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AURELIA SQUIRE HARWOOD

By AURELIA HENRY REINHARDT

WHEN her death occurred in Los Angeles in June, 1928, Aurelia Harwood was serving her second term as President of the Sierra Club. She was not only an active and generous life member of this California organization; she held at the same time life membership in other mountain clubs, notably the Mazamas, of Oregon, the Mountaineers, of Washington, and the Green Mountain Club, of Vermont. She supported the Save-the-Redwoods movement; she gave time, effort, and money to many projects for conservation of natural resources; she was a fellow of the American Geographic League. These are symbolic of her life's deepest interest.

From childhood she had loved the out-of-doors. In maturity she became one with the "great natures of the hills." She had climbed many peaks of note in our Pacific ranges, from Rainier, lifting itself like a mammoth opal of mystery above primeval forest, to stern Whitney and Kearsarge, guarding the desert from the prying and poking of man's curiosity.

Little in body as she was, feather-weighted for the knapsack her shoulders always bore, I think of her as a singularly symbolic human figure, burdened with man's finite needs, but "poised on the brink of ecstasy." I remember the ease of her walking stride up the wind-swept mountain road, and the light of her spirit's content as she reached the pass above Bowman Lake, or stood on a ridge of Baker, pointing silently with her hickory staff to the

"Far horizons smoking blue,
And chasing clouds forever new,
High hills like lighted lamps aglow,
Or quenching 'neath the cloud shadow."

Her satisfaction in mountains was a quality of character, rather than proof of a love of beauty. She was a citizen of our country and continent, holding kinship with many states. From mountains she looked out at her native land, lying between the Atlantic and Pacific, Appalachians, Rockies, Sierras, Olympics did not divide it; they made it one. In the frequenting of mountains, she believed men re-

ceived their highest joy and deepest inspiration. In the preservation of forests, in the safeguarding of flora and wild life, in protecting from contamination the sources of springs and rivers, she had not only the artist's interest in nature's varied loveliness, but the philosopher's faith in eternal values.

Nobility in human conduct was linked in her mind with the majesty of star-lit heavens, with the voices of waters calling through the darkness, and with the stalwartness of the mountain pine.

Loyalty characterized her interests, her undertakings, and her affections.

Born in Jamesville, Wisconsin, devotion to her parents, who were both natives of Vermont, made her in many things a New Englander. Transplanted in childhood with the westward-moving family into Springfield, Missouri, she learned to know and love the great middle prairies of our continent and the valley of the mighty Mississippi. Her father became a founder of Drury College, in Springfield. There she was graduated in 1883, and there she acquired that belief in the American college which she later expressed in her interest in Pomona College, contributing to Harwood Court and Pilgrim Place, and in her interest in Mills College, founding two scholarships for Chinese students—the Catherine Henry Harwood Scholarship and the Aurelia Squire Harwood Scholarship.

Her love of New England took her for two years of graduate work to Wellesley College. Then filial loyalty took her in 1887, with her parents in their last westward move, to Ontario, California. Here interest in New England still showed itself in her organization of the Ontario chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, in her cooperation with the Colonial Dames, and in the assistance which she gave at various times to genealogical and historic researches carried out in Massachusetts and Vermont.

As the years passed, Miss Harwood's keen intelligence and growing interests expressed themselves in service through religious, civic, philanthropic, and educational organizations. Through the Congregational Church in Ontario much quiet good was done, during the latter part of her life increasingly in behalf of the Christian Missions of China. Through the Wellesley Club and the branches of the American Association of University Women, both in the San Gabriel Valley and in Los Angeles, she contributed to the upbuilding of opportunity and of standards in the education of women. Through the

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Camp-fire movement, she expressed both her concern for education in general and for girlhood in particular. Here she had an especial opportunity to express her loyalty to the Earth, and to all Earth's children, of whatever kingdom. As one of the first Western women to join the Camp-fire movement, Miss Harwood was one of the most successful guardians I have ever known, so surely could she make significant to modern preoccupied girlhood, "bird and bee and blossom," so gladly did they become inheritors of nature's vast treasure through her instruction.

For years following her mother's death, Miss Harwood became the guardian of her father's hearth as well as guardian of the symbolic camp-fire of girlhood and watcher of the mountain fires of the Sierra Club. Suddenly, she left all three to be tended by others. Lovingly, friend and kinsman salute this protecting spirit.

Because of her, wild flowers lead a safer life, forests tower more grandly skyward, and many learn again the ancient lesson as they look toward the mountains with eyes that see and hearts that understand.

EDITORIALS

Miss Harwood Aurelia Harwood was the first woman to be elected President of the Sierra Club. For many years she had been devoted to the ideals for which the club stands and had taken part in its activities. The outings and excursions of the club gave her keen enjoyment, and when there was need for assistance in urging upon our legislative representatives favorable consideration of matters in which the club was interested, she invariably did her full share. On many occasions when it became pressing, she was first to subscribe toward their purchase, and it was always her desire that as little publicity as possible be given to these generous contributions. Her unselfish activities were not confined to the Sierra Club, but many other organizations whose main purposes are philanthropic have reason to revere her memory. Her entire life was an expression of the highest idealism.

W. E. C.

WILLIAM E. COBBY

The continued destruction of the magnificent pine forests along Yosemite's western border of Yosemite National Park has long been a matter of grave concern to the Sierra Club. Exchanges of timber have done little more than shift the destruction from one place to another, and with the approach of the lumber companies to the final major scene of activity in that most beautiful of all forests, the region between Merced and the Tuolumne, the situation seemed hopeless.

At this critical moment the forces of preservation have spontaneously rallied, and through their united efforts it now seems possible that one of the great objectives of the national parks will be realized here in the unimpaired preservation of large tracts of primeval forest. The Sierra Club and the administrators of the national parks, joined by eastern publicists, newspapers and periodicals, and by generous individuals offering funds, have apparently convinced Congress that public opinion demands action. This unanimity of effort has culminated in the Cranmon amendment to the Interior Department appropriation bill now pending in Congress. This amendment, quoted in full in the notes and correspondence section of this number, was introduced in the House of Representatives on December 14, 1928. Its object is to acquire privately owned lands and lumber within the boundaries of national parks by purchase or condemnation, and to provide funds to be expended for this purpose when matched by equal amounts donated from other sources.

The Cranmon amendment was promptly adopted by the House, but when the bill was discussed in the Senate the condemnation clause was objected to by Senator Walsh, of Montana, who succeeded in having the bill returned to conference without this clause. There it rests at the time of this writing. The

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