

John Muir

John Muir, Scottish immigrant, farmer, inventor, shepherd, pre-med dropout, botanist, explorer, sawmill operator, historian, geologist, glaciologist, writer, wanderer and disciple of wilderness, might have difficulty today in recognizing the small, intimate Sierra Club he helped found seventy-five years ago. His handful of acquaintances concerned with the nearby Sierra has increased to thousands of preservationists with interests reaching from the Sierra to ranges and pockets of natural beauty in all parts of the world. Muir the man would find himself in the role of saint or messiah. He would find dedication to principles he advocated in persons who had never seen his "Range of Light"; persons who know wilderness only through vicarious experience . . . housewives, teenagers, clerks, movie stars, schoolteachers, civil servants, and statesmen. He would find Sierra Club members in all of the 50 states, Great Britain, Canada, Africa, Australia, Nepal, and at various times Antarctica and other unlikely places in the world. He would meet a few old friends, and the children and grandchildren of many friends, plus a number of second and third generation Muirs. He would see one major similarity in today's Sierra Club. It is made up of concerned conservationists fighting for the same purposes he and his handful of friends fought for years before. And, maybe John Muir would be just a little proud.



Excerpt from the December 1967 *Sierra Club Bulletin Handbook*.