

# The 1955 High Trip

## (The 50<sup>th</sup> High Trip)

### High Trip 1—North into Northern Yosemite—July 10-22

This year's trip will give veteran High Trippers a chance to renew an acquaintance with northern Yosemite. For new High Trippers or anyone who has never seen the high country there could be no better place to start enjoying the High Trip and the mountains. Many people find this the most pleasant if not the most beautiful area in all the Sierra—surely the wildest. The compact scenery will be a striking change from the Kern country visited the last two summers. Glaciated granite, moraine-chaliced lakes and alpine meadows are abundant. If the record of past High Trips is any indication, the fishing in the area will be very good.

All in all, we'll see the most beautiful of Yosemite's exquisite northern glacier canyons — rugged on a gentle scale, well-meadowed, the granite clean, and never too far away or too high. The camps will serve as fine bases for climbs to Mount Conness, Little Lost Valley of Shepherd Crest, McCabe Lakes, upper Spiller Canyon's walls. Matterhorn Peak, Sawtooth Ridge, and Slide Canyon will be pretty much for knapsacker on the first trip, on which *nonknapsacker* will instead see Benson, Neall, and Rodger lakes, some of Yosemite's loveliest. On the second trip it's vice versa. On either you can take side trips to Rock Island Lake, Tower Peak, Suicide Ridge, even to Bath Mountain and Crazy Mule Gulch if you like to collect place names. Tilden Lake is not beyond reach of the hardy. Buckeye Creek's Roughs and its Alplike canyon and watered meadows seem like parts of a different range of mountains, especially on the trip up. It's more Swiss than Sierran.

Bruce Morgan and Mount Whitney Pack Trails will move what can't walk, including two new stoves.

**The Camps.** We assemble at *Virginia Lakes* on July 10 and move next day to *Spiller Creek*, a shift of 10 miles to where commissary will be waiting, having moved in the day before. Here we are in the prototype of country that keeps people coming back, the wilderness of stream and timberline forest, the "world of stone and space and sky." A split move takes us to *Smedberg Creek*, upstream from the lake, off the trail at a spot picked from 3D aerial photos. Those who wish to visit Benson Lake may knapsack from here and meet the group at the next camp, in *Kerrick Meadows*, always an enjoyable place to camp. Anyone who wants to climb the Sawteeth can do so by knapsack. Others may climb in their mind's eye from the comfort of the meadow or per-engage in Polemonium Club practice climbs. Then it's an easy day to *The Forks*— a little altitude in the morning and a pleasant coast downhill into camp in Toiyabe National Forest. Here (or back at Peeler Lake) the fortunate four-weekers hold over and wait for the second-two-weekers. The others travel on down *Buckeye Creek* to their cars.

### High Trip 2—South into Northern Yosemite—July 23-August 4

(See preceding paragraphs for general description)

**The Camps.** Assembling at *Buckeye Creek* on July 23, we move first to *The Forks* (see above,) then to *Kerrick Bench*, on the way from Kerrick Meadows to Snow Pass, which we cross after a layover to the third camp, in *Slide Canyon*. Here geologists can have a field day, especially in exploring the mountain that slid. The Sawteeth, Matterhorn and Finger Peaks are right at hand, and the Handy Dandy Snow Climbing School

founded by Al Baxter is sure to have a session or two, what with there being split moves into this camp and out of it too. Then we cross *Burro Pass*, coast down Matterhorn Canyon's glade, lunch at Miller Lake, and contour to *Spiller Creek*. Or there's a beautiful cross-country route down Spiller Canyon from the Matterhorn ridge. Finally a layover day and out to *Virginia Lakes*.

Excerpt taken from the *Sierra Club Bulletin* April 1955