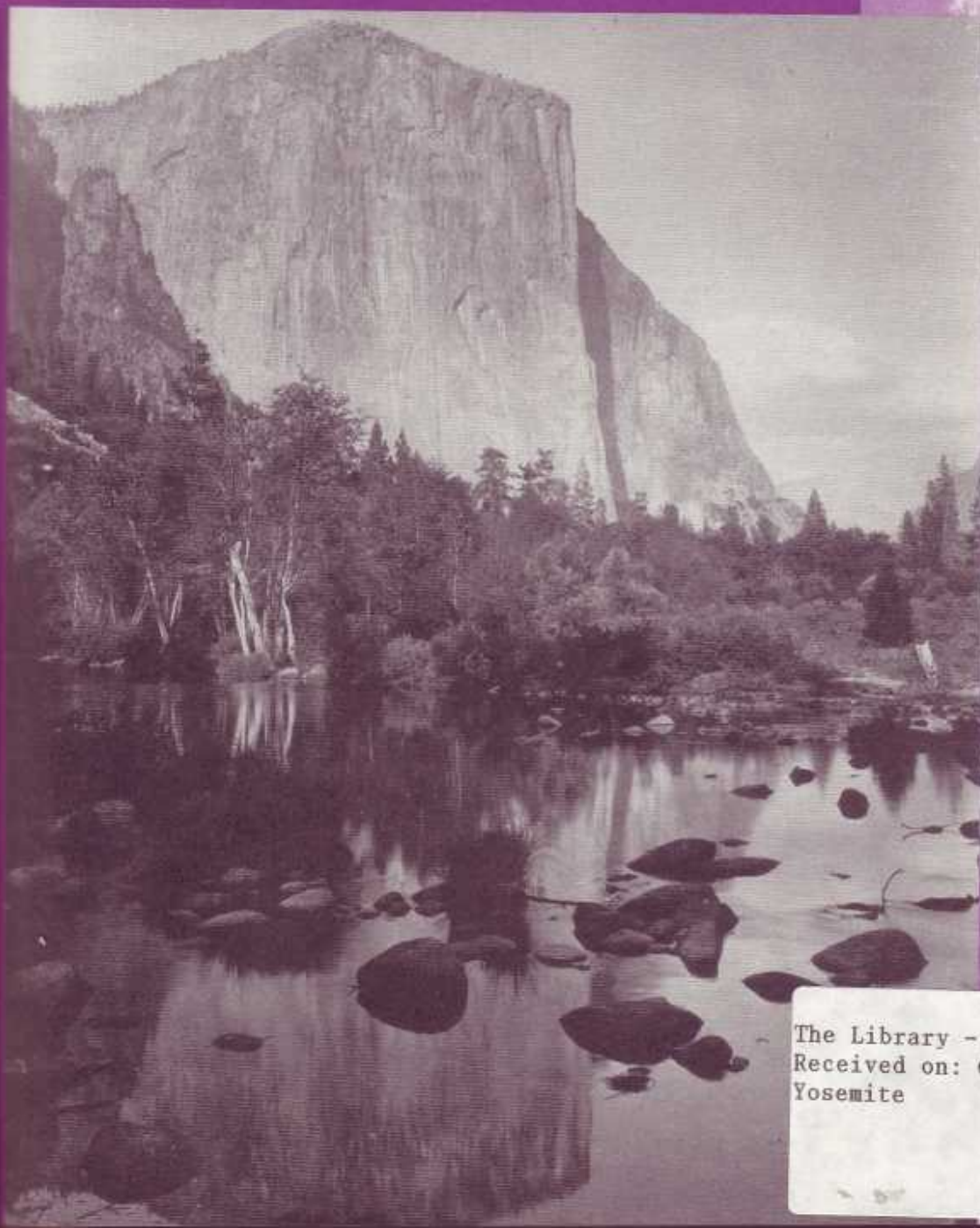


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A History of the El Capitan Moraine



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A HISTORY OF THE EL CAPITAN MORAINE

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JAMES B. SNYDER

The El Capitan moraine is a prominent geomorphic feature in Yosemite Valley, but is little known to the average visitor as it is virtually hidden in a heavily wooded area west of El Capitan Meadow (Fig. 1). Although most visitors are unaware of the moraine, they wend their way past it on both the Southside and Northside Drives. The moraine consists of a low ridge nearly 1,500 feet long spanning the valley floor (Fig. 2).

The only gap in the morainal ridge is at its south end near the valley wall where it has been breached by the Merced River. This gap is so narrow that it was chosen as the site for the original El Capitan Bridge constructed across the river in 1878.

The moraine, with its crest as much as 150 feet above the present stream bed, is composed of bouldery debris transported by a Tioga-age glacier and deposited at its front (Fig. 3). The Tioga glaciation, which peaked about 20,000 years ago, was the last major glaciation in the Sierra Nevada and the last to produce a glacier that entered Yosemite Valley. At its north end the moraine is less prominent as it is mantled by rock debris making up the alluvial fan constructed on the valley floor by Ribbon Creek.

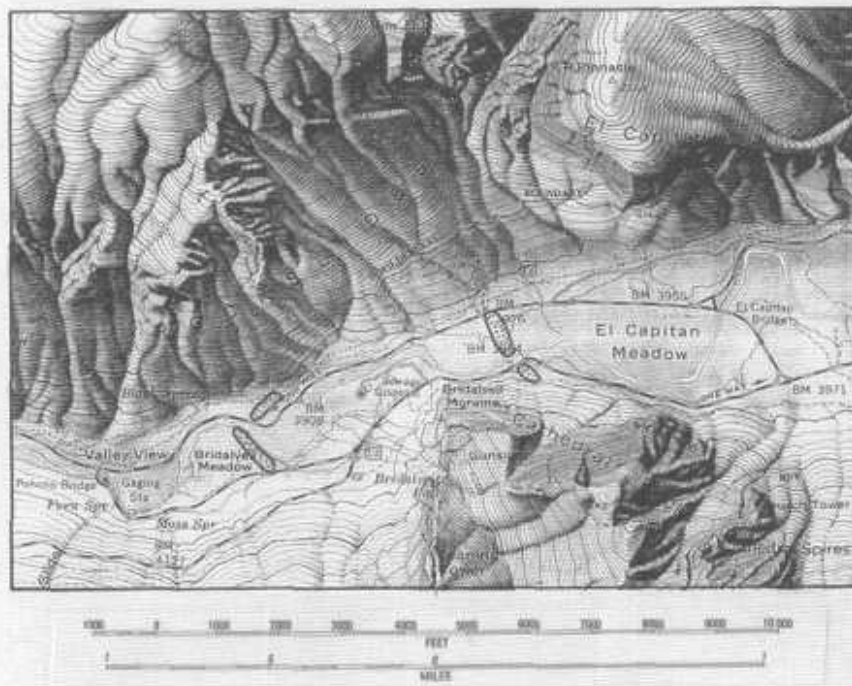


FIGURE 1: The El Capitan moraine is shown as an elongated, stippled area crossing the valley floor west of El Capitan Meadow. Also shown is a separate, arcuate moraine just east of Bridalveil Meadow.

The El Capitan moraine has sometimes been referred to as a *terminal* moraine, which would imply that it marks the Tioga glacier's furthest advance down the valley. That honor, however, belongs to a moraine just east of Bridalveil Meadow, nearly a mile further down the valley (Fig. 4). The El Capitan instead is a *recessional* moraine constructed during a pause in the retreat of the glacier's ice front, or "snout," back up-valley from the Bridalveil Meadow site as the Tioga glaciation was approaching its end.

When the Tioga-age glacier disappeared from Yosemite Valley altogether, perhaps 15,000 years ago, it left behind a lake, which Francois E. Matthes christened "Lake Yosemite." It is likely that the advancing Tioga glacier, much smaller than the massive Sherwin glaciation a million years earlier, had excavated some of the pre-existing valley fill east of the El Capitan moraine, to create a shallow lake basin. The lake was dammed by this moraine, with the Merced River outlet flowing over a low spillway through the moraine near the south valley wall.

As the glacier retreated from the valley, the Merced river and its tributaries, gorged with debris-laden meltwater from higher elevations in the mountain range, delivered large quantities of sediment to the lake basin. Deltas grew forward from each river and creek. With stream-borne sediment and rockfall debris from the weathered cliffs above the maximum extent of the Tioga glacier, the shallow lake was soon filled in, creating a relatively level valley floor.

The existence of glacial moraines on the floor of Yosemite Valley, and thus evidence for the past presence of a glacier in the valley, was first recognized in 1864 by Clarence King. King was a member of the Geological Survey of California, led by State Geologist Josiah D. Whitney. King's observations were mentioned in Whitney's Geological Survey report published in 1865. In a later publication, Whitney recanted and stated that "we have obtained no positive evidence that such [glaciation in Yosemite Valley]

Cover: El Capitan moraine sits at the base of the monolith shown here from Gates of the Valley viewpoint. Photo by George Fiske, courtesy of the Yosemite Research Library.

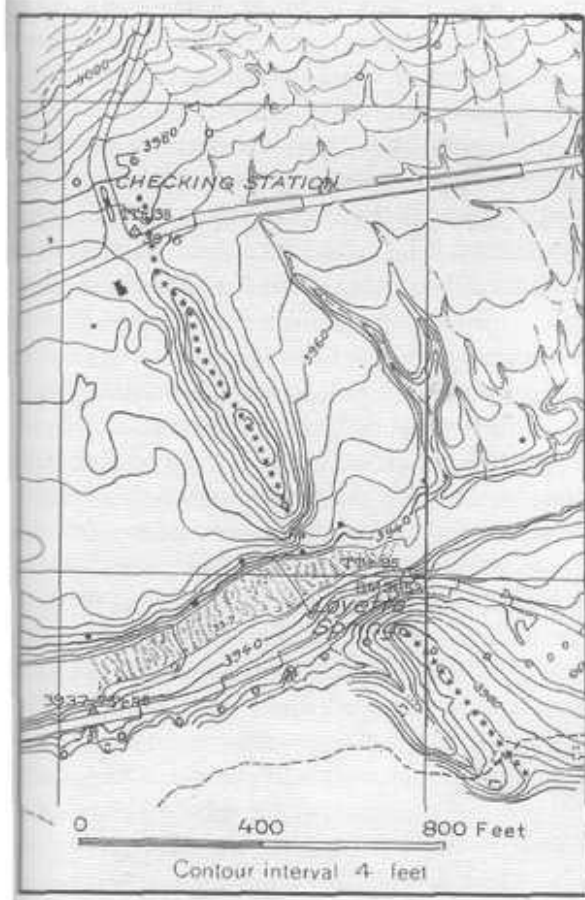


FIGURE 2 (LEFT): The El Capitan moraine is shown as an elongate ridge across the valley floor (crest marked by line of stars). Figure is from a 1:2,400-scale topographic map of Yosemite Valley Floor surveyed by the U. S. Geological Survey in 1919 and 1934. Note the presence at that time of a Checking Station adjacent to the moraine at the base of the Old Big Oak Flat Road.

FIGURE 3 (BELOW): Downslope side of El Capitan moraine with giant boulders exposed on surface. View is near Northside Drive where the moraine is relatively low.



was the case. The statement to that effect in the "Geology of California," Vol. I., is an error, although it is certain that the masses of ice approached very near to the edge of the valley." This denial of the presence and effects of glaciers in Yosemite Valley eventually precipitated a controversy between Whitney and John Muir regarding the origin of the Valley.

In 1864 President Lincoln signed the act that granted Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove of Sequoias to the State of California to "be held for public use, resort, and recreation; and shall be inalienable for all time." The following year, Frederick Law Olmsted, chairman of the state commission charged with overseeing the Yosemite Grant, presented a report to members of the commission while they camped on the floor of Yosemite Valley.

This report, which proposed farsighted guidelines for management of the Grant, included the statement that at "certain points the walls of rock are ploughed in polished horizontal furrows, at others moraines of boulders and pebbles are found; both evincing the terrific force with which in past ages of the earth's history a glacier has moved down the chasm from among the adjoining peaks of the Sierras." This report was not released to the public, however, and remained generally unknown outside the Commission until its eventual publication in 1952 by Olmsted's biographer, Laura Wood Roper.⁴ Whitney,

although a member of the commission, was not at this Yosemite Valley gathering.

In the fall of 1864, Clarence King and James T. Gardner were hired by Olmsted to survey the boundary establishing the Yosemite Grant. In a later recounting of his observations made during this survey, King stated that "the markings upon the glacier cliff above Hutchings's house, had convinced me that a glacier no less than a thousand feet deep had flowed through the valley, occupying its entire bottom."⁵ Presumably Olmsted had learned about Yosemite Valley glacial features from King. Thus the existence of the El Capitan moraine was known early on, despite Whitney's later denial of glaciers in Yosemite Valley.

Recognizing the moraine was one thing; understanding its effects and changes was another. Over the thousands of years since the last glacier left, and long before the Yosemite Grant was established, the Merced River began to cut its channel lower and lower through the moraine. This was accomplished by the river's transporting boulders, cobbles, and finer sediment downstream from the moraine, but boulders too large for the stream to transport, even in flood stage, were left behind to partially block the channel. The river lowered the stream level through the moraine and then cut through the lake-filling sediment too, forming a new, lower floodplain

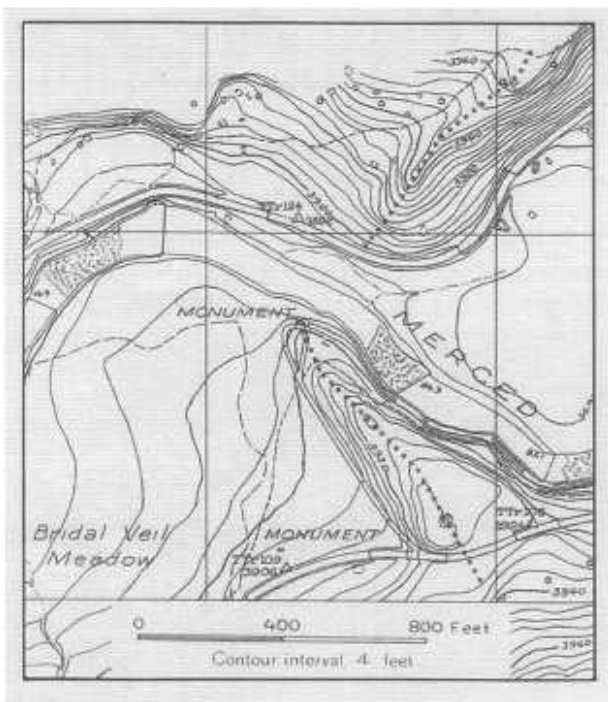


FIGURE 4: The Bridalveil Meadow moraine is shown as an arcuate ridge across the valley (crest marked by line of stars). Map source as in Figure 2.

upstream from the moraine and leaving several remnants of the earlier floodplain high and dry."

Even with this natural lowering, the moraine still affected human use of the valley, especially as tourists came in growing numbers. The moraine restrained spring runoff, closing roads and trails and inundating meadow pasture for domestic animals, the sources of both food and tourist transport. Wet meadows probably increased insect populations to uncomfortable levels each spring.

Because the river furthermore was the valley sewer, and impounding of spring runoff retarded sewage removal, the moraine contributed to sanitation problems. During winter floods as well, the impounding effects of the moraine contributed to closed roads and trails, isolating hotels and cabins, and taking out bridges on a regular basis.

The river was not easy to cross before river levels went down. Until 1878 there were just two bridges across the river in Yosemite Valley, Sentinel Bridge and Folsom's Bridge below Rocky Point, both in the eastern part of the valley. The commissioners decided to build a new bridge "to give a crossing further down, and enable tourists to make the circuit in carriages, as well as on horseback, without being obliged to ford the river."

So the first El Capitan bridge was built in fall, 1878, on a location recommended by the Chief Engineer of the Southern Pacific Railroad "just above the rapids, and

where there is considerably greater elevation to the banks than elsewhere." In this way the stability and elevation of the moraine came to have a great effect on the circulation of people moving around the valley.

The winter of 1878-79 produced a good runoff, but one threatening some valley facilities. The commissioners, who supported channel clearing and reinforcement above Sentinel Bridge, "had the rocks blasted above the rapids" at the new bridge on the El Capitan moraine "so as to lower the stream and relieve it at this point."⁸

Commissioner Galen Clark (Fig. 5), who was also the appointed Guardian for the Yosemite Grant, did the blasting and described it briefly in 1909: "When the El Capitan iron bridge was built in 1879 [sic] it was located across the narrow channel of the river between the two points of what remains of an old glacial terminal moraine. The river channel at this place was filled with large boulders, which greatly obstructed the free outflow of the flood waters in the spring, causing extensive overflow of the low meadow land above, and greatly interfering with travel, especially to Yosemite falls and Mirror lake. In order to remedy this matter the large boulders in the channel were blasted and the fragments leveled down so as to give a free outflow of the flood waters. This increased the force of the river current, which now commenced its greater eroding work on the river banks, and as the winding turns became more abrupt the destructive force annually increases. Some thorough system of protection should be promptly used to save the river banks from further damage."⁹

The blasting protected the new bridge at high water while also relieving upstream flooding. We do not know exactly what effects the moraine blasting had on such things. There was, of course, river bank erosion before 1879; in fact, the commissioners' work above Sentinel Bridge that same year was to prevent such erosion. But Clark noticed an increase in river bank erosion in the thirty years following the blasting and proposed additional protection of the banks from further erosion.

Evidence of Clark's "blasting" can be seen in the stream bed at low water. Many boulders with reasonably flat but irregular upper surfaces display radial fractures characteristic of those left by explosives used in blasting rock. A detailed examination of the stream bed was undertaken by James F. Milestone during low water in October, 1977. He states that an extensive reach of the stream bed, 263 feet in length, is strewn with dozens of blasted boulders.

Milestone notes that while boulders in the stream channel range up to 12 feet in diameter (Fig. 6), the majority of those that appear to have been blasted range in size from four to five feet in diameter. He concluded that boulder removal may have lowered the stream channel at the

moraine by three to five feet.¹⁰ This conclusion is difficult to evaluate because it is based on a considerable amount of indirect evidence from upstream channel incision.

The exact result of Clark's blasting is impossible to determine after the fact. Any lowering of a significant reach of the stream bed through the moraine, however, would increase the stream's volume capacity for a given water surface elevation. But this would only be important during extreme flood stages. During the winter flood of January, 1997, El Capitan Meadow immediately upstream from the moraine was flooded, but the present channel and the overbank storage on the meadow were able to handle the stream flow without the crest of the moraine being overtopped.

Examination along the length of the moraine crest yields no evidence, such as an abandoned channel, that it was ever overtopped other than at the Merced River gap since the moraine was originally formed. If so, it is unlikely that Clark's efforts made a significant difference in regard to the ability of the moraine gap to handle extreme flood volumes even greater than the 1997 event.

Milestone also argued that Clark's blasting at the moraine lowered the ground-water table in the flood-plain upstream. This is possible, because lowering the average elevation of the stream surface through the moraine would tend in the direction of increasing ground-water outflow as well as surface-water stream flow. Milestone presents evidence that river lowering produced corresponding side stream incision, also affecting water tables. In that way Clark did succeed to some extent in helping to drain meadows to an uncertain degree.

Robert Gibbens and Harold Heady concluded, however, that "there is no evidence that the early spread of trees in meadows was facilitated by a lowering of the water table," pointing out that the invasion of trees had occurred in wet meadows a decade before 1879.¹¹ Natural channel and water table changes have been so complex, and flooding so variable, that it is difficult to quantify any specific results due to Clark's efforts. Nevertheless, following his study, Milestone suggested restoring the historic elevation of the El Capitan moraine-gap in an attempt to recreate the natural conditions existing before 1879.¹²

In 1992, the Water Resources Division of the National Park Service completed a study to determine the feasibility and potential effects of moraine restoration. After their analysis, the study team concluded that "the proposed moraine reconstruction will have only modest effects in channel capacities and associated ground water tables, and will be unlikely to reestablish historic (pre-blast) morphologic conditions."¹³

Stream systems are dynamic and ever changing, and the Merced River in Yosemite Valley is no exception. Ever since

the El Capitan moraine was formed and the river flowed over the spillway near the south valley wall, the river has been gradually eroding its bed lower and lower through the moraine gap. Galen Clark's efforts, such as they were, only temporarily accelerated this ongoing process.

After the winter flood of 1950, a suggestion was made to further lower the El Capitan moraine gap to reduce future flood damage. The proposal ended in Washington, where NPS Chief Engineer Frank Kittredge thought "that it is neither practical nor desirable to think of changing the gradient or course of the Merced River in the Valley . . . and no one, I am sure, would ever consider the lowering of this natural dam or barrier as left by the glaciers." Kittredge referred to geologist John Buwalda's similar conclusion and stated that, in dealing with floods, "it is simply a matter of coping with nature on her own terms."¹⁴

The present approach of the National Park Service roughly rephrases Kittredge by suggesting that managers should "allow natural processes to prevail." Perhaps there will be no further fiddling with the El Capitan moraine.

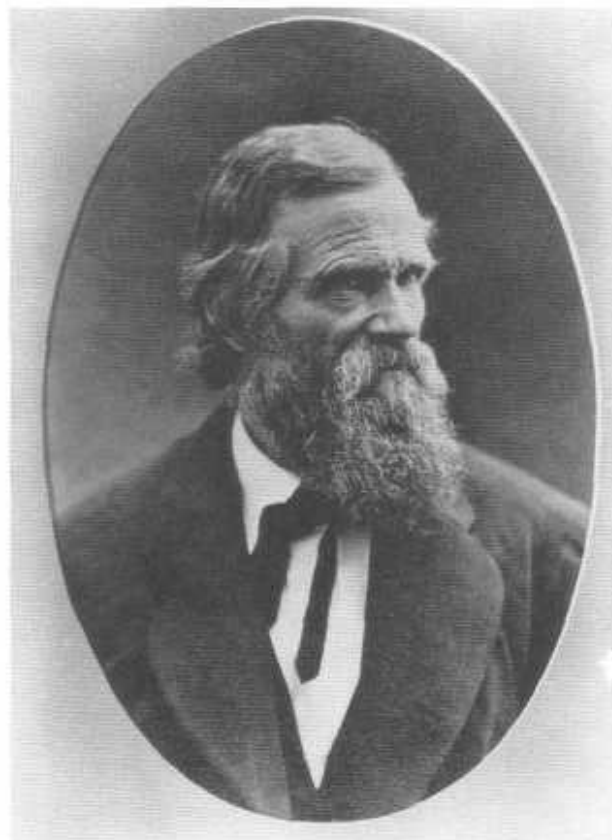


FIGURE 5: In the mid-1870s Galen Clark attended a Yosemite commissioners' meeting in San Francisco, where he had his picture taken by his old friend Carleton Watkins, in whose honor Mt. Watkins was named by Whitney's Geological Survey of California (YNP Collection). Clark was also honored with the designation of Mt. Clark.

NOTES

1. Francois E. Matthes, *Geologic History of the Yosemite Valley* (U. S. Geological Survey Professional Paper 160, 1930), p. 103
2. Josiah D. Whitney, *Geology of California, Volume 1* (Geological Survey of California, 1865), pp. 421-423
3. Josiah D. Whitney, *The Yosemite Book* (Geological Survey of California, NY, Julius Bien, 1868), p. 100; *The Yosemite Guide-Book* (Cambridge, MA, Harvard University Press, 1870), p. 112.
4. Frederick Law Olmsted, *The Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Big Trees: A Preliminary Report, 1865* (Yosemite, CA, Yosemite Association, 1995), p. 4.
5. Clarence King, "Around Yosemite Walls," chapter 7 in *Mountaineering in the Sierra Nevada* (NY, James R. Osgood and Co., 1872), p. 152.
6. Matthes, p. 104; James E. Milestone, *The Influence of Modern Man on the Stream System of Yosemite Valley* (San Francisco State University, M. A. thesis, 1978), pp. 26-27.
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9. Galen Clark, "Yosemite-Past and Present," *Sunset*, vol. 22, no. 4 (April, 1909), p. 396.
10. Milestone, chap. 5.
11. Robert P. Gibbens and Harold F. Heady, *The Influence of Modern Man on the Vegetation of Yosemite Valley*, California Agricultural Experiment Station Extension Service Manual 26 (Berkeley: Univ. of California Division of Agricultural Sciences, 1964), pp. 15-16.
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13. Gary M. Smillie, William L. Jackson, and Mike Martin, *Prediction of the effects of Restoration of El Capitan Moraine, Yosemite National Park* (National Park Service Technical Report NPS/NRWRD/NRTR-92/10, 1992), p.1.
14. Yosemite Archives, File 801-04, Part II, Yosemite National Park Storms, 1-1-51 to 4-30-53; NPS Chief Engineer Frank A. Kittredge to NPS Director, Washington, D. C., Jan. 2, 1951.

N. King Huber is Geologist Emeritus with the U. S. Geological Survey; James B. Snyder is Park Historian for Yosemite National Park.



FIGURE 6: Smoothly flowing water in Merced River enters bouldery rapids on left, some 200 feet upstream from the center of the El Capitan moraine. Note size of large boulder, typical of many in the glacial deposit. This site is at the head of the rapids shown by stippled pattern on the river on Figure 2.

YOSEMITE'S FIRST TOURISTS

Late on the cold, cloudy afternoon of March 27, 1851, Yosemite Valley was effectively discovered and first entered by some fifty members of the Mariposa Battalion, a volunteer military force engaged in a punitive campaign against the Yosemite Indians. The circumstances of the expedition and the subsequent demise of Chief Tenieya and most of his tribe are described by Dr. Lafayette Houghton Bunnell (1824-1903), a member of the party, in his classic book, *Discovery of the Yosemite and the Indian War of 1851 Which Led to That Event*.¹

During the three years following the battalion's entry, a scattering of hunters and prospectors also ventured into the valley at various times in pursuit of their trade, but left only fragmentary accounts of their wanderings. Among the adventurers was the noted animal trainer, James Capen "Grizzly" Adams, who said that the incomparable scenery "produced impressions on my mind that are ineffaceable."²

Despite these occasional visits, general knowledge about Yosemite's wonders did not spread quickly. The few reports that appeared in San Francisco newspapers focused far more on the difficulties in subduing the Indians than on the scenery.

Nonetheless, the mention in one account of a waterfall "nearly a thousand feet high" caught the attention of a young Englishman named James Mason Hutchings (1824-1902), a Forty-Niner turned journalist, who was seeking material for an illustrated guide about California. Between 1853 and 1855 Hutchings spent some twenty-eight months touring the new state in quest of scenes of wonder and curiosity for his proposed publication. The demanding odyssey took him from the Farallon Islands off the Golden Gate to Carson Valley in Utah Territory, and from the Oregon Border to the southern mining region of Mariposa. When he heard about a waterfall more than six times the height of the famed Niagara, he was drawn to Yosemite like a magnet.

Early in July, 1855, Hutchings began an ambitious journey through the Mother Lode into the very heart of the Sierra to visit the little known and still forbidding place called Yosemite Valley. By the time the trip was over a month later, Hutchings had begun a love affair with Yosemite that would endure for the rest of his lengthy life. Moreover, his ardent praise of the valley's wonders soon brought Yosemite to the attention of the world.

Hutchings' background made him an improbable choice to become the pre-eminent figure in the early years of Yosemite's human history. Born in Towcester, Northamptonshire, England, on February 10, 1824, the youngest of six children, he received a good education in

literature, history, and the sciences. At the age of seventeen, he took up the family trade of carpentry and cabinetmaking in Towcester, a town of about 3,000 people. In 1844 he viewed artist George Catlin's American Indian exhibition, then showing in Birmingham, a city sixty miles northwest. The exhibition, which consisted of Indian paintings, sketches, artifacts, two live grizzly bears, and several real American Indians, provoked an "irrepressible love of travel and adventure" in Hutchings. In May, 1848, with the blessings of his family, he left England on the ship *Gertrude*, headed for America.

After some two months in New York, Hutchings proceeded south to New Orleans, where he found employment as a newspaper correspondent. There in the fall of 1848 he heard the electrifying news of the discovery of gold in California. The following spring he began his journey to the gold fields via the overland route from St. Joseph on the Missouri River. After suffering considerable hardship on the trip across the plains, Hutchings arrived at Hangtown (now Placerville) in October, 1849, thus becoming one of the fabled "Forty-Niners."³

During the next few years Hutchings endured the "ups and downs of mining," as he put it, several times making good strikes, then losing his gains in questionable investments and a bank failure. In the spring of 1853, when it had become increasingly apparent that most of the good deposits of placer gold had been found and removed, Hutchings went to work for the *Placerville Herald*, a short-lived weekly newspaper, as part-time columnist and editor.

A deeply religious man, he did not approve of the local custom of "business as usual" on Sunday when the gam-



The earliest known photograph of James Hutchings, probably taken about the time of his 1855 Yosemite visit when he was thirty-one years old.



bling halls, bordellos, saloons, stores, and even banks were wide open for trade. Joining the campaign then underway in Placerville to return Sunday to a day of rest and devotion as practiced in more stable communities, Hutchings wrote a newspaper column parodying the Fourth Commandment, which began: "Thou shalt not remember what thy friends do at home on the Sabbath Day lest the remembrance should not compare favorably with what thou doest, etc."

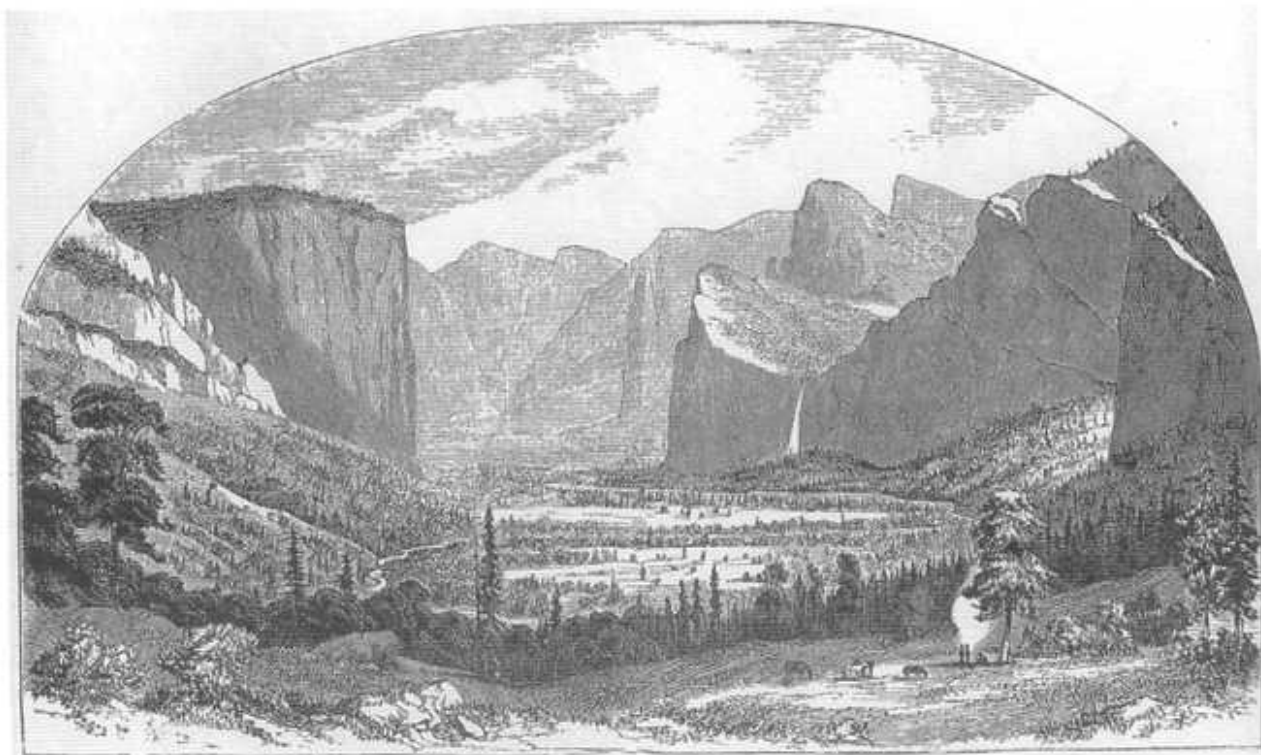
The column was so well received that he enlarged on the subject, and his treatise called "The Miner's Ten Commandments" was published in the *Herald* on July 2, 1853. It became immediately popular, and in the ensuing year Hutchings sold nearly 100,000 copies, most in the form of a lettersheet. (Lettersheets were blank on one side and commonly used as stationery by miners when writing to family and friends back home.) Having discovered there was more gold in publishing than mining, Hutchings produced lettersheets on several other subjects with profitable results.

Emboldened by his literary success, Hutchings laid plans to produce a monthly magazine about the wonders of California. Needing background and information on the state, he began a lengthy fact-finding tour that took him through most of the wild portions of California in search of material. He financed his journeys by selling his lettersheets, along with engraved envelopes, to bookstores and other outlets in the various towns he visited.

On July 5, 1855, Hutchings and two companions named Walter Millard and Thomas Ayres took passage from San Francisco to Sacramento on the fast sailing craft, the *Martin White*, on their way to visit the Calaveras Grove of Big Trees, the gold country of Mariposa, and Yosemite Valley. Millard had been Hutchings' cabin mate on the long sea voyage from England, and possibly a family friend before that. Ayres was an emerging young artist who had unsuccessfully tried his hand at mining. Hutchings hired him to make sketches for several contemplated magazine articles about remote places where the clumsy photographic apparatus of the day could not be easily transported.

The party reached Mariposa, the end of the stage line, on Sunday, July 22. The following day they were joined by Alexander Stair, of Coulterville, who had been recommended to Hutchings as a reliable companion by George Coulter, founder of the town. (Stair and a partner purchased Coulter's store in January, 1854.)

At Mariposa, Hutchings could find no one who knew much about Yosemite Valley, let alone how to get there. (He humorously tells the story of being shunted from one person to another in his later book *In the Heart of the Sierras*.) He was finally advised to seek help at John Hunt's store on the Fresno River near present-day Oakhurst. There he employed two Indian guides named Kos-sum and So-pin from among the few remaining Yosemite Indians.



This engraving, which derived from Thomas Ayres' pencil drawing of Yosemite Valley in 1855, appeared in several of Hutchings' later publications.

HUTCHINGS' CALIFORNIA MAGAZINE.

VOL. IV. OCTOBER, 1859. No. 4.

THE GREAT YO-SEMITE VALLEY. CHAPTER I.

Get it come to be stretched,
"Let you stand the greyhounds in
the dust,
Straining upon the start. The game's
a foot;
Follow your spirit; and, upon the
charge,
Oy—ho! for the Yo-Semite!"

THE early California
resident will remem-
ber that during the
spring and summer of 1850,
much dissatisfaction existed
among the white settlers and
miners on the Merced, San
Joaquin, Chowchilla, and
Fresno rivers and their tri-
butaries, on account of the
frequent robberies commit-
ted upon them by the Chook-



THE YO-SEMITE FALL, TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED FEET IN HEIGHT.
(From a Photograph by C. L. East.)

Hutchings printed a number of articles about Yosemite in his California Magazine during its five years of publication. This is the first page of the lead story for October, 1859.

PREMIUMS TO EVERY SUBSCRIBER TO HUTCHINGS' CAL. MAGAZINE,

Any person who will send us \$3.50 enclosed in a registered Letter, will receive Hutchings' California Magazine for one year; also, our large Lithograph (14 by 22 inches) of Yo-Semite Falls or Yo-Semite Valley, they can have their choice, (which are sold at \$2.50 each.)

Any person who will send us five yearly subscribers, at \$3 per year, will receive one Gold Pen and Silver Case, worth Five Dollars.

Any person who will send us Ten yearly subscribers, at \$3 per year, will receive one Gold Pen and Gold Pencil Case, worth Fifteen Dollars.

Any person who will send us twenty yearly subscribers, at \$3 per year, will receive one New Silver Hunting Case Watch, worth Thirty Dollars.

Address,

HUTCHINGS & ROSENFELD,
No. 146 MONTGOMERY STREET,
SAN FRANCISCO.

Hutchings ran advertisements seeking new subscribers at various times in his magazine. He was underfinanced and overworked, which resulted in his giveaway sale of his publication after sixty issues.

According to Hutchings' diary,⁴ the party set out on Wednesday, July 25, pursuing an "enigmatical course" in the general direction of Yosemite Valley. The following night the group made camp along the South Fork of the Merced River in the vicinity of the area that came to be known as Wawona. The next day, Friday, July 27, Hutchings and his companions covered the last twenty-two miles of their journey and reached Yosemite Valley.

"Descending towards the Yo-Semite Valley, we came upon a high point clear of trees," Hutchings said, "from whence we had our first view of the singular and romantic valley; and as the scene opened in full view before us, we were almost speechless with wondering admiration at its wild and sublime grandeur." The place was the original Old Inspiration Point on the meadows trail from Wawona.⁵

While the party paused to "fill our souls with gratified delight," Ayres occupied himself with the first of six pencil sketches he made during the visit. Called "General View of the Yosemite Valley," it became the best known of

his Yosemite sketches because of the exposure given to it by Hutchings in his later publications. (Ayres returned to Yosemite the following year with a group that included Lafayette Bunnell and made additional sketches on his own behalf. Ten of Ayres' original drawings and one lithograph are now in the possession of the Yosemite Museum. In 1858 Ayres drowned in the wreck of a ship during a voyage from San Pedro to San Francisco.)

During the next two days the adventurers explored the valley "for ten miles, head to head," seeing Mirror Lake, Illilouette Fall, and Happy Isles in the process. "Luxurious, scenic banqueting," Hutchings called it in his account of the journey. "We left it reluctantly."

On Monday, July 30, the pioneering tourists departed the valley and traveled ten miles to camp. They reached Mariposa on Wednesday, August 1, where they remained for the next two days, all the while being "besieged and interviewed with eager questionings to ascertain what we had seen and experienced." Included among the curious was L. A. Holmes, editor of the *Mariposa Gazette*, who was ill at the time and concerned over copy for the forth-

coming edition of his weekly newspaper. He prevailed upon Hutchings to write an article describing Yosemite, which Hutchings agreed to do. The story appeared in the *Gazette* of Friday, August 3, of which no known copy exists.

The next morning, Saturday, August 4, Hutchings, Millard, and Ayres left Mariposa by stage, en route to Hornitos, Chinese Camp, Sonora, and Stockton, and from there ultimately by ship to San Francisco. Hutchings apparently took copies of his *Gazette* article with him on his trip home, for a reprint appeared in the *San Francisco Chronicle* of August 18.⁶ In the custom of the time, journalists the country over soon quoted the *Chronicle*, thus starting Hutchings' Yosemite publicity, which continued for the next forty-seven years.

"The enthusiastic descriptions given by the Hutchings party on its return, staggered the skeptics, and silenced the croakers," said Lafayette Bunnell in *Discovery of the Yosemite*. "From this period may be dated the commencement of the visits of tourists."

The first issue of *Hutchings' California Magazine*, dated July, 1856, contains a lead story of eight pages about Yosemite Valley, including four of Thomas Ayres' sketches and an excellent description of the scenes the party had

observed and admired. Hutchings eventually published sixty issues of his forty-eight-page monthly publication between July, 1856, and June, 1861. They offer a wealth of contemporary information about California in the mid-1800s. A complete file is preserved in the Yosemite Research Library, and its value today is considerably more than the price Hutchings reportedly received for the rights and title to his magazine when he sold out to a competitor in 1861—a suit of clothes.

Thus began tourist visitation to Yosemite Valley in July, 1855. The leader of that historic party, James Mason Hutchings, later succumbed to his own blandishments. He became one of Yosemite's first permanent residents and in 1880 was named guardian by the state. After his accidental death in 1902, he was buried in the little cemetery below Yosemite Falls, where he still rests today in the valley he loved.⁷

NOTES AND REFERENCES

1. Lafayette H. Bunnell, *Discovery of the Yosemite and the Indian War of 1851 Which Led to That Event*, 4th ed., 1911 (reprint with a preface by Hank Johnston; Yosemite: Yosemite Association, 1990).
2. For further information about Yosemite's early human history, see Hank Johnston, *The Yosemite Grant, 1864-1906* (Yosemite: Yosemite Association, 1995).
3. Hutchings' diary of his voyage to New York in 1848 and his overland trip to California in 1849 is contained in Shirley Sargent, *Seeking the Elephant* (Glendale, CA: Arthur H. Clark Company, 1980).
4. Hutchings kept a daily journal of his activities in 1855 (copy in the Yosemite Research Library). In his subsequent book, *In the Heart of the Sierras* (Oakland and Yosemite: Pacific Press Publishing House, 1886), he inexplicably gives different dates for his historic first visit to Yosemite Valley from those entered in his diary. The diary dates, which are unquestionably correct, are used in this article.
5. There were three viewpoints on the south side of Yosemite Valley known by some form of "Inspiration Point" over the years. The reference here is to the original Inspiration Point. It is not the "Old Inspiration Point" marked on current Yosemite maps, which was first known as "Mount Beatitude." See Hank Johnston, "Yosemite's Four, Almost Five, Inspiration Points," *Yosemite* 52, No. 3 (Summer, 1990) pp. 5-8.
6. The August 18, 1855, *San Francisco Chronicle* article is reprinted in Peter Browning, *Yosemite Place Names* (Lafayette, CA: Great West Books, 1988) pp. 213-215.
7. A biography of James Hutchings with details of his extensive later life can be found in Hank Johnston, *Yosemite's Yesterdays*, Vol. II (Yosemite, CA: Flying Spur Press, 1991) pp. 14-30.

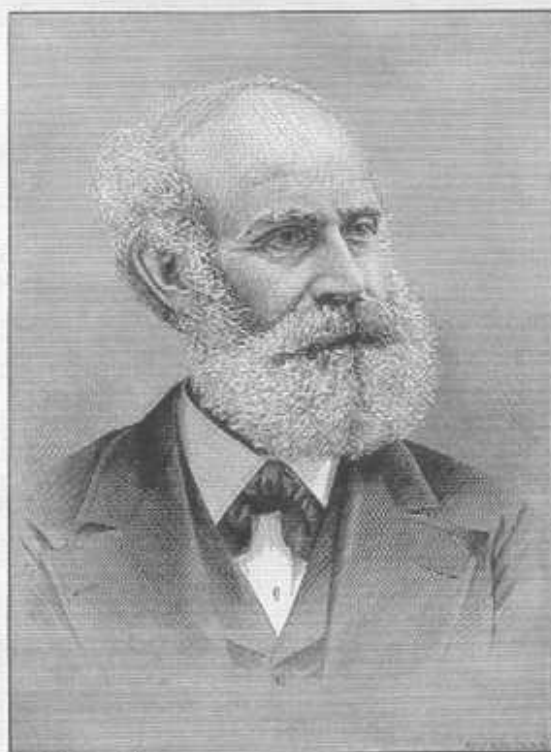


Photo by Peter Houseworth

Ever faithfully yours,
J. M. Hutchings.

An engraving made from a Thomas Houseworth photograph of James Hutchings in his sixties.

Hank Johnston is the author of sixteen books and numerous articles about California history. His newest book, Ho! For Yosemite, a collection of first-person accounts of early travel to the Valley, was recently published by the Yosemite Association. For an in-depth look at early Yosemite history, see Johnston's book The Yosemite Grant, 1864-1906: A Pictorial History, also published by the Yosemite Association. All photographs are from the author's collection.

RIN-TIN-TIN IN YOSEMITE



During the summer of 1929, Rin-Tin-Tin, Lee Duncan (his owner and master), Lupe Velez (movie star), and a large Warner Brothers film crew were engaged in the production of the movie, *Tiger Rose*, in Yosemite Valley and the Wawona area of the south park. The cast included Slim Summerville, Monte Blue, and Grant Withers, to name a few members of the large cast. Lupe Velez, the "Mexican spitfire," was the only woman involved, not counting her hairdresser.

Rin-Tin-Tin and Lee Duncan traveled to Yosemite with the film company, first in a private railroad car from Los Angeles, then from Merced in buses and trucks by way of Arch Rock, arriving at The Ahwahnee in early summer (exact dates are unknown), probably in early to middle June.

By 1929, Rin-Tin-Tin, the famous German shepherd dog actor, was eleven years old, was a veteran of twenty-four feature movies that had made him a national matinee idol, and was earning a contract salary that often exceeded those of his human colleagues. Rinty's films grossed so much money he is said to have saved the four Warner Brothers from bankruptcy, not to mention hundreds of theaters all over the United States. The grateful Warner Brothers rewarded Lee Duncan and his "star" dog handsomely.

Since 1925, Rin-Tin-Tin had experienced the rancor of many of his non-canine co-stars. After making the

film, *The Lighthouse by the Sea*, Rinty's salary of \$1,000 per week was so much more than the leading actor's \$150 per week that a near revolt took place among the cast. There was an eruption of strong feelings against Rinty's special treatment, and some believe that at one point, Rinty's life was in danger. This resentment must have continued because for years Rin-Tin-Tin was by far the most popular actor in Hollywood, human or animal.

In personal appearances across the country, Rinty and Lee Duncan always enjoyed the finest food and accommodations, staying in the best hotels in cities such as Chicago, Boston, Cincinnati – wherever they were appearing to support one of Rinty's flicks. The celebrity dog was uniformly described by hotel concierges as "the perfect gentleman – welcome here at any time," and more than once occupied the bridal suite.

It was only to be expected that, prior to the filmmakers' arrival in the park, Yosemite Superintendent Colonel Charles G. Thomson would have prepared the way for Rinty. He arranged for the dog to have unhindered run of the park while working on the picture, staying in The Ahwahnee (not in a kennel), and allowed him to freely accompany Lee Duncan wherever he went. (Colonel Thomson already owned a son of Rinty, called "Rinsey," who, being "trained on bears," was able to chase nuisance bears into the high country.) Lee Duncan also brought his saddle horse, Noble Crescent, up for the summer. Lee



Superintendent Charles Goff Thomson rolled out the Yosemite red carpet for Rin-Tin-Tin.

and Rinty went on exploratory rides between takes in the valley, and later in Wawona and the Mariposa Grove of Big Trees.

While the company stayed in The Ahwahnee, members were bused and trucked up and out of the valley to locations "on the rim," where both Yosemite Falls and Half Dome were visible at the same time – probably Glacier Point. There is no record of their having used other nearby locations, such as Bridalveil Meadows or Sentinel Dome, for filming. Though Lee Duncan was not familiar with location names in his autobiographical notes, he did make a big point about the sumptuous "hot" lunches sent up from The Ahwahnee kitchen staff for their noontime delectation. Rinty shared.

After the snow melted above Wawona and in the Big Trees, the company location was moved to the Wawona Hotel, from which the actors and crew could reach new scene locations. Rinty slept in Lee's room, much to the annoyance of the desk clerk, who was heard to say loudly, "and now they want a room for the damned dog!"

Lupe Velez was not an expert horsewoman, so fifteen-year-old Wawona Washburn (Hartwig) was engaged to race "Black Beauty" headlong down a long slope into the forest on a dangerous, bareback "escape from the bad guys," who were pounding along behind her. She remembered it as a memorable summer spent in a hazy, heavenly, adolescent girl's fantasy, dallying with famous screen stars, including Rin-Tin-Tin, her pal. Ms. Washburn became so fascinated with the Hollywood mystique that she later spent a significant part of her life in the thrall of Tinseltown.

Near summer's end, probably late July or early August, the *Tiger Rose* company journeyed back to Los Angeles, complete with Lee Duncan's horse and the company's paraphernalia, all trucked back to Merced to their railroad cars. Lee reported that they – Noble Crescent, Rinty, and he – were glad to be back home in Beverly Hills after an ideal adventure in Yosemite.

Rinty's summer in the Sierra Nevada was completed with an extended, mule pack train trip into the high country above Springville, where Lee and Rinty mostly enjoyed each other's company, and Lee fished for brown trout, his favorite quarry. Rinty rode on top of his mule's ample load in style.

Copies of *Tiger Rose* no longer exist, so far as is known, having turned to powder in their cans over the years. Wawona Washburn Hartwig reported that much of Rinty's acting part was left out of the final film, and those glorious forest scenes in the Big Trees emerged as unrecognizable settings that might have been made anywhere in the Sierra.

Allan Shields is a retired philosophy professor and a former naturalist at Yosemite. He now writes and publishes from his home in Clovis. A full account of Rin-Tin-Tin in Yosemite is recorded in the author's book, The Spirit of Rin-Tin-Tin, copyright 2001 by Allan Shields. To purchase a copy, contact Mr. Shields at (559) 298-9394.

Some of the employees at the Wawona Hotel were not exactly thrilled to be catering to a celebrity dog.





Summer Work Trips Application Period Opens

Applications are now being accepted for our popular work trip program. The work trips are a cooperative effort of YA, providing volunteer labor, Yosemite Institute, contributing a naturalist to run campsite operations, Yosemite Concession Services, giving crucial financial support, and the National Park Service, providing project direction, tools, and work supervision. Six trips are scheduled for 2002:

June 9 - 15: Weed Warriors (El Portal, Foresta, and Yosemite Valley)

June 23 - 29: Valley Summer Work Week (Yosemite Valley)

July 7 - 13: Wawona Work Week (Wawona)

August 4 - 10: Tuolumne Meadows Work Week (Tuolumne Meadows)

August 18 - 24: Backcountry Work Week (upper Lyell Canyon)

October 20 - 26: Valley Fall Work Week (Yosemite Valley)

In each of these trips, up to fifteen YA members camp together at a group site from Sunday afternoon to the following Saturday morning. They work on various restoration and revegetation projects for four days, with a rest day in the middle of the week. Volunteers contribute \$50 to help cover the cost of the seventeen hearty meals served during their stay.

For more information or an application, call Laurel at (209) 379-2317, or download an application from our website (www.yosemite.org) by clicking on "Six Ways You Can Help Us Help Yosemite" and then selecting the link to "volunteering."

Progress Made Toward Fundraising Goal

As of January 15, over 750 generous members have answered our appeal for additional donations to help make up for our revenue shortfall, donating over \$65,000 toward our winter goal to raise \$100,000. We are very grateful for the

important support our member donors are providing. If you have not yet responded to our request, won't you take a few moments now to make a donation and help us reach our goal? Contact the YA office for assistance.

Spring Forum to be March 23, 2002

The association's annual Spring Forum is just around the corner, on Saturday, March 23, 2002, in Yosemite Valley. Members are invited to attend this popular one-day event filled with informative presentations and guided walks on a variety of Yosemite-related topics.

Auditorium programs will include presentations by: Michael P. Branch, discussing his new book, *John Muir's Last Journey*, which marks the first publication of Muir's journals from his last great journey, taken alone at age 73, through South America and Africa; William Alsup, who will talk about *Missing in the Minarets*, his compelling new narrative detailing the mysterious 1933 disappearance of Walter "Peter" Starr, Jr., and the search that ensued; naturalist Erik Westerlund, providing a look into the fascinating lives of dragonflies; and Park Superintendent David Mihalic, discussing current issues.

Outdoor programs will include guided walks on Tenaya Creek cultural and natural history, "eco-sleuthing," Ansel Adams at 100 (honoring the year the celebrated photographer would have turned 100), the bear program, and much more. Ansel Adams Gallery fine print viewing and two-hour Valley Floor bus tours will also be offered. The day will end with a wine and cheese reception, where Michael Branch and William Alsup will sign copies of their books.

Registration materials for the Spring Forum were mailed to members in January. Attendance is limited to the first 500 registrants. The day's agenda and information about participating in the events (including the walk sign-up form) will be mailed to those who register.

We are very grateful for the assistance of the National Park Service, Ansel Adams Gallery, Yosemite Concession Services Corporation, Yosemite Institute, and many friends of YA, all of which are helping to bring these fine programs to our members.

Sign up for a new Outdoor Adventure!

YA is offering several new outdoor courses this year. If you haven't yet received your catalog call us at (209)379-2321, or you can view our courses online at www.yosemite.org. Members receive a 10% discount on all adventures.

Don't miss some of these new and exciting offerings!

Winter Explorations with A Ranger

March 16-17

Spend two full days outdoors exploring and enjoying Yosemite's winter world with ranger Dick Ewart.

Discovering Spring Wildflowers at Hite Cove

April 13

Experience the phenomenal wildflower bloom of the Merced River Canyon with naturalist Michael Ross.

Rafting the Wild Merced: A River Ecology Expedition

April 27-28

Enjoy a thrilling rafting trip and explore river ecology with naturalist Michael Ross.

Raft, Hike, and Bike Yosemite

May 3-5

Raft the Merced, hike up to Yosemite Falls and bike in Yosemite Valley with your energetic guide Julie Miller.

Get Lost with A Ranger: Map & Compass for Beginners

June 1

Ranger Dick Ewart will teach you to find your way in the wilderness.

YA Benefits from Your Online Shopping

Help the Yosemite Association when you shop online. Access your favorite merchants, like Amazon and Lands End, through www.yosemite.greatergood.com and 5% or more of your purchase will go directly to YA at no extra cost to you.

GreaterGood.com
Shop where it matters.

Leaving a Yosemite Legacy

Since 1920, thousands of individuals and families have helped the Yosemite Association undertake its important educational, scientific, and research programs, with gifts of time, services, and money. Each year we receive critical support for Yosemite in the form of charitable bequests from wills and estate plans. Such bequests play a vital role in our future funding.

We encourage you to consider including a gift to the Yosemite Association in your will or estate plan. It's a way to ensure that others will enjoy Yosemite far beyond your lifetime.

For information about leaving a Yosemite legacy, call (209) 379-2317, or write to P.O. Box 230, El Portal, CA 95318.

NEW BENEFITS: Lodging Discounts and more!

We are pleased to announce the addition of three new benefits of YA membership: a 10% discount on Yosemite Concession Services Corporation accommodations in the park and at Tenaya Lodge, a members-only YCS lodging reservation phone number, and a 10% discount on Wawona area vacation home rentals at The Redwoods in Yosemite!

The YCS 10% lodging discount is applicable on a space-available basis, with the exception of holiday periods, weekends (Friday or Saturday nights), the High Sierra Camps, and the Bracebridge Dinner. It is limited to one room per visit, on telephone reservations made after January 1, 2002. Members must show their YA membership card upon check-in to receive the discount. This discount is available for most of the non-campground lodging in the park, including the historic Ahwahnee and Wawona Hotels, Yosemite Lodge, Curry Village, Housekeeping Camp, Tuolumne Lodge, and White Wolf Lodge, as well as Tenaya Lodge, off Highway 41 in Fish Camp, near the south entrance to the park.

The members-only YCS lodging reservation phone line is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Pacific Time, seven days per week, with extended hours during the summer. That special phone number was listed on a green card mailed with members' Spring Forum invitations, and is also included with membership cards mailed after January 2002.

The Redwoods in Yosemite 10% discount is applicable to the standard lodging rate on a space-available basis, on weekends as well as weekdays, with the exception of holiday periods. Members must show their YA membership card upon check-in to receive the discount. Call The Redwoods at 209-375-6666 or visit their website at www.redwoodsinyosemite.com to learn more about their wide array of vacation home rentals in Wawona.

Call the YA office if you have questions about using any of your new benefits, or if you need the YCS number again. Many thanks to our park partners for making these terrific opportunities available to our members!



Association Dates

February 24-28, 2002

2nd Annual Yosemite Winter Literary Conference, Yosemite Valley

March 23, 2002

Spring Forum, Yosemite Valley

September 14, 2002

27th Annual Members' Meeting, Wawona

Member Info Line 209/379-2317

If you're planning a trip to Yosemite and have questions, give our phone line a call between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. We don't make reservations, but we can give appropriate phone numbers and usually lots of helpful advice.

WORKING AS A YA VOLUNTEER OR, HOW LONG IS THE FOUR-MILE TRAIL?

On my first day as a Yosemite Association volunteer, I found myself in the middle of a huge parking lot, inside an American-made Mongolian Yurt, waiting for my first contact with park visitors. A lady with a frantic look on her face came rushing into the Yurt. "Please," she said excitedly, "how do I get to Tonopah, Nevada?"

Since I was a brand new Yosemite Association volunteer, I wondered how I was going to give directions to this lady. Did she know she was asking a person who is definitely map-challenged, lacking the ability to fold a map let alone read one? I'd never even heard of Tonopah, Nevada.

Now I knew why the very wise, patient YA volunteer coordinator, Virginia Ferguson, paired me with a very experienced YA volunteer, Mary Jane Johnson. Mary Jane not only knew everything there was to know about Yosemite but also read maps like she had written them. I asked Mary Jane how one would travel to Tonopah, and she very graciously guided the lady over to the map of California on the wall of the Yurt, carefully tracing the route from Yosemite to Tonopah, Nevada.

Little did I know that after spending one summer working as a YA volunteer at Yosemite, I would overcome my map-reading handicap, and even learn how to fold them!

Working as a Yosemite Association volunteer for the last two summers has been one of the most rewarding, educational, and interesting experiences of my life. From meeting people from all over the world, watching nightly sunsets on Half Dome (I didn't know there really are purple sunsets at Yosemite), and making new lifelong friends to even learning how to read (and fold) maps, the Yosemite Association volunteer experience can give you a completely different perspective on life.

On a visit to Yosemite three years ago, we stopped to talk to two YA volunteers staffing the membership booth who encouraged us to think about volunteering. Both my husband and I had been coming to Yosemite since we were children, and when we thought about volunteering, we decided it would be fun to try it for a month. So on July 31, we set out for a 30-day stint as Yosemite Association volunteers. Our van was loaded with a tent, cooking gear, two coolers, cots, mattresses and bicycles. We looked like one of those photos you see of Dust Bowl emigrants. As my son waved goodbye, he said, "All you need now, Mom, is a mattress with springs popping out and onto the top of the car!"

Upon our arrival at the volunteer campground site in Lower Pines, we were warmly greeted by Volunteer



Coordinator Virginia Ferguson, who introduced us to the other volunteers.

Camping with YA volunteers is a true experiment in community living. The YA campsite is a mixture of tent trailers, motor homes, and tents. Conversation is casual, yet everyone respects everyone else's privacy. Sometimes we bring our own dinner fare to someone else's table. Other times, we eat alone.

One of the nicest aspects of working as a YA volunteer is the mix of other members who are volunteering. Married couples, single, divorced, or widowed adults ranging in age from 20 to 90 can make up a group of monthly volunteers. This makes for interesting conversation, lively chatter and much laughter because the volunteers come from different backgrounds, lifestyles and other states.

From May through September, nine to twelve volunteers serve in 30-day rotations in Yosemite Valley. Work hours are generally from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, with mornings at one site and afternoons at another. Volunteers typically work four or five days a week, and usually in pairs with a first-season volunteer teamed with an experienced volunteer, depending on how many people are working that particular month.

Volunteers rotate among five sites in Yosemite Valley: the Membership/Information Booth located in the Yosemite Village Mall, the Art Gallery located in the Yosemite Museum, the Yurt (a small dome-shaped canvas structure) at the Visitor Day Use Parking (Camp 6), the Valley Visitor Center, and Happy Isles Nature Center. Volunteers can also work at Tuolumne Meadows locations (see editor's note).

Staffing the membership booth is a relaxing shift, since the booth is set up under the trees opposite the Ansel Adams Gallery. Working the booth not only involves recruiting new YA members, but also providing information to and answering questions of visitors. When I first started working as a volunteer, I wondered if I could answer all the questions, but I soon found out I knew much more about Yosemite than I thought I did.

I also found out that there was always another volunteer who could answer questions and, if we couldn't find out the answer, we called the main Visitor Center. Failing that, I tracked down Virginia or Mary Jane who are experienced volunteers and know the answers to ALL the questions.

I was surprised how quickly I learned the answers to the questions because most of the questions are the same: "Where can I go on a hike, where are the waterfalls, how do I get to Half Dome, how far can I take my car, where is Yosemite Falls, El Capitan," and yes, the inevitable question: "Where can I see a bear?" Working as a volunteer has certainly improved my skills at diplomacy, tact and patience, especially when asked, "How long is the Four-Mile Trail?"

Volunteers work as docents at the Yosemite Museum Gallery, regulating the number of people in the gallery at any one time, and keeping a watchful eye on the exhibit. Since the paintings or photos are either owned by the National Park Service or are on loan from private collections, photo and digital cameras and video recorders are not allowed in the gallery because of copyright issues. We invite people to sign the guest book, which most are delighted to do.

Seventy-five percent of the visitors to Yosemite are there for the day. In an effort to control increasing congestion, a new Day Use Parking Lot was created with the YA Yurt situated at the entrance and exit point of the lot. The Yurt serves as the first information contact for many Yosemite visitors, and two YA volunteers staff it. The Yurt is one of my favorite spots to work because of the number of people you meet. The park is truly a prime destination for people from all over the world, and within one afternoon I met people from Germany, Italy, Iran, India, Australia, New Zealand, and from practically every state in the United States.

Volunteer duties at the Valley Visitor Center involve answering many of the same questions of visitors. In April of 2001, a new film *Spirit of Yosemite* replaced the old orientation slide show at the Visitor Center. The film is shown in the West Auditorium behind the Visitor Center every hour on the half hour. YA volunteers introduce the film, and make sure people don't bring in any food or drinks. Some volunteers choose to introduce themselves, explain a little bit about the function of the Yosemite Association, make a pitch for volunteering, and

give a little background of the film.

The last of the volunteer work sites, Happy Isles Nature Center, is my favorite. YA volunteers handle book sales, put up the flag, turn the exhibits on and off and generally act as caretakers of the Nature Center. I love to stand in the book area and listen to the sounds of the kids as they see the natural wildlife exhibit for the first time. Usually I hear, "Wow, Mom, look at that!" Then I hear the squeals as the children push the buttons on the soundboard and hear the taped roar of the mountain lion, the growl of the bear, and the squeaky noises of raccoons.

This summer will be our third year as YA volunteers and we are eagerly looking forward to being in Yosemite again. I feel that it is an honor for me to work (if you can call it work) at such a beautiful place. It is our way of saying thanks for the memories we and our grown children have of family vacations at Yosemite.

The fourth generation of our family is now coming to Yosemite, so it looks like we will continue this legacy. Where else could you spend a month among beauty and grandeur, share the company of warm, gracious people, watch the sunsets, sit in the middle of a meadow, float on the Merced River and meet people from all over the world? It's a great experience to be a Yosemite Association volunteer!

And, by the way, the Four-Mile Trail is almost FIVE miles long, and NO, there is no place to park your car at Half Dome.

Editor's note: Lois and her husband Gary, along with the other Valley volunteers, provide an invaluable service to YA and to park visitors. The Museum Gallery, the Yurt information station, and Happy Isles Nature Center are open to the public only because YA volunteers staff them.

YA also sponsors a volunteer program in Tuolumne Meadows from late June through mid-September. Volunteers there share campsites in the Tuolumne Meadows Campground, where their tasks include welcoming and hosting participants in YA's Outdoor Adventure Program, staffing a Membership/Information Booth outside the Tuolumne Visitor Center, and working at Parsons Lodge to provide information to people who stop in at the historic structure. Like the areas in the Valley, these services would be unavailable to visitors, were it not for the dedication of YA's volunteer staff.

All YA volunteers stay in shared campsites, supply their own food and camping equipment, work a four or five day week and receive a \$10 per day stipend. If you're interested in volunteering for the 2002 season, please contact Connie or Anne at (209) 379-2317 for an application. To download an application from our web site (yosemite.org), click on "Six Ways You Can Help Us Help Yosemite" and follow the link to "Volunteering."

Trails & Tales of Yosemite & the Central Sierra

Sharon Giacomazzi

Trails & Tales of Yosemite & the Central Sierra

by Sharon Giacomazzi

This is a one-of-a-kind guide that leads readers to more than sixty of the best walks and hikes among the spectacular scenery of Yosemite National Park and the surrounding Sierra. It features the less traveled trails as well as some popular classics.

Destinations include the sequoia groves, hidden waterfalls, gorgeous canyons, wild-flower blooms, peaks, and other adventure-filled locales. Whether you're an avid hiker or a casual walker, the trails come to life as the author interweaves their descriptions with historical information about each. She tells tales of the native peoples, early explorers, gold rush mining, pioneer lumbering, early railroads, and more.

This wealth of information about Yosemite trails comes with 38 detailed maps and 60 photos, many of them historical. The book is 6 inches by 9 inches, 304 pages, and paperbound. Bored Feet Press, 2001. \$16; member price \$13.60

John Muir's Last Journey - South to the Amazon and East to Africa

edited by Michael P. Branch

Leaving from Brooklyn, New York, in August 1911, John Muir at the age of 73 and traveling alone, embarked on an eight-month, 40,000-mile voyage to South America and Africa. Muir's journals, notes, and correspondence from the journey have languished, unpublished and virtually untouched, for nearly a century. Published here for the first time, these papers allow us to read the remarkable story of Muir's last great adventure.

Muir traveled up the great Amazon, into the jungles of southern Brazil, to snow-line in the Andes, through southern and central Africa to the headwaters of the Nile, and across six oceans and seas in order to reach the rare forests he had so long wished to study. He considered it the most important work of his life and the fulfillment of a dream of decades.

This fascinating new work shows Muir as a different kind of hero, not in seemingly eternal youth, but one whose endurance and intellectual curiosity carried him into far fields of adventure even as he aged. The book adds important dimensions to our appreciation of one of the world's greatest environmentalists.

The case bound book with dust jacket is 6 by 9 inches in size, 340 pages long, and illustrated with black-and-white photographs and drawings. Island Press, 2001. \$27.50; member price \$23.37

JOHN MUIR'S LAST JOURNEY

South to the Amazon
and East to Africa

Unpublished Journals and Selected Correspondence



John Muir

EDITED BY MICHAEL P. BRANCH



Fire in Sierra Nevada Forests

A Photographic Interpretation of
Ecological Change Since 1849

GEORGE E. GRUELL

Fire in Sierra Nevada Forests - A Photographic Interpretation of Ecological Change Since 1849

by George E. Gruell

The wildfires that have ravaged the West in recent years have focused national attention on the condition of our forests. Why are they so susceptible to fires? How can we prevent catastrophe?

In this new book, the author examines California's treasured mountain range through historical photographs and modern retakes. The photographs document changes in the Sierran ecosystem over the past 150 years - from the varied and generally open-canopy habitats of early European-American settlement days to the dense, declining forests of today.

Gruell asks readers to study the evidence, then take an active part in current debates over prescribed fire, fuel buildup, logging, and the management of our national forest. The 10.25 by 7.25 inch book is 240 pages long, illustrated with numerous black-and-white photographs, and paperbound. Mountain Press Publishing, 2001. \$20; member price \$17

Giants in the Earth—The California Redwoods

edited with an introduction by Peter Johnstone.

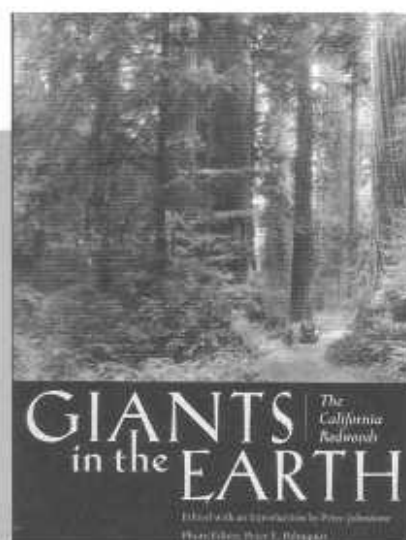
The coast redwoods and the giant sequoias of California have inspired an extraordinary body of writing. In this new volume, the carefully chosen words of storytellers, philosophers, poets, and journalists present an eloquent and engaging record of human history in the redwoods.

In 1849, L. K. Woods found the redwoods of Humboldt County to be a "dismal forest prison." By 1881, Ernest Ingersoll was extolling the "many attitudes" and "muscularly graceful" motions of lumberjacks. Mary Austin wrote about the incommunicable majesty of the gigantic trunks of the big trees of the Sierra Nevada. And recently, Tom Wolfe described the scene among the San Francisco

Bay Area redwoods as "Golden particles, brilliant forest-green particles, each one picking up the light, and all shimmering and flowing like an electronic mosaic, pure California neon dust."

From John Muir and Jack London to Joan Dunning and Armistead Maupin, and with a spectacular portfolio of historic photographs assembled by Peter Palmquist, this is a stirring ode to California's most treasured asset.

The book is 6 inches by 8 inches in size, 304 pages long, illustrated with 48 historic plates, and paperbound with a dust jacket. Heyday Books, 2001. \$18; member price \$15.30



YOSEMITE & CALAVERAS BIG TREES



*Historic Guide to Yosemite and Calaveras Big Trees
Circa 1870*

Yosemite & the Calaveras Big Trees—Historic Guide to Yosemite and Calaveras Big Trees Circa 1870

by T. Nelson & Sons.

This interesting new booklet is a reprint of Nelson's Pictorial Guide-Book entitled Yosemite Valley and the Mammoth Trees and Geysers of California that was originally published in 1870. It was apparently a popular guide, featuring a 40-page section of text and twelve color plates of engravings of landmarks described in the text.

The colored engravings are reproduced faithfully and include subjects such as the Bridal Veil Fall, Yo-Semite Falls, the North and South Domes, the View from Glacier Point, and the Grised [sic] Giant. There are also several illustrations of the big trees of the Calaveras Grove. A map of the various routes used to reach the Yosemite area is also provided.

With its unique illustrations and flowery prose, this bit of history is sure to entertain readers and lovers of Yosemite history. The booklet is 8 inches by 5 inches, 42 pages long, has 12 color plates, and is paperbound. R. D. Schmitz, 2001. \$17.50; member price \$14.87

Pajaro Field Bag

This waist pack features seven pockets for everything you'll need when you're hiking or enjoying time in the outdoors. The main pocket is sized to accommodate field guides, travel books, or binoculars. There are smaller pockets (including one with a zipper) for note pads and maps, and specialized pockets for pencils, pens, and sunglasses. Best of all, a secret pocket sealed with Velcro keeps keys, credit cards, and other valuables safe.

It's the best such pack we've found.

Made in the U.S.A. of durable Cordura in navy blue, forest green, or black by Pajaro. (please specify color) \$29.95; member price \$25.46



To see an expanded list of the Yosemite-related books, maps, and products we offer for sale, visit the full-featured, secure **Yosemite Store** on the internet at: <http://yosemitestore.com>

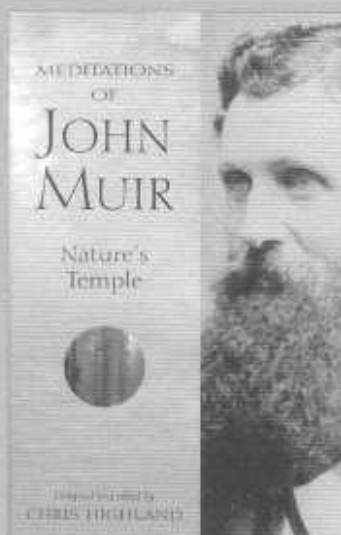
Meditations of John Muir - Nature's Temple

compiled and edited by Chris Highland.

John Muir's exuberance for nature was the touchstone for his commitment to the earth and all its creatures. Muir encouraged others to appreciate and preserve our natural heritage. As naturalist, writer, and activist, Muir shaped the spiritual and physical boundaries of some of our most treasured national parks. His legacy sustains those who now struggle to preserve our wild and open spaces.

In this book, editor Chris Highland pairs 60 insightful Muir quotes with selections from other celebrated thinkers and spiritual texts. Take this pocket-size guide with you on backpacks, nature hikes, and camping trips. Let Muir's words enrich your experience as you ponder the wilderness from river bank, mountain top, or as you relax beside your campfire under night stars.

The volume is 4.5 by 7 inches, 144 pages long, and paperbound with a dust jacket. Wilderness Press, 2001. \$11.95; member price \$10.16



Yosemite Association T-Shirts

by Artforms.

Here is a colorful way to show off your affiliation with the Yosemite Association. These 100% cotton t-shirts have been silk-screened with an eye-catching representation of Yosemite Valley from Tunnel View, in shades of purple, green, and teal. Available in four colors—stone (tan), lilac, steel (gray) and brook (green)—the shirts also bear the name of the Yosemite Association.

A color image of the shirts can be viewed on the Yosemite Association web site (www.yosemitestore.com). The Yosemite Association t-shirts are offered in M, L, and XL sizes (XXL in brook and stone only). Please indicate color and size when you order. \$18 (XXL-\$19); member price \$15.30 (XXL-\$16.15)

Missing in the Minarets: The Search for Walter A. Starr, Jr.

by William Alsup.

This riveting narrative details the mysterious disappearance of Walter "Peter" Starr, a San Francisco attorney from a prominent family, who set off to climb alone in the rugged Minarets region of the Sierra Nevada in July 1933. Rigorous and thorough searches by some of the best climbers in the history of the range failed to locate him despite a number of promising clues.

When all hope seemed gone and the last search party had left the Minarets, mountaineering legend Norman Clyde refused to give up. Climbing alone, he persevered in the face of failure, resolved that he would learn the fate of the lost man. Clyde's discovery and the events that followed make for compelling reading. This re-creation of a famous episode in the annals of the Sierra Nevada is mountaineering literature at its best.

William Alsup is a photographer, attorney, Sierra historian, and trial lawyer turned trial judge; he served for more than twelve years on the Board of Trustees of the Yosemite Association. He also assembled, annotated, and illustrated the 1864 letters and notes of William Brewer, published as *Such A Landscape!* by the Yosemite Association.

The book is 6 inches by 9 inches in size, 216 pages long, illustrated with over 60 historic duotones, and case bound with a dust jacket. Yosemite Association, 2001. \$24.95; member price \$21.21



Yosemite Association Water Bottle

by Nalgene.

This highly functional wide-mouth Nalgene bottle is made of super-tough, smoke-gray lexan polycarbonate. You'll never lose its easy-to-open, attached, screw-top cap.



The bottle is virtually leak-proof, won't conduct heat or cold (you can pour boiling liquids directly into it), and doesn't affect the taste of water or other liquids. Besides the Yosemite Association graphic with a deer grazing in front of Half Dome, the bottle features permanent gradation marks to make measuring powdered foods and drinks easy.

As well, the bottle screws directly into MSR water filters, dromedary bags, and hydration systems to make the transfer of water smooth and spill-free. Weight 5.3 ounces including attached cap; from Nalgene. \$7.95; member price \$6.76

Yosemite Association Mug

This distinctive and functional heavy ceramic mug feels good with your hand wrapped around it. Available in two colors (green or maroon), it's imprinted with our logo and name in black and white. Holds 12 ounces of your favorite beverage. \$6.50

(please specify color); member price \$5.52



Yosemite Wilderness Pin

Here's a beautiful enamel pin commemorating Yosemite's unparalleled wilderness. It's circular in shape with a high country scene rendered in blues, grays, and greens. A real treasure for collectors. Approximately 1 inch in diameter. \$4.00; member price \$3.40



Yosemite Association Patch

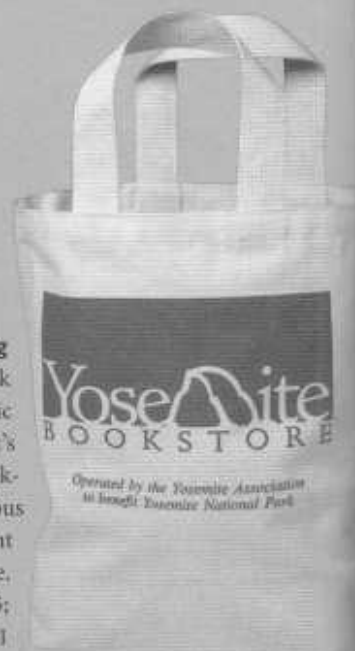
Our Association logo is embroidered on colorful, sturdy fabric for placement on daypacks, shirts, blue jeans, jackets, or wherever! The patch is available in three attractive colors: dark blue, forest green, or maroon. \$3.00 (please specify color);

member price \$2.55

Yosemite Bookstore Book Bag

Conserve resources with YA's handy 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.

Approximately 17 by 16 inches. \$8.95; member price \$7.61



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Late Addition to Outdoor Adventure Catalog

A new course on raptors has been added to the 2002 Yosemite Outdoor Adventures catalog. Entitled "Raptors - Yosemite's Aerial Predators," the class will be taught by Jeff Maurer starting the evening of June 6 through June 9. The course fee is \$225, and members receive a 10% discount.

Maurer will introduce participants to Yosemite's magnificent birds of prey. Field observations will help all class members to better understand the breeding hawks and owls of several different ecosystems. The group will visit sites where recent raptor studies have been conducted, including those of the peregrine falcon, the great gray owl, and the northern goshawk. The chances of viewing these uncommon birds in the wild will be excellent. The course is geared for experienced birdwatchers as well as for those interested in observing, identifying, and understanding birds of prey for the first time.

To enroll, visit the Yosemite Association web site (yosemite.org) or call the Outdoor Adventure line at (209) 379-2321.

Kimi Kodani Hill to Join Y.A. Board

A Berkeley-based graphic designer, author, and editor, Kimi Kodani Hill will be joining the board of trustees of the Yosemite Association in 2002. Also elected to new terms were incumbents Tom Shephard of Stockton and Bob Eckart of Mariposa. Nominated by the board, Ms. Hill, Mr. Shephard, and Mr. Eckart ran unopposed in last fall's election and were declared the winners without balloting as per the organization's by-laws. The three will serve six-year terms.

An active member of the association for many years, Kimi Kodani Hill originally was introduced to Y.A. during the production of *Obata's Yosemite*, the book that featured the art and writing of her grandfather Chiura Obata. Besides assisting with that publication, Ms. Hill served as editor for *Topaz Moon* and *Shades of California*, both published by Heyday Books. She and her husband Richard are the parents of six-year-old Anthony. Everyone at the Yosemite Association welcomes Kimi and her family, and looks forward to her participation on the board.

Ms. Hill replaces William Alsup, who served the organization as a trustee for fourteen years. Mr. Alsup made numerous contributions to Y.A. during that time, and authored two books published by our organization. The first, *Such a Landscape!*, detailed the explorations of William Brewer and the California Geological Survey in 1864, and won several awards. Most recently Alsup completed *Missing in the Minarets*, the story of the mysterious disappearance of climber Walter A. Starr, Jr., that was published at the end of 2001. Mr. Alsup, who worked for many years as an attorney with Morrison and Foerster in San Francisco, is now a federal district judge in the same city. The board of the Yosemite Association recently passed a resolution commending Mr. Alsup for his service, and thanking him for his exemplary support during his tenure.



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Join the Yosemite Association

The Yosemite Association initiates and supports interpretive, educational, research, scientific, and environmental programs in Yosemite National Park, in cooperation with the National Park Service. Authorized by Congress, the Association provides services and direct financial support in order to promote park stewardship and enrich the visitor experience.

Besides publishing and selling books, maps, and other materials, YA operates an outdoor adventure program, the Art Activity Center, the bear canister rental program, and the Wilderness Permit Reservation system. Revenues generated by these activities fund a variety of National Park Service programs in Yosemite.

You can help us be successful by becoming a member. Individuals, families, and businesses throughout the country have long supported the Yosemite Association with their dues and participation in our programs.

Won't you join us in our efforts to make Yosemite an even better place?

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.

MEMBER BENEFITS

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

- * Yosemite, the quarterly Association journal;
- * A 15% discount on all books and products and a 10% discount on Outdoor Adventures offered by the Association;
- * NEW! A 10% discount on Yosemite Concession Services lodging in the park and at Tenaya Lodge (some restrictions apply) AND a members-only YCS lodging reservation phone number;
- * NEW! A 10% discount on lodging at The Redwoods in Yosemite (Wawona);
- * A 10% discount at the Valley Ansel Adams Gallery (excluding sale items and original photography);
- * The opportunity to attend member events and to volunteer in the park;
- * and much more!

When you join at one of the following levels, you will receive a special membership gift:

Supporting: the award-winning video, "Yosemite: The Fate of Heaven."

Contributing: Yosemite—The Promise of Wildness, an elegant book of essays and photographs.

Sustaining: Tradition and Innovation, A Basket History of the Indians of the Yosemite/Mono Lake Area, a beautifully illustrated, finely printed book.

Patron: a matted color photograph by Howard Weamer, "Half Dome—Storm Light."

Benefactor: an Ansel Adams Special Edition print, "Yosemite Valley—Thunderstorm."

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Yosemite

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Dan Anderson