

# Yosemite

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## Discovery of the Yosemite



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# DISCOVERY OF THE YOSEMITE: A RETROSPECTIVE

BY HANK JOHNSTON

For well over a century now, the identity of the first non-Indians to view the incomparable domes, cliffs, and waterfalls of Yosemite Valley has been a matter of historical conjecture. Author Irene Paden, writing in *The Big Oak Flat Road to Yosemite* in 1959, called it "one of the open questions that add spice to the study of Yosemite."<sup>1</sup>

So far as we know, the earliest possible sighting occurred in the fall of 1833 when Joseph Rutherford Walker (1798-1876)<sup>2</sup> and his party of some sixty hunters and trappers passed along the old Mono Trail north of the great gorge of the Valley while engaged in the first east-to-west crossing of the mighty Sierra. Walker's orders from his superior, Captain B.L.E. Bonneville, U.S.A., were to "steer through an unknown country, towards the Pacific" in quest of beaver furs and geographical information.

While there is little doubt that Walker and his followers were the first white men entitled to say that their eyes had looked in awe upon the extraordinary Yosemite back-country, whether scouts along the flanks actually detoured close enough to the Valley to see any of its features, except perhaps Half Dome and the tops of surrounding peaks, remains uncertain.

The conclusion by some historians that members of Walker's group looked down upon the Valley is based on a single paragraph written by Zenas Leonard, clerk of the expedition, whose journal of the trip was published in five installments by his local newspaper in Clearfield County, Pennsylvania, during 1835-36. Leonard wrote:

*We traveled a few miles every day, still on the top of the mountain, and our course continually obstructed with snow hills and rocks. Here we began to encounter in our path many small streams which would shoot out from under these high snow-banks, and after running a short distance in deep chasms which they have through the ages cut in rocks, precipitate themselves from one lofty precipice to another, until they are exhausted in rain below. Some of the precipices appeared to us to be more than a mile high.<sup>3</sup>*

Although it is hard to believe that anyone viewing the breathtaking panorama of Yosemite Valley for the first time—no matter how hungry or fatigued—would give such an inadequate description of the scenery, Leonard's words have nonetheless persuaded a number of observers to accept that proposition over the years. Author Margaret

Sanborn, in her 1981 book about Yosemite, extrapolated this fictional version of the event:

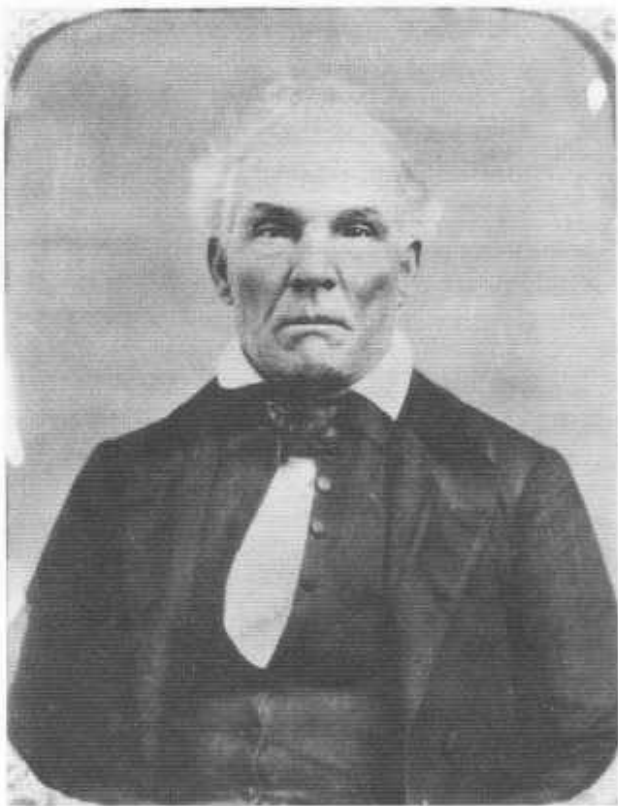
*With his spyglass Joe Walker scanned the meadows far below, deep in grass now golden and dotted with stands of oaks turning red and yellow: the cliff bases edged with pine forests; and the sinuous river, silvery from that distance—the Merced, or river of Mercy. . . In that snowmelt river Walker knew there would fine fish, and in those woods fat bear and deer. The rich herbiage of the meadows, and the thick coppices lining the stream would restore his horses.*

*He let his spyglass rest on each straight wall, searching closely for some suggestion of trail or passage. Although there was none, he still sent scouts to investigate; but they "found it utterly impossible for a man to descend, to say nothing of horses." Resignedly the party turned back to the divide, continuing to break paths for their animals, to scramble over ledges of rough granite and flounder through snowdrifts—hungry, ever hungry, as mountainman Joe Meek [a member of the party who later wrote about the lack of food] never forgot.<sup>4</sup>*

Visions of "fine fish, fat bear and deer" notwithstanding, other historical writers, including this one, are of the opinion that Walker, while he unquestionably passed through the heart of present Yosemite National Park, never saw the Valley itself. Irene Paden provides a very compelling argument in *The Big Oak Flat Road* (pp. 259-64), that Leonard was really describing Tamarack, Cascade, Coyote, and Wildcat Creeks farther to the west. Dr. Lafayette Bunnell, the chronicler of the Mariposa Battalion, which made the first known entry into Yosemite Valley in March, 1851, complements Mrs. Paden's theory in his landmark book *Discovery of the Yosemite*:

*The topography of the country over which the Mono Trail ran, and which was followed by Capt. Walker, did not admit of his seeing the valley proper. The depression indicating the valley, and its magnificent surroundings, could alone have been discovered, and in Capt. Walker's conversations with me at various times while encamped between Coulterville and the Yosemite, he was manly enough to say so. [Walker said that] "the lay of the land showed there was a valley below, but we had become nearly barefoot, our animals poor, and ourselves on the verge of starva-*

Cover: *Descent Into the Valley*, Appleton Magazine 1873



NPS Photo

Joseph Walker

*tion, so we followed down the ridge to Bull Creek, where, killing a deer, we went into camp.*"<sup>5</sup>

Bunnell called Walker a "very eccentric man," and one whose "mistaken friends, after his death, set up claims that he had discovered the now famous valley."<sup>6</sup> Walker himself only added to the confusion. After making a number of conflicting statements about his history-making trip at various times, he decided late in life that he had indeed seen Yosemite Valley some forty years earlier. Before he died in 1876, he ordered that the line "Camped at Yosemite, Nov. 13, 1833" be inscribed on his tombstone in Martinez, California.

A better-validated sighting of Yosemite Valley took place early in October, 1849, although the discovery went unrecognized for nearly a century. In 1947, by fortunate chance, an entry in the diary of one William Penn Abrams, unquestionably contemporary and authentic, came to the attention of a researcher who was tracing the genealogy of the Abrams family.<sup>7</sup> Abrams (1820-1873), a carpenter and millwright, had been commissioned to investigate potential mill sites on the Merced River to supply lumber for nearby mining camps. On or about October 10, 1849, he and a long-time friend named U. N. Reamer left from James Savage's trading post at the confluence of the Merced and South Fork Rivers tracking a grizzly bear. Under the date of October 18, 1849,<sup>8</sup> Abrams' diary contains the following passage (punctuation added):



From the collection of Dennis Kruaka

William Penn Abrams

*Returned to S.F. after a visit to Savage's property on the Merced R. Prospects none too good for a mill. Savage is a blaspheming fellow who has five squaws for wives for which he takes his authority from the Scriptures. While at Savage's, Reamer and I saw grizzly bear tracks and went out to hunt him down, getting lost in the mountains and not returning until the following evening. Found our way to camp over an Indian trail that led past a valley enclosed by stupendous cliffs rising perhaps 3,000 feet from their base and which gave us cause for wonder. Not far off a water fall drops from a cliff, below three jagged peaks into the valley, while farther beyond a rounded mountain stood, the valley side of which looked as though it has been sliced with a knife as one would slice a loaf of bread, and which Reamer and I called the Rock of Ages.*

Abrams' perceptive word picture leaves little doubt that he and Reamer saw Cathedral Rocks, Bridalveil Fall, and Half Dome, most likely from near the original "Inspiration Point,"<sup>9</sup> but the men did not descend into the Valley itself. Ironically, it is doubtful that Abrams ever knew he had seen Yosemite Valley, even after it became internationally famous during the 1860s. Abrams moved to Oregon in 1850, eventually settling in The Dalles, a remote frontier town far from any news source. He relocated to Portland in 1870, but died three years later from injuries sustained in a fall from a sawmill stairway.<sup>10</sup>

The effective discovery of Yosemite Valley occurred on March 27, 1851, when some fifty members of the Mariposa Battalion,<sup>8</sup> a volunteer military force engaged in a punitive campaign against the local Indians, descended the rugged southside cliffs and set up camp in Bridalveil Meadow on the Valley floor. This was the outside world's first real knowledge that such a scenic marvel as Yosemite really existed.

The exact route followed by the soldiers has long been an enigma to historians. The Battalion's last camp before entering the Valley was "on a table with a southern exposure"<sup>12</sup> called Bishop's Camp, after First Sergeant Samuel Bishop, a member of the force.<sup>13</sup> The site was possibly the large meadow along Eleven Mile Creek, a tributary of Bishop Creek, about a half-mile below the present Wawona Road, some two miles south of Chinquapin Flat. From here on March 27, 1851, the discovery party of fifty-eight mounted men led by Major James Savage (the same Savage mentioned by Abrams) embarked on its historic Yosemite adventure.

After traveling about halfway to the Valley, the volunteers encountered seventy-two Yosemite Indians, mostly old men, women, and children, slogging through the snow on their way to surrender. The meeting probably took place near where the present Wawona Road crosses Grouse Creek. A small party of soldiers escorted the captives to Bishop's Camp, while the bulk of the force, suspicious because no young men from the tribe were present, proceeded over the Indian's broken trail toward the Valley. Bunnell said that "we found the traveling much less laborious than before, and it seemed but a short time after we left the Indians before we suddenly came in full view of the valley. . ."<sup>14</sup>

The only practical route the Battalion could have taken was that later approximated by the old Wawona Road. Bunnell himself said they "followed a trail of the lowest altitude."<sup>15</sup> Thus it must have been from the place known after 1875 as "New Inspiration Point" that the party got its first view of the Valley. Bunnell has confused generations of historians by calling this point "Mount Beatitude" in *Discovery* (p.56). That it was a "slip of the pen," never corrected in subsequent editions, is confirmed by Bunnell's account of his entry into the Valley later in *Discovery* (pp. 223-24) as follows:

*The trail over which we approached the valley on our first visit was below the more modern trails, and its general course has now been appropriated by the stage road over which the tourist visits the Yosemite. The rocky slabs and stretches down which we then slid and scrambled, have since been graded and improved, so that the descent is made without difficulty.*

*The "Mariposa Trail" first approached the verge*



Dr. Lafayette Houghton Bunnell

*of the cliffs forming the south side of the valley, near what is known as "Mount Beatitude," or, as the first full view above has been designated, "Inspiration Point," which is almost 3,000 feet above the level of the valley.*

*From a point on this descending trail, my first sight of the Yosemite was suddenly and unexpectedly unfolded from its junction with the old Indian trail [this occurs at "New Inspiration Point"]; the view was made complete by ascending to a granite table.*

Bunnell said he became "so interested in the scene before me that I did not observe that my comrades had all moved on, and that I would soon be left indeed alone. My situation attracted the attention of Major Savage—who was riding in rear of column—who hailed me from the trail below with, 'you had better wake up from the dream up there, or you may lose your hair.'"

"Mount Beatitude" is a rocky peninsula looming over the Valley at an altitude of 6,603 feet. Later called "Inspiration Point" because it commanded a better view of the Valley than the original "Inspiration Point," 0.3 miles to the southeast, the location is misnamed "Old Inspiration Point" on contemporary Yosemite maps. It became a popular overlook after 1856 when the Mann brothers completed their toll trail along the existing Indian path between present Wawona and the Valley. The project included cutting a 150-yard side trail north through the dense brush that separated "Mount Beatitude" from the main trail at the time (and does again today).

For the Battalion to have obtained its first sight of the Valley from "Mount Beatitude," the soldiers would have been obliged to climb overland nearly 1,500 feet through deep snow to intersect the old Mariposa Trail between present Wawona and the Valley, then bypass the original "Inspiration Point," which lay in plain view a short distance off the trail, only to later scramble out through 150 yards of heavy underbrush to see the Valley at "Mount Beatitude"—a highly unlikely series of events.

Moreover, Bunnell could not have been seen by Savage from the trail below at either "Mount Beatitude" or "Inspiration Point," but he would have been easily visible at "New Inspiration Point."

#### CONCLUSIONS:

1. Captain Joe Walker passed through the center of present Yosemite National Park, but never saw the Valley itself.
2. William Penn Abrams and U. N. Reamer were the first non-Indians to look down upon the Valley in October,

1849, so far as we know. They apparently never knew what they had seen, and their discovery played no part in bringing Yosemite to the attention of civilization.

3. About fifty members of the Mariposa Battalion entered Yosemite Valley on March 27, 1851, the first white men to do so according to all evidence. They most likely obtained their initial view of the Valley from near "New Inspiration Point" rather than "Mount Beatitude," as Bunnell—writing thirty years after the fact—clearly seems to have misstated.

**Addendum:** *The probability that the Mariposa Battalion first saw Yosemite Valley from "New Inspiration Point" rather than "Mount Beatitude" derived from an unpublished analysis of the discovery party's route written by the late William Hood in 1971 (copy in the Yosemite Research Library). Bill Hood and his wife Mary made important contributions to our knowledge of Yosemite's human history during their many summers spent as volunteer researchers for the National Park Service.*

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#### NOTES AND REFERENCES

1. Irene Paden and Margaret Schlichtmann, *The Big Oak Flat Road to Yosemite* (Yosemite: Yosemite Natural History Association, 1959), p. 259.
2. There is now overwhelming evidence that Walker's middle name was really "Rutherford" rather than "Reddeford," as it has appeared for many years. See Bil Gilbert, *Westering Man—The Life of Joseph Walker* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1983), p. 299.
3. Zenas Leonard's newspaper account was later reprinted with minor changes in book form as *Narrative of the Adventures of Zenas Leonard* (1839; reprinted as *Adventures of a Mountain Man*, ed. Milo Milton Quaife, Lincoln and London: University of Nebraska Press, 1978).
4. Margaret Sanborn, *Yosemite: Its Discovery, Its Wonders, and Its People* (New York: Random House, 1981), pp. 5-6.
5. Lafayette Houghton Bunnell, M.D., *Discovery of the Yosemite and the Indian War of 1851 Which Led to That Event*, 4th ed. (1911; reprint, Yosemite Association, 1990), pp. 34-35.
6. Letter from Lafayette Bunnell to former comrade-in-arms James M. Roan, May 31, 1887; copy in the Yosemite Research Library.
7. The Yosemite entry in the Abrams diary was uncovered by William C. Barry of Glendale, California, in 1947. The diary had previously been examined in 1910 for the Oregon Historical Society but the reviewer failed to connect Abrams' scenic description with Yosemite Valley. The passage quoted here appeared in Weldon F. Heald, "The Abrams Diary," *Sierra Club Bulletin* 32, No. 5 (May, 1947).
8. Abrams' last entry before October 18 was on October 7 when he was en route to the Merced River. Since it would have taken the better part of a week to return to San Francisco from Savage's, he and Reamer probably made their grizzly bear expedition about October 10 and 11.
9. There were three viewpoints on the south rim of Yosemite Valley known by some form of "Inspiration Point" over the years. See Hank Johnston, "Yosemite's Four, Almost Five, Inspiration Points," *Yosemite* 59, No. 4 (Fall, 1997), pp. 1-5.
10. An excellent account of Abrams and his diary can be found in Dennis Kruska, "William Penn Abrams, Forgotten Yosemite Adventurer," *Yosemite* 52, No. 3 (Summer, 1990), pp. 5-8.
11. Robert Eccleston, *The Mariposa Indian War 1850-51. The Diaries of Robert Eccleston: The California Gold Rush, Yosemite, and the High Sierra*, ed. C. Gregory Crampton (Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 1957), p. 48. Eccleston was the only member of the Mariposa Battalion known to have kept a diary. Although he was left at Bishop's Camp by the discovery party, his diary entry for March 27 says: "Today about noon Major Savage started for the Yosemite Camp with 57 men & an Indian Guide." Since a small escort would have been required to accompany the seventy-two captured Indians to Bishop's Camp as later described, the exact number of soldiers who entered the Valley is uncertain.
12. Lafayette Bunnell, "The Date of the Discovery of the Yosemite, by One of the Party of Discovery," *Century Illustrated Magazine* XL (September, 1890), pp. 795-97.
13. The town of Bishop in Owens Valley was named for Samuel Addison Bishop (1825-1893), who was a pioneer settler in the area. In 1868 he built the first streetcar line in San Jose.
14. Bunnell, *Discovery of the Yosemite*, p. 55.
15. Bunnell, *Century Illustrated Magazine*, p. 796.

# Y.A.'S COMMENTS ON THE VIP

*The following letter containing the Yosemite Association Board of Trustees' response to the Draft Valley Implementation Plan was sent to the National Park Service in February. Since then, the N.P.S. has announced that it is revising the V.I.P. and will soon issue the next version for another period of public comment.*

February 20, 1998

Mr. Stanley T. Albright  
Superintendent  
Yosemite National Park  
N.P.S. - Box 577  
Yosemite N.P., CA 95389

Dear Superintendent Albright:

This letter is to respond to the request of the National Park Service (N.P.S.) for comments on the Draft Yosemite Valley Implementation Plan (V.I.P.). The Yosemite Association is a non-profit educational organization and cooperating association operating under contract with the N.P.S. We have played a role in the interpretive program at the park since the 1920s, and have come to provide considerable programmatic and financial support for a variety of Yosemite activities.

Our work includes the provision of information and the sale of books at visitor centers, a seminar program, evening Yosemite Theater offerings, operation of the wilderness reservations system, management and staffing of the Ostrander Lake Ski Hut, cooperation in the operation of the Art Activity Center, recruitment and oversight of hundreds of volunteers at the park, and more.

The board of the Yosemite Association was an active participant in the development of the 1980 General Management Plan, and has supported its implementation since the plan was approved.

From the board's perspective, the N.P.S. could improve the Draft Yosemite V.I.P. by clarifying the ways in which this new document departs from the 1980 GMP. Any significant changes should be highlighted to make analysis of the new plan easier.

The N.P.S. has invited the Yosemite Association to prepare comments on the ways in which Alternative 2 (the proposed action) of the Draft Yosemite Valley Implementation Plan affects the operations of the Yosemite Association. Accordingly, we submit the following thoughts and do not offer our opinions on other aspects of the V.I.P. In their individual capacities, board members of the Yosemite Association will be sending

their personal comments about the broader provisions of the plan.

## INTERPRETATION, VISITOR SERVICES, AND TRANSPORTATION

Two new visitor facilities are proposed on page 37, an orientation and transfer facility at the west end of the valley, and a primary information and interpretation center and shuttle bus transit station in Yosemite Village. Both facilities present new opportunities for the incorporation of Y.A. information services and books sales. We would request that the inclusion of such Y.A. operations be indicated in the plan.

On page 38, the retention of the existing Visitor Center auditoriums is proposed. Y.A. requests that reference to the continuation of the Yosemite Theater program within those auditoriums be made.

## INFORMATION/ORIENTATION

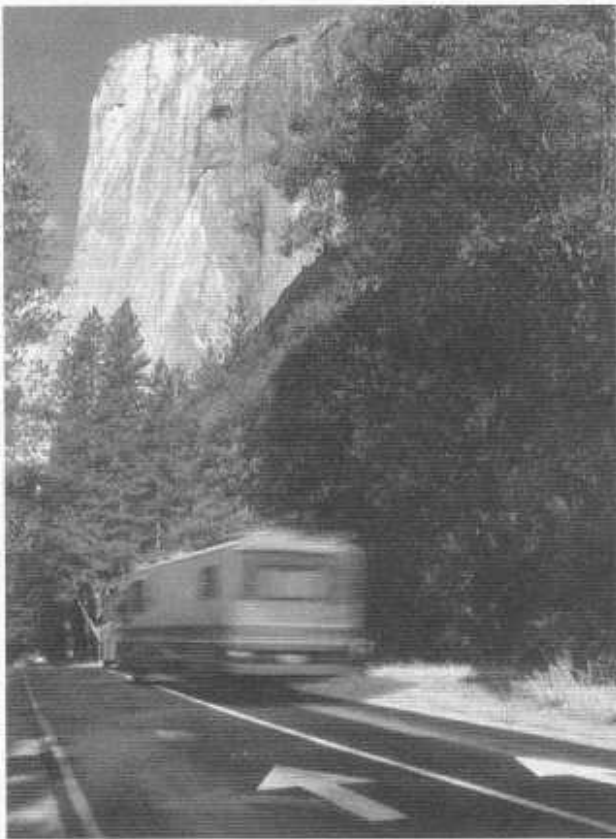
The information desk at the new west end transfer facility is described on page 39. We would request that the plan specify that the sale of interpretive guides at the desk will be handled by Y.A.

There is reference, on page 39, to a new campground information center at the former Boys Town site. Y.A. requests that the N.P.S. consider the possibility of staffing the center with Y.A. personnel for the provision of information and educational materials, and making this part of the plan.

## INTERPRETATION/EDUCATION

On page 40, the description of the village interpretive center makes no reference to the inclusion of adequate space for an enlarged and improved Y.A. sales facility. Such a facility is the highest priority in Y.A.'s Strategic Plan developed in conjunction with the N.P.S. in 1997. Y.A. sales of books and other educational materials provide key interpretive information to the public, while generating profits that make it possible for Y.A. to donate several hundred thousand dollars to the N.P.S. each year. It is critical that the new bookstore facility be anticipated and provided for in the final Valley Implementation Plan.

Y.A. also feels that the development of an interpretive



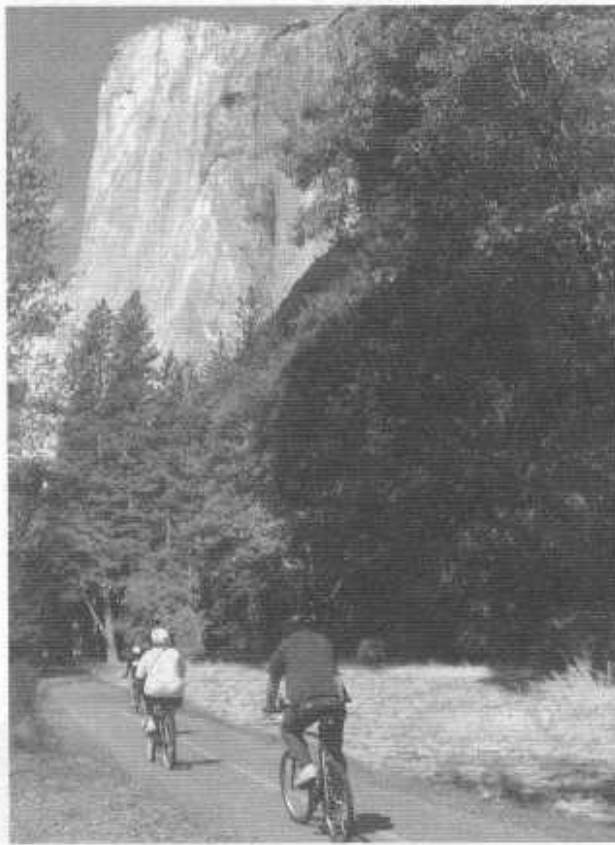
NPS Photo

*Today: Heavy traffic occurs on Northside Drive*

center offers an opportunity to plan for and include an inside meeting space for our valley-based seminar classes. At this time, seminar instructors have no place to take their participants to get out of the rain, look at slides, study plants under microscopes, or have an orientation meeting. Further, Y.A. has no place to store its slide projector, screen, and other equipment, so it must be transported back and forth from El Portal. The beauty of such a meeting place is that it could be scheduled for use by other educational entities and for meetings of local groups.

References to the two museum buildings on page 40 do not include discussion of the existing Y.A. museum store, nor is the possibility of a similar facility in the natural history museum considered. The existing store has a strong interpretive component, and its continued operation should be prescribed in the plan. Y.A. requests that the possibility of a natural history store be mentioned in the plan.

The proposal calls for two new and larger amphitheaters in the campgrounds (page 40). Y.A. requests that consideration be given to designing the amphitheaters so that they might be used for the presentation of fee-based interpretive programs, such as those now offered in the Yosemite Theater program. This has been a goal of the Division of Interpretation in the past, but inadequate control of access made such programs unfeasible.



NPS Photo

*The Vision: Bike paths replace roadways, allowing for restoration*

As a long-time supporter of the library, archive, and museum collections, Y.A. favors the proposal to create larger and better-equipped facilities for these important resources (top of column 2, page 40).

#### YOSEMITE VILLAGE IMPLEMENTATION CONCEPT

**Food and Retail Services:** The new facility at the Village Store site is to include a Yosemite Association bookstore (page 44). As indicated above, an enlarged and upgraded store is the highest priority of Y.A. in its strategic plan, and explicit reference in the V.I.P. to such an improved facility is preferred by our organization.

The relocation of the ATM and check cashing from the Art Activity Center building is mentioned as a possibility on page 44. Y.A. would prefer that those functions be moved (as called for in the Concession Services Plan on page 14) and that the center be fully dedicated to art-related and other interpretive activities. Perhaps the seminar/community meeting room discussed above could be developed within the Art Activity Center building.

Further, while it is stated that interpretation and information are to be the main foci of the Yosemite Village area (page 44), there is no indication that the Art Activity Center will continue and expand as called for in the Concession Services Plan. Y.A. requests that this be made explicit in the plan.

#### CAMPGROUNDS

In the Campground Unit Summary on page 45, there is no mention of campgrounds to be utilized by volunteer individuals and groups. As volunteerism grows in the park, setting aside adequate camping facilities becomes more and more important. In recent years, finding campsites for volunteers has been a problem due to the high demand of regular park visitors. The overall reduction in campsites will make the problem worse.

Groups like Y.A., the Yosemite Fund, the Yosemite Institute, and the Sierra Club bring hundreds of volunteers to the valley each year for work trips, interpretive duties, and supplementing the N.P.S. staff. Perhaps the establishment of a volunteer campground should be part of the final V.I.P.

As noted above, the campground information center (page 46) would be a perfect location for a Y.A. facility and employees to help with information and visit plan-

ning. We request that consideration be given to this possibility.

#### PARK OPERATIONS

The plan's suggestion on page 48 that the park's volunteer program will continue to be important, particularly for interpretive and educational activities, underscores the need, noted above, for adequate camping facilities for individuals and groups.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the Draft V.I.P. The Yosemite Association looks forward to working with you and other representatives of the National Park Service in the development and implementation of a final plan for the future of Yosemite Valley.

Sincerely,

Lennie Roberts, Chair

## Muir Authority William Kimes Dies

*"Oh, these vast, calm, measureless mountain days,...Days in whose light everything seems equally divine, opening a thousand windows to show us God. Nevermore, however weary, should faint by the way who gains the blessings of one mountain day; whatever his fate, long life, short life, stormy or calm, is rich forever."*

JOHN MUIR

Longtime Yosemite Association supporter William F. Kimes died in February. Those who knew Bill Kimes knew of his passionate interest in the naturalist John Muir. With Maymie, his wife of 67 years, he traveled extensively on the trail of John Muir: burro-packing and knapsacking over 1000 miles in the High Sierra, searching out Muir's boyhood haunts in Wisconsin, exploring his birthplace in Scotland, retracing his trek up the Amazon River, and following his many adventures in Alaska.

The trail also led Bill to collect every book, pamphlet, advertisement, magazine and newspaper that mentioned Muir, leading to the largest collection of John Muir material outside of an institution. Over a ten-year period, Bill and Maymie compiled John Muir, A Reading Bibliography, which has become the fore-

most reference tool for librarians, researchers, and collectors. As Bill's reputation grew, he served as a consultant for the PBS production, "John Muir, Earth Planet Universe," and was recruited by the National Geographic Society for its publications on John Muir.

After almost forty years in education, Bill retired with Maymie to Mariposa County where they enjoyed their property, the Rocking K Ranch, their family, and the foothill community, especially the Library-History Center. His love of books continued, and his personal library grew to over 4,000 volumes.

All those people—family, friends, colleagues, Y.A. members—who shared mountain days with Bill Kimes during his long life will undoubtedly remember those times and feel "rich forever."

Y.A. lost a second friend this past winter. Eileen Berrey died in Monterey in December. Along with her husband Henry, who served as Y.A.'s President for 15 years, Eileen was an ardent and articulate Yosemite supporter throughout the years. Until her recent illness, she was a

loyal and valued presence at nearly all Association events. A future issue of *Yosemite* will contain reminiscences on Eileen written by a friend and colleague.



# YOSEMITE PLANS PARK & BUS OPTION FOR '99

Visitors will have the option of parking their cars and riding buses into Yosemite National Park in 1999, but traffic may still force construction of a 1,800-car parking lot in Yosemite Valley.

Yosemite visitors will have the chance to ride a bus during the busy summer months next year and get a discount on the national park's entrance fee, according to planners representing five counties and several government agencies.

The cost to ride and enter the park could be as low as \$3 per person or \$6 per family. Visitors currently pay \$20 a car. No price has been set on the cost of the bus ride, though early estimates show a round-trip rate as low as \$8. Officials are working to make the price as attractive as possible.

Will the idea divert enough traffic to prevent a parking lot from being built in Yosemite Valley?

Nobody knows.

During summer holiday weekends, such as Memorial Day, 25,000 or more people are expected to visit Yosemite Valley, a 7-mile-long and 1-mile-wide area with surrounding vistas of park landmarks. Park officials, in their Yosemite Valley restoration plan, lean toward building the parking lot if busing does not clear up traffic in the valley. But they are still re-evaluating their options. "I still don't know if [the parking lot] will be in our final document," park planner Jerry Mitchell said. "We like this new busing alternative, but no decisions have been made yet."

Outside the park, planners representing Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Mono and Tuolumne counties are holding off on long-term commitments, too. They want to know how many people are willing to ride buses from neighboring communities, such as Fish Camp, to Yosemite Valley.

If the response is good in 1999, the effort will expand. "This will be a market-driven process," said Jesse Brown,

project manager of the planning group, called Yosemite Area Transportation Strategy. "If we have the interest, the system can expand."

The planners' busing effort is separate from the Park Service's valley restoration plan, which is being revised and prepared for a second period of public comment this summer. Opposition to the parking lot surfaced in the first public comment period. The busing plan, on the other hand, draws applause from interest groups.

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Plan would give visitors a  
discount on the entrance fee  
to the national park

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"They have put the pedal to the metal," said Jay Watson, California-Nevada regional director of the Wilderness Society, an environmental group. "They've traveled a huge distance in one year. We're pleased."

A year ago, the planners were considering several different options, including rail. Now, they will begin to look for a private contractor to supply buses to take visitors into the park. Before deciding on the strategy, planners considered signs to send people to other places when the park was full. They also looked at a hefty \$200 million bus plan that would have replaced cars in the valley. Though no cost estimates are available on the current busing idea, it would be far less expensive than the \$200 million plan.

If the idea works, many Yosemite interests hope it will end discussion of the parking lot at an undeveloped place called Taft Toe, across from El Capitan. "We think there's no reason to build that parking lot," said Hal Browder of Coarsegold and a member of the Yosemite Restoration Trust, a park advocacy group. "We think the Park Service shouldn't even be considering it."

## PRESERVING NATURE IN THE NATIONAL PARKS: A HISTORY

Richard West Sellars, *Preserving Nature in the National Parks: A History* (New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1997), 380 pages, photographs, end notes, index; cloth \$35. (All royalties from the sale of this book go to the Albright-Wirth Employee Development Fund to advance the professional skills of National Park Service employees).

It is the mark of good literature to stimulate a reader; it is a sign of great writing when the author effects a change in the reader's way of thinking. This book has changed the way I think about the National Park Service. Its honesty, clarity, and deep research all mark this work as a landmark in N.P.S. historical treatises.

The author, himself an employee of the Service, gives a critical, unflattering assessment of the history and development of the bureau as it relates to the care and management of natural resources. Using the NPS Organic Act as a springboard, he carefully details how the various directors, superintendents, and rangers charted a course for the system that vacillated between resource protection and exploitation, providing services to visitors and pandering to their needs and desires, without regard for how silly or destructive those wants might have been.

The philosophy of the founding fathers of the National Park System, Stephen Mather and Horace Albright reverberated throughout the system for years following their departure. The early need to justify the existence of national parks and to increase their popularity among the Congress and the general population led them to popularize the parks in sometimes inappropriate ways. The tule elk paddock and bear feeding platforms in Yosemite are just two examples of their misguided attempts at increasing visitor attractions at the expense of natural conditions. In Yellowstone, the control of the park's buffalo herd pitted biologists against park managers and naturalists. Wildlife officials wanted to establish and maintain a stable population that would not overgraze the sensitive rangeland and thereby threaten their own survival in lean years. Park managers and natu-

ralists felt that maintaining a large population (through winter feeding and animal husbandry) served to attract and please larger amounts of park visitors, a primary purpose for maintaining the herd.

The battles didn't simply end with outlandish attractions, however. Several serious conflicts developed between park managers and foresters and the embattled biologists who differed in their approaches to maintaining healthy ecosystems. While the park wildlife biologists wanted to allow natural systems to occur unabated (fire, insect infestation) the foresters felt the need to control these potential threats through fire suppression and intensive manipulation of the forest's flora, including ribes removal (to control blister rust) and the application of herbicides and pesticides on large tracts of land. Oftentimes these considerations were driven by the differing needs of the parks' neighbors, most often National Forests, where commercial harvesting of healthy timber is a priority. Park managers, therefore, engaged in incompatible practices in order to coexist with other land managing agencies.

These practices were antithetical to the Park Service's small cadre of biologists, who have never had an easy time working within the system. Even with support of the biologists by such luminaries as Joseph Grinnell and A. Starker Leopold, other professionals (landscape architects, engineers, and foresters) have dominated decision making in the parks and have always outnumbered biologists within the Service.

Threats to the system have come from within as well as from outside. Beginning in the 1930s, the Park Service began a dramatic program of expanding its holdings to include historical parks and national recreation areas. The creation of additional parks is not, in itself, a bad thing; on the contrary, these new units can preserve and protect lands and resources while providing interpretive, educational, and recreational services to the public. What has been unfortunate is that, according to Sellars, "Once an area was placed under the Service's administration, the



# Preserving Nature in the National Parks

A HISTORY

RICHARD WEST SELLARS

specifics of its natural resource management—the treatment of elk, fish, forests, and the like—seem to have been of not much concern.” The development of the parks’ campgrounds, roads, trails and concession facilities and other visitor service amenities took precedence over resource concerns.

It is Sellars’ insightful analysis and interpretation of the historical record that gives this book its credibility and value. He has mined the archives of the National Park Service, using a large amount of material never before utilized. And he has conducted numerous interviews with current and former NPS employees in order to corroborate or expand on his findings. Sellars is currently preparing a companion volume on the history of cultural resources management within the National Park System. His work will redefine how scholars and park watchers think about the NPS. This book should be recommended reading for all NPS personnel, from newly hired seasonals to seasoned superintendents, and interested members of the public.

*Robert C. Pavlik is an historian for the California Department of Transportation in San Luis Obispo. He worked for several years in Yosemite on historical research projects for the NPS and has contributed regularly to this journal.*

To order this book, use the form on page 22.

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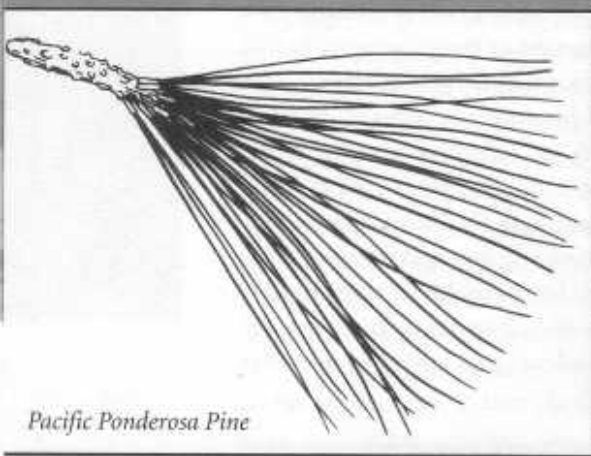
**Editor’s note:** Richard Sellars will be the featured speaker at the Yosemite Association’s Twenty-Third Annual Meeting in Wawona on September 12, 1998. An excerpt from *Preserving Nature in the National Parks* will appear in the next issue of *Yosemite*.

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# ANNUAL REPORT 1997

It didn't take 1997 long to throw Yosemite for a loop. With the now-legendary flood that began January 2, park employees and residents quickly realized that the year would literally be about keeping their heads above the water. And so it was for the Yosemite Association.

Business life as we knew it ceased, and survival became our foremost thought. We were fortunate that our offices, stores, warehouses, inventory, and other assets were



*Pacific Ponderosa Pine*

unaffected by the flood, and none of our employees suffered any significant loss. Thankful that we had escaped relatively unscathed, we turned our efforts to dealing with the fact that a key commodity in our formula for success (the park visitor) would indefinitely be missing from Yosemite.

After a little belt-tightening and with a new emphasis on out-of-the-park opportunities, we determined to last out the effects of the flood. Contending with convoys occasioned by washed out roads, an uncertain park re-opening date, and

the possibility that it might be months before Yosemite would be a place that the public wanted to visit, Y.A. employees worked hard to keep a positive attitude and find new ways to benefit the park.

What helped the Yosemite Association make it through this difficult year was the impressive support of our members, vendors, friends, and other supporters. Responding to an appeal for flood-year donations, our membership amazed us with a flood of its own - hundreds of contributions that totaled nearly \$80,000. Vendors extended us special terms, friends sent notes of support, and the National Park Service showed great understanding as we were unable to provide the level of assistance we might in an ordinary year.

It was a trying but gratifying year that reinforced for us the knowledge that the Yosemite Association transcends our office in El Portal to encompass and embrace thousands of wonderful people including members, trustees, volunteers, and friends. We once again extend our deep appreciation for the remarkable support that's been shown us, and, as usual, we renew our promise to continue our educational work in Yosemite as we promote stewardship of the world's best national park.

*The illustrations accompanying this report are from Y.A.'s newest publication Sierra Nevada Tree Identifier. See page 20.*

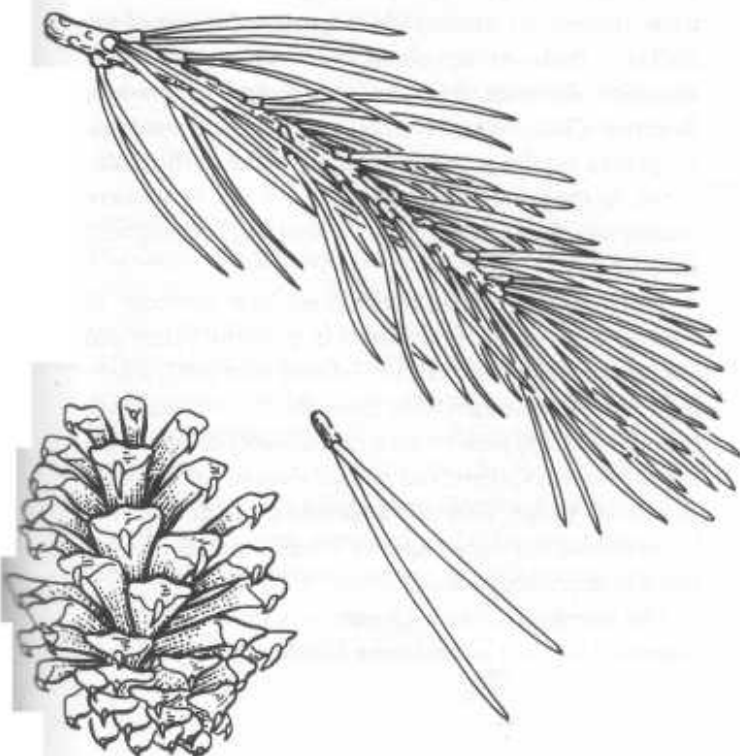
#### BOARD AND STAFF

The Y.A. Board of Trustees had a number of changes during the 1997 year. Longtime Trustee David Robertson left the Board at the end of the year after twelve years of dedicated service. His perceptive comments, creative input, and ever-present wit will be missed. In the fall election, popular Board member Kathleen Orr was elected for a second term. Malcolm Margolin, publisher of Heyday Books and well-known writer on California Native American life, was elected to the Y.A. Board to fill the opening created by Robertson's departure.

Board members, Association staff members, and Yosemite Superintendent B. J. Griffin, participated in a strategic planning retreat in March at the Kautz Ironstone Vineyards in Murphys, California. With the assistance of facilitator Nancy Fogg of Denver, Colorado, an important strategic plan for the Association for 1997 to 2000 was developed.

After several months as our 900 information line operator, Nancy Novo Lusignan found herself trapped in Yosemite Valley by the flood and was recruited to assist NPS with that incident. She has since left the area and cashier, Sharron Law, now adds answering the 900 line to her duties in El Portal. Mary Kay Kirn has departed and Cyndi Turnbull manages the warehouse in her place.

Lodgepole Pine



#### SALES AND PUBLICATIONS

Along with all other Y.A. activities, the sales and publications program felt the brunt of the 1997 flood. Most significantly, our stores in the park's main visitor center in Yosemite Valley, at the Yosemite Museum, and at the Big Oak Flat Entrance were closed from January 2nd, through March 18th. Because the park was effectively barred to visitation during that time, there were no customers for our products anyway! The resulting loss of sales created a critical cash flow problem for the association, which relies on minimal though steady sales revenues during the slow time of the year.

Though visitors were slow to return to Yosemite when it re-opened, sales experienced a resurgence with the coming of spring and summer. Not all was rosy on the sales front, however, as our single largest wholesale customer, Yosemite Concession Services (the park's main concessioner), curtailed its buying and did not place its usual number of orders with Y.A.

The drooping wholesale business revived in October with the publication of a strongly-selling new children's book entitled *Two Bear Cubs* written by Robert San Souci and illustrated by his brother, Daniel. In a period of about 2½ months, the title sold over 6,000 copies, most of them for resale. For a short time, *Two Bear Cubs* was listed on the San Francisco Chronicle's children's book bestseller list. When the year finished, we found that Y.A.'s sales were down only 2% overall, and in-park sales were only off 1%. It proved to be a remarkable recovery from a potentially disastrous start to the year.

Publishing highlights for the year included the completion of the aforementioned *Two Bear Cubs*, a *Two Bear Cubs* promotional poster, a handsome art book called *Direct from Nature—The Oil Sketches of Thomas Hill*, the National Park Service-produced video, *The Yosemite Flood: A Closer Look*, a reprint of Clarence King's *Mountaineering in the Sierra Nevada* (the fourth entry in the High Sierra Classics series), and a revision of the *Guide to the Yosemite Cemetery*, a title that's been out-of-print for over fifteen years.

Y.A. was also pleased to learn in 1997 that the American Association of Museums had awarded our 1996 publication, *The Miwok in Yosemite*, honorable mention recognition in its annual publication competition.

A number of reprints were undertaken including *The Wild Muir* (which continues to be a top seller), the third edition of *The Complete Guide to Yosemite National Park*, *Yosemite Indians*, *Miwok Material Culture* (reprinted with a new cover), all language versions of the *Pictorial Guide*

to *Yosemite National Park*, and the *Sierra Wildlife Coloring Book*.

The Yosemite Association opened its first sales facility outside the park in January. In cooperation with the Southern Yosemite Visitor's Bureau in Oakhurst, we took a first step to expand our retail sales operations beyond Yosemite's boundaries. For a variety of reasons, the effort



*Mountain Dogwood*

in the Oakhurst visitor center was ill-fated, and the arrangement was discontinued in late October. We also negotiated with the U.S. Forest Service to open a facility in the Lee Vining Ranger Station, but flood-related problems and a lack of personnel thwarted the initiation of that operation.

The performance of our various sales outlets was mixed in 1997. The Yosemite Valley visitor center store was down over 11% to \$657,569, and the Tuolumne Meadows facility was off by the same percentage (to \$125,528). A big gain was posted, however, at the Museum Store, which showed a strapping 57% increase to \$122,429 and almost passed Tuolumne Meadows as our second highest grossing outlet. Other strong performers were the Wilderness Center (+24%), the Wawona District Office (+12%), and the Big Oak Flat visitor center (+11%). The Happy Isles Nature Center re-opened and also experienced a nice increase in revenue. The total of 1997 sales for all our retail facilities was \$1,174,076, a figure within 1% of the 1996 result. The gross for all sales (including wholesale receipts) was down 2% to \$1,533,000.

Operationally, the sales department will remember 1997 as the year in which Y.A. replaced its sales/inventory software and moved to a point-of-sale system (at the main visitor center store to begin) called Anthology. The conversion of data was a major undertaking and the transition was not an easy one, but the system seems to be working effectively and continues to be tailored to the needs of the operation.

Besides helping with book sales, Y.A.'s talented clerks provided valuable assistance to the National Park Service by supplementing interpretive and information services in the park's visitor centers. The sales department also managed the Wilderness Reservation Center at the Wilderness Center, offering a range of services for backpackers and generating revenue to further the reservation software and hardware.

#### MEMBERSHIP

As with other aspects of Y.A.'s program, membership experienced an unusual year in 1997. Although the flood did not adversely affect membership income, other parts of the program suffered. After weeks of confusion about the possible re-opening of the park, the always-popular Spring Forum scheduled for March was canceled. Planning was delayed but the summer Y.A. work trips and volunteer programs finally took place as scheduled. On a very positive note, Y.A. members contributed close to \$80,000 in response to a special appeal for help during our difficult economic times resulting from the park flooding.

There were four work trips in 1997: one in Tuolumne Meadows, two in the Glacier Point area, and a fall trip in Yosemite Valley. A backcountry trip had been planned to the Kibbie Lake area but was canceled due to a fire in the vicinity. These trips are cooperatively sponsored by four park entities. The Resource Management division of the National Park Service plans and oversees the work, Yosemite Institute provides meals and leadership, Yosemite Concession Services contributes toward the program's funding, and Y.A. supplies the enthusiastic crews. As the years and trips roll by, the Y.A. crews have accomplished an impressive amount of work throughout the park.

Forty one Y.A. members served last summer in month-long volunteer positions in both the Valley and Tuolumne Meadows. They introduced over 1,000 showings of the Orientation Slide Show for the National Park Service to 26,000 park visitors, hosted over 64,000 people in the Museum Gallery, and greeted close to 7,000 people at Parson's Lodge. They also answered thousands of visitor questions and signed up over 700 new members at the membership/information booths.

The year ended on a high note with the 22nd Annual Members' Meeting in Tuolumne Meadows where mystery

writer Nevada Barr was the entertaining, featured speaker. Members who stayed for the weekend also had a good choice of ranger walks to choose from. The meeting was the largest annual meeting with over 400 people in attendance.

#### SEMINARS

The 1997 Yosemite Association Field Seminar catalog was mailed out just as the famous January flood was occurring, and the impact of the damage was felt immediately by the program and continued for the entire year. In the beginning, there was enormous confusion about Yosemite Valley and other park opening dates. Information about road conditions and trail damage was slow to materialize. The program became a puzzle as to what seminars would actually occur. In addition, the media presented many variations of damage estimates that further confused the public. With so little accurate information available even within the park about flood damage, the seminar staff felt unsure of how to advise participants or how to proceed with organizing programs.

As the weeks went by, people slowly began to enroll. Many seminar arrangements had to be changed: campgrounds, hiking plans, trail routes, and entrance roads. The high country classes were very late to fill—participants only started signing up after the Tioga Road opened in June and it seemed clear that the Tuolumne Meadows area would indeed be open for summer. Finally, eleven seminars were canceled specifically due to flood damage, closures, and late openings.

From the instructors' viewpoint, it was a very exciting year to teach in Yosemite with all the changes to the landscape. Flood damage became an important lesson that natural processes will prevail, and, in spite of the hardships for people, the park continued perhaps more than ever to instill a sense of wonder. In the end, many classes filled. The year-end totals were just a little short of enrollment numbers from previous years—a total of 776 individuals attended Yosemite Field Seminars.

#### OSTRANDER SKI HUT

The Ostrander Ski Hut, which Y.A. operates at the request of the National Park Service, was open for much of its season. The hut was shut during the period of total park closure due to the flood, and it reopened ahead of the rest of the park when the Glacier Point Road became accessible for cross country skiing. Ten miles in the backcountry, the hut is a popular destination for nordic skiers in a season that typically lasts from December to April. Y.A. pays for hutkeepers, firewood, and other necessities, and handles the reservations through the Wilderness Center.

#### WILDERNESS RESERVATION SYSTEM

Backpackers are able to reserve wilderness permits for a fee of \$3 per person per permit through the Wilderness Reservation System. Operated by the Yosemite Association at the request of the National Park Service, the system not only enables people to make reservations up to 24 weeks in advance of their trips, but also allows them to have their questions answered by the knowledgeable Y.A. staff. Funds from this program assist the National Park Service in the protection of wilderness areas.

#### YOSEMITE THEATER

The award-winning Yosemite Theater completed its 14th year as a popular evening interpretive program. A strong lineup of returning performers continued to please audiences throughout the 1997 season. Weaving history together with humor and adventure, Lee Stetson, Connie Stetson, and Van Gordon gave strong performances as John Muir, pioneer woman Sarah Hawkins, and 49er Jeff Blake. Gail Lynne Dreifus and the Recycled String Band entertained visitors with original songs and stories. Renowned climber Mark Wellman presented "No Barriers," a film he co-produced on extreme disabled sports.

#### ART ACTIVITY CENTER

Due to the flood and subsequent lack of housing for resident artists, the Art Activity Center was closed for the 1997 season.



*Quaking Aspen*

## Highlights of 1997

### JANUARY

On January 1-3, a deep snowpack, heavy rain and high temperatures combined to create widespread flooding in Yosemite Valley and the Merced River Canyon. Visitors were evacuated, and January 7 the park closed as damage assessment and repairs began.

On January 29, Badger Pass opened for cross-country skiers. Other park areas remained closed.

### MARCH

The park reopened on March 15, and visitors returned to Yosemite Valley by Highways 41 and 120. Highway 140 from Mariposa remained closed for repairs.

### APRIL

The National Park Service announced that Yosemite Superintendent BJ Griffin had been reassigned to the Presidio and Stanley Albright, who had been serving as Pacific West Regional Director, had been named Acting Superintendent of Yosemite.

### MAY

The Glacier Point Road opened for the season on May 22. On May 23, Highway 140 reopened to unrestricted travel for the first time since the January flood.

Half Dome Cables went up for the season on May 29.

### JUNE

On June 13, the Tioga Road opened for the season, but no services were provided and stopping was not permitted along the corridor.

### JULY

Services and the campground in Tuolumne Meadows opened for the season on Friday, July 4.

On July 18 Happy Isles reopened after a year's closure, and the High Sierra Camps opened for the season.

Yosemite announced a change to entrance fee policy: there would be a \$5 charge instead of the usual \$20 for vehicles using the Tioga Road as a means of crossing the Sierra Nevada rather than as a recreational visit to Yosemite National Park.

### AUGUST

Yosemite visitation set a record high for the month of August with 721,711 visitors.

### SEPTEMBER

The completed Glacier Point Renovation Project, a \$3.2 million facelift for the scenic outlook, was marked by a celebration on September 10.

### OCTOBER

The cables on Half Dome were taken down on October 15.

The National Park Service and the American Indian Council of Mariposa County signed a Traditional Use Agreement on October 17. The agreement allows for the development of a traditional Indian Village in Yosemite Valley and provides for the gathering of medicinal and food plants and basket making materials.

NPS Director Roger Stanton confirmed Stanley Albright as Yosemite's new Superintendent on October 27.

### NOVEMBER

The National Park Service released the Draft Yosemite Valley Implementation Plan/Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (VIP) for public review and comment through January 23, 1998.

The Tioga Road and the Glacier Point Road officially closed for the season on November 12.

Yosemite Campground reservation system was temporarily suspended when Destinet Service Corporation lost its contract with the National Park Service. Campsites were available on a first come basis.

### DECEMBER

Yosemite National Park announced a thirty day extension of the public comment period for the Draft Implementation Plan from January 23, 1998 to February 23, 1998.



## Statement of Financial Position

FOR YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1997

### ASSETS

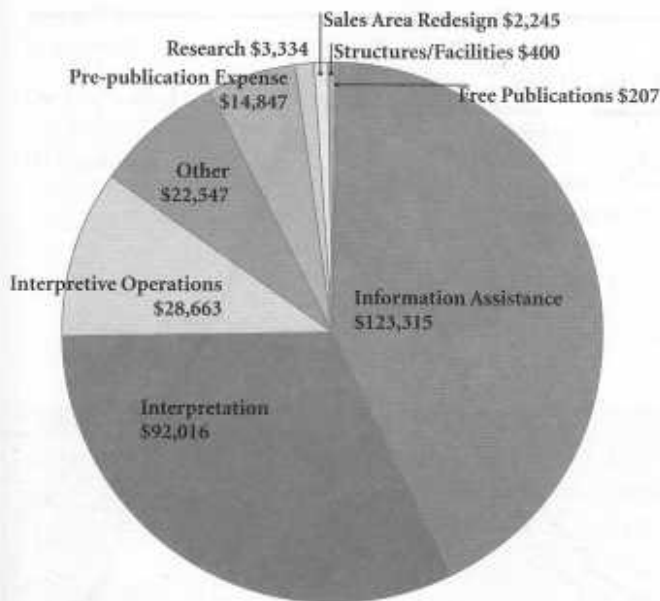
Cash and cash equivalents	\$416,512
Accounts receivable	81,268
Prepaid expenses	7,882
Inventory	697,974
Property and equipment	77,495
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$1,281,131</b>

### LIABILITIES

Trade accounts payable	\$26,099
Accrued payroll taxes	3,799
Royalties payable	16,307
Sales tax payable	3,405
Vacation payable	18,173
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>67,783</b>

### NET ASSETS

Unrestricted:	
Designated for programs	38,124
Undesignated	958,613
Temporarily restricted	176,611
Contingency reserve	40,000
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>1,213,348</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$1,281,131</b>



1997 Aid-to-NPS  
TOTAL: \$297,574

## Statement of Activities, 1997

### UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS

<b>REVENUE:</b>	
Publication sales	\$1,511,223
Seminars	114,157
Memberships	294,627
Investment income	13,596
Theater	39,262
Wilderness Center	51,065
900 information	11,942
Auxiliary activities	143,804
Designated programs	8,627
	<b>2,188,303</b>
Net assets from restrictions	54,695
	<b>2,242,998</b>

### EXPENSES:

Cost of sales:	
Publication costs	1,154,441
Auxiliary activities:	
Seminars	140,099
Theater	36,047
Wilderness Center	16,139
900 information services	24,663
Supporting services:	
Management and general	213,388
Membership	166,228
	<b>1,751,005</b>
Aid to National Park Service	296,775
	<b>2,047,780</b>

**INCREASE IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS** 195,218

### TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS

Contributions	46,342
Auxiliary Activities	60,829
Net assets released from restrictions:	
Restrictions satisfied by payments	(54,695)

**INCREASE IN TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS** 52,476

**INCREASE IN NET ASSETS** 247,694

**NET ASSETS, AT BEGINNING OF YEAR** 965,654

**NET ASSETS, AT END OF YEAR** \$1,213,348

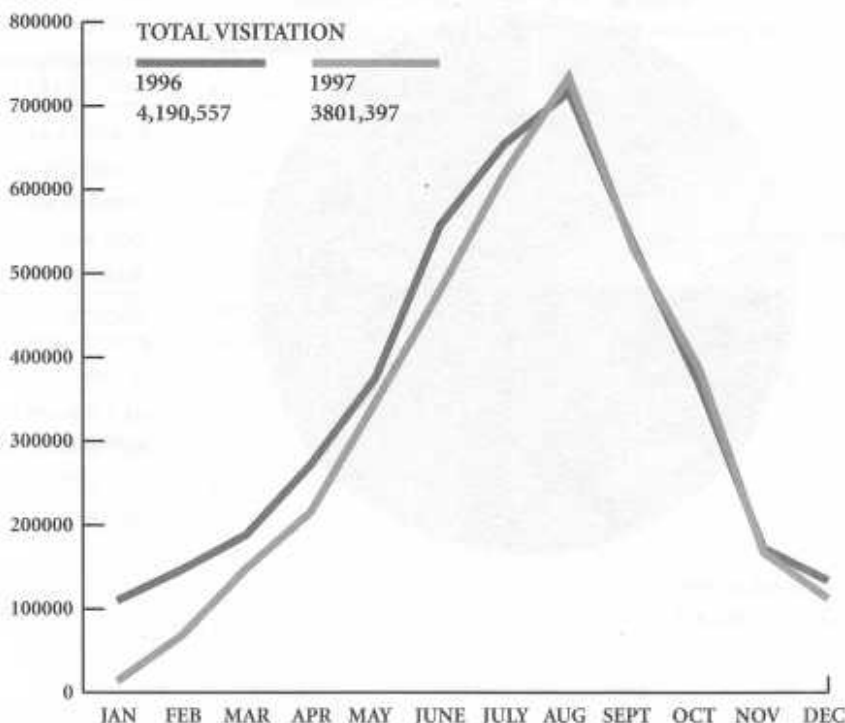
## Friends of the Association, 1997

The following fine people and companies made generous contributions of their time, money, or energy during 1997. We extend heartfelt thanks to them and to the many other wonderful people both inside and outside the park who help us in countless ways.

Linda Abbott, Aceware Systems, Marty Acree, Ansel Adams Gallery, Jeanne & Michael Adams, Julie Ahern, Sharon Allen, Bill Alsup, Bob Andrew, Greg Archer, Rose Marie Astwood, John Bailey, Dave Balogh, Bob Bandy, Maxine Barbieri, Nevada Barr, Annie Barrett, Craig Bates, Sandy Bell, Mark Bergholdt, Barbara Beroza, Otto Best, Mark Black, Tom Bopp, Booktrackers, Tom Borchardt, Annette Bottaro-Walklet, Steve Botti, Laurel Boyers, Sue Branch, Mike Brocchini, Roger Bunch, Ginger Burley, Bridget Burns, Rex Butler, Barbara Cady, Nikyra Calgano, California Data Marketing, Chuck Carter, Hugh Carter, Annette Catamec, Cedar Lodge Restaurant, Les Chow, John Clark, Norman Clayton, Darlece Cleveland, Sandra Clifft, The Richard Coker Family, Katie Colbert, Arnold & Carole Compolongo, Joan Conlan, Copernicus Software, Jim Corless, Terry Craddock, Norma Craig, Alex Crespi, Crocker Museum, Crown Printing, Dave Dahler, Dan & Renee Daniels, Lisa Dapprich, Jessica Daskal, Leigh Davenport, Steve & Karen Davies, Eston & Ethel Davis, Pat Davis, Thomas DeForest, Tony DeMaio, Pete Devine, Jean Dillingham, Moira Donohoe, Gail Lynne Dreifus, Janice T. Driesbach, Robin Drury, James Duff, Dumont Printing, George Durkee, Linda Eade, Larry & Susan Early, Bob & Nancy Eckart, Chris Edison, Marion & Bill Eggers, Margaret Eissler, El Portal Garden Club, El Portal Market, Helen Emshoff, Rick Erlen, Judy Ernest, Marlene Everingham, Dick Ewart, Dick Felberg, Virginia Ferguson, Frank Fimbrez, Jerry Fischer, Fred Fisher, Flying Spur Press, Sean Flynn, Al Fong, Dave Forgang, Gary Fraker, Phil Frank, Ed Franzen, Friends of Ostrander, Sue Fritzke, Robert Frutos, Robert Fry, Michael Frye, Paul Gallez, Ilo Gassoway, Bill Germany, Victor Goldman, B. J. Griffin, Brian Grogan, Mark Grossi, Hal Grovert, Jack & Jane Gyer, Don & Jan Haag, Bob Hansen, Tim Hansen, Ann Hardeman, John Harris, Steve Harrison, Bruce & Scottie Hart, Robert & Patricia Hawk, Teri Lyn Hawkins, John Hawksworth, Georgia Hays, Don Hedgepeth, Lynette Heil, John Henshall, Kimi Kodani Hill, Kathy Hocker, Larry Houser, Lynn Houser, Eric Huffman, Audrey Hulburd, Stan Hutchinson, Ingram Books, Internet Outfitters, Tom Jackson, Michael Jacques, Les James, Richard James, Judy Johnson, Susan Johnson, Hank Johnston, Geir & Kate Jordahl, Margaret Jose, Richard Glenn Keator, William & Maymie Kimes, Mary Kline, Mona Knight, Peter & Ann Knopf, Joyce Koller, Patrick Kraft, Dennis Kruska, Ben Kudo, Jeff Lahr, Jeanne LaMosse, Kathy Langley, Louis Lanzer, Eric Larson, Joe Lattuada, Ann Lee, Martha J Lee, Mike Lee, Max Lewis, Peter Leveque, Virginia Lincoln, Little, Brown & Company, Calvin Liu, Donald Lopez, Tim Ludington, David Lukas, Marlene Luna, Ron Mackie, Anne & Chas

Macquarie, Mike Maderious, Maggie Martin, Mary Martinez, Kate Mawdsley, John McCaffrey, John McClary, Noreen McClintock, William McCluskey, Kate McCurdy, Ken & Patsy McKay, Ray & Marilyn McKeever, Stacy McNight, Jerry & Dianne McMahon, Joe Medeiros, Martha Miller, Barb Miranda, Mono Lake Committee, Peggy Moore, Elizabeth Morales, Russel Morimoto, Paul Mullins, Karen Najarian, Naturals from the Earth, Wanda Naylor, Bill & Sadhna Neill, Jim Nett, Jeff Nicholas, Jeff Nixon, Carl Nolte, Ralph Occhipinti, Sheri Ogdon, Mitch Okui, Elizabeth O'Neill, Pam Oliverio, Carey Olson, Ron Oriti, Kathleen Orr, Bev Ortiz, Michael Osborne, Michael Osborne Design, Chris Paine, Peter Palmquist, Julia Parker, Lucy Parker, Jim Paruk, Robert Pavlik, Krista Peterson, Wayne & Donna Petersen, Jack Phinney, Richard Pier, Jeff Pietrowski, Don & Kay Pitta, Edward Polainer, Tammie Power, Queensboro Shirt Company, Sarah Rabkin, Wilma Rassmussen, Real Music, Recycled String Band, Redwoods Guest Cottages, Kay & Michael Regester, Brenda Reichhold, Patti Reilly, Jack & Gay Reineck, Laurel Rematore, Anne Reynolds, Judy Richards, Mike Rigney, Dave Robertson, Jerry Rodriguez, Bob Roney, Gene Rose, Michael Ross, John Roth, Karen Rust, Kristina Rylands, Joan Sanderson, Bill Sanford, Shirley Sargent, Jonathan Schechter, Bob Schlichting, Julie Schuller, Elizabeth

Schultz, Scope Enterprises, Margareta Sequin, Beverly Sessa, Sandy Shannon, Glenn Shellcross, Dean and Marla Shenk, Mary Beth Shenton, Sierra Press, Paul & Edith Simonson, Doris Sloan, Mark Smith, Rick Smith, Ron Smith, Jack & Velma Snodgrass, Jim Snyder, Fred Sornoso, Rick Stalder, David Starkweather, Harry Steed, Mary Jane Stephan, Lee & Connie Stetson, Julie Stewart, Georgia Stigall, Bill & Mary Kay Stoehr, Julie Stokstad, Dick & Harriet Stoltz, Leslie Stone, Pat Stoneman, Ruth & Roger Strange, Lisa Strong-Aufhauser, Rod Supple, Suzanne Swedo, Dean Swickard, Jim Taggart, Gail Takakjian-Gilbert, Tenaya Lodge, Steve & Nancy Terrel, Brenda Tharp, Billy Thomas, Steve Thompson, Mike Thornton, Dwight Tracy, Noreen Trombley, Cary & Wendy Trout, Elizabeth Tucker, Val-Print, Linda Vanderwater, John Van Winkle, Kyra van Wagendonk, Jan van Wagendonk, Derrick Vogelka, Beth Waldow, Keith Walklet/Quietworks, Patricia Walls, Mary Watt, Howard Weamer, Robin Weiss, Claudia Welsh, Marmie Whelan-DeVos, Wilderness Press, Jim & Lynn Wilson, Libby Wilson, Martha Winnacker, Fern Wollrich, Dave Wyman, Linda Yamane, Steve Ybarra, Linda Yemoto, Yosemite Bank, Yosemite Concession Services, Yosemite Fund, Yosemite Institute, Yosemite Peregrine B & B, Yosemite Winter Club, Bob Yutzy, Karen Zaller, Zellag the Phlegmatic.



# WILDFLOWER ALERT!!

Spring wildflowers in the Merced River Canyon are responding with abundant bloom and variety at this writing, and it should be the same throughout the Sierra all summer long. Call Penny or Lou (209/379-2321) to ask about one of these outdoor seminars:



## **Botany Basics**

July 3-5  
Suzanne Swedo Tuolumne Meadows

## **Poisons, Pigments & Perfumes: Plant Chemistry**

June 25-28  
G. Keator & M. Sequin Crane Flat

## **On The Trail of Gourmet Delights**

July 9-12  
Ilo Gassaway Tuolumne Meadows

## **The Giant Sequoias**

July 10-12  
Stan Hutchinson Wawona

## **Words in the Wild**

July 23-26  
Robin Drury Tuolumne Meadows

## **Yosemite Creek Backpack for Women**

July 24-26  
Karen Rust Tuolumne Meadows

## **Eastern Sierra Biodiversity:**

### **From Desert to Alpine**

August 3-7  
John Harris Tuolumne Meadows

## **Wilderness Ethics**

August 14-16  
J. Medieros & G. Sessions  
Tuolumne Meadows

## **Bird Close-Ups-Bird Banding**

August 14-16  
Mike Rigney Lundy Canyon

## **Insects**

August 15-16  
Michael Ross Tuolumne Meadows

## **Hiking & Drawing in The High Country**

August 21-23  
Moira Donohoe Tuolumne Meadows

## **High Country Day Hikes**

August 21-23  
S. Branch & N. McClintock  
Tuolumne Meadows

## **Hawk Movement & Migration**

Sept. 10-13  
Jeff Mauer Tuolumne Meadows

All the 1998 seminars are listed on the  
Y.A. Web Site: <http://yosemite.org>

## **Association Dates**

July 5-11, 1998  
Work Trip, Wawona

July 26-August 1, 1998  
Backcountry Work Trip, Yosemite Creek

August 16-22, 1998  
Work Trip, Tuolumne Meadows

September 12, 1998  
23rd Annual Meeting, Wawona

March 27, 1999  
Spring Forum, Yosemite Valley

## **Museum Gallery**

June 8-December 21, 1998  
Yosemite Landscape Paintings

209/379-2317

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

# YOSEMITE CATALOG

## Preserving Nature in Our National Parks - A History

by Richard West Sellars.

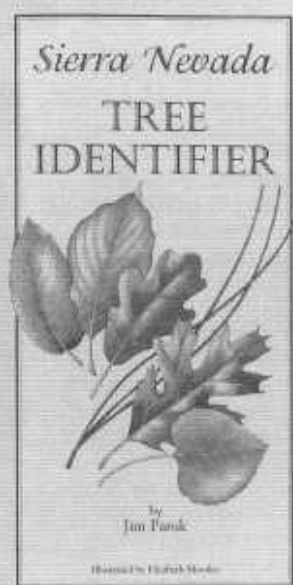
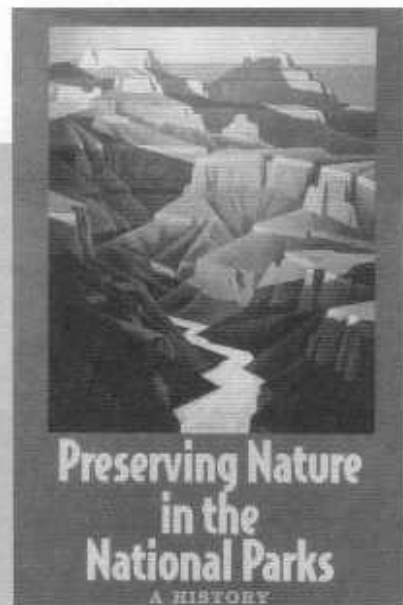
Here is the acclaimed new book written by a National Park Service historian who has thoroughly recorded the story of the age-old conflict between managing the parks for visitors and protecting their natural resources. Spanning the period from the creation of Yellowstone National Park in 1872 to the present, this comprehensive history analyzes the management of fires, predators, elk, bear, and other natural phenomena in such parks as Yellowstone, Yosemite, Grand Canyon, and Great Smoky Mountains. Key historical figures such as George M. Wright, Starker Leopold, Adolph Murie, and Joseph Dixon are discussed.

At the heart of the study is the author's contention that in the decades after the Park Service was established in 1916, landscape architects and engineers gained dominance over wildlife biologists and scientists in the new agency and shaped the attitudes and culture of the Service. He further asserts that because of this development, the National Park Service has not responded in full faith to key environmental concerns in the national parks over the years.

Richard Sellars is a historian with the N.P.S. based in Santa Fe, New Mexico. He conducted extensive research in developing the book, consulting many original documents never used before. This is indispensable reading for those interested in a fascinating historical analysis of one of America's most admired federal bureaus.

Illustrated with a small portfolio of black and white photographs.

380 pages, Yale University Press, 1997. Hard cover, \$35



## Sierra Nevada Tree Identifier

by Jim Paruk, illustrated by Elizabeth Morales.

This is a new guide to the trees of California's great mountain range that's both comprehensive and easy to use. With it, users (both experienced and novice) will be able to identify the trees they encounter in the Sierra Nevada. The easy-to-use key quickly narrows the choices, and accurate line drawings help make positive identification a snap.

Both broad-leaved and cone-bearing trees are included, and over 45 different species are treated. For each the author has provided information about size and shape, bark, needles and cones, leaves and fruit, habitat, range, and similar and related species. To make the guide even more useful, there's an appendix with identification tips, references, a list of elevational belts with related trees, and an index.

The work is thoroughly illustrated with detailed, exact, and beautiful line drawings by Elizabeth Morales, a scientific illustrator. She has added sketches of fruits, cones, and any other distinguishing characteristics to make the process of keying out a tree as painless as possible. Jim Paruk is a naturalist and outdoor educator, who spent many years in the Sierra working for the Yosemite Institute. He is now a Ph.D. candidate in behavioral ecology at Idaho State. This latest publication from the Yosemite Association should prove popular with all Yosemite/Sierra Nevada lovers. 126 pages, 1998. Paperback (with a sturdily sewn binding and a washable cover), \$9.95

## Pajaro Field Bag

This newly developed waist pack features seven pockets for everything you'll need when you're hiking or enjoying time in the outdoors.

The main pocket is sized to accommodate field guides, travel books, or binoculars. There are smaller pockets (including one with a zipper) for note pads and maps, and specialized pockets for pencils, pens, and sunglasses. Best of all, a secret pocket sealed with Velcro keeps keys, credit cards, and other valuables safe. It's the best such pack we've found.

Made in the U.S.A. of durable Cordura in navy blue, forest green or black by Pajaro. (please specify color) \$29.95



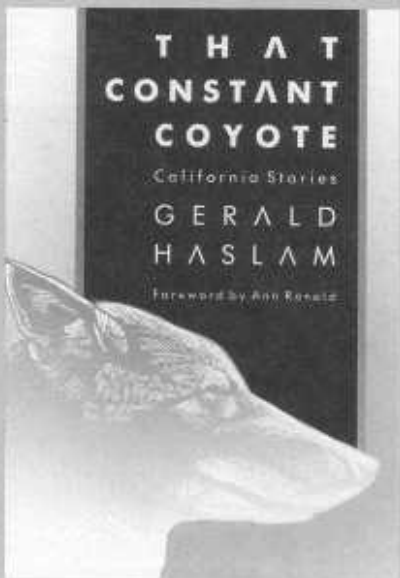
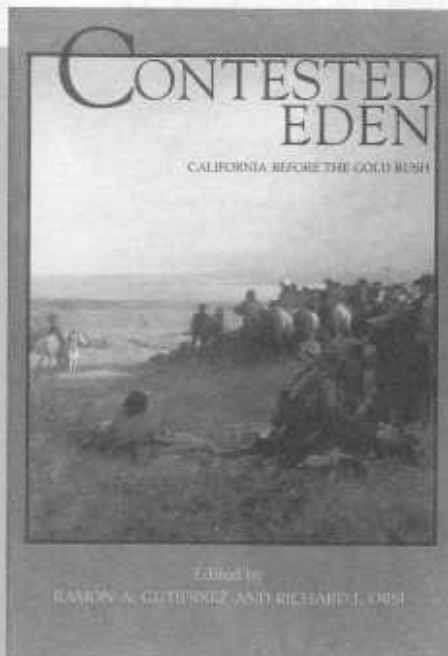
### Contested Eden - California Before the Gold Rush

edited by Ramon A. Gutierrez and Richard J. Orsi.

Prepared for the occasion of the celebration of California's 150th birthday, this anthology is made up of essays by many of today's leading scholars on such issues as the evolution of California's culture and society, the interaction of its citizens with the natural environment, and the importance and legacy of cultural and ethnic diversity in the state.

Sure to be enjoyed by scholars and amateur historians alike, the volume treats a number of topics in California history such as foreign exploration, the Mexican-American war, the missions, immigration, and the economy. New areas of inquiry include environmental issues, the experiences of women, and the status of California's Native Americans. Contributors include M. Kat Anderson, Antonia I. Castaneda, Steven W. Hackel, Doyce B. Nunis, Jr., and James A. Sandos.

Accompanied by 89 black-and-white illustrations, *Contested Eden* celebrates California by offering a fresh perspective on the forces of long ago that shaped the state into what it is today. Co-published by the University of California Press and the California Historical Society. 396 pages, 1998. Paperback, \$27.50



### That Constant Coyote - California Stories

by Gerald Haslam.

A fifth-generation Californian, Haslam has written 25 stories based on his personal experiences and the ordeals of people he knew in the San Joaquin Valley. These are recordings of the landscapes, the working-class customs, and the voices of the Bakersfield area, featuring Okies, Indians, blacks, Latinos, ranchers, and roughnecks.

*Westways Magazine* suggested that Haslam writes with tolerance about intolerance, with a sense of justice about injustice, and with humor that doesn't stoop to condescension. The characters reveal themselves in the vernacular of the time and place through Haslam's gift for language. Appropriately, *That Constant Coyote* won the PEN Oakland/Josephine Miles Award for Excellence in Literature.

Gerald Haslam is the author or editor of nineteen books (and a long-time member of the Yosemite Association). His work includes short stories, nonfiction books, and essays. He provided the text for the award-winning *Great Central Valley*, a large-format photographic project published by the University of California. 197 pages, University of Nevada Press, 1990. Paper, \$15

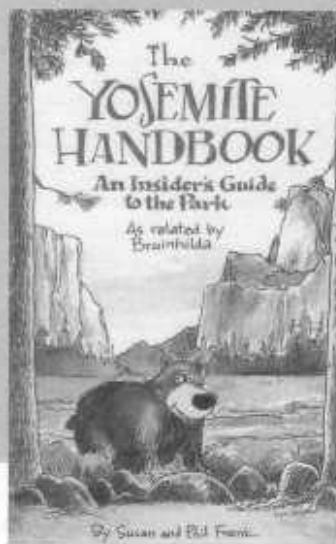
### The Yosemite Handbook—An Insider's Guide to the Park (as related by Bruinhilda)

by Susan and Phil Frank.

This new guide, organized in a question-and-answer format, grew out of the National Park Service list of the 101 most frequently asked questions about Yosemite. It is narrated by Bruinhilda - one of Phil Frank's fun-poking bear characters from his daily cartoon strip, "Farley." The handbook includes directions to the park, places to stay, activities to enjoy, flora and fauna, and history - all organized in a readable format.

The text that Susan has provided for Bruinhilda's narration is fun, up-to-date, and accurate, incorporating recent policy and park changes made right up until the time the book went to press. Phil's sometimes whimsical, sometimes hilarious cartoon illustrations round out this thoroughly entertaining and enlightening book about Yosemite.

The guide is liberally illustrated with cartoons, maps, and other drawings, and features a handy "Quick Reference" section that includes telephone numbers, reservation forms, a checklist for campers, and more, 184 pages, Pomegranate Press, 1998. Paperback, \$14.95





### Yosemite Association Patch

Our Association logo is embroidered on colorful, sturdy fabric for placement on daypacks, shirts, blue jeans, jackets, or wherever! The newly-designed patch is available in three attractive

colors: dark blue, forest green, or maroon.

\$3.00 (please specify color)



### Yosemite Wilderness Pin

Here's a beautiful enamel pin commemorating Yosemite's unparalleled wilderness.

It's circular in shape with a high country scene rendered in blues, grays, and greens.

A real treasure for collectors.

Approximately 1 inch in diameter. \$4.00

### Yosemite Association Mug

This distinctive and functional heavy ceramic mug feels good with your hand wrapped around it. Available in two colors (green or maroon), it's imprinted with our logo and name in black and white. Holds 12 ounces of your favorite beverage. \$6.50 (please specify color)



### Sierra Nevada Field Card Set

*Illustrated by Elizabeth Morales*

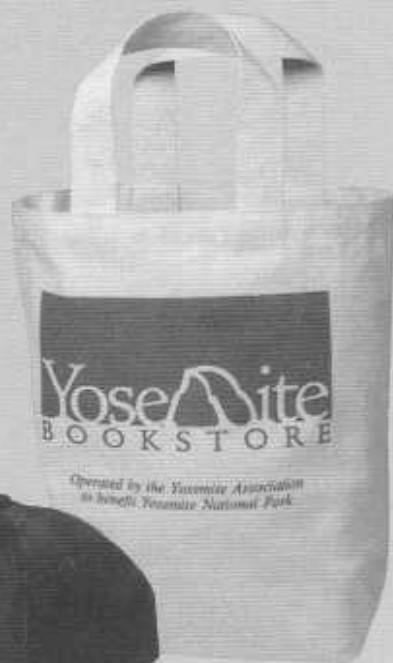
These handy field identification cards depict the most commonly seen birds, mammals, trees, and wildflowers from the Sierra Nevada region. Illustrated with color drawings and including information about the size, habitat, and other field marks of each, the cards are unbreakable, waterproof vinyl plastic and fit conveniently in one's daypack or glove compartment. Particularly helpful for newcomers to the Sierra as regularly observed flora and fauna can be quickly identified. Four plastic cards printed on both sides, Yosemite Association, 1991 and 1995. \$11.00



### Yosemite Bookstore Book Bag

Conserve resources with Y.A.'s handy book bag made from durable 100% cotton fabric with a sturdy web handle. Cream-colored, it's imprinted in blue with the Yosemite Bookstore logo. Fine craftsmanship and generous oversized design make this a bag you'll want to take everywhere.

Approximately 17 x 16 inches. \$8.95



### Yosemite Association Baseball-Style Cap

Our Y.A. caps are made of corduroy with an adjustable strap at the back so that one size fits all. The cap is adorned with a Y.A. logo patch, and comes in dark blue, forest green or maroon. The cap is stylish and comfortable, and wearing it is a good way to demonstrate your support for Yosemite. \$9.95 (please specify color)



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## Join the Yosemite Association

You can help support the work of the Yosemite Association by becoming a member. Revenues generated by the Association's activities are used to fund a variety of National Park Service programs in Yosemite. Not only does the Yosemite Association publish and sell literature and maps, it sponsors field seminars, the park's Art Activity Center, the Wilderness Center, and the Ostrander Lake Ski Hut.

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 efforts to make Yosemite an even better place?

### MOVING?

If you are moving or have recently moved, don't forget to notify us. You are a valued member of the Association, and we'd like to keep in touch with you.

### MEMBER BENEFITS

As a member of the Yosemite Association, you will enjoy the following benefits:

- \* *Yosemite*, the Association journal, published on a quarterly basis;
  - \* A 15% discount on all books, maps, posters, calendars, publications stocked for sale by the Association;
  - \* A 10% discount on most of the field seminars conducted by the Association in Yosemite National Park;
  - \* The opportunity to participate in members' meetings and volunteer activities held throughout the year;
  - \* A Yosemite Association decal; and
- Special membership gifts as follows:

*Supporting Member:* A selection of 8 handsome notecards and envelopes featuring beautiful photographs of Yosemite;

*Contributing Member:* A copy of the award-winning video, *Yosemite: The Fate of Heaven*;

*Centennial Member:* *The Promise of Wildness*, an elegant book of essays and photographs;

*Life Member:* Matted color photograph by Howard Weamer of "Half Dome—Storm Light;" and

*Participating Life Member:* Ansel Adams Special Edition print of "Yosemite Valley—Thunderstorm."

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# Yosemite

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