

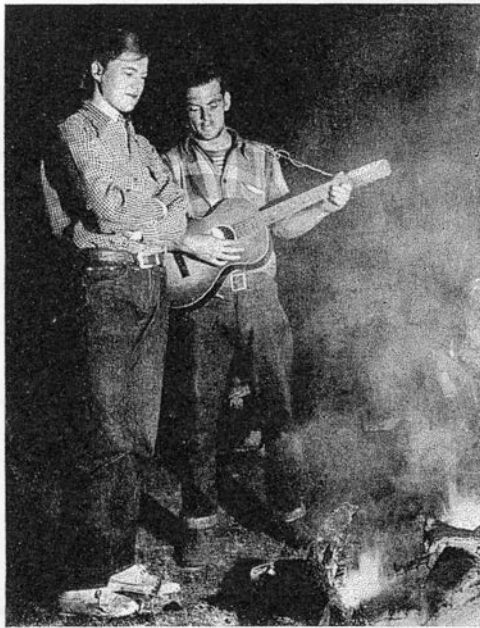
The 1951 High Trip – 46th High TRIP

HIGH TRIPS follow a proved formula for high mountain pleasure. Mules, duly persuaded by the packers, carry the load, the food, personal dunnage, and commissary equipment. Skilled hands organize the camps and prepare the mountain repasts. Guests, carrying a minimum of noontime needs, explore the countryside or laze around to suit their tastes.

Each period of the trip follows this pattern. We come into a campsite from one point of the compass, lay over in that site for a day or so to enable everyone who wishes to explore two more points of the compass, then we leave by the fourth point for the next campsite, where horizons are new. Each campsite is one in which several days can be enjoyed, from which many fascinating side trips can be made. But we move on before we wear our welcome out.

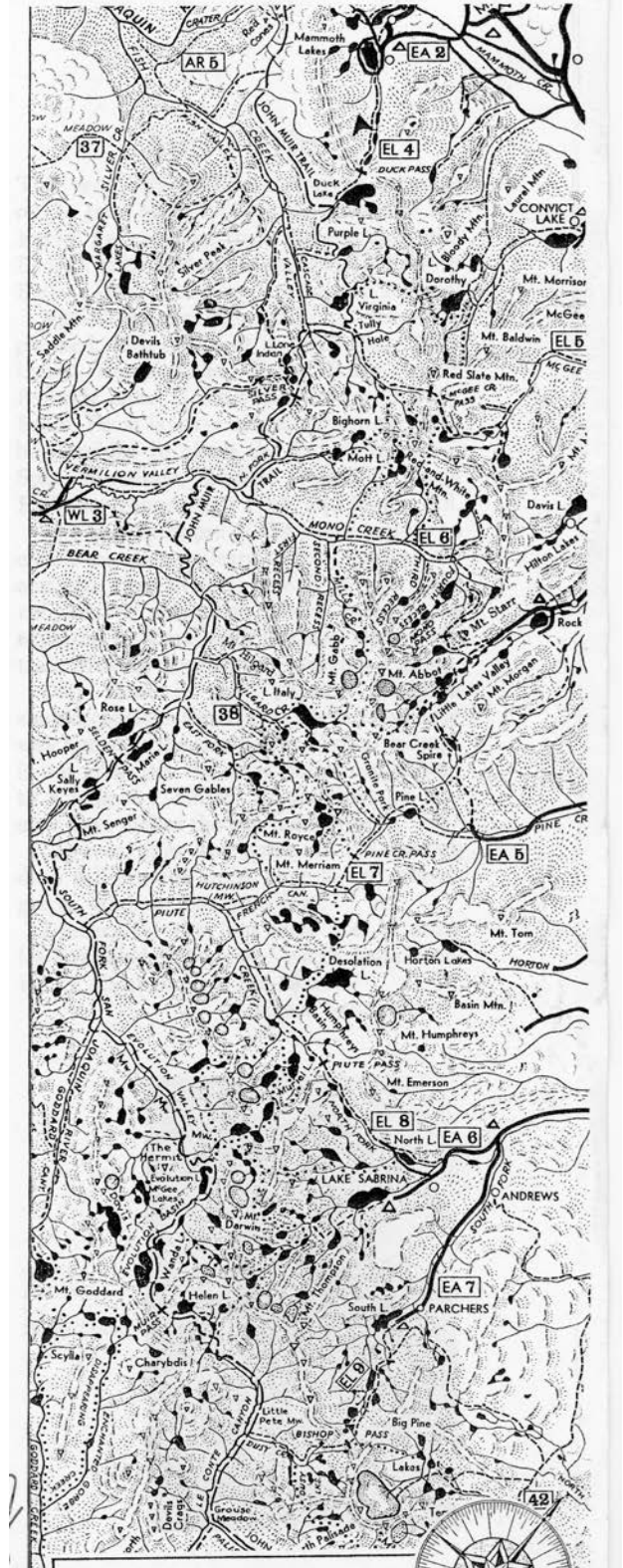
Unless you have been on a High Trip, you are probably dubious about your chances of having fun with so large a party.

But allay your fears. The mountains are big. You travel them at your own pace, by the route and with the companions you choose, even on moving days. You help occasionally with wood splitting or vegetable peeling when and with whom you choose. You will, however, have one occasion on each day you wish to spend in camp (instead of



AT A HIGH TRIP CAMPFIRE. By Don Levy

knapsacking cross country) on which you'll see the entire party-dinnertime. Even then, you could take your steaming plate and cups down by the riverside and there forget everybody else. No one ever seems to want to, though.



For most people, watching a fair cross section of the populace, from children not quite in their teens on up to old hands in their seventies, and seeing their pleasure, is an important part of the fun of the trip. No doubt about it, small trips have their

The commissary crew on any moving trip has to be large - it takes manpower to make and break camp - but it is never large enough. As long as there's a High Trip there'll be ample opportunity for volunteer wielders of ax, shovel, and hotcake-or-trout turner!

We have sought but have not found escape from the cost-of-living index and have therefore set the deposit at \$68 per two-week period, \$50 for children under 14 (but check with the management to see how far under they can be and still be likely to get along). The increase over last year's figure is our best estimate of what will cover the increase in cost of your food by then and the doubling which has already taken place in cost of off-season feed for our mules.

Whether this seems high or low to you we don't know - we've had reactions both ways. In any event we wish it were lower, but don't see how it can be. The saving grace is that it now costs so much money to live at home that you can't lose by taking the high-country vacation you owe yourself (and family). After all, man isn't granted too many mountain summers in which to travel, little is to be gained, and much lost, in letting one slip by unused.

D R. B.

Saddle Horse Trip

The 1951 Saddle Trip, August 20 through 25 will be a circle ride from Whitney Portal to Carroll Creek via Whitney Pass, the summit of Mt. Whitney Crabtree Meadows, Rock Creek, Army Pass, Cottonwood Lakes and Golden Trout Camp.

A riding trip will appeal to many club members, whether they have had previous riding experience or not. Seeing the Sierra from a saddle offers the Sierra enthusiast many attractions, to wit: (1) The scenery can be enjoyed continuously - the mounts worry about where to walk. (2) Riding is less tiring than walking. (3) Riders are allowed 50 pounds of dunnage. (4) More country can be covered than in "footburning." (5) Excellent opportunity is afforded to learn riding and horsemanship. (6) The party is relatively small in size.



What the Trip Is Like

Riders start out soon after breakfast. There is no attempt to keep riders in close formation on the trail. They ride at whatever pace and with whom they like. Usually however, all riders are bunched at noon for rendezvous with the lunch mule. The pack trains pass riders during the lunch hour so that dunnage is available for fishing, reading, boudoir-making, etc., by the time the riders reach camp.

Previous riding experience, though help-ful, is not at all necessary Guides and pack-ers will always lend a hand. Any person in good health can enjoy the trip, but it is not recommended that those expecting a "soft" trip should apply. The high cost is made necessary by the small size of the party and is not an indication of luxury alone. Riders are expected to help with camp chores on a friendly volunteer basis just as on all club trips.

The trip will be organized and led by Bruce Morgan, club member, manager of Mount Whitney Pack Trains, High Trip packing head, and past Saddle Trip leader Limit, 20 riders.

Itinerary

The party will leave Carroll Creek Pack Station early the first morning and ascend the spectacular east escarpment of the Sierra to Golden Trout Camp, through verdant Cottonwood Creek Meadows to Cottonwood Lakes Basin.

The following day they will ride up the east side of Army Pass just south of Mount Langley, where they will see the dramatic view of the desert ranges to the east, and descend to a camp near Rock Creek Lake.

Following a day in camp with side trips to Siberian Pass, Upper Rock Creek, and the beautiful hidden bench meadows of Cow Parlor Canyon, riders will go through forest and meadow country over Guyot Pass to a camp in the tamarack groves near Crabtree Ranger Station.

There will be a day in camp with good fishing and many side trips possible, including Wallace Creek and Lake, Crabtree and Hitchcock Lakes, and lower Whitney Creek.

Then the ride up Whitney Riders will lunch on the summit, from which they will see the unforgettable panorama of the High Sierra, the Great Western Divide, Owens Valley, and the desert ranges flanking Death Valley. The final afternoon ride will be down the spectacular new Mount Whitney Trail to Whitney Portal Pack Station. At the last night's roadhead camp for the 1939 Saddle Trip, the party enjoyed a display of the Northern Lights. We'll try to repeat.

Although as much as 50 pounds of dunnage is allowed, "packer's headaches" – i.e. odd objects such as suit cases satchels, wicker fish creels, or collapsible bathtubs, will be frowned upon. Riders able to play musical instruments, however, may have them transported in addition to the 50-pound limit, but consult the management first. Riding boots are comfortable, but not necessary, denim waist overalls or equivalent are both comfortable and necessary.

IKE LIVERMORE

Burro Trips

This year's Burro Trips complete coverage of the John Muir Trail by the chasers of the Burro. Approaching from the east side near Bishop, trips will be from Sawmill Pass to Bishop Pass, with alternate trips in reverse. Approximately eight days of travel is planned, with camps at Sawmill Pass Twin Lakes, Bench Lake, Upper Basin, Upper Palisade Lake, Grouse Meadows, and Dusy Basin. From layover camps opportunity will be provided to climb the 14,000 footers - Split Mountain, Middle Palisade North Palisade, Thunderbolt Peak, and Mount Sill.

The basic purpose of the burro trips is to enable members to learn to cook pack stock and plan trips of their own. The trips are a



cooperative enterprise where everyone is expected to share work in camp and on the trail. Moving days require travel as a group.

Only those in good physical condition should consider this trip as there is no easy way out once the trip begins. Actual mileage is not great but the extra duties can add up to a long day. Choice of activities on lay-over days makes the trip hard or easy.

Layover days and some of the moving days will provide ample time to fish, photograph, hike, or just plain loaf.

Leaders for the four trips are, in order leading, Ned Robinson, George Templeton, Harry Abraham, and Bob Braun.

GEORGE TEMPLETON

Excerpt taken from the *Sierra Club Bulletin*, February 1951.