

Yosemite

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A Journal for
Members of the
Yosemite Association

As Yosemite's first woman superintendent, Barbara J. "BJ" Griffin hopes to leave her mark on the park in a positive and constructive way.

While insisting it's not a gender issue, Griffin believes she can impart a woman's touch to the job of administering Yosemite, and also accomplish some of the long-delayed tasks facing Yosemite. To achieve those goals, Griffin considers it is imperative to strengthen existing partnerships and to build new ones, particularly at a time when park budgets are facing another round of cuts. She also plans to improve the working relationship with the 7,000-member Yosemite Association, and to build on the partnership that has come with the arrival of a new park concessionaire, Yosemite Concession Services.



PAUL SANITOS / NPS

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Freelance writer Gene Rose talked to BJ Griffin in April of this year. He worked for many years as Yosemite reporter for the Fresno Bee, and is a regular contributor to this journal. Gene has written a number of books about the history of the Sierra Nevada.

GRIFFIN FIGURES SHE WILL BENEFIT FROM PENDING
CHANGES IN HOW THE NATIONAL PARKS ARE MANAGED.
THE NPS PLANS TO DELEGATE MORE AUTHORITY TO
INDIVIDUAL PARKS, ALLOWING LOCAL MANAGERS
TO MAKE MORE DECISIONS AWAY FROM WASHINGTON
AND THE REGIONAL OFFICE.

Griffin will need plenty of help in implementing her agenda with new federal budget cuts looming on the horizon. Given the current effort to balance the federal budget, she knows some cuts are inevitable and that Yosemite will not come out "unscathed." Yosemite Park currently operates on an annual budget of \$174 million dollars. A "proposed" 10% slash would have serious consequences, she acknowledged. Until final reductions are made known, there is no way to determine where cuts will be made. Some of the possibilities include closing campgrounds and other reductions in visitor services.

In looking at ways to offset those cuts, Griffin feels that she will have to build a consensus among various park users. She also believes Yosemite's future is inextricably linked to corporate and foundation philanthropy and contributions from the public. "That's the hallmark of the future. Partnerships are going to be welcomed," she said. She would also like to utilize more volunteers, the so called "Volunteers in the Park" (VIPs).

As part of her management agenda, Griffin has met with recently-elected Rep. George Radanovich, R-Mariposa, and feels she has his support for many of the problems facing Yosemite. From what she knows of Congress, Griffin feels there is widespread bipartisan support for Yosemite and the health of the National Park Service. In looking at the long-delayed Yosemite General Management Plan (or master plan), Griffin is less certain, however. While the construction of a new \$30 million warehouse at El Portal represents one positive step forward, there are no other major allocations to implement other elements

of the GMP. "To stand firm on something you don't have funds to do, you are, in effect, damning Yosemite to the status quo," she said of the GMP.

Griffin vows to move the Yosemite discussion forward by addressing some of those issues that have been intractable up to now. "If I accomplish nothing else while I am here I intend to bring closure to some of those long-standing issues... such as the transportation and housing studies." She said there is a possibility that those studies and the GMP could be "wrapped together" in a common document that could be used to move the Yosemite agenda forward.

Griffin describes her management style as a "nurturing" approach that is based on a firm commitment to park protection. She believes that once her staff and the public understand the level of her commitment, their support will follow. She also recognizes the need to listen to her staff and the visiting public — and the need for good communications with those interested in the future of the park. "I don't need to be combative or confrontational to do what is necessary here."

Griffin figures she will benefit from pending changes in how the national parks are managed. The NPS plans to delegate more authority to individual parks, allowing local managers to make more decisions away from Washington and the regional office.

A continuing concern is the park's constantly increasing

visitation. In 1994, Yosemite had 4.1 million visitors, a figure that some observers feel is too high. Griffin said that she would like to examine those parks that have successfully implemented day use controls — such as some units of the state park system — and see if they could be adapted at Yosemite.

In discussing a wide range of park issues, Griffin stated her belief that there are other opportunities to gain support from park visitors. For instance, she would like to share information from the park's research efforts with the park's visitors. Such an approach, built around some kind of innovative educational program, could help park visitors understand the mission of the park while building additional support.

Griffin was appointed to her new position in November, becoming the first woman to take over the highest-profile job in the nation's most populous state. Her trail to the superintendent's office was a long one. She began her career with the park service in 1963, coming into the Southeast Region by way of the Job Corps. After laboring away as a clerk for several years, she was tapped for the NPS management training program in 1974. At the successful conclusion of that program she was appointed superintendent of Castillo de San Marcos National Monument, a small park unit in Northern Florida.

By then she had a firm grasp of the career ladder. The next rung took her to Yosemite in

1987 when she was appointed assistant superintendent. In that capacity she worked with then Superintendent Jack Morehead with responsibilities including the 1990 centennial celebration. Next she served nearly three years as assistant regional director for the Western Region of the NPS at San Francisco. While there, she helped guide the 1991 Vail Symposium, which examined the problems and promises facing the park system. She then moved on to the park service's Washington D.C. headquarters. Most recently, Griffin was director of the NPS' Mid-Atlantic Region.

In announcing her appointment, NPS Director Roger Kennedy said "B.J. has proven to be a major asset through her varied and distinguished career. There seems to be no end to her talents as a skilled leader who continually strives to attain the very best for our nation's parks."

Griffin believes that her earlier Yosemite service has helped prepare her for this newest challenge. "This park is an incredibly precious resource. It would be irresponsible not to do the best by it. Part of my responsibility is to use the attention Yosemite gets to help influence its protection."

And having broken through the so-called "glass ceiling" — that invisible barrier facing other upward bound women — Griffin also senses the heat associated with guiding the destiny of a "Big Y" park. "I know how important this is for the women in the National Park Service and I want to succeed," Griffin confided.

"Being the superintendent of Yosemite is perhaps the best job in the National Park Service — and the toughest."



NPS PHOTO

Gateway to Yosemite: The El Portal Road



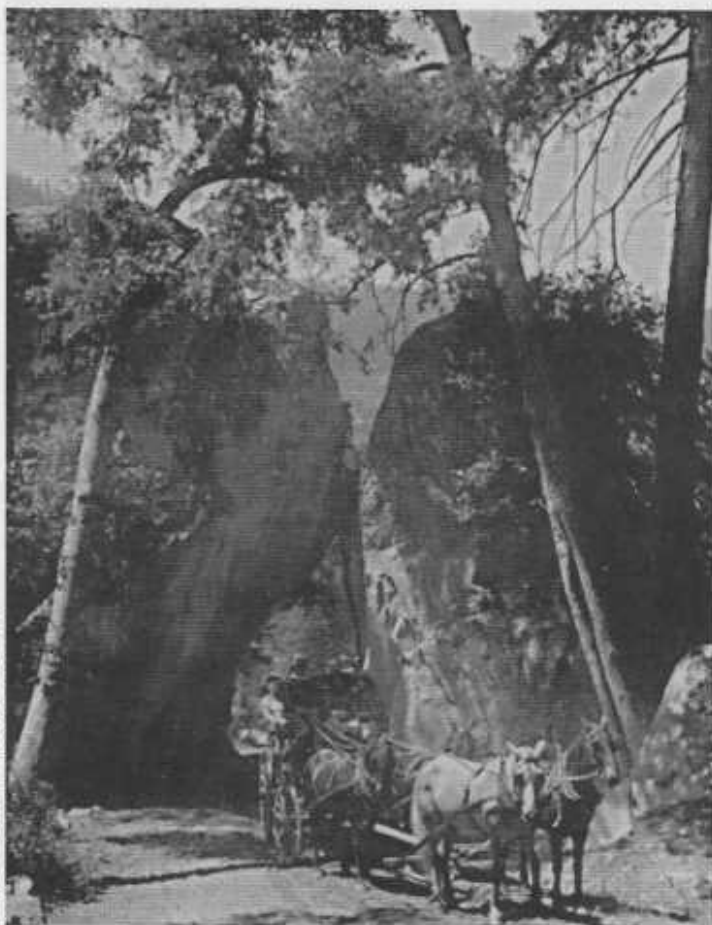
Robert Pavlik

Editor's Note: On March 10, 1995, a massive rock slide occurred on Highway 140 in the area between El Portal and Yosemite Valley. The slide, and specifically one large boulder, destroyed approximately 71 feet of roadway. As a result, this road and the entrance to Yosemite through Arch Rock was closed to traffic for 26 days while the NPS cleared the slide and reconstructed the roadbed and surface. This recent experience with the El Portal Road recalls its stormy history as recounted here.

The route between El Portal and Yosemite Valley is the road that has been least documented in historical studies of Yosemite. Because this section of highway will be critical to future development at Yosemite's gate and to the implementation of a transportation plan for the park, a look at the history of the El Portal Roads seems overdue.

Pioneer resident Charles Leidig recalled that his parents came to Yosemite Valley in 1866 via a trail down Jenkins Hill to the Merced River, and then upriver to the valley. After

The Yosemite Valley Railway, finished in 1907, brought thousands of Yosemite visitors from Merced to El Portal.



MARIPOSA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1870 this low elevation horse trail became known as the Hite's Cove route.

With the completion of the Yosemite Valley Railroad from Merced to El Portal in 1907, a wagon trail that followed the old trail was cut from the side

of the canyon, and horse-drawn carriages transported park visitors from the rail terminus to Yosemite Valley via this narrow and rugged road. The Acting Superintendent observed in his 1907 report that with the arrival of the railroad

Upon completion of the Yosemite Valley Railroad, tourists rode from El Portal to the Valley via a new road that joined the Coulterville Road, a "tortuous" journey, 1907.

and the "short stage ride of about 14 miles" (which took approximately four hours), the "reduction in time and ease with which the valley can now be reached has resulted in a large increase in the number of visitors."

What had been glowingly described in 1907 as "exceedingly beautiful," and a route that "was one of the main features of the park before the opening of this new road," was characterized in 1910 as "rocky, narrow, and tortuous." It was recommended that the road be widened and straightened, and that travelers be protected by guard rails along the river side of the drive.

Three years later the work on the road was undertaken, and at a cost of \$14,945.52 per mile, the road was widened from ten feet to twenty-five feet in average width, and some of the dangerous curves were eliminated. The road widening was seen as a necessity because of "congestion" caused by increased traffic be-

The first motor stage arrives in the Valley from El Portal, 1913.



EVING STUR PRESS

tween El Portal and Yosemite. The high cost of the roadwork was due to the heavy nature of the construction, which involved blasting and clearing of solid rock and boulders.

The park was thrown open to automobiles on August 16, 1913. The first wheeled machines rolled into Yosemite Valley via the Coulterville road, traversing a portion of the El Portal road and sharing the highway with horse-drawn stages. The Yosemite Valley Railroad lost no time in embracing the age of the horseless carriage, employing a twenty-five-passenger White Stage for its first run on the El Portal road, November 19, 1913. The auto stage shortened the trip to a mere one hour and thirty-five minutes, and the company added three additional auto stages the following year.

A stunning 90 percent increase in travel to Yosemite occurred in 1915, thanks to the relative ease of access afforded by the automobile, and the opening of the Panama Pacific International Exposition in San Francisco that year. The age of the auto in Yosemite had arrived.

In 1923 the California State Highway Commission called for the completion of the last section of the Merced to El Portal Highway, a seventeen-mile stretch from Briceburg to El Portal along the Merced River. The highway had been paved through Merced County and graded and graveled in Mariposa County as far as Briceburg, where the road ended. With the action of the state highway commission and the support of the California Automobile Association, a modern route, the "All-Year Highway," the first road constructed using modern standards, would soon lead to the gates of Yosemite National Park.



NPS PHOTO



NPS PHOTO

The response on the part of the National Park Service to this imminent arrival of a modern highway at its doorstep was a mixture of enthusiasm and panic. The park service recognized that the new highway would provide easy access to thousands of potential park visitors who, until then, had been reluctant to travel the serpentine mountain roads, and that it was not ready to absorb the additional influx. Further, the section of the road inside

The road was threatened by winter storms with undercutting and rockslides during the early years.

the park was not built to the standards of the new road.

In a 1924 report, Superintendent W. B. Lewis wrote that "the road [the new state highway] is being built to a full thirty foot width, on easy grades, and in accordance with the best modern highway construction methods and specifications. With this completed,

Yosemite will be accessible by auto throughout the year . . . the park will experience from the beginning a material increase in travel." He went on to lament that the "failure of Congress to appropriate moneys for road improvement in the parks leaves the road situation in Yosemite in the same deplorable state reported in past years. The completion of the All-Year Highway into the park will . . . further aggravate matters unless . . . relief can be secured by the appropriation of money for the improvement of park roads."

The superintendent's pleas were answered within the year. Lewis wrote in 1925: "The appropriation of funds for the improvement of the park roads has met with whole-hearted public approval and has done much to further stimulate travel to the park. The decision of Director [Steven T. Mather] . . . to build only high standard roads in the parks has also met with approval." Public support probably came from motoring tourists who expressed their pleasure that they would no longer have to breathe the choking dust that rolled up from the dry roads during the hot summer months. An appreciative public also helped convince a skeptical and stingy Congress that such appropriations were indeed justified. In that same year, an interagency agreement was signed between the park service and the Bureau of Public Roads, which provided the engineering and construction oversight of new roads within all national parks. In Yosemite, the park superintendent, engineer, and landscape architect retained final authority over the placement, design, and construction of roads, so that their impact on the land would be minimized.

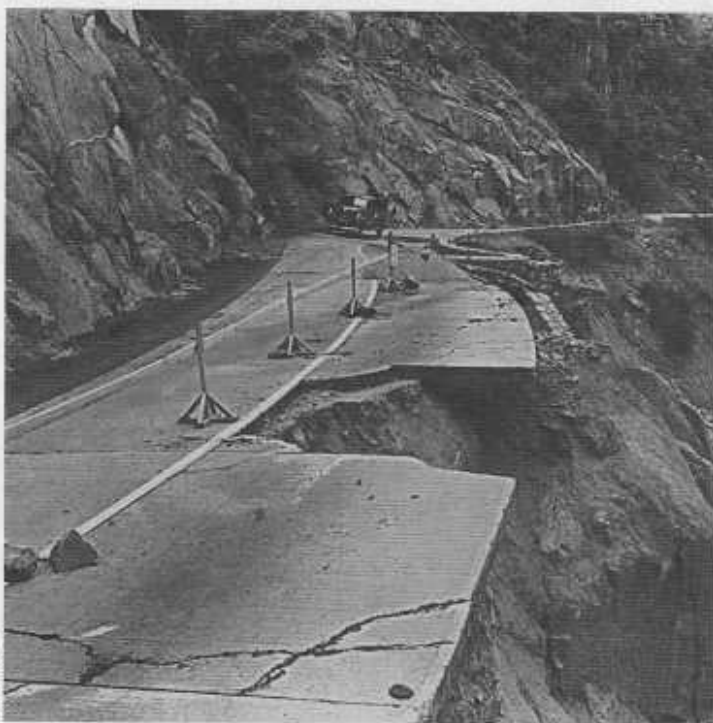
Beginning in 1925 and continuing into the next year, the Dennis Construction Company widened and improved the El Portal road, while park forces prepared a site at Arch Rock to accommodate a ranger station/residence and auto checking station. The road was opened to traffic on July 31, 1926, even as paving and construction operations continued. The Arch Rock ranger station/residence was completed in October, along with two kiosks.

As traffic volume increased, improvements were made to the entrance station area, including the addition of a third checking station. A new entrance sign was placed at the park boundary on the south side of the El Portal road in 1931. This large, granite rubble cairn was made possible through the donation of funds by Mr. James H. Schwabacher of San Francisco. The new marker replaced the old stone pillars that had previously guarded the entrance, dismantled in August of 1926.

A particularly striking aspect of the El Portal road is the granite rubble parapet wall that winds its way along most of the eight miles of road between the park entrance and Pohono Bridge. Large portions of the wall were constructed when automobiles first began to ply the narrow and winding road, and extensions and additions were built as money and need allowed. An appropriation in 1931 resulted in the construction of forty-six turnouts on the road in 1932; the project required the building of extensive dry-laid rock retaining walls, many of which are still in place. Careful attention was paid to landscape values, so that unnecessary destruction of trees, shrubbery, and "pictorial aspects" could be averted.



NIS PHOTO



NIS PHOTO

The most spectacular disaster to hit Yosemite National Park in its eighty-five years of recorded history took place between December 9 and 12, 1937, when torrential rains swept the Sierra and created flood conditions. The rain began to fall on December 9, and the rivers reached their flood peak at 3 p.m. on December 11. In Yosemite Valley, the river rose and spread to lake-like proportions, flooding roads, stores, and residences, and

the ranger station/residence at Arch Rock. The residence was swept off its foundation, and was barely kept from washing downstream when it came to rest against a large boulder.

The Civilian Conservation Corps camp at the Cascades did not fare so well. On December 11, rising flood waters destroyed the camp and sent most of the structures downstream in a wild tumble of wood, plaster, and water. At Windy Point, the El Portal road suffered the worst damage, as the flood waters undermined a 160-foot length of road, and sixty feet of pavement tumbled into the river.

As quickly as the waters receded, repairs began. The El Portal road was closed to traffic from December 10th through the 30th, until minimal repairs would allow one-way passage on the road as reconstruction continued. At Windy Point, the road was blasted into the rocky cliff and placed on a solid foundation. The Arch Rock ranger station/residence was elevated, a higher foundation poured, and the building reset on the new pad. A rock parapet wall was built around the residence and parking lot to protect the area from future high water. With the help of CCC enrollees, extensive parapet and retaining walls were built along the road. One dry-laid retaining wall built upstream of the powerhouse was thirty feet high by forty feet long, consuming 180 cubic yards of rock in its construction. The boulders were moved in place with two large derricks operated with hand winches. Parapet walls were all hand laid, and between May 31 and July 7, 1939, 795 linear feet of wet masonry rock parapet walls were built, at an average rate of approximately twenty-two feet per day.

Torrential rains in 1937 undermined 160 feet of the El Portal road (top), and in 1950 washed out portions of the road (bottom).

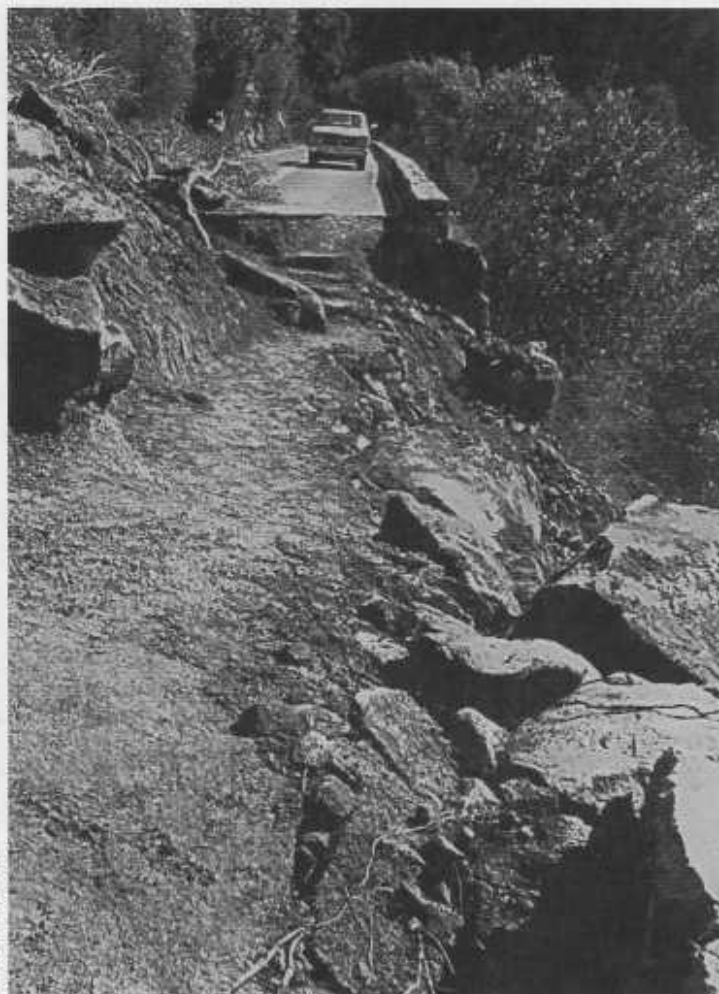
floating guest cabins off their foundations. As the river made its precipitous drop down the canyon, the mass of water gathered speed and force, causing considerable destruction. The diversion dam, intake, and penstock of the powerhouse suffered extensive damage, as did the bridges at Cascades and

Disaster visited Yosemite in the form of storms, floods, and rock slides on other occasions. Flooding in November and December of 1950 washed out portions of the road, which proved much more expensive to replace. Reconstruction costs had grown due to post-war inflation, higher labor costs, changes in work week hours (from forty-eight to forty hours/week), time and one-half for overtime, and a lack of qualified laborers to perform the work. The demise of the CCC in 1942 meant that inexpensive labor was not available as before and had to be made up at greater cost.

A third "one hundred year flood" occurred only five years later, when the largest flood since 1930 closed all roads into the park and washed out large portions of the All-Year Highway (State Route 140). The El Portal road was closed for twenty-five days, and it took many months of repair work to return it to a safe and travelable condition.

Flooding hasn't been the only force to wreak havoc on park roads and structures. On August 6, 1961, a livestock truck smashed into the central kiosk at Arch Rock, rendering the building useless and requiring its replacement with the structure that exists now. During the construction of the new sewage treatment plant in El Portal in the mid-1970s, a sewer pipe was placed under the entire length of the El Portal road, from Yosemite Valley to the plant. This \$6.1 million project took more than two years to complete, and extreme care was used so that the parapet wall and retaining walls along the road would not be disturbed.

Nature hasn't always exercised such care or regard for



PAUL SANTOS / NPS

The March rockslide of 1995 destroyed 71 feet of the El Portal road (Highway 140). The road was closed for almost a month.

human creations, as on April 3, 1982, when a rock slide destroyed the lower part of the Coulterville Road and a 150-foot section of the El Portal road, including the sewer pipe under the highway. This time the road was closed for ten days while crews blasted a clearing for the road out of the enormous rubble.

The human will and desire to maintain a road in this wild and narrow river canyon has been remarkable, if futile at times. However, given the nature of the road and its presence in a national park, it seems fitting that human impact on the canyon has been minimal. The road is a subdued scar on the landscape, at times subject to natural phenomena that we deem catastrophic. It remains the National Park Services' challenge to maintain a balance

between providing relatively safe, quick, and easy access to Yosemite Valley and points beyond, and the protection of the natural and cultural values for which the park was set aside.

Robert Pavlik resides in Paso Robles and works for the California Department of Transportation in San Luis Obispo. Previously, he worked for several years in Yosemite for the NPS on special projects.

Carl Sharsmith

A program to honor the memory of Carl W. Sharsmith will be held Saturday, September 9, 1995, at 11:00 am in Tuolumne Meadows. Please bring a mat or folding chair for sitting, and a picnic lunch if you wish. If you plan to attend, RSVP by sending a postcard with name, address and number of people attending to Georgia Stigall, PO Box 2152, Sunnyvale, CA 94087-0152.

In Memoriam



Sterling S. Cramer, who served on the Yosemite Natural History Association Board of Trustees for 40 years (1942-1982), passed away February 5 in San Francisco at the age of 90 after a short illness. Employed by the Yosemite Park and Curry Co. for 35 years, he retired as Vice President and Treasurer in 1969.

Born August 30, 1904 in Cleveland, Ohio, he brought his wife and son to Yosemite in 1935, where he began working for the YP&CCo. and ushering evenings at the Old Village Movie Pavilion.

A graduate of the Stanford School of Business, he was active in the community in Yosemite and Mariposa. He served as president of the Yosemite Lions Club and as chairman of the Mariposa County Democratic committee. He was appointed to the State Parks Commission by California Governor Pat Brown.

After retiring in 1969 and moving to San Francisco, he and his wife, Alice, spent a year in Indonesia, representing an organization of retired business executives engaged in helping developing nations establish successful businesses.

They were also founding members of the San Francisco Chapter of Amnesty International.

His wife, Alice, lives in San Francisco, and his son, Stewart, lives in Mariposa. His ashes will be scattered at sea.

1994

Annual



Review

For the Yosemite Association and the park generally, 1994 was a year of transition. A new Chief Park Interpreter in the person of Rick Smith arrived to fill a position that had been vacant for over a year. Mr. Smith became the park's new Association Coordinator, and he was warmly welcomed to this role by everyone at YA. Later in the year, Park Superintendent Mike Finley announced his departure for Yellowstone, and his successor, Barbara J. (BJ) Griffin was named. As well, Assistant Superintendent Jerry Belson left Yosemite for a new position in Arizona. Park affairs were unavoidably unsettled during this period of flux.

1994 was also the first full year of operation for the park's new concessioner, Yosemite Concession Services Company. YA and YCS continued to develop a fine working relationship, cooperating on a number of programs including the Art Activity Center, member work trips, and others.

The year proved somewhat disappointing from a financial perspective. Our sales of interpretive books and materials in the park dropped by almost 15%, and our overall revenues declined accordingly. Fortunately, we were still able to provide the National Park Service with over \$325,000 in financial aid, our third highest total for that category.

Everyone at YA is hopeful that 1995 will see an end to transition and the beginning of a productive era working with the new leadership of the National Park Service and the Yosemite Concession Services Company. We appreciate the ongoing support of our members, friends, NPS colleagues, customers, suppliers, and others as we go about our work.



Board and Staff

There was little change in the make-up of the Yosemite Association's board and staff this year. An ex-officio, voting position was created on the board for the president of the park's main concession, a spot filled by Yosemite Concession Services executive Gary Fraker. The fall election resulted in the re-election of the two incumbents and board candidates, Thomas Shephard and Daniel Wolfus. They were challenged for the vacancies by Cecilia Hurwich, who was nominated by petition.

Tom Shephard, a Stockton lawyer, has been involved as a trustee for more than twenty years, including over ten years as chairman. He serves on YA's Planning and Development Committee and is chair of the Publications and Seminars committee. He contributed significantly to the creation of the Yosemite Fund, once a part of YA and now a successful and independent organization that has channeled several million dollars to the park.

Dan Wolfus, part-time Yosemite resident, is a banker in Los Angeles. He has contributed as board Treasurer for at least the past five years, and also works as chairman of the Finance and Operations Committees for YA. He brings his strong business background and financial expertise to a second term on the board.

National Park Service personnel changes affecting the YA board included the arrival of new Chief Interpreter Rick Smith from the Western Regional Office, and the announcement of the selection of Barbara Jane (B.J.) Griffin as Yosemite's new superintendent. Mr. Smith will serve as

the park's association coordinator, and Superintendent Griffin will sit as N.P.S. representative on the board.

At the staff level, Bridget McGinnis Kerr, who began editing the Yosemite Guide in 1993, resigned to continue her education at Fresno State University. Kristina Rylands has

Publications and Sales

Our program of publications and sales remained the heart of our business in 1994. YA produced a number of fine, new interpretive publications, and

for *Obata's Yosemite*, best historical work (for *Legends of the Yosemite Miwok*), best scholarly work (*Obata's Yosemite*), best children's publication (*The World of Small*), and an honorable mention in the foreign language category for the *Complete Guidebook to Yosemite* in German. It was the second straight competition in which YA received the top prize. Other awards came from the American Institute of Graphic Arts, the Rounce and Coffin Club, the American Association of Museums, Bookbuilders West, and the Western Art Directors Club.



WILLIAM NEILL

Sequoia trees and dogwood

taken over this task, and we were pleased to welcome her to our organization. As well, Holly Warner took over the editorship of YA's members' journal, *Yosemite*.

The Yosemite Association office was chosen as home by Greywater the cat (i.e. he moved in), and he was officially added to our staff this year. Greywater, when not napping, is doing a great job in public relations and employee counseling.

augmented the park's education program through the sale of these materials and through the information assistance of our many sales clerks.

The Yosemite Association was the recipient of a number of publishing awards during 1994. In the biennial National Park Service Interpretive Excellence competition, YA was honored with several prizes including "The Director's Award" (the best interpretive publication in the competition)

William Neill signs copies of his book *Yosemite: The Promise of Wilderness*.

New titles included *Yosemite - The Promise of Wilderness*, a large format, photographic book featuring the images of William Neill and a two-part essay by Tim Palmer. A limited edition of the book, paired with a signed, original photographic print, was also offered. Early in the year, the finely printed and hand-bound report of Frederick

WITH FOUR WORK TRIPS AND A CREW OF VOLUNTEERS WORKING IN THE VALLEY, YA MEMBERS DONATED OVER FOUR THOUSAND HOURS OF TIME AT THE PARK LAST SUMMER.

Law Olmsted, *Yosemite and the Mariposa Grove - A Preliminary Report, 1865*, was issued in an edition of 400, 100 of which were signed by essayist Victoria Ranney and illustrator Wayne Thiebaud. In August, *The Wild Muir* was completed. It included twenty-two of John Muir's greatest adventures, selected and introduced by Lee Stetson. Scratchboard illustrations were provided by Fiona King. The third volume in the *High Sierra Classics Series* was also issued. *A Journal of Ramblings Through the High Sierra of California* by Joseph LeConte was reprinted with a

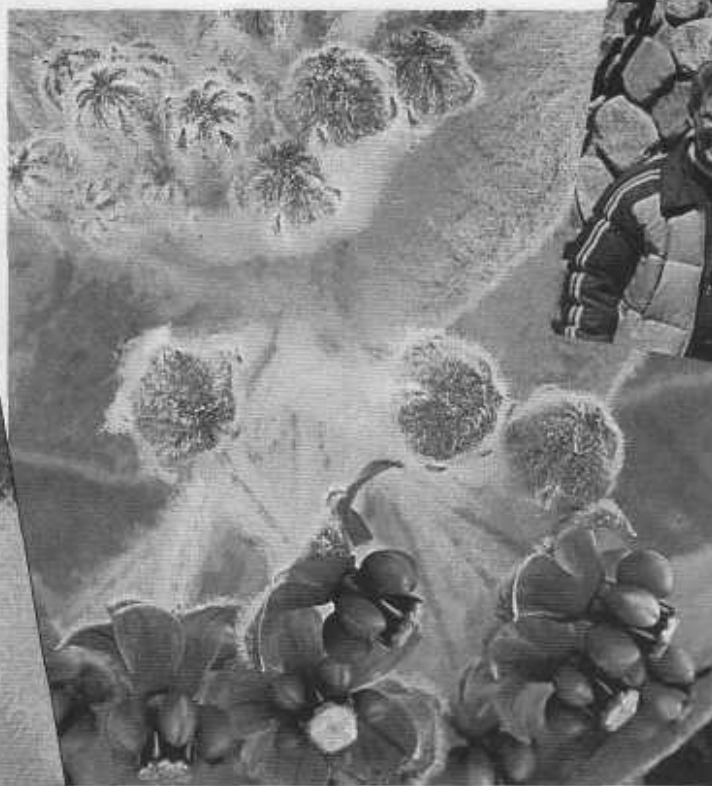
lished the first work of author/illustrator Kathy Baron entitled *The Tree of Time - A Story of a Special Sequoia*. The book illustrates through the passage of historical events, the long, slow development of the magnificent big trees.

A number of reprints were undertaken in 1994 including

by slightly more than 13%. Thanks to a strong mail order trade and healthy wholesale orders, overall sales were only down 6% at year's end. YA's mail order business was boosted by a mention of *The World of Small* in a national edition of *Parade* magazine that

and this aid represented a major supplement to the depleted park information staff.

In furtherance of the association sales program, representatives of YA attended trade shows and professional meetings in Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Oakland.



California Milkweed

Obata's Yosemite, Margaret Sanborn's

Yosemite - Its Discovery, Its Wonders and Its People (with a new cover), *Easy Day Hikes in Yosemite, What Makes Everything Go?*, the revised edition of *The Complete Guidebook to Yosemite National Park*, and *The Pictorial Guide to Yosemite* (both English and German versions).

Sales were a bit disappointing for the year. Despite increased visitation, sales in our visitor center stores decreased

resulted in over 1,200 orders for the book.

The in-park sales decline was occasioned in part by early fall closures at locations such as the Mariposa Grove Museum and the Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center. Despite the turndown, gross revenues within the park were still over \$1,145,000, and total gross revenue from all sales were \$1,637,382. The value of the time devoted by our sales personnel to information assistance grew to over \$105,000,



Fred Fisher, Ann Gushue and Joe Lattuada welcomed YA members to the Spring Forum.

Membership

1994 proved to be an exciting year for the YA membership program. It was highlighted by three well-attended member events and numerous volunteer activities.

In March, approximately four hundred YA members met for the Spring Forum, the first member event of the year. Participants were both enlightened and entertained through a series of walks and talks on a wide variety of park-related topics. Among the speakers were Gary Fraker, President of Yosemite Concession Services, lepidopterist John Lane, and free-lance journalist Gene Rose. Kimi Kodani Hill delighted people by returning to present her moving slide show on the life and work of her grandfather Chiura



new introduction by Dean Shenk and an afterword by John Muir. We were also pleased to be the publisher of Karen Nilsson's posthumously released *A Wildflower by Any Other Name*, a series of sketches about naturalists who discovered and named many of our western plants.

In the children's area, we pub-

THE NPS RECOGNIZED THE YOSEMITE FIELD
SEMINARS AS THE BEST INTERPRETIVE
PROGRAM INVOLVING PERSONAL SERVICES
OFFERED BY ANY COOPERATING
ASSOCIATION IN THE ENTIRE PARK SYSTEM.

Obata. Many other excellent programs on geology, photography, park management, wildlife, and Native American history were given by NPS personnel and other experts from the park community.

The Nineteenth Annual Members' Meeting, held in September at Wawona, featured an entertaining talk by T. H. Watkins, vice president of The Wilderness Society and editor of *Wilderness* magazine. Members were also treated to several naturalist walks as well as an evening performance by the Recycled String Band and a traditional old-time barn dance.

In October, members gathered in Los Angeles at the Japanese American National Museum for a private showing of "Obata's Yosemite" and an encore performance by Kimi Kodani Hill on her grandfather's life and work.

With four work trips and a crew of volunteers working in the Valley, YA members donated over four thousand hours of time at the park last summer. The volunteers who staffed the Museum Gallery and the membership booth were disappointed that last summer was our least productive (in terms of acquiring new members) since the booth began operating in 1988. This slump was due, at least in part, to the closure of the booth at Tuolumne Meadows and the relocation of the Yosemite Valley booth to its less visible position in the lobby of the Yosemite Museum. Nevertheless, these eighteen volunteers remained undaunted, and continued to represent YA in a positive light. They assisted the National Park Service in the Valley Visitor Center, providing support during training week and filling in at other times. In addition, they staffed the Museum Gallery,

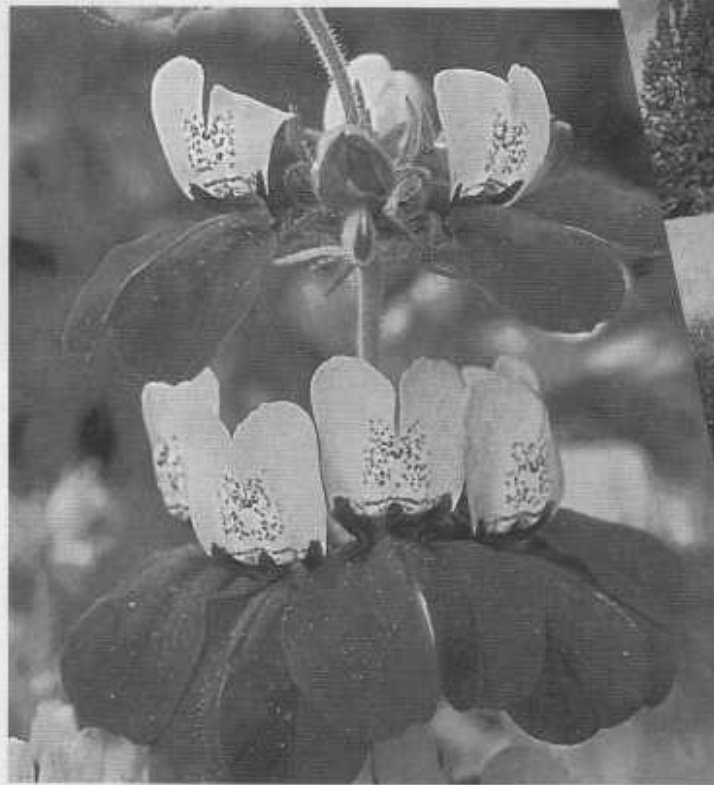
which is totally dependent on this volunteer work force, enabling over 57,000 park visitors to view the exhibits presented there.

YA's other volunteer program involved approximately seventy members in four separate week-long work trips in Tuolumne Meadows, Yosemite Valley,

provided funding for the program. New in 1994 was YA's first backcountry work trip to the Sunrise Lakes area in which fifteen energetic members backpacked six miles and planted thousands of plants into decommissioned sewage ponds. Both YA and the park are indebted to all

continue in 1995 and the future.

During the year the seminar program received a high compliment from the National Park Service. In its "Interpretive Excellence" competition, the NPS recognized the Yosemite



Chinese Houses

and Sunrise Lakes. The Resources Management Division of the National Park Service relies heavily on volunteer labor to accomplish meadow and trail restoration projects in the park. These enthusiastic YA members provided that much-needed labor under the direction of the NPS. The cooperative venture was also supported by the Yosemite Institute which contributed meals and leadership and the Yosemite Concession Services which

these fine volunteers for their dedication and hard work.

Seminars

A total of twelve hundred enrollees attended Yosemite Field Seminars during 1994. It was a remarkably busy year for the program with ever-improving course offerings and the highest number of participants in our history. We hope this good fortune will



Carl Sharsmith spent his last summer in Tuolumne Meadows talking with Park visitors.

Field Seminars as the best interpretive program involving personal services offered by any cooperating association in the entire park system. The judges noted the program's "quality instruction" and observed that the courses include "many elements of effective interpretation, which would inspire participants to thirst for more."

Our successes were overshadowed, however, by the passing on October 14 of Dr. Carl Sharsmith, our most popular instructor and a teacher without equal. He led his last small groups through Tuolumne Meadows and the Tioga Pass area, continuing his infor-

ARTISTS HAVE COME FROM ALL CORNERS
OF THE UNITED STATES TO SHARE THEIR
CREATIVITY AND TALENTS WITH
PARTICIPANTS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD.

mative discussions of the treasured plants he loved so well. At times he tired, but his stories, gently told, were as fresh as ever. He shared all he knew about the Sierra Nevada and its plants with visitors, students, and friends for over fifty years. Yosemite and our seminar program won't be the same without him.

The 1994 catalog of classes, featuring the beautiful art work of Chiura Obata, included a number of unique offerings. For example, "Designs and Strategies - Flowers and Their Pollinators," taught by Dr. Glenn Keator, focused on how each flower is related to a specific pollinator, from beetles and flies to bees of all sorts, from butterflies to nocturnal hawk-moths, and from hummingbirds to prevailing winds. Dr. Keator's knowledge and pleasant teaching style complemented his subject nicely. A plant course led by Steve Botti took a small group of intermediate and advanced botanists through Tuolumne Meadow's alpine and subalpine regions in quest of rare and common residents.

Another successful class, "An Introduction to Yosemite's Natural History," featured the talents of Pete Devine, an enthusiastic new teacher, and was headquartered for three days at Crane Flat. Delicious meals were prepared for participants on location, where bunks at the old blister rust camp were utilized. Members of the group studied stars, trees, flowers, birds, mammals, insects, and rocks, gaining a new perspective on the natural world around them.

Other Programs

Art Activity Center

The Association has cooperated with the National Park

Service and the park's primary concessioner in sponsoring this unique art program at Yosemite for 13 years. During that time instruction has been provided in such media as watercolor, oils, acrylics, photography, sculpture, metal crafts, beading, pottery, poetry, writing, Native American crafts, recycled and

the National Park Service, was not open for the 1994-95 winter season due to significant problems with the hut's waste system, as determined by the NPS.

Water quality sampling conducted by San Jose State University revealed that the fecal coliform level at the Ostrander Lake was well beyond the

Other Fellow Mortals," "An Evening With John Muir," and "The Spirit of John Muir." Connie Stetson portrayed a pioneer woman in the original stage performance: "Sarah Hawkins Contemplates a Fourth Marriage." Gail Dreifus and the Recycled String Band offered two shows: "Home Planet Hoote-nanny" and "Yosemite By Song and Story." Through music and song, the group presented ideas for improving Yosemite and the world through recycling and conservation.

High Sierra Loop Trips

This year YA scheduled and hired the loop trip leaders for twenty summer trips in the high country. Because the previous winter's snow pack was light, all trips that had been planned were taken as scheduled.



Stream Violet & Bracken

natural materials, etching, sketching, pen and ink, pastels, sumi, and quilting. Artists have come from all corners of the United States to share their creativity and talents with participants from all over the world. The classes continued to be free of charge to anyone choosing to participate.

Ostrander Lake Ski Hut

The Ostrander Lake Ski Hut, operated by YA for the past fourteen years at the request of

acceptable level, indicating a problem with the hut's sewage system. An assessment team determined that retrofitting the facility was not feasible in time for the winter season.

Yosemite Theater

Quality evening programs with live stage performances continued for the eleventh year in Yosemite Valley. Lee Stetson portrayed John Muir in his three shows: "Stickeen and



NPS Ranger Dean Shenk led YA members on a walking tour of Yosemite's Old Village at the Spring Forum.

Continued on page 14

Statement of Financial Position

FOR YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1994

Assets

Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 95,137
Accounts receivable	79,492
Prepaid expenses	12,002
Inventory	722,559
Property and Equipment	53,916

Total Assets

\$963,106

Liabilities

Trade accounts payable	\$ 38,818
Accrued payroll taxes	736
Royalties payable	20,879
Deferred revenue	548
Vacation payable	11,554

Total Liabilities

\$ 72,535

Net Assets, as restated

Unrestricted	\$ 782,161
Temporarily restricted	108,410

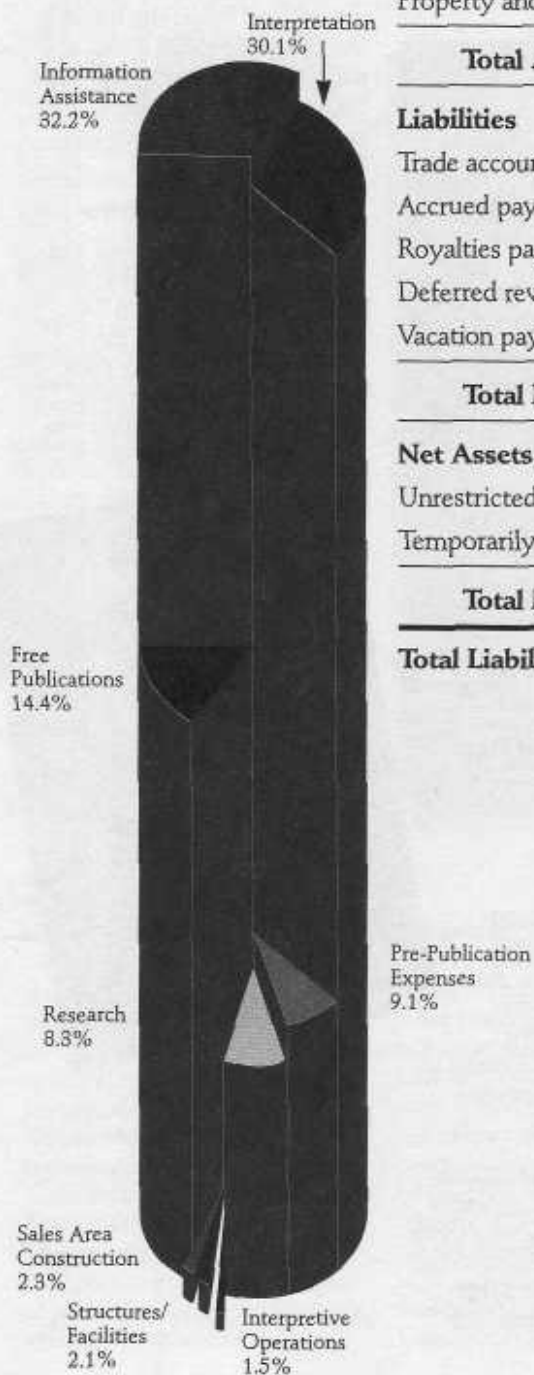
Total Net Assets

\$890,571

Total Liabilities and Net Assets

\$963,106

**1994 Aid to NPS
\$329,041**



Statement of Activities, 1994



UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS

Revenue

Publication sales	\$ 1,637,382
Seminars	144,929
Memberships	223,728
Investment income	2,000
Theater	62,145
Auxillary activities	67,057
	<hr/> 2,137,241
Net assets released from restrictions	58,662
	<hr/> \$2,195,903

1994 Board of Trustees

Lennie Roberts, *Chair*
 David Robertson, *Vice-Chair*
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 Robert Eckart
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 Andrew Herr, *Ex officio*
 Jeffery C. Lapham, *Ex officio*
 Elvira Nishkian, *Ex officio*

Expenses

Cost of sales and auxillary activities:

Publication costs	1,153,739
Seminars	118,221
Theater	52,673
Auxillary activities	20,732
Depreciation	13,043
<i>Supporting Services:</i>	
Management and general	271,483
Membership	123,727
Depreciation	8,079
<i>Aid to National Park Service</i>	387,703
	<hr/> \$2,149,400

Increase in Unrestricted Net Assets

46,503

TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS

Contributions	9,075
Auxillary activities	49,316
<i>Net assets released from restriction:</i>	
Restrictions Satisfied by Payments	(58,662)
	<hr/> Decrease in temporarily restricted net assets
	(271)

Increase in Net Assets

\$ 46,232

Net Assets, at Beginning of Year, as restated 844,339

Net Assets at End of Year **\$ 890,571**

THIS YEAR THE ASSOCIATION MANAGED
32 RESTRICTED FUNDS IN ADDITION TO
DISBURSING \$300,000 FOR PROJECTS OF
THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE.

1994 Aid to NPS

Contributions to the National Park Service

In 1994 the Yosemite Association contributed cash and services valued at \$329,041 as aid to the National Park Service (Aid-to-NPS). This represented 20.1% of our gross sales income. Aid was given in the following categories:

Interpretation	\$ 98,884
Research	27,405
Free Publications	47,433
Equipment/Facilities	6,992
Sales Area Design	7,500
Information Assistance/ Personnel	105,841
Interpretive Programs	4,986
Pre-publication Expenses	30,000
Total for 1994	\$329,041

Restricted Funds

This year the Association managed 32 restricted funds and disbursed \$58,662 for various activities and projects of

the National Park Service. Such funds include the Mountain Safety Fund that benefits the Search and Rescue Team in Yosemite, Environmental Living Program scholarships, teacher intern scholarships, a wilderness pin fund which benefits the Wilderness Division, several memorial funds that bene-

Friends of the Association, 1994

The following fine people and companies made generous contributions of their time, money, or energy during 1994. We extend heartfelt thanks to them and to the many other wonder-

Bressi, Todd Brindle, Mike Brocchini, Ginger Burley, George Burns, Barbara Cady, John Cain, California Data Marketing, California State Mining & Mineral Museum, Marilyn Canty, Dan Card, Mike Carr, Hugh Carter, Rick Cashner, Cedar Lodge Restaurant, Les Chow, Edie Christiansen, Inka Christiansen, John Clark, Kristen Clark, Norman Clayton, Darlis Cleveland, Ellie Cobarrubia, The Richard Cocke Family, Mary Coffeen, Arnold & Carole Compolongo, Joan Conlan, Mike Corbett, Jim Corless, Terry Craddock, Norma Craig, John D Cramer, Phyllis Cremonini, Kevin Cronin, Crown Printing, Dan & Renee Daniels, Lisa Dapprich, Eston & Ethel Davis, Frank Dean, Helen DeCoster, Vivian Deland, Tony DeMaio, Pete Devine, John Dill, Jean Dillingham, Cathy Dobbs, Gail Lynne Dreifus, Janice T Driesbach, Donna Dufresne, Dumont Printing, George Durkee, Padraic Durkin, Linda Eade, Larry & Susan Early, Bob & Nancy Eckart, Chris Edison, El Portal Market, Brian Empie, Environmental Volunteers, Helen Emshoff, Rick Erlie, Judy Ernest, Phil Farley, Don Fay, Aida Ferrone, Jerry Fischer, Marshall & Judy Fisher, Fred Fisher, Kris Fister, C J Flores, Roger Folk, Tom Fong, Dave Forgang, Donald Fox, Gary Fraker, Ed Franzen, Robert Fry, Michael Frye, Paul Gallez, Barbara Garcia, Frank Germain, Bill Germany, Mary Lynne Gonzales, Maggie Goodman, Greywater, Brian Grogan, Karl & Susan Guhm, Bill Guyton, Jack & Jane Gyer, Roland Haas, Joyce Halley, Mariella Haney, Bob Hansen, Steve Harrison, Helen & Everett Harwell, Lynette Heil, Kimi Kodani Hill, Merrie Hinson, Phil Hopkins, Lynn Houser, Houtz Family Restaurants, Clark Howe, Mark Hoyer, Ed Howland, Eric Huffman, Audrey Hulburd, Pat Hunter, Stan Hutchinson, Ingram Books, Diane Iverson, Tom Jackson, Les James, Richard James, Erica Jensen, Deb Jensen, Jane Jerger, Bob Johnson, Judy Johnson, Louise Johnson, Mark Johnson, Susan Johnson, Bill Johnston, Hank Johnston, Bob Jones, Vicki Jordan, Margaret Jose, Glenn Keator, Bub Keith, Rita Kern, Bridget McGinniss Kerr, William & Maymie Kimes, Fiona King, Dorothy Kirkpatrick, Mr & Mrs Eugene Kodani, Peter & Ann Knopf, Patrick Kraft, Dennis Kruska, Ben Kudo, John Lane, Kathy Langley, Louis Lanzer, Eric Larson, Joe Lattuada, Jean Leassick, Martha J Lee, Carolyn Lekki, Mary Ann LeVeille, Peter LeVeque, Max Lewis, Peter Leyton, R Burton Littin, Jr, Maureen Loughlin,



Douglas' iris

fited the park library and purchased bear-proof containers for the Interpretive Division, the DARE drug rehab program, Ostrander Ski Hut fund, and rare book purchase fund for the Research Library.

YA staff, Ann Gushue, and board member, Christy Holloway, enjoyed the morning sun at the March meeting.

ful people both inside and outside the park who help us in countless ways.

Linda Abbott, Jeanne & Michael Adams, Jeff Allen, Ansel Adams Gallery, Kathleen Aguilar, Bill Alsup, Milt Andreasen, Bob Andrew, Jeanne Andrew, Apple Tree Inn, Connie Archer, Paula Artac/Waterart, Kathy Baron, Annie Barrett, Craig Bates, Sandy Bell, Barbara Beroza, Otto Best, Louise Beyer, Nancy Biscovich, Taylor Blakely, Diane Detrick Bopp, Tom Bopp, Booktrackers, Tom Borchardt, Annette Bottaro-Walklet, Steve Botti, Laurel Boyers, Todd W



Continued on page 23

1994 Highlights

January

The Park received \$151,000 from the first installment from the Yosemite license plate program, sponsored by the Yosemite Fund. A press conference in Sacramento commemorated the event.

March

The NPS decided to again allow rafting on the Merced River with specific time and location restrictions.

April

Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt visited the park April 4-5.

Snow plowing began on the Tioga Road. The NPS road crew from the west and Mono County from the east met at Tenaya Lake on the Tioga Road.

May

"CBS This Morning" filmed their 2-hour show focusing on the park at the Ahwahnee Hotel with Harry Smith and Paula Zahn.

The cables on Half Dome went up on May 11. The Glacier Point Road opened May 13, and the Tioga Road opened May 25.

Three mountain lions were sighted in Yosemite Valley within the week prior to Memorial Day. As a result, a mountain lion caution flyer was distributed to all visitors entering the park over the Memorial Day weekend.

June

Sir Edmond Hillary visited the park for the first time.

August

Horizon Fire, started May 31 by a lightning strike, crossed the Illilouette Creek and prompted the precautionary evacuation of approximately 200 backpackers from Little Yosemite Valley.



The fire was contained on August 15. Investigators and arch-

vehicles for the park. PG&E resented a check for \$95,000 to the NPS to help purchase electric buses.

A memorial service was held for long-time ranger Ferdinand

Castillo in Lee Vining. His ashes were scattered at Tioga Pass.

August 27 was Yosemite "Free Day" in honor of 78th birthday of the NPS.

September

The Ostrander Ski Hut closed for the winter season because of suspected sewage contamination in Ostrander Lake.

Carl Sharsmith died on October 14 in San Jose at the age of 91. The oldest ranger in the NPS had worked in Tuolumne Meadows the past summer.

November

Senator Barbara Boxer met with Superintendent Finley to discuss park issues. Some local businessmen and environmentalists had round table discussions with the senator.

B. J. Griffin was named new Superintendent on November 7.

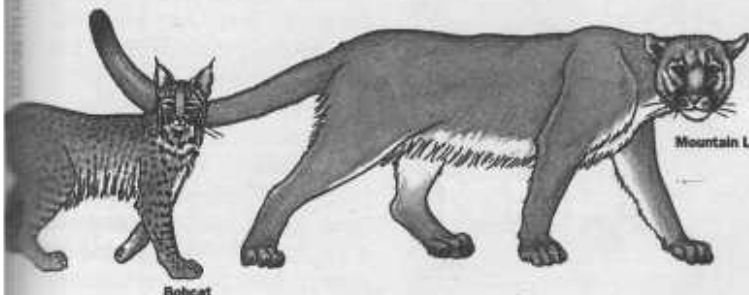
The Glacier Point Road closed on November 3, and the Tioga Road closed on November 10.

December

Rockslides on Northside Drive at Three Brothers in Yosemite Valley caused the closing of one lane and conveying of traffic.



Horlequin Lupine



eologists examined a plane crash site found by trail workers in Stubblefield Canyon. Human remains were found. The crash was determined to have occurred in 1962.

PG&E, CalTrans, NPS and California Energy Commission met to discuss alternative fuel

Annual visitation for 1994:

4,105,755.

A Bear Story: Reflections on Security

William Alsup

The expedition consisted of contingents from Alabama, a university professor; from Texas, an orthodontist; from Washington, D.C., a father and son political and sports commentary team; and from California, the cook. The staging area for the expedition was the Winnedumah Hotel in Independence, California, where the group spent the night of August 28, 1994, and took its last commercial meal. The next dawn, the five entered with full packs at Onion Valley, ascended almost three thousand vertical feet to Kearsarge Pass, and then descended the same distance to Vidette Meadow, where the first camp was established.

In truth, Vidette is less a meadow than a forest, dense and narrow, along the headwaters of the Kings River cascading down the canyon. As the first camp formed, casualty reports came forward. The Texas contingent reported blisters and lacerations due to new shoes. The Washington contingent reported boot fatigue and separating soles due to old shoes. The Alabama contingent was grim but ever alert. The cook was strong enough to remonstrate over excess material needlessly packed in. Gnashing of teeth then ensued relative to Texas luxury articles, two amateur radio handi-talkies, extra snacks, what increasingly seemed to be an inexhaustible supply of pasta supremo and other such items. The mixed condition of the company, of course, further implicated a change in plan. All elected, however, to eat their first pasta dinner, and to sleep on it.

Fortune smiled on the expedition, for the next morning it realized that a wild and forgot-

ten canyon was within half a day's march. Center Basin was its name. Through it the predecessor to the Muir Trail had once run. In the last fifty years, however, the basin had been reclaimed by the wilderness. Center Basin would truly be a lost vale.

It was resolved to lay claim to the basin and there to establish a base camp for further mountaineering. It was also resolved that the company should proceed as far up the basin as necessary to break timberline. This was deemed necessary to protect the expedition, particularly its food, from bear attacks. The cook insisted on this strategy, invoking an alleged intimate knowledge of bear conventions. The only bears left in the Sierra, he said, wore different colors but were all black bears by tribe, congregating in the forest near well-travelled routes. There they preyed on camps not properly hanging food sacks from a high limb using the counter balance method. Going above timberline, said the cook, left these problems behind and below.

Soon after the march resumed, this strategy was promptly validated by a report, made by the Alabama professor, of a large bear watching him from the forest. As the

morning wore on, however, various contingents began to question whether it was really necessary or even wise to ascend the 2,300 vertical feet required by the timberline strategy. The senior member of the Washington contingent, for example, inquired why, if bears were really so smart as to be able to untie knots, as had been claimed by the cook, they were unable to appreciate that all camps above treeline would be utterly unprotected for lack of a tree. Unamused, the cook said that it was for the same reason that a perfectly intelligent human would embark on a rugged hike wearing delaminating boots—they just don't bother to look.

Before this went further, the expedition broke into the clear and reaped the reward of the timberline strategy—a grand vista of a most enchanted gorge. It was apparent that the basin belonged to no one else and the troop began to congratulate itself on its good judgment. Members deposited themselves near along sheet of water named, oddly they felt, Golden Bear Lake, elevation 11,300 feet, bound by heather at the upper end and by a few stunted white bark pines at the other.

A superior base camp was made around a grove of dwarfed pines.

The first sign of trouble was the discovery of a note pathetically pinned to a limb in the very grove about which the camp was made. Dated three weeks prior, and inscribed in a desperate scrawl, the note stated that an earlier group had been turned away by multiple and relentless bear attacks at this exact location. "Be forewarned" the message intoned.

The difficulty, if the note was to be believed, was that there were no decent trees in which to hang the food. The scattered white bark pines rose no more than 20 feet and had no limbs able to support counterbalanced food sacks. This difficulty, of course, was an integral byproduct of the timberline strategy itself. The cook, yet convinced of the wisdom of that strategy, dismissed the note as either a cruel joke or an aberrational incident involving a deranged animal. The note was three weeks old and there was no sign of subsequent trouble.

The finding of an inconclusive paw print nearby, however, lent credibility to the note, a circumstance that led to the invention of several schemes to protect the food. The Washington contingent found a boulder near camp about eight feet high, steep on all sides, scarcely climbable by a human, yet flat enough on top to hold the food. These two pronounced the top inaccessible to any but the largest possible bear. The group decided to divide the food between this site and, out of caution, a rope between two white bark pines. Alarms were constructed of pots and pans. Stones were gathered for ammo. After another dinner of pasta supremo, it was sug-



MIKE PHOTO

gested that perhaps all of the food should all be concentrated in one place but the cook rejected this idea.

The night passed without incident. This led the cook, the next morning, to proclaim the note a hoax or at least to so imply. The wisdom of the timberline strategy seemed abundantly self-evident. No doubt, he proclaimed, camps down in Vidette had been ravaged all night. This even led to a decision after breakfast, once the food was restuffed, to stow it in the shade about camp, just out of the reach of small animals.

The day was spent in ascending Mt. Keith and examining the remains of an old air crash near its summit. By chance, one of the group returned to camp shortly after its departure, wedged himself against a rock in the shade of the grove, within reach of where the note had been found, and settled in to read a novel. This was the junior member of the Washington contingent, a teenage ball player.

Meanwhile, the bear was smiling at his exquisite fortune. No doubt the animal had observed the full company proceed up canyon, leaving all food near ground level, and expected no resistance to a complete destruction of the camp. The bear entered the encampment and rounded the grove, whereupon he froze with surprise at seeing someone so close at hand and so strategically placed, as it happened, near a cache of bear ammo.

The young reader, as he later reported, was slowly taken by a developing sense of being observed. Lowering his book, his eyes immediately locked with those of the intruder. There matters stood for a long moment until, at last, both rose



NPS PHOTO

and circled the grove in opposite directions. They almost met on the other side, and would have, had not the defender seized ammo along the way and rounded the bend in a blaze of fire. A direct hit on the haunches of the bear sent him reeling in full retreat. News of this victory was immediately flashed to the summit of Mt. Keith via ham radio whereupon the upper canyon reverberated with hurrahs.

That evening, stories of the day's heroics gradually yielded to apprehension over the night's engagement ahead. As the sun slipped below the ridge, an encore of pasta supremo went all but untouched. Even the cook conceded the probability of the exceptional attack that proved the rule. In preparation, all food bags were stowed on the high

rock, urged all the more vigorously by the Washington contingent as inaccessible to all but the largest bears. The bags were again rigged with an alarm of pots and cups. Stockpiles of ammo rocks were checked. The landscape was scanned for invaders and declared clear. When the last glow faded from the crags above, all, resolutely, turned in.

Once the moonless night had reached its darkest, pots and pans seemed, suddenly, to rain from the sky. Calls to arms issued, one tent to another, while the marauder smashed about the food rock. Finally, a vanguard mustered at the food rock, just as the bear escaped. Gripping ammo, shivering in bedclothes, two campers at least, more by later accounts, stared into the void.

No bear could be seen or heard.

Nor, unfortunately, could the cook's campaign food bag, although when this was announced, a muffled assurance was received from one of the tents that it would be promptly returned. All other food bags were safe, even if scattered about, some on the ground, some still atop the rock, and quite a few with claw marks. The surviving bags were placed in a pile on the ground about which was then built of heavy rocks. This cairn was then guarded all night by the California and Texas contingents. In this manner further attacks were deterred, although the senior member from Washington later said the pasta supremo would have been deterrence enough.

The first gray streaks of dawn were welcomed as none other. The morning assembly, however, brought a disturbing observation concerning the professor from Alabama. Previously, the professor had seemed to divide his attention between the virtues of Forrest Gump and amateur radio and the vices of meat and alcohol.

Now, however, the professor seemed to have developed a fixation comprehending various permutations on a common theme, all involving the Winnedumah Hotel, a rib eye steak, a glass of red wine, and a woman he had never seen but whom he had come to believe had been seated behind him during the group's last supper in the dining room of said hotel. At breakfast, he gazed at the sheer granite crags east of camp. Shortly thereafter, he announced a plan to leave all gear behind, to scale the heights, and to descend the other side to what he had calculated would be the Winnedumah. When it was stated

The daylight attack meant that the enemy had all intelligence needed to inflict maximum injury.

that in reality the hotel was many miles distant, the professor appeared perplexed and proposed to retrace the route all the way to the trailhead by sunset and thence to the hotel for dinner.

While the professor was indisposed due to natural causes, a consultation was held among the others concerning the source of this transformation. The cook said that he had seen this sort of thing before, that it was merely an exuberant reaction to the professor's first ascent of a real summit and to his introduction to camp food, and, indeed, that in another day or so of mountain life the professor would be calling for straight whiskey.

The Texas representative, trained in medicine, advanced a different view, however.

He reminded all that a few days earlier the professor had claimed to have seen in broad daylight a bear that no one else had seen. It was further remembered that, once the bear-warning note had been found, the professor had placed his tent as far from the note as possible without sacrificing the safety of common ground. Recognizing further that the professor suffered from claustrophobia, it was observed that the small one-person tent he had borrowed for the occasion was perversely shaped like and was as constraining as a burial coffin. And, unlike everyone else, all of whom shared a tent, the professor had braved it alone.

Thus it was felt that when the expedition had retired the evening before, and prior to the night assault, the professor had been drawn to contemplating his circumstance. Confined within the tiny tent on a moonless night, rendered immobile inside a mummy bag, and suf-

fering visual deprivation, the professor had pondered the extent to which the entire camp was a helpless speck lost in the black unknown. No doubt, he must have thought, the expedition had been under constant surveillance by at least one, surely two or more, and probably an entire cadre of grizzly creatures. He himself had seen the first one. The warning note and the very name of the lake at hand had been proof enough that this was a place of regular devastation. The daylight attack meant that the enemy had all intelligence needed to inflict maximum injury. Worse, his own tent, low to the ground and granite colored, might actually lie on the preferred escape route, so that even if he survived the main assault, he was liable to be trampled in the retreat. And, those assurances from Washington about all but the largest possible bear — God help the troops if the alarm sounded.

It was while these possibilities were, by turns, in vivid contemplation that the bear indeed struck and the alarm sounded. Pandemonium electrified the professor's space. Trapped, vulnerable, helpless, inside a vault already ignominiously drawn like death itself, the difficulties, now ever imminent, flashed ever faster, reaching a point no mortal could suffer. This, said the doctor, must have created an overload, inducing a mental escape taking the form of a fixation upon the last known place of security, the Winnedumah, and an imagined scene of unqualified pleasure.

This analysis was followed by full quieting. Then the senior member of the Washington contingent, upon whom the group had come to depend

Yosemite Scientist Wins National Award

Dr. Jan W. van Wagtenonk, Yosemite Research Scientist, was recently chosen by the Director of the Park Service, Roger Kennedy, to receive the Director's Award for research in the area of natural resources.

Dr. van Wagtenonk received the prestigious award for a series of research projects which have helped solve some of the problems threatening the resources of Yosemite. One area which has had far-reaching impact has been his work in fire management. After documenting how a century of fire suppression has resulted in high fuel accumulations in the Sierra Nevada, Dr. van Wagtenonk devised a system of prescribed burns. His research determined whether areas needed to be burned, and if so, how soon, how often and under what conditions. His information also provided data and established criteria on when to allow natural fires to continue to burn. The burning prescriptions and monitoring systems developed by van Wagtenonk at Yosemite have been used

for commentary, averred that a rib eye steak sounded pretty good to him and that the rest of the menu wasn't so bad either.

It was unanimously felt that the only alternative was to make for the Winnedumah, which after two days march, was reached without subsequent difficulty.

William Alsup, Bay Area attorney-at-law, serves on the YA Board of Trustees.



elsewhere by the National Park Service, the Forest Service, and the California State Parks.

As backcountry visitation increased over the years, Dr. van Wagtenonk also contributed to the understanding and management of wilderness ecosystems by carrying out research to determine the actual amount of use occurring on trails. By documenting the impact of visitation on the wilderness, a new system of permits and trail quotas was designed to keep the use within acceptable limits.

Another major area of his research program was the development of a geographic resource information and management system which combined mapping, resource data, and computer technology. He developed models which can predict vegetation changes over time and fire behavior as it is influenced by vegetation, fuel, topography and weather. These models have enabled managers to make important decisions concerning park resources. The Geographic Information System (GIS) was also used to determine nesting habitats for great gray owls which resulted in increasing the known population from 26 to 52.

Dr. van Wagtenonk also oversees research projects on black bears, bighorn sheep, peregrine falcons, great gray owls and Pacific fishers. A longtime member of the Yosemite Association, he has generously shared his ideas and work with other members by giving programs at a number of Spring Forums. Presently, while based in Yosemite, he carries out his research under the auspices of the recently created National Biological Service.

Take a Field Seminar This Summer



There are still openings in some of the best field courses for 1995. Think about taking a class during the summer in Tuolumne Meadows, a photo workshop in the fall, or one of the art or writing courses this spring! Courses taught by Bob Fry, Doris Sloan, Glenn Keator, and Mike Ross still have openings. The unique Yosemite Archaeological Surveys also have room at this writing. These two-week programs are listed in the brochure, but are different from regular seminars. They are actually backcountry programs designed to assist the National Park Service as they hunt for pre-historical information in lesser explored areas of Yosemite. Volunteers will work in teams under experienced archaeologists and learn how to map their findings.

The writing workshops are open — all include practical writing exercises, the art of keeping a personal journal, as well as reading and discussing the work of published nature writers. The *Journal Writing Workshop*, May 19-21, is taught by Mark Hoyer. The dogwood in Yosemite Valley should be in bloom during the time of the course! The *Literary Naturalist Workshop* will be held in Tuolumne Meadows on August 3-6. This high-country seminar is co-taught by Paul Tidwell and Inka Christiansen. They lead short hikes and combine them with scheduled writing sessions. New to the program this year is the *Poetry Workshop* planned in the fall in Yosemite Valley. Kristina Rylands, who is the *Yosemite Guide* editor and a poet, offers this seminar October 13-15.

The variety of drawing and painting seminars might entice you to visit Yosemite for a few days of camaraderie and serious instruction on *Art in the*



Field—Autumn Color Backpack is led by veteran teacher-artist Andie Thrans on September 23-27 in the eastern Sierra, and new Y.A. instructor, Jeanne Lamosse teaches two new courses in Yosemite Valley — *Outdoor Painting in Oil and Acrylic*, May 11-14, and *Drawing in Yosemite Valley*, October 5-8.

An unusual experience occurred with the original catalog mailing in January — many of the address labels fell off during mailing because of faulty glue! We are very sorry if you did not receive the catalog — just give us a call or write, and we'll be happy to mail another.

Any other questions? Call Penny or Lou in the seminar office at 209/379-2321. We will be happy to help you find a seminar that's perfect for you.

Wilderness Center Opens

A new venture of the partnership between the Yosemite Association and the National Park Service is the Yosemite Wilderness Center, staffed by veteran YA employee Greg Archer.

Almost 95 percent of Yosemite is congressionally desig-

nated wilderness. To preserve this wilderness (defined as "an environment managed so that naturally functioning ecosystems remain as free of human change as possible") a permit and trailhead quota system was established in Yosemite in 1974. The system helps to disperse visitor use.

As before, day hikes do not require a permit, but all overnight trips do. Backpacking permits for half of each daily trail quota are distributed on a first-come, first-served basis, and half are by advanced reservation.

As of March, wilderness reservations are made through the Yosemite Association. The new arrangement relieves Park Service personnel of the task of managing the growing number of permit requests. To alleviate costs, those who reserve ahead will now be charged a non-refundable reservation fee of \$3.00 per person per trip. There is no charge for permits obtained on a first-come, first-served basis.

To make a reservation, you must write a letter postmarked March 1 or later and state the dates you will enter and exit the wilderness. Specify the trailhead where you will start

and end your trip, the principal destination, and the number of people (and stock or pack animals, if appropriate) in your group. Include an alternate plan if possible. Send the letter with \$3.00 per person (payable to the Yosemite Association or include credit card information) to Wilderness Reservations, P. O. Box 545, Yosemite, CA 95389.

To further expand visitor service at Yosemite in the near future, YA and the National Park Service are examining options for a complete wilderness center facility that will offer trip planning assistance, maps and permits, and backpacking equipment and supplies, all in one location.

For more information on reserving your wilderness permit, call (209) 372-0308 or 372-0740.

Association Dates

July 30–August 5, 1995: YA Member Work Trip, Tuolumne Meadows*

August 13–19, 1995: YA Member Work Trip, Tuolumne Meadows*

August 27–September 2, 1995: YA Member Work Trip, Backcountry/Sunrise Lakes

September 16, 1995: Annual Members Meeting, Tuolumne Meadows

September 24–30, 1995: YA Member Work Trip, Yosemite Valley*

October 1–7, 1995: YA Member Work Trip, Yosemite Valley*

March 30, 1996: Spring Forum, Yosemite Valley**

*Space available; call Connie or Holly for information at (209) 379-2646.

**Members can make their own room reservations with YCS (209) 252-4848.



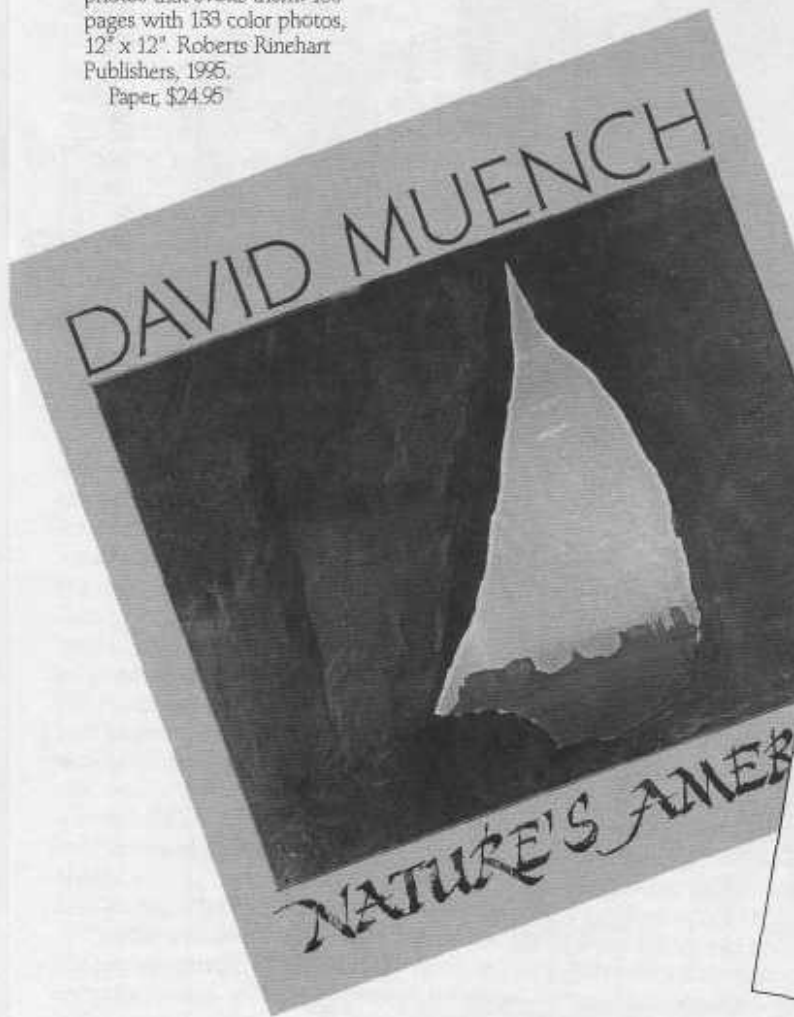
Yosemite

CATALOG

25550 Nature's America by David Muench. This large format book of color photography is about one man's search for the essence of the American experience. Elegantly presented in gallery format, Muench's images reveal the dramatic power of the American West as evidenced in its coastlines, forests, deserts, grasslands, swamps, rocks, and water. Select quotations, including the words of a Navajo chant, de Tocqueville, and Pound, illuminate themes and introduce photos that evoke them. 160 pages with 133 color photos, 12" x 12". Roberts Rinehart Publishers, 1995. Paper, \$24.95

34587 Wildflowers of California with photography by Larry Ulrich; text by Susan Lamb. In this portfolio of color images, California photographer Larry Ulrich explores the astonishing spectrum of native flora in bloom across the Golden State. Covering the months of February through July, the book includes examples from

ranging from desert to seashore to interior valley to mountain meadow. It's a breathtaking show of design and color, handsomely printed. The text describes California wildflowers generally, and examines their habitats. 136 pages, Companion Press, 1994. Paper, \$18.95



and flowers, such as western willow and redwood forest, are among the first to bloom in the year's far northern regions. Much of the coastline is rugged and spectacular, with low mountains interspersed with small valleys. Mountain slopes are cooler and more quiet, and during days are clear but more sheltered from the wind. Scattered on these green slopes are Johnny jump-ups, lupines, and parrotbells. Purple nightshade and purple sage blossoms in partial shade. In rocky places among shooting stars and crimson redwoods, red oaks on the face of massive yellow mountains. Green fields have to be seen. To protect their reproductive parts from rough weather, the ubiquitous California poppies feel their petals when it rains slowly.

The rain is often early, but patches of soil trapped among the rocks are enriched by the decay of past generations of plants. Yellow bush lupines, orange lupines, Douglas' iris, and cow parsons grow in these niches. Malva, and several other yellow Asteraceae also called tarweeds because of their aromatic, waxy foliage, are common along the coast. On the island near of Santa Barbara, unique species of flowers such as the Santa Cruz Island bird's foot orchid have evolved after long isolation from other mainland varieties.

INTERIOR VALLEYS
California's extensive interior valleys back in another sense of the year. Until this approach of dawn and streams cascade suddenly, and kept



Slacks (left)
Slacks photo
Bishop Peak
Inyo County
Near Park
Sierra County
April 1, 1994



Photography by
LARRY ULRICH
Interpretive text by Susan Lamb

22205 Letters from Alaska by John Muir; edited by Robert Engberg and Bruce Merrell. During the years of 1879 and 1880, John Muir traveled the waters of southeastern Alaska in a Tlingit Indian dugout canoe. He reported his experiences in a series of articles he wrote for the San Francisco *Daily Evening Bulletin*. Later revised, the articles were printed as *Travels in Alaska* in 1914. The book includes rare accounts of Alaskan history, observations of glaciers, and descriptions of the gold miners, rogue towns, and the Tlingit Indians. The work's freshness, immediacy, and candor reflect Muir at his best. 115 pages, University of Wisconsin Press, 1993.

Paper, \$12.95

34480 Whose Tracks Are These? A Clue Book of Familiar Forest Animals by Jim Nail; illustrations by Hyla Skudder. This colorful book for children challenges readers to identify animals likely to be encountered in the woodland surrounding a suburban American home. Using clues, both illustrated and written, the subject animals are suggested, then identified in later pages. The final scene - the woodlands habitat itself - reinforces the interdependence of all living things within this common ecosystem. 32 pages, full-color, Roberts Rinehart Publishers, 1994.

Cloth, \$13.95

35820 A Yosemite Naturalist's Odyssey—Journals and Drawings by William L. Neely; edited by Allan Shields. Veteran Yosemite ranger-naturalist Will Neely had a lifelong romance with the park, a relationship between person and place that provided stability to his otherwise volatile life. This volume excerpts Neely's journal entries from 1942 through 1976 - his Yosemite years - to create a revealing portrait of a Yosemite legend, in his own words. 333 pages, Jerseydale Ranch Press, 1994.

Paper, \$9.95

25055 The National Parks Compromised—Pork Barrel Politics and America's Treasures by James M. Ridenour. Director of the National Park Service from 1969 to 1993, Ridenour has written a personal account of his years at the helm of the N.P.S. filled with insights, anecdotes, and behind-the-scenes details. His description of the political vulnerability of the national parks is disturbing, and he asserts that the deterioration of the park system is the fault of the U.S. Congress. Chapters on the negotiation of the sale of the Yosemite Park & Curry Co. and on the possibility of day-use reservations for Yosemite Valley make the book of particular interest to Yosemite lovers. 254 pages, ICS Books, 1994.

Paper, \$14.99

Letters from Alaska

JOHN MUIR



Edited by Robert Engberg and Bruce Merrell

A YOSEMITE NATURALIST'S ODYSSEY

JOURNALS AND DRAWINGS

by WILLIAM L. NEELY



Edited by Allan Shields
Jerseydale Ranch Press, Malibu, California

THE NATIONAL PARKS COMPROMISED

Pork Barrel Politics and America's Treasures

by James M. Ridenour
Director of the National Park Service
1969-1993

Foreword by...

Deputy Secretary...

Whose Tracks Are These?

A Clue Book of Familiar Forest Animals

By Jim Nail

Illustrations by Hyla Skudder

Look closely at these tracks. Do you see any clues?

If you get just a quick look at the tracks...

I hunt small animals such as mice and voles...

When I walk, I place my paw prints...

When you're in the forest, especially at the edge...

You might catch a glimpse of my reddish-brown fur...

as I run into the woods to hide.

Stories and fables about me say I am clever.

Who am I?



07516 Yosemite Association Patch.

Our Association logo is embroidered on colorful, sturdy fabric for placement on daypacks, shirts, blue jeans, jackets, or wherever! The newly designed patch is available in three attractive colors: dark blue, forest green, and maroon.

\$3.00 (please specify color)



07700 Pelican Pouch, Wilderness

Belt Bag. The Pelican Pouch is not only perfect for carrying field guides, but also offers instant access to all the small items that are usually buried in your pack — pocket camera, lenses, maps, or your favorite trail mix! The pouch is designed with front snap fasteners on the straps. This allows comfortable positioning on your belt — even between belt loops; no need to take your belt off first. The material is high quality Cordura pack cloth with a water-proof coating on one side. Beige with the dark brown and white Yosemite Association patch, the



Pelican Pouch measures 8 x 5 x 2 1/2 inches.

\$9.95

07510 Yosemite Association

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

\$6.50.



07505 Yosemite Association

Baseball-Style Cap. Our YA caps are made of corduroy with an adjustable strap at the back so that one size fits all. The cap is adorned with a YA logo patch, and comes in dark blue, forest green and maroon colors. The cap is stylish and comfortable, and wearing it is a good way to demonstrate your support for Yosemite.

\$9.95 (please specify color).

07800 Yosemite Wilderness

Pin. Here's a beautiful enamel pin commemorating Yosemite's unparalleled wilderness. The latest in the series of pins for all of California's wilderness areas, it's circular in shape with a beautiful high country scene rendered in blues, grays, and greens. A real treasure for collectors. Approx. 1 inch in diameter.

\$4.95

Order Form

Credit card orders call: **(209) 379 2648** Monday - Friday, 8:30am - 4:30pm

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Yosemite Association, P.O. Box 280, El Portal, CA 95318

07720 Yosemite Bookstore

Book Bag. Here's YA's handy new book bag made from durable 100% cotton fabric with a sturdy web handle. Cream-colored, it's imprinted in blue with the Yosemite Bookstore

logo. Fine craftsmanship and generous oversized design make this a bag you'll want to take everywhere. Conserve resources with a reusable book bag. Approximately 17" x 16".

\$8.95





New Members

We would like to welcome to the Yosemite Association the following fine persons who became members within the past three months. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Regular Members

Linda Anderson, Rosalie F Andrews, Richard R Asbaugh, Karin Ash, Carter Barnes, Mark Bergholdt, Mike Berumen, Charles W Bird, Cecily Bishop, Melissa & Jim Bloom, Bruce Boles, Brooke & John Boogaert, Barbara L Boucke, Kathy Bradshaw, John Brennan, Nancy Bruce, Rae K Burns, Deanna Caddell, Faustina Chan, Alex Chinh, Cary Benn Cochrell, Brandy Cook, Audrey & Bob Cowan, Charles Cox, Ellen Cox, Patricia E Crosby, Bob & Annalise Curran, David Day, Kee DeBoer, Teresa Long & Tom Denune, Sandra & John Donaldson, Patricia Dowd, Anne Eissler, Ruth Eitzen, Ruby & John Ek, Carl & Dana Elder, Iberia English, Jack & Verna Erickson, Jay J Evans, Thomas W Fehr, Chris J Fenner, Mike Fitzsimmons, David Fondersmith, John W Fowler, Pam & John Frazier, J Gnass & Keri French, Karen Fulco, Randall & Jeanne Gates, Charl Ann Gregory, Bonnie Tank & Doug Haner, Vickie Harvey, David & Miriam Hillburn, Jer-Ming Hu, Mrs Geri Humphry, Robert Hurling, Edwin J Immenschuh, Liz Jackson, R Alexander & S Jakobsen, Johanna Johnson, Carrie R Johnston, Lee Jones, Nyberg Justin, Erika Kamayatsu-Peterson, Bill & Betty Ann Kanne, Mrs W R Kanne, J Blomquist & Rose Kopolczynski, Robin Kirk, Janice Klass, Marjorie Lach, Linda & Mac LaMay, John P & Joan B Lavery, Mrs J M Lennox, Mrs Shirley Lockard, Barbara W Lundblade, Vicky Martinez, Julie Eames & Mary McClung, John & Janine McGauley, Jay & Gail Means, Lee Megli, Henry J Morales, Thomas Morgan, John & Ann Morris, David Mosier, Paul Munk, Robert Munk, Phyllis Nation, Susan Nelson, Shirley M Notts, K Badrak & K Osland, Robert & Marjorie Patterson, Patty Pecchenino, Keith Ploettner, Jan & Bill Ray, David A Rein, Patricia Robison, Eric Ross, Michael Ross, Sandra Rouverol, Gerald Sage, Oscar Sanchez, Alan D Schaller, Barbara Schnetz, Richard Sciaroni, David C Shrum, Meriklee Simpkins, Susan Smith, David E Smoler, Mr & Mrs Harry Sondheim, Lisa & Hunter Spencer, Steve Spohn, George & Louella Stapleton, Robert Stern, Lawrence Ross Stewart, Mary Anne Stump, Shirley L Toy, Kate Vanwie, Drew Vogel, Diane Vreyens, Jean Marie Walker, Tom & Verna Weaver, Carolyn Wertz, Suzanne C Whitaker, Glenn Williams, Margaret Croghan Wolcott, Maggie Wolfe, Anderson Yang, John L Young

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June Barto, Jean Beal, Robert Boeninger, Margaret Brauns, Nancy Brockington, D A Canter, Betty N Dolen, Nancy G Hardy, Marjorie & Gordon Hart, Mary Haslam, Sarah E Holsen, Ann F Kadyk, Gus & Frieda Kinoshita, Karen Krassner, Jon Lithacum, Sherry McNeil, Doug & Joline McQuillan, Stewart M Michie, Renata Schmidt, Carla Adele Scordino, Sharie Shute, Susan & Tom Soniville, Monica J Stokes, Michael C Sullivan, Ken Van Der Griend, Charles & Hazel Wang, Doug Wright

Contributing Members

J H Craig, B S Gibson, Neil Giordano, Tom Hebrank, Linda Kaiser, Gene Lyons, Charles S Orr, Mary Jane Stephan

Centennial Members

Robert D Butler Jr, Charles W Emerson, K A Gibson, Alfred H Guhl, Mike & Doreen Haughton, Gerard & Jennifer Mialaret, Dennis Miller,

International Members

Carlo Bernardy, Luxemburg; Virginia Ferguson, Canada; Mizuho Fujinoki, Japan; Macarina & Jonathan Green, Ecuador; Masumi Isozaki, Japan

Recent Donations to YA

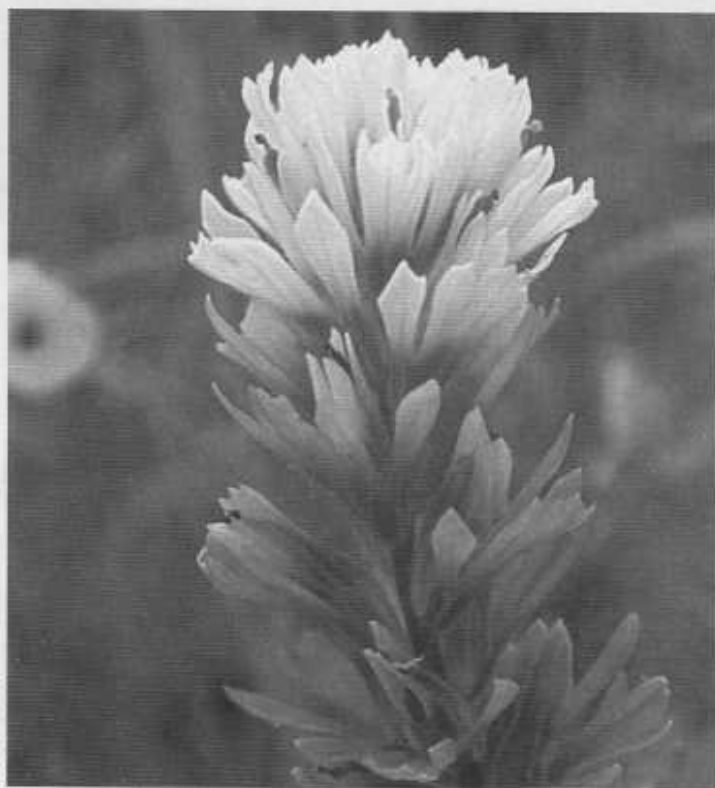
Rick Ertien/Real Music, Jack & Jane Gyer, Dewitt Jones, Don & DA Jonte, The Schlinger Foundation, Michael Schroeder, Dr & Mrs Daniel Simon

An anonymous donation was given in support of Steve Botti's flora book

In memory of Rod Collier: Mary Collier

In memory of Elizabeth Davison: Michael & Mary Beth Fager; Foote, Cone & Belding; Marjorie Southwick

In memory of Verna Galeotti: Burney Stephens



Indian Paintbrush

Sandra & William Pierson, D. Levine & Richard Reitman, Lee Terkelsen

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In memory of Doug and Everett Harwell: Mr & Mrs Donald Hixson

In memory of Jon Kinney: Mr & Mrs Herbert Kinney

In memory of Warren Moody: Marion Glover Halford

In memory of Gene Ottonello: Dr & Mrs Charles Woessner

In memory of Dr Carl Sharsmith: Jane Dugan Baird, Joyce M Eden, Richard Fauver, Johanna Keims, Roger & Sue Lang, Betty J McRee, The Stephenson Family

In memory of Roland Stockwell: Birger & Joyce Johnson, Mark & Judy Stockwell

Friends, 1994

Continued from page 14

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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 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 Member: A selection of 8 handsome notecards (with envelopes) featuring beautiful photographs of Yosemite;

Contributing Member: A Yosemite Association mug — new design;

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

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

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

Membership dues are tax-deductible as provided by law.

Yosemite Association

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Moving?

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

YoseMite

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Dan Anderson