

About Clair S. Tappaan (1878-1932)

A Superior Court judge from Los Angeles, Clair Tappaan served the Sierra Club in many functions: first chapter Chair and leader of the first chapter outing; assistant manager of the Sierra Club High Trips; Board of Directors 1912 until his death in 1932; President of the club 1922-24. One of the most familiar sights on the club's annual High Trip was the bear-like figure of 'Tap' stepping into the light of the campfire to regale an enraptured audience with one of his inimical "scientific lectures" on the mythical Roctivora, Ring Tailed Rusticrustus, Side Hill Guana, Weeping Ibis, or some other of his mental creations. The club's largest lodge facility, at Norden in the Sierra Nevada, is named in his honor.

Clair Tappaan on the summit of Old Baldy (Mt. San Antonio), May 6, 1917. Photo by Edgar Cook, Angeles Chapter Archives

