

M. D. WILLIAMS/NPS

A
Little
History

The Mystery Buried in Bridalveil Meadow

Hank Johnston

For nearly forty years after its dedication in 1921, a blue-and-white metal plaque stood affixed to an upright rock near the southeastern corner of Bridalveil Meadow in Yosemite Valley. The plaque, which disappeared without notice sometime in the late 1950's, reads:

Rose and Shurborn
Prospectors
Killed by Indians
20th May 1852
Erected by the
Society of California Pioneers
1921.

Who were Rose and Shurborn, and what were the circumstances of their untimely demise?

The accounts that remain are

two short articles from a contemporary newspaper; three paragraphs in Lafayette Bunnell's classic book, *Discovery of the Yosemite*; two brief interviews that contain some peripheral information; and a bizarre eyewitness remembrance that came to light more than 70 years after the fact.¹

In this article I'll tell you what we know about the Bridalveil Meadow affair. Then I'll give you my guess as to what most likely took place between the Indians and the prospectors back in that ill-fated spring of 1852 (feel free to form your own opinion).



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The Historical Context

Before the coming of the white man, Indians of various tribes had roamed the Sierra Nevada foothills for untold centuries. Nature supplied everything necessary for their culture: game, fish, berries, nuts, and acorns, along with a pleasant climate. The discovery of gold on the American River in January, 1848, however, soon drastically changed California's rural landscape and ended the Indians' nomadic way of life forever. During the next several years, thousands of eager prospectors swarmed over the Sierra foothills in search of golden riches. Most of the largely Anglo-American newcomers regarded Indians as pests to be shoved aside or exterminated. The Indians, granted no legal rights and suffering from loss of food and territory, held a similar view of white men.

Hostility between the two groups reached a climax late in 1850 in the southern mining region of Mariposa County when the Indians made a final, desperate effort to drive out every last miner from their traditional domain. Working in concert, war parties from several area tribes attacked the trading posts, seizing what they could; stole horses and cattle from the corrals; and even murdered a dozen or more of the hated intruders before fleeing back to the mountains. The Sheriff quickly formed a posse to pursue the marauders, and two small battles were fought with indecisive results. Thus began the so-called Mariposa Indian War — really only a series of skirmishes — during which Yosemite Valley was effectively discovered and first entered.

Fearing a general Indian uprising, local authorities appealed to the Governor of the newly formed state for assistance. In January, 1851, he authorized the formation of a volunteer militia known as the Mariposa Battalion to subdue the Indians. The Battalion consisted of three companies totaling 204 officers and



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men, most of whom were local miners. James Savage, a trading post operator well-known to the Indians, was elected major in charge. Before any formal action could be taken, however, three United States Commissioners arrived and halted proceedings while they tried to persuade the Indians to sign treaties and settle on reservations. Most of the tribes accepted the offer, but several of the wilder bands fled to refuges deep in the Sierra Nevada.

On March 19, 1851, the Mariposa Battalion set out to bring them in. One company was detailed to the areas of the Kings and Kaweah Rivers. The other two companies, with Savage in charge, forged through deep snow over Chowchilla Mountain heading for a mysterious valley said to be the home of the Yosemite, one of the most hostile tribes.

After establishing a headquarters camp several miles north of present Wawona, Savage sent a messenger ahead demanding the surrender of the Yosemite and their relocation to a reservation on the Fresno River. The Yosemite's chief, called Tenieya, soon appeared at the Battalion

This early group of hunters encountered only a photographer in Yosemite Valley, not Ahwahneechee Indians.

camp and agreed to lead Savage to his rancharia in the Valley. On March 27, 1851, Major Savage and 57 men set out, traveling along an Indian trail that later became the stage road between Wawona and Yosemite. On the way they met a straggling group of 72 Indians, mostly old women, mothers, and children, coming in to surrender. Tenieya was sent back to the Battalion camp with this group, while Savage and his soldiers, suspicious because no young men were present, continued northward led by a young Indian guide.

Late that afternoon, after successfully negotiating the challenging southside cliffs, the party became the first white men to enter Yosemite Valley. The following day the soldiers explored the Valley end to end, seeing Vernal and Nevada Falls, but finding no Indians except an ancient woman. The next morning, March 29, Savage and his men left the Valley and returned to the headquarters camp near Wawona. The entire force then set out for the

Commissioners' encampment on the Fresno River. They arrived empty-handed, however, for nearly all the Indians captured by the Battalion, including Chief Tenieya and his followers, escaped in the night and scattered back into the mountains. Thus ended the first Yosemite campaign.

On May 5 a new expedition of 35 men under Captain John Boling left for Yosemite Valley with instructions to "surprise the Indians and whip them well, or induce them to surrender." Reaching the Valley on May 9, Boling soon captured Tenieya and five of his braves. On May 22 the remaining Yosemite were surprised in a village on the shore of present Lake Tenaya. Hungry and exhausted, the weary band of about 35 Indians surrendered without incident.

Tenieya and his people were subsequently relegated to the Fresno River reservation in company with other bands. Unhappy with the lowland climate and the forced cohabitation with traditional enemies, Tenieya repeatedly appealed to the agent-in-charge for permission to go back to his beloved Yosemite. Sometime late in 1851, his request was granted upon his promise to remain peaceful. Soon after, some of the Chief's followers quietly slipped away from the reservation and joined him in their old mountain home.

The First Public Notice

On June 10, 1852, the *Alta California* newspaper in San Francisco printed the following story:

MORE INDIAN TROUBLE — THREE MEN KILLED.

Mr. G. W. Stell, who runs an Express throughout the mines south of the Mariposa, has favored us with the following information: On the 20th May eight men started from Coarse Gold Gulch on a prospecting tour to the headwaters of the Merced. After traveling some seventy-five miles, they were suddenly surrounded by a large body of Indians, who attacked them and killed three of their

THE YOSEMOTYS INHABIT A BEAUTIFUL AND FERTILE VALLEY IN THE UPPER SIERRA NEVADA KNOWN AS YOSEMOTY VALLEY. THIS VALLEY IS ABOUT SIXTY MILES IN LENGTH, WITH AN AVERAGE OF THREE IN BREADTH, THE SURROUND PEAKS ARE COVERED WITH PERPETUAL SNOW, AND IT IS KNOWN THAT THERE IS GOLD IN THE VICINITY.

number, named Shurborn, Rose, and Joseph Tudor. The remaining five made their escape, and after enduring great hardships, returned to Coarse Gold Gulch. They had been five days in the mountains without provisions. The names of four of them were Grover, Peabody, Aitch, and Babcock. At the time of the attack their arms and ammunition were wet, and they were unable to defend themselves. Only one Indian was killed. On the 2nd last, a party of thirty-five miners started from Coarse Gold Gulch for the purpose of chastising those Indians.

A week later, on June 18, a second article, credited to the San Joaquin Republican, appeared in the *Alta California*. According to this new account, only Rose and Shurborn were killed; Joseph Tudor was seriously wounded.

A party of forty men mustered and started out to chastise the Indians. They found the bodies of the two murdered men and buried them, the Indians all the time taunting them with threats of defiance from across the river. The river being very high, the party did not wish to pursue them farther and returned. . . . Capt. Moore's Company of US Infantry, stationed at Fort Miller, on the San Joaquin, is now enroute for the scene of the murders. . . .

The Yosemiteys inhabit a beautiful and fertile valley in the upper Sierra Nevada known as Yosemite Valley. This valley is about sixty miles in length, with an average of three in breadth, the surround peaks are covered with perpetual snow, and it is known that there is gold in the vicinity.

Bunnell's Narrative

A similar version of the Bridalveil Meadow attack appeared in Lafayette Bunnell's book, *Discovery of the Yosemite and the Indian War of 1851 Which Led to That Event*.² According to Bunnell, a small party of French miners started out on a prospecting trip early in May, 1852, with the intention of making a visit to Yosemite Valley. Their curiosity about the Valley had been aroused by descriptions of it

made by some former members of the Mariposa Battalion who were also mining at Coarse Gold Gulch at the time.

Equipped with a rough map prepared by the ex-soldiers, the party proceeded northward from Coarse Gold, prospecting along



PHOTO

Lafayette H. Bunnell, whose writings are the basis for most of what is known about early Yosemite history.

the way in the Merced South Fork and streams tributary to it. While camped somewhere near present Wawona, they were visited by a small group of begging Yosemite Indians, who appeared friendly but let the miners know that the territory they were in belonged to them. The miners ignored their claim, knowing that the Government had taken over the area the previous year.

"Unsuspecting of danger from an attack," Bunnell wrote, "they reached the Valley, and while entering it on the old trail, were ambushed by the Indians from behind some rocks at or near the foot of the trail, and two of the party instantly killed. Another was seriously wounded, but finally succeeded in making his escape. The names of the two men killed were Rose and Shurborn," the name of the wounded man was Tudor."

Bunnell then provides us with a report of the aftermath of the episode. A small company of soldiers from the Regular Army sta-

tioned at Fort Miller on the San Joaquin River was dispatched to Yosemite early in June under the command of Lieutenant Tredwell Moore, USA, to capture or punish the Indians responsible for the killing of the miners. A volunteer scout named Augustus "Gus" Gray, a friend of the murdered men who had been a member of both Yosemite campaigns of the Mariposa Battalion, served as guide for the punitive expedition. Bunnell says he obtained the particulars of the mission directly from Gray.

The soldiers entered the Valley at night and surprised and captured a party of five Indians. In the morning, the naked bodies of Rose and Shurbon (Bunnell's spelling) were found and buried on the edge of the little meadow below Bridalveil Fall. Upon examination of the five prisoners, it was discovered that each of them had some article of clothing belonging to the murdered men. With this evidence, along with the captives' admission that they had killed the miners to prevent white men from coming to their valley, Lieutenant Moore ordered the five Indians executed by a volley of musketry.

Moore failed, however, to recapture Chief Teniyea, who with his few remaining followers made a quick retreat from their Yosemite hiding places to take refuge with the Monos across the Sierra. Bunnell says that he subsequently learned of Teniyea's fate from remnants of the tribe with whom he had dealings at his mining operation near the Merced North Fork in 1853-54.

According to these Indians, Teniyea remained with the Monos until the late summer of 1853 when he decided it was safe to return to Yosemite Valley. Soon after, some of the young Yosemite raiders the Mono Lake camp of their former hosts, stealing a band of horses that the Monos had taken from white settlers to the south. They drove them to Yosemite Valley over a roundabout route, hoping in this

way to escape detection. Some time later, while the Yosemiteys were feasting on the stolen delicacies, the Monos suddenly pounced on them, stoning Teniyea and many of his followers to death. Eight young men escaped by fleeing down the Merced Canyon. The young women and children who survived the attack were made captives and taken back to Mono Lake.

Grover's Reminiscence

In 1926 the contents of a most remarkable manuscript written by Stephen Grover, a member of the unfortunate prospecting party, came to public attention in a *California Historical Society Quarterly* article by Carl Russell, Chief Naturalist of Yosemite National Park.³ According to Grover, a group of eight miners consisting of himself, Babcock, Peabody, Tudor, Sherburn (Grover's spelling),



COURTESY EDWARD G. CHANDLER

Stephen Frealon Grover (1830-1907).

Rose, Aitch, and an unnamed Englishman, left Coarse Gold Gulch on April 27, 1852, on a prospecting expedition into the Sierra Nevada. The party traveled northward for five days, passing through the Mariposa Grove of Big Trees enroute, thus becoming the first white men to enter there. On May 2, the adventurers entered Yosemite Valley and set up camp in an open area south of the Merced River. Aitch, Grover,

"WE COULD SEE THE OLD CHIEF TEIEIEYA [SIC]," GROVER WROTE, "WAY UP IN THE VALLEY IN AN OPEN SPACE WITH FULLY ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY INDIANS AROUND HIM, TO WHOM HE GAVE HIS ORDERS WHICH WERE PASSED TO ANOTHER CHIEF JUST BELOW US, AND THESE TWO DIRECTED THOSE AROUND THEM AND SHOUTED ORDERS TO THOSE ON THE TOP OF THE BLUFF WHO WERE ROLLING THE ROCKS OVER ON US.

and the Englishman remained in camp while the others went up the Valley, prospecting and hunting for game.

Suddenly, screams and firing were heard, and Peabody staggered into camp wounded by arrows in his arm and neck. He was quickly followed by Babcock, both men drenched to the skin from plunging into the stream below Bridalveil Fall while fleeing from attacking Indians. Sherburn and Tudor were killed in the first encounter, Tudor being dispatched with an ax that the party had taken along for cutting wood. Rose fell, "apparently with a death wound," on the opposite side of the stream from the camp. Sherburn's demise is not described.

The five survivors, armed with two rifles, attempted to escape up the trail by which they had come, but were cut off by a large group of Indians, "whooping and yelling, and constantly firing arrows at us." The beleaguered miners then managed to scramble up to a "shelf-like projection" which was secure from rocks being hurled down by Indians from above, but still subject to a constant shower of arrows from below.

"We could see the old Chief Teieieya [sic]," Grover wrote, "way up in the Valley in an open space with fully one hundred and fifty Indians around him, to whom he gave his orders which were passed to another Chief just below us, and these two directed those around them and shouted orders to those on the top of the bluff who were rolling the rocks over on us. Fully believing ourselves doomed men, we never relaxed our vigilance, but with the two rifles we still kept them at bay, determined to sell our lives as dearly as possible. . . . All of a sudden the Chief just below us, about fifty yards distant, suddenly threw up his hands and with a terrible yell fell over backwards with a bullet through his body. Immediately the firing of arrows ceased, and the savages . . .

began to withdraw and we could hear the twigs crackle as they crept away."

Grover then describes at length how the frightened survivors worked their way back to civilization, all the while fearing another deadly attack by the Indians. The party retraced its original route, passing once more through the Mariposa Grove. They felt secure only when they "gained the ridge above Chowchilla." At Coarse Gold Gulch, Grover's brother, Whitney Grover, quickly formed a company of twenty-five men and started for the Valley guided by Aich. The vengeful miners found the bodies of Sherburn and Tudor but saw no Indians. They buried the dead men where they lay, designating the graves with "such marks as were at hand at that time."

Six days after returning to Coarse Gold Gulch, Grover heard that Rose was in the general vicinity reporting that the rest of the party had been killed by Indians and that he alone had escaped by hiding behind Bridalveil Fall. When he learned that Grover and his companions had survived, Rose shortly disappeared.

"We thought his actions and words very strange," Grover said. "At the time of the attack he was the first one to fall, right amongst the savages, apparently with his death wound, and now he appears without a scratch, telling his version of the affair and disappearing without seeing any of us. We all believed he was not the honest man and friend we took him to be. He took possession of the gold mine in which he held a one-third interest with Sherburn and Tudor, and sold it."

The Leidig Story

Charles Leidig, the first white boy born in Yosemite Valley (1869) and a pioneer resident, gave a hearsay account of the murder of the prospectors to a Park Naturalist in 1933.

According to Leidig, a small party of miners was camped by a large rock on the edge of Bri-



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Charles Leidig at the site of the Leidig Hotel, June 6, 1939.

dalveil Meadow when the group was suddenly set upon by Indians about 3 am. The assault took them by surprise, as they had made friendly contact with the same Indians during the previous day. Two of the prospectors were killed instantly. A third was desperately wounded but managed to flee some distance over the rocks of the terminal moraine to the east before succumbing to his injuries. He was later buried on the top of the moraine facing the river.

The site was identified for years by a pile of rocks. The other two victims were buried in Bridalveil Meadow, their graves marked by a crude wooden sign near the subsequent location of the blue-and-white plaque mentioned earlier in this article. Leidig said he received his information first-hand from a member of the party who escaped. The survivor returned to the Valley some years later and pointed out these places to Leidig.

Maria Lebrado's Interview

Maria Lebrado (Indian name, *Touya*), a granddaughter of Chief Tenieya, was a young girl about ten or twelve when the Mariposa Battalion entered Yosemite in 1851. She left the Valley that same year but remained in Mariposa County for the rest of her life.

In 1928, when she was nearly ninety, Carl Russell questioned



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Maria Lebrado, granddaughter of Tenieya.

her about Tenieya's final days. Her version of the Chief's death differed sharply from Bunnell's account, related earlier in this article. According to Maria, speaking through her daughter's interpretation, no Indians died in Yosemite Valley at the hands of other Indians. Instead, Tenieya and his family went to Mono Lake at the invitation of the Paiutes who lived there. A violent quarrel developed during a gambling game. In the deadly skirmish that followed, five Yosemite Indians were killed by Paiutes. Some Paiutes were also killed.

"The Indian, Tom Hutchings, was present during the fight," Maria told Russell. "He burned the bodies of the Yosemite Indians and brought some of their



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Indian Tom Hutchings who took the family name of early hotel-keeper, James Mason Hutchings.

burned bones back to Yosemite Valley. He told the other Yosemite Indians about what had happened. Tom was half Paiute. Tenieya was one of the five Indians killed.

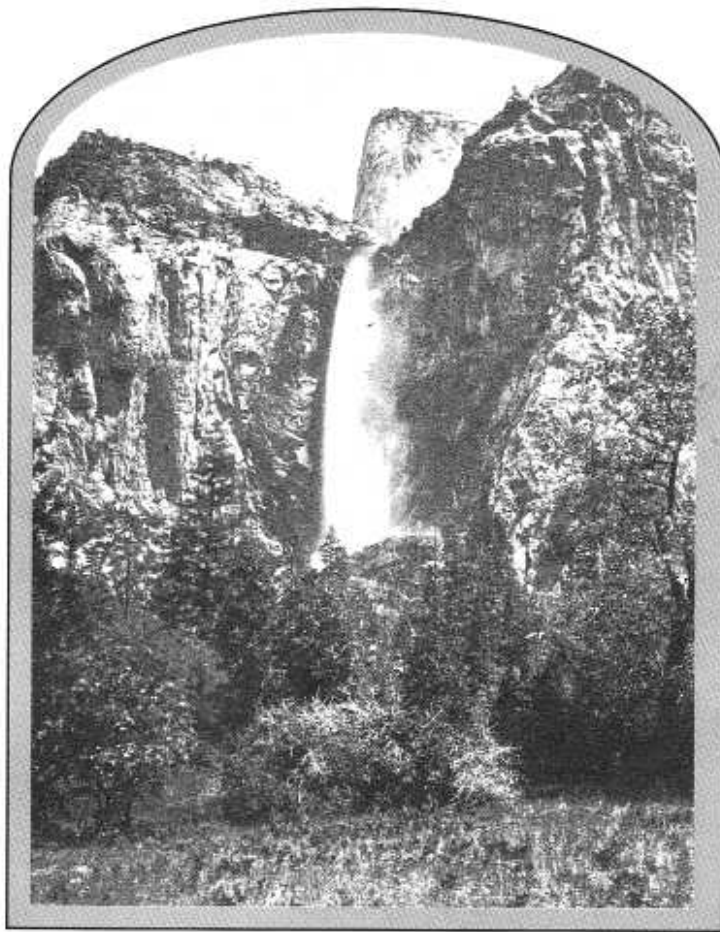
"Hite's Cove mine had just been opened. My half-sister Lucy lived with Mr. Hite and was always known as Lucy Hite. Tom Hutchings took Tenieya's bones to Hite's Cove for burial. On the way, Tom stopped with Yosemite Indians and other Indians who were friendly to the Yosemite at the South Fork, where a big cry was held. This cry lasted two weeks. After the cry, the bones were taken down the South Fork to Hite's Cove. In the month that followed, some white prospectors killed an Indian boy. In retaliation, some Yosemite Indians killed two white men in Yosemite Valley. They killed them with arrows. Very few Yosemite Indians had guns."

Conclusions

So far as I know, that's the sum of information about what went on in Yosemite Valley in the summer of 1852. Several of the reports are clearly in conflict. Others, on close analysis, seem contrary to fact. The problem is what exactly to make of it all.

The Miners' Party: Grover's "Reminiscence" and the contemporary stories in the *Alta California* agree that eight men made up the group from Coarse Gold Gulch, namely, Rose, Grover, Peabody, Babcock, Tudor, Aitch (Grover says "Aitch"), an unnamed Englishman, and Shurborn (Grover says "Sherburn," Bunnell says "Shurbon").

The Dates Involved: Those given in the *Alta California* accounts are most likely correct (left Coarse Gold Gulch on May 20 and returned on June 1 or 2). The Indian attack probably took place on May 26 or 27. Grover's starting date of April 27 is much too early in relation to the first newspaper report, published on June 10. It took about a week for news to be carried



NORRPHOTO

from the hinterlands to the city.

The Route Taken: Grover's description of the route pursued by his party is confusing, to say the least. The Mariposa Grove would have been well out of the way for the group, especially on the return trip. Grover may possibly have mistaken some big trees near Miami Mills for the Mariposa Grove, or he may simply have invented the claim many years later to get credit for discovering the Grove.

Bunnell says that the miners were guided by an outline map prepared by ex-members of the Mariposa Battalion. No one in the Battalion knew of the Big Trees. If Aitch led the posse of miners from Coarse Gold Gulch back to Yosemite over the trail he had just traversed as Grover implies, surely news of the Mariposa Grove would quickly have become a topic of great interest in the nearby mining camps. Bunnell, who knew the area as well as anyone, states that the existence of the Big Trees was not generally known before Galen Clark and Milton Mann explored the Grove in 1857.

Who Buried the Bodies?: The second *Alta California* story

The two men were buried on the edge of the little meadow near the Bridal Veil Fall.

says that the party of men who went back to Yosemite Valley on June 2 buried the two murdered men, Rose and Shurborn. Grover supports this account except that he maintains it was Tudor and Shurborn who were buried. Bunnell, on the other hand, makes no mention at all of the party of vindictive miners. Instead, he quotes Gus Gray, an eyewitness who accompanied Lieutenant Moore's punitive Army expedition into the Valley. Gray told Bunnell that the soldiers found the naked bodies of Rose and Shurborn and "buried them on the edge of the little meadow near the Bridal Veil Fall."

Which version is correct? The answer will doubtless never be known with certainty. It seems reasonably sure, however, that the dead men were Rose and Shurborn, not Tudor and Shurborn. The deceased men were well known to members of both the miners' burial party and Lieutenant Moore's force. So regardless of who buried them, the corpses of Rose and Shurborn

would doubtless have been correctly identified at the time.

What About Tudor?: The first *Alta California* story says that Tudor was one of three miners killed by the Indians. The second article, appearing a week later, reports that only Rose and Shurborn were dead. Joseph Tudor is described as wounded. Bunnell says that Tudor was "seriously wounded, but finally succeeded in making his escape." (Grover, as we know, has Tudor, not Rose as one of the murdered men.) There is no further mention of Tudor's fate in any account, nor does Bunnell explain how Tudor could have traversed 75 rugged miles on foot across the mountains to Coarse Gold Gulch in five days after being "seriously wounded."

Charles Leidig's story offers another possibility. Leidig said he was told that two men were killed by Indians and later buried in Bridalveil Meadow. A third man (Joseph Tudor?), although badly wounded, fled to the rock moraine near Bridalveil Fall before falling dead. It is conceivable that Tudor's remains, lying in the rocks some little distance from Bridalveil Meadow, might have been missed by the burial parties. Tudor's ultimate destiny thus remains an enigma: he may well have escaped to live a full life, or he may very possibly lie in an unmarked grave under the rocks near Bridalveil Fall.

Grover's Romanticized Story: Many elements of Grover's "Reminiscence" do not agree with known facts. In addition to his dubious claim of discovering the Mariposa Grove, Grover presents an obviously embroidered description of being attacked by an immense war party.

Most authorities say, however, that the Yosemite tribe consisted of only about 200 members when the white man first arrived in 1851. Probably two-thirds of these were mothers, children, and old people. By the following spring, after two confrontations with the Mariposa Battalion, the Yosemite had become widely

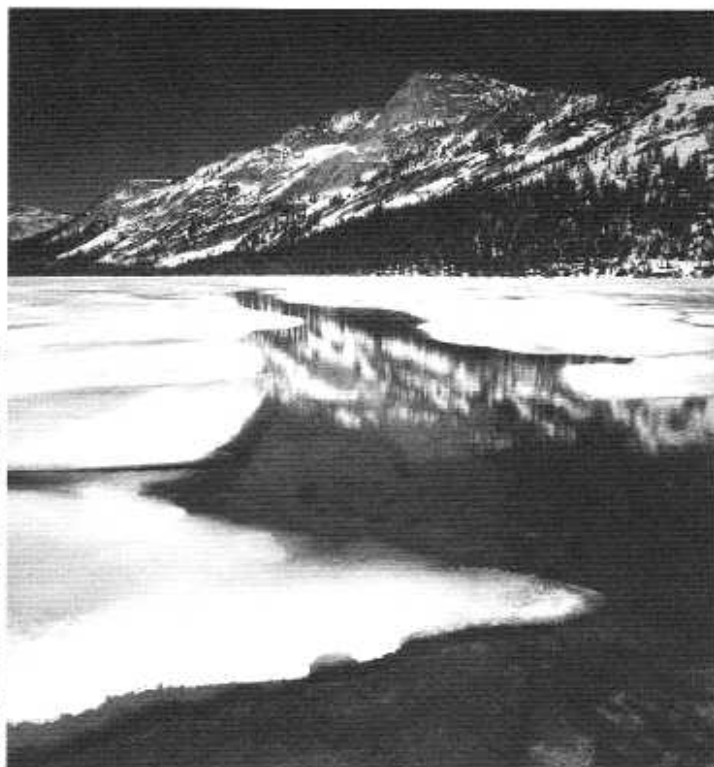
scattered — some families returning to their original tribes, others still on the reservation or hidden in the foothills. At the time the miners were attacked, Tenieya's local following most likely numbered fewer than three dozen Indians in all, with some of these being women, children, and elders.

It therefore seems probable that a small group of renegade Yosemitees carried out the ambush of the miners to steal their possessions. The fact that Lieutenant Moore found five Indians still present in Bridalveil Meadow a month later strongly suggests that these were the only ones involved. It is entirely possible that Tenieya didn't even know about the murders at the time.

Grover's implication that Rose set up the whole affair to do away with his mining partners, Shurborn and Tudor, is an intriguing but entirely implausible proposition. To accept it, one must assume that Rose somehow secretly negotiated a 150-mile round trip through strange and hostile country from Coarse Gold Gulch to Yosemite Valley, then struck a deal with Chief Tenieya to kill Tudor and Shurborn at a later date. Tenieya had already suffered two painful experiences at the hands of the white man's soldiers. He would hardly have conspired with Rose in anything that was sure to provoke a third. Moreover, no account save Grover's mentioned Rose's miraculous survival, an event that would have indeed been news at the time.

So why did Grover, writing some 50 years after the incident, concoct such a quixotic description of the Indian attack? Was it a matter of self-aggrandizement for a man late in life, or was he slyly twitting historians yet to come?

Which leaves us with Maria Lebrado and her story of the murder of the Indian boy, which, she claimed, provoked a retaliatory attack on the miners. Maria's full interview, given to Carl Russell more than 75 years later, is so



STEVEN DZUBICHAN, YOSEMITE PHOTOGRAPHIC SURVEY

fraught with questionable information that it is hard to accept any part of it as absolute.³ Both the newspaper stories and Grover said that one Indian was killed during the assault on the miners. Maria's "Indian boy" might have been an unlucky young man who was shot during the ambush. Surely the prospectors, who were admittedly apprehensive about the Indians, would not have risked inciting them by gratuitously murdering a child.

Where's the Plaque?

There is one last unexplained event in the matter of the Indians and the prospectors that might yet be resolved: Who removed the blue-and-white metal plaque from its appointed rock in Bridalveil Meadow in the late 1950's, and where is it now? If anyone reading this can provide that answer, I'd very much like to hear about it.

Notes and References

1. Three other reports that add nothing to our knowledge of what went on also exist. Elliott's *History of Fresno County* (1881) inexplicably contains two different versions of the incident in the same volume. The first says that a band of Indians attacked three unnamed Frenchmen near Yosemite Valley in August, 1852, killing two. The third escaped. Some pages later, a second account, apparently derived partly from Stephen Grover (see footnote 5), says there were five gold hunters who were set upon by

Late spring at Lake Tenaya, 1991, named after the last of the Ahwahneechee chiefs, Tenieya.

Indians. Two of them named "Sherman and Tudor" were killed, but the others reached safety after a lengthy fight with their attackers. James Hutchings, pioneer Yosemite innkeeper and publicist, reiterates Elliott's second version with minor changes in his 1886 book, *In the Heart of the Sierras*. He credits Elliott for the material.

2. Bunnell's book is our principal source of knowledge about early events in Yosemite history. Bunnell was an observant young private with the Mariposa Battalion during the Indian campaign of 1851. Afterward he remained active in the Yosemite-Mariposa region with various mining, trading, and surveying projects until he returned home to Wisconsin in the fall of 1856. In 1880, "to correct existing errors relative to Yosemite Valley," Bunnell brought out the first of four editions of his magnum opus, *Discovery of the Yosemite*, the last published posthumously in 1911. For further information about Bunnell, see Hank Johnston, *Yosemite's Yesterdays, Volume II*, Flying Spur Press, 1991.

3. In the Yosemite Association edition of Bunnell's *Discovery of the Yosemite*, his original spelling of "Shurborn" has been changed to "Shurborn." The author's earlier editions all used "Shurborn," which very well may be correct.

4. According to Bunnell, Lieutenant Tredwell Moore, an 1847 graduate of West Point, received some severe criticism for his "display of autocratic power in ordering the five Yosemitees shot." Bunnell said that Moore wrote

a letter to the *Mariposa Chronicle* sometime in 1854 in which he described the expedition and attempted to justify his actions. Unfortunately, no copy of that rare issue seems to exist.

5. Stephen Frealon Grover (1830-1907) came to California during the gold rush from his native Maine where he had been engaged in the lumber business. He subsequently joined with his brother Whitney in a lumbering operation in the Santa Cruz mountains near Soquel. He achieved considerable financial success, eventually building a fine house called the Grover Mansion on Walnut Street in Santa Cruz. He also had a street named after him in the same city. Sometime in his later years, Grover wrote out his "Reminiscence," which he left with his daughter, Mrs. A. E. Chandler, likewise a Santa Cruz resident. She sent the manuscript to Galen Clark in Yosemite in 1901. On Clark's death it passed to the Yosemite photographer George Fiske. On Fiske's death the paper was acquired by the National Park Service for safekeeping. In 1926 Carl Russell wrote an article, "Early Years in Yosemite," for the California Historical Society, in which he presented Grover's account of the Indians' attack on the miners. He later printed the manuscript in his book, *One Hundred Years in Yosemite*, first published in April, 1932.

6. Charles Leidig lived in Yosemite from his birth on March 8, 1869, until 1916, when he moved to Hayward in the Bay Area. He spent some years as a guide and scout for the U.S. Cavalry and also served as a Special Forest Agent while the troops were absent in the winter. He was one of two guides assigned to Teddy Roosevelt and John Muir during their historic camping trip in May, 1908. Leidig left Government service in 1907 and became a teamster for the Yosemite Stage & Turnpike Company. From 1916 until retirement he was employed by the Hayward City Park Department. He died in 1956 at the age of 88.

7. The missing plaque gave May 20 as the date of the murders. That was actually the date the party left Coarse Gold Gulch, according to contemporary news stories. Grover said it took about seven days for the prospectors to reach Yosemite Valley, and approximately five or six days for the return trip to Coarse Gold Gulch. The attack therefore must have occurred on May 26 or 27.

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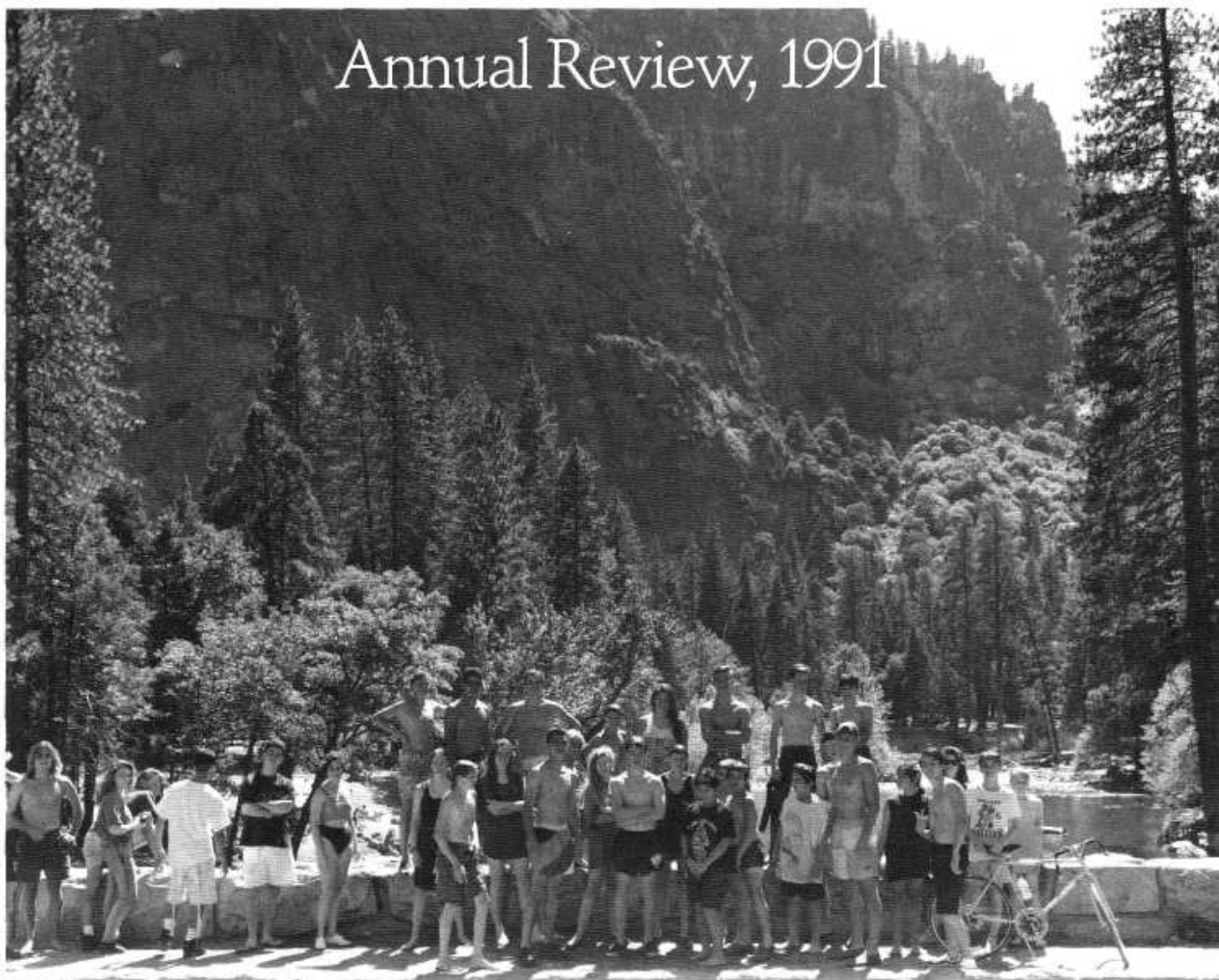
was significant for starting Yosemite's second century as a national park. And while it sponsored no gala events to mark this milestone, the Yosemite Association quietly continued its tradition of over seventy years of service to Yosemite, the National Park Service and the visitor.

The following report demonstrates the health and viability of our varied activities, and gives testament to the strength of our educational program. Thousands of persons were in one way or another affected by our work, thousands of hours of volunteer labor were contributed at the park, and thousands of dollars were donated to the National Park Service in support of its interpretive efforts.

This success is the result of a committed and hard-working staff and board, of a steadfast and generous membership, of a cooperative National Park Service staff, and of scores of individuals and businesses who have contributed in impressive ways. The Yosemite Association is built upon this foundation of support which could not be stronger.

Once again we extend our thanks to our friends, members, and supporters who have given our organization such vigor, and who have made working to benefit Yosemite so enjoyable.

Annual Review, 1991





BRIAN GROCAN, YOSEMITE PHOTOGRAPHIC SURVEY

YA '91

Park Highlights

January

The Yosemite Park & Curry Co., Yosemite's main concession operation, was sold by Matsushita Corporation of Japan to the National Park Foundation. The sale will take effect in 1993.

February

Chief Ranger Roger Rudolph was transferred to Olympic National Park as Assistant Superintendent, and Chief of Concessions, Wayne Schulz, retired from the NPS.

Between February 28 and March 5 a major storm dropped almost 8 inches of rain on Yosemite, bringing much-needed relief from the drought.

March

A 40-ton boulder closed the Big Oak Flat Road from Crane Flat to the road's intersection with Highway 140.

April

Ticketron ceased operation and was later replaced by Mistix as the company handling campground reservations in Yosemite National Park.

May

The Tioga Road first opened on May 23, closed again due to road surface problems, then reopened on May 26.

On May 26 (Memorial Day weekend) the Traffic Management Plan (turning away cars without lodging or camping reservations from Yosemite Valley) was implemented for two hours.

July

A congressional oversight hearing on park transportation and housing was held at the Marriott Hotel in Fish Camp.

Seven members of an environmental activist group known as "Sierra Green" attempted to block construction of new park housing being built at Hodgdon Meadow.

August

Secretary of the Interior Manuel Lujan visited Yosemite.

Attorney Melvin Belli initiated 21 tort claims against the NPS arising from the Foresta fire of 1990.

September

Mark Wellman and Mike Corbett climbed Half Dome to benefit the Boy Scouts.

The new Hetch Hetchy Campground was dedicated.

October

The Centennial time capsule was buried on the Yosemite Village pedestrian mall, marking an end to the previous year's Centennial Celebration.

November

Tioga Road was closed for the season on the 18th.

Campgrounds, tents and other housing units were evacuated for 15 hours when Yosemite Valley experienced 40 mile per hour winds.



YA '91

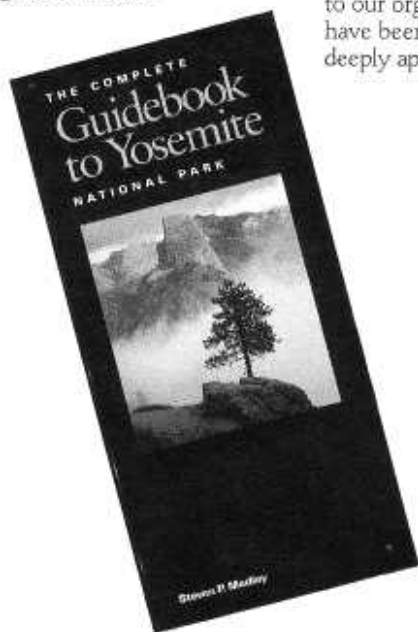
Board of Trustees

The board of YA experienced one change in 1991 when long-time board member Carlo Fowler was unseated in the annual election by Kathleen Orr. The other incumbent, David Robertson, was re-elected.

Kathleen Orr has long been involved in Yosemite, most recently as a YA volunteer in both the membership booth and the museum. She has visited the park every year since 1934, and considers Yosemite a very special place. She is a retired elementary school teacher, a former bookstore owner, and the mother of four grown children.

Mr. Robertson will begin his second term as a trustee. He has participated in a number of YA projects and activities, notably serving as Chair of the Grants and Aid Committee and as a member of the Publications Committee. He was also elected Vice-Chair of the full board. Robertson is the author of two Association publications: *West of Eden* and *Yosemite As We Saw It*. He has a strong interest in and concern about Yosemite's future.

Carlo Fowler performed ably as a board member for eleven years. He was closely involved in the rapid growth of the Association, and participated in the development of the fundraising program which later became the Yosemite Fund. His contributions to our organization and Yosemite have been substantial and are deeply appreciated.



YA '91

Sales and Publications

YA's success with its publications program continued through 1991. Our gross sales grew to over \$1,568,000 — the highest figure ever. Keys to this growth were new wholesale markets and better distribution of YA publications outside the park.

It was a banner year for new products. Included among them were the reprint of Lafayette Bunnell's *Discovery of the Yosemite*, *The Complete Guidebook to Yosemite National Park* by Y.A.'s own Steven P. Medley, the long-awaited *Tradition & Innovation - A History of the Indians of the Yosemite-Mono Lake Area*, a pair of plastic *Sierra Nevada Field Cards* illustrating the most common birds and mammals of the area, *The Map and Guide to Wawona and the Mariposa Grove* produced in conjunction with Rufus Graphics of San Francisco, and a set of full color note cards featuring images of Indian baskets from the Yosemite Museum collection.

The guidebook proved its popularity almost immediately with sales of over 10,000 copies within the first seven months of its release. It continues to sell well. Reviews of *Tradition & Innovation* have been excellent, and nearly three-quarters of the first run of 2,000 books are gone. A reprint is contemplated. And the new map and guide to the Wawona area

has long been needed and should prove very useful to visitors to the south end of the park.

With our high level of sales, we kept a very busy reprint schedule. Eighteen different titles were reprinted, pointing out the long-term popularity and staying power of the books we publish. *The Map and Guide to Yosemite Valley* just went to a third printing — over 45,000 copies have now been sold.

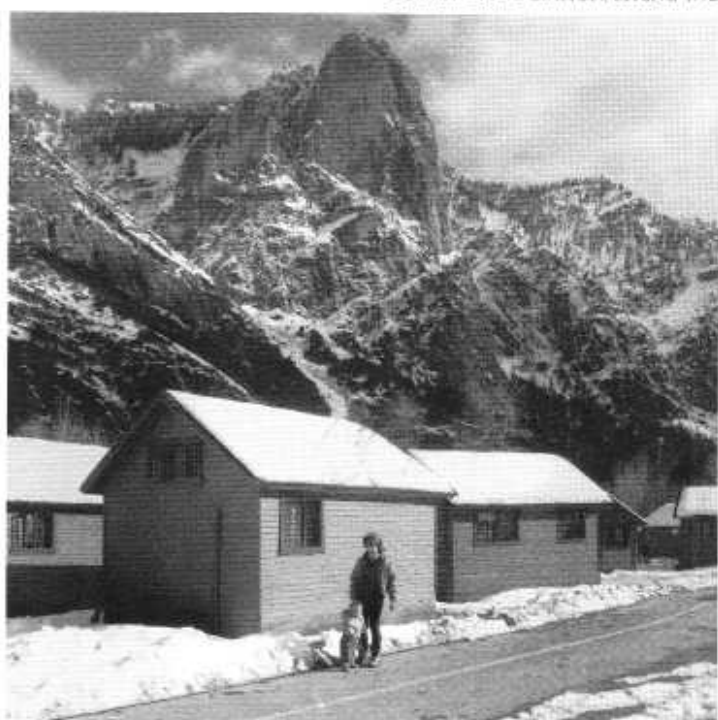
At the park, our sales outlets continued strong. Notable increases were made at Happy Isles Nature Center (up 82%), and at the Museum Shop (up 142%). We also opened a cooperative visitor information center and sales outlet at Briceburg (on Highway 140 just outside the park) in conjunction with the Bureau of Land Management. Sales at the Valley Visitor Center exceeded \$800,000 for the first time. Wholesale orders grew 25% to almost \$350,000 (also an all-time high).

Our book rack program has prospered. We now maintain almost 50 racks of YA publications in various stores, restaurants, motels and other establishments on the different entry routes to the park.

YA personnel also represented the organization at trade exhibits throughout the year including the Northern California Bookseller's Association Convention in Oakland and the San Francisco Bay Area Book Festival.



STEVEN DZERCIAN, YOSEMITE PHOTOGRAPHIC SURVEY



ROBERT DAWSON, YOSEMITE PHOTOGRAPHIC SURVEY

YA '91

Membership

1991 was a busy, productive year for the Yosemite Association's membership program. Membership totals hit the 6,000 mark with over 700 new members joining as a result of the summer volunteer booths located both in Yosemite Valley and Tuolumne Meadows. These booths give out an abundance of general park information to visitors, in addition to membership materials. In the Valley, these folks also staff the park's Museum Gallery, enabling it to be open to the public — over 120,000 people viewed the exhibit there last year. In Tuolumne, the volunteers also host the seminar campground. Last year, thirty faithful Y.A. members volunteered approximately 3,700 hours of work as part of this program.

The YA summer Work Trips are another popular way that members provide much needed labor for Yosemite. Underwritten by the Yosemite Park & Curry Co. and conducted in cooperation with the Yosemite Institute and the National Park Service, three week-long trips took place in 1991. Forty-five members generously gave about 1,400 hours of their hard work as crews for numerous revegetation projects in both the Valley and Tuolumne Meadows.

There were three very successful member events in 1991. Close to 500 people attended the Spring Forum held in the Valley on March 23rd and listened to talks on the infamous A-Rock and Steamboat fires of 1990, the possibilities of a park-wide light rail system, and the distressing decline in Yosemite's songbirds, among many other topics. In September in Tuolumne Meadows, approximately 350 members turned out for a beautiful fall weekend in the high country and the Sixteenth Annual Members' Meeting. Wilderness traveler and writer, Peter Browning (*Yosemite Place Names*, *John Muir In His Own Words*) addressed the group and signed books.

Finally, in October, about 200 YA members, staff and board gathered at the Filoli estate in Woodside for the first Northern California members event. They enjoyed tours of the beautifully landscaped gardens, a picnic lunch, and a talk by Martin Rosen of the Trust for Public Land. This event came at the request of the YA Board for meetings to be held each year outside of the park. A southern California Y.A. member gathering is in the planning stage for fall of 1992.

YA '91

Seminars

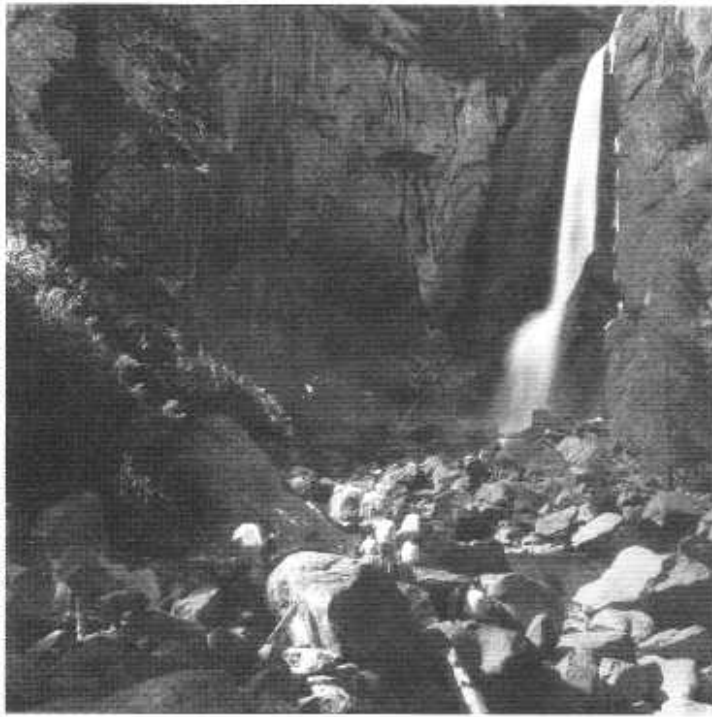
983 people enrolled in YA field seminars during 1991. With the assistance of qualified instructors, they investigated a range of diverse topics within the natural, outdoor classroom we know as Yosemite. Subjects offered included botany, birding, geology, human history, astronomy, nature photography and art. Participants strolled, hiked, backpacked, skied and snowshoed throughout the park to appropriate study areas. The four seasons allowed class attendees to enjoy such natural phenomena as snow crystals, lush spring flowers, starry night skies, and the rich color of fall vegetation.

Several new courses were offered in 1991 — the 13-day *Plant Diversity Study Backpack* taught by Steve Botti, *The Life of the Tuolumne River* taught by Aldaron Laird, William Trush and Eric Larson, and *Trees of Yosemite* taught by Jim Paruk.

The on-going drought continued to affect the Sierra, so YA courses were planned for areas near lakes and rivers. *Autumn Rambles in the High Country*, scheduled for October, ran right into the fall season's first big snowfall. Unfortunately, the course had to be cancelled because no one could drive to the scheduled meeting place on the east side of the Sierra! Changes were made to the *Literary Naturalist Workshop* (different location and class content), and it proved to be a great success. Backpack trips filled to capacity, and beginner birding students flocked to courses!

The country's recession affected seminar attendance, but overall, the program was healthy. Both returning and new students took part in classes — from learning how to make Miwok soaproot brushes to keying out some of the composite flowers found in the park. The goals of the seminar program (to provide high quality, in-depth interpretation and to serve as an extension of the park's education program) were met in 1991, and in meeting those goals, YA benefited the public and the park.

STEVEN DZERUCIAN, YOSEMITE PHOTOGRAPHIC SURVEY



ROBERT DAWSON, YOSEMITE PHOTOGRAPHIC SURVEY



YA '91

Other Programs

Art Activity Center. Free, informal, outdoor classes in painting, photography and sketching were offered daily most of the year under the joint sponsorship of the National Park Service, Yosemite Park and Curry Co., and the Yosemite Association at the Art Activity Center in Yosemite Valley. These classes started in 1980 and have drawn artists from all over the U.S. Participants have come from every corner of the world.

High Sierra Loop Trips. This year the loop trips not only provided added services to the park visitor, but were used for training new interpreters in the Mather District. Giving the participants an in-depth "educational" experience in the backcountry has, it is hoped, increased awareness of park values. Trips this year were coordinated by Ginger Burley (NPS), and Claire Haley (YA).

Yosemite Theater Program. Every year the theater program changes to include new and innovative shows. This year Connie Stetson joined the troupe with her stage show, *Sarah Hawkins Contemplates a Fourth Marriage: The Diary of a Pioneer Woman*. Also, Jo Diotelevi came from Hawaii with her magical puppets to spread the recycling message. Tom Bopp sang and played *Vintage Songs of Yosemite* from the yesteryears of Camp Curry. Gail Lynne Dreifus added a new di-

mension to her music with Annie Boucher and Kristin Ramsey in *Home Planet Hootenanny*; Lee Stetson captured the park's special significance through the persona of John Muir in his two shows, *Conversations With a Tramp* and *The Spirit of John Muir*. The theater also had veteran Bob Roney narrating his two shows, *Black Bears, Big Horn Sheep and Peregrine Falcons* and *Yosemite and the High Sierra*.

Film Assistance Program. Yosemite Association assisted with a variety of film projects in 1991 including a Japanese children's television program, a music video, and documentary and commercial work. Filmmakers pay fees to YA for location scouting and photography in advance of actual filming, for models, for on-site project assistants, and for other related services. One donation of \$500 was received in addition to the fees paid for assistance rendered.

Special Trips. The number of requests for special trips continues to grow. Most are for a single guided hike or presentation for a small private group. At least two groups used several leaders for all-day programs; YA also provided a guide for a bus tour of Yosemite Valley for French-speaking visitors. Some school groups have begun to call on us for children's walks. YA is paid a fee for providing the various natural history instructors; in addition, some groups have made donations.

YA '91

Contributions to the NPS and BLM

With its net revenues, YA benefits a wide variety of endeavors, but primarily donates funds to the National Park Service for its educational, research and environmental programs. With the opening of the new Briceburg Information Center outside the park, YA also made contributions in 1991 to its partner in that venture — the Bureau of Land Management.

During the year direct aid to the National Park Service totalled \$266,151, and an additional \$32,833 was made available to independent scientists and researchers. The Park Service donations grew by 8% over 1990 to their highest level ever. Direct aid to the Bureau of Land Management was \$6,771.

Contributions by category:

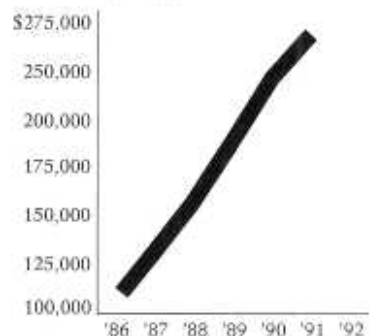
Interpretive Programs	\$52,794
Museum	36,545
Free Publications	12,806
Interns	43,665
Research Library	4,618
Audio-Visual Equipment	1,008
Research & Archeology	6,569
Resource Projects	220
Information Assistance	35,290
Administration Support	30,433
Miscellaneous	2,203
Total for 1991	\$266,151

YA '91

Research Grant Program

Expenditures for grants to independent researchers were made in the amount of \$32,833 during 1991. A variety of projects were undertaken with the money including age-dating of a Sierra Nevada meadow, the Yosemite Photographic Survey, an effort to control exotic bull thistle in Yosemite Valley, a study of Indian burning practices, and a population status survey of the Yosemite Toad. It was the fourth successful year for the Research Grant Program which is ongoing.

Direct Aid to NPS from YA 1986-1991



Statement of Activity, 1991

Support and Revenues

	<i>Operating Fund</i>	<i>Restricted Funds</i>	<i>Plant Fund</i>	<i>Total</i>
Publication Sales	\$1,568,131			\$1,568,131
Seminars	102,193			102,193
Membership	189,878			189,878
Gifts		126,952		126,952
Investment Income	18,246			18,246
Theater	98,851			98,851
Auxiliary Activities	136,200	63,482		199,682
Film Program	3,570			3,570
Total Revenues	\$2,117,069	\$190,434		\$2,307,503

Expenses

Support Services:

Management & General	277,213		10,699	287,912
Membership	108,653		1,130	109,783

Cost of Sales & Auxiliary Activities:

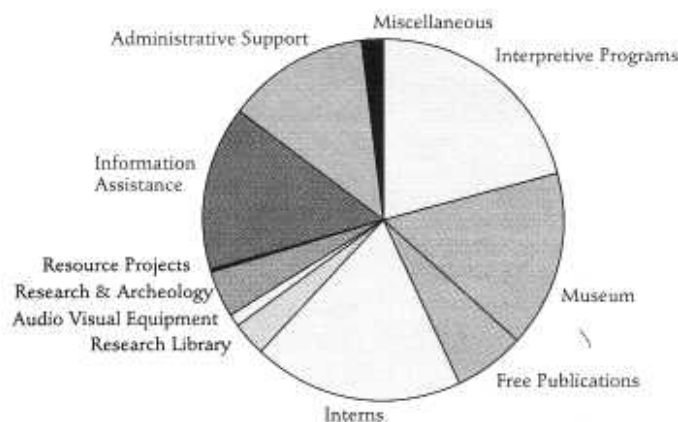
Publication Costs	1,116,997		11,208	1,128,205
Seminars	83,930		441	84,371
Theater	80,427		122	80,549
Auxiliary Activities	108,869		315	109,184
Film Program	1,938			1,938

Total Expenses	\$1,778,027		\$23,915	\$1,801,942
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Excess of Revenues Over Expenses	\$ 339,042	\$190,434	(\$23,915)	\$ 505,561
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1991 Donations to NPS:

\$266,151



Balance Sheet, 1991



For year ending December 31, 1991

	<i>Operating Fund</i>	<i>Restricted Funds</i>	<i>Plant Fund</i>	<i>Total</i>
Cash	\$200,818	\$106,684		\$307,502
Accounts Receivable	46,348			46,348
Prepaid Expense	7,110			7,110
Inventories at Cost	576,088	5,605		581,693
Equipment			169,562	169,562
Accumulated Depreciation			(77,467)	(77,467)
Total Assets	\$830,364	\$112,289	\$ 92,095	\$1,034,748
Liabilities				
Accounts Payable	\$66,908			\$66,908
Loan Payable	2,000			2,000
Accrued Taxes	5,732			5,732
Vacation Payable	20,182			20,182
Deferred Restricted Gifts		112,289		112,289
Royalty Payable	8,226			8,226
Total Liabilities	\$103,048	\$112,289		\$215,337
Fund Balances				
Invested in Equipment			\$92,095	\$92,095
Unappropriated	\$727,316			727,316
Total Fund Balances	\$727,316		\$92,095	\$819,411
Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	\$830,364	\$112,289	\$92,095	\$1,034,748

Board of Trustees

Lennie Roberts, *Chairman*
 William Alsup
 Beverly Barrick
 Barbara DeWitt
 Carlo S Fowler
 Edward C Hardy
 Richard Reitmauer
 David Robertson
 Anne Schneider
 Thomas J Shephard
 Jean Watt
 Phyllis Weber
 Daniel Wolfus
 Leonard W McKenzie, *NPS Representative*
 Michael V Finley, *NPS Representative*
 Jeffery C Lapham, *Ex officio*
 Elvira Nishkian, *Ex officio*
 Richard C. Otter, *Ex officio*

Concession Plan Update

The Concessions Services Plan (CSP) for Yosemite is moving toward a final version following a series of public hearings on the plan's first draft and the submission of some 4,000 letters commenting on its substance. Hearings were held in Fresno, San Francisco, and Yosemite Valley at the end of January. Comments on the draft plan were accepted through February 28.

There was far from universal acceptance of the plan's proposals at the three hearings. Controversy surrounded the plan's call to remove the Yosemite Valley ice rink, to increase park restaurant services, and to build year-round motel units to replace tent cabins. Other criticisms of the plan were that it failed to include related transportation and housing studies, and that it did not address the issue of limiting visitation.

There have also been subsequent allegations that the CSP violates federal guidelines under the National Environmental Policy Act for environmental review. These charges, leveled by the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund, have been denied by National Park Service officials. "It is our opinion that the plan complies with NEPA," said Acting Park Superintendent Kevin Cann.

National Park Service personnel working on the plan have been analyzing both written comments and those from the public hearings and making changes to the CSP accordingly. At the end of March, Western Region Concessions Specialist Steve Crabtree reported that he was headed for Washington, D.C. with several pages of proposed amendments to the plan for the consideration of the NPS Director. A revised, "final" draft of the Concessions Services Plan is expected sometime in June.

In the meantime, approximately 80 firms have written to the NPS expressing their interest in the next concessions contract at Yosemite. Those companies have been asked to submit "Phase One" bids to the Park

Service by June 8th. The bids will essentially set forth the qualifications of each bidder to operate a concession of this size, detailing the experience of a management team, etc. Within two to three weeks after that, the NPS will select those firms it has determined to be eligible for "Phase Two" when the actual details and monetary figures of the bid will be covered.

While the bidding process gets underway, there continue to be questions asked about the economic feasibility of the concession operation in light of the major debt that will be assumed by the next concessioner and of the expectations of the NPS for sizable contributions by the concessioner to capital improvement accounts to help implement the General Management Plan.

With the release of the final Concessions Services Plan and a narrowing of the pool of potential concession bidders, many of these uncertainties will be resolved. One thing is certain at this time, however: Decisions reached through this process will have critical, long-lasting impact on Yosemite National Park. Both the level of concession operation and the entity selected to run it will influence greatly the park experience that visitors will have and the health of the very resources which attract those visitors.

Sightings of Mountain Lions Increasing

Gene Rose

Sightings of mountain lions are becoming more frequent in Yosemite National Park, the National Park Service said, confirming that three adult lions were seen at the end of March near the Big Oak Flat entrance station.

In addition to those sightings, two more lions were seen earlier in the month in the Wawona section of the park. On March 2, a park ranger saw an adult mountain lion watching a resident who was barbecuing steaks, unaware of the lion's presence.

Steve Thompson, a Yosemite wildlife biologist, said the park service is getting more reports of mountain lion activity within the park.

While no one has been attacked or stalked, he said the mountain lion population appears to be increasing.

"We are evaluating the situation; we are discussing mountain lions attacking people . . . but what we need to remember is that the mountain lion is not the villain," he said.

Wawona Ranger Pat Hattaway said there have been several other lion incidents over the past two years in the southern section of Yosemite.

During the 1990 A-rock fire, a

fire crew spotted a mother lion and two cubs on the Glacier Point Road. Another sighting of a lone adult was made in the same area last year.

In another incident, a lion strolled through the busy Wawona campground last summer, apparently unconcerned about the visitors who trailed behind, taking pictures. Also last year, a mountain lion killed a coyote near the south entrance station while two foreign visitors watched, Hattaway said.

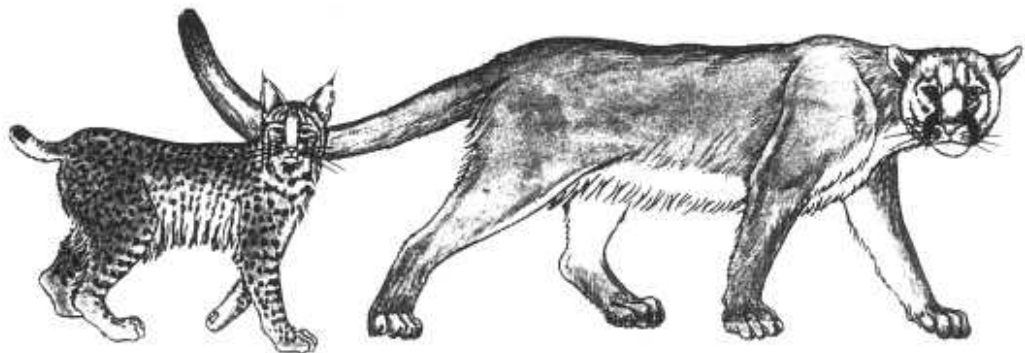
Bob Brueggeman, wildlife biologist with the California Department of Fish and Game, said that since 1986 there have been four mountain lion attacks on humans in the state, with one fatality.

The movement of people into the foothills and other mountain lion habitat also has increased the number of attacks on household pets and farm animals.

Mountain lions are tawny-colored cats that can grow up to 5 feet long with a 30-inch tail and weigh up to 165 pounds.

Much of the increase in the mountain lion population is attributed to bans and moratoriums on hunting in many western states. In 1990 California voters approved Proposition 117, which bans mountain lion hunting.

Gene Rose has long reported on Yosemite for the Fresno Bee. This article originally appeared in that paper and is reprinted with permission of the author.



YA Honored with 9 Publishing Awards



At the recent National Park Service Cooperating Association Publications Competition banquet in San Antonio, the Yosemite Association was the big winner with a total of nine awards including the highest



honor, the Director's Award, for *The Complete Guidebook to Yosemite National Park*. Recognized with First Place prizes were *Tradition & Innovation - A Basket History of the Indians of the Yosemite-Mono Lake Area* (Scholarly Book category), *The Map & Guide to Yosemite Valley* (Joint Venture category), and *The Complete Guidebook* (General Park Guide category).

Winning Honorable Mention Awards were *Yosemite: A Journal for Members of the Yosemite Association*, *A Catalog of Publications from the Yosemite Association*, *Sierra Nevada Field Cards*, *the Yosemite Field Seminars Catalog*, and *Yosemite: A Landscape of Life*. Of the ten entries submitted by YA, eight received prizes.

After the judges decided on winners in 16 different categories from among 150 entries, they chose one outstanding publica-



JILLIAN CURCIANO, YOSEMITE PHOTOGRAPHIC SURVEY

tion for the Director's Award. The judges believed that *The Complete Guidebook to Yosemite National Park* demonstrated overall excellence in writing, design and production. The book was written by Y.A. President Steve Medley, designed by Jon Goodchild of the San Rafael Design Group, edited by Mary Vocelka,

and printed by Overseas Printing of San Francisco.

Judges for the competition included Howard Paine, former Art Director, National Geographic Magazine, Frances Smyth, Editor-in-Chief, National Gallery of Art, John Michael, printer and typographer, Acorn Press, Dr. David Sparks, University of Maryland, John Burwell, professional photographer, and Bill Perry, freelance writer/naturalist.

Association Dates

July 5-11, 1992: Member Work Trip, Yosemite Valley

July 19-25, 1992: Member Work Trip, Yosemite Valley

August 2-8, 1992: Member Work Trip, Yosemite Valley

August 23-29, 1992: Member Work Trip, Tuolumne Meadows

September 12, 1992: Annual Meeting, Wawona

March 27, 1993: Spring Forum, Yosemite Valley

Take a Yosemite Seminar!

Do you still have the seminar catalog mailed in December? Remember, it's the only one you'll get this year. Give us a call and let us sign you up for one of these:

Geology of Yosemite Valley, July 1-12; *The Life of the Tuolumne River*, August 21-23; *Mountain Wildflowers for the Relaxed Botanist*, July 13-17; *Starry Skies Over Yosemite*, July 19-23; *Return of the Bighorn Sheep*, August 7-9; *Teaching About California Indians*, July 16-19; *Miwok Indians as Ancient Cultivators*, August 16-18.

Backpack trips still open: *Beginning Backpack for Women*, July 3-5; *Yosemite Creek Backpack*, June 19-21; *Yosemite Valley North Rim Backpack*, June 11-15; *The Tuolumne Meadows Family Camp* is scheduled for August 14-16, and includes meals and campsite.

Photography and art courses: *Photographing Tuolumne Wildflowers*, July 25-26; *Finding & Photographing Wildlife*, June 6-8; *Yosemite By Watercolor*, July 16-20; *Literary Naturalist Workshop*, August 3-6.

If you don't have your catalog, give us a call at 209/379-2321, and we'll mail you another.

Yosemite Needs Our Help!

YA Member Work Trips will provide much-needed crews this summer for NPS revegetation projects in the park. Work trip participants camp together in special sites, have their meals provided, and have good times while restoring Yosemite's natural beauty. There are some openings in the Valley trips: July 5-11 and August 2-8. Call Holly for more information, 209-379-2317.

Correction

A photograph which accompanied the article about gifts to the Yosemite Museum in the summer issue of *Yosemite* was improperly credited. The photograph of Donald Stillman donating his father's baskets was taken by Virginia Adams Stillman. We regret the error and any confusion it may have caused.

209-379-2317

If you're planning a trip to Yosemite and have questions, give our Members' phone line a call between the hours of 9:00 am and 4:30 pm Monday through Friday. We don't make reservations, but we can give the appropriate phone numbers and usually lots of helpful advice.

New Backcountry Group Limits

In an effort to improve the wilderness experience in areas of the Central and Southern Sierra Nevada Mountain Range in California, the U.S. Forest Service and the National Park Service announced new group and stock limits for wilderness areas in the Inyo, Sequoia, Sierra, Toiyabe, and Stanislaus National Forests, and Sequoia/Kings Canyon and Yosemite National Parks. The new limits culminate a two year study of appropriate party size and stock use within the 16 wilderness areas administered by these agencies.

Effective January 1, 1992, a standardized maximum group size of 15 people/25 head of stock was instituted in these wilderness areas. This has been done to improve social conditions, provide consistency in administration of wilderness areas by different agencies, and to allow users to be able to plan a multi-area wilderness trip under this policy. In the past, the maximum group size allowed on different forests and parks ranged from eight to 25 people, and created confusion when the group crossed a forest and/or park boundary. The group sizes are the numbers preferred by the

majority of those using these wilderness areas.

As of January 1, 1992, the Forests and Parks have designated a maximum group size of 15 people, limited the use of campsites to a maximum of 15 people, and designated a maximum number of pack and saddle stock of 25 head per party. Areas without trails in Yosemite and the Sawtooth Ridge Area will not be affected by this change.

The 1992 season will be a "phase-in" period, allowing users the opportunity to adjust plans, procedures, or client bookings to meet the new size limitations. New maximum party size limits will be waived up to pre-existing levels if required, however, it is hoped that groups will attempt to comply with the new party size this year. In 1993, exceptions to the 15 people/25 stock limit will be granted for special circumstances involving public purpose only by the respective Forest Supervisor or Park Superintendent.

For assistance in coordinating the new limits in respect to trip planning, please contact your nearby National Forest or National Park headquarters.

The First Yosemite Fund Award

Albert Gordon was recognized as the first recipient of The Yosemite Fund Award in a ceremony on Saturday, March 7 for his unequalled generosity in sharing his knowledge of Yosemite history with others and for his efforts to preserve the historical record of Wawona.

Gordon has worked with the historical society to free Wawona's pioneer cemetery of obtrusive concrete slabs, and he fought successfully to keep the historic rail fence and apple trees



NPS PHOTO

his daily mail run from Wawona to Yosemite Valley, Gordon's time belongs to anyone who needs his help and knowledge of the park.

The Yosemite Fund Council of Directors presents the first Yosemite Fund Award to Albert Gordon for his generosity of spirit and abiding love for his community and Yosemite. They recognize Al Gordon as an unsung keeper of Yosemite's cultural heritage.

The Mystery

Continued from page 6

8. Maria Lebrado was one of the 72 Indians captured along the trail by the Mariposa Battalion on March 27, 1851, during the volunteers' first invasion of Yosemite Valley. She later married a fellow Yosemite Indian by whom she had a daughter and four sons. After her husband's early death, Maria settled at Hite's Cove, about ten miles southwest of Yosemite Valley, where others of her people lived. She later married Lebrado Yderte, a Mexican miner who worked for John Hite. The couple had four daughters. She and Yderte homesteaded acreage and built a small cabin near Bear Creek northeast of Mariposa where Maria resided for the rest of her long life.

In 1928 she gave Carl Russell the interview that appears in this text. Some historical writers have seized upon her story as proof that Tenieya was not killed in Yosemite Valley in retaliation for horse stealing by his braves as Bunnell describes. There are, however, several reasons to be skeptical about Maria's account. For one thing, she says that Tenieya was killed some months before the attack on the miners in May, 1852. All other reports agree that the Chief was not murdered until the late summer or fall of 1853.

In addition, she says that Indian Tom Hutchings told the other Yosemite Indians about Tenieya's death at Mono Lake after a gambling quarrel, which he witnessed. Tom then burned the bodies of the five dead Yosemite Indians and carried their remains back to the South Fork where a great two-week "cry" was held. If true, this would have meant that Indian Tom crossed the Sierra on foot near the dead of winter — a practical impossibility. Moreover, one cannot help wonder-

Continued on page 19



PHILIP SCHOLTZ, RITTERMAN, YOSEMITE PHOTOGRAPHIC SURVEY

planted by the Washburn family. He is not only helping to preserve Yosemite's history, but is an important part of it.

He was born in Wawona on April 26, 1918. As a young boy, Gordon patrolled the Washburn Ditch to break up ice and clear debris from the channel which ran from Stella Lake to a power house, producing Wawona's electricity. In winter he helped cut ice at Stella Lake for cold storage. Gordon shucked corn for the Wawona Hotel, drove the local milk run, fired the hotel's boiler, ran the Shell Station at Wawona, worked on the Blister Rust program and was a crew boss for construction of the Yosemite Lodge. He was a volunteer fireman and chief for 14 years and president of the Water Association for two years. Today, after

Yosemite

T A L O G



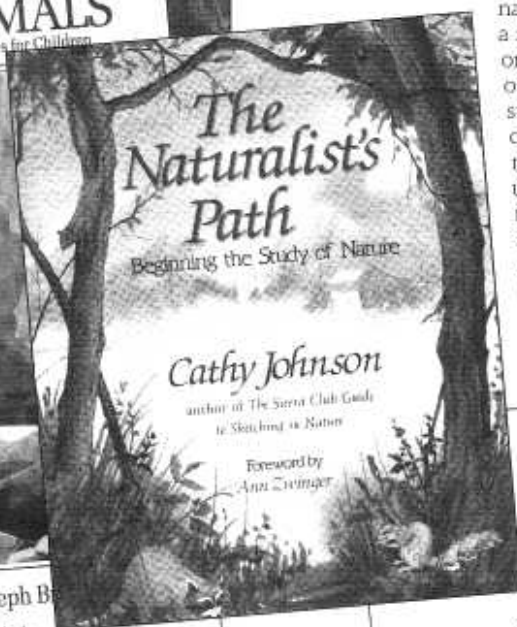
CALIFORNIA'S
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 A VISITOR'S GUIDE



KEEPERS OF THE ANIMALS
 Native American Stories and Wildlife Activities for Children



Michael J. Caduto and Joseph Bruchac
 Foreword by Vine Deloria, Jr.
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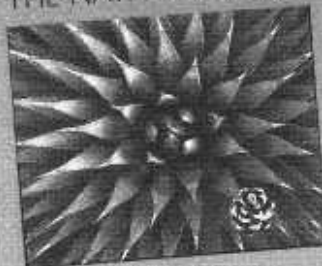
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The Mystery

Continued from page 10

ing why Indian Tom, who later became an employee and devoted member of the James Hutchings family (he even took the family name), never mentioned this important event to his close friend Hutchings (Hutchings gave Bunnell's version of Teneya's death in his 1886 book, *In the Heart of the Sierras*).

The most obvious incongruity, however, is Maria's description of Hite's Cove: "Hite's Cove mine had just been opened. My half-sister Lucy lived with Mr. Hite and was always known as Lucy Hite. Tom Hutchings took Teneya's bones to Hite's Cove for burial! Lucy Hite, who was a child about Maria's age at the time, didn't take up with John Hite until at least a decade later. It is a matter of record that Hite found his gold mine in 1862, long after the events Maria is describing occurred.

Since Bunnell was living in the lower Merced Canyon when Teneya was killed and based his account on reports from the Yosemite Indians fleeing from the massacre, his story is more likely correct. There seems to be no reason to suppose that either Bunnell or the Indians would invent a shameful end for Teneya. Perhaps the old Chief and his band were driven from Mono Lake after a fight over a gambling game, then stole the horses out of anger rather than greed and were subsequently massacred as Bunnell says.

Hank Johnston, a 20-year resident of Yosemite, is the author of 13 books on California history. His most recent works are Yosemite's Yesterdays and Yosemite's Yesterdays, Volume II.



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A critical element in the success of the Association is its membership. Individuals and families throughout the country have long supported the Yosemite Association through their personal commitments. Won't you join us in our

effort to make Yosemite an even better place?

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✧ The opportunity to participate in the annual Members' Meeting held in the park each fall, along with other Association activities;

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