

Yosemite

Volume Forty-seven
Number Nineteen

Published for Members
of the Yosemite Association

Mott Reveals Plans for Yosemite

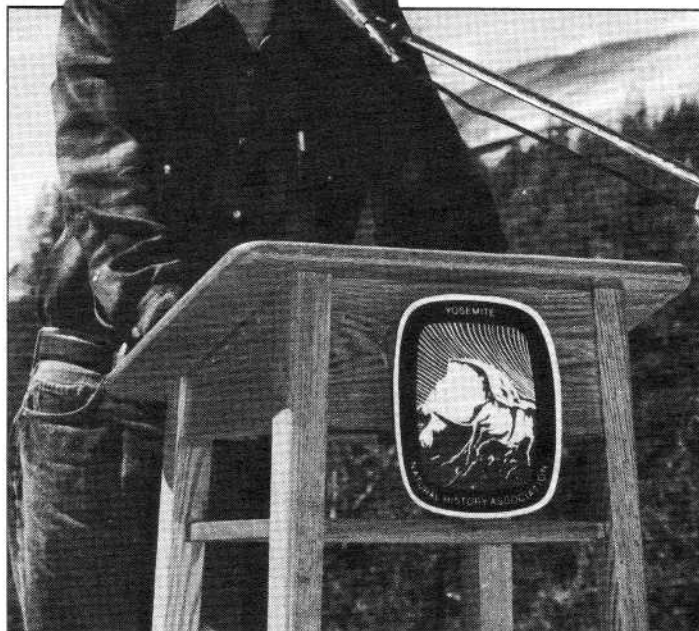
Karen Cobb

In his talk to Yosemite Association members at our tenth annual meeting, NPS Director William Penn Mott, Jr., announced a series of decisions recently reached by the National Park Service which will shape the future of Yosemite. Before some 300 persons assembled at Tuolumne Meadows on a glorious autumn day, Mott proclaimed his commitment to the General Management Plan for the park and set out his plans to see that it is fulfilled and implemented.

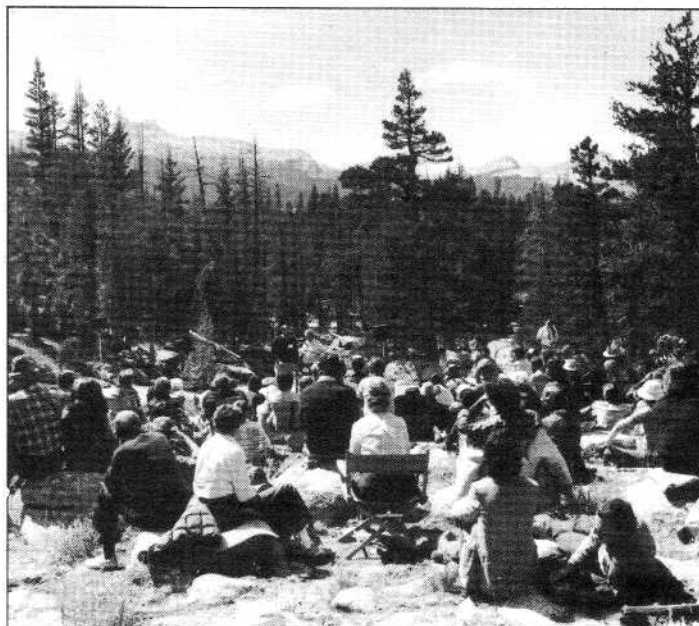
The director first revealed that the NPS has chosen to allow the U.S. Magistrate's courtroom and home, the jail and other law enforcement functions to remain in Yosemite Valley, along with ambulance and fire support. These facilities had been slated for relocation to El Portal. On the other hand, NPS service area facilities and maintenance shops will be moved to the El Portal administrative site.

The garage operation of the Yosemite Park & Curry Company will also be removed from Yosemite Valley, and only emergency repair service will be available there. In anticipation of these major moves, alterations to sewer, water and electrical systems are underway and nearing completion.

Many members present were startled by Mott's announcement of the decision to discontinue use of the NPS hydroelectric facility on the Merced River in Yosemite Valley. This policy change reflects a new sensitivity for the environmental quality of the river, and the desire to assume a position



MICHAEL DIXON/NPS



MICHAEL DIXON/NPS

consistent with the NPS stance in opposition to the proposed Keating project on the Merced River in El Portal.

The dam at the intersection of Highways 120 and 140 will be removed despite the anticipated yearly cost of approximately \$650,000 to purchase supplementary electric power. Plans are to have the dam and penstock dismantled by 1987.

The Director stated that he supported the legislation pending in Congress that would allow 99-year leases on land within the El Portal Administrative Site. Mott hopes that by the Yosemite Centennial in 1990, the benefits and effects of the Master Plan will be evident to park visitors.

Mott spoke enthusiastically about the Yosemite Fund campaign and expressed his feeling that the \$52,000,000 goal is attainable. He approves the notion that public involvement in the parks, exemplified by this campaign, is an important objective.

Speaking of his personal concerns for the National Parks generally, Mott indicated a desire to see entrance and camping fees made directly available to the parks instead of having them go into a General Fund for disbursement to various government agencies. The revenue would support better maintenance and would expand research and interpretive programs. Interpretive programs need to be broadened so that as each visitor is welcomed, he or she is educated to his or her responsibility for caring for the parks.

Following other remarks, the Director closed by observing that

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The Remarkable Summer of '85

The summer of 1985 was a remarkable one in Yosemite. Running the gamut from historic to tragic, the events of the past season are outstanding in their number and variety. We asked the park information officer for a recap of the major events occurring in Yosemite during the summer months.

The list, compiled as of September 24, follows (*the comments are ours*).

May

Proposed auto restrictions for Yosemite Valley during peak weekends were announced. (*The restrictions applied to the number of cars to be allowed into the park at periods of heavy travel such as Memorial Day. Park people were well-prepared for the experiment; fortunately, the "too many" lights didn't flash and all went just fine.*)

Teamster employees of the Yosemite Park and Curry Company went on strike against the company. The strike was settled on May 26. Teamsters reported back to work on May 28. (*There was a strike back in the early 1940's when the Yosemite Park and Curry Company laundry workers walked out. The strike was solved by shutting down the laundry.*)

June

On June 18, Suzanne Rathburn was stabbed while camping at the top of Yosemite Falls. The suspects were apprehended and Rathburn was taken to a Modesto hospital in stable condition.

On June 25, Dan Howard was reported missing in the Ten Lakes area of the park after becoming separated from his hiking companions. He was subsequently found dead from injuries suffered in a 200-foot fall.

During the Howard search, a major fire broke out in the Pate Valley area, east of Hetch Hetchy. The fire reached 1600 acres before it was contained on July 7.

July

A rockslide closed the Yosemite Falls trail. Approximately fifty feet of trail were damaged. (*The trail*

has suffered damage from rockslides over the years; the worst in recent years occurred in 1980. Three hikers were killed, several injured, and the subsequent trail repair was a drawn out, sometimes dramatic and dangerous task that took 24 months.)

On July 27, 1985 two people were killed and three injured as a result of being struck by lightning on Half Dome.

August

The Governor of California visited Yosemite on August 16 and 17 to view a project being completed by the California Conservation Corps.

On August 18, a man and woman were observed falling or jumping from Glacier Point. Circumstances of the fatalities are still unknown.

Combined dedications of Mount Ansel Adams and of Yosemite as a World Heritage Site took place on August 24 in Tuolumne Meadows. Dignitaries in attendance included Secretary of Interior Donald Hodel, Director of the National Park Service William Penn Mott, the family of Ansel Adams, Senator Alan Cranston, Wallace Stegner, David Brower, Ambassador Richard Benedict, and Robert Redford. (*It was a grand affair, befitting the man for whom the mountain was named and the park that is definitely world class.*)



MICHAEL DIXON/NPS

On August 26, the hydroelectric plant and penstock in Yosemite Valley were permanently shut down for philosophical reasons. *Good news—we understand that the dam across the Merced will be removed, and the little stone powerhouse kept to serve some future interpretive function.*

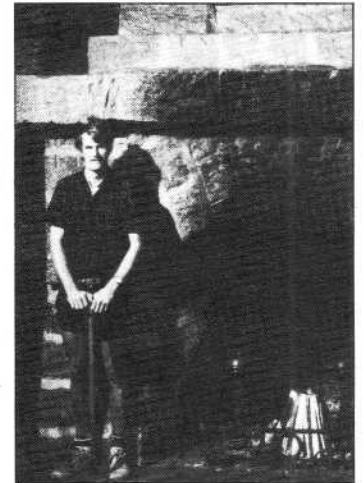
September

During September 13 and 14, Director William Penn Mott toured the park with the Superintendent and other park management staff; he then joined the Yosemite Association members' meeting to speak on decisions made for the park as a result of that tour. (*Mr. Mott made a fine talk and impressed the members with his philosophy and his vigorous attitude for improvements in all the places in his trust.*)

On September 21, a tree limb fell on an open air tour tram, killing two and injuring 12.

Summing up the events as tragic or otherwise, it's about a draw. Despite the untoward happenings, most days in Yosemite are free of mishap and it continues to offer peace, rejuvenation and happiness to a great many people.

Harwell Remembered



Douglas S. Harwell, a long-time member of YNHA, passed away in October of 1984, at the age of 35. He was a grandson of the late C.A. (Bert) Harwell, Yosemite's Chief Naturalist in the 1930s.

Bert can be remembered for his bird call imitations, nature walks, and his interests in the Yosemite Field School, Nature Notes, and this Association.

Doug, a teacher in Fresno, was coordinator of the Le Conte Memorial's programs in the Valley in 1981.

Contributions may be made to his memorial fund with the Association, established by his parents, Helen and Everett, of Fresno.

Remembrances will be used to help refurbish the John Muir Trail in Yosemite, part of the Yosemite Fund. Seventy donations totalling over \$2,300 have been received to date.

August: Robert Redford stands beside the plaque designating Yosemite National Park as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.

Hydro Proposal Threatens Merced River

Gary Moon

Incongruous as it may seem, a dam and a hydroelectric plant have been proposed for construction on the Merced River just outside Yosemite in El Portal. Approval by several agencies is inching closer. The project is the private venture of Placerville engineer Joseph Keating.

The "El Portal Project" would be a diversion system, beginning with a dam blocking the Merced barely 100 yards outside the park boundary in El Portal. Though only a small reservoir would be produced, the river would disappear into a 12 foot tunnel, bypassing five miles of riverbed. After spinning the turbines, the water would return to the river. So much water would be removed that the Merced would be reduced to a trickle most of the year. Only during spring runoff would the river appear to flow.

The diversion would violate the ecological balance, hamper the local economy, and virtually eliminate recreational use of this section of the Merced. Many of the exciting views of the turbulent stream would be eliminated, and the best of sheltered swimming places would disappear. Fishing in particular would suffer, as this section of the river has been found to support a wild trout fishery, to the degree that it has been proposed for designation as a "wild trout stream" (by the California Fish and Game Commission). Waters for kayaking and rafting sports, growing in popularity yearly, would be seriously depleted.

In return for the lost recreational opportunities, the ecological disturbances, plus other negative consequences, the project would produce electricity. But PG&E, the local utility, anticipates no problems meeting demands without it. Even so, federal law requires the utility to buy the power, and at a comparatively high price.

Strong opposition already has been raised by the Merced



The stretch of the Merced River that lies just above the proposed location of the dam project.

Canyon Committee, a local citizen's action group, as well as major environmental organizations. The Mariposa County Board of Supervisors, Congressman Tony Coelho, and the State Attorney General's Office, among others, also have filed official protests with the federal licensing agency. MCC and the Sierra Club are seeking permanent protection for the Merced by advocating its inclusion in the federal wild and scenic river system. Congressman Coelho may introduce such legislation in the next session.

For information on how you can help, please write to the Merced Canyon Committee, P. O. Box 152, El Portal, CA 95318.

'Yosemite Association' Adopted as New Name



Shakespeare asked, "What's in a name?" but in the case of our organization, "What's no longer in a name?" is a more apt question. At its July meeting, the Board of Trustees voted unanimously to change our operating name to the "Yosemite Association" by dropping the words "natural history" from our former title. The change signals the broadened and expanded role that the association has recently assumed in Yosemite primarily through its fundraising efforts.

Interestingly, this is not the first time that the association has altered its title. Formed originally as the Yosemite Museum Association in 1920, the organization made the transition to the Yosemite Natural History Association name five years later.

Motivating the change were at least two factors. First, the "natural history" aspect of the name has proven confusing in recent years given the unfortunate

demise of natural history as a popular discipline. Many individuals have mistaken the organization for a historical society or a museum support group.

Second, a name with more general appeal was felt necessary for use with the fundraising campaign. Doubts had arisen that the public would contribute to an organization with a limited function and mandate in Yosemite. As well, an increased membership is more likely to result from the change of orientation to that of general support for the park, not simply support for the interpretive division.

Of critical significance is the fact that the new name will be accompanied by no changes in the traditional activities of the association. Publications, sales, seminars, and the variety of other programs of the Yosemite Association will be continued and, in some cases, expanded.

Will Neely: The Living Legend Lives On

July 24, 1923–August 7, 1985

Will Neely was a familiar figure among the domes and forests of Tuolumne for many years; Will died in his sleep early this August. We learned that shortly before his death, Will asked that he be remembered to all the members of the Yosemite Natural History Association. He is reported to have added that, "The living legend still lives on."

At the recent members' meeting at Tuolumne, Carl Sharsmith read an essay Will had written years ago; it reminded us that he was a perceptive and sensitive writer. Several of us fondly remember Will stooping over to listen to Carl off to the side during the wine and cheese get together at last year's meeting—two Tuolumne men comparing notes and sharing their thoughts.

Will became known as a "character," temperamental, artistic and eccentric. He put a wonderful amount of enthusiasm and energy into everything he did. His writing reflected both his energy and sensitivity.

Will was assigned to Tuolumne Meadows as ranger-naturalist in 1952—he said because he proved himself incapable of standing behind the information desk all day long. In 1977, Neely wrote: "I was supposed to give the geology talk at the Valley Museum twice a day, all of us grouped around the plaster relief models of the Valley. I took the group out to see the real thing instead of the plaster. Chief Park Naturalist Donald McHenry caught me returning with my 75 visitors and called me into his office. "Will," he said, "it looks like you are an incorrigible field man. The next summer I was sent to Tuolumne."

Another favorite Will Neely-Carl Sharsmith story was related by Will in the 1977 Nature Notes. After a campfire talk where Will thought he had performed quite well, Sharsmith made the following pronouncement: "Will, you'll never be a scientist. You are the

eternal rebel against the tyranny of facts."

If rebellion was a trademark, creativity and sensitivity were the essence of Will Neely. He'll be missed by many.

Notes from My Journal

William L. Neely, Ranger-Naturalist

Yosemite Nature Notes Vol. XXXIX—1960

I write of a certain rebellious spirit in Nature. The sentimental often speak of the calm and peace of the mountains and the never-changing tranquility of life up here, "away from our rapidly-changing civilization."



They are lulled.

If you are alert you will find that Nature is always redoing her hair and shifting the furniture around. She is never satisfied with the course of a stream through the meadows and is forever washing down the granites with floods and freshets, and ringing up a howling good thunderstorm when things get too dull.

I admire the coyote. Unlike introspective man, he never analyzes his actions or worries about his conflicts with the world, nor nurses regrets for yes-



Will Neely, 1950, and two of his sketches in the 1950 Yearbook of the Yosemite Field School of Natural History.

terday's mistakes. He is forever in the present. One finds this healthy attitude all through nature. When the hawk is near, the birds set up an agitated racket. He swoops down and carries off a sparrow. When he is gone there is some fluttering about, but soon from some tree a song is heard again and business resumes.

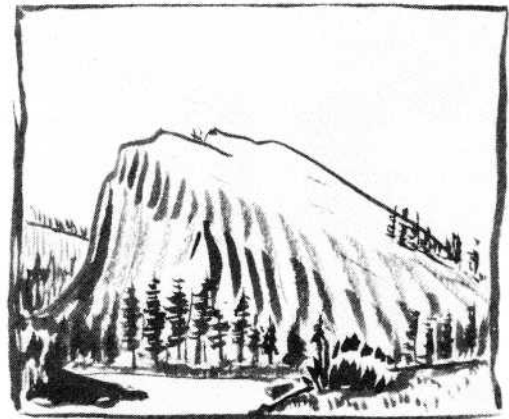
The coyote faces the day... he never yearns for the "good old days." I think the great ones are not those who bring about great changes, but those who can meet and adjust to the change that has been made. The coyote's survival, like that of the crow and those exasperating aphids, testifies to

an ability to meet change, survive and thrive.

I am not so impressed by the unchanging calm of nature that one reads about all the time, but rather by the constant mutability of nature, and for the elasticity with which wild things face the extremes. Last year it was cold and wet; this year parched and dry. We all talk about it, but the coyote goes about his business. If the streams dry up, all the more stranded fish to fatten him.

And yet the plants and animals are not always responsible mirrors to reflect daily events or normal climate. The knobcone pine is a reflection of a fire-climax. It waits patiently to seed itself, bearing cones that can only be opened in the heat of a fire. That fire may be rare or never come, but it has made that adaptation to an extreme and not the normal. Yet, on the other hand, the trout in this dry summer will die by the thousands in dried-up streams. He is fitted for streams and not for extremes.

Even the destructive needle-miner that's raging through the Tuolumne forest... in its dependence upon the the lodgepole pine, will it completely destroy its host and in so doing destroy its own self? We ask these questions. The coyote doesn't. I see him in the meadow. He is scratching his ear and looking down a ground-squirrel hole. I envy his complete immersion in his environment.



The Plight of Yosemite's Neighbor: Mono Lake

Even the remarkable vistas seen from the Tioga Road through Yosemite may not prepare visitors for the startling sight of Mono Lake at the foot of the steep Eastern slopes of the park. Mono Lake, North America's oldest body of water, is an inseparable extension of the Yosemite landscape. Visible from many of the park's loftiest peaks, this mysterious indigo expanse, with its improbable black and white islands and rim of young volcanoes, lies in dramatic contrast to Yosemite's granite heights. Closer exploration reveals that the lake teems with life—shrimp thrive in its briny waters, nourishing thousands of nesting gulls and millions of migratory shorebirds and waterfowl.

But Mono Lake may soon become a silent alkali wasteland. Since the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP) began diverting four out of five of the lake's tributary streams in 1941, Mono Lake has fallen 40 vertical feet and doubled in salinity. Trout fisheries in streams have been eliminated. Caustic dust, swept by the wind from thousands of acres of exposed lake bottom, is polluting the eastern Sierra air.

Unless diversions are curtailed, increasing salinity will destroy Mono Lake's unique ecosystem. In place of birds and magnificent scenery, Mono's neighbor, Yosemite, may inherit dismal views of dust clouds.

The Mono Lake Committee

The non-profit Mono Lake Committee, formed in 1978, has grown from a handful of biologists to a worldwide organization of more than 7,000 members. Major conservation groups have joined with the Committee in efforts to save the lake. Through legislation, lawsuits and educational programs, the tide is turning. The recent establishment of the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area has brought increasing recognition of the lake's plight. For a year, the Committee has been discussing



LARRY FORD

with DWP potential solutions that could lead to a viable lake level and an acceptable compromise with Los Angeles.

The State of the Lake

The Department of Water and Power continues to divert every drop of water from the Mono Basin that it legally can. A court-ordered flow of 19 cubic feet per second (cfs) of water in Rush Creek has not been sufficient to offset evaporation. At 6,378.5' elevation, the lake is now two feet below its April 1984 level; over a foot of elevation was lost this summer. Unless DWP shares some water, there could be a recurrence of landbridged islands, abandoned gull colonies, increased salinity, declining brine shrimp and brine fly populations and thousands more acres of exposed alkali.

On a positive note—Mono's islet-nesting California gull population did relatively well this summer. Perhaps three times as many chicks fledged this year than in 1984, when only 6,000 survived. This is still below the 35,000 counted in 1976, when Negit Island supported the largest colony of this species in California.

In 1979, the receding lake waters landbridged Negit, exposing the ground-nesting gulls to raiding coyotes.

The wet winters of 1982 and 1983 restored Negit to island condition, but coyotes remained marooned until last spring. A handful of gulls resumed nesting on Negit this season, hopefully indicating their return in greater numbers next year.

However, if dry weather continues, Negit could be landbridged again by the end of 1986. This would not give scientists enough time to conduct studies to determine the importance of Negit Island to the gull populations' long-term survival.

Rush Creek Flows!

One of the most encouraging recent developments, and one that already has brought several thousand acre feet of water into Mono Lake, is the legal battle over Rush Creek. Dessicated by DWP's diversions since 1941, Mono's largest tributary stream was resurrected by the wet winters of 1982 and 1983, and a thriving wild brown trout fishery was reborn. Since last November, the local Mammoth Fly Rodders and

The resurrected Rush Creek in the fall of 1984, temporarily protected as a public trust resource.

California Trout, Inc. have managed through court action to keep DWP from drying up the stream. A preliminary injunction remains in effect, keeping 19 cfs of water flowing down the stream and into Mono Lake.

The Mono Lake Committee and the National Audubon Society also have rallied to the stream's defense, joining the fishing groups as plaintiffs.

On August 23, Mono County Superior Court Judge David E. Otis found in favor of the stream's defenders, ruling that lower Rush Creek is a public trust resource that must be protected if feasible. This is an encouraging extension of the California Supreme Court's 1983 Mono Lake decision that obligates the State "to protect the people's common heritage of streams, lakes, marshlands and tidelands . . . as far as feasible," even if it means reconsidering past water allocations.

In spite of all its licenses, permits and agreements, DWP does not have the right to destroy

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A Yosemite Search— All's Well That Ends Well



GARRETDEBELL

Garret DeBell

On August 7, Joshua Gross, 11, and Greg Meyer, 13, became separated from their group as they hiked out of Yosemite's Chain Lakes area. A search was initiated and attention focused on the area outside the park concentrating on the trailhead and the "point last seen." Meyer was found, uninjured, at two o'clock in the morning.

Yosemite rangers entered the hunt early on the 8th when Mike Durr, then on horse patrol nearby, was directed to search trails in the area. By 9:30 am, the park helicopter was called into the search, its crew concentrating on the rugged South Fork area of the Merced River. At 3:30 am, a backpack was sighted in the river near Swamp Lake. Ranger Dave Morrow was landed near the scene; he determined the pack to be Josh's. A team led by Backcountry Ranger Laurel Munson was flown in to search the area downstream from the pack.

To manage the rapidly expanding search operation, National Park Service established an Incident Command Center. Eleven Park Service staff people

were assigned various responsibilities—logistics, investigation, liaison with the family, etc. For the rest of the day, the search was concentrated in the South Fork area. Ranger Dave Norris headed a team working downstream; Ranger Gary Colliver worked upstream from a point five miles below the location of the pack. The search continued well into the night, but Josh was not found. He was alone, somewhere in the wilderness on Yosemite's southern edge.

By the morning of the 9th, some 50 people including NPS personnel, volunteers from mountain rescue associations, Explorer Search and Rescue, helicopters from the California Highway Patrol and Lemoore Naval Air Station, and six search dogs were involved in the hunt. The effort on the South Fork had expanded to an area of fifteen square miles. While the helicopters searched from the air, trackers—some with dogs—worked up and downstream, as well as tributary streams and nearby trails. The only signs found were occasional shoe prints which matched the pattern of Josh's Nikes; these headed downstream.

With darkness approaching,

the Incident Commander directed some teams flown out; others were instructed to bivouac. The odds of a happy ending were becoming slim.

At 7 pm, Norris' team found fresh tracks and, in the waning light, moved rapidly downstream. At 7:50 they thought they heard a voice and directed the noisy helicopter away from the area. Minutes later, Scott Shrewbridge of ESAR heard another sound and shouted, "Josh, is that you?" The answer: "Yeah, who are you?"

The Incident Commander reported the good news. The helicopter crew assessed the possibility of getting Josh out that night, but with the rough terrain and poor light this appeared impossible, so Josh and the rescue team bivouacked. The next morning Josh was flown to Wawona to his relieved family and friends.

Members of the search teams later stressed that a successful rescue was the result of team effort: Shrewbridge, who had participated in twenty searches said, "This is the first time I've been there first." When Dave Norris, team leader, was asked to pose with Josh, he called everyone who had been involved to join in. He felt that recognition should go

The conclusion of the successful rescue of Joshua and Greg from the South Fork of the Merced.

to all who had helped find Josh, not just the one team of three who were in the right place at the right time.

What lessons can be learned from a successful search? The best course of action, according to search and rescue experts is: Tell someone where you're going and when you expect to return. If you think you're lost, don't panic. "Hug a tree" and stay put—someone is looking for you. If you do move, try to leave a clear trail. Carry a whistle and a signal mirror; three whistle blasts or mirror flashes are universal distress signals.

Park Celebration for Ansel Adams

On a sunny August afternoon, three or four hundred people gathered at Tuolumne Meadows to pay tribute to Ansel Adams. A mighty Sierra peak was officially named in his honor that day. Present at the ceremony were conservation activists, government representatives, cohorts of Adams' and others whose lives he had touched one way or another.

The sky was blue and clear, the Golden Gate Brass Quintet played appropriate music, the lunch was hearty and simple, old friends greeted old friends. The eulogies were delivered in sincerely praiseful words, neither overlong nor sentimental.

On the dais, with a backdrop of Unicorn and Coxcomb Peaks, were Adams' widow, Virginia, daughter Ann and son Michael and his wife Jeanne. Also there were Yosemite Superintendent Bob Binnewies, N.P.S. Director Wm. Penn Mott, N.P.S. Regional Director Howard Chapman, Interior Secretary Donald Hodel, Senator Alan Cranston, David Brower, Dr. Wallace Stegner, Richard Benedick of the U.S. State Department, Robert Redford and Sandra Dentinger representing Senator Pete Wilson.

It was a star-studded and



NPS PHOTO

effective group.

Mike Adams began the ceremony by recounting that his father made the first ascent of the towering 11,700' peak in 1932 with two or three Sierra Club cronies. That evening, around the campfire, they named it Mount Ansel Adams, a name so noted in Sierra Club hiking guides, but unofficial over the subsequent 53 years.

Each speaker addressed two fundamentals in Adams' life: that he was foremost among photographers of nature's beauty and mood, and that he was an unsinkable conservationist.

Sen. Cranston, who had worked with Adams on preservation efforts remarked that, "Adams' photos did more to protect this beautiful America

than all the speeches made before the Senate."

Brower, founder of Friends of the Earth and, outside the family, probably closest to Adams, said that his greatness was not just in his photographs but in his agenda for the preservation of the Earth's most scenic and natural areas.

Author Wallace Stegner spoke simply and elegantly, saying, "Ansel Adams had thousands of friends and admirers but he had only one true love, and that was the earth."

Mott, who had been appointed director of the N.P.S. in May, commented that his service would never compromise the ideals and goals that Adams had worked for with unswerving dedication.

In addition to the naming of

Wallace Stegner addresses the crowd assembled to honor Ansel Adams.

the Sierra peak in Adams' honor, Yosemite National Park was designated a World Heritage Site by UNESCO that afternoon. Of the 188 sites worldwide, the selection of Yosemite brought to 14 the number within the U.S. Richard Burdick of the State Department unveiled a plaque designating this.

The spirit of the day's events, all properly decorous, were warm, friendly, and upbeat.

Some of those fortunate enough to have known Adams, ended the day with a feeling that Ansel just might have been somewhere nearby and that he would have approved of what went on.



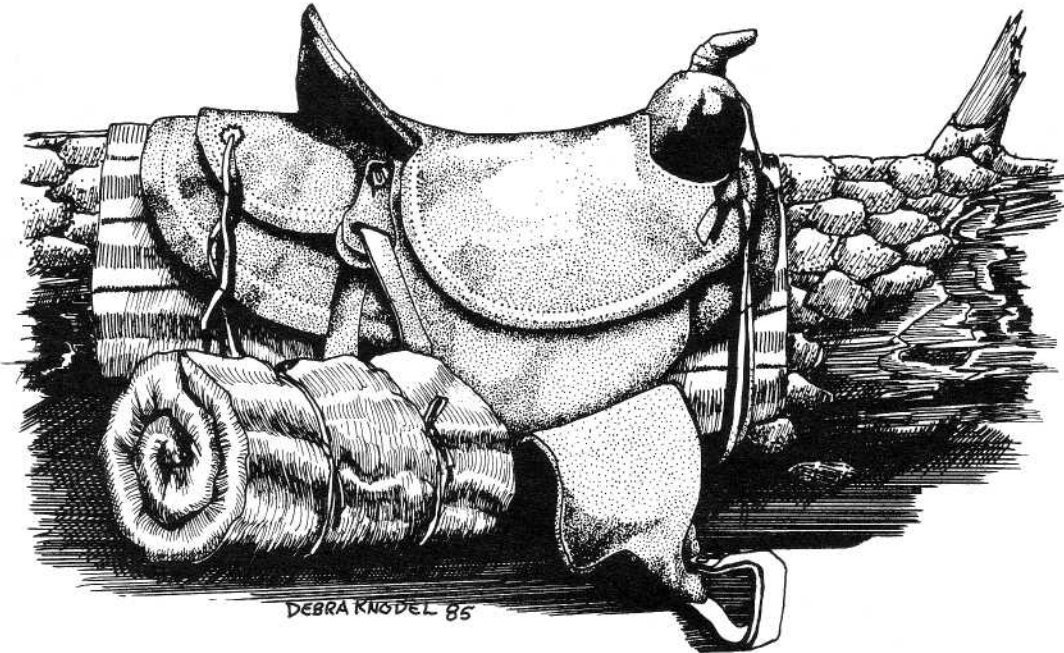
NPS PHOTO

David Brower praises Adams' tireless efforts to preserve the scenic and the natural.



NPS MAP

Seasons



Billy Fouts, Winter, 1985

It's time to go to follow the snow
Hear the mountains call
Go chase your star to the mountains far
And the trail you rode last fall
Then roll your bed—you already said
That you haven't time to stall

Spring in the foothills, the Sierra's not far behind
Gather'n times here feller, git back to the thin air grind
It's April and it's early, there's shoein' to be done
Watch the snow along the creeks as it melts beneath the sun

You fit a few saddles and teach some Rangers to ride
You start to grow callouses as you toughen your hide
That string's so fat and lazy, they lather in a trice
Order hay for summer and agonize at the price

The whole crew's here in May and we really start to swing
Go pack in them trail camps and hear that leather sing
Some camps are disasters, others just a breeze
Saw crews work the country clearin' trails of trees

By June we're going steady, runnin' to beat hell
The trail starts to crowd as the tourist numbers swell
Some boys are packin' groceries, others packin' dirt
One's as important as the other in this line of work

On July 4 we blow out, the next day is a haze
For the boys to tie a diamond is to see a gruesome maze
The bridge crew fin'ly rides out, a trail crew needs a team
You fall asleep so quick at night you haven't time to dream

Half a season is done and you're wore and run
The packers is hard and fit
In the valley it's hot and the string's about shot
So dusty and dry you can't spit

But there's a job to do and no one will say of you
That before it was done he quit

August, the crew's tempers are wearin' thin
It's man to man and you ain't givin' in
Then a special trip comes up and you pull the packs
Get a little sack time and your mind back on the track

In September it's rainin' like hell and welcome
Put on that slicker and pull your hat down some
Goddamn, there's snow on the peaks, must be turnin' fall
Mighty proud of that string, set your horse straight and tall

Then comes the time you're pullin' camps in the snow of October
Feelin' low 'cause you're cold and the season's almost over
Ship a few unneeded mules and count the wages in your poke
Clean up your gear and turn your horse in as broke

You're cold and tired and the last of the crew
In 'bout two weeks, you'll be down the road too
Afoot now at last and you hate bein' that way
Your joints are achy towards the end of the day

The boss calls you in, he's lettin' you go
You shake a few hands as it starts to snow
The boss hints around as you load up your gear
That he'd like havin' you work for him the next year

So you follow snow and it's time to go
Hear the mountains call
You chase your star to the mountains far
And the trail you rode last fall
Then roll your bed, you've already said
That you haven't time to stall

Cowboy and packer Billy Fouts works for the National Park Service in Yosemite driving teams and packing just about anything imaginable by mule for backcountry trail crews.

A Pair of More Recent Place Names

Jim Snyder

Place names in the High Sierra weren't much different in the nineteenth century than the names of early gold rush towns. They celebrated events, honored people, and described geography, often with a touch of humor.

After Yosemite National Park was established, and, as place names were formalized on maps at the turn of the century, place names were changed in many cases to recognize individuals associated with the national park.

Places still are given names in the older, informal way and many are in common use. Two widely recognized informal names, Mansfield Domes and Raisin Lake, originated with trail crews working in those areas.

Mansfield Domes are two prominent granite mounds between Sunrise High Sierra Camp and Cathedral Creek. They resemble nothing so much as two huge breasts smoothed by the glaciers and warmed by the summer sun. They had no name until the Sunrise High Sierra Camp was completed in 1960, and the trail constructed from the camp to Merced Lake via Cathedral and Echo Creeks.

Bob Barr came to Yosemite in 1946 after a pretty tough life in the midwest; he stayed to work trails for 22 seasons. His trail crew camped at Sunrise to build the upper end of the new trail to Merced Lake. The crew spent considerable time on the switchbacks and rocky stretches of trail at the foot of what were to be called Mansfield Domes. After a long summer the all-male trail crews quickly saw the resemblance of the domes to human anatomy and dubbed them Mansfield Domes—or Monroe Domes—depending on which actress, Jayne or Marilyn, seemed the closer match for the geology.

Barr objected strenuously to the name, feeling that it was improper in Yosemite. He proposed instead to name the domes after biblical mountains such as

Sinai or Ararat. During several loud discussions around the camp jungle fire, Barr was shouted down by the crews who insisted on Mansfield Domes. That name has come into general local usage.

Recent attempts to rename the domes in favor of Dolly Parton have not gained the momentum nor created the enthusiasm of the original name given by Barr's trail crew.

North of Highway 120 from Sunrise and the Mansfield Domes, just below May Lake, lies a small lake commonly called Raisin Lake. Without knowing the story of Raisin Lake, one might assume at first that the name was a reflection of the lake's shape. It is a small elongated lake, on the trail between May Lake and Glen Aulin, about half way between May Lake and the Tenaya junction.

Jimmy Jones was a Chukchansi Indian who first worked in Yosemite in 1910 on the old Wawona Road, later as a logger in the '30s, and finally as a cook and trail crew foreman between 1953 and 1963, often in the Tuolumne Meadows area. Jimmy loved to fish and would slip away with his pole to some favorite place. He liked those small lakes, not far from the road, that few people knew about. He could get to Raisin Lake from the old Tioga Road, which he did often—after



A Warm Winter, Says Ferdinand

Ranger Ferdinand Castillo, who has manned the Tioga Pass Entrance to Yosemite for the past 32 years, predicts a milder than normal winter for the park this year. As reported in the Mariposa Gazette on September 12, Ferdinand has identified a series of weather signs upon which he relies for his predictions.

A beautiful and mild winter (welcome to some, less exciting to others) is assured based on the following indicators. First, the water in the high country ponds is low. Further, temperatures at Tioga Pass dropped only into the 40s until September 1, when the mercury hit the low 30s. Snow, during the week of September 10, was preceded by less than a day of frost; usually two days of frost occur before the first snow. Such storms usually happen two weeks before or two weeks after the autumnal equinox. This year, the snow was a week early (or late, as you choose).

Indian summer has yet to come to the high country; autumn colors are beginning to change the Sierran mountain hues. (This, despite the fact that you always thought that "Indian Summer" and "autumn colors" happened at about the same time.)

Ferdinand's classification of wind velocity is non-traditional but actually very understandable: he has one-rock winds, two-rock winds, three-rock winds, and gale force winds are four-rock winds. (This measurement is based on how many rocks it takes to hold down the signs at his entrance station.)

his initial experience there.

Jimmy hiked to the lake but had forgotten most of his tackle. When he couldn't find grubs for bait, he used the raisins he had brought for lunch. "Why not?" he thought, and quickly caught a limit of big trout.

From that event came the name. Jimmy talked about his "raisin lake" but tried to keep its location a secret.

The old trail from May Lake to Glen Aulin was more direct in those days, passing over a spur of Tuolumne Peak, while Raisin Lake was cross country from the old road. In 1957, the old trail was closed and a new trail built alongside Raisin Lake and around to the Tenaya junction at the head of Murphy Creek. That put the lake on the High Sierra Loop. Raisin Lake gained a wider audience and the name spread from trail crews into general local usage.

Though informal, these names have come into common usage in locating well-known geographic features. They may never achieve formal status, but, as they have become important in locating the lake and the domes for new visitors, the names have taken on more formal meanings.

The origins of the names have slipped into the smoke of the jungle fire, to be sustained there if nowhere else.

New Books About Yosemite

The following books should be of interest to our members as they represent new and significant works relevant to Yosemite and the High Sierra. The titles coded with a star ★ are available for sale from the Yosemite Association. Please use the order form on page 12 to place your order.

Man & Yosemite.

A Photographer's View of the Early Years. ★

Ted Orland.

Image Continuum Press, 1985.
(\$9.95 paper, \$19.95 hard cover).

"No trip to Yosemite in the nineteenth century was complete without some photographic memories of its 'Scenes of Wonder and Curiosity,' and the successive images . . . can be viewed sequentially, . . . to reveal the changing character of the Valley. You watch as forests progressively overrun meadows; roads widen or move or disappear; and people come, bearing rifles or frisbees, wagons or motorcycles . . . these pictures form a perspective of things lost, of moments forgotten, of changes that—like the growth of a forest—pass too slowly for us to see."

Overland to California with the Pioneer Line.

The Gold Rush Diary of Bernard J. Reid.

Edited by Mary McDougall Gordon.

Stanford University Press, 1983.

"Bernard J. Reid's diary, discovered only a few years ago, is the account of his journey overland to California in 1849 on the Pioneer Line, the first commercial wagon train to cross the plains. Mismanaged and plagued by cholera and scurvy . . . the journey became, in Reid's words, 'a long, dreadful dream,' Reid's diary is the richest account of this unique wagon train's memorable journey and one of the best of all gold rush diaries. Young and intelligent, he was a keen observer . . . and his diary offers a fascinating view of mid-nineteenth-century Americans thrown together in

difficult circumstances for months of grueling travel."

The Piñon Pine.

A Natural and Cultural History. ★

Ronald M. Lanner.

University of Nevada Press, 1981
(\$8.50 paper)

"The piñon pine is a small, hardy tree that inhabits the semi-arid mountains and mesas of the Western U.S. and Mexico. Because they grow where few other trees can survive, and because they produce exceptionally nutritious pine nuts, the trees have had a long relationship with man and animal in the piñon-juniper region. Lanner addresses issues of the food value of various pine nuts, the role played by jays in propagating the tree, the piñon in Indian myth and how man is affecting its destiny. An appendix discusses the gathering of pine nuts and provides thirty-two recipes."

Trains of Discovery.

Western Railroads and the National Parks. ★

Al Runte.

Northland Press, 1984.

(\$9.95 paper, \$14.95 hard cover).

"The national park system stands as a profound symbol of America's dedication to natural beauty, and the railroads of the West have been a moving force in creating and developing these breathtaking wilderness preserves. Through promotional campaigns, construction of new rail lines, and development of visitor accommodations, the western railroads quenched a nation's thirst for adventure and discovery."

Dear Papa.

Letters Between John Muir and His Daughter Wanda ★

Edited and documented by Jean Hanna Clark and Shirley Sargent. Panorama West Books & Flying Spur Press, 1985.

(\$8.95 paper, \$16.50 hard cover).

" . . . Muir penned letter after letter to his beloved wife and 'bairns,' and the following Wanda-Muir exchanges possess an entity,

spontaneity, and freshness of their own. Muir emerges as humorous, instructive, infinitely tender. His many letters to the girls, and, more so, to his wife, expressed a constant concern for their welfare, and his wife, Louie knew that mountains were essential to his physical and emotional well-being. Wanda's daughter, Jean Hanna Clark, sifted, sorted and began to edit the correspondence contained in *Dear Papa*, and believed this enterprise would serve as an enduring portrait of an engaging daughter, and of a man whose greatness as a public servant is well-known, but whose role as a family man had never been revealed."

Walking Up and Down in the World:

Memories of a Mountain Rambler. ★

Smoke Blanchard.

Sierra Club Books, 1985.

(\$15.95 hard cover).

"Smoke Blanchard—mountain guide, trek leader, raconteur extraordinary—recalls a lifetime of walking up and down peaks and trails around the world. Smoke is a living legend to younger mountaineers who climb his routes in the Sierra Nevada and to innumerable trekkers who have dogged his footsteps and heard his stories around campfires in the Himalaya and the Far East. Not least among the pleasures of this book are Smoke's finely hewn portraits of the people encountered on his rambles . . . and of places . . . reminiscences of such friends as the famed Sierra mountaineer Norman Clyde. Here is a unique voice, a classic of American yarn-spinning by an easygoing adventurer whose experience spans five decades of mountaineering in the American West and the development of trekking in high Asia."

The Archaeology of California.

Joseph L. Chartkoff and Kerry Kona Chartkoff.

Stanford University Press, 1984.

"Beneath the urban sprawl and golden hills of California lies one

of the nation's richest archaeological records. No other part of the Western Hemisphere supported so many culturally and linguistically distinct peoples, or contains sites for which such ancient ages have been claimed . . . little of the writing about this legacy has been intended for the general reader. The authors provide a comprehensive introduction, in nontechnical language, to what is known of the human habitation of what is now the State of California—from the earliest known sites to the mining and logging camps of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries."

The Mother Lode.

A Pictorial Guide to California's Gold Rush Country. ★

Kristin and Charles Moore.

Chronicle Books, 1983.

(\$12.95 paper).

"Covered are some of the small details that convey the color of the Mother Lode as well as historical events that have played an important part in building California . . . silhouetted is today's romantic Mother Lode against glimpses of her full and glorious past."

The Tourist.

Travel in Twentieth-Century North America.

John A. Jakle.

University of Nebraska Press, 1985.

" . . . a survey of the tourist industry in the U.S. and Canada and its development in this century. With the advent of the automobile, tourism was no longer restricted to the railroads and steamship lines of the elite. Jakle examines the American appetite for seeing and being someplace else, the growth of vacation parks, the memorialization of buildings and scenery, and the complex of businesses that emerged to accommodate the rise of tourism: hotels and motels, highway stops, restaurants and fast-food chains, bus and airline tours, campgrounds and souvenir shops.

William Penn Mott

continued from page 1

the country's population is constantly moving and thus people are in a state of regular change. For many, parks represent stability not found in their daily lives and environments. The National Parks will remain permanent landmarks even though demographics and the face of the land and cities undergo continual change, and in that quality lies the importance of the park system.

The remainder of the Members' Meeting featured other reports and business. Recently retired Association General Manager Henry Berrey was presented a life membership in recognition of his service to the organization, and new Yosemite Association President, Steve Medley, was introduced to the membership.

Reports by various groups involved with Yosemite were given by Ron Stork of the Merced Canyon Committee, David Gaines of the Mono Lake Committee, Kay Pitts of the Yosemite Renaissance art group, and Jack Applegarth, who headed the 50th reunion of the Yosemite Field School, Class of 1935.

Following a presentation on the activities of the Yosemite Association for the past year, Dr. Carl Sharsmith, beloved naturalist and premier botanist, spoke about an old comrade, Will Neely, who died recently. Neely was a former Yosemite ranger naturalist and longtime friend of the park.

Board Chairman Tom Shephard next discussed the recent association name change, from Yosemite Natural History Association to Yosemite Association, and described the reasons for the action. He followed with a description of procedures for the upcoming election for the Board of Trustees.

Mono Lake

continued from page 5

places such as Rush Creek or Mono Lake. Now Otis has ordered what the California Supreme Court called long overdue—a reassessment of Los Angeles' claims to Mono Basin waters.

Judge Otis set the trial for August 4, 1986. This will afford enough time to conduct studies to determine the flows needed to

sustain a healthy Rush Creek fishery, undoubtedly flows greater than 19 cfs. Otis also will consider other public trust values such as wildlife and recreation. Rush Creek's flow has rejuvenated the habitat for large numbers of birds and mammals, including deer, ospreys and bald eagles. These animals are guaranteed a flowing stream at least through next summer!

Memberships

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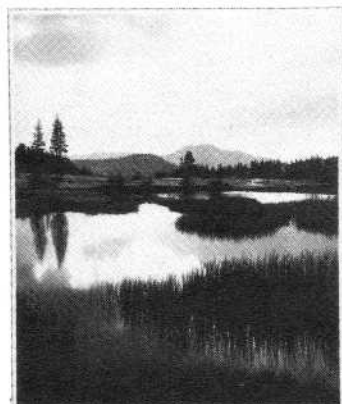
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Poster: Half Dome. Fine art poster reproduction of a strikingly brilliant scratch board scene by Yosemite artist Jane Gyer. Mrs. Gyer executed the work and donated the piece to Y.A. to be used specifically in conjunction with our Return of Light Campaign. 18" x 24".

Item #H/\$20.00.



YOSEMITE!
1986 CALENDAR

The **Yosemite! 1986 Calendar**, from Dream Garden Press, contains sixteen remarkably well-produced full color photos, done by a number of photographers. Each has captured a good deal more of the feeling of Yosemite than is

ordinarily found in 'calendar' art. Quotes from early-day Yosemite chroniclers appear on each page.

Item #F/\$7.95.

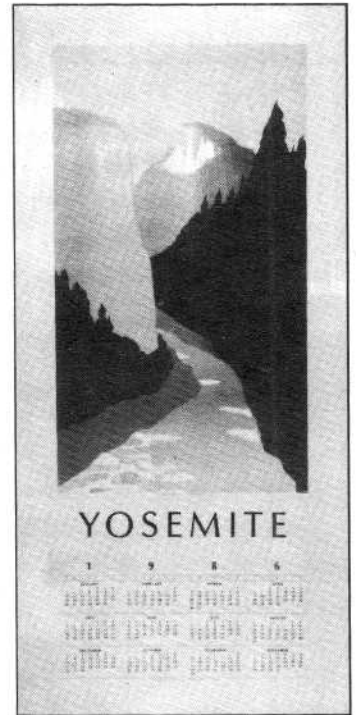


Poster: Peregrine Falcon-Yosemite. Full color reproduction of a beautiful watercolor painting depicting the endangered Peregrine Falcon overlooking Tenaya Canyon. Painted by Roger Folk, well-known Southern California artist, and donated to the Yosemite Association for the benefit of our Return of Light Campaign. 22" x 32".

Item #I/\$14.95.

Yosemite 1986 Poster/Calendar is a new item produced by the Yosemite Association. We intend to issue a similar calendar each year in the future. The design allows the product to be used as a calendar, and following the years' end the calendar section can be cut off to form an attractive art poster. This year's art work, titled "Yosemite Renaissance" by Don Hukari, combines the breathtaking depth and natural monuments of Yosemite Valley in a unique image. Color, 17" x 37".

Item #G/\$7.50



Order Form

| Quantity Ordered | Item | Description | Price Each | Total |
|------------------|------|---|------------|-------|
| | A | Ansel Adams: An Autobiography | \$50.00 | |
| | B | Discovering Sierra Birds | \$9.95 | |
| | C | Easy Day Hikes in Yosemite | \$4.50 | |
| | D-1 | Man and Yosemite (Paper) | \$9.95 | |
| | D-2 | Man and Yosemite (Cloth) | \$19.95 | |
| | D-3 | Man and Yosemite (Special Limited Edition) | \$35.00 | |
| | E-1 | Yosemite National Park: Nature's Masterpiece In Stone (Paper) | \$16.95 | |
| | E-2 | Yosemite National Park: Nature's Masterpiece In Stone (Cloth) | \$30.00 | |
| | F | Yosemite! 1986 Eighteen Month Wall Calendar | \$7.95 | |
| | G | Yosemite 1986 Poster/Calendar | \$7.50 | |
| | H | Poster: Half Dome—Jane Gyer | \$20.00 | |
| | I | Poster: Peregrine Falcon—Roger Folk | \$14.95 | |

Subtotal:

15% Member's Discount:

Subtotal A:

Members' discounts are not applicable when purchasing the following items.

| | | |
|-----|---------------------------|--------|
| J-1 | Y.A. T-shirt Adult X-Lg. | \$8.00 |
| J-2 | Y.A. T-shirt Adult Lg. | \$8.00 |
| J-3 | Y.A. T-shirt Adult Med. | \$8.00 |
| J-4 | Y.A. T-shirt Adult Small | \$8.00 |
| K-1 | Y.A. T-shirt Childs Lg. | \$6.00 |
| K-2 | Y.A. T-shirt Childs Med. | \$6.00 |
| K-3 | Y.A. T-shirt Childs Small | \$6.00 |

Allow up to six weeks for delivery of T-shirts.

Subtotal B:

Merchandise Total (Subtotals A + B)

6% Sales Tax (CA customers only)

Shipping charge \$1.00

Total enclosed

Ordered by:

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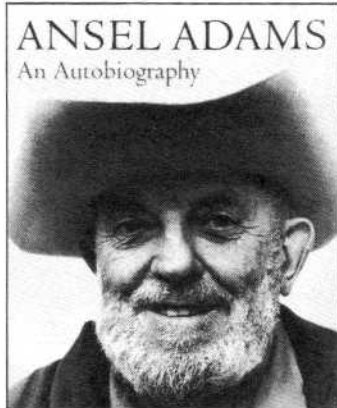
State:

Zip:

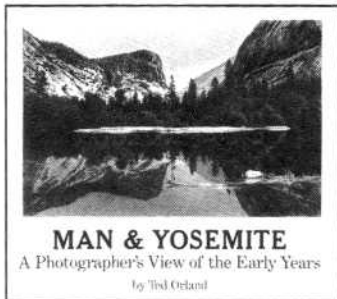
Membership Number:

Yosemite Association, P.O. Box 545 Yosemite National Park, CA 95389

Gift Items from the Yosemite Association



Just published, **Ansel Adams: An Autobiography** is certain to become a classic. Here, in his prodigiously illustrated work, completed just prior to his death in 1984, is Adams' testament of a life of dedication, adventure, achievement, remarkable friendships, plain spoken wisdom, and a concern for man and nature. 400pp. Item #A/Cloth \$50.00.



Photographer Ted Orland, in his **Man and Yosemite, A Photographer's View of the Early Years**, has assembled 83 plates made from the works of artists and photographers, commencing with Ayer's 1855 sketches and working through the years to Boysen at about the turn of the century. Two of the author's photos from the 1970's are included. As Orland points out, Yosemite Valley was never visited by white man until after the invention of photography, thus a continuous record of man's presence exists. There are representative photos of Fiske, Watkins, Muybridge, Weed, Boysen, et al. The samples of the 1870's work of the lesser known Gustav Fagersteen appear in some number and are of considerable interest. Orland's text is readable, sensitive and contains sufficient



"Don't go bare Wear a Y.A. tee-shirt."

Everybody Needs a Yosemite Association T-Shirt

Comfortable, heavy quality, 100% cotton Hanes "Beefy-T" tee shirts with Yosemite Association's handsome Half Dome logo are brand new this year. Make sure you and all your family and friends have one. Color: beige with brown emblem.

Adult's sizes: extra large, large, medium and small. Item #J/\$8.00

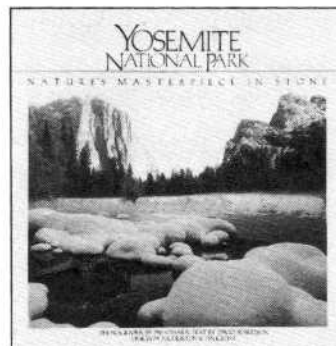
Children's sizes: large, medium and small. Item #K/\$6.00

Allow up to six weeks delivery for this item. (Note: Taxidermic bear cub mount is from the Happy Isles Nature Center collection, donated to the National Park Service by the Yosemite Association. Child model is Jessica Wight, daughter of Y.A.'s assistant sales manager, Pat Wight. She really does know better than to get this close to live bears!)

technical data to explain the advances in photography. Printed in Japan in pleasant sepia tones, the book is published by the Image Continuum Press of Santa Cruz. 96pp.

Item #D-1/Paper \$9.95. Item #D-2/Cloth (trade edition) \$19.95. Item #D-3/Special limited cloth edition (250 numbered, autographed copies, each containing an original silver print from an early Yosemite negative) \$35.00.

A beautiful new picture book, **Yosemite National Park—Nature's Masterpiece in Stone**, joined the ranks of Yosemite's finer picture books earlier this year. This one, published by the Woodlands Press, Del Mar California, contains photography predominantly by Pat O'Hara and the writings of David Robertson, in a design by Don McQuiston and his daughter, Debra. There's a pleasing variety of the moody and the traditional, made in the Valley and the Yosemite High Sierra. Robertson, who



wrote the Association's *West of Eden* has done a creditable job in his introduction and the chapters dealing with the Valley, Wawona, and the Big Trees, Glacier Point and Tuolumne Meadows. A big book, 12½" by 12½", it contains 68 fine color reproductions. 72pp.

Item #E-1/Paper \$16.95. Item #E-2/Cloth \$30.00

Outstanding among the new publications of the Association is **Discovering Sierra Birds**, co-published with the Sequoia Natural History Association.



Authors Ted Beedy and Steve Granholm, both PhD's in ornithology, have done a remarkable job of identifying 180 species of birdlife in their book which contains 41 original full color plates. In addition to detailed descriptions of the appearance and behavior of each species, information on their habitats is identified. A foreword has been provided by Les Line, editor of *Audubon Magazine*. 230pp.

Item #B/Paper \$9.95



Author Deborah Durkee and illustrator Michael Elsohn Ross have collaborated on **Easy Day Hikes in Yosemite** with pleasant results. Ms. Durkee's carefully written text about how to find one's way on twenty moderate hikes in the park is gleefully illuminated by Ross's whimsical sketches. Though ostensibly a book for parents to have along when hiking with their youngsters, it will serve anyone content to enjoy simple strolls rather than taxing hikes. 40pp.

Item #C/Paper \$4.50

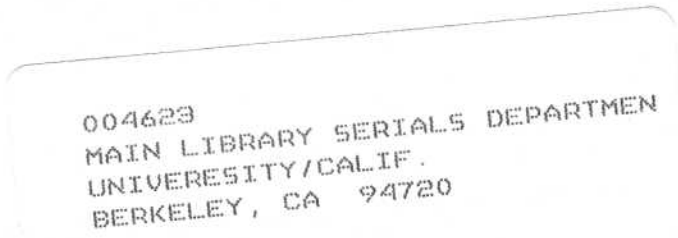
See page 12 for Order form



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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, 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 dues and their personal commitments. Won't

you join us in our effort to make Yosemite an even better place?

Member Benefits

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

- ☆ *Yosemite*, the Association bulletin, published on a quarterly basis;
- ☆ A 15% discount on all books, maps, posters, calendars and 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 the annual Members' Meeting held in the park each fall, along with other Association activities;

☆ A Yosemite Association decal; and

☆ Special membership gifts as follows:

Supporting Members: Matted print from an illustration by Jane Gyer in "Discovering Sierra Trees";

Contributing Members: Full color poster of Yosemite's wildflowers by Walter Sydorik;

Sustaining Members: Matted color photograph of a wildflower by Dana Morgenson;

Life Member: Matted color photograph by Howard Weamer of a Yosemite scene; and

Participating Life Member: Ansel Adams Special Edition print, achivaly mounted.

Membership dues are tax-deductible as provided by law.

New Membership Rates

Following a recent staff analysis of membership revenues and expenses, we discovered that the annual costs of member mailings, bulletins, benefits and discounts were exceeding the dues we receive. In light of this development, the Yosemite Association Board of Trustees voted to increase membership rates at its July meeting. By taking this action, the Board hopes to generate additional revenue so that the Association can continue to strongly support the National Park Service as well as maintain a high standard of service to our members.

The new membership rates (left) became effective September 1, 1985.

Please enroll me in the Yosemite Association as a . . .

Regular Member \$20.00

Contributing Member \$50.00

Life Member \$500.00

Supporting Member \$35.00

Sustaining Member \$100.00

Participating Life Member \$1,000.00

Spouse add \$5.00

Name (please print): _____

Phone Number: _____

Address _____

State/Zip: _____

Enclosed is my check or money order for \$ _____, or charge to my credit card

Bankamericard/VISA: Number _____

Expiration Date _____

MasterCard: Number _____

Expiration Date _____

Mail to:

Yosemite Association, Post Office Box 545, Yosemite National Park, CA 95389. 209/372-4532 or 372-4714.

For Office Use

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