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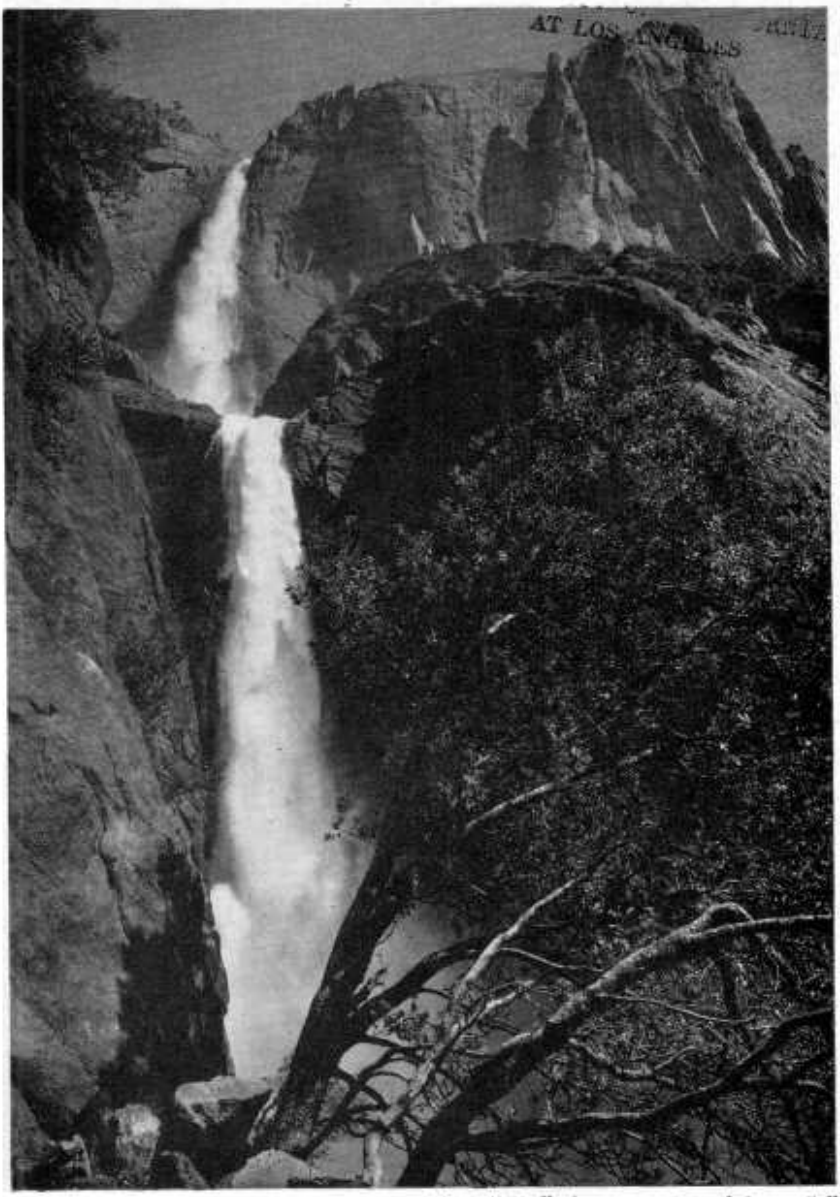

Yosemite Falls from near Base of Lower Fall
—Ansel Adams

Joseph S. Dixon

Cover Photo: Yosemite Falls from near Base of Lower Fall. By Ansel Adams from "My Camera in Yosemite Valley." Reproduction by kind permission of Virginia Adams and Houghton Mifflin Company.

Yosemite Nature Notes
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DEATH OF JOSEPH S. DIXON

By Carl P. Russell, Park Superintendent

On June 23, 1952, Joe Dixon passed away at his home near Escondido, California. Since the early years of interpretive work in national parks, Mr. Dixon made many and varied contributions to the success of the program. He is properly identified as a pioneer in park naturalist work, especially as a research specialist.

As a staff member of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, he assisted in the field work and the compilation of that classic work, *Animal Life in the Yosemite*, 1924, which was produced by his chief, Dr. Joseph Grinnell, and by Dr. Tracy I. Storer. Joe also was a co-author with Dr. Grinnell and Dr. Jean M. Linsdale in the writing of a similar volume on the zoology of Lassen Volcanic National Park, *Vertebrate Natural History of a Section of Northern California through the Lassen Peak Region*, 1930, and with Grinnell and Linsdale he produced the important *Fur-Bearing Mammals of California*. His contribution to the zoological literature of many western national parks and national monuments was quite voluminous.

In 1928 George Wright, who had served as Yosemite's assistant park naturalist for a number of years, employed Mr. Dixon as a wildlife technician within the newly organized national parks wildlife research group. This was a unit set up with the support of Mr. Wright's personal funds—the forerunner of the wildlife branch of the National Park Service.

This private undertaking launched by Mr. Wright resulted in Mr. Dixon's withdrawal from the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology and his subsequent alignment with National Park Service programs. When Mr. Wright moved his administrative and research offices from Berkeley, California, to the National Park Service offices in Washington, D.C., Mr. Dixon remained in the western wildlife unit of the National Park Service as a government employee and continued his very constructive work in the field and in the regional office.

Beginning in 1933 Joe assumed direction of the instruction of the Yosemite Field School, and each summer for 9 years he endeared himself to successive classes of students as well as to his co-workers in the Yosemite National Park organization. He was a field man by choice and he had the gift of interesting others in field work. Probably this leadership was as important as any of the splendid work done by Mr. Dixon. He continued to serve as field biologist until his retirement in March 1946. Since that time he has

enjoyed his ranch home in Escondido where a wonderful variety of avocados guaranteed production in every month of the year.

Joe was 68 years old. His first childhood home was near Galena, Cherokee County, Kansas. With his parents he came to California in 1888 and the family settled upon the lands near Escondido which Joe again called home in his later years. He was a graduate of Escondido High School and did some work of college grade at Throop Polytechnic Institute in Pasadena. It was at Throop that he met Dr. Joseph Grinnell and there began the friendship and association which later took him to the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology as a staff member with Dr. Grinnell, its director.

One of the highlights in Joe's career was his discovery of the first recorded nest of the surf bird at Mount McKinley National Park. It was on this same trip, a Harvard University expedition, that he found a new variety of ptarmigan which was named for him.

The National Park Service owns a remarkable series of negatives made by Mr. Dixon, who was an expert in animal photography. Some of his best pictures were published in the government publication, *Wildlife Portfolio of the Western National Parks*. While working in Yosemite he gave particular attention to the life history of the deer. In 1934 he published an informative work, "A Study of the Life History and Food Habits of Mule Deer in California." This work appeared in *California Fish and Game*, 1934, pages 181-282 and 315-354.

Two sons and two daughters by his deceased wife survive him. His widow, Ethel Bernice Dixon, resides in the Escondido home. Joe's burial took place in Oak Hill Cemetery on June 26.

PARKER AND HUBBARD CHANGE POSITIONS

By Donald E. McHenry, Park Naturalist

With the last handclasp of their Yosemite friends at the close of the farewell party given for Associate Park Naturalist and Mrs. Harry Parker at the Rangers' Club on July 3, a 12-year* tour of duty of productive and dedicated work with the naturalist division here came to a close. Packing their gift of a beautiful water-color painting by Gunnar Widforss of Yosemite's Castle Crags, Harry and his family left the following morning for his new assignment as park naturalist in charge of the interpretive work at Crater Lake National Park.

Harry Parker, a member of the 1936 class of the Yosemite Field School, enters upon his new responsibilities with a wealth of training in various fields, notably in zoology and museology. He has grown in stature as an interpreter of natural history, first during his experiences in Olympic National Park, where he was a ranger doing part-time naturalist work, and then during his years with the Yosemite naturalist staff be-

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ginning in November 1940. For much of the latter period he served as business manager of the Yosemite Natural History Association, Inc., and of the Yosemite Field School. His exercise of good business acumen is reflected in the sound financial status of both organizations. His ability as an instructor in the Yosemite Field School has been recognized by its students, many of whom are now working on a seasonal basis either for the National Park Service or for the California state park system.

Harry has had a valuable companion in his wife Katherine, known as Kit to her many friends in the park. A Field Schooler herself, of the class of 1941, she was a graduate of Radcliff and a participant in a Wellesley geological field trip for the study of glaciers. Her training and skill as a cartographer have resulted in a number of outstanding maps and charts which she has drawn from time to time for use in regular and special issues of *Yosemite Nature Notes*. The best wishes of their Yosemite friends for all possible success

Harry C. Parker

in their new functions go with the Parkers and their two charming children, Harry Mac and Betsy.

As the Parkers leave us we feel fortunate in welcoming the Hubbards to Yosemite to take over the duties of associate park naturalist. Douglass H. Hubbard, more familiarly known as Doug, comes from Hawaii National Park where he has been in charge of his own naturalist program since 1948. He entered on duty as assistant park naturalist in Hawaii in 1947 by advancing from the position of ranger at Millerton Lake National Recreation Area. He had served a short tour of duty in 1941 as ranger naturalist at Sequoia National Park. It was at this latter place that Doug met the lodge program director, Fran Christianson, whom he married. They now have a delightful family of youngsters made up of Douglass Jr., age 7, Janet, age 5, and Joan, age 3, all of whom have already found a place in the Yosemite community.

Doug Hubbard is also a Field Schooler, a member of the 1940 class.

Douglass H. Hubbard

In 1937 he was employed here as museum assistant and is therefore no stranger to Yosemite. He is a native Californian, having lived in Fresno. He received his A.B. degree in zoology from the University of California in 1940, and his M.S. degreen in 1942 from Texas A. & M. College. Doug worked as a patrol inspector with the U.S. Border Patrol from 1941 to 1944, after which he was a Naval Reserve officer on a destroyer-escort in the Pacific from 1944 to 1946.

Doug brings with him a rich experience from his previous position in Hawaii where he has had a leading part in the growth and development of one of the outstanding museums in the National Park Service. He was also responsible for a superior publications program in connection with this interpretive work on the Islands. It is evident that he will make many noteworthy contributions in these and other fields in his new position in Yosemite National Park.

As we bid farewell to the Parkers we all join in extending a most cordial welcome to the Hubbards as new Yosemite neighbors.

THE 7,000-YEAR MISTAKE*

By Peter M. McLellan, Field School, 1951

Just how long have people been living in Yosemite Valley? In the entire park? These are questions now foremost in the minds of some National Park Service officials. In the past few years, accumulating evidence has greatly expanded the story of this region's early inhabitants. Among the objects gathered are several pieces of evidence which indicate the antiquity of man in this area.

It s now believed that the Miwok Indians used the Yosemite area only in the summer for seasonal food gathering (1). For this reason their structures were not of a permanent type, the winter climate being too severe for their comfortable existence. These summer campsites are frequently encountered throughout the park, and there is strong possibility that permanent ones will be found. During the time in which Mr. Robert McIntyre was assistant park naturalist in Yosemite (1948 to 1950) he compiled data of the known archeological sites in the park in an effort to plot each one accurately on a master map. His survey revealed that at least 154 sites exist within the park and an additional 8 just outside the boundary (3). More sites have been discovered since then. The majority of these are believed to be relatively recent.

These sites range from below 4,000 feet to about 11,000 feet in elevation. The most common artifacts encountered are bone awls, clamshell disc beads, knives, mortars in bedrock granite, pestles, olivella shells, projectile points, and scrapers (3).

Yosemite National Park, as a summer hunting and gathering ground, was also an area of many major trails crossing the Sierra Nevada,

*An introduction to the archeology of Yosemite National Park, and an analysis of the "Yuma" spear point found in the Yosemite Falls Indian Cave described by Mr. McLellan in "The Caves of Yosemite Valley," *Yosemite Nature Notes*, December 1951. The numbers in parentheses appearing in the text correspond to references in the bibliography at the end of this article.—Ed.

Yosemite Valley Indian village diorama, in Yosemite Museum

because of its central position in California in respect to both geography and the culture. It is believed that this is the reason that few permanent habitation sites have been found.

A site in Pate Valley may have been permanent, for there is evidence of 12 depressions in the ground, and these are characteristic of habitation remains. Similar house pits (21) may be observed through the San Joaquin Valley and into Oregon, through Washington and into southern British Columbia (17). A series of pictographs are visible on the granite cliffs above the Pate Valley site. A dart point made of black obsidian, identified by the Southwest Museum (19) as a possible early Paiute point, was found at this site in addition to the other usual items mentioned above. This may have been carried there in the course of trade wth eastern tribes.

Winter snow conditions are of prime importance when discussing, or looking for, permanent site locations. For this reason it is considered that the sites at Lake Eleanor and above Chinquapin Falls may also have been permanent (15). Both of these places, with a southern exposure, are relatively warm and clear of snow when the snow is deep in Yosemite Valley.

The Yosemite Field School's cross-country trips have been instrumental in the finding of new sites. Whenever large forest fires occur, new areas are laid bare to the soil and the fire crews often locate sites then readily visible to both the trained and untrained eye. From this it appears that these archeological sites are well distributed through the park.

Any visitor in Yosemite National Park may come across a site but he should keep in mind the fact that not only is it against the law to collect

objects lying about, but that so doing will seriously hamper the archeologist who needs all the information he can obtain in working out the history of the area. It is therefore very important for one to be intelligent and scientific in recording all available information regarding the circumstances of the finding of any Indian objects or sites, and in reporting them to the park naturalists. Many new sites may be expected to be found in this manner.

The most recent find and possibly the most important was made in Yosemite Valley, in a cave, about 100 yards along the trail to Yosemite Falls from the parking lot. Here, in the center of a small, nearly inaccessible room in the cave, an obliquely flaked spear point was found on August 2, 1951, by Mr. Ronald Smart.

Photo by McLellan

Basalt spear point found in Yosemite Falls Indian Cave, August 2, 1951. Inch squares on background.

The point is about 4½ inches long and is composed of glassy basalt (see photograph). The fine marginal retouching is a unique characteristic. This type of craftsmanship is paralleled by the Egyptian poniards and neolithic daggers from Denmark (7, 14). However, it is not possible to determine the age of this point, because it was found on the surface of the cave floor. There is weathering or patination covering the point as indicated by a small chip that was recently knocked off the base. The elevation of the cave is about 4,000 feet above sea level.

It has been reported by Mr. Louis R. Caywood, National Park Service archeologist for Region Four (4), that obliquely flaked points were found at Tenaya Lake, elevation 8,142 feet, by some students from the University of California. A possible fragment of an obliquely flaked point was found by Mr. Robert McIntyre near a mortar rock in the old arboretum near Wawona in 1946. The elevation here is 4,100 feet. The records on these last two finds are, unfortunately, incomplete.

Another obliquely flaked point was found in Spider Meadows, on the surface of the ground, by Mr. Carl Phillips on August 4, 1942 (3). This point has a composition of black obsidian and measures 3¼ inches; its tip was broken off at some earlier date. The elevation of Spider Meadows is approximately 4,550 feet.

It was believed almost at once that these finds were all "Yuma" points. With this the long dormant resource of the national park—archeology—immediately came to life. Prior to this time only a superficial study had been made to furnish the Yosemite Museum with a show collection representing some of the many points so frequently en-

untered in the park. Some fine nology (1, 18, 20, 22, 23) had been ne with the last remaining Yo- mite Indians but this furnished no ue to the real history of the park's cupation.

The new finds provided the be- nning of a very confusing study— e that has taken over three months come to a tentative conclusion as the significance of these artifacts.

Points of this type were first noted be of a unique and definite shape Dr. A. E. Jenks, in 1928, while he as examining an extensive per- nal collection that had been made Yuma County, Colorado (26). All them had been collected from the rface. The points were given the pe name "Yuma" from the county which they were first collected.

It was not until 1940 that Yuma ints were found buried in the ound, or *in situ*. This site found by r. O. M. Finley (10, 11), near the wn of Eden in Sweetwater County, yoming, established the Yuma int as one of the earliest artifacts ancient man to be found in North merica (8). Using the best geologic idence on hand at the present time e "Yuma Culture" is assumed, on e average, to be in the order of ,000 years old (5, 14). It was for this ason that there was so much excite- ent in Yosemite.

The real problem commences with e fact that points identical in ap- earance to these "original Yuma ints" were being found in differ- nt parts of the country under very different circumstances (7, 13, 24). oon the names Eden, Scottsbluff, Oblique, Plainview, San Jon, and Yuma-Folsom were being used to prefix "Yuma" points found in dif- ferent areas (7, 26). The literature has become more and more involved be- cause of the attempt to consider all these points in the same chronology. It has recently been proposed to re- ject the term "Yuma" altogether and use the remaining terms (12, 27).

For a number of years these "di- agonally flaked points" have also been found in California (9, 13, 16, 24, 25). Here they never had been assigned to a "Yuma" classification because of the relatively more re- cent situation in which they were found. Specifically, these points are especially characteristic of the Mid- dle Horizon of the Sacramento Val- ley (9, 13, 24, 25). Their age has been estimated by R. F. Heizer (9) to be 1,500 B.C., and by F. Fenenga (6) as A.D. 500.

In addition to the central California specimens mentioned above, parallel ob- liquely flaked points are well known from the southern Sierra Nevada foothills, and of these our Yosemite pieces are repre- sentative (6). Five similar specimens were found by Mr. Fenenga at each of two sites excavated by him in the summers of 1948 and 1950. The first site was in the Pine Flat Reservoir in Fresno County and is identified as a protohistoric (1800 to 1850) site of the Wobomuch Mono. The second, of the same age, was Slick Rock Vil- lage in the Terminus Reservoir in Tulare County and is identified as a site of the Wukchumni Yokuts (6).

The problem now has the follow- ing form: Diagonal obliquely flaked points have been found *in situ* in sites dated from about 7,000 years ago to those dated about 100 years ago! No longer is this long, narrow, lanceolate point an indicator of late postglacial antiquity. It is, however, characteristic of the period from 5,000 to 10,000 years ago (12). These points will have to be excavated from sites in Yosemite before a def- inite date can be placed on them. From this stage of the study it seems apparent that the age will be within 1,000 years rather than 7,000 years.

The natural question arises as to how the California points may be differentiated from the "original Yuma type" points. On this Mr. Fenenga writes (6):

> One obvious difference between the diagonally flaked blades of California and the parallel obliquely flaked blades of the High Plains is that the California specimens are all made of obsidian or other glassy forms of basalt whereas none of the Plains specimens are. I doubt if this is other than a simple matter of source of supply. The technique of workmanship appears to me to be identical in the two areas and the form of the blades is very similar although there is a higher incidence of concave bases in the California specimens. Edge and basal grinding is present in both areas.

From this it can be seen that there is a great deal of work to be done in Yosemite before the increasingly complicated picture of the former inhabitants of the park may be fully understood. Throughout the month of July an archeological survey of the park was conducted by some graduate students of the University of California in cooperation with the Yosemite naturalist staff. This represented the first organized survey of the park. It will be important to correlate their findings with the established archeological pattern in existence for central California (2). The results will help to tie the known information together and, with what is learned, form a nucleus for an addition to the already fascinating interpretive story of Yosemite.

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STATEMENT TO SUBSCRIBERS

The editors of *Yosemite Nature Notes* wish to express their regret for the lateness in publication of this issue. Unprecedented demands on our official time this summer have made it necessary to fall behind in our normal schedule, to which a return will be made as soon as possible.—Ed.