



San Joaquin Geological Society

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Clarence King and the lure of Mount Shasta

by

James G. Moore, formerly of the U.S. Geological Survey

ABSTRACT

This talk describes Clarence King's explorations with the California Geological Survey beginning in 1863. He was a field assistant on William Brewer's expedition into the King's Canyon Sierra where they charted the topography and identified the loftiest peaks in the country including Mount Whitney. He then headed up the Geological Exploration of the 40th Parallel, and later became the first director of the U.S. Geological Survey.

BIOGRAPHY

James G. Moore, now retired from the U. S. Geological survey, received his BS in geology from Stanford University, MS from the University of Washington, and Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins University. He has conducted geologic studies for several decades in the central Sierra Nevada which led to the book published by Stanford University Press: "Exploring the Highest Sierra". The book weaves together the history of exploration and mapping of the range with the development of pioneering geologic concepts. Another book is presently in press: "King of the 40th Parallel: Discovery in the American West". Jim also served as Scientist-in-Charge of the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory and has gone on to investigate about 20 on-going volcanic eruptions worldwide. He has participated in about 25 oceanographic cruises and in 50 dives in research submarines mostly to investigate volcanic rocks on the submerged flanks of young volcanoes.