

1946 High Trip

(The 41st High Trip)

High Trip 1 – Mt. Whitney Backcountry– July 7-20

High Trip 2 – Sixty Lakes Basin Country– July 21 – August 3

High Trip 3 – Muir Pass and Colby Meadow Country– August 4-17

The High Trip, now in its forty-first year, is unique. Nowhere else in the world is it possible to take a roving pack trip of this type far into wilderness country. Unfortunately it is becoming more difficult to do so even in the largest wilderness area of the United States. Not only is there the constant encroachment of roads, but the small meadows on the main trails have become so heavily grazed that the saturation point of travel has nearly been reached. Although the High Trip is exceptionally efficient in use of the grazing facilities (1/2 mule per man instead of 3 to 7 animals per man as is common; a nighthawk also permits use of more distant grazing, spreading the animals out), nevertheless it has been decided as a conservation measure to spread the trip over more time and meadows and to take fewer people. The trip will therefore be limited to 125 people, and will consist of three two-week periods.

Reflections of the summer's outings: The weather was nothing if not unusual. Old timers who had grown accustomed to practically rainless summers neglected to advise newcomers as to what *might* happen – and, this year, did. The precious dunnage weight that was taken up with unnecessary hot-water bags and extra blankets might better have been used for rain-proofing, for nights were seldom very cold, but often quite wet. Even rain and hail, though, have their compensations. They never occur without a cloud accompaniment, which makes it fine for the photographers; and the frequent obligato of thunder and lightning also makes it fine for those who enjoy spectacular displays of nature. And even the few who shun cameras and tremble through thunderstorms are made happy when the sun comes out again. So why should the management ever feel downhearted about a little rain? (After it's over, that is!)



And as for scenery – anyone who has learned to love the mountains is always happy anywhere in the Sierra Nevada, and yet visits to the Evolution group or the headwaters of Woods Creek, to the Mono Recesses, or to the Banner-Ritter country must always be outstanding.

The 1946 version of the High Trip was slightly altered, its three two-week periods offering opportunity to more people, but fewer at a time. However, in only the middle period were all reservations filled. High Trip Committee members are inclined to think it is less a matter of decrease in demand than a matter of people's inability to make up their minds. So many rushed to sign up for the first postwar trips – even though they weren't at all sure of going – that by late spring waiting lists had already been established, word got about that the trips were sold out, and those who had been disappointed went about the making of other plans; subsequent withdrawals of the undecided left vacancies which it was too late to fill. Be that as it may, the Outing Committee does not now plan to run a six-week trip in 1947.

It will be a long time before the first two-weekers forget the first day's hot, dry climb up from Carroll Creek or the contrasting wetness of their departure from Center Basin via Onion Valley, nor will they forget the grandeur of Foresters Pass. The middle two-weekers must certainly retain an indelible impression of the violence of the denial of the discredited saying, "It never rains at night in the Sierra," but on the other hand they

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must long remember the beauty of sunny days at Sixty Lake Basin and the inspiration of the famous cross-country trip fro Palisade Lakes to Dusy Basin. Third two-weekers will cherish memories of Muir pass and Colby Meadows – oh, yes! And their share of rain, too! But if you as any High-Tripper, from any of the three periods, to tell you his outstanding impression, chances are nine out of ten he will say something about good fellowship and cooperation. So it seems that times haven't changed, after all.



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