



# Yosemite Valley

an intimate

**GUIDE**

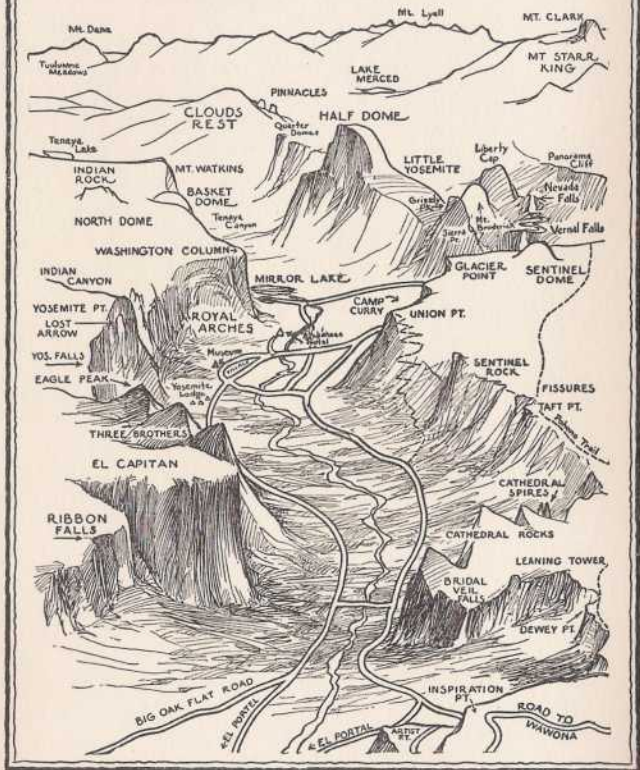
*by*

**ANSEL F. HALL**

CHIEF NATURALIST

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

AIRPLANE VIEW OF  
**YOSEMITE VALLEY**  
 LOOKING EAST



# YOSEMITE VALLEY

*An Intimate Guide*

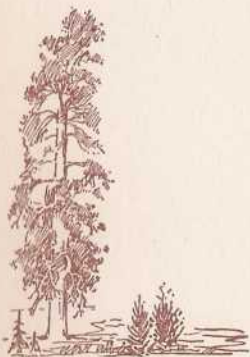
By ANSEL F. HALL,  
*Chief Naturalist, National Park Service*

*Illustrated by Leo Zellensky*



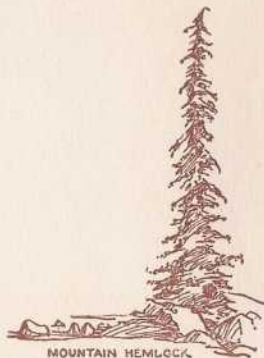
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LOGEPOLE PINE OR TAMARACK

DEDICATED  
TO THE MEMORY OF  
LEO ZELLENSKY  
WHOSE LAST ARTISTIC SKETCHES  
DECORATE THIS LITTLE  
VOLUME



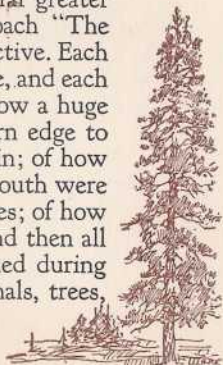




# YOSEMITE PERSPECTIVES

## *An Informal Introduction*

**I**F it were possible for us to look down upon Yosemite Valley from the clouds with ample time to examine the details of its interesting natural plan and architecture, we would later gain far more enjoyment as we walked through its pine and cedar forests and stood at the foot of its sheer granite cliffs—more than would possibly be open to us without such a previous broad perspective. So, also, can we gain far greater enjoyment from our Yosemite visit if we approach “The Valley Incomparable” with a broad mental perspective. Each detail of sculpture in the walls, each rock, each tree, and each flower, tells its part of the fascinating story; of how a huge block of the earth’s crust tipped up at the eastern edge to form the Sierra Nevada Range as a single mountain; of how Yosemite and its sister canyons to the north and south were carved by water and ice through the geological ages; of how its Indian inhabitants rose to be a mighty tribe and then all but perished; of how it was discovered and named during California’s days of gold; of how its birds, mammals, trees,



WESTERN YELLOW PINE

and flowers live together in distinct natural communities as different in character as different cities. All these, and other interesting chapters of Yosemite's unique story, form a background that opens one's eyes to far more than spectacular cliffs and waterfalls.

This little volume will point out the path to all of the beautiful and mighty features that have long made Yosemite world-famous—but it will do more; if you use it as a pocket companion it will make your walk or ride along the trails and roads a continual voyage of exploration by pointing out intimate details which are hidden to the casual onlooker. Whether this is your first or tenth Yosemite vacation much remains to be discovered along unknown paths and there are many alluring trails to lead you "over the hills and far away."

Put on your hiking boots, shoulder your camera, and let us explore together!



LODGEPOLE PINE OR TAMARACK.



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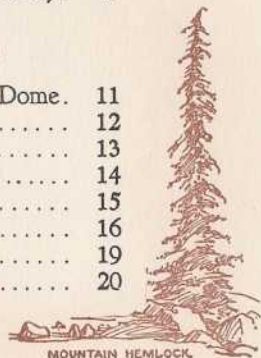
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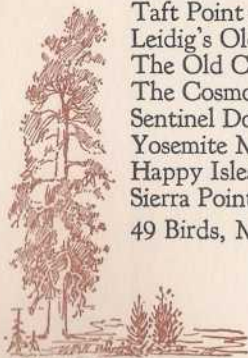
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LODGEPOLE PINE OR TAMARACK

AN INTIMATE GUIDE

# DAYS OF CREATION



Yosemite's Geological Story In Five Minutes

How was Yosemite Valley created? This is the question that stirs one to wonder even more, perhaps, than does the springtime beauty of her waterfalls or the flaming autumn reds throbbing through the mysterious veil of the Indian summer air. Yosemite's origin was a mooted question among geologists for more than half a century after its discovery. An earthquake fissure? A sunken block of the earth's crust? Water erosion? Ice erosion? Each, in turn, had its exponent, until finally a seven year scientific study was carried on by the U. S. Geological Survey, with the result that we now know accurately what happened, how it happened, and when it happened. This is the story:

Several million years ago a huge block of the earth's crust—a block four hundred miles long and eighty miles wide—was pushed up at its eastern edge by a series of successive thrusts to a height of perhaps sixteen thousand feet above the sea level. The western slope of the Sierra Nevada is the top of this block and, strangely enough, the average slope from the San Joaquin Valley at the west to the main crest at the east is only two degrees. The tipping up of this block resulted in the deflection of the drainage westward, down the sloping block. A two degree slope is not steep, but it is sufficient to

ROYAL ARCHES



UNDER INFLUENCE OF HEAT, GRANITE WEATHERS IN CONCENTRIC CIRCLES



WESTERN YELLOW PINE



## YOSEMITE VALLEY

greatly accelerate the flow of water, and this caused quick erosion, so that soon (geologically speaking) a series of west-erly-trending canyons was formed, their "V-shaped" profiles ever deepening into the massive granite.

Yosemite Canyon, the forerunner of Yosemite Valley, lay about half way between the crest of the Sierra to the east and the planes of the Great Valley to the west. We know that even before man had appeared on the face of the earth it had been carved to a depth of about two thousand feet by the grinding of the abrasives carried in the rushing stream that plunged through it. Waterfalls and cascades poured over the steep walls of this beautiful mountain gorge even at that early period.

Then came the glacial ages; snow, accumulating in the high mountains, compacted into ice and sent forth sluggish, but powerful, tentacles ever pushing toward lower levels.

YOSEMITE VALLEY  
FROM  
UNION POINT



SHOWING  
THE TYPICAL "U" PROFILE  
OF A GLACIAL VALLEY

A low gap at the north permitted the Tuolumne Glacier to push an ice stream up over a low divide and add it, through Tenaya Canyon, to the main glacier of the Merced. Plucking at its sides to make vertical walls and grinding to broaden its bottom, the combined glacier scoured and deepened Yosemite about fifteen hundred feet! As it melted away, some twenty thousand years ago, a terminal moraine of rock debris piled up at the end of the receding ice near the base of El Capitan. (You may see the top of this moraine today looking much like a railroad embankment paralleling the road which crosses El Capitan Bridge.) This dam impounded a lake which must have looked much like the man-created lake in Hetch Hetchy Valley only a few miles to the north. Sand and gravel, much of it glacier-ground



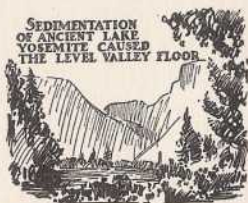
LODGEPOLE PINE OR TAMARACK.

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quickly filled the ancient Lake Yosemite and gave us the level floor of Yosemite Valley at approximately the old water level.

The intimate details of the creation of Yosemite's waterfalls, the sculpture of her walls, the origin of her granites, these and many of the other episodes of her fascinating geological story, are told several times daily at the Yosemite Museum by a government Ranger Naturalist. There you will see several large-scale models showing exactly how the Valley looked at each stage of its development. If you are interested in still more ancient geological history, the Park Naturalist can even tell you about the ancient mountain ranges that once occupied this territory and were washed away atom by atom, almost to sea-level, before the Sierra Nevada reared its lofty roof and claimed the highest peak in the United States. Be sure to visit the Yosemite Museum at your earliest opportunity; fifteen minutes there may change the whole aspect of your trip and point out undreamed-of opportunities for enjoyment.



## YOSEMITE VALLEY

# YOSEMITE'S FIRST INHABITANTS

LESS than a century ago Yosemite Valley, then unknown to the Spanish Dons of Alta California, was peopled by more than forty villages of one of the most interesting Indian tribes of the far West. The Miwok; and all other California natives, for that matter; were a peace-loving people who in many ways lived very primitive lives, but who developed certain arts, such as the making of baskets, to a degree seldom or never surpassed. Their legends and mythology were interesting and inventive attempts to explain all the natural and "supernatural" phases of Nature and the relation of the Indian to his environment. Unfortunately,



A YOSEMITE SQUAW

the zealous and not too exact white man has "adapted" these legends and myths to his own romantic ideas and has from year to year added to them, until now it must be admitted that many of the so-called Yosemite legends would not be recognizable to the original dwellers of the Valley of Awahnee.

Authentic records would seem to indicate that the Miwok was not a warlike tribe, as has occasionally been claimed, although without doubt the Yosemite, in fancied security in their mountain stronghold, might naturally have been somewhat more pugnacious than their less well protected neighbors.

The origin of the name Yosemite interests everyone who visits the Park. Awahnee, the original Indian name, probably

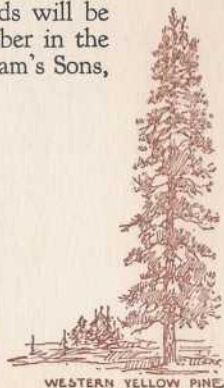


LOGSPOLE PINE OR TAMARACK.

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meant "deep grassy valley" and the inhabitants called themselves the Awahneechi. Yosemite, or, more correctly, *Uziumati* means "Grizzly Bear" in the Miwok language. A number of romantic "legends," such as that which tells of how a brave but weaponless young warrior vanquished a huge grizzly in single-handed combat, have grown up since the day that the name was first applied by the discovery party—March 25, 1851. In all probability the true explanation of how the name came to the ears of the white man is that the grizzly bear was the totem of all the inhabitants who dwelt north of the Merced River, just as the coyote, or Ahalee, represented those who lived on the south side of the valley. The entire tribe, and every object in their universe, was divided between the "land-side" or "upper-side" and the "water-side" or "lower-side," and the two divisions were often referred to by the names of their two most prominent animals, grizzly bear and coyote.

The interesting story of the Yosemite Indian's daily life, as told by examples of his baskets, his weapons, and his other possessions, is to be found in the Yosemite Museum, and additional authentic details of his life and legends will be found in *Indians of Yosemite* by Dr. A. L. Kroeber in the *Handbook of Yosemite National Park* (G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1921).





# YOSEMITE VALLEY THE WHITE MAN IN YOSEMITE

**D**URING California's golden days of '49 hundreds of miners were working within twenty miles of Yosemite Valley without even dreaming of its existence. Their interest ceased where

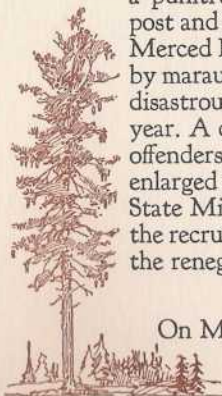
the gold-bearing rocks of the Mother Lode gave place to barren granites, and never did they attempt to explore farther eastward than the region now known as El Portal where today we can see the twisted and contorted rocks which indicated to them the "line of contact" with unproductive rocks of higher altitudes. Scenery failed to tempt them away, but when the vindictive sport of an Indian hunt gave an excuse there was no lack of volunteers to accompany

a punitive expedition into the high mountains. A trading post and mining camp maintained by James D. Savage on the Merced River a few miles below Yosemite had been attacked by marauders in the spring of 1850. There had followed more disastrous raids on other posts in December of the same year. A company of volunteers was organized to punish the offenders and, by authorization of the governor, this was soon enlarged and called the Mariposa Battalion of the California State Militia. Under the leadership of J. D. Savage as major, the recruits immediately set out into the mountains to punish the renegades.

LAFAYETTE HOUGHTON  
BUNNELL

## DISCOVERY OF YOSEMITE VALLEY

On March 19, 1851, most surrounding tribes surrendered



SUGAR PINE



## AN INTIMATE GUIDE

peacefully and were confined to a reservation in the San Joaquin Valley, but the worst offenders were still in hiding in the mountains. As the Mariposa Battalion approached what is now Wawona, Chief Tenaya of the Awanichi appeared with the women and children and older men of his tribe and surrendered to the whites. The younger braves, however, had to be tracked to their stronghold and it was thus that, on March 25, 1851, Major Savage and his men suddenly came out of the forest at Inspiration Point and to their astonishment saw lying before them an unknown gorge with waterfalls plunging over its precipitous walls. As the group camped within the valley that night they decided to name it Yosemite which was thought to be the name of the tribe that dwelt there. The story of this first adventurous exploration, of the escape of the captives, and of a second expedition some two months later is told in *The Discovery of Yosemite* by L. H. Bunnell and also as an important episode in the general history of the Valley in *The History of the Yosemite Region* by Ralph S. Kuykendall in the *Handbook of Yosemite National Park*.

In May, 1852, a party of prospectors from Coarse Gold Gulch were ambushed in Yosemite Valley and two of their number killed. Immediately a detachment of U. S. Cavalry under Lt. Moore was dispatched to punish the offenders. Five Yosemite Indians were captured and killed and the remainder of the tribe were pursued across the Sierra Nevada, where they took refuge with their friends, the Monos.

### THE DEATH OF CHIEF TENAYA

In the summer of the next year, 1853, the tribe again ventured into Yosemite, repaying the hospitality of their hosts by stealing a number of their horses. The Monos descended upon them in vengeance and all but exterminated



MOUNTAIN HEMLOCK

## YOSEMITE VALLEY

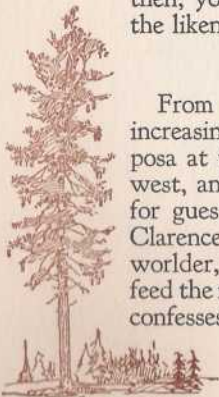


the Yosemite Tribe. Chief Tenaya is said to have had his skull crushed by a rock hurled from the hands of a Mono warrior.

Californians of that day were thinking of gold rather than scenery, and so the Valley was not again visited until 1855 when one of the few meagre descriptions that had found their way into print came to the notice of J. M. Hutchings who was planning a new publication, the *California Magazine*. Hutchings organized a party of four, visited the Valley, and brought to the outside world an abundance of descriptive material as well as a number of excellent drawings by the well known artist Thomas Ayres who accompanied him. Lithographs copied from these drawings appeared in the early books of Hutchings and others. The original drawings, however, were supposed to have been lost or destroyed nearly three-quarters of a century ago until, suddenly, in 1926, a visitor to the Yosemite Museum announced that she had these priceless pictures in her possession and would place them in the Valley permanently where they could be seen by all visitors. In the History Room of the Yosemite Museum, then, you may see these very drawings which first carried the likeness of Yosemite to the world.

### YOSEMITE PIONEERS

From that time forth the Valley was visited by ever increasing numbers. Trails were soon completed from Mariposa at the southwest and from Coulterville at the northwest, and enterprising innkeepers began to make provision for guests. One of these hosts was the Longhurst whom Clarence King describes as "a weather-beaten round-the-worlder, whose function ... was to tell yarns, sing songs, and feed the inner man." In describing Longhurst's flapjacks, King confesses that he was considerably troubled while eating them,



SUGAR PINE.

## AN INTIMATE GUIDE

as it seemed "like breakfasting in sacrilege upon works of art."

Leidig's, or the old Lower Hotel, stood at the foot of Sentinel Rock, while a quarter mile above was Black's. Still farther up the canyon was the building which later became famous as the Hutchings House. The central part of this building (now called Cedar Cottage) was completed in 1859.

James C. Lamon was the first pioneer to make his permanent home in Yosemite Valley; he came in 1859 and was followed in 1864 by J. M. Hutchings who figured so prominently during the next few decades as host, author and publisher, and sometimes official Guardian of the Yosemite State Park.

The Yosemite of these early days is thrillingly described by Clarence King in his "Mountaineering in the Sierra Nevada," a book which is most highly commended to those who would go adventuring in fancy with the members of the California geological Survey who explored and mapped this region between 1863 and 1867.

John Muir came to the California mountains in 1868 and spent many years in Yosemite and its adjacent High Sierra craggs, producing from his little cabin near the foot of Yosemite Falls some of the finest masterpieces of mountain literature ever written. It is here that, while working in Hutchings' sawmill, Muir met Joseph LeConte and formed the deep friendship that was broken only by the death of "Professor Joe" in his beloved Valley in 1901.

### YOSEMITE STATE PARK

In the decade following the discovery of Yosemite it became apparent that the entire valley would soon fall entirely into private hands. The National Park idea had not yet developed.



WESTERN YELLOW PINE

# YOSEMITE VALLEY



there were, however, many public-spirited citizens who realized the value of setting aside this marvellous area for the use of all the people as a public playground. Senator Conness therefore introduced a bill in Congress in 1864 which granted to the State of California as a park the Cleft, or Gorge



GALEN CLARK

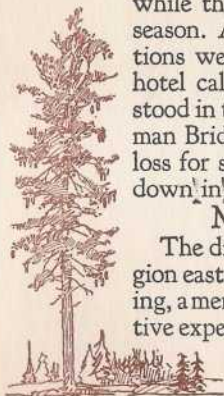
. . . known as the Yosemite Valley as well as a tract of four square miles containing the Mariposa Grove of Big Trees. The administrative difficulties of the first park Commissioners and of Galen Clark, the first Guardian, may well be imagined when we realize that theirs was the problem of dispossessing Hutchings, Lamon, Black, Leidig, and others of their preemption claims. A State grant in 1874, however, compensated these settlers for their loss, and legal decisions established the right of the Commonwealth to the land.

Stage roads now began to replace the trails into Yosemite. The year 1874 saw the completion of the Coulterville Road from the north and the Mariposa Road from the south, while the Big Oak Flat route opened during the following season. As more visitors came more extensive accommodations were needed, and so, in 1885, the State built a large hotel called the Stoneman House after the governor. This stood in the meadow near the south end of the present Stoneman Bridge; it was operated at a loss for several years and burned down in 1896.

## MINING BOOMS

The discovery of gold in the region east of the Sierra by Lee Vining, a member of Lt. Moore's punitive expedition of 1852, led to the

MARIPOSA GROVE - THE CABIN BUILT 50 YEARS AGO STANDS ON THE SITE OF GALEN CLARK'S MOUNTAIN HOME.



SUGAR PINE.

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blazing of a pioneer trail across what is now the Park to the "Mono Diggings" where there was much activity during 1857 and the few years that followed. Then the placer mines were worked out and abandoned.

Again, in 1878, gold and silver ores were discovered in the summit ridge near the present eastern boundary of the Park, and soon hundreds of claims were staked out and many new towns grew up. This romantic period of Yosemite history is vividly described by Carl P. Russell in *Mining Excitements East of the Yosemite*, a pamphlet which can be obtained at the Yosemite Museum. In 1881 the Great Sierra Consolidated Silver Mining Company was incorporated to exploit a number of claims in the Tioga District. This company built the Tioga Road across the Sierra Nevada so that ore might be shipped out to the western diggings. The venture proved to be a losing one, however, and the road was unused from 1884 until 1915, when it was purchased personally by Director Stephen T. Mather of the National Park Service and presented to the Government.

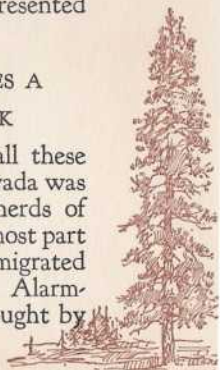


STEPHEN  
T. MATHER  
DIRECTOR OF THE  
NATIONAL PARK SER-  
VICE FROM 1916 TO 1929.



### YOSEMITE BECOMES A NATIONAL PARK

Meanwhile, thruout all these early days, the Sierra Nevada was being overrun by vast herds of sheep, belonging for the most part to Basques who had emigrated here from the Pyrenees. Alarming devastation was wrought by



## YOSEMITE VALLEY



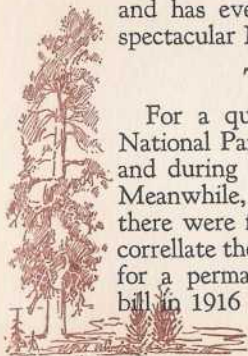
these "hoofed locusts" which consumed every thing green and ground the very soil to dust, and whose "trail to the plain was marked by the smoke of the burning forest."

John Muir had taken the lead in condemning this despoiling of the beautiful high mountain meadows and forests. When Robert Underwood Johnson, then one of the editors of the *Century Magazine*, visited Yosemite in 1889, Muir took him into the high mountains to see for himself what was happening. The result was that these two men agreed to work for the establishment of a national park, Muir to write a series of articles for the *Century* designed to arouse public sentiment and Johnson to secure for the movement as much support as possible from influential men in the East. So effective was their work that on October 1, 1890 a Congressional law was approved establishing Yosemite National Park.

For the following sixteen years there was a strange dual park administration, an odd situation of a State Park governed by Commissioners surrounded by a National Park administered by the Department of the Interior with a personnel of troops borrowed from the U. S. Army. In 1906, however, the Yosemite State Park was returned to Federal jurisdiction and has ever since been the heart of this beautiful and spectacular National Park.

### THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

For a quarter of a century following 1890 Yosemite National Park was guarded each summer by federal troops and during the remainder of the year by civilian rangers. Meanwhile, other national parks were being set aside until there were finally eleven of major importance. In order to correlate the administration of all these areas and to provide for a permanent all-year organization, Congress passed a bill in 1916 creating the National Park Service as a bureau

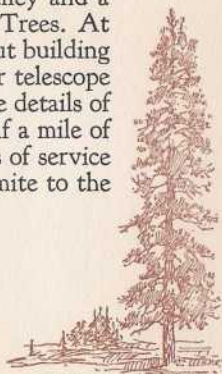


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of the U. S. Department of the Interior. Under the efficient administration of the park superintendents and their well trained force of rangers and other technical men, the parks have successfully passed through a period of extreme activity in the building of roads, trails, camps, hotels, and other physical improvements necessary to adequately and comfortably house the millions of visitors—visitors in numbers undreamed of before the advent of the automobile.

It is the aim of the National Park Service to make provision for far more than the physical comfort of the visitor. Realizing that each individual's enjoyment of the Park is based, to a large extent, upon understanding what he sees, the Government has made it possible for each visitor to go afield with well-trained nature guides who can explain the details of how the Valley was formed and can identify the birds, trees, flowers, and other living things along the trailside. Interesting popular lectures are given by these Ranger Naturalists at all of the larger hotels and camps. Then there are guided hiking trips to points on the rim as well as other longer trips into the High Sierra. Also the Service maintains a small, but exceedingly interesting, museum in Yosemite Valley and a branch museum at the Mariposa Grove of Big Trees. At Glacier Point there has been erected a stone lookout building which is equipped with a high-powered binocular telescope that enables the nature guide on duty to bring the details of Mount Lyell, twenty miles distant, to within half a mile of the observer. These and many other similar forms of service are furnished free that everyone may enjoy Yosemite to the utmost.



WESTERN YELLOW PINE



## YOSEMITE VALLEY

# WILDERNESS COMMUNITIES

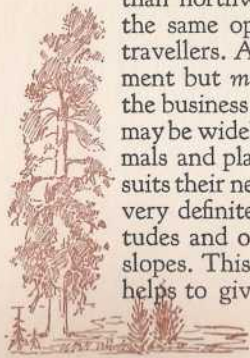


*Yellow-eared Porcupine*

Did you notice as you approached Yosemite that you seemed occasionally to pass suddenly from one environment to another as your car brought you swiftly up into the mountains?

Climbing from the foothills to the summits of the Sierra is like making a journey from Mexico to the Arctic Circle. It is said that each thousand feet that you climb is roughly the equivalent of travelling four hundred miles northward.

Dwellers in the hot California valleys are blessed with the opportunity of selecting any climate they wish, and of reaching it within a few hours by moving upward rather than northward. Nature's other citizens take advantage of the same opportunity, but most of them are not as good travellers. A few of them, like man, prefer a certain environment but may occupy another less comfortable niche when the business of food-getting demands it. These few may be widely spread, but the vast majority of animals and plants live in the environment which best suits their needs for a happy life. And so one finds very definite natural communities at different altitudes and on different warm and cold slopes. This is one of the facts which helps to give unending variety to the



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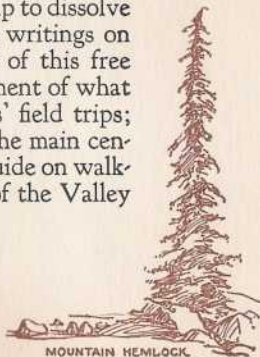
*California Nutmeg*



## AN INTIMATE GUIDE

marvellously attractive vacation-land of the Sierra. So definite are the likes and dislikes of plants and animals, each for their favorite environment, that one soon grows to learn to recognize those which live together, and to estimate quite accurately the altitude at which he finds himself. Even the newcomer will know in which of the five life zone she stands if he but take the trouble to become acquainted with a few of the typical inhabitants of each.

Here, again, it is impossible in this small volume to give all the intimate details for identification. If you are interested, however, in the trees, flowers, birds, and mammals which you see about you and in the way that they live together in natural communities, all of this information is available to you for the asking. In the Yosemite Museum you will find five large life zone groups which are a key to what you can observe for yourself out-of-doors. Stepping into a natural community, however, may be as confusing as stepping into an unknown city for the first time, and so your government provides nature guides who will help you to become acquainted with the many interesting dwellers in forest and meadow and will help to dissolve the mist of uncertainty which veils the legible writings on these mighty cliffs. Be sure to take advantage of this free service which will add so greatly to your enjoyment of what you see. Enquire about the Ranger Naturalists' field trips; short trips are conducted twice daily from all the main centers and you can go with a government nature guide on walking trips of from one to eight days to the Rim of the Valley and through the High Sierra.



# YOSEMITE VALLEY

## EXPLORING   ≡   ≡ YOSEMITE VALLEY

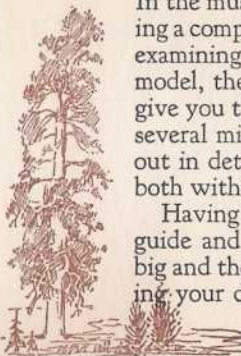


START your exploration

of Yosemite from the Museum. A few minutes spent there by way of introduction will give you an interesting outline of how the Valley was formed, of its birds, mammals, trees, and flowers, of its Indians, and of its richly historical past.

As you walk or ride about the Valley it is at first hard to realize the vastness of the symmetrical natural architecture which surrounds you. Cliffs tower as high above you as the total vertical distance that you have ascended from sea-level. It is not surprising, then, that one's first impressions from the bottom of this great trough should be somewhat distorted. In the museum, however, you have the opportunity of forming a comprehensive mental picture of Yosemite as a whole by examining a large and exceedingly accurate topographic relief model, the individual features of which are large enough to give you the actual views you would obtain from an airplane several miles above the earth. On this model you may trace out in detail the trails and roads which you plan to follow both within the Valley and to its surrounding summits.

Having been thus introduced to Yosemite, take this little guide and find for yourself what interests you most—the big and the spectacular or the intimate and lovable are awaiting your discovery.



LOGS POLE PINE OR TAMARACK.



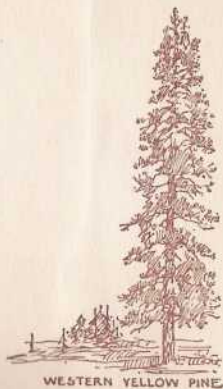
## AN INTIMATE GUIDE

For convenience, the tour of the Valley has been divided into two sections, the first, or Mirror Lake Trip, covering the upper or east end of the canyon and the second, or Gates of the Valley Tour, taking one to all points of interest west of Yosemite Village. All roads are paralleled by shady paths, the charm of which is known only to those who go afoot or ride horseback. Park your machine and walk if you possibly can; but if you must ride, remember that most of Yosemite's three-dimensional scenery lies above you; fortunate indeed the individual whose car has a removable top.



All mileages are given from the Museum. If you ride, set the "trip" dial on your speedometer at 0.00 and you can automatically locate points of interest as you go.

More complete data on the trail trips to the Rim and through to Yosemite's High Sierra as well as information relative to automobile trips to points outside the Valley will be found in *The Trail Guide to Yosemite National Park* (now in course of preparation.)



WESTERN YELLOW PINE

# YOSEMITE VALLEY



## PERSPECTIVE MAP OF THE UPPER END OF YOSEMITE VALLEY

LEGEND  
 Roads  
 Trails



SUGAR PINE

# AN INTIMATE GUIDE THE MIRROR LAKE TRIP



## The Upper End of the Valley

YOSEMITE VILLAGE (0.0) occupies a site which was the center of human activities in the Valley long before the coming of the white man. It can scarcely be a coincidence that government landscape engineers, after years of investigation of all desirable locations for a permanent village, finally decided upon a sandy open area where once stood Ah-wah-nee, the largest primitive settlement in the Valley. One of the few remaining evidences of the earlier occupation is a primitive grist mill; mortar holes in the solid granite; which may be seen but a few feet from the rear entrance of the Museum.

In the present Village are the Post Office, Park Service Administration Building, several photographic studios, and an art studio; a general store, bakery, and coffee shop are being planned as this volume goes to press.

The YOSEMITE MUSEUM has already been mentioned on account of its interesting exhibits which, in a few short minutes, give the visitor a comprehensive outline of the complete story of Yosemite. In this building are also the headquarters of the Yosemite Educational Staff and a scientific information bureau where one may inquire about the natural



MOUNTAIN HEMLOCK

# YOSEMITE VALLEY

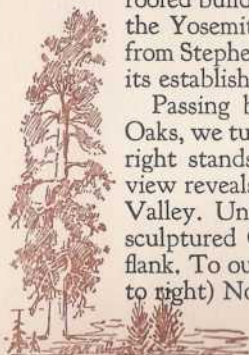
history or other features of the Park, or about the field trips and lectures which are offered free at many points daily by government Ranger Naturalists. A short popular lecture on the origin of Yosemite Valley is offered in the Geological Room several times each day and will be repeated to parties of twenty or more by request. A library in the same building offers the visitor an opportunity for further study of any Park subject in which he is most interested. The Park publication



Yosemite Nature Notes and also bulletins, maps, and other popular publications may be obtained here free or at cost.

Starting our trip from the Museum, we turn right at the Government Administration Building. The rustic steep-roofed building to the left is the Rangers' Club, presented to the Yosemite rangers on Christmas 1919 as a personal gift from Stephen T. Mather, Director of the National Park from its establishment in 1916 to January 1929.

Passing beneath some particularly fine California Black Oaks, we turn left (0.2) across a meadow. Rising ahead to the right stands Sentinel Rock, while a more distant western view reveals the Cathedral Rocks guarding the Gates of the Valley. Under proper lighting conditions, the beautifully sculptured Cathedral Spires stand out sharply at their left flank. To our left is a splendid panorama (see cut) with (left to right) North Dome, Royal Arches, Washington Column,



LOGPOLE PINE OR TAMARACK.

## AN INTIMATE GUIDE

Awiah Point, Half Dome, Zanita Point, Grizzly Peak, Mount Starr King, and Glacier Point. Closer is the Elk Corral where a herd of the almost extinct California Valley Elk is kept.

To the left near the banks of the Merced River (0.3) are a log cabin and studio built by Chris Jorgensen, famous Yosemite artist of the past four decades; visitors to the Valley during the years from 1920 to 1925 will remember the larger building as the first home of the Yosemite Museum.


Crossing Sentinel Bridge (0.3) we enter Old Yosemite Village. The large building to the right of the road at the river bank is the famous old SENTINEL HOTEL. Started by the pioneers, Coulter and Murphy in 1876, it was finished by Barnard in 1877; and operated by him until 1895. It was Yosemite's chief hotel until the opening of the Ahwahnee in 1927.

On the opposite side of the street is CEDAR COTTAGE, the oldest building in the Valley. The structure was started in 1857 and finished in 1859, all the timbers, lumber and shakes being hewn, sawed, and riven by hand from locally cut pine trees. The building was famous in the early days as the Hutchings House; it takes its present name from the fact that it was built around a huge living Cedar, the base of which may be seen in the "Big Tree Room." It is interesting to note that Cedar Cottage was the subject of the first photograph ever taken in Yosemite. Other interesting historical buildings of the Old Village will be visited during our later tour.

Near Cedar Cottage (0.3) we turn to the left. The large



## YOSEMITE VALLEY

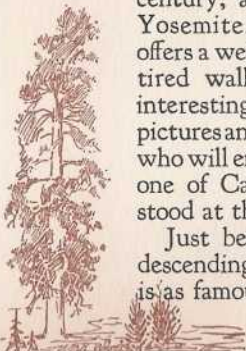


trees with the "alligator-skin bark" are Western Yellow Pine, the dominant species in Yosemite Valley. If you will pick up some of their long needles you will find them fastened together at their bases in bundles of three, a character which will enable you to distinguish this tree when you see it. The other large tree with the fibrous brownish-red bark and feathery foliage is the Incense Cedar, so named from the pungent fragrance of the leaves and wood.

ROE ISLAND (0.4) is passed at the left, and just beyond, at the right, the government employees' camp occupies a site where stood Yosemite's first schoolhouse half a century ago.

Straight ahead are characteristic views of Half Dome. We now discern the picturesque stone LECONTE MEMORIAL Lodge at the right (1.0) which was built and is maintained by the Sierra Club in memory of Joseph LeConte, beloved Professor of Geology at the University of California during the latter half of the past century, and ardent lover of Yosemite. The cool interior offers a welcome rendezvous to tired walkers who will find interesting mountain books and pictures and flowers within and who will enjoy the delightful hospitality of Mr. F. C. Holman, one of California's best-known mountaineers. There once stood at this spot an Indian village named *Ho-low*.

Just beyond LeConte Lodge (1.1) two toboggan slides descending from the right remind one that Yosemite Valley is as famous for its winter sports as for its summer beauty.



LOGEPOLE PINE OR TAMARACK.



## AN INTIMATE GUIDE

Here the Ledge Trail to Glacier Point begins at the right of the road and passes above Camp Curry from which it can be reached by a branch trail.

Our road now bears to the left and is soon bisected (1.4) by a cross-road. To the left, about one hundred feet away is STONEMAN BRIDGE; the road crossing it leads to the Ahwahnee Hotel, about half mile distant across the Valley. The Indian village of *Too-yu-yu-yu* once stood on the banks of the river near this crossing.

The road to the right leads to CAMP CURRY, famous for its democratic hospitality and, until recent years, for the Stentorian voice and genial personal welcome of its founder, David A. Curry. The informal nightly campfires inaugurated by him still continue to be one of the unique features of the camp. Directly overhead rises the vertical cliff of Glacier Point, and careful searching with a pair of field glasses, or even the unaided eye, will reveal the two overhanging rocks at its rim. The Firefall, an ethereally beautiful spectacle, duplicated nowhere else in the whole world, may be seen here nightly at about 9 P.M., when the coals of a huge bonfire are pushed over the edge of the cliff to descend into space in a grateful, glowing veil of living sparks.

At Camp Curry will be found a branch post office, swimming pool, laundry, baths, barber shop, general store, soft drink fountain, cafeteria, repair garage, service station, and other "adjuncts of civilization."

One spot in Camp particularly deserves to be mentioned with reverence. Near the southeast corner of the dining room is a pile of faceted granite boulders which were carried down by glaciers from different parts of the High Sierra and deposited in Yosemite Valley. These interesting specimens were gathered personally by David A. Curry and



WESTERN YELLOW PINE

## YOSEMITE VALLEY



Francois E. Matthes, the geologist who solved the problem of the origin of Yosemite Valley. In the center of the pile may be seen a stump, all that remains of the oak tree beneath which beloved "Professor Jo e" LeConte passed away on July 6, 1901.

Those who are walking may follow the beautiful HAPPY ISLES TRAIL eastward instead of returning to the main road, resuming the route of the main tour at the Stase Fish Hatchery near Happy Isles.



We now return to the road junction near Stoneman Bridge (1.4) and continue in our original direction across STONEMAN MEADOW where a large hotel, named the Stoneman House after California's governor of that day, was erected by the State in 1885 and operated (unprofitably) until it burned to the ground in 1896.

From the Meadow (1.5) the Overhanging Rock at GLACIER POINT is apparently the highest point on the sky line to the right. The LEDGE TRAIL climbs the steep wooded incline which ascends the face of the cliff as it bears to the right; at the end of this spur it turns abruptly up the steep coule directly towards its objective. Early in the season STAIRCAE FALLS can be seen plunging from ledge to ledge over the face of the cliff.

PAMORAMA CLIFF, along the rim of which runs the Long Trail to Glacier Point, shows above the great gap which now appears to the right; at its left is the slope of GRIZZLY PEAK and at its right the cliffs of Glacier Point rising nearer and higher on the sky line.

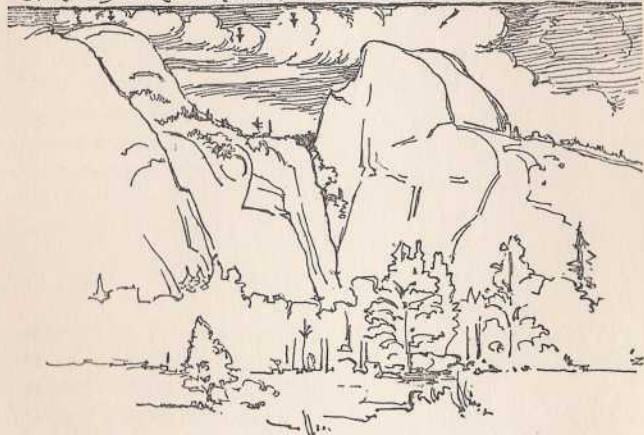
The apple orchard to the right of our road was planted in the early 60's by James C. Lamon, the first permanent resi-



LODGEPOLE PINE OR TAMARACK.

# AN INTIMATE GUIDE

—NORTH DOME · ROYAL ARCH · WASHINGTON COLUMN · HEALEY DOME—

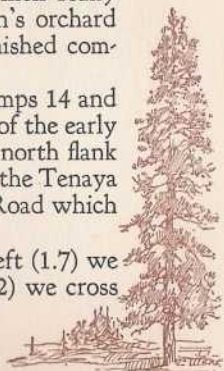


dent of Yosemite, who established his home here in the autumn of 1859 and lived in the Valley until his death in 1876. One of his log storage cabins may still be seen nearby and is often mistaken for the "lost cabin" of John Muir which really stood near the banks of Yosemite Creek. Lamon's orchard occupies the site of *Too-lah-kah-ma*, another vanished community of the Yosemite Tribe.

A road branching to the left (1.7) leads to Camps 14 and 11 and passes the site of the Lick House, another of the early inns. It then crosses Clark's Bridge, parallels the north flank of a large medial moraine deposited at the union of the Tenaya and Merced glaciers, and joins the Mirror Lake Road which we will soon traverse on our more scenic route.

At the junction where the above road turns left (1.7) we bear to the right through the forest until (at 2.2) we cross

[ 35 ]



WESTERN YELLOW PINE



## YOSEMITE VALLEY

a small stream which once supplied the water for the large Indian village of *Um-ma-taw*.

Rounding the ice-polished buttress of Glacier Point we turn to the right and stop for a moment at HAPPY ISLES. If you are driving, leave your car at the parking area and take advantage of the opportunity of visiting one of the most charming spots in the Yosemite. First, however, see the nearby STATE FISH HATCHERY and aquarium. Visitors are conducted through the establishment by a government Ranger Naturalist who points out and explains all stages in the raising of trout for Yosemite's well-stocked fishing streams and lakes.

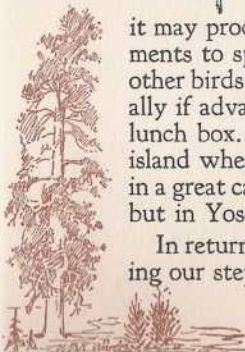
1 A footpath leads from the Hatchery across a small bridge spanning one branch of the Merced to the nearest of the



Happy Isles where one may wander beneath Douglas Firs, White-flowering Dogwood Trees, Broadleaf Maples, and Alders. In early spring the air is fragrant with the perfume of the Azalea which occurs here in abundance. Like all other Yosemite flowers, it is rigidly protected by park regulations so that all may enjoy it and so that

it may produce seed for future years. If you have a few moments to spare you will find that chipmunks, bluejays, and other birds and mammals are quite friendly to visitors, especially if advances are made with tempting morsels from one's lunch box. Be sure to walk to the upper end of the second island where the Merced descends with spectacular power in a great cascade which would in itself be famous, anywhere but in Yosemite.

In returning to the main road we have the choice of retracing our steps or of crossing another small foot-bridge to the



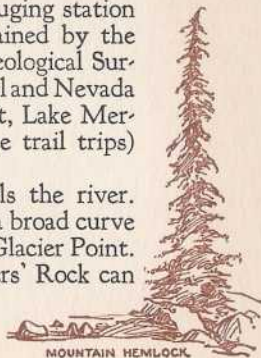
LODGEPOLE PINE OR TAMARACK.

## AN INTIMATE GUIDE

east bank of the river whence a short climb takes us to the main trail which (to the right) leads to Vernal Falls (first view  $\frac{3}{4}$  mi.) and Nevada Falls. To return to the road we turn left, and soon come to a spring and log watering trough (good drinking water). About fifty feet farther the SIERRA POINT TRAIL turns right, an interesting half-hour climb leading to a lookout point from which may be seen all of the major waterfalls but Bridalveil.

We now continue down the main trail or return via the Happy Isles footpath to the parking area near the Fish Hatchery. Walkers desiring to return to Camp Curry from the latter point will find a delightful woodland footpath, the Happy Isles Trail, leading westward from this vicinity. Again resuming our tour, we follow the road across HAPPY ISLES BRIDGE from which is a splendid view of North Dome and Washington Column down the river. Close by, at the north bank, is a water gauging station containing recording instruments; it is maintained by the National Park Service cooperating with the Geological Survey. Near this point the main horse trail to Vernal and Nevada Falls. Little Yosemite, Half Dome, Clouds Rest, Lake Merced, Illilouette Canyon, and Glacier Point (see trail trips) begins at the right of the road.

Turning northward, our road now parallels the river. Stop at the open space where it swings around a broad curve (rapids to the left) and look up at the profile of Glacier Point. Overhanging Rock and the larger Photographers' Rock can



## YOSEMITE VALLEY



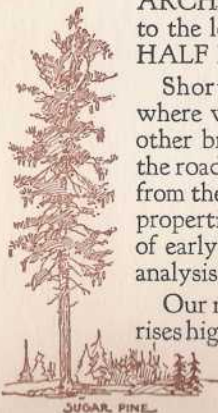
be clearly seen, and some distance to their left are the Glacier Point Hotel and the Mountain House.

Our road now rises slightly (2.9) climbing over the top of a long *medial moraine*. A glacier carries rock debris chiefly at its edges where boulders fall upon it from adjacent cliffs; where two glaciers join, as at this place did the Tenaya and Merced glaciers, a medial moraine is deposited parallel to the canyon at their junction. What we see today is merely the top of the moraine, while the base, laid down beneath the waters of ancient Lake Yosemite, probably lies several hundred feet under the sand and gravel of the level Valley floor. Near this point was *Hoo-ke-hahtch-ke*, an Indian village inhabited until 1897.

Descending a few feet, we soon find a road branching to the left (3.1) which parallels the moraine, crosses Clarke's Bridge, and intersects our former route not far from Camp Curry. We swing to the right, noting at our left Public Camp 13 and a second orchard planted by the pioneer James C. Lamon. Presently we cross **TENAYABRIDGE**. The **ROYAL ARCHES** and **WASHINGTON COLUMN** rise above and to the left, while at the right is the majestic smooth face of **HALF DOME**.

Shortly beyond Tenaya Bridge is a road junction (3.4) where we turn to the right on the Mirror Lake Road. The other branch will be followed on our return trip. Close to the road and just to the right may be seen the yellow deposits from the mineral waters of **IRON SPRING** (3.6). Medicinal properties have been claimed for these waters since the days of early tourist travel, but so far as is known no chemical analysis has been made.

Our road now parallels **TENAYA CREEK**. North Dome rises high overhead and slightly to the left (3.8), while straight



## AN INTIMATE GUIDE

ahead may be seen the unsymmetrical summit of BASKET DOME. Quite often careful observers may see near the river banks the interesting little gray Water Ouzel, a remarkable land songster which has learned to perform the most remarkable feats while foraging for his food, often plunging beneath the foam and spray of waterfalls and rapids in search of water insects.



At the end of the road (3.9) is a parking space from which one must walk a

short distance to see MIRROR LAKE. Practically all of the 429 lakes of Yosemite National Park owe their origin to glaciers. Here, however, is one which geologists tell us was formed rather recently by a rock slide from the side of Basket Dome which dammed Tenaya Canyon. The relative darkness of the deep canyon and the usual absence of wind during the early hours of the day insure a perfect reflection for almost every morning of the vacation season. Unfortunately the delta of Tenaya Creek has greatly encroached upon the mirror and has reduced it to but a remnant of the beautiful lake which the Indians called *Ah-wei-yo*, or "quiet water." Most visitors will already have seen in pictures the beautiful panorama which surrounds them. Directly across the water is the

hugerounded summit of MOUNT WATKINS guarding the entrance to the forbidding gorge of Tenaya. The Yosemite name for this huge rock buttress, which rises from its base higher than does El Capitan, was *Wei-yow* or "Juniper Mountain;" the present substitute was adopted to honor Carleton E. Watkins whose photo-



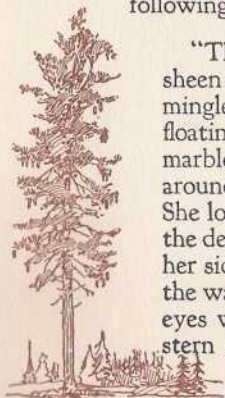
## YOSEMITE VALLEY



graphs of the valley made only a few years after its discovery, attracted wide attention.

At the right of the canyon are the steep, smooth slopes of CLOUDS REST, the summit of which cannot be seen from this point. Farther to our right, the vertical face of HALF DOME rises almost a sheer mile above us; AW-AI-AH POINT is the shoulder at its left and ZANITA POINT is the prominence at its right. The latter name comes from an interesting romance written in 1870 by Therese Yelverton, Viscountess Avonmore. In her hero, Kenmuir, we recognize John Muir, and practically all of the other characters represent early settlers who were living in the Valley at that time. The heroine, Zanita, was really the daughter of J. M. Hutchings. It must be confessed that this Victorian romance adds somewhat to actual facts and, indeed, occasionally soars into the realms of active imagination. In one of the last chapters, the heroine quarrels with her lover at Glacier Point, runs thence across some ten miles of rugged mountains to the point above us, casts herself from the cliff, and is found the following evening as follows.

“There was scarce a ripple on the lake, the silver sheen of the waning moon played over its surface and mingled with the folds of the white robe which lay floating upon it. The face was like whitest chiseled marble, framed in the dark locks which waved loosely around, and fell in long silky meshes over her bosom. She looked like a lovely picture on a silver disk, set in the depths of some bottomless gulf. Her hands were by her side, and her delicate taper fingers interlaced with the water, as if she were playing with quicksilver. Her eyes were closed, and the penciled eyebrows made a stern line across her Olympian brow. There was an



SUGAR PINE.



## AN INTIMATE GUIDE

expression of firm endurance about the small mouth which had never deigned to complain."



A good trail follows around the west margin of Mirror Lake and offers a beautiful and almost level walk of about one mile up TENAYA CANYON before it turns to the left and starts a long climb up switchbacks to North Dome, Lake Tenaya and Tuolumne Meadows (consult Trail Trips). At a point a short distance above the Lake, a bridle path branches to the right and encircles the Lake and follows the east bank of Tenaya Creek to Tenaya Bridge and thence parallels our former route as far as Happy Isles.

In continuing our tour of the Valley, we retrace our route down Tenaya Canyon from Mirror Lake. As we round a curve to the right (4.1), there is an exceptionally good view of GLACIER POINT straight ahead. Be sure to note the Hotel and Mountain House at the left of the Overhanging Rock.

Our former route now branches to the left (4.4) to Tenaya Bridge, Happy Isles and Camp Curry. We bear to the right and, about 150 feet beyond the second road intersection of the triangle, turn to the right on a short branch road to the




INDIAN CAVE. This will be found immediately under Wash-  
ington Column. The Yosemite named this retreat *Hollow*, but sometimes called it *Lah-koo-hah*, which means "Come out!" It is a low, broad, deep recess under a huge rock and is said to have been occupied as a winter shelter; also when the Yosemite were attacked and almost exterminated by the Mono Lake Piutes. The overhanging rock is black with the smoke of ages, and far back in the cave large quantities of acorn shells have been found; only recently a visitor with a

WHERE THE LAST REMAINS OF THE INDIANS TILED THE MOUNTAIN



WESTERN YELLOW PINE

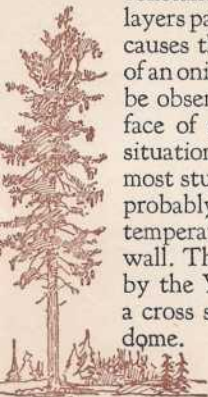
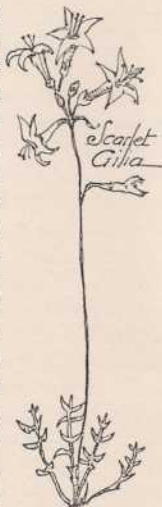
## YOSEMITE VALLEY



liking for exploration penetrated some of the less accessible and securely hidden cavities and found a large storage basket which must have been undisturbed for at least half a century; it may be seen at the Yosemite Museum.

While at this point; listen for a descending chromatic scale; the call of the Canyon Wren who makes his home among the cliffs far overhead.

We now return to the main road (4.6), turning to the right and resuming our tour of exploration. A small meadow now appears at the left and for the next half mile our road is flanked at the right by the overhanging cornices of the colossal ROYAL ARCHES. They must be viewed from afar if we would realize how aptly they were called by the Yosemitees *Scho-ko-ni*, which means "the movable shade to a cradle basket." The geological explanation of their formation is comparatively simple and shows them to be related to the domes so common in Yosemite landscapes. Solid granite, when subjected to constant extremes of heat and cold, cracks in layers parallel to its surface; weathering then causes these shells to peel off like the layers of an onion. This process of "exfoliation" can be observed in the scaling away of the surface of smaller granite boulders in exposed situations. Here, in the Royal Arches, is our most stupendous example, the thicker layers probably being accounted for by the greater temperature changes on this south-facing wall. The lower blocks being plucked away by the Yosemite Glacier gives us, in effect, a cross section of the surface structure of a dome.



SUGAR PINE.

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After passing through Camp 9, our road swings to the left across a bridge (5.3) down stream from which may be seen glimpses of the upper YOSEMITE FALL. A huge Sugar Pine on the near bank is one of the very few individuals of this species which are to be found as low as the floor of the Yosemite Valley. As you climb to higher points, you will often recognize this tree by its reddish scaly bark, by its large pendant cones, and by its needles, which occur five in a bundle (as distinguished from those of the Western Yellow Pine, which are longer and grouped in bundles of three).



We soon again cross the Merced (5.4). During the spring the beautiful but ephemeral ROYAL ARCH FALL descends from the cliffs at the right. Its Indian name *Sho-ko-ya* meant "Basket Fall," referring probably to their name for the Royal Arches. In the precipitous cliff at the left of the Royal Arches was the secret "Indian Escape Trail," regarded by the Yosemitees as their last and safest line of retreat. From the Valley floor at the base of the cliff just west of the Royal Arches, they first climbed a large oak tree and then made their way along narrow ledges toward the northwest. It was at this oak that old Chief Tenaya was captured in 1851 by Lieutenant Chandler and the scout Sandino. The main Indian trail from Yosemite to the High Sierras led from the top of these cliffs to Lake Tenaya and thence to Tuolumne Meadows and Mono Lake.

As we continue along our road, the beautiful new AHWAHNEE HOTEL is now seen through the trees to the right. An intersecting road from the left (5.7) crosses the



WESTERN YELLOW PINE





## YOSEMITE VALLEY

Valley from Camp Curry via Stoneman Bridge, passing Public Camps 7 and 15. Straight ahead the new road follows the old "Sequoia Lane" to the housekeeping camps headquarters and past the elk corral to Sentinel Bridge.

We turn to the right, cross a meadow and at the far end turn again to the right on a quarter-mile side trip to the Ahwahnee Hotel, one of the most unique and beautiful structures to be found in any of the National Parks. Built of native granite to harmonize with the architecture of Yosemite's cliffs, its attractiveness is enhanced by carefully-planned landscaping and by an extensive wild flower



garden where one may spend a pleasant hour identifying the flowers he has seen along the road and trail-side. In the unique interiors of the Ahwahnee and its adjacent cabins, Indian designs furnish the colorful motifs which add a final touch of individuality to each room. The hotel stands upon the site occupied for almost three quarters of a century after the discovery of Yosemite by a small group of buildings locally called Kenneyville. Still further in the past there stood here the native camp of *Wis-ka-h-lah*.

We now return to the main road and follow it westward close to the base of the cliffs and talus slopes. INDIAN CREEK descends from the right down INDIAN CANYON, which to the Yosemite Tribe was *Le-hammo* because of the arrowwood which grew there. Descending through a precipitous coule at its right is the LITTLE WINKLE FALL—a picturesque cascade during the flood period of early spring.

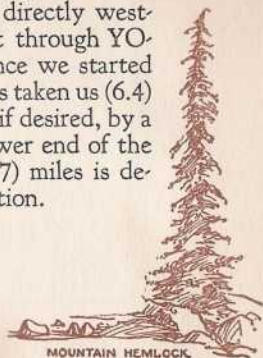


## AN INTIMATE GUIDE

A branch road to the left (6.1) leads to the housekeeping camp headquarters.

Here at the mouth of Indian Canyon is *Yo-watch-kee*, the only Indian village in the Valley which is still occupied. During the July and August celebrations it is picturesquely alive, but at other times the few dirty *o-chums* are almost repulsive. This area on the alluvial fan of Indian Creek is the warmest spot in the Valley, and botanists will here find many plants typical of the lower altitudes. The red bark and the pink wax-like flowers of the manzanita are particularly noticeable, and the Mariposa Lily may often be found. As all the park flowers are rigidly protected they are year by year becoming more abundant, with certain exceptions due to the fact that the numerous park deer have not as yet learned to respect government regulations.

We now have a choice of two roads which parallel each other for the next quarter mile. The one at the left passes directly westward and that at the right through **YO-SEMITE VILLAGE**, whence we started our exploration. Our tour has taken us (6.4) miles and can be continued, if desired, by a similar expedition to the lower end of the Valley. This circuit of (10.7) miles is described in the following section.

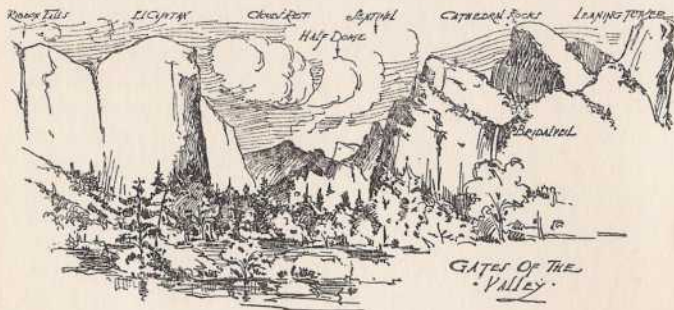




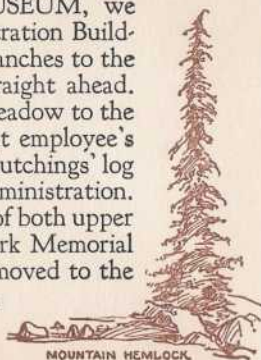
## AN INTIMATE GUIDE

# GATES OF THE VALLEY TOUR

### The Lower End of the Valley



STARTING again from the YOSEMITE MUSEUM, we turn to the right at the Government Administration Building. At the junction, where our former road branches to the left across the meadow (0.2), we continue straight ahead. Deer are frequently seen at the salt log in the meadow to the left. Shortly beyond the junction a government employee's home at the right occupies the site of J. M. Hutchings' log cabin, which was torn down during the army administration. A few feet further westward is a splendid vista of both upper and lower YOSEMITE FALL. The Galen Clark Memorial Bench which originally stood here has been removed to the Lost Arrow Trail closer to the foot of the Fall.



MOUNTAIN HEMLOCK.

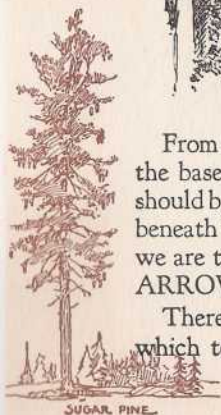
## YOSEMITE VALLEY

We now cross YOSEMITE CREEK (0.4) and, just beyond, turn to the right on the short loop road leading to the foot of the lower Fall. The LOST ARROW TRAIL, a beautiful woodland path, branches to the right about 50 feet from the bridge and follows for about one half mile over the rocky detritus forming the delta of Yosemite Creek. Upon completion of a new bridle path along the foot of the cliff, walkers will find an exceptionally attractive half hour circuit.

As the subsidiary road bears northward between two old California Black Oaks, there is revealed the most widely photographed vista of the entire Yosemite Falls. From this point it is hard to realize that the upper fall plunges into a deep recess fully one third of a mile beyond the lower leap. The slowness with which the water appears to descend, however, gives proof both of its distance and its height. The upper fall drops a sheer 1430 feet, which gives it the world's foremost rank among water falls in any measure approaching its volume.

From the loop at the end of the road, a foot trail leads to the base of the lower fall—a fifteen-minute side trip which should be included in everyone's itinerary. As the path climbs beneath Black Oaks, Golden-Cup Oaks and California Laurel, we are treated to glimpses of the delicate spire of the LOST ARROW near Yosemite Point far overhead.

There are many more or less fanciful versions of a legend which tells how *Ko-su-kah*, a Yosemite brave fell, from the



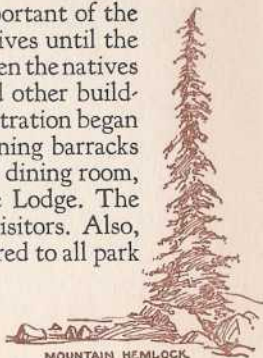


## AN INTIMATE GUIDE

cliff while hunting, and how his beloved *Tee-hee-nay* was lowered from above to recover his body, her spirit joining his as soon as the feat was accomplished—since which time the name *Hum-mo* or “The Lost Arrow” has been applied to this rock.

The legend, as recorded in the Miwok dialect by members of the University of California Department of Anthropology, is much simpler and “more Indian”: During a hunt near the great rock now called Yosemite Point, some deer were driven to the edge of the cliff. One of the hunters overshot his mark and the arrow lodged upright in the cliff below, where it was turned to stone and is still known to the Yosemiteites as *Mu-tckul*.

Returning now to the loop terminus of the Yosemite Falls branch road, we retrace our route a short distance to the main road (0.6). Here we turn to the right, passing the cabins of YOSEMITE LODGE. This large hotel-camp occupies an historical site. The main buildings are situated where there once stood *Koom-ine*, the largest and most important of the old Indian villages. It was inhabited by the natives until the beginning of the army administration in 1906, when the natives were ousted to make room for the barracks and other buildings. When, in 1916, the present civilian administration began under the National Park Service, the old remaining barracks were remodeled and now temporarily house the dining room, offices, studio and other adjuncts of Yosemite Lodge. The swimming pool is widely used by Yosemite visitors. Also, the daily evening entertainment is a feature offered to all park visitors.



## YOSEMITE VALLEY



Walking trips conducted free by government ranger naturalists start from this point several times daily. The schedule of these walks and also evening lectures will be found on a bulletin board in the lobby.

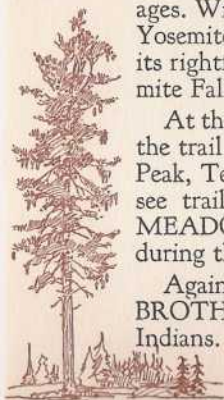
Shortly after passing the Yosemite Lodge Service Station (0.7) we are treated to an impressive view of SENTINEL ROCK to the left across the canyon. Also from this vicinity be sure to note the black or deep purple streaks on the face of the great cliff at the right. This coloration is common on many



Yosemite precipices and is caused by the growth of a primitive form of plant life called lichen in places moistened occasionally by water; tenaciously clinging to life through months of drought and scorching sun, it perennially freshens during the period of melting snow. These particular streaks, however, lead to one of Yosemite's strangest curiosities—an extinct waterfall which once "substituted" for Yosemite Falls during the long glacial ages. With the melting of the ice dam in the upper valley of Yosemite Creek near the Rim, the cascade was recaptured by its rightful owner; else we would now be looking at a Yosemite Falls far different than the one we know.

At the right of the road (0.9) a sign marks the beginning of the trail to the top of Yosemite Falls, Yosemite Point, Eagle Peak, Ten Lakes, Pate Valley, and other points (for details, see trail trips). Continuing westward, we pass LEIDIG MEADOW (1.6), named for a family whose home was here during the pioneer days.

Again bearing westward, we now round the base of THREE BROTHERS, the *Waw-haw-kee* or "falling rocks" of the Indians. At the foot of the great buttress is ROCKY POINT.



SUGAR PINE.

## AN INTIMATE GUIDE

The Yosemite Tribe called the place *We-ack* (the rocks) because, according to their traditions, the huge boulders in the vicinity fell upon their trail. It is among these boulders that three Yosemite warriors, reputed to have been the sons of Chief

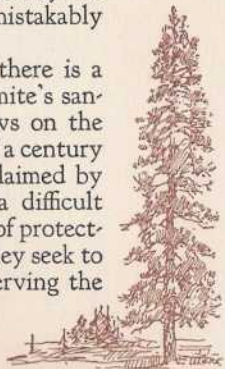


Tenaya, were captured by the Mariposa Battalion in May, 1851; the colossal monument was at that time named for them. (The interesting story of how the Mariposa Indian War led to the discovery of Yosemite Valley is told by Kuykendall in the *Handbook of Yosemite National Park*.)


Above us, the highest summit, **EAGLE PEAK**, rises 3780 feet.

From Rocky Point be sure to note the panorama back up the canyon (Left to Right North Dome, Royal Arches, Washington Column, Half Dome). Note, also, the light-colored trunks of the Black Cottonwoods of which there are some fine specimens near the river bank. In places our road is arched by the branches of the Broadleaf Maples which can be unmistakably identified by the size of the leaves.

Shortly after we cross **EAGLE CREEK** (1.8) there is a large open area at the left which is a part of Yosemite's sanitary system. Formerly there were many meadows on the floor of the Valley, but in the past three-quarters of a century fully four-fifths of these open areas have been reclaimed by young forest. The Park Service therefore faces a difficult administrative problem; shall they apply the policy of protecting Nature without interference by man, or shall they seek to influence natural conditions to the extent of preserving the meadows and the views?

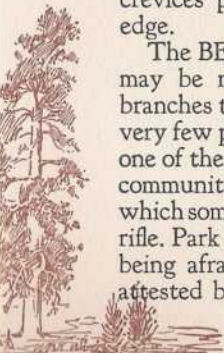



## YOSEMITE VALLEY



During the next quarter mile are several impressive views of the profile of EL CAPITAN rising straight ahead of us a sheer 3,300 feet from its base. Also frequent glimpses of the THREE BROTHERS through the forest to the right give a perspective from which they might well have been called by the Indians "Pom-pom-pa-sa" or "leaping frog rocks," as was claimed by the earlier settlers. Their individual Indian names were *Tiki-tun* (the lower), *Ha-muk* (the center), and *Ha-te* (the upper, or Eagle Peak).

Note how the broken contours and reentrant angles of the south wall contrast with walls to our right. The while the former are permeated by cracks and seams which accentuate Water, penetrating the pands with such force as thus are the great talus to the slopes below. Of pyramidal overhanging cornices across the canyon (2.2), the one at the right is TAFT POINT, one of the many fine vantage points on the Pohono Trail. THE FISSURES are narrow crevices penetrating this overhang not far back from the edge.



The BEAR PITS (2.5) are not far from the main road and may be reached by an inconspicuous motor way which branches to the left from the highway. Yosemite is one of the very few places in California where the American Black Bear, one of the most interesting and valuable citizens of the forest community, is afforded protection from the so called "sport" which some men seem to find in killing him with a high powered rifle. Park bears have learned that they can live here without being afraid — indeed, with advantage to themselves, as is attested by the occasional pilfering of sweets from a car or

## AN INTIMATE GUIDE

camp or by frequent visits to the "Bear Pits" where choice bits of garbage lend a variety to a menu unknown to their fugitive and less civilized brothers. During the summer two or three bears will usually be found here during the day; generally, however, sleeping in the lower branches of the trees round about. From dusk until midnight one can be almost certain of seeing half a dozen or more.

As the main road continues westward, CATHEDRAL ROCKS, with CATHEDRAL SPIRES at their left, appear across the Valley (2.6). Our return road passes close to their base from which one obtains an impression of massiveness strangely contrasting to that of symmetrical beauty so apparent from afar. The little pond at the left of the road (2.7) is well known to Yosemite Ranger Naturalists as the home of a family of wild ducks who come here each year to rear their young, furnishing great entertainment to the many visitors who take advantage of the interesting nature walks offered free by the government.

Where the road turns abruptly to the left (3.0) we may, if we wish, turn off to the right on the old and little used stage road which approaches closely the base of El Capitan and rejoins the main road about a half mile distant. It offers a specially impressive view of the vertical face. From a small open sandy flat at the top of the easy grade is a foot trail leading to the face of the sheer wall, a ten minute walk during which one climbs 180 feet and obtains a new view across the canyon.

The main road bends to the southward and soon enters EL CAPITAN MEADOW (3.2) where once stood the Indian village of *Aw-o-koi-e*, *He-le-jah*, *Ha-eng-ah*, and *Yu-a-chah*. No doubt they discerned many of the more or less plainly



*Black-headed  
Grosbeak -  
Crown White & Black*



*Black-headed  
Grosbeak -  
Crown White & Black*



MOUNTAIN HEMLOCK



## YOSEMITE VALLEY

marked images which are pointed out by the stage drivers of today, for they called this great rock *Tote-ack-ah-noo-la* or "rock chief," referring to the thousand-foot portrait of a man looking westward; often the same markings are referred to as "The Wandering Jew." It requires less of a stretch of imagination, however, to see the resemblance to a map of North America. The dark color is not a stain but is diorite, a dense granitic rock which was forced into a cavity in the older grain while it still lay thousands of feet below what was at that time the surface of the earth. Subsequent cracks appeared, possibly as a result of the great earthquake that must have occurred during the several successive uplifts which formed the Sierra Nevada; these were filled by white veins of aplite and pegmatite, curiously occurring as transcontinental railroads across the map. The intrusion of these molten rocks welded El Capitan into a solid monolith which turned aside the powerful river of ice that ground at its base and has withstood the centuries of frost-mining that have loosened the great talus blocks of the opposite shattered wall.

A most unique measuring stick has been placed on the face of El Capitan to give us some indication of its magnitude. Standing 1189 feet above us in a shallow niche near "Central America" of the map is a huge Jeffrey Pine which, when measured by the writer in 1919 was two feet in diameter and 82.4 feet in height.\*

To the south the symmetrical shafts of the CATHEDRAL SPIRES are seen to great advantage from El Capitan Meadow, and a splendid impression of the massiveness of CATHEDRAL ROCKS grows upon one with the stereoscopic effect that comes of driving parallel to their base. Several venture-

\* Two series of measurements by triangulation checked to within three inches.



SUGAR PINE.

## AN INTIMATE GUIDE

some mountaineers have made the ascent of the chimney between the middle and lower rocks and have thus made their way to the lip of Bridalveil Fall or to the little-visited fishing stream above. The climb is dangerous, however, and not advisable.



Re-entering the forest, we soon cross RIBBON CREEK (3.8) and may catch a glimpse overhead of RIBBON FALL dropping delicately over its 1612-foot precipice into a deep box-like recess. Its Indian name was *Lung-oo-too-koo-ya* or "pigeon fall" from the wild pigeons which frequently nest nearby.

A road entering ours from the left (3.8) crosses EL CAPITAN BRIDGE to the Pohono Road on the south side by which we will later return. It is very much worth while to stop here for a moment to examine the EL CAPITAN MORAINE which was left by the retreating ice some 20,000 years ago and formed a dam which impounded Lake Yosemite. Were it not for this moraine we would today see a deeper valley with a trough-like bottom instead of the level surface of a sand and gravel-filled lake. The top of the El Capitan Moraine still projects above the surface and looks much like a railroad embankment parallel to the cross road.

The BIG OAK FLAT ROAD, historical stage turnpike of 1874, branches to the right from the main road. Because of its steepness the government maintains a one-way traffic control on the first three miles; up-going cars being dispatched during a twenty minute period at eight, ten, twelve and other even hours, while the down-coming vehicles may leave Gentry Checking Station at the top of the grade at seven, nine, eleven and other odd hours. Near El Capitan Checking Sta-





## YOSEMITE VALLEY

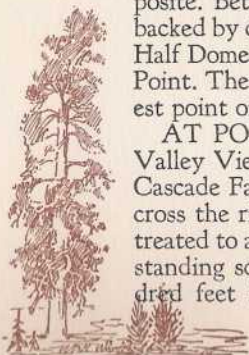
tion was once the Indian village of *Hep-hep-oo-ma*. Better views of Ribbon Fall open up to the right and back of us soon after we pass the checking station and a quarter-mile below is a most interesting profile of BRIDALVEIL FALL and LEANING TOWER to the left across the river.

That we are now in a region of shade and moisture is attested by the luxuriant foliage of the water-loving trees, the Alder, the Cottonwood, and the Maple, as well as by tules and other plants not to be seen elsewhere. Black Spring lies a short distance north of the road (4.8) and once supplied water to the village of *Poot-poo-toon*, which was also the Indian name for the spring. The strange concrete vault at the right (4.9), sometimes called a "tomb" by the uninformed, houses explosives.



VALLEY VIEW (5.0) deserves its reputation as one of Yosemite's finest vistas. Before us lie the Gates of the Valley with the sheer 3300-foot precipice of El Capitan dominating the entire landscape. Its majesty is matched by the beauty and symmetry of Bridalveil Fall and Cathedral Rocks opposite. Between them lies the verdant Bridalveil Meadow backed by dark green pines and oaks. Beyond, in the distance, Half Dome is partly hidden by the projecting cliff of Glacier Point. The lofty bare granite ridge is Clouds Rest, the highest point on the Yosemite walls.

AT POHONO BRIDGE, one quarter of a mile below Valley View, the main road continues down the canyon to Cascade Falls and the lower Merced Canyon. We turn and cross the river, however, returning on the south side to be treated to an entirely different perspective of Yosemite's outstanding scenic features. At the river bank about one hundred feet from the bridge is the Merced River Gauging



LOGSPOLE PINE OR TAMARACK.



## AN INTIMATE GUIDE

Station, maintained cooperatively by the National Park Service and the U. S. Geological Survey.

FERN SPRING, at the right of the road (5.3), should not be passed without enjoying a cooling drink of its delicious water. The large cream-colored "blossoms" of the Western Flowering Dogwood make this locality a sylvan showplace in early spring and during autumn the same trees with their flaming red, yellow and orange foliage are in even more startling color harmony. It is a curious fact that one unique species of salamander has been found in the tiny stream that comes from Fern Spring but has never been discovered elsewhere. One of the only three known specimens can be seen at the Yosemite Museum.

We now cross the delightfully verdant BRIDALVEIL

MEADOW (5.4) where one may find Queen Anne's Lace and the similar, but taller, plants of the Giant Cow Parsnip lifting the creamy yellow umbels of their flowers higher than one's head. Both of these plants are close relatives to the Poison Hemlock which caused the death of the Greek philosopher Socrates in the year 399 B. C.

The dominant features of the landscape here are the CATHEDRAL ROCKS, the highest of which rises 2690 feet from its base, and BRIDALVEIL FALL which leaps 630 feet from its sheer hanging valley.

We are following practically the same route as did the ten Prospectors from Coarse Gold Gulch who camped beneath the trees at the far side of the meadow on the night of May



## YOSEMITE VALLEY



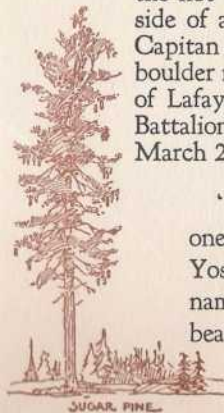
26, 1852. Here they were ambushed by the Yosemite Indians who attacked with arrows and other native weapons and killed two members of the party, Rose and Shurborn. When a punitive expedition of U. S. Cavalry arrived a short time later to punish the offenders they buried the bodies of the victims beneath the trees under which they fell. At that time Lieutenant Moore and his detachment of Regulars shot five Yosemite braves and pursued the remainder of the tribe across the Sierra to Mono Lake where they were successfully hidden by their friends the Piutes. A recently erected plaque (to the



left of the road) marks approximately the spot of the graves. Those experienced in woodsmanship can identify the location exactly by finding the scars of healed-over blazes on the trunk of the tree which stood nearest.

A short distance beyond Bridalveil Meadow a short subsidiary road turns to the left (5.7). As it leads to the bank of the not far distant Merced, it follows around the western side of a terminal moraine similar, but older, than, the El Capitan Moraine which formed Lake Yosemite. On a huge boulder near the river is a bronze plaque placed here in honor of Lafayette Houghton Bunnell, surgeon of the Mariposa Battalion at the time of the discovery of Yosemite Valley on March 25, 1851. It reads:

“To commemorate Dr. L. Houghton Bunnell, one of the first party of white men to enter the Yosemite Valley, in March, 1851. He proposed the name Yosemite and was the first to proclaim its beauties and wonders to the world.



## AN INTIMATE GUIDE

Dedicated by the California Medical Association,  
1923 A.D."

Somewhere in this vicinity once stood the Indian settlement called *Sap-pah-sam-mah*.

We now return to the main road and resume our tour. In about one-quarter of a mile the WAWONA ROAD (6.2) climbs the hill sharply to the right to Artist Point (1.5 mi.), Inspiration Point (2.9 mi.), Wawona (22.0 mi.), and the Mariposa Grove (29.0 mi.). Instead of following the main road, we turn to the right on the less travelled route which leads to the foot of the falls—

a detour which is especially scenic and should not be missed. Late in the afternoon the rainbows to be seen here make one wonder that such colors are possible in Nature; often the greater part of the falling mist

is brilliantly tinted with rich changing hues. Just below a large rock at the east margin of the stream is the site of the ancient village of *Lem-me-hitch-ke*. In view of this fact, our stories of the Indians' great fear of *Pohono*, "the spirit of the evil wind," may be somewhat overdrawn.

The curious natural phenomenon which gave the fall its Indian name, *Pohono*, and which gave rise to several interesting legends, recurs daily. As one drives into the vicinity of the foot of the fall in the late afternoon he cannot but observe the warm air rushing upon him from above, the very "evil wind" which was supposed to have been so greatly feared by the aborigines.

As our branch road sweeps northward to again join the



MOUNTAIN HEMLOCK

## YOSEMITE VALLEY



pavement, RIBBON FALL is seen to advantage directly across the canyon leaping into space to descend 1612 feet in a deep vertical box-like cleft just to the left of El Capitan.

After joining the main road (6.7) we bear to the right around the flank of *Ta-kawa*, the CATHEDRAL ROCKS, the unbroken face of which rises abruptly above us. Between here and the river was once a small village called *Hop-to-ne* by the Yosemite.

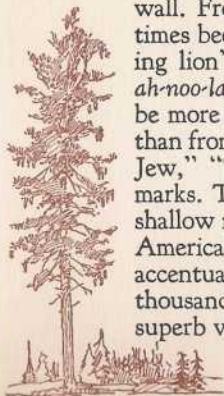
As we near El Capitan Bridge (6.9) we see LO-TO-YA SPRING just below the road.

The name means "flower spring" in the Miwok language.

We can, if we wish, cross El Capitan Bridge and return via our former route, but instead will continue up the south side of the Valley. Here, as our road parallels the river, the huge bulk of EL CAPITAN grows apparent as one faces its great wall. From here it has sometimes been called "the crouching lion" on guard.

*Tote-ack-ah-noo-la*, the great chief, can be more easily seen from here

than from closer vantage points, as can also "The Wandering Jew," "The Map of North America," and other fancied marks. The pine tree 82.4 feet in height which stands in a shallow niche 1189 feet above the Valley floor (near "Central America" of the map) may be readily seen from this point and accentuates the fact that the sheer cliff rises more than three thousand feet from its base. From this vicinity, also, is a superb view up the canyon.



SUGAR PINE.

## AN INTIMATE GUIDE

Continuing eastward, be sure to watch for the profile of **CATHEDRAL SPIRES** at the right just after passing the base of Cathedral Rocks (7.6). There is said to have once been a third spire which fell during an earthquake, supposedly since the Valley was discovered in 1851. Galen Clark, the first Guardian of the Yosemite Valley under the State regime, took away a piece of this fallen spire, inscribed it with his name, and erected it in the Yosemite Graveyard where he was laid to rest some years later and where one may see this very slab of granite. When you return to the Yosemite museum you will find this peaceful spot not more than one hundred feet distant from the building. Just below the Cathedral Spires there once stood the small village of *We-sum-meh* near a small meadow close to the river. Straight ahead (7.8) an impressive profile of Sentinel Rock rises almost vertically above the road. During the next quarter mile we have many fine views of the **THREE BROTHERS** (8.1) which now appear in their true perspective as enormous pyramids.


Do not fail to glance back at the profile of **EL CAPITAN** (8.2) which is seen to great advantage with the Merced River in the foreground. As we now pass through an open forest of Western Yellow Pine and Incense Cedar the obelisk-like shaft of **SENTINEL ROCK** appears above and to the right, while slightly to the left North Dome appears on the horizon.

Stop for a moment just beyond the large double Incense




WESTERN YELLOW PINE

## YOSEMITE VALLEY

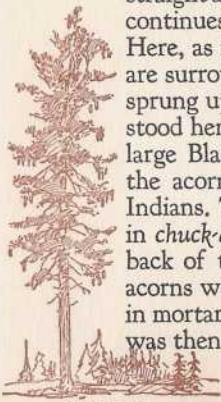


Cedar at the left of the road (8.3) and observe the two closely similar overhanging cliffs which stand out prominently on the skyline at the right. The right hand prominence is TAFT POINT, one of the finest lookout stations on the Pohono Trail. A few feet back from the point are a number of narrow vertical clefts called THE FISSURES through which pebbles may be dropped several hundred feet.



The bear feeding platform is now seen on the opposite side of the river (8.6), the parking place from which they are usually observed being indicated by a number of large cedar logs some two hundred feet to our left. The animals are enticed here by honey and palatable bits of food and may be seen almost any evening and very often during the day.

As we continue eastward (8.9) NORTH DOME appears straight ahead and the great watch-tower of THE SENTINEL continues to dominate the closer features of the south wall. Here, as in many other places on the floor of the Valley, we are surrounded by a dense growth of young trees which has sprung up in recent decades beneath the old veterans which stood here when Yosemite was discovered in 1851. Also the large Black Oaks appear abundantly. These once supplied the acorns which were the staff of life for the Yosemite Indians. The huge crop was gathered in autumn and stored in *chuck-ahs* such as may be seen today in the open area in back of the Yosemite Museum. As food was needed, the acorns were hulled and the meats pounded to an oily meal in mortar holes, usually in the solid granite. The bitter tannin was then leached out with hot water and the resulting paste



SUGAR PINE.

## AN INTIMATE GUIDE

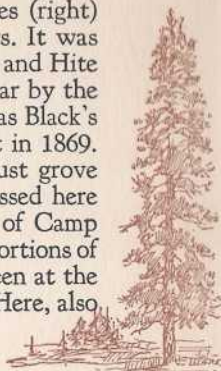
cooked in baskets by means of dropping hot rocks *into* the mush.

During early spring, SENTINEL CASCADE dropping over a series of ledges to the right (9.0) is an interesting feature of the nearer landscape.



We turn to the left (9.3) to visit the GIANT WESTERN YELLOW PINE which stands but a few hundred feet from the main road. This particular individual is one of the largest recorded specimens of the species. Most of the long-needled evergreen trees on the floor of the Valley are of the same variety and, as was indicated elsewhere, can be distinguished by the "alligator skin" bark, by the needles occurring in bundles of three, and by the comparatively small cones. In the National Parks all living trees are protected against commercial utilization; outside, however, this tree is of extreme importance economically, being found abundantly at moderate elevations throughout the Rocky Mountains and also the Sierra Nevada and other western ranges.

We now return to the main road (9.7) and cross EAGLE CREEK as we turn to the left to continue our tour up the Valley. Soon we approach a clump of Locust trees (right) planted at this historical spot by the early settlers. It was here that the Lower Hotel was built by Walworth and Hite in 1856. It was taken over during the following year by the Blacks and replaced in 1869 by a structure known as Black's Hotel. Leidig's Hotel was also built near this spot in 1869. The picturesque old well which stood in the locust grove will be remembered by observing visitors who passed here before May, 1929. From 1908 to 1916 the tents of Camp Ahwahnee occupied the surrounding open forest; portions of the foundation of the main building may still be seen at the left of the road at the eastern edge of the clearing. Here, also,





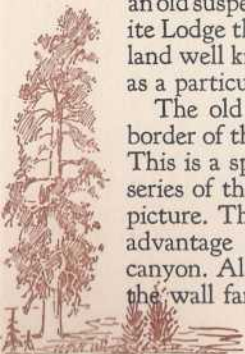
## YOSEMITE VALLEY

the FOUR MILE TRAIL to Glacier Point begins its long climb up the talus slopes at the foot of The Sentinel. Before the coming of the white man this flat was dotted with the *o-chums* of an important Indian village called *Loi-ah*. The name, which signified "woven water bottle" in the Miwok tongue, was originally applied by them to the huge granite monument overhead.

About one hundred yards farther up the road, and about half way between this point and the river, once stood the home of Galen Clark, first Guardian of Yosemite Valley during its administration as a State park. After his death in 1910 it was occupied for a number of years by George Fiske, a well known photographer, later being used by Jack Gaylor, one of the best known early rangers under both army and National Park Service administration.

As we continue eastward, YOSEMITE FALLS is frequently seen through the trees at the left. A foot trail branching to the left from the road (10.1) leads across an old suspension bridge to Yosemite Lodge through moist meadowland well known to nature guides as a particularly good place to observe birds.

The old stage road once followed around the southern border of the broad meadow which now lies before us (10.2). This is a specially fine vantage point from which the entire series of the YOSEMITE FALLS forms a most harmonious picture. The central fall and cascades are not often seen to advantage on account of being hidden in their deep box canyon. Also from here we may observe the dark streaks on the wall farther to the west which indicate the position of



LODGEPOLE PINE OR TAMARACK.



## AN INTIMATE GUIDE

the extinct Yosemite Fall which replaced the present cataract during the long glacial ages. YOSEMITE POINT is the prominence above and to the right of the falls, and during good lighting conditions the tall shaft of granite called THE LOST ARROW shows clearly as a detached buttness from the cliff below. Still farther to the right are the CASTLE CLIFFS, and beyond them is INDIAN CANYON with the LITTLE WINKLE FALLS descending

a steep crevice at its east flank. Farther up the Valley is the unmistakable rounded summit of NORTH DOME with ROYAL ARCHES and WASHINGTON COLUMN at its southern flank. The summit of CLOUDS REST appears on the horizon directly over Washington Column and the PINNACLES and QUARTER DOMES may be discerned through the canyon notch at its right. At the borders of the meadow which surrounds us are some particularly fine old Black Cottonwoods, especially near the banks of the river.

As we enter OLD YOSEMITE VILLAGE (10.5) the historic Chapel is seen at the right. This was built in 1879 by funds collected, a penny at a time, from Sunday-school children in all parts of the United States. On one side of the village street is a general store maintained by the Yosemite Park and Curry Co., while opposite stands a store and bakery operated by the Degnans, one of the pioneer families of the Valley. The two huge Black Oaks at the left of the road once stood in front of the Government Headquarters Building used during the army administration and by the National Park Service until the construction of the new village at the



*The Old Chapel*



MOUNTAIN HEMLOCK.



## YOSEMITE VALLEY

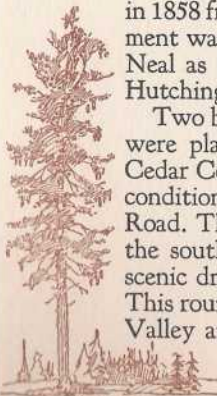
foot of Indian Canyon in 1924-26. Half a century ago the COSMOPOLITAN HOUSE, which stands at the left of the road beneath several large introduced elms, was one of the most popular places in Yosemite. The fame of its liquid refreshments and its hot baths was international during the pioneer days when it was operated by J. C. Smith.

Before us now lies the famous old SENTINEL HOTEL which, with its group of surrounding buildings, has played such a prominent part in the entertainment of Yosemite guests during the past two or three generations. The Sentinel was built in 1876 by Coulter and Murphy and during the next year passed into the hands of J. K. Barnard who operated it until 1895 when it became the property of J. J. Cook.



Opposite the Sentinel stands CEDAR COTTAGE, the oldest building in the Valley. The central portion was erected in 1858 from lumber which was *sawed by hand*. The establishment was operated in those days by Mr. and Mrs. John H. Neal as Upper Hotel. In 1864 it was purchased by J. M. Hutchings and was known until 1875 as the Hutchings House.

Two beautifully symmetrical young Giant Sequoias which were planted here as seedlings in 1890 stand in front of Cedar Cottage. The nearest sequoias growing under natural conditions are in the Tuolumne Grove on the Big Oak Flat Road. The larger and better known Mariposa Grove lies at the south boundary of the Park and can be reached by a scenic drive of twenty-eight miles over the Wawona Road. This round trip can easily be made in one day from Yosemite Valley and can be advantageously combined with the trip



SUGAR PINE.

## AN INTIMATE GUIDE

to Glacier Point, one of the finest high mountain viewpoints anywhere in the world. If you have a single day at your disposal after having explored the Valley itself, this combined trip is superlatively rewarding. Full details of the scenic, historic, geological, and natural history features of this trip as well as the many other roads and trails leading from Yosemite into the high Sierra will be found in the *Yosemite Trail Guide*—a companion volume to this book describing all that part of Yosemite National Park which lies above and beyond the Valley walls (now in course of preparation).

We have now completed our tour of the floor of Yosemite Valley and find ourselves again at SENTINEL BRIDGE (10.8). We can, if we wish, cross the Valley and return to the Museum whence we started our trip, or we may continue up the south side of the river towards Camp Curry.



SENTINEL  
DOME.



MOUNTAIN HEMLOCK



# YOSEMITE VALLEY POINTS of SPECIAL INTEREST

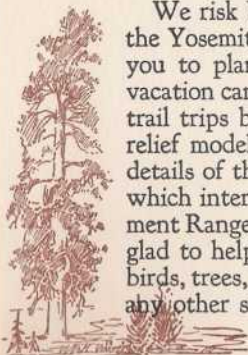


**T**HUS far we have explored the main routes in Yosemite Valley. Whether you have followed the roads or the shady foot trails and bridle paths which parallel them, you have doubtless caught glimpses of other trails that offer enticing invitation to explore more secluded and seldom visited spots. This booklet was planned as a thorough guide to the Valley itself, and therefore we present a few notes on the following pages which will enable you to more intimately explore some of its most interesting byways.

## THE YOSEMITE MUSEUM

We risk being accused of repetition by again mentioning the Yosemite Museum. Its importance, however, in helping you to plan for the utmost enjoyment of your Yosemite vacation cannot be overemphasized. Here you may plan your trail trips by the aid of the large-scale relief model or you may learn further details of that part of Yosemite's story which interests you most. The government Ranger Naturalist on duty will be glad to help you to know more of the birds, trees, flowers, history, geology, or any other subject.

### YOSEMITE MUSEUM



LODGEPOLE PINE OR TAMARACK.

# AN INTIMATE GUIDE

## THE YOSEMITE LIBRARY

If you have the leisure, many pleasant hours may be spent browsing among the books of the Yosemite Library which is in the Museum building. Here you may examine many extremely rare items not to be found elsewhere, or you may consult the most interesting references on Yosemite's natural history, its Indians, or its richly historical past.



## THE OLD GRAVEYARD

Clark, Hutchings, Anderson, Lamon, and many of Yosemite's other pioneers lie at rest in a beautiful but little-visited spot not more than one hundred yards from the Museum where the story of their eventful lives is vividly told in the History Room.

## THE ZOO

It is the policy of the National Park Service not to keep animals in captivity except when they can seldom or never be seen wild. Bear and deer may be seen by almost anyone, but there is one extremely interesting large mammal which is so rare as to be unknown except by hearsay even to most old mountaineers. This is the California



Mountain Lion, Cougar, or Panther which timidly shuns civilization and travels almost entirely by night. A pair of these handsome animals is kept at the Yosemite Zoo—about five minutes walk to the northwest from the Museum.



## AHWAHNEE WILDFLOWER GARDEN

One of the most remarkable wildflower gardens to be found anywhere in the world is maintained by the Yosemite



# YOSEMITE VALLEY

Park and Curry Co., in a large area surrounding the Ahwahnee Hotel. All Yosemite visitors are invited to enjoy the unique experience of becoming acquainted with Yosemite's lovely flora in this attractive area. The fence which surrounds the tract is not to exclude visitors but rather to keep out the deer which are becoming so numerous in the Park that they have practically exterminated certain rare plants which they particularly like as food.

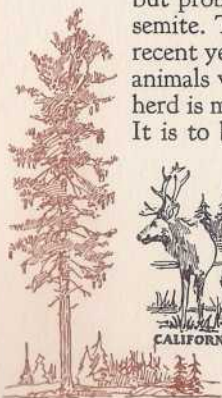


## THE YOSEMITE ELK HERD

The California Valley Elk, Tule Elk, or Dwarf Elk was once extremely abundant in the lower valleys of California but probably never ranged into the mountains as far as Yosemite. The species has been so reduced in numbers that in recent years it has been in danger of extinction. A few of the animals were given refuge in Yosemite Valley where a small herd is maintained in a large paddock near Yosemite Village. It is to be hoped that ultimately a sufficiently large refuge will be established in either the San Joaquin or Sacramento Valley so that these animals can be transferred to their native habitat—the last survivors of a noble native big game mammal that is now in grave danger of being crowded by man from the face of the earth.



CALIFORNIA VALLEY ELK



SUGAR PINE

# AN INTIMATE GUIDE

## LE CONTE LODGE

The picturesque little LeConte Memorial Lodge stands beside the road about half way between Camp Curry and Sentinel Bridge. It was erected by the Sierra Club in 1903 as a memorial to "Professor Joe" LeConte who so loved Yosemite and who died here in 1901. Hikers, especially, find its cool interior a welcome retreat and often spend enjoyable hours looking through the many albums of mountain photographs or reading books by John Muir, Clarence King, and other mountaineers. By all means plan to spend an hour here surrounded by the very atmosphere of California's mountains.

### FISHING

In Yosemite Valley the trout are numerous but "well educated" in the lore of distinguishing hooks. Above the Valley rim, however, are some of the finest fishing streams and lakes in the country. Those who take advantage of the opportunity to visit the High Sierra Hikers' Camps can be guaranteed a limit


on almost any day of their trip. Hundreds of thousands of trout are raised each year in the State Fish Hatchery in Yosemite Valley for liberation in the fishing waters of the Park. A visit to this hatchery and its adjacent aquarium at Happy Isles holds much interest. A naturalist is on duty to explain to visitors all the stages in the development of the young trout from the unfertilized egg to the fingerling almost ready to "shift for himself."



WESTERN YELLOW PINE

# YOSEMITE VALLEY

## LOST ARROW TRAIL



One of the most beautiful woodland foot-trails of the Valley has its beginning close to the western end of the Yosemite Creek Bridge (east of Yosemite Lodge). It follows from island to island on the delta of Yosemite Creek below Yosemite Falls, leading eastward past the site of John Muir's "Lost Cabin" and also the Galen Clark Memorial Bench, and joining a subsidiary road near the Yosemite Schoolhouse. Those interested in wildflowers and birds will especially enjoy this short trail.


## HAPPY ISLES TRAIL

This is another exceedingly attractive foot-path which offers walkers the opportunity to stroll through virgin forest and untrammelled natural gardens. It leads from Camp Curry eastward to Happy Isles, a distance of a little more than a mile. The Wild White Orchid and other rare flowers grow in lush profusion in the moist greenglades beneath the firs and alders. All flowers are rigidly protected in National Parks not only so that all of the many thousands of visitors may enjoy them but also so that they may produce seed for future years.

### HAPPY ISLES



## SIERRA POINT TRAIL



For years there was a search for a point in Yosemite from which the five great waterfalls—Upper and Lower Yosemite, Vernal, Nevada, and Illiouette— might be seen. The quest was finally ended when, in 1897, Mr. Chas. A. Bailey and a friend computed the location of such a point by triangulation.



## AN INTIMATE GUIDE

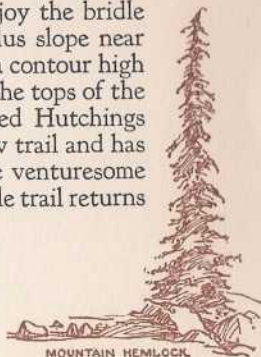
To their surprise it was not one of the dominating summits, but occurred rather low on the west flank of Grizzly Peak. The first ascent, on June 14, 1897, proved the calculation to be correct, and the crag was named Sierra Point in honor of the Sierra Club.



The trail starts from Happy Isles Bridge where one follows for a few hundred feet up the main Vernal Falls Trail and then branches left near the log watering trough. A climb of a few hundred feet by switchbacks takes one to Sierra Point from which is a surprisingly fine panorama, the finest feature of which is the waterfalls. At least one hour should be allowed for the round trip from Happy Isles if one is not to be unduly hurried.

### BRIDLE TRAILS

The newly constructed bridle trails, most of which parallel the main roads, now make it possible to enjoy horseback riding everywhere in Yosemite Valley. Consequently many persons who formerly rode by automobile or walked are now enjoying this most fascinating and healthful of outdoor sports. Both equestrians and hikers will especially enjoy the bridle trail which climbs a short distance up the talus slope near the Ahwahnee Hotel and follows west along a contour high enough to give one an unrestricted view over the tops of the giant pines of the Valley. The old abandoned Hutchings Trail up Indian Canyon is bisected by this new trail and has recently been much used by some of the more venturesome hikers. Near the foot of Yosemite Falls, the bridle trail returns to its original level.





## YOSEMITE VALLEY

# THE GOVERNMENT NATURALIST SERVICE

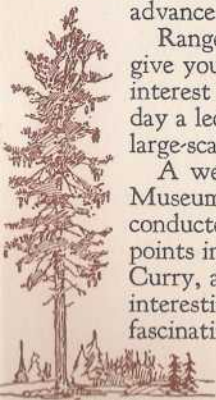


Do not fail to take advantage of the guide and lecture service provided free for you by the government. Several field trips are conducted daily from each of the main tourist centers and on Saturdays government guides lead hik-

ing trips to Glacier Point, Eagle Peak, or other points on the Rim. Each week, also, a nature guide accompanies a group of twenty to the High Sierra Hikers Camps—a marvelously interesting walking tour of the high country; the guide service is free, but reservations must be made at the Museum in advance as only a limited number can be taken each week.

Ranger Naturalists are always on duty at the museum to give you information about the features of Yosemite which interest you most. Also at frequent intervals throughout the day a lecturer explains the formation of Yosemite, using the large-scale models in the Geological Room for demonstration.

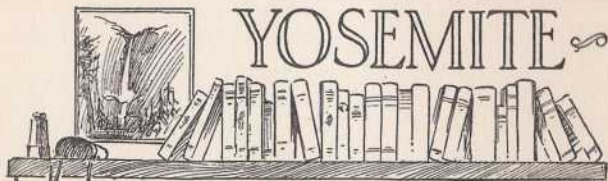
A weekly informal evening campfire is a feature of the Museum program on Tuesdays, and nightly campfires are conducted by both Rangers and Ranger Naturalists at other points in the Valley. Here, and also at the Ahwahnee, Camp Curry, and Yosemite Lodge you may hear occasional short, interesting lectures on many of the details of Yosemite's fascinating story.



SUGAR PINE.

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# KNOW MORE ABOUT YOSEMITE



THERE is a wealth of literature on the Yosemite which is a fascinating field for exploration when one returns to his fireside. Would you like to be taken back three-quarters of a century to California's days of gold when the Mariposa Indian War resulted in the discovery of the Yosemite Valley? Would you like to make adventuresome first ascents with the party which explored and mapped the Sierra Nevada? Would you like to know more about the Yosemite Indians and their interesting customs and legends? There are books on all of these subjects as well as both popular and technical volumes which will give you detailed information about Yosemite's geology, flowers, trees, birds, mammals, insects, and other features. By all means know more about that part of the story of Yosemite which interests you most.

The following list of all important Yosemite books now



WESTERN YELLOW PINE



## YOSEMITE VALLEY

in print gives you a brief description which will help you to select for your library those items which will hold particular interest for you personally.

**MOUNTAINEERING IN THE SIERRA NEVADA:** *Clarence King*, (Chas. Scribners, N. Y., 1902).

First published in 1871, this volume still continues to be one of the most interesting books about the Sierra Nevada. It contains an exceedingly well written and colorful account of King's adventures while, exploring and mapping the Yosemite region in the 60's with Brewer, Whitney, and other members of the California Geological Survey with whom he served as a volunteer assistant after graduation from college. During his life King was nationally known as the organizer and first Director of the U. S. Geological Survey; his greatest fame, however, will live through his literary achievement.

### THE WRITINGS OF JOHN MUIR

John Muir's books are so well known as outstanding masterpieces of mountain literature that there is little need to here praise their idealistic interpretation of the very spirit of the Sierra Nevada. Muir came to Yosemite in 1868 and so loved its beauty and its wildness that he spent several years exploring and studying its surrounding cliffs, peaks, and lakes. His descriptive articles written in 1889 for the *Century Magazine* were largely responsible for the establishment of Yosemite National Park. Similar articles came from his pen from time to time during the next two decades and formed the basis for his remarkable books. Changing conditions have conspired to make certain information in these volumes obsolete, but far the greater part is as fresh and sparkling and inspirational as the day it was written. No Yosemite library is complete without at least one book by John Muir

**THE MOUNTAINS OF CALIFORNIA:** *John Muir*, (Century, 1894).

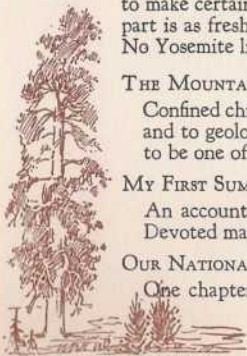
Confined chiefly to the Sierra Nevada; devotes much space to the forests and to geological observations. The chapter on the Water Ouzel is said to be one of the finest bird biographies ever written.

**MY FIRST SUMMER IN THE SIERRA:** *John Muir*, (Houghton Mifflin, 1911).

An account of Muir's first experiences in his "Mountains of Light." Devoted mainly to Yosemite.

**OUR NATIONAL PARKS:** *John Muir*, (Houghton Mifflin, 1909).

One chapter is devoted to Yellowstone and one to Sequoia National



LOGPOLE PINE OR TAMARACK.

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Park, but almost the entire remainder of this 382-page volume is devoted to the forests, flowers, mammals, birds, and scenic features of Yosemite National Park.



**THE YOSEMITE:** *John Muir*, (Century, 1912).

Contains much detailed information on Yosemite trees, flowers, mammals, and scenic features, as well as an outline of Muir's theory of how the Valley was formed. Much of the material is repeated from earlier books and the information in certain sections is obsolete. Muir's wonderful style, however, makes the book an important item for its literary value.

**THE LIFE AND LETTERS OF JOHN MUIR**, (2 vol.): *Wm. Frederic Bade*, (Houghton Mifflin, 1924).

A masterful, complete, and well written life of John Muir containing a great number of his most important letters. The biography of this remarkable man should hold much interest for the general reader and should prove fascinating to one who has read and studied Muir's books.

**YOSEMITE TRAILS:** *J. Smeaton Chase* (Houghton Mifflin, 1911).

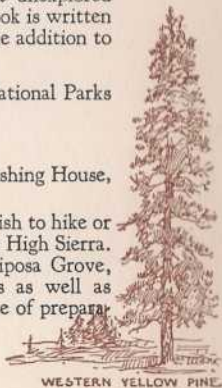
A volume of 352 pages which will prove specially interesting to those who have explored, or hope to explore, the High Sierra. After briefly introducing Yosemite Valley to his readers, the author invites them to shoulder a knapsack and climb with him around the Yosemite rim. Then, with burros and camping outfit, he strikes out into the high country where many weeks are spent wandering through almost unexplored canyons and camping beside unnamed glacial lakes. The book is written with a fine sense of appreciation of nature and is a valuable addition to one's library.

**YOSEMITE VALLEY—AN INTIMATE GUIDE:** *Ansel F. Hall* (National Parks Publishing House, Berkeley, Calif., 1929).

The volume which you are reading.

**YOSEMITE TRAIL GUIDE:** *Ansel F. Hall*, (National Parks Publishing House, Berkeley, Calif.).

A companion to the above volume for use by those who wish to hike or ride on the many trails to the Valley rim and through the High Sierra. This guide also has detailed data on road trips to Mariposa Grove, Glacier Point, Hetch Hetchy, and Tuolumne Meadows as well as numerous notes on natural history, geology, etc. (In course of preparation).





## YOSEMITE VALLEY

**MINING EXCITEMENTS EAST OF THE YOSEMITE:** *Carl P. Russell*, (Sierra Club, 1928).

An interesting booklet containing much information about a hitherto little known period of Yosemite history.

**THE SIERRA CLUB BULLETIN:** (Sierra Club, San Francisco).

An annual publication, each issue of which usually adds to the fund of Yosemite literature. Many of the back numbers contain exceedingly valuable items for one's Yosemite library and can be obtained at a very low cost from the Sierra Club, 402 Mills Bldg., San Francisco.

**LIGHTS AND SHADOWS IN THE YOSEMITE:** *Estelle Taylor*.

A small descriptive volume which is well illustrated and makes an attractive Yosemite souvenir.

**THE YOSEMITE TRIP BOOK:** *Frank Taylor*.

A small pictorial record book for use of motorists; illustrated by representative views of Yosemite scenery.

**THE LURE AND LORE OF YOSEMITE:** *Herbert Earl Wilson*.

A handy size volume telling of many of the customs and legends of the Yosemite Indians.

**SONGS OF YOSEMITE:** *Harold Symmes*.

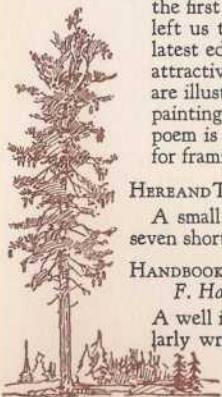
Harold Symmes, poet, artist, and musician, lived with Yosemite during the first years of this century. Called to higher Sierras prematurely, he left us the legacy of literary gems reproduced in this volume. In the latest edition these poems have all been hand lettered and appear as an attractive folio on heavy French gray stock. More than half the number are illustrated by remarkably fine full page reproductions of watercolor paintings by the well known artist, Gunnar Widforss and therefore each poem is with its painting, complete in itself. The latter are often used for framing or as individual gifts.

**HERE AND THERE IN YOSEMITE:** *Cristel Hastings*, (Cloister Press, S.F., 1923).

A small, beautifully printed volume containing a collection of thirty-seven short poems; the poetess is well known to Californians.

**HANDBOOK OF YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK:** Compiled and edited by *Ansel F. Hall*, (G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1921).

A well illustrated volume of 348 pages containing comprehensive popularly written articles on the seventeen subjects of greatest interest to



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Yosemite visitors: The History of the Yosemite Region, Indians of Yosemite, The National Park Service, The Administration of the Park, Geology, Life Zones, Birds, Mammals, Reptiles and Amphibians, Fishes Insects, Trees, The Giant Sequoia, Flowers, Camping and Mountaineering, Motoring, and Photography. Obviously no one man could write with authority on all of these subjects and so fourteen of the foremost scientists appear as co-authors, among them Willis Linn Jepson, Stephen T. Mather, Joseph Grinnell, Barton W. Evermann, Andrew C. Lawson A. L. Kroeber, W. B. Lewis, Edwin C. Van Dyke, and others. Recommended to readers with a wide range of interest and to those who wish a very readable and complete resume of any of the above subjects as related to Yosemite.



**ANIMAL LIFE IN THE YOSEMITE:** *Joseph Grinnell and Tracy Irwin Storer*, (University of Calif. Press, Berkeley, 1924).

A most valuable reference book on the mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians of Yosemite National Park. This 700-page volume is based upon an exhaustive study of the Yosemite fauna by the University of California Museum of Vertebrate Zoology. It is well illustrated with color plates, photographs, and drawings and is highly recommended to those who seek detailed, accurate, and scientific information about Yosemite's animal life.

**YOSEMITE NATURE NOTES**, (Pbl. by Yosemite Natural History Association, Yosemite, Cal.).

A popularly written monthly publication, containing articles written by members of the Government naturalist staff, on the geology, birds, trees, flowers, mammals, history, Indians, and other Yosemite subjects. Sent free to all members of the Yosemite Natural History Association; for further information, enquire at the Yosemite Museum.

**THE GIANT SEQUOIA:** *Rodney Sydes Ellsworth*, (Berger, Oakland, Cal, 1924).

A very thorough presentation of the life story of the Giant Sequoia with special reference to the Mariposa Grove and its place in Yosemite history.

**A FLORA OF YOSEMITE:** *Harvey Monroe Hall and Carlotta Case Hall* (Elder, S. F., 1912).

A valuable field reference for the visitor with some botanical training who wishes to be able to identify any flower he finds in Yosemite.

**MANUAL OF THE FLORA OF CALIFORNIA:** *Willis Linn Jepson*, (University of California Press, Berkeley, 1928).



# YOSEMITE VALLEY

A complete manual for the taxonomic botanist; usable both in Yosemite and elsewhere in California.

**FOREST TREES OF THE PACIFIC SLOPE:** *Geo. B. Sudworth*, (Government Printing Office).

Scientifically accurate, comprehensive, and well illustrated; one of the best books on western trees.

**TREES OF CALIFORNIA:** *Willis Linn Jepson*, (Associated Students' Store Berkeley, Cal., 1909).

A very usable popular book on California trees by one of the greatest living botanists.

**FORESTS OF YOSEMITE, SEQUOIA, AND GENERAL GRANT NATIONAL PARKS:** *C. L. Hill*, (Government Printing Office, Wn.).

A government bulletin giving a description of the forest cover and the principle tree species.

**BIRDS OF THE PACIFIC STATES:** *Ralph Hoffman*.

A very useful handbook for the field identification of western birds.

**INSECTS OF WESTERN NORTH AMERICA:** *E. O. Essig*, (MacMillan, 1926).

A comprehensive text containing data on representative forms of each insect group.

**NATIONAL PARKS PORTFOLIO**, (Government Printing Office, Wn.).

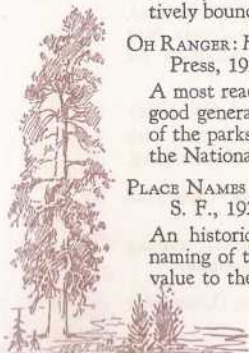
A very fine collection of photographs of all the National Parks attractively bound and placed on sale at cost through the National Park Service.

**OH RANGER:** *Horace M. Albright* and *Frank J. Taylor*, (Stanford University Press, 1928).

A most readable combination of facts and anecdotes which gives a one good general knowledge of what he might expect to see during a tour of the parks. Horace M. Albright, one of the co-authors, is Director of the National Park Service.

**PLACE NAMES OF THE SIERRA NEVADA:** *Francis P. Farquhar*, (Sierra Club, S. F., 1926).

An historical compilation giving detailed information regarding the naming of the geological features of the Sierra Nevada. It is of highest value to the student of Yosemite history.



LODGEPOLE PINE OR TAMARACK.





While in Yosemite  
take advantage of the free  
Government Guide Service



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Dan Anderson