyramid Lake has great scenic and recreational value in itself; for some conservationists it may be merely expedient to argue the cause of the Indians who happen to own it.

Certainly we do not want to persuade the Sierra Club to imitate the error of the naive author of a children's book who dedicated it to "boys and girls who like Indians and animals." We should not seek to preserve Indians in their habitat as we might wolves and mountain lions. Native Americans who lived rather peaceably with the land, were wrenched from it and much wronged, and yet have survived, deserve a voice in the environmental struggle of the future.

Direct action and claims by Indians on Alcatraz and on the Pit River raise troublesome questions that will take longer to answer. But where Indian interests and those of conservationists coincide, as they do at Pyramid Lake, an alliance is natural and inevitable. Inevitable, that is, if we can identify the common cause and then muster the human insight, mutual respect and statesmanship to make the alliance work, not only in one region but wherever on the continent there are native rights in the land.

*Mr. Gunsky is chairman of the Indian Lands Subcommittee of the Club's Northern California Regional Conservation Committee.*

## ACTION NOW

### SAWTOOTH

The citizens of Idaho—a state traditionally dominated by timber, grazing, and mining interests—gave a striking show of support for early protective legislation for the state's beautiful Sawtooth Mountain country. Most of the 350 witnesses testifying before the House Parks Subcommittee field hearing recently in Sun Valley spoke out in favor of creating a 1.3 to 1.6 million acre national park and recreation area complex as proposed by the Greater Sawtooth Preservation Council. The lone but significant holdout was Governor Don Samuelson.

The legislation before Congress and under study by the Parks Subcommittee includes (1) H.R. 18900 and S. 4214, bills cosponsored by the entire Idaho delegation to create a 600,000-acre national park, (2) H.R. 5999, a bill to establish a national recreation area under the jurisdiction of the Forest Service while allowing mining to continue, and (3) a moratorium bill to withdraw a portion of the area from further mining activity pending study.

In a statement on behalf of the Sierra Club, Dr. Edgar Wayburn, the Club's vice president, commended the Idaho delegation for offering bills for a national park, but urged amending the bills to extend park protection to the Pioneer Mountains. The Sawtooth National Park complex, as the Greater Sawtooth Preservation Council has proposed, would then consist of three units: the Sawtooth Mountains, the White Clouds-Boulder Mountains, and the Pioneer Mountains. In addition, Wayburn asked that an adjacent 600,000 acres, principally in the headwater valleys of the Salmon River and the Big Lost River be designated a national recreation area. He also called for an immediate moratorium on mining throughout the entire area.

Though the hearing record is now closed, conservationists can help obtain action in this session of Congress by sending letters urging adoption of the Greater Sawtooth Preservation Council park proposal and an immediate moratorium on mining to Rep. Wayne Aspinall, chairman, House Interior Committee, House Office Bldg., Washington, D.C., 20515.

### GAS TAX

California voters will have an opportunity to make a first dent in the nearly monolithic

power of the highway lobby this November. Proposition 18, which will appear on the state-wide ballot, was one of the few significant environmental proposals to pass out of the legislature in the session that recently adjourned. Its passage would permit voters of a region to authorize use of up to 25 per cent of locally generated state gasoline tax revenues for air pollution and mass transit research. The current constitutional provisions that would be amended by proposition 18 require that all gasoline taxes be used for highway construction and associated, automobile-related purposes.

A citizen's coalition, spearheaded by the Tuberculosis and Respiratory Disease Association and the Sierra Club, is forming to promote Proposition 18. The battle is formidable, as the State Chamber of Commerce has already pledged itself to lead a million dollar campaign against the measure. If Proposition 18 fails, it will probably postpone further action on this vital issue for a decade, so all California Club members are urged to help in securing its passage. Please write the Club office or your local TB Association office for information.

### NEW YORK POWER

In the wake of New York City's summer power crisis, Consolidated Edison has won two controversial permits from federal and city authorities. The Federal Power Commission has granted Con Ed a license to build a pumped storage powerplant in the Storm King Mountain area on the Hudson River. The Sierra Club and other conservation organizations had brought suit to block the project in federal court, and the court had ordered the FPC to hold a rehearing on the license application. Shortly after receiving the Storm King license, Consolidated Edison was given the go-ahead by Mayor Lindsay to expand its fossil fuel electric generating plant in Astoria within the New York City limits. In 1966 Con Ed had pledged it would not build or expand plant facilities within the city because of the air pollution problems. Public officials predict that the Astoria expansion will indeed be an unacceptable burden on the already unhealthy air.

### TIMBER SALE SUIT

The trial date originally set for the Sierra Club's suit to prevent excessive commitment of the timber resources of the Tongass National Forest of Southeast Alaska to logging has been postponed to November 4. The Club brought suit in Federal District Court

in Anchorage against the Department of Agriculture and the Forest Service to prevent cutting under a 1968 timber sale on one million acres of the national forest. The 1968 sale—of 8,750,000,000 board-feet extending to the year 2022—is the third of three huge, long-term sales made in the Tongass National Forest over the past 15 years. Concerned that the Forest Service is earmarking 98 per cent of the commercial timber of Southeast Alaska for sale without reserving any of it for wilderness or scenic areas, the Club's suit seeks a preliminary and a permanent injunction against any further action on the 1968 sale. The suit charges the defendants with violations of statutes governing multiple-use and sustained yield, sales of timber abroad, and appraisal and bidding procedures.

### LETTER TO PRESIDENT

Prompted by the summer power crisis in New York during which the utility industry blamed conservationists for blocking proposals for new plants, and conservationists blamed the utilities for plant breakdowns and failure to install unobjectionable standby equipment, Sierra Club Executive Director Michael McCloskey wrote President Nixon urging federal legislation to establish a new system for power planning. "It is time for someone to break the stalemate and exert national leadership. We look to you Mr. President, to do that, and we urge that you put forth your own plan for shaping power planning in accordance with environmental needs. We urge that you call for federal legislation which will include these three elements: (1) mechanisms for subordinating power planning to overall environmental constraints and land-use planning; (2) a policy for conserving power and controlling the rate of growth through the rate structure; and (3) provisions for regional planning to promote system interconnections, joint use of bulk facilities, and selection of environmentally acceptable sites and routes for transmission lines," McCloskey said.

### MISSION MOUNTAINS

Hearings were held early in September on one of the Pacific Northwest's controversial wilderness issues: the Forest Service proposal for a 73,861-acre Mission Mountain Wilderness in the spectacular mountain range south of Glacier National Park in western Montana. The Sierra Club, while approving the Forest Service's proposed boundaries in basic outline, took strong ex-



**If they had to  
follow that star today,  
they might never  
be able to see it.**

Make survival a priority with your friends.  
This Christmas, give them Sierra Club Books.

Dear Sierra Club members:

Thoughtful gifts, it has been said, reflect the giver—his individual tastes, his personality, his special interests. You should know, then, that a certain civil engineer of our acquaintance gave lavishly last Christmas of miniature silver slide-rules (tie-clasps for the guys, bracelet charms for the gals). The year before he celebrated the Season with gold shovels. Next year, pewter pesticide decanters, perhaps.

We know another gentleman who gives books. His name doesn't matter. But the books *do*, for season after season they have carried the imprint of the Sierra Club. And reflected the giver's commitment to the most important special interest of all.

Survival.

Our giver of books discovered long ago (so long ago there weren't too many books to give) that proselytizing his friends with verbal arguments about the state of the environment and the importance of wilderness wasn't enough. Friends might listen, yet they could not *see* what our man was talking about. So there was very little understanding. And few converts to the cause of survival.

Then our man made a second discovery.

It was a book. A big handsome volume filled with photographs that stroked the eye and sent imagination soaring. An editorial celebration of wildness. And our man could see in it everything he had been trying so hard to get across to his friends, without their ever understanding. So he purchased the book. And gave it to a friend for Christmas.

And the friend saw what was in the book and began at last to understand.

Understandably, our man became a regular giver of Sierra Club books. (So did some of his friends.)

It is exactly this kind of happy contagion that has helped to infect so many thousands of Americans with a desire to explore, enjoy and protect the wildness that is, in Thoreau's words and in fact, "the preservation of the world." For Sierra Club books inspire positive responses. In an era of environmental pessimism (which, of course, has no survival value), Club publications continue to penetrate the gloom to remind readers visually of what it is they are struggling to save.

On the next four pages of this special *Bulletin* insert, you will find our guide for bookgivers who like to shop early. (When you're ordering books and calendars, it's never too early.) Be sure to note the newest 1970 titles: *Everglades* by Patricia Caulfield, 21st in the Club's Exhibit Format Series; *Aldabra Alone* by Tony Beamish, and *Wilderness: The Edge of Knowledge*, edited by Maxine E. McCloskey. Also note the special cash discount for the 1971 Sierra Club wall and engagement calendars (and the separate box for computing that discount on the order form bound in this issue of the *Bulletin*).

So browse on then, friends, shop early and remember that one good turn deserves another. If *your* good turn adds up to an order of \$30 or more (after computing the membership discount) we will be pleased to send you, free, one box of the Sierra Club's Wilderness Notes (beautifully reproduced black and white photographs and text from famous Club books, handsomely boxed in sets of 24, a \$2.95 value).

In the meantime, we'll be working to turn that slide-rule giver into a Sierra book giver, too.

The Editors  
Sierra Club Books

*p.s. Please note the new address for ordering books: Sierra Club, Order Department, 250 Mills Tower, San Francisco, California 94104. And don't forget to include your membership number on the order form.*

*Free box of Sierra Club Wilderness Notes with every order of \$30.00 or more.*



# The book about the place that opened America's eyes to the crisis of environment.

Less than a twelvemonth after man first walked on the moon, they began to call it the Year of the Earth. Nineteen-seventy. Suddenly there was E-Day, and voices that had never been heard before were raised in defense of the global environment.

But it began in the Everglades.

For hundreds of thousands of Americans, the ecological awakening came with the news that a proposed super-jetport threatened the integrity of a national park in South Florida. The park was Everglades. Few of those concerned had ever been there.

Yet somehow the Everglades issue touched a responsive national chord. Americans everywhere, reading the news stories and watching the television specials, could see their own immediate anxieties—their feeling of hopelessness about the environment—reflected in the plight of the nation's only subtropical wilderness park. And their collective response to the issue soon helped to deflect the jetport threat.

Still, the Everglades are dreadfully imperiled. . . . By the kind of blundering and plundering that might yet bring the Sunshine State to the brink of ecological and economic collapse. . . . By people who pick away at land and water resources with bulldozers, draglines, tree crushers and DDT.

*Everglades* by Patricia Caulfield examines these forces, these people. *Everglades* is part of the Sierra Club's determined response to dirty business.

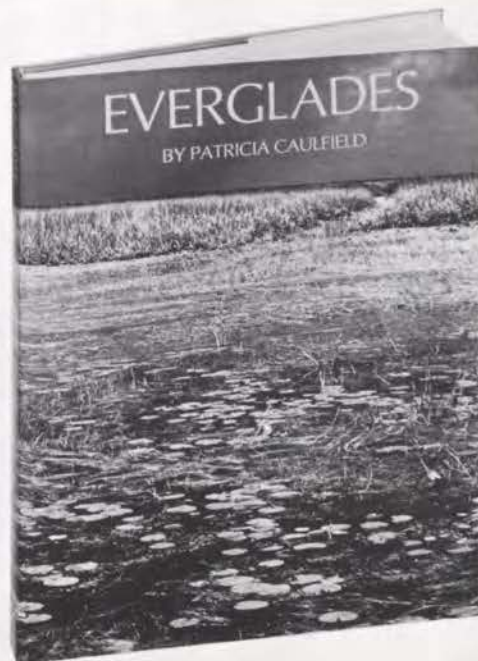
The book also extolls the positive natural values of the region in sixty-five full color photographs by Miss Caulfield. Her work reflects the dynamic life force of the Everglades: the snarling cougar, the implacable alligator, soaring ibis, blossoming saw grass and thunderheads stacked like mountains against the sky.

Complementing the photographs are selections from the writings of Peter Matthiessen, novelist and author of *Wildlife in America* and *Under the Mountain Wall*, a fact-packed essay in six chapters by John G. Mitchell, and an introduction by Paul Brooks.

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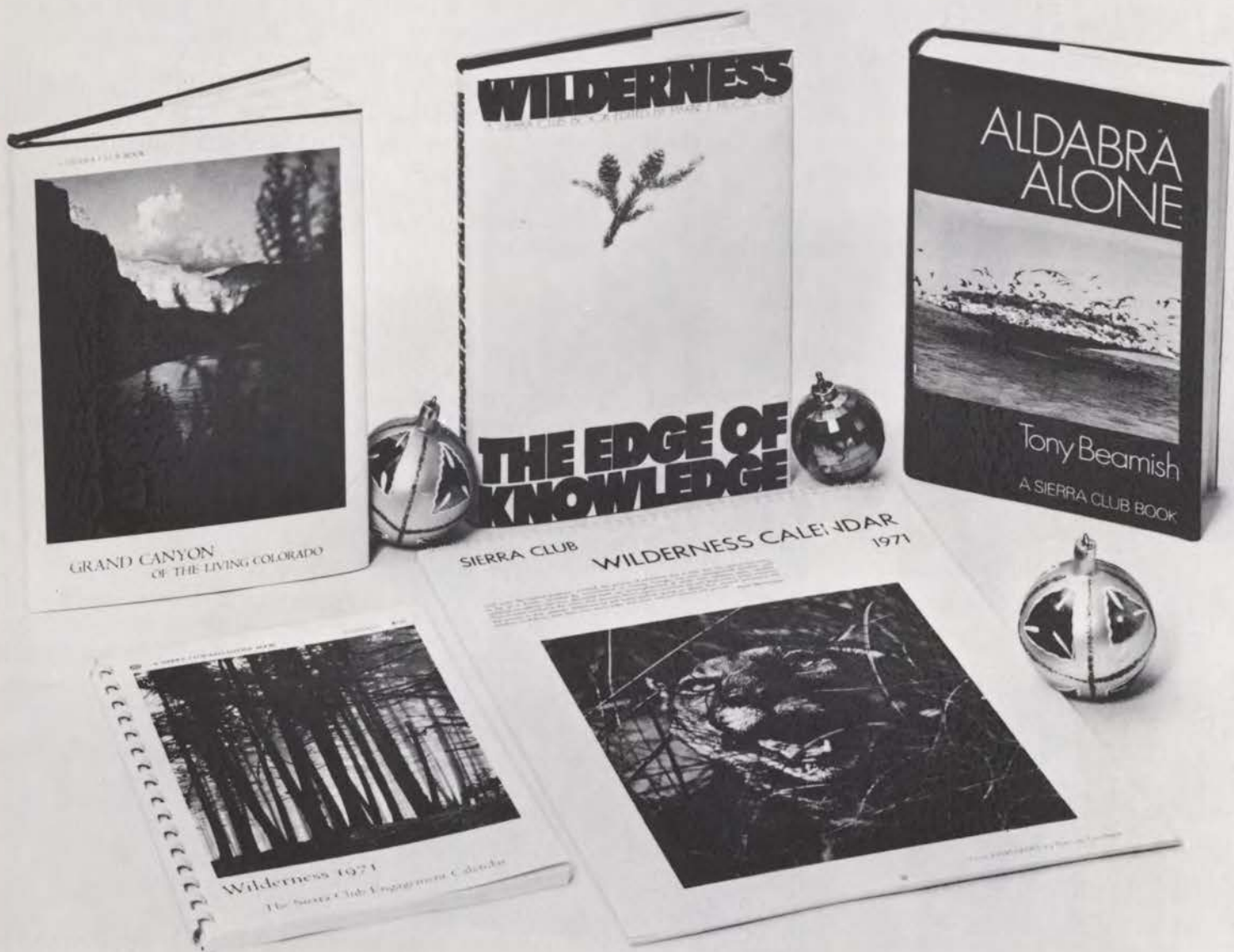
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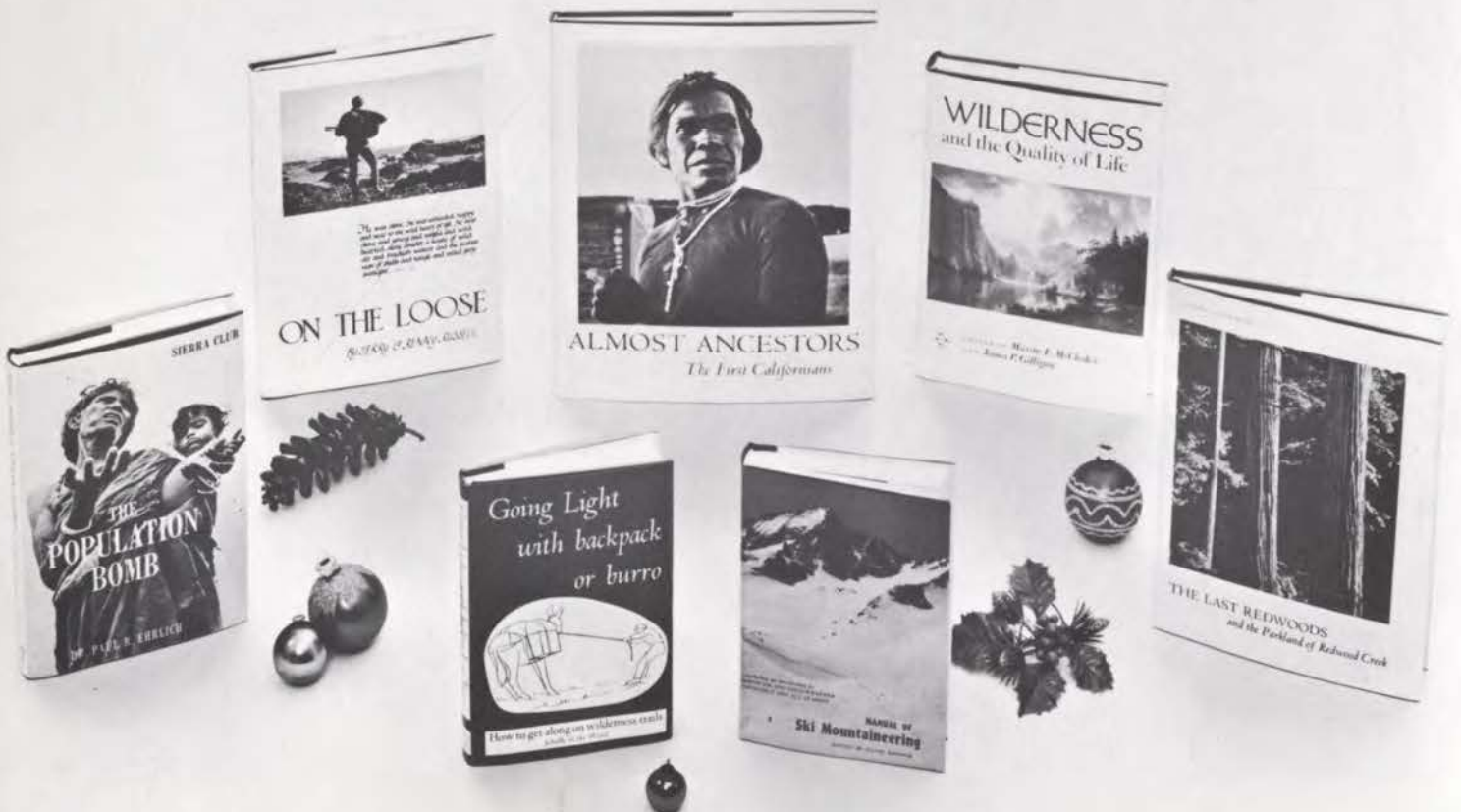
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ception to the deletion of six areas totaling 1977 acres from the existing Primitive Area. The Forest Service claims that these areas are not of "wilderness quality" because parts of them have been previously logged and roaded. "However, the Wilderness Act does not require that absolutely all of the area must be pristine, and as we have been told so often by this same agency, trees do grow back. Meanwhile, the dangers of permitting these exclusions to stand is that each runs like a dagger toward the heart of the fragile high country of this long narrow wilderness," Brock Evans, the Club's Northwest representative, said. In addition to retaining the 1977 acres, the Club would like to see two more critical areas, totaling about 2000 acres, added south of Glacier Creek and south of Piper Creek.

## SALE OF REFUGES

Under a directive signed by President Nixon, some 2.8 million acres of National Wildlife Refuge land has been identified for possible disposal. Mr. Nixon sent a memorandum to the heads of federal departments and agencies instructing them to submit lists of 10 per cent of their real property "which is least utilized and has the lowest priority for retention." His order exempted National Park and National Forest lands, but left the wildlife refuges vulnerable. The Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife listed the following refuges for possible disposal: Cabeza Prieta and Kofa in Arizona. Clarence Rhode and Nunivak in Alaska. Charles Sheldon and Desert in Nevada, and Hart Antelope in Oregon. Conservationists are asking the President to rescind the order which could result in sale of the refuge lands.

## MERCURY POLLUTION

Two scientists told the Senate Subcommittee on Energy, Natural Resources, and the Environment that a global epidemic of mercury pollution is threatened. Dr. David Klein of Michigan's Hope College and Dr. Albert Fritsch, University of Texas, said human intake of the toxic substance has increased tenfold in the last 35 years, since its expanded use for paint and paper manufacture and as a fungicide for seeds. The hearings followed action by the Justice Department seeking a court curb of eight large corporations found to be dumping mercury in waters throughout the country.

## CHEVRON

Fines totaling \$1 million were levied by a federal judge in New Orleans against Chev-

ron Oil Company for failure to provide storm chokes and safety devices on 90 offshore wells in the Gulf of Mexico. The case grew out of a disastrous oil spill last March from a Chevron platform 75 miles southeast of New Orleans. The oil leaked from well pipes ruptured after dynamite was used to extinguish a month-old blaze at the platform site. Federal investigators found the company had removed automatic chokes which would have stopped the flow of oil. Chevron pleaded no contest to 500 of the 900 counts of pollution violations in the operation of its wells in the Gulf.

## FLORIDA CANAL

The Senate passed a \$5 billion works appropriation bill, including \$8 million for the Corps of Engineers to continue the Cross-Florida Barge Canal. The Senate bill allows \$2 million more for the Florida project than the House measure. Sen. George McGovern offered an amendment to delete funds for the Florida project, which he described as an environmental disaster, but his motion lost on a voice vote. The bill now goes into conference committee. Opponents of the Cross-Florida Barge Canal, authorized by Congress 27 years ago to save war cargoes from German submarines, claim the canal will have adverse effects on ground water and the Floridan aquifer.

## WILDERNESS BILL

The House Interior Committee has favorably reported out its first omnibus wilderness bill, designating some 24 wildlife refuge, national park, and national forest areas for protection in Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Arizona, Massachusetts, Wisconsin, Michigan, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Florida. Before final action, the committee added Monomy Refuge in Massachusetts to the bill, but deleted the Pine Mountain and Sycamore Canyon proposals in Arizona at the insistence of Arizona Representative Sam Steiger, who said grazing permittees objected to these wilderness designations.

## WEISNER PEAK

The Board on Geographic Names has announced that a peak in the Mission Mountain Primitive Area of Montana's Flathead National Forest has been named in honor of the late Susan Jane Weisner, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Carl S. Weisner of Pleasant Hill, California. Miss Weisner, an active conservationist, was killed in an accident in Idaho on August 16, 1969, after participating in a Sierra Club highlite trip to the Mission

Range area, during which she ascended the peak. Weisner Peak, elevation 8,367 feet, is 0.6 miles east of Long Lake and 3.1 miles southeast of Mount Harding.

## LAND AND WATER FUND

The House passed legislation increasing the annual authorization level for the Land and Water Conservation Fund from the present \$200 million level to \$300 million. The bill would add \$1.9 billion to funds available for park and other land acquisition over the life of the Land and Water Fund. The bill, (S.1708), which has already passed the Senate, also includes provisions for disposal of surplus federal land to states and municipalities for park and recreation purposes at no cost or at nominal amounts. The Administration has supported the legislation, and Senate action to concur in the House amendments is expected soon.

## CORRECTION

The conclusion to Keith Robert's article on the Federal Power Commission in the August 1970 *Bulletin* implies that he supports S. 2752, Senator Muskie's power plant siting bill, as it is written. Actually, neither he nor the Club do. Last minute editorial changes produced this unfortunate and erroneous implication. While this bill might be amended and strengthened, as it stands its operative provisions "pose no real threat to power company plans," Roberts observes. He points out that although "the bill establishes boards to weigh proposed power plant siting by environmental impact, the method of selecting board members virtually guarantees utility dominance. Moreover, the general public will have no standing to appear directly before the boards."

## VIVIAN SCHAGEN

Vivian Schagen, the last volunteer Editor of the Sierra Club Bulletin and an Editor of The Yodeler for many years, died in San Francisco on August 27, 1970, following a lengthy illness.

Mrs. Schagen, who had joined the club in 1937 was one of its most active members. She participated in the local walks, annual outings, base camp and saddle trips. She served on local and club committees and was for several years a member of the Editorial Board.



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# THE ECONOMICS OF LEAD POISONING

By Robert Gillette

Some of man's gravest follies are chronicled in the ice sheets of Antarctica and Greenland. Polar ice records the birth of the atomic age in flakes of radioactive elements that circled the earth on globe-girdling air currents and fell with the snow after World War II; traces of pesticides are entombed in the ice caps as well.

But few records in the ice suggest a more thorough blanketing of the planet by a more toxic pollutant than the record of automotive lead. Ten per cent of the world's lead production is mixed in gasoline in the United States each year to prevent automobile engines from "knocking" unpleasantly. Four hundred million pounds of finely powdered, toxic lead compounds spew from the nation's tailpipes annually with dramatic effect:

Cores of polar ice dating to 800 B.C., formed from snow that fell during the infancy of Greek civilization, contain almost too little lead to measure, according to Dr. Tsaihua Chow, a research chemist at Scripps Institution of Oceanography near San Diego.

After 1750, Dr. Chow has found, the lead content

of polar ice was moderately increased by smelting operations and coal-burning during the Industrial Revolution. But snow that has fallen at the poles since 1940 contains up to 500 times more lead than the pristine snows of pre-Christian times—"A terrific increase," Dr. Chow says, "due to the use of lead additives in gasoline."

The global scope of automotive lead pollution is measured as well in the upper layers of the sea. Atlantic waters far from the U.S. mainland contain 23 times as much lead as deep, uncontaminated waters. Southern California's coastal waters have 100 times the natural amount of lead. In short, man has altered the geochemical balance of the sea with excessive lead.

There are abnormal amounts of lead in urban soils from Washington, D.C., to Los Angeles. There is lead in the air and rain of every sizable city in the nation, and there is automotive lead in the blood of most Americans, where it interferes subtly with the very enzymes involved in assembling the chemical components of red blood cells.

All of this has come about simply because putting

lead in gasoline is the cheapest way to boost its octane rating, a measure of how smoothly fuel burns without harmful knocking. It has been used in gasoline since 1923. Over the intervening half century, escalating engine performance has required higher and higher octane ratings, demanding in turn more and more lead in each gallon of gas.

Today, refiners add about one-tenth of an ounce of anti-knock lead, costing one-half cent, to each gallon of regular gas. Premium contains a dash more. But these small amounts add up to 500 million pounds of lead compounds a year with a market value of a quarter billion dollars.

For almost as long as gasoline manufacturers have used lead as an anti-knock agent, health authorities have warned darkly, if sporadically, that its exhaust by-products might constitute a public menace. Such a possibility was first suggested in 1926 by a special advisory committee to the U.S. Surgeon General, appointed to probe a rash of deaths among persons handling the potent new additives. The committee advised the U.S. Public Health Service to monitor lead levels in the environment and to watch for long-term adverse effects on the public. The advice was ignored.

Now, 44 years of hindsight suggest that the Surgeon General's advisors were very nearly prophetic. On an average day in mid-Manhattan, for instance, each cubic meter of air contains about 7.5 micrograms of lead, nearly four times more than the 2 microgram limit that the World Health Organization considers advisable for the general population. The air along Los Angeles freeways sometimes contains 72 micrograms of lead per cubic meter, 10 times more than New York City air. Week-long averages of 8 micrograms are not unusual in sunny San Diego, where airborne lead levels are rising 5 per cent each year.

Not surprisingly, rain that drizzles through the air of these and other large cities often collects more lead than the U.S. Public Health Service considers safe for drinking water.

Outwardly, at least, it would seem that even the petroleum industry has seen the message in the air and rain, and the sea and ice. After years of firmly resisting the idea, one after another of the major oil companies has announced plans in recent months to market one grade of gasoline containing only one-fifth the usual amount of lead, or none at all.

It should be noted, however, that lead-free air is not the kind of clean air the industry is promoting with its new gasolines. On the contrary, it tends to dismiss lead as a significant pollutant and even de-

nies its apparent danger to health. The National Oil Jobbers Association, for instance, representing a number of independent gasoline marketers, recently bought full-page ads in major newspapers asserting in part, "Nearly everyone agrees, state and federal authorities included, that lead itself in gasoline is not really harmful." Such attitudes argue strongly for legislated timetables and incentives for removing lead from gasoline.

Far from representing a new environmental conscience, the new low-lead gasolines are a self-serving concession in the interest—shared by automakers—of preserving the gasoline engine as a national institution. For the only way Detroit can comply with increasingly tighter exhaust emission standards will be to install a new generation of control devices on autos by the mid-1970's—and every device tested so far is harmed by leaded gasoline.

As Dr. Paul F. Chenea, vice president of General Motors Research Laboratories, told the Senate Committee on Public Works last March, "We are concerned with the removal of lead only because of the need to achieve the much more stringent and desirable emission control levels of the future." With a promise from Big Three automakers to reduce octane requirements on most 1971 cars to 1953 levels, oil companies began selling low-lead fuels this Spring.

Aside from the lure of a certain market for low-octane, low-lead fuels, the petroleum industry has been further prompted toward voluntary action by the keenest federal interest in regulating fuel additives in half a century.

No state or federal laws now control the lead content of fuels, although the industry long ago agreed to stay within limits recommended by the Surgeon General. In 1926 a ceiling of 3 grams per gallon was set—not on the basis of health or safety but according to established practice. The Ethyl Corporation asked for an increase in 1958 to 4 grams per gallon. An advisory committee to the Surgeon General accepted Ethyl's proposal, concluding with a neat twist of acrobatic logic that, while little was known of the environmental and health effects of automotive lead, the increase appeared to pose no new public menace.

Against that background, several bills to curb or ban lead, directly or indirectly, are now pending in Congress. Conservationists have tried unsuccessfully to amend one House measure (H.R. 17225) to impose tighter auto emissions standards, but seem to be having better fortune with three bills (S. 3229, S. 3466, and S. 3546) under the aegis of Senator Edmund Muskie's air and water pollution subcommit-



tee. In addition, the National Air Pollution Control Administration has asked the petroleum industry to remove all lead from gasoline by July 1, 1974—but has left a big loophole excepting gasoline over 97 octane, which means virtually all premium fuels now sold.

A similar but stricter plan by the California Air Resources Board, to unconditionally ban lead gasoline after January, 1977, was killed by the state Senate Transportation Committee in August after intense industrial opposition.

Oil companies would prefer to clean up gasoline over an entire decade (and so would makers of the additives) to soften the blow of an estimated \$4 billion to \$8 billion in necessary alterations to refineries. Any sudden removal of lead, industry contends, would also boost the average motorist's annual gasoline bill by about \$15, thus working a hardship on the public.

In sharp contradiction, California air pollution authorities say the economic impact of a ban on lead would be only a fraction of the industry's estimate. The Treasury Department, which is preparing its own study of leaded gasoline in support of President Nixon's proposed \$4.25-per-pound tax on lead additives, is expected to agree.

William H. Megonnel, assistant commissioner of the National Air Pollution Control Administration, summed up the economics of lead this way in Senate testimony last November: "It is a well advertised fact that leaded gasoline shortens the life of spark plugs and that halogens [bromine and chlorine] added to scavenge the lead shorten the life of tailpipes and mufflers. When we compare what the American Petroleum Institute has established as the additional cost of lead-free gasoline, with what the consumer would save in spark plug and exhaust system replacements, we figure the consumer would be out of pocket about \$1.50 a year for lead-free gasoline and lead-free lungs."

"To add insult to injury," Megonnel observed, "lead in gasoline tends to build up in the engine with the result that hydrocarbon emissions are increased."

Beyond obvious reductions in car repairs and smog, a curb on lead additives could be expected to encourage mining companies to defer opening new ore bodies, thus conserving a natural resource.

But some conservationists see the evidence of airborne lead's detriment to human health as the most compelling reasons for a swifter end to lead additives than the decade contemplated by industry. In a peti-

tion last May to the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, the Environmental Defense Fund pointed out that the concentration of lead in the blood of the average American already exceeds one-fourth the level usually associated with classic lead poisoning. Noting that children are more sensitive to lead poisoning than adults, four respected scientists on the EDF's "lead committee" maintained that, "It is therefore imperative that this wholly unnecessary source of atmospheric lead pollution be eliminated."

In amounts inhaled by the average American, lead interferes with the manufacture of hemoglobin and probably shortens the lifetime of individual red blood cells—two effects which also occur in victims of overt lead poisoning. There is evidence that slightly larger amounts of lead than most Americans now carry in their bodies may cause a subtle anemia in adults and mental dulling in children—especially in children already exposed to high levels of lead from old, flaking lead-based paints often found in slum housing.

Yet, some industrial scientists have greeted the evidence of blood enzyme impairment with frightening casualness. Dr. Gordon J. Stopps, a DuPont researcher, urged in a national pollution control journal recently that "We keep our eyes firmly fixed on the functioning of the whole man, rather than on individual enzyme systems." (DuPont makes lead additives.)

Dr. John Goldsmith, of the California Department of Public Health, concedes that the body count isn't in yet. But that is not what matters: "We don't know of any person whose illness can be blamed on atmospheric lead," he says. "But we do know there is interference with human metabolism. Accordingly, our department feels that lead constitutes a public health hazard."

Health authorities in other nations have arrived at much the same conclusion. Japan, Sweden and Switzerland are considering curbs on leaded gas. And almost a decade ago, evidence of airborne lead's effect on human blood aroused the Soviet Union to impose a severely strict limit of 0.7 micrograms of lead per cubic meter of air — one-tenth the amount encountered every day in New York and Los Angeles.

But leaded gasoline was never widely used in Russia, if at all. And Soviet authorities, in setting their health standard, never had to contend with an anti-knock business worth a quarter billion dollars.

*Mr. Gillette is Science Writer for the San Francisco Examiner.*

On July 9, 1901, the participants in the first Sierra Club Outing left San Francisco by train for Merced, California. From Merced they continued by stage to Yosemite Valley and finally on foot to their destination, Tuolumne Meadows. With the group was Theodore H. Hittell, one of California's most notable historians. Later Hittell wrote a long account of this most enjoyable and historic outing. Whether he ever intended the manuscript for publication is uncertain, but clearly his primary purpose was to reflect on what for him was a fascinating and pleasurable experience. The manuscript is, in essence, a diary of the highlights of the outing.

His narrative began with a lengthy description of the journey by stage from Merced to Coulterville, California and then on to Yosemite Valley. As the road rose in elevation Hittell devoted much space to the complex ecology of the land. On entering the Sugar Pine Forest it gave him pleasure to note that "already the effects of keeping out the sheep and preventing fires is shown in the uncounted multitudes of little trees . . . which cover many of the more open and barer places and give promise to the generations of centuries to come."

Once in Yosemite Valley the group faced momentary frustration. The wagon road to Tuolumne Meadows

was still closed because of an unusually severe winter. Hittell remarked that there was a little "grumbling" but that William T. Colby "listened patiently to everyone that desired to talk, made an explanation when he thought proper, and then quietly went on with his work." The group suffered a more serious tragedy when Professor Joseph LeConte died unexpectedly of a heart attack. Apparently the famed geologist had been in good health but the exertions of his hikes about the Valley floor had been too great a strain. Although lamenting the passing of his old friend, Hittell observed that he could not "have chosen a better place than amid the grandest of Nature's manifestations, to which he had come to worship as a pilgrim to a sacred shrine."

Finally the word came that the wagons (laden with some 15,000 pounds of equipment and supplies) could pass, and the group set out on the trail to the high country. In progressive steps they hiked to Porcupine Flat, then to Tenaya Lake, and finally reached their destination at Tuolumne Meadows. After setting up a base camp, those who wished undertook a number of outings, the most ambitious being a one day excursion to Mount Dana. The following excerpt from Hittell's account begins with the excursion to Mount Lyell.

— Robert Righter



# SIERRA CLUB OUTING 1901

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THEODORE H. HITTELL



At the camp-fire that evening, it was determined that those who desired to ascend Mount Lyell should on Saturday afternoon move eleven miles up the Meadows to the foot of that mountain; camp there that night, and commence the ascent by daylight the next morning. A great many expressed a wish to go; but, as it was represented that the trip was very difficult, a number who would have gone made up their minds to wait until Sunday morning and then go only as far as the foot of Lyell glacier.

This resolution was chiefly due to the suggestion of John Muir, the scientist, who was president of the Sierra Club. It had been known, on the day of the ascent of Dana, that he and Dr. C. Hart Merriam, head of the biological section of the United States Department of Agriculture, and their families, were on their way, with a separate outfit, up the Tioga road; were then at Lake Tenaya, and would reach the Meadows on Friday.

A number of the company went down the road to meet them. Among others Keith, the artist—a “brother Scot” and old friend of Muir’s—mounted his horse, with a long rope coiled at the pommel of his saddle, and rode on ahead. As the wagons of the approaching party turned out of the skirting woods on the southern side into the Meadows, Keith gave a whoop, uncoiled his rope, slung it like a reata around his head, and, spurring his animal, dashed off towards the tall form of the glacier-finder, who was leading his party.

Upon getting near the lumbering wagons, Keith, instead of throwing his lasso in cowboy style or closing in and lifting a scalp like an Apache, circled round the approaching troop, as if rounding them up, and exhibited feats of horsemanship which showed that he had not been equestrianizing for the last two weeks for nothing. But at last his gyrations came to an end; there was a joyful meeting and an embrace; and the whole company with laughter and hand-shakings and shouts moved on to the river.

On Saturday afternoon those who were to ascend Mount Lyell, some twenty-four in number including five ladies, started off for their camp at its foot. Meanwhile Muir had announced his intention of accompanying those who wished to go only as far as the foot of the Lyell glacier the next morning; and it was understood that there was to be a running commentary by him on glacial action with examples and proofs of its operation before us.

The trip with Muir . . . was a rare treat. The party started in groups about seven o’clock, leaving hardly anybody in camp. Some rode but most all walked.

The way was up along the south bank of the river, here and there skirting a rocky point but generally over the meadow turf or through groves of tamarack. Towards the upper end of the Meadows the party, which had started in groups, bunched more together, and Muir began pointing out objects of interest in reference to glacial action. Turning to the great gorge from Mount Lyell on the southeast he said that it was the path of an ancient glacier which flowed northwest. Then, turning towards Kuna on the east, he pointed out a steep ravine coming down its side, through which plunged a torrent of cascades, and said it was also the path of an ancient glacier but smaller than that from Mount Lyell. Nevertheless—and this was the lesson he wished to impress—it was sufficient to deflect the direction of the larger glacier and send it more westerly.

Further down, as he also pointed out, were the paths of glaciers coming from Dana and Gibbs, running in a southwesterly direction and conjoined as it were, which together were about as large as that from Lyell. The two great streams came together at an angle; took the resultant direction, which was nearly directly west, and moving as one stream ploughed out the Tuolumne Meadows. At or near the western end of the Meadows, there had been a division of the glacial current; the larger portion had plunged down until, joined with tributaries from the Mount Conness region, it had chiseled out the Grand Cañon of the Tuolumne; while a smaller portion, veering off more to the southwest, had ploughed out Tenaya Cañon and, meeting other glaciers from above Nevada Fall and the Illilluette, had scooped out, or at least helped to scoop out, the Yosemite Valley.

After thus taking in all that could be seen of the glacier . . . running over to and up the side of Mount McClure . . . and the monstrous mountain mass frowning down upon us, we spent an hour or two among the rocks, bushes and flowers at the bottom of the gorge and along the cataracts of the young river. The cliffs and slopes for some distance above were heavily timbered, the prevailing type of the trees being still the tamarack, great logs of which lay scattered on every side.

After sundown, a good opportunity was afforded to observe the culinary arrangement and the kind and manner of our eating. The commissary department, consisting of the greater part of 15,000 pounds of freight carried by the wagons, was in charge of Mr. Bernard Miller, who had several able assistants. The cooks, mentioned before and who were jewels in their own way, were two Chinamen who had been



hired at Yosemite. They did their cooking partly over an open fire and partly in the buzzacott range. Coffee and tea were made in quantity in large pots on the open fire, as were also soups, porridge and mush. The baking, broiling, frying, and nicer kinds of cooking were done in or on the range. The wheat-bread, some seventy loaves of which were used every day, was excellent; so also the corn-bread, and biscuits, and the buckweat cakes, for which maple syrup and goldendrips were liberally supplied, were superb.

The frying of the trout manifested ripe experience in that line. The soups, of which there were many varieties, and the stews were all palatable; but it was especially in pudding, which was provided by the tubful, that our Celestials excelled themselves. There was butter and milk, cheese, chocolate, crackers, oranges, lemons, hams, bacon, sardines, prepared fruits of all kinds, and nearly everything one could ask, though, in that pure and bracing air and with that active mountain exercise, the appetite needed no tempting.

That evening, Monday July 22, was a specially interesting occasion around the general campfire. Professor Frank Soulé of the University of California acted as master of ceremonies, as he had all along. At his call Muir gave another of his characteristic



and intensely interesting "talks" about the mountains around us and how they had been formed.

As it happened, there was a single musical instrument in the crowd. This was a mandolin, which was made to do frequent and various service. Just before the end of one of the evening entertainments, when the instrument happened to drop into rag-time, the oldest gentleman of the company—who it must be confessed ought to have been the most quiet and dignified—(Hittell) called out the liveliest and therefore handsomest of the ladies for an old-fashioned Virginia reel. They took their places in an open space before the campfire and were soon joined by half-a-dozen other couples; and for the next twenty minutes the exhibition of pigeon-wings and hob-nailed shoes and the kicking up of dust as the dancers, heated with their own enthusiasm and egged on by the shouts and hurrahs of the spectators, forward-and-backed, right-and-left-hand-acrossed, dos-e-dosed, swing-cornered, ladies-chained, and down-outside-and-up-the-middled, was a sight which only the lucky ever see, and they only once in a lifetime. A dancing master might, perhaps, have witnessed the spectacle with grief; but when one comes to the real poetry of motion there was nothing like that dance. And it was the only dance of the trip, for the

reason that it was inimitable and unapproachable.

Thursday, July 25, had been fixed upon as the day for most of the company to break up camp in the Tuolumne Meadows and return to Yosemite and thence home. Muir and Merriam with their party were to remain and prosecute scientific investigations, and Keith and a few others had gone down Bloody Cañon on the eastern side of the Sierra, where, according to report, he had a blood-curdling adventure or two. A committee of the Sierra Club, who were to remain and attend to the reloading of the wagons for their return to Merced, busied themselves with arrangements for the final breaking up. With these exceptions, nearly all the company started back that morning. Almost all were carried in the wagons to Porcupine Flat and thence walked to Camp Curry in Yosemite Valley.

But four ladies and two gentlemen who were not yet satisfied with tramping resolved to take the so-called Sunrise Trail, which leads from the Tuolumne Meadows to Yosemite by the way of Cathedral Peak and the Little Yosemite. The distance is about twenty-six miles. A very early start was made. The trail led off up through the forest to the northwestern base of Cathedral Peak. It involved a rise of about a thousand feet, much of it wet with melting snow.

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

In the upper part of the forest, a large predatory bird, supposed to be an eagle whose nest was probably not far off, seemed disposed to dispute the passage, but finally, after some threats, with a final scream, flew off through the tall trees and was seen no more.

At length the western base of Cathedral Peak was reached, and we skirted around it among the rocks to the borders of Cathedral Lake, one of the most beautiful sheets of water in the mountains. Its bosom was as smooth and bright as glass and its reflections as clear as those of Mirror Lake. . . . From there, after some miles of ups and downs, the trail wound down into what was called Long Meadow, a green valley with a gentle stream flowing through it several miles from northeast to southwest. In that valley the trail became indistinct; but we knew the general direction to take, and besides had been told to mount to the right just before reaching the lower end of the Meadow. . . . from the rocky top of the bluff the way wound down into a flat, then with ups and downs and around spurs and through forests until the rim of Little Yosemite, or the wide valley of the Merced river above Nevada Fall, was reached; and there the long descent of some four or five thousand feet commenced.

At Vernal Fall, instead of taking the trail around' to the left, we chose the stairway by the side and went down into the spray, which at that time was dashing like rain upon the slippery path. It was impossible to avoid a complete drenching; but the change of temperature was agreeable; and, after getting through the spray, we were rewarded, upon looking back, with a sight of the brightest rainbow refracted from the setting sun and spanning the falling waters, that we have ever seen. It was dusk when we trudged into Camp Curry.

Those of the company, who had returned by the way of Porcupine Flat, were all there; and we found that all the seats on the Coulterville stage for the next morning had been engaged. We were therefore obliged to wait until Saturday morning; and on Sunday evening, July 28, we reached home in the very best of health and spirits and fully convinced that there can be nothing in outing-trips more improving and more enjoyable than such a one as we had just been on.

*Mr. Righter, who compiled the Sierra Club Outing portion of Hittell's manuscript, is Assistant Professor of History at California State Polytechnic College, Pomona.*

## CLAIR TAPPAAN LODGE 1970-71

With the winter season approaching, Club members again have the opportunity to participate in a variety of winter sports activities at Clair Tappaan Lodge, the Club's unique ski facility in the High Sierra.

Located in a spectacular setting at Norden, on the Donner Summit, the Lodge is only brief minutes to most of the major ski resorts in the area.

Though operated year-round for recreational use, primary emphasis is on winter sports. There are opportunities for skiing, snowshoeing and ski touring. Overnight trips to nearby ski huts and shelters are scheduled throughout the winter, as weather and snow conditions permit.

The Lodge operates the longest rope tow in the West on nearby Signal Hill. Each winter weekend ski instructors and members of the National Ski Patrol are on hand to assist as needed.

With a capacity of 150 persons, the Lodge provides hot meals morning and evening, and food for bag lunches. A reputation for excellent food is guarded jealously by the staff.

Dormitories, dormettes and two-bunk rooms are equipped with beds and mattresses. Guests are expected to provide their own sleeping bags or bedding. Winter nights are cold at 7,000 feet, so come prepared.

In the evenings, social activities center in the livingroom, library or downstairs rumpus room. Movies are shown most Saturday evenings. The atmosphere is convivial and all housekeeping chores are shared cooperatively by the guests.

Advance reservations are required from December 1 through April 15, and can be made by writing Clair Tappaan Reservations, in care of the Club office. Fees, which must be paid in advance, cover the cost of food and lodging.

Deadline for lodge reservations are Thursday prior to each winter weekend. Charges will be made for cancellations.

As in past seasons, a Charter Bus will leave San Francisco and Berkeley each Friday night, beginning January 8, and returning each Sunday night throughout the ski season. Information concerning bus transportation may be obtained when applying for reservations.

A complete schedule of rates, a brief description of the Lodge and highway directions may be had by writing: Clair Tappaan Lodge, Box 36, Norden, California 95724.

— Kent Williams  
Manager

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# WASHINGTON REPORT

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A first edition of monumental significance has been spawned—of all places—by the presses of the Government Printing Office. It is the first annual report of the Council on Environmental Quality. If this 325-page publication had been a commercial production, its dust-jacket blurb undoubtedly would have had this quotation: “It represents the first time in history of nations that a people has paused, consciously and systematically, to take stock of the quality of its surroundings. It comes not a moment too soon.”—Richard Nixon, President of the United States of America, August, 1970.

Of course, the book is not commercial and President Nixon is not on the list of well-known book reviewers. The report is merely the first of the annual products which Congress required when it enacted the National Environmental Policy Act of 1970—an assessment of the environmental questions which confront a society too long absorbed with consumption of resources, and negligent in dealing with conservation.

Mr. Nixon’s comments on the report of the Council, rather than on a dust-jacket, were contained in his message transmitting the report to Congress. But his assessment of its import cannot be disputed. He said: “Unless we arrest the depredations that have been inflicted so carelessly on our natural systems—which exist in an intricate set of balances—we face the prospect of ecological disaster.”

Ecological disaster, no less. And President Nixon has never been noted before as one of the current doom-sayers. His assessment of the basic problems confronting our society are, however, not farfetched and the content of the Council’s first report underscores their complexity.

The book is divided into chapters which enumerate environmental problems in some detail and offer some approaches to their solution. Perhaps the most important aspect of the report is its description of the informational gap which exists in coming to grips with resolving questions of water pollution, air pollu-

tion, solid wastes, noise, pesticides, radiation, population growth, and land use. Intermingled with this delineation of our actual short-fall are comments on the inadequacies of government mechanisms to search out and implement solutions.

One of the most intriguing chapters, although very brief, is entitled “Man’s Inadvertent Modification of Weather and Climate.” Its opening paragraph says:

“Man may be changing his weather. And if he is, the day may come when he will either freeze by his own hand or drown. The delicate balance within the atmosphere and the history of climatic change in the past suggest that through his inadvertent actions he may be driving the atmosphere either to a disastrous ice age—or as bad—to a catastrophic melting of the ice caps. Either may literally be possible, but it depends on just what he is doing to the atmosphere. He does not know for sure.”

That last sentence probably best describes the review of environmental problems and potential solutions which the Council’s report, in total, represents. In fact, the concluding chapter summarizes the future course of action with a list of presently unresolved but pressing needs, the first of which is a national conceptual framework for weighing conflicting values. It describes the dilemma: “. . . Some of the values dealt with in this report are not unanimously agreed upon. The chapter on land use is critical of urban sprawl; yet many Americans choose to live in dwellings which abet such sprawl. This uncertainty about what values are relevant to environmental questions and how widely and strongly they are held throws up a major obstacle to conceiving environmental problems.”

This is the root of the problem. Certainly rational man can exert control over his ultimate destiny, but he must be rational in shaping the direction of the elements from which it is constructed.

The report is entitled: *Environmental Quality*. It can be purchased from the U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402, for \$1.75.

— W. Lloyd Tupling



Winter at Clair Tappaan Lodge, Norden, California. (See page 22)

