

# THE BEAR TRACK

Vol. 10, No. 2

U.C.H.C.

Oct. 28, 1953

## DESOLATION VALLEY

Long about 9:00 AM Saturday, Oct. 10, the last carload of hikers arrived at the west end of Fallen Leaf Lake (within ear-sound of Sunny Lake Tahoe) and, in no time at all, everyone was back-packing upwards and upwards towards Gilmore Lake, a mere 5 miles (vertical?) distant. Round Noon time everybody reached the lake and ate lunch and rested. Then, as a few innocent clouds rolled around the camp most everybody began to hike up to Mosquito Pass to see Desolation Valley (named such after the hike). But before they got there

the innocent little clouds piled higher and deeper and then began to cry.

"Winter is here," sobbed the clouds, and down came the snow (rain, too); everybody got wet and cold and we had only one fire; by the time supper was finished there was half an inch of snow on the ground.

Being brave, and having no other alternative, we went to bed and watched the reappearing stars

as our toes froze. . . . Next morning, Sunday, we got up. The snow had crystallized into myriads of shapes on various plants, and the sun warmed us up making living comfortable once again. After a hearty breakfast we clumb to the very most tip of Mt. Tallac (ca. 10,000 feet) and gazed out over Sunny Lake Tahoe and her

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Deep in the bowels of the silent house, the last light went out. A door slowly squeaked shut; muffled footsteps-sounded on the pathway in the pitch-black night as a shadowy figure glided out to the street, grunting under the burden of unaccustomed weight. Headlights flashed as a dark auto rounded the corner and screeched to a stop. Low voices exchanged greetings; a bundle was thrown into the car; the figure stepped in and, with a loud roar, the auto sped away into the night.

This scene was repeated many times

on the EARLY morning of Saturday, October 10th., as 18 hardy (or crazy?) members of the UCHC debarked for their rendezvous near Desolation Valley. By 10:00AM, the last car had arrived, and the group set out for Gilmore Lake, six miles distant, at which base camp was to be made. As is often the case, there were those who hiked and those who ran. The thundering herd, with Pete Watson in the lead, arrived at Gilmore Lake first, and had lunch well under way when the

### GEOLOGIST HINDS TO SPEAK NOVEMBER 5 AT GENERAL MEETING

Norman E. A. Hinds, Professor of Geology, will speak at the next General Meeting, November 5, at 7:30 pm, in Room 2, Le Conte Hall. Dr. Hinds will discuss, with slides for illustration, the geology of the Sierra Nevada. This should be of special interest because of the Yosemite trip the following week-end.

Dr. Hinds was born in Denver, but went East to receive his schooling, graduating from Harvard University in 1924 with his Ph.D. He became familiar with the West Coast

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last of the group trailed in. The food was enjoyed, but the lowering skies and the cold wind with it were not. All extra clothing was being worn to combat the cold, but Jim Bell, with a parka and liner, was the only one who seemed to be doing a good job of it.

Alice J., hike leader, proposed a 16-mile afternoon hike, which was

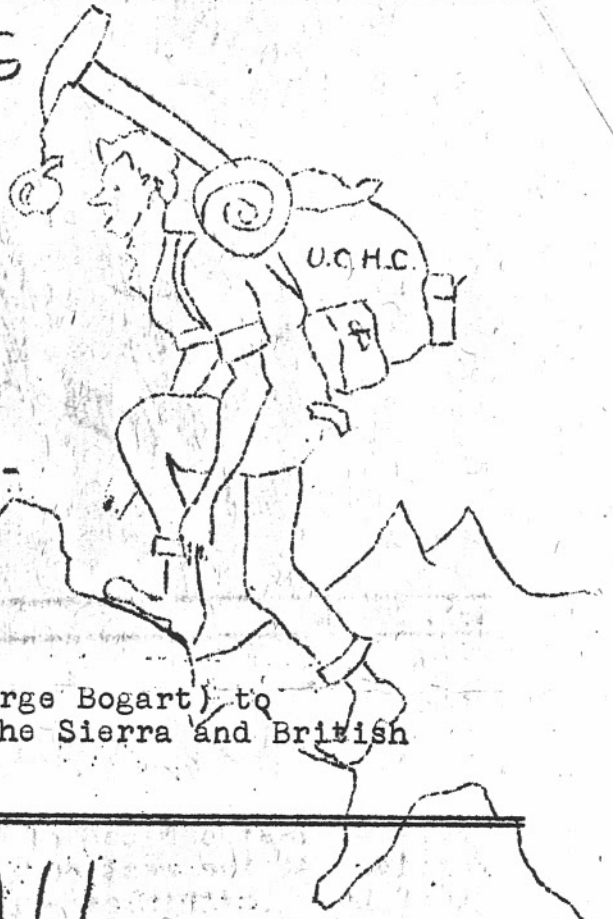
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# MOUNTAINEERING SECTION

The Mountaineering Section of UCHC held its first meeting on October 15 to elect a new chairman and to revise the requirements for leaders. The decisions regarding requirements for leadership and membership in the section will be found elsewhere in this issue of the BEAR TRACK. Leaders presently recognized by the membership are:

- |               |                  |
|---------------|------------------|
| Dave Dows     | Frank deSaussure |
| Will Loughman | Dick Searle      |
| Don Goodrich  | Larry Williams   |
| Don Matteson  |                  |

After election of the new chairman (George Bogart) to replace Bill Adams, slides were shown on the Sierra and British Columbia regions.



## Welcome All

As the new chairman of Mountaineering Section, I would like to welcome the old members and most definitely the new ones. I urge the members to come out for the forthcoming practice climbs, and, if school allows, to out for the major climbs, too. People, though you may have some hesitancy about your abilities, do try the local climbs. We are arranging for a number of local places to practice for those that won't be able to get away on the two-day trips. On belay!

- George Bogart

Rock climbing: Y. has it! Vertical crud-free (almost) granite. A wonderful opportunity for newer members to try some more difficult climbs. On belay!

## YOSEMITE

That magic name is here again. Get ready for another dual event of great significance--a hike and--  
 Check map in Room C for places to hike, and watch bulletin board a few days before the event for time and place of departure. Keep these dates in mind: November 7-8

-Don Matteson

## Hunters' Hill

Under the expert tutelage of George Bogart, nine neophytes to the mountaineering biz braved the crooked and precipitous slopes of Hunters' Hill--those walls that weren't covered with Stanford Alpinists, that is. At the day's end, everyone knew the meaning of, and most had experienced, belaying and rappelling, the "hows" of tying a single-loop and double

## LOVER'S LEAP CLIMB

UCHC, as part of this year's innovation to have either hikes or climbs or coordinated trips with both activities scheduled, went to Desolation Valley area on October 10-11--the first of the dual events of the fall term.

The members attending the climbing section were Don Matteson and wife Sunny, Dick Scheible, and George Bogart. Although no actual climbing was done, instruction on knot tying, uses of pitons and karabiners (including placement and retrieving); and the visual exploration of main rock faces occupied the main part of the day. Saturday afternoon was ruined by the first rains of the season. A short part of Sunday was spent in rock scrambling and talus hopping--cut short by the ever present press "of those darn textbooks."

-George Bogart

## Hunters' Hill cont.

loop bowline knot, and the proper method of coiling rope and tying it after use. All in all, it was most instructive.

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Did you ever see a trout "walking" ? We did! And you can, too. This summer, returning from an August back-packing expedition in the Kings-Sequoia area, we stopped at the Hot Springs Hatchery on U.S. 395-- and are mighty glad we did.

The Hot Springs Hatchery is one of the states newest, built upon land given by the City of Los Angeles (perhaps in conscience of taking so much water from the Owens Valley). It is also one of the largest in the state, one of 28 in operation, and one of four selected for mass spawning.

In the season which closes October 31, The Hot Springs Fish Hatchery planted 70 tons of fish! In early season (April-June) each individual plant averaged four fish to the pound, with an overall season average of eight fish to the pound. That's a lot of fish in any man's country --1,120,000 separate fish planted in northern Sierra lakes and streams. The Hot Springs Hatchery covers only the area from the Rock Creek Lakes to Lake Tahoe, but within this area it plants every Sierra lake larger in size than a city block and capable of supporting fish.

Equipment consists of several buildings for experimental research and living quarters for twelve full-time employees and their families (augmented in the summer time by two student-employees). There are 64 troughs for baby trout (fingerlings), 36 rearing ponds, twelve concrete tanks, and three brood ponds (spawning fish). The Hatchery is located at 7200 feet elevation, and gets cold in winter (42 below in the winter of 1951-52 --a record) with snow depths of 4 to 5 feet -- and yet the water for raising fish stays at 58° all year round! Natural springs have been utilized in the building of ponds and tanks for breeding.

... But we're neglecting the "walking" fish. Walking fish are really "lunkers", or very large trout--the brood fish which are used to begin next season's "crop". At ten each morning they are fed. And such a sight of rapacious darting forms! The perfect scene of confusion. They actually climb right out of the water and "walk" across eachother's backs!

What do lunkers eat? Plenty! 250 pounds of frozen ocean fish per day, which is underfeeding them at that-- to keep their waistlines slim for better spawning. In the winter, however, they are fed as much as 500 pounds a day. The cost is about four cents a pound, or about

ten dollars a day to feed just the brood fish. At last census there were 15,000 to 20,000 fish in the three spawning ponds. Desert is served, too -- occasionally-- a horsemeat-liver combination at fifteen cents a pound.

Feeding method is simple. A man wades into the water in hip-high boots and uses a sugar scoop to throw the food to the fish which are nearly up-setting him in their eagerness to eat.

High Trip Recipe: TROUT

If small, 6" to 10" (like most of those we catch); Pan fry in Dixie Fry, a prepared batter that's really delish and worth its weight on a back-pack trip. And if you're really desperate for grease, try some salmon egg oil--you'd be surprised!  
If larger than 10": Try filleting it in Dixie Fry.  
If over 18": You'll be too excited to eat; photo!

Spawning begins in September and lasts all winter. Now the Fish and Game men really go to work. The brood fish are coaxed through "flood" gates from the ponds into long, parallel cement tanks. Here each fish is examined by a biologist ( who obviously knows more about life than just the birds-and-bees story. ); male and female fish are separated. Male (homo-sapiens variety) now chases female (fish variety) who proves to be most slippery in her perpetual "dance" to get away. (cont. on p. 5)

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... the BEAR TRACK ...

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semester at  
Room C, Eshleman Hall  
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CHIEF GRIZZLEY . Holway Jones  
URSA MAJORS . . Al Stanchfield,  
Bob Shepherd  
George Hersh  
MIGHTY CUBS . Ilse Kirchofer  
Pete Scott  
Phil Lydon  
George Bogart  
Cornie Stoakin

## GEOLOGICALLY SPEAKING

We can all think of books from which we wonder if we're getting our dollar's worth (could it be textbooks!), but there is one class of printed matter (besides Pogo) which is usually a bargain--government documents. And we think we can prove our point that there are some documents which are not the dull and weighty tomes most people think they are. Take the trilogy issued by the California Bureau of Mines, for example. We're sure many UCHC members would enjoy having these in their home libraries. Two are guides to the geological and historical wonder of northern California areas; the other is a survey volume written by Norman E. A. Hinds, who is to speak to the next General Meeting.

In 1948, when California was celebrating the hundred years' anniversary of the Gold Rush, many agencies of the state government celebrated the fact through their publications--and the Bureau of Mines was in their glory in preparing The Mother Lode Country. Here, in 164 pages, beautifully illustrated with colored plates, half-tones, and geologic maps of cross-sections along Highway 49--is the whole Gold Rush country described in terms any non-geologist can understand. There are chapters on the discovery of gold the history of placer mining, history of mining methods, survey of old buildings along Highway 49, and a geologic "picture" of the entire area. Here you will find all the answers to those questions you have asked about the curious mounds of red and white sand so commonly seen throughout the Mother Lode country. Excellent back-ground reading for many UCHC members near Highway 49.

Hitting even closer home is

Geologically Speaking cont.--the second in the trilogy--Geologic Guidebook of the San Francisco Bay Counties. This one is a more thorough description of its area than is the Mother Lode guide. Some unusual subjects find their way into this document: the old lime kilns near Olema, adobe houses of the Bay area, prehistoric animals and plant life of San Francisco Bay, geology of the Farallon Islands, history of earthquakes in the Bay Area with a map of the major fault lines--including the one under the Memorial Stadium.

The third volume of the set is Evolution of the California Landscape. This is magnificently illustrated (like Hinds' Geomorphology)--almost worth it for the pictures alone. Of the three "guides" this one is perhaps most worth while to UCHC members because it describes the geologic upheavals of so many areas familiar to our members: the Sierra Nevada Basin ranges, Mojave Desert, Colorado Desert, the Coast Ranges, Cascade Range, Klamath Mountains, the Peninsula Ranges, and even the ocean floor (not that this is familiar to UCHC members--or is it?) Two large folded maps are included in a pocket of the volume, showing the natural provinces of California and their important geological features.

The subject of geology seems to have intrigued us this issue--must be the forthcoming Hinds' lecture. We cannot refrain from mentioning one more documentary masterpiece--the federal document, Geologic History of Yosemite Valley which has just been reprinted by the Government Printing Office in Washington. This is a rare document and is not likely to stay in print long. It graphically illustrates the story of Yosemite's development in a way which will make you stand in greater awe on the top of Half Dome.

All of these documents are in the University Library, but they can also be purchased at relatively small cost (except the Yosemite volume which was prepared in a limited edition). For those who are interested BEAR TRACK presents the full information:

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### DRIVER COMPENSATION POLICY

1. On trips under 400 miles (round trip), passengers will pay the total cost of gas and oil.
2. On trips of 400 miles or over, a suitable agreement may be worked out among the passengers and the driver.

# MOUNTAINING SECTION

## QUALIFICATION TEST FOR LEADERS

A member of the section who shows experience and judgment in climbing, and who is an active UCHCMS climber can become a qualified leader. He will be judged by a committee of other qualified leaders. He will be specifically judged on:

(1) a list of some climbs he has made and a discussion of them. (how made, with whom, where, and when).

(2) his leading of a local climb involving the placing of at least one piton for safety and one for aid.

(3) his judgment as a climber while climbing with one or more of the other qualified leaders. (i.e., route finding, weather conditions, allowing time for returning, etc.).

(4) his knowledge and use of the climbing signals, of the climbing classification system and of mountaineering terminology. He should have a good understanding of piton-craft and prussiking, and the dangers of snow avalanche and loose-rock climbing, if possible.

(5) maintaining sitting, standing, and piton belays which have been set up by the applicant.

(6) setting up, leading down, testing for running, and retrieving an inclined, vertical, and an overhanging rappel. Choose rappel route, and select best rappel point.

(7) his knowledge of rope care and strength. He should be able to tie the following knots: square, bowline, bowline on coil, sheet bend, fisherman, butterfly, and prussik.

(8) a simple knowledge of first aid, especially for lacerations, breaks, and shock.

The purpose of the qualified leader is to comply with the safety standards of the National Park Service and to make club climbs safe. A qualified leader must climb at least once a semester with another qualified leader and lead at least one group of non-leaders to keep his status. He must be a member of the UCHC. Any leader who loses his status can easily regain it by being judged again.

Above qualifications discussed and passed at Mountaineering Section meeting of October 15, 1953.

## OPERATION TROUT . . . . . Cont. from page 3

Eventually she is caught, squeezed, and her eggs removed to be placed in the impersonal, motherless, troughs of a nearby building. The eggs are fertilized, and in a few weeks the hatchery is the happy "playground" of several thousand new babies for the next season. Under ideal conditions, a trout in this "playground" may grow as long as 13 inches in one year, but most trout never reach eight inches before they are forced to leave their shelter for the waters of dangerous hooks and lures. Truly, from the water into the frying pan! Most of the "plant" from Hot Springs is Rainbow with some Brown and Loch Leven to spice the fisherman's diet.

Of course, breeding is only one side of the story. Fish can't fly to their future scattered homes, but they are flown. The California Fish and Game Department owns eight planes, including one Beechcraft with souped-up engines of 750 H.P. The first planting from the air was in 1947. By 1950 this method had proved so successful that a total of 426 lakes from Siskiyou to Inyo Counties was dumped with 1,633,275 trout. The cost of using airplanes in this "Operation Trout" was less than had formerly been paid to one packer in a single season! The method of planting from the air resembles closely the dropping of a bomb on its target. The pilot makes his approach about five hundred feet over the lake, and the "bombardier" throws the latch as soon as he sights the edge of the lake. The bottoms drop out--literally--and so do hundreds of Rainbows from the specially constructed carrying cans. The pilot feathers his props to shake the water loose from the falling fish, and thus make them as light as possible when they hit the water. . . . There may not be a pot of gold at the end of these Rainbows, but there will surely be a "mess of fish" for some crafty soul nearby with the right fly or lure.

The raising and planting of trout for recreational fishing has become one of the major industries of California. If you don't believe us, just drop in at the Hot Springs Hatchery next time you drive down the Owens Valley. We'll guarantee you a free show worth far more than the price of admission. It's not every day you can see a "walking" fish . . . for free!

-- Holly Jones

**DESOLATION VALLEY . . .**  
 . . . Cont. from page 1  
 vetoed by popular demand. She then inaugurated a shorter walk. Some went along and were snowed on; others (wise ones, they) did not go along, but built fires and tents to keep warm. Wet and dry snow continued until after dark. Around the campfire that night, many voices were lifted in varying degrees of harmony, causing a band of coyotes to dismally complain from afar that they were being kept awake. Sunday dawned crisp and clear, with a thin covering of snow lending an unreal quality to the process of rolling out of the sack. Spirits rose as hot breakfast was devoured. The UCHC'ers headed east to Mt. Tallac, after cleaning camp and drenching the fire. Alice, again to the fore, charged up the 1500 foot slope with the grace and agility of a gazelle (a type of mountain goat). By eleven o'clock all had climbed the peak and agreed that the view was well worth it. From Mt. Tallac, the southern half of Lake Tahoe could be seen, as well as Fallen Leaf Lake, Pyramid Peak, and Echo Summit. A dense fog was moving westward from Lake Tahoe, giving the view the same appearance as one seen from an airplane. Tallac was the highwater mark of the trip, and from there the going was all downhill, much to the relief of muscles complaining from the previous day. Lunch was enjoyed at Cathedral Lake, and, in less time than it takes to tell, we were back at the cars. Bidding a fond farewell to Desolation Valley, we turned our faces to the West, and journeyed back to Berkeley in happy anticipation of that Monday morning 8 o'clock. (Phil Lydon)

**HINDS TO SPEAK . . .**  
 . . . Cont. from page 1  
 during the years between his MA and Ph.D. by accepting a traveling fellowship to Hawaii. In 1923 he was made an assistant professor on the staff of the University of California. He has been associated with the University ever since. In Geology 1, Dr. Hinds has the class sing Cal songs on Fridays during football season--a custom once followed by many instructors, but now Dr. Hinds is one of the few, maybe the only, to perpetuate this ancient Cal tradition. Refreshments will be served. The meeting will conclude about ten. Don't miss it! (Walt Hale)

ATTENTION ALL COLOR FOTO-FANS:

Color film is cheaper if bought in bulk, namely 50 feet. Kodak doesn't prepare Kodachrome in that footage, but Ansco is prepared in 50 foot rolls. Now hear this:  
 50 feet Ansco . . . . about \$17.00  
 50 feet gives . . . about 15 rolls.  
 Each roll costs . . . about \$1.25.  
 Developing costs . . . about \$1.00.  
Or about \$2.25 per roll!

Since I don't have \$17.00, I would like to know who would like to pitch in with me to get this film. I have a film loader and can get the cartridges free. I'll fill the cartridges and distribute them. I'll put in five; who'll fill the remainder? -- Fred Veio, HU-3-2706

High Trip Recipe: MANZANITA  
CIDER

Find the closest Manzanita Bush  
 Pick berries (in August);  
 Grind up (course ground) in pan  
 And percolate H<sub>2</sub>O through it.

The drink is now ready. Easy, isn't it? CAUTION: Do not allow the liquid to ferment, the taste is very disagreeable!

(A.J.)

**GEOLOGICALLY SPEAKING . . .**  
 . . . Cont. from page 4

Available from the State Printing Office (Sacramento) or the California Bureau of Mines, Ferry Building, San Francisco:

(1) The Mother Lode Country; Geologic Guidebook Along Highway 49--Sierran Gold Belt. (Bulletin no. 141). September, 1948. 164 pp. \$1.50.

(2) Geologic Guidebook of the San Francisco Bay Counties: History, Landscape, Geology, Fossils, Minerals, Industry, and Routes to Travel. (Bulletin no. 154). December, 1951. 392 pp. \$2.50.

(3) Evolution of the California Landscape. (Bulletin no. 158). December, 1952. 240 pp. \$2.50.

Available from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C.:  
Geologic History of Yosemite Valley. (U.S. Geologic Survey Professional Paper no. 160). 1930. 137 pp. \$5.25.

BEAR TRACK and UCHC are indebted to Ralph Prime and Skip Thomas of Pacific School of Religion for the musical notation on the opposite page. Thanks, fellows.