

Guide to Tuolumne Meadows Trails (1960) by Allan Shields

Allan Shields
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and Vicinity

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Historic Golden
Crown Mines

r
♦ VII. Young Lakes

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Hoffmann

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Falls and Glen
Aulin

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and High Sierra
Camp

r r
r *Cover, with view of Lemberg
Dome* r

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r **Warning:**r Trailheads and trails may have changed since this guide was written in 1959.r Bring and use a detailed trail map when hiking.r This guide isn't a substitute for your own common sense.r Don't use this guide unless you are willing to take personal responsibility for your own safety.r When hiking, be aware of hazards from inclement weather, snow, and hidden obstacles (such as holes, trees, streams, and rocks).r

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About the Author

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r r
r r r
r r Bernice and Allan Shields, circa 1993 r r

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r Allan Edwin Shields was born July 3, 1919 in Columbus, Ohio. r He married Bernice Clark in 1941 and had 4 children. r Shields received an AB from University of California, Berkeley in 1941, r a MA from University of Southern California in 1947, r and a Ph.D. in 1951. r In between served in the Army during World War II, 1942-45 becoming a Sergeant. r Dr. Shields was at San Diego State University (SDSU) r during 1949-1968 and 1970-1977, where he became Professor of Philosophy. r He was Professor and Dean at University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls r during 1968-70. r Shields was a seasonal National Park Service Ranger-Naturalist in Tuolumne Meadows, Yosemite National Park during 1955-60, r when he wrote this booklet. r

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r r

r After retirement from SDSU in 1978 he moved to his ranch near Yosemite, Jerseydale Ranch. r He took up writing and publishing, with his small press business, r Jerseydale Ranch Press. r Dr. Shields has written or edited several articles and books, r generally philosophy articles as a professor, r and popular writings on Yosemite and Mariposa County in retirement. r These include: r

r r

- r
 - *A Bibliography of Bibliographies in Aesthetics* (1974)
- r
 - *A Bibliography of the Works of F. C. S. Schiller: With an Introduction To Pragmatic Humanism* (co-author, 1974)
- r
 - *A Yosemite Adventure in 1863: And Other Tales of Early Days in Mariposa County* (editor, 1992)
- r
 - *Mariposa Now and Then* (1993)
- r
 - *The Song of Sonora* (1993)
- r
 - *Tragedy of Tenaya: A Yosemite Indian Story* (fiction, 1993)

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• *A Yosemite Naturalist's Odyssey: Journals and Drawings by William L. Neely* (editor, 1994)

- r
• *What Animals Taught Me* (1994)

- r
• *Climb Every Mountain: A Portrait of Carl Sharsmith* (editor, 1996)

- r
• *California Storms, Floods, and Other Natural Benefits, 1849-1997: A Documentary* (1997)

- r
• *Lemuel Albert Holmes, editor, Mariposa Gazette, 1855-1862* (1997)

rr r

r Dr. Allan Shields lives in near Midpines, California. r His interests, besides the outdoors and nature, include gardening, wine making, playing the violin, and musical criticism. r

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Bibliographical Information

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r Allan E. Shields (1919-) r *Guide to Tuolumne Meadows Trails* (Yosemite: Yosemite Natural History Association: 1960). r Special issue of *Yosemite Nature Notes*, 39:8. r 41 pages. Color illustrations. 24 cm. r Foreword by Dr. Carl W. Sharsmith. r Saddle stitched with illustrated paper covers. r

rr r

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r —Dan Anderson, www.yosemite.ca.us

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r John Muir

r (from a painting by Herbert A. Coffins)r

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r COVER — Lembert Dome—*McCrary, NPS*r

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yosemite

r Since 1922, the monthly publication of the National Park Service and the Yosemite
Natural History Association in Yosemite National Park.r

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NATURE NOTES

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r Vol. XXXIX No. 8r

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r r r r

r Tuolumne Meadows from Lembertr Domer —Anderson, NPSr

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FOREWORD

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r byr
r Carl W. Sharsmithr
r Ranger-Naturalistr

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r The visitor in Tuolumne Meadows who is unfamiliar with the regionr and who at the same time wants to explore for himself some of its beautifulr and expansive reaches has, at the outset, numerous questions in mind. Her (or she!) is rightfully aware that a wealth of interest and scenic charm liesr hidden in the landscape but, he asks, "Which direction shall I go?" "Howr far is it?" "How long will it take?" "Is it steep?" "What if I don't know muchr about hiking?" These and numerous other questions this booklet tries tor answer. It has been written by one who is thoroughly familiar not only withr the terrain but also with the needs of those eager for first-hand acquaintancer with it. The choice of hikes it recommends is excellent and the graded seriesr a happy thought.r

r r

r As its author indicates within its pages this program of self-guided hikesr is intended as a supplement to the hikes regularly scheduled and guidedr by the ranger-naturalists. For those unacquainted with the area, obviouslyr it cannot with advantage be a substitute for these. Nothing, not even ther best of printed instructions and information, can replace a living mentor, onr the spot, who knows what he sees, knows what perhaps you fail to see, andr who is able to inform you about them in a way that will interest you keenly.r The great popularity of the naturalist conducted hikes over the years is goodr evidence of this. Intersperse your activities with some of these, and your ownr hikes will be enriched.r

r r

r Depending upon your length of stay all the hikes described in this selfquided program might easily be accomplished by you in a single season.r Even should you do so you will realize you have but just begun your explorations. You, however, will have provided yourself with a sound backgroundr of practical experience and of knowledge. So begin! The sparkling beautyr of Tuolumne's meadows, forests, streams, lakes and mountains beckons your to come, see and enjoy.r

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AN INVITATION TO HIKE

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r For almost 100 years hikers have recognized Tuolumne Meadows as an ideal place in which to experience all the pleasures, satisfactions, and values of moving closer to nature. The unity of one's very being seems to occur as if by magic through the simple device of presenting oneself to the region.

r r

r Though it is impossible to convey the full meaning of this common feeling, it can be said that there are many occasions when raw and lovely nature fairly forces herself on us. Glacial polish begs us to feel the shining, smooth surfaces of granite with our fingers. Flowers require us to hold up their heads for a closer inspection. Odors delight us—pennyroyal mint, the balsam of red fir, the strong savor of wild onions, the sweet scent of a broken leaf of Labrador tea bush — all convey sensations so inherently exciting that we want to share them with others. The tastes of the clear, cold waters of high mountain streams and lakes, of the needles of lodgepole pine or whitebark pine, of the seed of the whitebark pine, flavorful to the Clark's nutcracker, Sierra chickaree and human beings alike, help us to feel and learn the keen varieties of nature. The sounds of wind and water, the call of Clark's nutcracker, the chatter of chickaree, the whistler of Belding ground squirrel and the clop-clop of some camper chopping wood are all easily forgotten when we leave, but quicken our senses when we return to them.

r r

r Visions of rugged mountain formations delight us. The Range of Light (the Sierra Nevada) creates textures and colors that artists constantly find inspiring. A standing dead tree displays a spectrum of grays, browns, reds and blacks; the Clark, Ranger exhibits its own palette of colors. Summer thunderstorms, nature's overtures to the next seasonal act, compel our attention to the parts of the whole display which in retrospect we put together as a unity and make the lesson a part of ourselves.

r r

r Just as a camera must be selective, and can, at its realistic best, simply create a potential and vicarious experience, language such as this can do no more than invite participation in the direct experience. That alone can effect the conviction of unity. It is required of us that we get out of our cars, out of the campground, even, at times, off the trail, before we can truly and humbly present ourselves to Nature. We need to hike!

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APPROACHES TO HIKING

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r There are several ways to approach a hike. Mountaineers recommend different attitudes to strike. It is largely a matter of objectives and values.

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r For example, the geological surveyor needs to ascend mountains, thoughtful of getting his job done. Carrying equipment to the summit of Mt. Conness or Mt. Hoffman requires a unique route, timing and physical training that most people do not desire.

r r

r Further, the endurance hiker takes pleasure in ascending and descending as much terrain as possible in the shortest time, if we are to believe his conversations. Let us denominate this person “the austerity hiker,” reminding ourselves what may be missing in his approach.

r r

r Rock climbers are a sort apart from our considerations. In addition, considerable mountaineering skill is required of the fisherman, that single-minded devotee of sport, of the cross-country skier, the mule string driver, and the fire fighter.

r r

r For the hiker who wants to know in some detail the birds he hears and sees, the flowers nodding to him in the meadows and on rocky slopes, the meanings of the geological signs in the rocks and mountain formation, the human history of the region, the character and marks of the trees, shrubs, and other plants—for this person John Muir set the pattern. Muir’s habit was to walk up mountains, observing very closely whatever chanced to stop him — a new flower, a rock formation, a bird — and to give little thought to his pre-arranged schedule. Though some hikes require fairly careful planning, all of these trips described here need only a rough time-table, and a minimum of physical conditioning. Since Tuolumne Meadows lie at 8585 feet (at the Campground Ranger Station), a day or two of adjustment will usually be required. After that, the graded hikes themselves will provide all the physical conditioning necessary. The primary principle that is recommended to follow is to **take plenty of time** for each trip. Rest when you feel like it. Stop to look and listen. Saunter when you can. In this spirit, your hiking will prove most rewarding.

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r More specifically, what are some reasons for hiking?

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r Not necessarily in order of importance, these are some reasons which people give for hiking:

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r **Recreation** - People enjoy being outdoors, with all of the excitement of novelty, hazards, and simpler physical well-being which accompany the experience. A few recognize that the outdoors exertion at high altitude actually helps in recreating their personhood, helps them to find depths of feeling, emotion, contentment, and inspiration not conveyed by the term recreation alone.

r r

r **Knowledge** - Being on the spot, seeing the evidence before one brings the perennial thrill of original discovery to each searcher alone, no matter how many times previously the discovery has been made. On hikes we can learn the terrain, gain an intimate association with the mountains and natural features in general, including plants, trees, and animals. A knowledge of the human history can greatly enhance the simpler pleasures of hiking.

r r

r **Appreciation for conservation** The natural features of the region so mutely teach their own eloquent lessons in balance of forces to those ready to learn. The keen specialization of nature, the inter-relationships among plants, birds, and insects can be studied casually or profoundly with profit by the discerning hiker.

r r

r **Esthetic delights** - To relearn the sensitivities that may have been unused recurs to many as an annual revelation. Sounds, sights, odors, feelings, and other sense stimuli all seem heightened by the mountain atmosphere. It is as though, by sloughing our overcivilizing encrustations, we have suddenly become hyperaesthetic. And since we cannot fill our eyes to satiety, we return often to seek again, and possibly to enlarge the aesthetic delights of former experiences.

r r

r **Getting away** - Some have given this reason for going to the mountains. This negative approach seems warped, if really held. Rather, we may take our positive cue from Muir, who felt that going to the mountains was going home.

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BRIEF HISTORY OF GUIDED HIKESr IN TUOLUMNE MEADOWS

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r John Muir first hiked, scrambled,r and climbed around this elevatedr country in the year 1869, and continued making his insightful studiesr of nature until the year of his deathr by pneumonia in 1914. Before him,r the Yosemite (Miwok) Indians, andr others, frequently hiked in the regionr for reasons of commerce, cultural exchange, and subsistence. Theser people were greatly skilled in getting about in the mountains, oftenr chasing game to mountain tablelands and summits, where animals would be ambushed by stationed hunters. Arrowheads, foundr throughout the high mountains, attestr to the Indian's wandering.r

r r

r For nearly thirty years, Tuolumner Meadows has held an enviable reputationr for its hiking program conductedr under the direction of ranger-naturalistsr who have been trained inr mountaineering, the natural sciences,r and the history of the regionr Ranger-naturalist Carl Sharsmithr without doubt, has been the most important single person responsiblerr for the development of theser r activities. Under his spirited direction, the program has grown tor include more than 50 all-day hikes,r and 20 half-day hikes, nature walks,r bird walks, and many specializedr activities.r

r r

r Several main principles haver served the naturalists in this region.r Among them are these: 1) that ther uninitiated, with some guidance,r can quickly learn to find his wayr around in the mountains, and canr learn to conduct himself in such ar manner that he will succeed in doingr with pleasure what he may onlyr fearfully avoid, if left to his ownr devices; 2) that the main object,r apart from accurate and meaningfulr interpretation of the numerous factsr connected with the area, is to help ther novice to become independent andr secure in the mountains; 3) that ther means to achieve these objectivesr are, most directly, the campfire programs that have inspired so manyr to undertake some aspects of ther scheduled events, and especially,r the all-day hikes and others, whichr infuse the participant with the zealr r r r to continue to discover for himselfr the great riches that lie about one inr Tuolumne.r

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r John Muir'sr admonition still soundsr the keynote of the naturalist conducted trips:r

r r

r "Climb the mountains and getr their good tidings. Nature's peacer will flow into you as sunshine flowsr into trees. The winds will blow theirr own freshness into you, and ther storms their energy, while cares willr drop

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RECOMMENDED EQUIPMENT

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r Hiking equipment is so various, r and tastes so condition choice, thatr only general recommendations arer included. r

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r **Footwear** - Two pairs of socks, r one thin, one heavy, are advisabler to prevent blisters and sores. Socksr with holes or darned spots will causer blisters. Stout shoes with rubber orr composition soles are a necessity onr the granite slopes which abound inr the region. They will cling safely tor weathered granite slopes. Leatherr soles are dangerous. r

r r

r r **Clothing** - During the day, the radiant sunshine will warm one, except on higher elevations where ther wind blows daily. Consequently, itr is advisable to carry a jacket whenr ascending a mountain. A simpler back pack makes it convenient tor carry extra articles of clothing, r camera, lunch, etc., but, more important, it enables one to keep hisr r hands free when climbing. r

r r

r r **Food** - Eat lightly when hiking, r especially when going out on lessr than an overnight trip. It is a goodr idea, if going very far, to carry ar modest amount of extra food, in caser of emergency. Most hikers feel waterr from streams is safe for drinking. r Public health officials do not agree!r They declare all natural waters suspect and recommend treatment before consumption. r

r r

r r **Literature** - A great deal of literature is available for purchase atr modest, non-profit prices through ther Museum in Yosemite Valley, and atr outlying stations. Especially valuable are ther *Yosemite Nature Notes* issues which are devoted to specialr features. For a start, select those onr coniferous trees, wildflowers, geology, r r r r and the Yosemite Indians. Morer extensive works on these and otherr topics are listed on p. 201 where ar bibliography is provided. r

r r

r r **Binoculars** - A convenience at first, r this piece of equipment can greatlrr enhance your trips, especially whenr viewing birds. r

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SOME CAUTIONS RAISED ANDr FEARS ALLAYED

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r **Altitude hiking and conditioningr recommendations** - People in normalr health have nothing to fear aboutr beginning the graded program afterr being in the region for a couple ofr days. If in doubt, consult your physician. Most of the hikes require climbing, and that means exertion. Afterr the initial stiffness gained by the inactive person taking ther Lembert Domer andr Dog Laker hikes, the additional hiking will actually help limber the muscles. Headaches are normal at the beginning of one's stay atr high altitudes. They should disappear, without medication, in a couplerr of days.r r

r r

r r **Snakes** - In Tuolumne Meadowsr region there is one snake, ther garter (16, p. 37).^{*} There are no rattlesnakes, or seriously poisonous insects.r

r r

r ^{*}See Bibliography on p. 201.r Number refers to corresponding work on the list.r

r r

r r **Children** - Generally speaking,r children suffer mildly the same difficulties as adults, but evidence discomfort in different ways. After conditioning, there is no reason whyr children of 5 years or older shouldr not enjoy hiking with their parents.r A child is lost when he cannot findr the way back. Not knowing exactlyr where you are does not mean thatr you are lost. We rarely know exactly where we are. Instruct your children that when they cannot find theirr way "home", that they should remain in one place and wait for help.r Of course, any suspected case of ar lost child (or adult) should be reported to the District Ranger at once.r

r r

r r **Bears** - Ther r black bear (12, p. 82)r is a wild animal and is dangerous tor humans. Do not feed them. Do notr store food in tents or sleeping bags.r Bears have been known to rip openr cans to obtain food. Hang food highr between trees. Bears are usuallyr frightened away if an **empty tin canr is tossed toward them**. Bears may ber dangerous, if provoked.r

r r

r r **Illness, injury, and other emergencies** - Report immediately suchr difficulties to the District Ranger, orr r any of the other rangers. Do not attempt to remove a person alone.r Send for help, or go get it.r

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r r

r r On getting lost - Few persons findr themselves lost if they have learnedr the region gradually. Anyone whor has followed the program describer here will have to try hard to get lost.r However, it is possible to become confused and disoriented. Whenr leaving for a hike, always let someone know where you are going, howr you will go and return, and when.r Then, if you really feel lost, stayr where you are. Help will come. Byr staying on the trail, you greatly minimize the chances of getting confused, and enhance the possibilitiesr of being found.r

r r

r r Fires - Except in the campground,r **you are required to obtain a permitr to build a fire in the region.** Permitsr are free, and are quickly deliveredr at all ranger stations. Consultr any ranger regarding regulations.r

r r

r In places where campfires arer permitted, be careful, at higher elevations especially, to keep firesr small, and see that they are completely out when leaving. Roots ofr the whitebark pine may smoldeerr for weeks, killing 500 years ofr growth. Be careful. Build your fire ar considerable distance (15 feet) fromr trunks. See that no exposed rootsr are near. **Use old fire places.**r

r r

r r Firewood - Park policy states thatr visitors may burn **only** dead woodr that is **down**. Standing dead treesr are to be preserved as natural features of the region, no matter howr strongly you are antagonized byr dead trees that stay upright. There isr plenty of wood that is down. Thatr others may share it after you, buildr small fires, and use only as muchr wood as you need.r r

r r

r r Trash disposal - The best policyr regarding trash is the general rule,r “Don’t leave the area as clean asr you found it — leave it cleaner.”r Burn all trash and garbage, flattenr cans, after burning them out, thenr carry them out to the nearest trashr can. In this way, the Sierra Nevadar can be kept in wilderness condition.r You will find what looks like trashr dumps at some camps. Increasedr high country travel makes suchr dumps out of date and unsightly. Dor not contribute to their accumulations.r r r

r r

r r General Cautions - Sand or gravelr over granite is very slippery.r

r r

r When traveling up steep slopes,r be extra careful not to dislodger rocks. The dangers are not to you,r but to your companions below.r

r r

r Never throw or roll rocks downr steep slopes or over cliffs. Someoner is probably below, even though your do not see them. Also, you may precipitate a rock slide in loose talus.r

r r

SOME CAUTIONS RAISED ANDr FEARS ALLAYED

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rrrrr

rr

HOW YOU CAN HELP

rrr

- r 1. Report fires sighted.r
- r 2. Report identification of any unusual nature observationsr (mountain lion (12, p. 94),r r Sierra Nevada big horn sheep (12, p. 100),r r wolverine (12, p. 91),r r Mt. Lyell salamander (16, p. 7),r etc.),r
- r 3. Leave the area clean.r
- r 4. Teach another to hike sensibly.r

rrr

rr

rr

r r Next: Walks • r Contents • r Previous: Cautions r

rrr

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r http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/tuolumne_meadows_trails/helping.htmlr

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r Yosemite > Library > r Tuolumne Meadows Trails > r To Begin > r

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r r r

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r r r

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r r r r r

r r r

TO BEGIN: WALKS

r r r

r All of the trips that are describedr are classified as hikes. This meansr that there will be climbing and descending involved, often in rough terrain, over rocks and trees, but each ofr these follows a trail. Differences inr time of year will alter conditions.r Early in July, the ground is almostr always wet with melting snows, andr run-off water from winter storms.r Later in August, conditions are drier.r Occasional thunder showers mayr create minor difficulties. (Shoesr should be impregnated with somer water repellent material.) Thus, ar hike is demanding of energy andr care. Walks, on the other hand, require far less energy and little, ifr any, advance preparation. For somer interesting walks in the region, consult the Ranger on duty at the Campground Ranger Station, or refer tor any reliable map of - the area. Forr example, you might want to take oner of the following walks:r

r r

r r **1. Soda Spring, Tuolumne Meadows, Parson's Lodge and Sierrar Club Property.**r r

r r

r Directions:r

r r

r **To Walk**, start from the campground ranger station, go directlyr across the road, through the treesr and follow the river west, wherer you will come to an old road bridger somewhat over a mile downstream.r Or approximately parallel the riverr course by walking through the several meadows and small forests that precede the large meadow, continuing until you reach the bridge. Crossr the bridge, and walk straight up ther slope to the enclosure which protects the Soda Spring. Parson's Lodger lies near at hand, the large stoner building, and the caretaker in ther McCauley cabin will be glad tor answer any questions you may haver regarding the Sierra Club. Returnr along opposite side of river until your reach the main road.r

r r r r

r The Tuolumne River flows near Lambert Dome as it winds its way through the Meadows.r

r —*McCrary, NPS*r

r r r

r r r r r r r r r r

r **To drive**, leave the campground ranger station, drive across the Tuolumne River Bridge, turn left at first oiled road, and continue back over a mile to the parking lot. Follow above directions from the bridge.

r r

r **2. Lyell Fork of the Tuolumner River.** Simply walk parallel to the river on the south side, following the river either up or down stream, retracing your steps on return. During low water, wade across and return on opposite side.

r r

r **3. Dana Meadows.** Drive to Tioga Pass, parking either on the right or left before leaving the Park. Walk out into the meadows toward Mt. Dana (south side), exploring multiple glacial moraines, ponds, forests, and meadows. You might want to climb part way up on the lower slopes of the mountain for unusual wildflowers and birds.

r r

r **4. Tuolumne Meadows High Sierran Lodge.**

r r

r **To drive**, cross Tuolumne River Bridge, turning right at first oiled road, drive back one mile.

r r

r **To walk**, cross Tuolumne River Bridge, cut through meadow on trail to the right, following it through meadows and forests until you reach the Lodge. By closely paralleling either the Dana Fork of the river, or the oiled road you will reach the Lodge.

r r r
r r

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r r r r r

r r

HIKE CLASSIFICATION

r r

r (approximate figures only)r

r r

r All of the following hikes are graded on a five point scale, as follows: (mileage given means **round trip**)r

r r

r 1. Easy half-day (or less) - Involves a climb of 1000 feet or less;r under five miles.r

r r

r 2. Easy all-day - Involves a climb of 1500 feet or less; under 8r miles.r

r r

r 3. Moderate all-day - Involves a climb of 2000 feet or less; under 10 miles.r

r r

r 4. Strenuous all-day - Involves steep climbs of 2000-2500 feet;r 10 to 12 miles.r

r r

r 5. Very strenuous all-day - Involves steep climbs, descents,r of 2000 to 3000 feet; 10 to 15r miles.r

r r

r Disagreements abound over the distinctions of these grades, but they appear to be sufficiently helpful to use as guides. Remember, they refer to the effect on a person who is used to the region and fairly well conditioned physically.r

r r r

r r

r r

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r r r r r

r r r

THE HIKING PROGRAM

r r

r General Information:r

r r

r 1. Since the region covered by these hikes is adequately detailed in other publications readily available, little additional detail is included in these descriptions other than outstanding features most likely to be encountered. Instead there are included numbered references to particular works by page in the bibliography. For example, since the Clark's nutcracker (crow) will probably be heard and seen on the sides of Lembert Dome and around Gaylor Lakes his name is mentioned, followed by the number 1, which refers to the Yosemite Nature Notes entitled "Birds of Yosemite". The page reference in this issue then follows, thus: (1, p. 115).

r r

r 2. The point of origin and return is always the Campground Ranger Station at the entrance to the Tuolumne Meadows campground.

r r

r 3. Mileage figures are always given as round trip. Short side trips sometimes mentioned are additional.

r r

r 4. It is urged that your hike be made more complete by doing some exploring in the vicinity of your objective. Though it may be unnecessary to say so, you should not hesitate to leave the trail for short distances, if something intrigues you. For example, while on top of Lembert Dome, you may want to walk down to the large ledge toward the river bridge, or you may want to walk out on the back shoulder of the Dome to see the erratic slope before descending through the forest.

r r r r

r r r

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r r r

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r r r

I. LEMBERT DOME

r r

r (1-easy half day, 900 ft., 4 miles).r

r r

r The summit of this Tuolumne landmark provides a commanding view of practically the entire Tuolumne Meadows region, including Mt. Lyell, the highest park prominence (13,114 ft.) and Mt. Dana, the second highest (13,053 ft.). On this hike it is possible to find all seven of the cone bearing trees (3)* of the region by making the circle trip (see below).r

r r

r Lember Dome is named for Johnr Baptist Lember who homesteaded inr Tuolumne in 1885, raising Angorar goats between 1889-90, finally patenting his land in 1895. He was murdered in his cabin on Cascade Creekr in 1896; his property passed to hisr brother, who then sold it to the McCauley brothers in 1898. Lember'sr property included the Sierra Clubr property and the Soda Spring. Ther Sierra Club purchased the propertyr in 1912 and it is still (1960) in theirr title.r

r r

r **Directions:** Find the trail by crossing the bridge of the Tuolumner River, continue to the base of ther r dome, following through the forestr or across the meadow, keeping tor your left around the dome base untilr you reach the small, buildingr which houses a radio transmitter.r The main trail begins immediatelyr behind the building. After you haver climbed about 2/3 of the ridge, your will reach a trail division. Take ther right hand trail, following it to ther back shoulder of the dome. Whenr you reach the top of the back shoulder, turn right and follow the naturallr contour toward the summit (southerly). Though there is no trail fromr the shoulder, there are obvious easyr routes up the granite slope to ther summit. Look for the register to sign.r **DO NOT ATTEMPT TO DESCENDr BY WAY OF THE SLOPE OF THEr DOME. IT IS VERY DANGEROUS.**r

r r

r To return, simply retrace steps.r Better still, make a circle trip by returning to the back shoulder andr turning right down through the forest,r staying close enough to the Dome tor keep your bearings. By followinger the dome base down through ther forest, you will come out on ther main road. Turn right and walk backr r r r

r A commanding view of
Yosemite's high country can
be obtained from the top of
Lembert Dome.
r —McCrary, NPS
r r

r r r r r r r

r r

r

r Sierra junipers
seem to prefer
solitude and
seek out the
desolate wind-
swept granite
slopes. This
one grows on
Lembert Dome.
r r
r
r —McCrary, NPS

r r

r

r r to point of origin, or cross road into forest and parallel the road. r r

r **Special features:** Only seven cone-bearing trees occur in Tuolumne. By making the circle trip, you may find all seven. On the way up, watch for the lodgepole pine (3, p. 21), mountain hemlock (3, p. 34) and the western white pine (3, p. 16). On the lower slopes of the dome, after starting out on the granite, watch for a few whitebark pines (3, p. 19). On the way down, look for Californian red fir (3, p. 29), Jeffrey pine (3, p. 10), and Sierra juniper (3, p. 44).

r r

r Lembert Dome abounds in glacial evidence. Erratic boulders are evident on the back shoulder in profusion. Look and feel under the rocks for glacial polish that has weathered very little. **Do not move rocks.** From the summit one can look over many square miles of scoured granite, and understand why Muir refers to Tuolumne as an area of maximal glaciation (6, 21, 39).

r r

r Birds most commonly encountered include the Clark's nutcracker (1, p. 115), mountain chickadee (1, p. 115), and the Oregon junco (1, p. 137).

I. LEMBERT DOME

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r r

r

r r r

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r r r

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r r r r r

r r r

II. DOG LAKE

r r

r (1-easy half day,r 800 ft., 3 miles).r

r r

r This large lake is surrounded by forest. From its outlet and south side one can see Mt. Dana. On the trail up the ridge before the lake, by looking back at appropriate spots one finds unusual views of the Cathedral range — Cathedral Peak, Fairview Dome, and the Bishop's Backbone. On warm days, a swim will be welcome refreshment after the climb. You may want to fish, for this lake, like most in the region, is planted. Dog Lake contains brook trout (5, p. 11).

r r

r **Directions:** Walk across the Tuolumne River Bridge. By stopping in the center and looking upstream you may see the confluence of the Lyell Fork and Dana Fork of the river. You will be looking up Lyell Fork, primarily. Cross the bridge and continue to first road on left. Almost immediately you will see a dirt road blocked by a chain between log posts. Behind is a sign reading "Driving Across Meadows Prohibited." Pass the posts and follow this dirt road. Shortly you will find another sign reading "Dog Lake and Young Lake." Continue on this road across a meadow, a granite slab, and into the forest. On a tree will be a small aluminum sign pointing **right** to the trail. Simply follow this well worn trail to the lake. Signs near the lake will prevent your following the Young Lake trail.

r r

r To return, retrace your route up. As an alternative, walk around the lake on the southerly side about half way, and you will find a fairly well-defined trail which will take you down to the main road. Cross the main road, walking through the forest until you come to the small road that runs to the Tuolumne Lodge. When you find this road, turn right and follow it back to the point of origin. The distance from the lake to the main road is one mile.

r r

r **Special features:** Trees: Though you will encounter mostly lodgepole pine (3, p. 21) it is possible to find mountain hemlock (3, p. 34) on your way up the ridge, as well as western white pine (3, p. 16). On the circle return trip watch for a few

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r Mts. Dana and Gibbs dominate the skyline in this view from Dog Lake.r

r —Anderson, NPSr

r r r

r r

r

r r r r r California red fir (3, p. 29) off ther trail.r r r

r Several meadows will be encountered near the lake. Here myriadr wildflowers will beg identification,r and never possession. Of course, it isr against park policy to pick any ofr them. In season watch for wild carrot, red heather in the gravel slopes,r especially, in the wet spots, andr Mariposa lily.r

r r

r At the lake, you may see California gulls and other birds mentioned in the Lembert Dome hike.r Listen for the raucous cry of Clark’sr nutcracker, especially when climbing the ridge by Lembert Dome.r

r r

r The “T” blazes on the trees onr your return trip were placed there byr the Army about 50 years ago, whenr part of their function was to patrolr this back country to keep out sheepherders and cattlemen, as well as tor establish trails.r

r r r r

r Mountain Hemlockr

r —McCrary, NPSr

r r r

r r r

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r r r r r

r r

III. ELIZABETH LAKE

r r r

r (1-easy half day, 1000 ft., 5 miles).r

r r

r This alpine lake is set in a basin with a backdrop of the rugged splendor of Unicorn Peak, Johnson Ridge, and Johnson Peak. Around the edge of the lake are tundra-like meadows and some large clusters of lodgepole pine (3, 21). The contrasts, in appropriate seasons, of the snow, pinkish granites, green forests and meadows, and the crystal blue High Sierra sky make this accessible lake one of the choicest spots to visit early in your hiking program.r

r r

r **Directions:** Walk back on the campground road to the first turn to the right, and follow the aluminum "T" signs on the trees about .2 of a mile where you will find a "T" with an arrow on a tree on the left marking the start of the trail up through the campsites. A few dozen yards of trail will bring you out on to a road and road material mixing place.r Walk straight up hill across this open area where you will find the trail starts among the trees once more. (A metal sign marks the spot).r From here on there will be no confusing the trail. Somewhat steep at first, the trail will flatten to a gradual climb all the way to the lake.r

r r

r Possible for an all-day easy hike,r it is listed as a half day hike, thinking you will start up at 8:00 or 8:30,r and return in time for a late lunch at 1:00 p.m. By walking around the lake, or by climbing part way up Unicorn, you will find a full day is more comfortable. You will not want to leave it, once you arrive, so carry some food in case you wish to remain.r

r r

r **Special Features:** Most of the cone-bearing trees of the region occur on this hike (see Lembert Dome, Special Features, p. 182). Johnson Peak is largely composed of one of the three main kinds of granite of Tuolumne,r which takes its name from this peak.r A pinkish, finely grained granite,r largely homogeneous, with occasional feldspar crystals, it differs markedly from the more common Cathedral Peak granite, or Half Dome granite. (See geology exhibit in campground ranger station).r

r r

r On the side of the lake near Unicorn Peak you will find one of the largest patches of sphagnum moss in the

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r r r r r

r r

IV. CATHEDRAL LAKE AND UPPER CATHEDRAL LAKE

r r r

r (2-easy all-day hike, 1200 ft., 6 miles).r

r r

r Upper Cathedral Lake lies 500 feetr above Cathedral Lake, which is situated somewhat below Cathedralr Peak itself, and at the base of Eagler Peak (unofficial title). Both lakesr empty their contents down a cascade (in season) which forms as ar stream, flowing eventually into Laker Tenaya, thence down Tenaya Canyon, Slide Falls, Py-we-ack Fall, Mirror Lake, Merced River, and eventually ending in Lake Yosemite. It isr interesting to note that Lake Yosemite is not in Yosemite, but in Mercedr County, and that Lake Merced is notr in Merced County, but in Yosemite!r At first, this is confusing.r

r r

r Both lakes have rugged glaciater settings. From either, one can seer Cathedral Peak, Echo Peaks, Echor Ridge, the Bishop's Backbone andr Eagle Peak. From the outlet of Cathedral Laker r r r

r Fishing is better in lakes of the back country.r

r —Anderson, NPSr

r r r

r r

r

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rrrr you can see Polly Dome. It is recommended that you eat lunch here at the outlet of Lower Cathedral Lake, and that after lunch you take the trail to Upper Cathedral Lake, possibly continuing on to Cathedral Pass where you may view the Vogelsang area, and Columbia Finger.

Directions: This ancient Indian trail, now known as the Sunrider Trail, can be reached by driving toward Lake Tenaya 1.5 miles. Drive along the 'main road' across two streams, the first called Elizabeth Creek, the second Budd Creek, after their respective lake sources. Immediately past Budd Creek is a turnout and parking area on your left. Find the trail out of the parking area. Soon it will cross at right angle to the trail from Tenaya Lake to Tuolumne Meadows. From this point on, there is no confusion point on the trail. Continue up switchbacks, around the base of Cathedral Peak (Fairview Dome on your right). After rounding the base of Cathedral Peak, the trail starts down and parallels Cathedral Peak. Shortly after the trail starts up again, you will find (look sharp) a sign directing you to the right to Cathedral Lake (about 1/2 mile). Take this trail. On returning to this point after lunch, continue up the trail to Upper Cathedral Lake, which is off the trail about two hundred yards on your right near the top of the pass. To return, retrace the main trail.

rr

Special Features: Probably the most dramatic feature of this region is the sharp contrast between the heavily glaciated granite domes behind Cathedral Lake and the unglaciated peaks of Cathedral and Echo Peaks and Ridge. Of equal interest will be the meadow behind the head of Cathedral Lake, where you can see very clearly the glacial lakes becoming meadows. Streams meander all through this portion of the terrain, alive with the yellow-legged frog (16, p. 14). These frogs require two seasons to mature at this elevation, the growing season being too short for them to achieve full growth during one. Walk around the lake, noticing the development of meadow turf.

rrr

Cathedral Pass provides many panoramic views of Yosemite.

The Clark Range Rises in the distance.

—Anderson, NPS

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rrrrr

rrrrr

r Yosemite's
early glaciers
were born in
cirques such
as this one
above Gaylor
Lakes.
r r
r
r —*McCrary, NPS*

rrr

r r

r r

V. GAYLOR LAKES AND VICINITY

rrr

r (2-day all-day hike, 600 ft., 3 to 6 miles).r

r r

r There are three Gaylor Lakes, lower, middle, and upper. In the same general basin occur two other lakes called Granite Lakes. By extending your hike by 3 miles it is possible to visit 4 of the 5 lakes. To do so would increase the difficulty, but the rewards are commensurate with the effort, as always. The Gaylor Lakes occur in meadows, are all stocked with fish, and are located in a grand space-wasting arena of granite and metamorphic rock. Leaving a busy entrance station you will find yourself, within an hour, in a wild, primitive haven. Plan to spend the day exploring, while the man of the family may fish successfully. From the entrance station to Middle Gaylor is a bare one mile.

r r

r **Directions:** Drive seven miles to Tioga Pass entrance station, parking on your left before the station house. At the parking lot you will find a sign indicating the fisherman's trail up over the ridge about 600 feet above the road. The pass is about

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r Wind blown lodgepole pine abover Gaylor Lakes.r

r —*McCrary, NPS*r

r l r

r l

r

r r r r r 10,000 ft., the trail is steep (fish canr wait) so take **plenty** of time ascendingr the ridge. It is your only majorr climb, and is about one-half mile inr length. Follow the trail over the ridger and down to the Middle Gaylor Lake.r Before descending, notice the lake tor your left down the meadow. This isr Lower Gaylor Lake. Upper Gaylorr lies around Pilot Peak, the red prominence just above you to your rightr as you face Middle Gaylor. To seer the lovely Granite Lakes, you willr have to walk across the wide meadow to the great granite curved cliffsr directly in front of you in the distance.r To return, retrace your steps.r r

r **Special Features:** Whitebark piner trees become evident very soon upr the trail (3, p. 19). Learn to identifyr this fine high altitude citizen. As your reach the top of the ridge, walk tor the obvious division between ther grey granites and the reddish metamorphic rock of the region. Lookr ahead at the granite ridge and, reversing your view, back at the ranger in the distance, where you will ber able to make out the dividing liner equally well through the region.r Now notice the plants underfoot.r r You will find a yellow-brownr flowered Indian paint brush growngr in profusion on the northerly side ofr the ridge during middle July andr August. Descend to the Middle Gaylor. To the right is a grand talusr slope (broken blocks of granite).r Here you may be favored by ar scolding from a small animal, if your wait a few minutes in the early morning or late afternoon, known by fourr names: rock rabbit, whistling hare,r pika, or cony (12, p. 61). By keepingr to your right around the first lake,r you will soon find an unsurpassedr view of the Cathedral Range behindr Tuolumne Meadows. Additionally,r you will notice myriad wild flowersr in season.r

r r

r For the person who wishes to extend his hike even farther than indicated, move right around Pilot Peakr to Upper Gaylor. At the outlet, facer the prominence slightly to your left,r and you will see a rock cabin. Hiker toward it, keeping the lake on yourr right. Move beyond the cabin to ther pass summit and you will discoverr the original exploratory mine shaftsr and miners' buildings of the Greatr Sierra Consolidated Silver Miningr Company (33).r

r r r r

r r r

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rrrrr

rrrrrr

r Golden Crown Miner
Cabins in Mono Pass,r
Mount Lewis at right.r
r r r
r
r —Hubbard, NPSr

rrr r r r

VI. MONO PASS AND HISTORIC GOLDEN CROWN MINES

rr

r (3-moderate all-day hike, 1200 ft., 10 miles).r

rr

r On this trip you will travel anr ancient Indian and explorer trail.r The Indians brought pine nuts, obsidian for making arrowheads, andr other articles of subsistence overr from Mono Lake to the westernr slope of the Sierra. Along the trailr you will find old miners' cabins, andr at the site of the Golden Crownr Mines you will find several mines,r as well as a large cluster of weathered cabins. From the Mono Passr area you will be able to see part ofr Mono Lake and the desert-like expanse running to the White Mountains in Nevada. The Sardine Lakes,r a short way over the pass, inviter fishing.r

rr

r **Directions:** Drive 5.6 miles up ther road toward Tioga Pass. A parkingr area will be on the right of ther road. By walking straight on downr the road you will find the start of ther trail leading to Mono and Parkerr Passes. Very soon it crosses the Danar Fork of the Tuolumne River. Early inr the season, it may be necessary tor remove socks, shoes, and possiblyr more, to wade across. Follow ther trail and trail signs up to Mono Pass.r The trail parallels Mt. Gibbs' baser (on your left as you start). Before ther hike is completed you should haver a new appreciation for the size ofr Gibbs and other mountains! To return, retrace your up route. The descent is gradual.r

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r r

r **Special Features:** You may want to read “Indians of Yosemite” before making this trip, so numerous are the historical meanings on the way. Outstanding features are the northerly facing grey cliffs of Kuna Crest (on your right as you go up the trail), clearly exhibiting several cirques, glacial polish and erratics, as seen on Lembert Dome. Contrast the granite of Kuna Crest with the red metamorphic quartzite of Gibbs, Dana, Lewis, and other prominences on the higher eastern portion of the Sierra.

r r

r Try to find evidences of avalanches in the past as you go along the trail, especially the first half.

r r

r In the rock piles (talus slopes) along Gibbs stop and wait for the Yosemite pika (12, p. 61) to present himself. Visit the cabins as you discover them, noticing the different building methods used (33). The Golden Crown Mine cabins are located at the pass; walk **right** from the trail and toward the ridge.

r r

r As you approach the pass itself, just before you go out to the clear, windswept region, you will find, on your left, one of the largest whitebark pines in the region (3, p. 19).

r r

r For further exploration, follow the trail over the pass into Bloody Canyon. It is worth your extra time to hike about one-half mile down to see a splendid view of the Mono Basin. On your way, notice the glacial polish in the metamorphic formations.

r r

r A really extended trip can be made by going up the ridge behind the Golden Crown Mines, bearing right, to Parker Pass. Follow the water course, or trail down to Spillway Lake and Creek. Here you will discover a fisherman's trail which leads back to Parker Pass-Mono Pass trail.

r r r

r r

r r

r r **[Next: VII. Young Lakes](#) • [Contents](#) • [Previous: V. Gaylor Lakes](#) r**

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r r

r

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r r r r r

r r

VII. YOUNG LAKE

r r r

r (4-strenuous all-day, 1800 ft., 12 miles).r

r r

r Young Lake is situated northeast of Ragged Peak, and at its base, half surrounded by lodgepole forest, half by talus slopes from the nearby ridges of granite. In addition to Young Lake, there are two other lakes above it well worth exploring. Fishing is good. Camping is permitted, and you may want to pack in to spend a night or more. See the Ranger for a campfire permit. From Young Lake, Mt. Conness displays itself splendidly.

r r

r **Directions:** Follow the Dog Lake trail to the junction near Dog Lake (p. 183). Dog Lake makes a convenient and beautiful resting spot on the first leg of your trip and is only a short distance from the junction. At the junction, turn left onto the trail. There are a series of moraines to climb and descend, followed by Moraine Meadow just prior to reaching the base of Ragged Peak. After crossing this point, the trail drops down to intersect the one that comes up from the Glen Aulin trail (Tuolumne River). Follow around the base of Ragged Peak on the trail to the lake where you will find campsites.

r r

r To return, make a circle trip by taking the trail which joins the Glen Aulin trail. In other words, after leaving Young Lake, moving around the base of Ragged Peak, instead of following the trail back up to the point of land below Ragged Peak, turn right. The trail is definite all the way to the Glen Aulin "highway" where you turn left, and soon find yourself at the Sierra Club property. Though somewhat less varied, the route may be reversed by starting at the Sierra Club property on the Glen Aulin trail. The climb is the same, but easier to make along this trail.

r r

r **Special Features:** This entire trip presents a good opportunity to observe the effects, recent and long past, of the needleminer moth destruction of the lodgepole forests. Across Moraine Meadow you will travel through a new forest of young trees. Notice the many fallen trees of the old forest.

r r

r When you have ascended the point below Ragged Peak, before descending, walk out far enough to

r r r

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r r r r r

r r

VIII. MT. HOFFMAN[N]

r r r

r (3-moderate all-day hike, 2100 ft., 8 miles).r

r r

r This mountain is in the approximate center of the park, offering a grand view in all directions. On a sparkling clear day, Mt. Diablo, near Walnut Creek, California, has been sighted. It is not uncommon to see the coast range of mountains from this lofty place. Mt. Bullion, near Mariposa, Horse Ridge and Buena Vista crest southward, Mt. Lyell, Mt. Dana, Mt. Conness, and many others of the grander prominences are visible from the summit.r

r r

r **Directions:** Take the old Tioga Road to the May Lake trail junction which is at the end of this section of the road. Park your car and follow the trail to May Lake. Be sure to r r r

r r

r —Anderson, NPS

r

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r Mt. Hoffman from May Lake.r

r r r

r r r r stop occasionally to look at the ever widening views of the region. Half Dome will come into view after a short rise. As you come up over the final rise on a level with May Lake, you will see a ridge extending to your left. It is worth the extra few minutes to walk out on this ridge to look down almost into the Yosemite Valley. From here it is possible to view the fire fall from Glacier Point.r r r

r Continue to May Lake. From the fire circle of the High Sierra Camp face Mt. Hoffman across the lake. Your route is mainly visible from here. The trail goes around the lake (southerly side), past a pump house, water storage tank, then turns left up the slope over three main ridges, then you will move along a fine meadow. The trail is fairly distinct, but r r r should you fail to find it, simply turn right at the end of the meadow and follow up the ridge that leads to the left hand large knob of the mountain, keeping left around the knob. This will bring you onto the tableland. Cross the tableland in the obvious direction toward the summit and pick the easiest route to the summit. To return, retrace your route.r

r r

r **Special Features:** As you round the lake, near the pump house, you will cross a large pocket of metamorphic rock which seems out of place among the granites.r

r r

r Blue (sooty) grouse (1, p. 94) are often observed on this mountain, especially during the initial rise over the three ridges and near the long meadow. Red shafted flickers (1, p. 105) occur here as well.r

r r

r Watch for the Yosemite pika (12, p. 61) on the talus slopes.r

r r

r Mountain coyote (12, p. 81) has been observed trotting along the high tableland on at least one occasion.r

r r

r Apart from the commanding views, you will be surprised by the rugged character of the cirque behind (north) of the summit. Here is the birthplace of Yosemite Falls.r

r r

r The tableland is a splendid place to find and identify high altitude plants in season.r

r r

r Take the little extra time necessary to climb out on one of the larger knobs that rise above May Lake.r

r r r

r r

r r

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r r

IX. WATERWHEEL FALLS AND GLEN AULIN

r r r

r - Glenr Aulin (3-Glen Aulin, moderate all-day,r descend 800 ft., 12 miles. 5-Waterwheel Falls,r very strenuous all-day,r descend 2000 ft., 17 miles).r

r r

r (Note: **Mileage estimated from their parking lot of the Sierra Club property.**)r

r r

r The main difficulty with this hiker lies in the fact that the trip involves ar considerable descent in the morningr and a steep climb out in the afternoon. By allowing plenty of time forr return, and picking a day that is notr hot, the trip will be pleasant. Allr other hikes except Vogelsang Passr illustrate the useful rule: climb in ther morning, descend in the afternoon,r whenever possible.r

r r

r The trip down to Glen Aulin is rewarding during any season whenr Tuolumne is open, but the Waterwheel Falls are best visited duringr high water times. Consult with ar r r r

r Waterwheel Fallsr
r —Anderson, NPSr
r r r

r r r r r ranger regarding water conditionsr for the time of year.r r r

r The hike to Glen Aulin-Waterwheel Falls is along a well-traveledr and well-marked trail that parallelsr the Tuolumne River during the entire extent of the route, crossing and re-crossing the river on two occasions.r Do not mistake the Glen Aulin Highr Sierra Camp for Glen Aulin, whichr is a lovely, long, narrow forest-meadow lying approximately one-halfr mile below the High Sierra Camp.r

r r

r During the trip to Glen Aulin, asr you travel down the gorge, you cannot fail to notice Tuolumne Falls andr the White Cascade. Following Glenr Aulin, in this order, you will passr California Falls and Le Conte Fallsr before reaching the Waterwheelr Falls themselves. A metal sign marksr Waterwheel Falls.r

r r

r **Directions:** Drive to the start of ther Glen Aulin trail behind the Sodar Spring roofless cabin, and up ther slope, parking at the Sierra Club lot.r Follow this well-marked trail downr to either Glen Aulin (the Glen is notr marked by signs) or to Waterwheelr Falls, or both. Return by the samer route.r

r r

r **Special Features:** Since the tripr begins in the Hudsonian life zoner and descends to the Canadian andr Upper Transition, you will wantr especially to notice the changes inr the flora and fauna (2, 12, 17, 19, 24,r 27, 36).r

r r

r All along the route is ample evidence both of water erosion by ther river and its tributaries, and of pastr glacial activity. The geological storyr will practically tell itself, but somer r r r

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r r

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Camp > r

r r

r

r r r

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r r

X. VOGELSANG PASS AND HIGH SIERRA CAMP

r r r

r (5-very strenuous all-day, climb 1800 ft. to High Sierrar Camp, 15 miles. For Vogelsang Pass,r add 2 miles, and an additional climbr of 400 ft.).r

r r

r Both of these places leave little to be desired in the way of what one thinks a high mountain camp and pass should be. Situated over 10,000 ft. in the sky, the High Sierrar Camp looks temporary enough to mar the rugged beauty of its setting, but permanent enough to provide shelter. The pass itself offers one of the grandest views in the Park of the Clark Range, Bernice Lake, Mt. Florence, and neighboring peaks. Vogelsang Peak and Fletcher Peak form a golden setting for that gem, Vogelsang Lake. Some seasons of heavy snow fall may prevent this trip in part or whole until early in August or even later. Consult the Ranger regarding conditions.r

r r

r **Directions:** Walk along the river road to the very back of the camp ground where the John Muir Trail begins. (Or begin at the Tuolumner High Sierra Camp, saving 2 miles hiking distance in the round trip.) Proceed about one mile to the Rafferty Creek trail junction, where you turn right up the slope. At first the trail is steep, but flattens soon to a gradual climb all the way to the High Sierra Camp. From the camp, find the trail to Vogelsang Lake and the Pass (marked by signs). Return r r

r On windswept slopes at high elevations, whitebark pines grow to heights of only 18 to 24 inches.r

r —McCrary, NPSr

r r r

r r

r

r r by the same trail, since alternater routes are considerably longer.rr r

r **Special Features:** As you climbr higher and higher on the Raffertyr Creek Trail, turn to see Mt. Dana,r White Mountain, and other prominences coming into view. Lembertr Dome, that ubiquitous landmark ofr Tuolumne, will be in view for awhile.r Rafferty, Vogelsang, and Fletcherr Peaks are probably the most important mountains you will learn on thisr trip.r

r r

r Lakes abound in this region, and ar number of them are feasible to visitr on even a one-day trip. Vogelsang,r Evelyn, and Booth Lakes are especially near at hand, though you mayr want to hike to Vogelsang and Evelyn and simply look down intor Booth Lake.r

r r

r Golden eagles (1, p. 90) have beenr seen in this area, as well as mountain lions (12, p. 94).r On the wayr from Vogelsang Lake to the Passr r r r r watch for some of the many marmotsr that live there (12, p. 66).r

r r

r The High Sierra Camp will server meals **only** if you have made advancer reservations through the Tuolumne Lodge or some other branchr of the Yosemite Park and Curry Company. Coffee or light refreshmentsr do not require such reservations. Inr any event, visit the camp for its ownr sake.r

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r http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library/tuolumne_meadows_trails/vogelsang_pass.html

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r r r

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rrrrr

rrr

r Largest exposed
granite area in
the park, the
slope of Clouds
Rest gently glides
to the floor of
Tenaya Canyon,
4500 feet below.

r r r

r

r —*McCrary, NPS*

rrr r r

r

XI. CLOUDS REST

rrr

r (5-very strenuous all-day, climb 1800 ft., 14 miles).r

rrrr

r Granite domes
surrounding
Tenaya Lake
make it one of
the most photo-
genic spots in
Yosemite.

r r r

r

r —*McCrary, NPS*

rr

r r

r

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Seen from many vantage points in the region, one can experience an unsurpassed 360° panorama of most of Yosemite National Park from its summit. This fact alone makes the trip worthy of the effort involved. From here one can also look down the face of Half Dome into Yosemite Valley, and easily sweep the full distance of Tenaya Canyon, the largest exposed granite area in the Park. The slope of Clouds Rest, extending into the bottom of Tenaya Canyon 4500 ft. below your vantage point, is said to be one of the largest continuous rock slopes in the world.

r r

Directions: Drive eight miles to the outlet of Lake Tenaya. Walk across the outlet. Immediately on your right is the start of the Forsyth Trail. Rarely travelled by animals, the trail becomes obscure in some places during wet seasons, or times of lush growth. Follow the trail until it branches, one leading left and down toward Little Yosemite and Yosemite Valley, the other to the right to Clouds Rest Summit. Return by the same route.

r r

Special Features: This trail travels through a wide variety of habitats for trees, plants, and animals. Such variety means that you may expect to find most of the conifers, a great number of birds, and most of the wild flowers of the higher region. From the wettest meadows, to the parched south-facing slope of Clouds Rest Mountain, there range forests and open slopes in between those extremes.

r r

Very soon after starting along the Forsyth Trail, you will be able to see Tenaya Canyon, and are near it all day long. No grander place can be imagined for viewing the power of water erosion and glacial activity.

r r

Old Chief Tenaya (10, 1ff.) himself seems to speak again from the start to end of your trip, from the peak above the Lake (Tenaya Peak), from the lake, and from the canyon. On being captured, Chief Tenaya was brought into camp in the Valley, where he found that his youngest son had been killed by the soldiers in an unfortunate misjudgment. His tribe broken, his way of life lost forever, he is reported to have said to Captain Boling, in part:

r r

“Kill me, sir Captain! . . . Yes, kill me, as you killed my son; as you would kill my people if they were to come to you! You would kill all my race if you had the power. Yes, sir, American, you can now tell your warriors to kill the old chief; you have made me sorrowful, my life dark; you have killed the child of my heart, why not kill the father? But wait a little; when I am dead I will call to my people to come to you. I will call louder than you have had me call, that they shall hear me in their sleep, and come to avenge the death of their chief and his son. Yes, sir, American, my spirit will make trouble for you and your people, as you have caused trouble to me and my people. With the wizards, I will follow the white men and make them fear me.” He here aroused himself to a sublime frenzy, and completed his rhapsody by saying: “You may kill me, sir Captain, but you shall not live in peace. I will follow in your footsteps, I will not leave my home, but be with the spirits among the rocks, the waterfalls, in the rivers, and in the winds; wheresoever you go I will be with you. You will not see me, but you will fear the spirit of the old chief, and grow cold. The great spirits have spoken! I am done.” (47, 172-173).

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r r

XII. MT. DANA

r r

r (5-very strenuous all-day, climb 3000 ft., 6 miles).r

r r

r Second highest prominence in the Park (elevation 13,053 ft.), Mt. Dana is named for James Dwight Dana (1813-1895), Professor of Geology at Yale University (1850-1894).r

r r

r The slopes look so smooth and gentle they fairly invite an easy walk up, until you remember that the base at Tioga Pass lies over 3000 ft. below the summit, and that those smooth surfaces are broken quartzite. Their sharp easterly shoulders form the Park boundary, and separate the waters which flow west to San Francisco from those that flow east to Los Angeles' aqueducts. Since the r r r r r

r The Lying Head above Tioga Pass.r

r —McCrary, NPSr

r r r

r r r summit affords one of the most inspiring vistas on the eastern escarpment of the Sierra, we need to remind ourselves of Spinoza's warning and encouragement, realistically uttered, to the reader of his great book, *Ethics*, when he says, in part, "Needs must it be difficult, for all things excellent are as difficult as they are rare." Mt. Dana is a parallel achievement, in its mountainous way, to the enjoyment of great

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poetry, the playing of greater chamber music, or the analysis and creation of great philosophy. Onward and upward!

Directions: Drive the seven miles to the Tioga Pass Entrance Station, parking on your left just prior to reaching the station itself. As you face Mt. Dana south of the road and look up at it, you see a rugged butte jutting out at what appears to be about half-way up. This is called the Lying Head. A trail starts about 100 yards from the stone gatepost and follows along the left top side of the physical divide, contouring the first glacial moraine. Proceed along this trail until you come up under and right of the Head, when the trail moves right up the slope. The trail is fairly well-defined from here up to the tableland about half-way up, but should you lose it, simply keep to the right of the Head and follow the natural water course up to the tableland. As you come up over the initial steep portion onto the broad, gently sloping tableland, look ahead on your left (slightly) to a good sized notch on the shoulder of the mountain. Head for the notch. It provides a good resting spot out of the wind that usually blows here - and it may be cold. After resting, there will be a fairly extended scramble over large blocks as you follow the ridge up toward the summit.

By keeping left as you ascend, you will discover a "use" trail (not built as a trail) that leads directly to the summit itself. To return, retrace your steps, or vary the trail to suit your whims, remembering to head for the spot where you first came up on to the tableland.

Take plenty of time going up. After you reach 11,500, or so, the going begins to get tough. The last 500-800 ft. will require frequent "puffing stops." Even youngsters puff, but they recover more quickly than adults. Take short frequent stops. You will need between 4 to 5 hours for the ascent unless you have been doing extensive hiking in the area. The descent will require less than half the time.

Special Features: Regarding the panorama spread out in all directions, the least that can be said is to be sure to carry your topographic map of the region, there is so much to be seen on a clear day! Looking eastward, you will see Mono Lake, the old town of Bodie can be made out, the volcanic cones of Mono County, and beyond to the south, Boundary Peak in Nevada and the White Mountains in California. Northward you may be able to make out the Sweetwater Range.

Looking south, you can see Kuna, Koip, Ritter, Banner, Lyell, McClure, and Florence mountains. You can also see clearly the glaciers on Lyell and McClure. Turning more westerly you will be looking down into the multiple cirques of Kuna Crest, Mammoth Peak being the extreme northwestern end of Kuna Crest. Of course, in addition, practically the whole Tuolumne region is spread before you, with the familiar Cathedral Range appearing, probably for the first time, as a unity. There is more, of course, but that will be left for your discovery.

By descending the ridge a short way on the side opposite the one you ascended, you will find several vantage points for viewing the Dana Glacier, Glacier Canyon, and the Dana Plateau beyond, lying above Lee Vining Canyon.

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LIST OF HIKES, WALKS, AND CARAVANS IN TUOLUMNE MEADOWS

r r r

r r Distances are Round Tripr r

r r r

r r I. HALF-DAY HIKESr r

r r

r Afternoon Nature and History Hiker to Bennettville and environs (3 mi.)r

r

r Afternoon Nature Walk, Tuolumner Meadows and Soda Spring (also,r morning).r

r

r Children's Nature Walk (various)r (8-10 years).r

r

r Afternoon Geology Hike.r

r

r Afternoon Nature Caravan and Walkr to Dana Meadows.r

r

r Lember Dome.r

r r

r Sunday Lakes, Nature Hike.r

r

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r Morning Geology Walk, Tuolumner Meadows.r

r

r Afternoon Nature Walk, Dana Forkr and foot of Mono Pass Trail.r

r

r Morning Bird Walk (various).r

r

r Bird and Flower Walks (various)r

r

r Juniper Ridge.r

r

r Timberline Nature Walk (Dana Meadows).r

r

r Sunset Nature Walk.r

r r

r r II. ALL-DAY HIKESr r

r r Bishop's Backbone and Eagle Pointr (9 mi., climb 2000 ft.)rr

r Cathedral Lake (6 mi., climb 1000 ft.)r

r

r Children's (8-10 yrs.)r

r Tuolumne's Miniature Devil's Postpile.r

r

r Cloud's Rest (14 mi., climb 1800 Ft.)r

r

r Cockscomb Cirque (8 mi., climb 1500r ft.)r

r

r Cockscomb Tableland (8 mi., climbr 2200 ft.)r

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r

r Columbia Finger 10 mi., climb 1500 ft.)r

r

r Conness Glacier (8 mi., climb 1500 ft.)r

r

r Conness Mountain (9 mi., climb 2400r ft.)r

r

r Dana Glacier (8 mi., climb 1500 ft.)r

r

r Dana Mountain (6 mi., climb 3000 ft.)r

r

r Dana Plateau (8 mi., climb 2000 ft.)r

r

r Echo Peak Ridge (8 mi., climb 2600 ft.)r

r

r Fairview Dome (3 mi., climb 1400 ft.)r

r

r Falls Ridge (9 mi.)r

r

r Gaylor Lakes and Old Historic Minesr (7 mi.)r

r

r Geology and Natural History Caravan (Tioga Pass and Down Sierrar Escarpment)r

r

r Gibbs Mountain (6 mi., climb 3000r ft.)r

r r

r Gibbs Mountain Shoulder and Minesr (8 mi., climb 2000 ft.)r

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r

r Granite Divide (Between Mts. Danar and Gibbs) (10 mi., climb 2800 ft.)r

r

r Hoffman Mountain (12 mi., climb 2000r ft.)r

r

r Johnson Peak (9 mi., climb 2400 ft.)r

r

r Johnson Ridge (9 mi., climb 2400 ft.)r

r

r Kuna Crest (10 mi., climb 3000 ft.)r

r

r Kuna Glacier (17 mi., climb 2300 ft.)r

r

r Kuna Lakes (7 mi., climb 1500 ft.)r

r

r Kuna Peak, North Spur (12 mi., climbr 2800 ft.)r

r

r Lake of the Domes (6 mi., climb 1000r ft.)r

r

r Lee Vining Peak (8 mi., climb 2700 ft.)r

r

r Mammoth Peak (9 mi., climb 2700 ft.)r

r

r Mono Pass and Golden Crown Miner (10 mi., climb 1200 ft.)r

r

r Mono and Parker Passes (10 mi.,r climb 1500 ft.)r

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r

r North Cirque Cathedral Peak (6 mi.,r climb 1200 ft.)r

r

r North Peak of Conness (10 mi., climbr 2200 ft.)r

r

r Parker Peak (17 mi., climb 3200 ft.)r

r

r Polly Dome (6 mi., climb 1100 ft.)r

r

r Polly Lakes (6 mi.)r

r

r Ragged Peak (10 mi., climb 800 ft.)r

r r r r

r Slide Falls, Py-we-ack, Tenaya Canyon (7 mi., climb 1000 ft.)r

r Tioga Peak (6 mi., climb 2000 ft.)rr

r Tuolumne's Miniature Devil's Postpile (5 mi.)r

r

r Tuolumne Peak (8 mi., climb 2000 ft.)r

r

r Unicorn Saddle (7 mi., climb 2100 ft.)r

r

r Warren Mountain (12 mi., climb 2837r ft.)r

r

r Waterwheel Falls (1 1/2 day trip)r

r

r Watkins Mountain (8 mi.)r

r

r White Mountain (8 mi., climb 2300 ft.)r

r r

r r **III. 2-DAY HIKES** r r

r r

r Young Lake, Conness Basin, Raggedr Peak. Backpack trip suitable forr family hike.r

r

r Budd Lake, Echo Ridge, Cockscombr Cirque. Backpack trip suitable forr family hike.r

r r r r

r Mt. Lyell Glacier.r

r —Anderson, NPSr

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ANIMALS AND PLANTS

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A CHECK LIST OF BIRDS OF THE TUOLUMNE REGION BY LOCATION

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r Mrs. Elsie Roemer ((1960))*r

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r Tuolumne Meadows Area

r r

r Green-winged Tealr	r Brown Creeper
Red-tailed Hawk	Dipper
Sparrow Hawk	Robin
Blue (sooty) Grouser	Hermit Thrush
Solitary Sandpiper	Swainson's Thrush
Killdeer	Townsend's Solitaire
California Gull	Mountain Bluebird
Long-eared Owl	Orange-crowned Warbler
Red-shafted Flicker	Yellow Warbler
Williamson's Sapsucker	Audubon's Warbler
Hairy Woodpecker	Hermit Warbler
Black-backed Three-toed	Wilson's Warbler
Woodpecker	Brewer's Blackbird
Hammond's Flycatcher	Western Tanager
Dusky Flycatcher	Cassin's Finch
Western Flycatcher	Pine Grosbeak
Olive-sided Flycatcher	Pine Siskin
Violet-green Swallow	Red Crossbill
Steller's Jay	Oregon Junco
Clark's Nutcracker	Chipping Sparrow
Mountain Chickadee	White-crowned Sparrow
Red-breasted Nuthatch	Lincoln's Sparrow

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r Lake Tenaya and Slopes of Tenaya Peak Area

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r Blue (sooty) Grouser	r Cassin's Finchr
California Gullr	Hammond's Flycatcherr
Brown Creeperr	Dusky Flycatcherr
MacGillivray's Warblerr	Chipping Sparrowr
Orange-crowned Warbler	Western Wood Peweer
Wilson's Warblerr	Yellow Warblerr
Audubon's Warblerr	Clark's Nutcrackerr
Mountain Chickadeer	Pine Grosbeakr
Oregon Juncor	Pine Siskinr
Steller's Jayr	Red-tailed Hawk
Hermit Thrushr	Mountain Quailr
Green-tailed Towheer	Western Flycatcherr
Traill's Flycatcherr	Nashville Warblerr
Winter Wrenr	Red-shafted Flickerr
Red Crossbillr	

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r Tioga Pass, Dana Meadows and East Side Area

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r Prairie Falconr	r Robin
Allen's Hummingbirdr	Mountain Chickadeer
Red-shafted Flickerr	White-crowned
Traill's Flycatcherr	Sparrow
Violet-green Swallowr	Cassin's Finchr
Townsend's Solitairer	Lincoln's Sparrow
Gray-Crowned (Sierra Nevada)r	Clark's Nutcrackerr
Rosy Finchr	Audubon's Warblerr
Pine Siskinr	Orange-crowned
Green-tailed Towheer	Warblerr
Oregon Juncor	Western Wood
	Peweer
	Chipping Sparrow
	California Gullr

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r Mono Lake Area

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r Eared Greber	r California Gullr
Wilson's Phalaroper	Allen's Hummingbirdr
Northern Phalaroper	

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r *Names in this list conform to the 5th Edition of the A.O.U. Check List of North American Birds (1957)r

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r Mono Lake from the summit of Mt. Dana.r

r —Anderson, NPSr

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r NOTESr

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r MANY OTHER INTERESTING FEATURES OF YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARKr ARE EXPLAINED THROUGH SELF-GUIDING BOOKLETS. YOU AREr INVITED TO ENJOY THESE ALSO:r

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r GUIDE TO MARIPOSA GROVE NATURE TRAIL — A guide to a naturer trail through this famed grove of Sequoias.r

r r

r AUTO TOUR OF YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARKr — Many vistas andr features are explained in this booklet, which includes all roads in ther Park.r

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r TRAIL GUIDE TO INSPIRATION POINT NATURE TRAIL — The Mariposa Battalion first saw Yosemite Valley from near this vantage point. The booklet tells you of this and other historic events and also identifies many plants along the trail.r

r r

r GUIDE TO HAPPY ISLES NATURE CENTER — A pictorial guide to this interesting interpretive development.r

r r

r A GUIDE TO THE YOSEMITE SEQUOIASr — All of the more interesting Sequoias are described in this self-guiding auto tour to the Mariposa Grove.r

r r

r GUIDE TO THE PIONEER CEMETERY — Many of Yosemite's pioneers are buried here. Their story is briefly told in this guide.r

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r THE ABOVE SELF-GUIDING BOOKLETS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE MUSEUMS AND AT THE STARTING-POINTS OF THE TRAILS.r

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♦ I. Lemberg Dome

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♦ II. Dog Lake

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♦ III. Elizabeth Lake

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♦ IV. Cathedral Lake
and Upper
Cathedral Lake

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♦ V. Gaylor Lakes
and Vicinity

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♦ VI. Mono Pass and
Historic Golden
Crown Mines

r
♦ VII. Young Lakes

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♦ VIII. Mt.
Hoffmann

r
♦ IX. Waterwheel
Falls and Glen
Aulin

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♦ X. Vogelsang Pass
and High Sierra
Camp

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r *Cover, with view of Lemberg
Dome* r

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♦ XI. Clouds Rest

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r **Warning:**r Trailheads and trails may have changed since this guide was written in 1959.r Bring and use a detailed trail map when hiking.r This guide isn't a substitute for your own common sense.r Don't use this guide unless you are willing to take personal responsibility for your own safety.r When hiking, be aware of hazards from inclement weather, snow, and hidden obstacles (such as holes, trees, streams, and rocks).r

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About the Author

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Guide to Tuolumne Meadows Trails (1960) by Allan Shields

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r r r
r r Bernice and Allan Shields, circa 1993 r r

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r Allan Edwin Shields was born July 3, 1919 in Columbus, Ohio. r He married Bernice Clark in 1941 and had 4 children. r Shields received an AB from University of California, Berkeley in 1941, r a MA from University of Southern California in 1947, r and a Ph.D. in 1951. r In between served in the Army during World War II, 1942-45 becoming a Sergeant. r Dr. Shields was at San Diego State University (SDSU) r during 1949-1968 and 1970-1977, where he became Professor of Philosophy. r He was Professor and Dean at University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls r during 1968-70. r Shields was a seasonal National Park Service Ranger-Naturalist in Tuolumne Meadows, Yosemite National Park during 1955-60, r when he wrote this booklet. r

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r After retirement from SDSU in 1978 he moved to his ranch near Yosemite, Jerseydale Ranch. r He took up writing and publishing, with his small press business, r Jerseydale Ranch Press. r Dr. Shields has written or edited several articles and books, r generally philosophy articles as a professor, r and popular writings on Yosemite and Mariposa County in retirement. r These include: r

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- r
 - *A Bibliography of Bibliographies in Aesthetics* (1974)
- r
 - *A Bibliography of the Works of F. C. S. Schiller: With an Introduction To Pragmatic Humanism* (co-author, 1974)
- r
 - *A Yosemite Adventure in 1863: And Other Tales of Early Days in Mariposa County* (editor, 1992)
- r
 - *Mariposa Now and Then* (1993)
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 - *The Song of Sonora* (1993)
- r
 - *Tragedy of Tenaya: A Yosemite Indian Story* (fiction, 1993)

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- r
• *A Yosemite Naturalist's Odyssey: Journals and Drawings by William L. Neely* (editor, 1994)

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• *What Animals Taught Me* (1994)

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• *Climb Every Mountain: A Portrait of Carl Sharsmith* (editor, 1996)

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• *Lemuel Albert Holmes, editor, Mariposa Gazette, 1855-1862* (1997)

rr r

r Dr. Allan Shields lives in near Midpines, California. r His interests, besides the outdoors and nature, include gardening, wine making, playing the violin, and musical criticism. r

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r Allan E. Shields (1919-) r *Guide to Tuolumne Meadows Trails* (Yosemite: Yosemite Natural History Association: 1960). r Special issue of *Yosemite Nature Notes*, 39:8. r 41 pages. Color illustrations. 24 cm. r Foreword by Dr. Carl W. Sharsmith. r Saddle stitched with illustrated paper covers. r

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