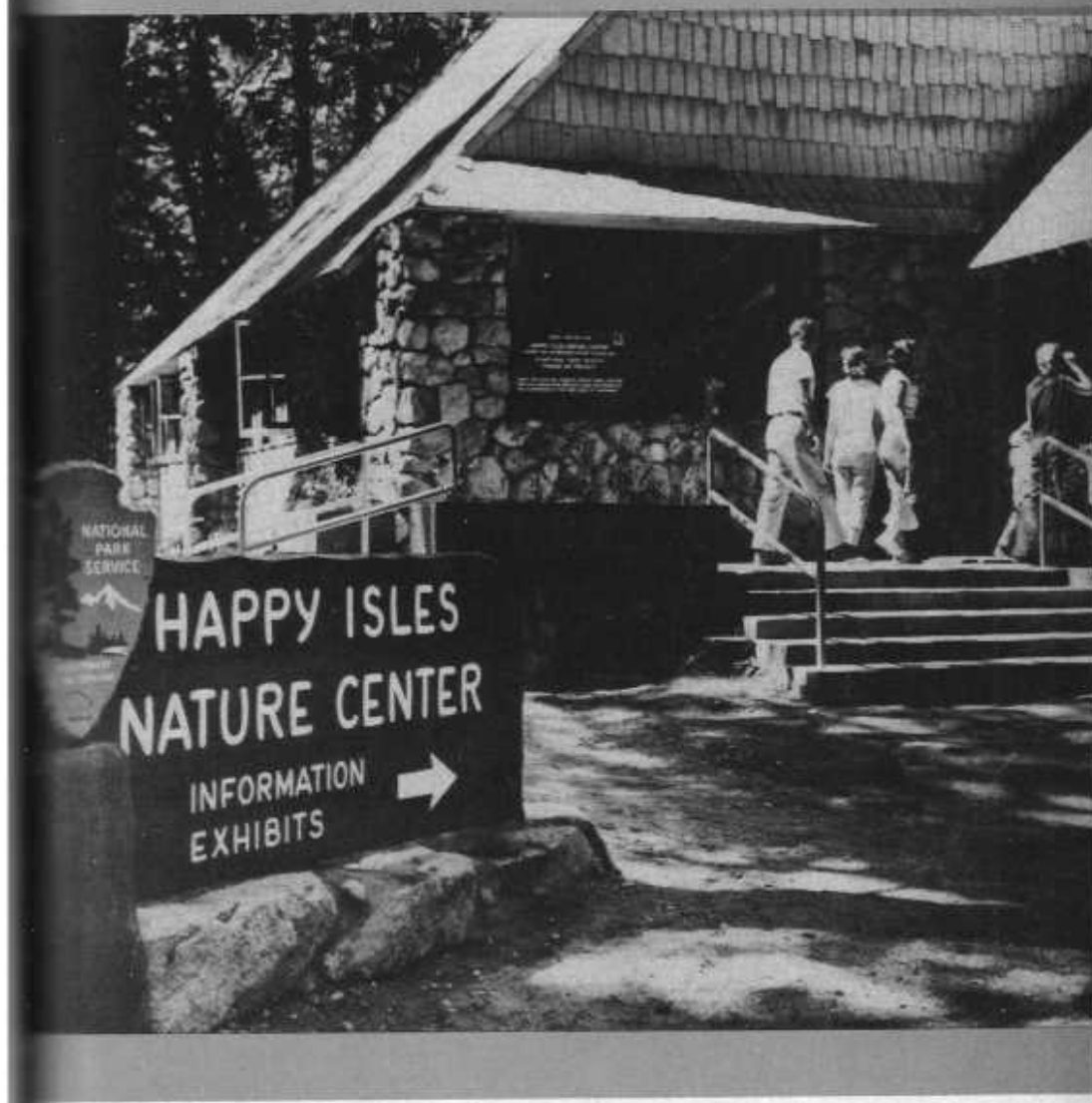


YOSEMITE NATURE NOTES

Dec. 1957

Your guide to the



A Mission 66 Project

THE HAPPY ISLES NATURE CENTER

By Douglass Hubbard, Park Naturalist

With Illustrations by the Author

Many visitors to Happy Isles, in Yosemite Valley, this summer were surprised not to find the fish hatchery to which they had become accustomed. In its place was a sign reading "Happy Isles Nature Center." A look in the door attracted them into a bright, cheerful lobby with a friendly ranger-naturalist on duty. From the lobby their interest was drawn to a colorful exhibit room, with such themes as "Every Season is Best in Yosemite," "Enjoying Yosemite," "Backpacking is Fun," and "Bears Don't Need Can Openers." But following Confucius' adage, let's let the pictures take you on an arm-chair visit:

How did the Happy Isles Nature Center come about? This is a story of interest and hard work on the part of many people. I was in Washington, D.C. at the time approval was given by National Park Service Director Conrad Wirth to use the building, available as a gift from the California Department of Fish and Game, as an interpretive center, rather than raze it. Rough interior sketches made at that time were dressed up and improved by my colleagues and became the working plans for the center. From April until June when it was opened, staff members, artists, and "draftees" spent almost every weekend and many nights in exhibit preparation. Local engineering and maintenance crews were occupied with building repairs and demolition of unneeded tanks and sheds. Yosemite and Regional administrators helped by finding reserve funds where none existed and holding them for our use (no advance programming was possible, of course). The National Foundation for Junior Museums, through its director, John Ripley Forbes and Exhibit Supervisor J. Robert Sewell,

prepared and donated seven exhibits valued at \$3500. Several fine artists were literally drafted into service to prepare exhibits. These included William D. Berry, John Boone, Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Hood, Vergena Koller and Ed Vella. Excellent taxidermy work was accomplished by Herman Beck, also for the NFJM. Money willed to the Yosemite Natural History Association by Elizabeth E. Morse was used to purchase animal miniatures and for other essential exhibit materials. The California Department of Fish and Game, in addition to making the building available, donated funds for the exhibits on "Trout for Yosemite," an attractive unit which tells the history of fish rearing and stocking in Yosemite, from pack string to air-plane-drop. Eggs are hatched and fingerling trout reared in two troughs which are part of the exhibit. Various manufacturers generously contributed items of equipment for the exhibits on backpacking and the history of photography.

Last but not least the Yosemite Junior Ranger Program reached an all time high in attendance by having a meeting and working space of its own in attractive surroundings. In addition to morning sessions weekdays, afternoon meetings for native crafts and two evening campfires weekly—geology and Indians, were held. Strictly for the youngsters, parents could watch the Junior Ranger activities but they were required to stay outside of the fence!

As one of Yosemite's first MISSION 66 projects, the Happy Isles Nature Center has already taken its place as a major unit in Yosemite's interpretive program, as the more than 42,000 visitors who passed thru it this past summer will attest. We hope you can see it soon.

Yosemite Nature Notes

THE MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF
THE YOSEMITE NATURALIST DIVISION AND
THE YOSEMITE NATURAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION, INC.

John C. Preston, Superintendent
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W. C. Bullard, Asst. Park Naturalist
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Welcome to Yosemite!

We hope your visit will be an experience you will long remember.

We are eager to do all we can to make it so.

Please help us protect Yosemite so that visitors in years to come will find it as beautiful as it is today.



THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Welcome to the Park

If you want to see an experience you will never forget, come to the Park.



We are a duty to the land and to the people who love it.

There is a duty to the land and to the people who love it. We will find it as beautiful as it is today.

THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

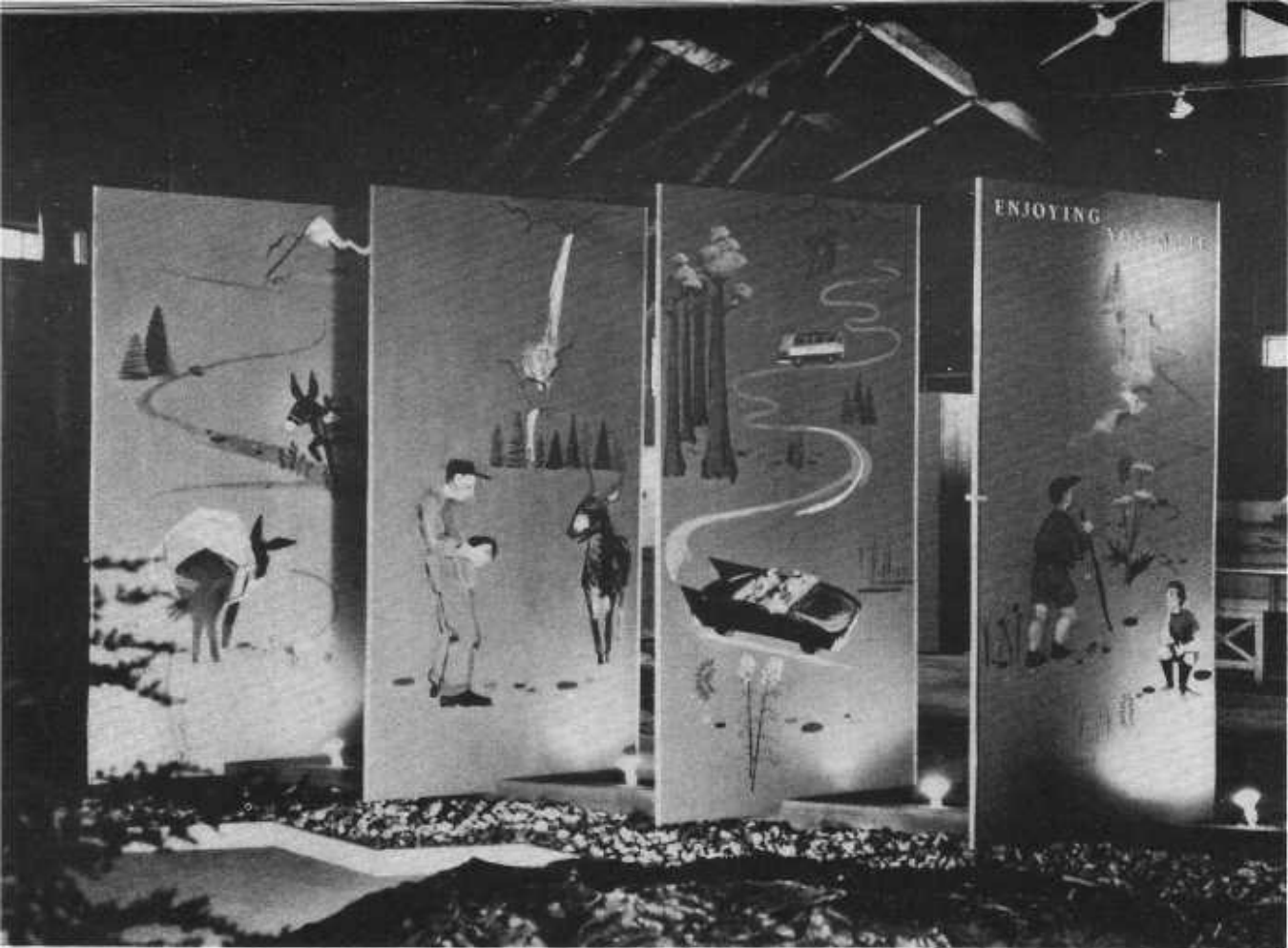


A RANGER NATURALIST IS ON DUTY TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS.



VISITORS ARE ENCOURAGED TO SEE YOSEMITE AT EVERY SEASON.

Art: Vergena Koller



THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO ENJOY YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Art: Ed Vella



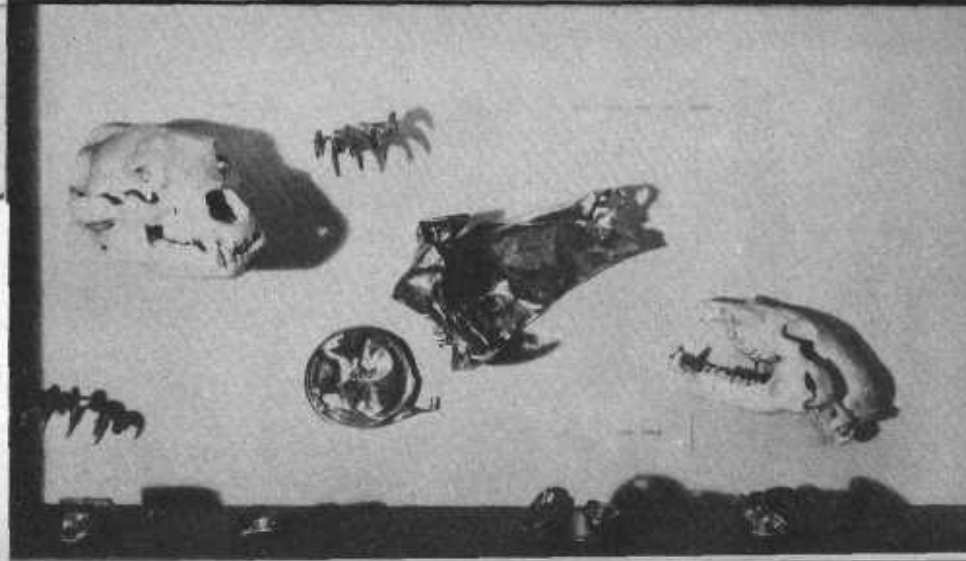
LIGHTWEIGHT EQUIPMENT AND TASTY, DEHYDRATED FOODS MAKE BACKPACKING A PLEASURE ON THE PARK'S MANY TRAILS.

Art: Ed Vella



Illustration of the life cycle of the black bear, showing the bear in its natural habitat.

Art. Mr. and Mrs. Wm. L. ...



ABOVE: THE CALENDAR SHOWS MONTHLY ACTIVITY OF YOSEMITE BEARS.

TOP RIGHT: VANISHING SPECIES. THE GRIZZLY BEAR AND WOLF ARE EXTINCT IN CALIFORNIA, THE SIERRA BIGHORN NEARLY SO.

LOWER RIGHT: "BEARS DON'T NEED CANOPENERS" SHOWS THE POWERFUL TEETH AND JAWS OF THE SIERRA BLACK BEAR.

Art: Bear calendar, Wm. D. Berry; Vanishing species, J. Robert Sewell (gift of National Foundation for Junior Museums); Bear teeth, Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Hood.

TROUT FOR YOSEMITE



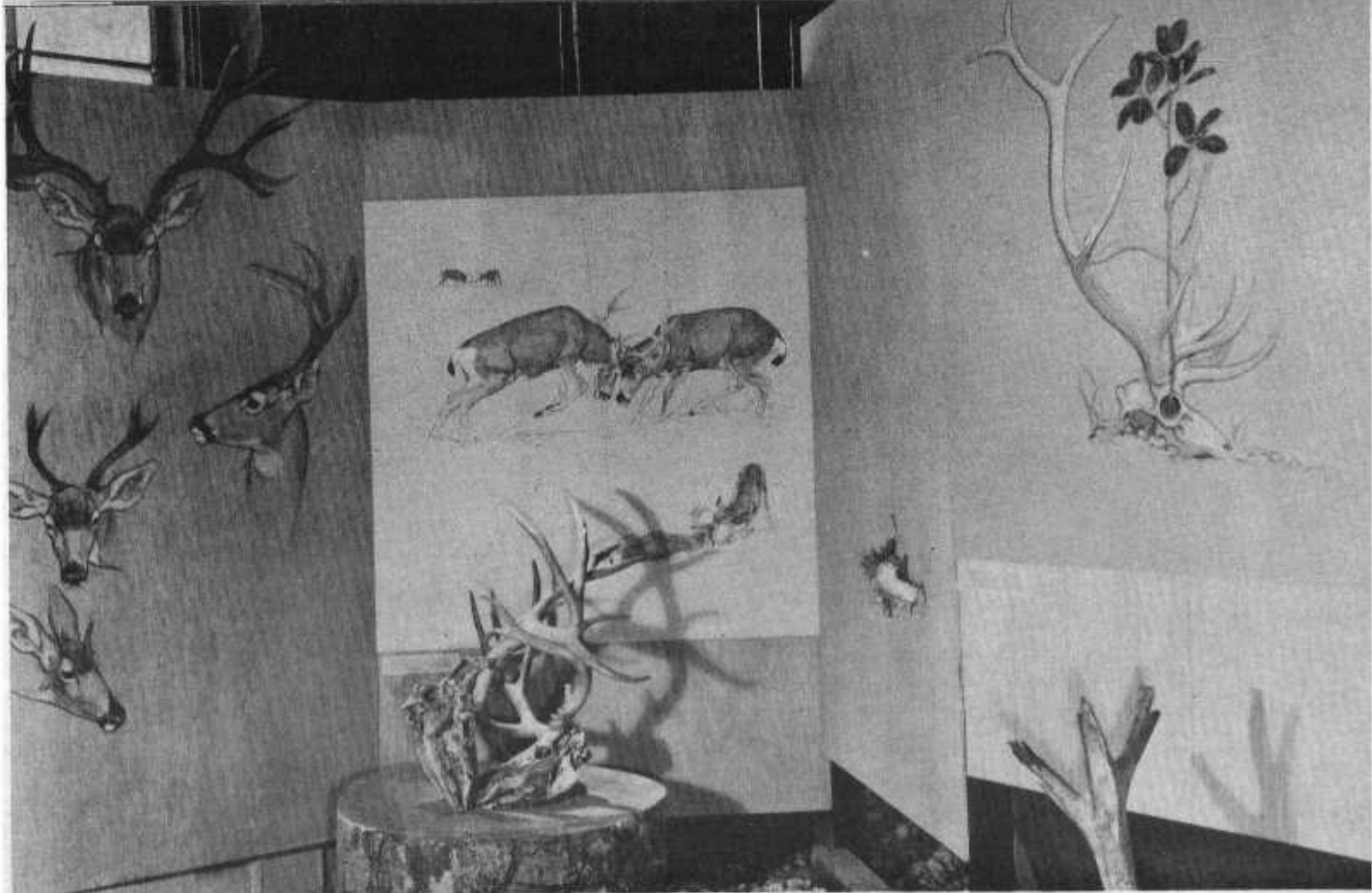
NO FISHING UNTIL

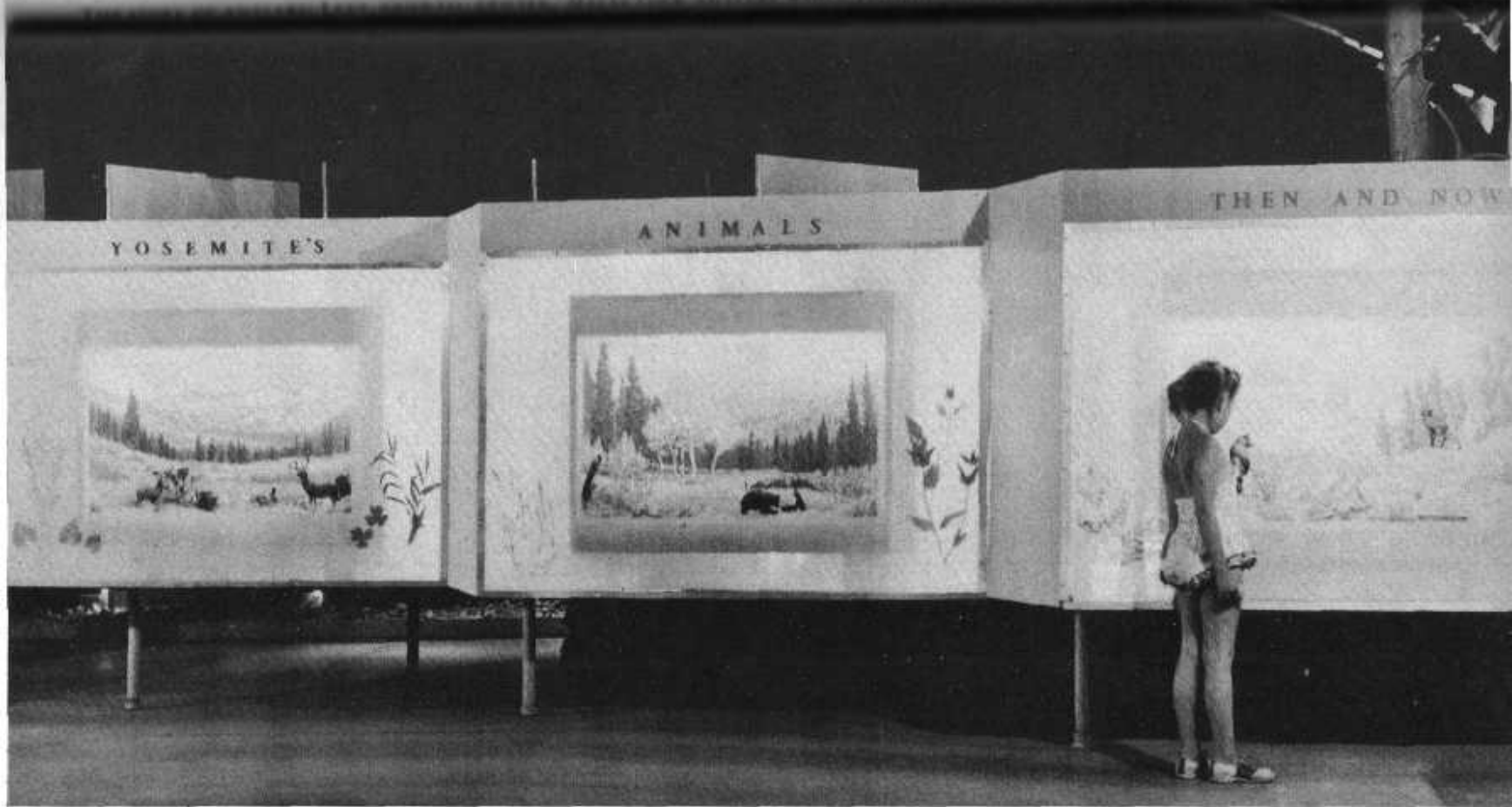




COUNTERCLOCKWISE: GLACIERS CUT SHEER WALLS UP WHICH TROUT COULD NOT SWIM. FISH PLANTING WAS BEGUN BY EARLY RESIDENTS, CONTINUED BY CAVALRY DURING ARMY ADMINISTRATION OF YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK.

Art: Ed Vella

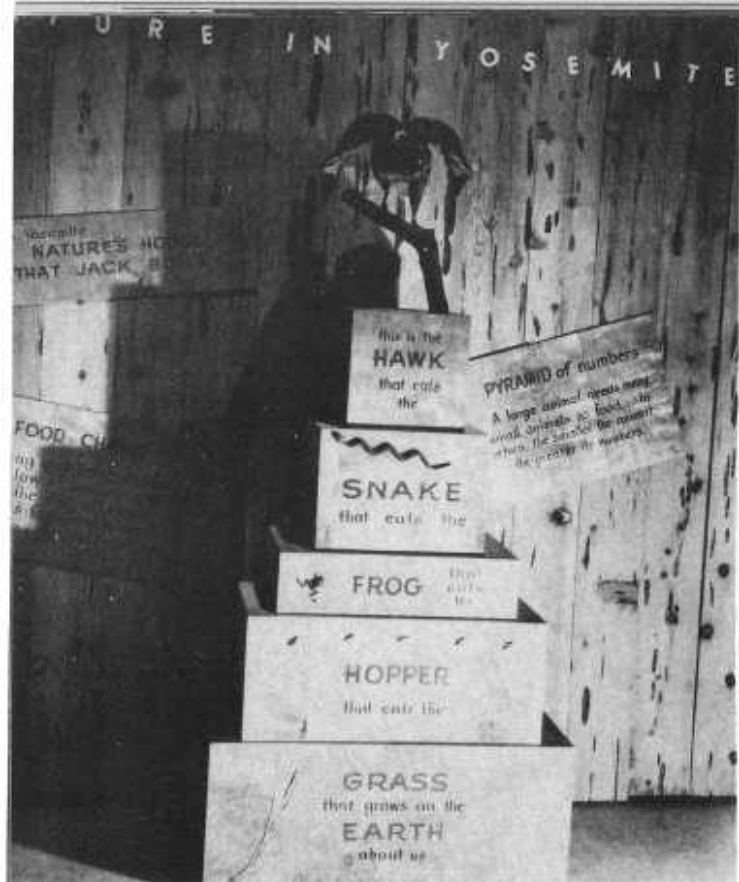




YOSEMITE'S ANIMALS THEN AND NOW: LEFT, DEER GROUP AND MOUNTAIN LION;
CENTER, BEARS AND COYOTE; RIGHT, GRIZZLY BEAR, WOLF AND MOUNTAIN SHEEP.

Art: J. Robert Sewell, gift of National Foundation for Junior Museums.

Animal miniatures: Louis Paul Jonas



ABOVE: NATURE'S HOUSE THAT JACK BUILT.
 RIGHT: VISITORS FEEL OBJECTS SUCH AS PINECONES.



ABOVE: PROTECTIVE COLORATION. TURNING HANDLE RAISES BACKGROUND, SHOWS HOW FAWN IS PROTECTED BY BLENDING INTO SURROUNDINGS. BELOW: THE JUNIOR RANGER PROGRAM (for ages 7-13) MEETS AT HAPPY ISLES IN SUMMER. RANGER NATURALISTS LEAD PROGRAM OF NATURE ACTIVITIES STRESSING A BETTER UNDERSTANDING AND APPRECIATION OF NATURE AND NATIONAL PARKS.

*Art: J. Robert Sewell, gift of National Foundation for Junior Museums.
Taxidermy by Herman Beck.*





Robert McIntyre, N.P.S.

NATURE WALKS LED BY RANGER-NATURALISTS ARE A REGULAR AND POPULAR FEATURE OF YOSEMITE'S JUNIOR RANGER PROGRAM, WHICH MEETS EVERY SUMMER WEEKDAY MORNING AT THE HAPPY ISLES NATURE CENTER IN YOSEMITE VALLEY.

THANKS!

Without the help of many individuals and organizations the Happy Isles Nature Center would not be a reality today. The National Park Service expresses its appreciation to the following:

COOPERATING ORGANIZATIONS

- California Department of Fish and Game
- National Foundation for Junior Museums

DONORS

- AnSCO, Binghamton, New York
- Argus Cameras, Ann Arbor, Michigan
- Dri-Lite Foods, South Gate, California
- Eddie Bauer, Seattle, Washington
- Yosemite Park and Curry Company, Yosemite, California
- Himalayn Pak Co., Monterey, California
- A. I. Keltly Mfg. Co., Glendale, California
- Polaroid Corp., Cambridge, Massachusetts
- Recreational Equipment Cooperative, Seattle

ARTISTS

- Ansel Adams
- William D. Berry
- John Boone
- Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Hood
- Ed Vella
- Vergena Koller
- J. Robert Sewell



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Dan Anderson