

# Yosemite

Spring 1990  
Volume 52  
Number 2

Henry Berrey

Ranger Mark Wellman and I sat on a log bench in front of the Valley Visitor Center on a cool spring day. The sky was palish blue, wind whipped the clouds along at a good clip. The black oaks were leafing out and the dogwood growing near the Valley District Building was blooming nicely. Within view, the pedestrian mall area was clean and appeared well-tended. Considering the time of year, there were more visitors than might have been expected.

We gnawed our way through giant Degnan's sandwiches and made small talk about the N.B.A., the Giants, the players' strike.

Friends of Mark's stopped by to say hello or to chat about the day's events. Mark's responses were friendly and invariably upbeat.

"Things are great."

Things are great with Mark even though his spine is immobilized by steel rods and he can't use his legs and gets around in an arm-powered wheelchair.

Mark and I had not met before but I knew a good deal about his extraordinary climb of El Capitan in July of last year. When I first heard of his intentions, I viewed the whole thing as impossible. But it wasn't impossible for Wellman, and after talking with him, I'm not sure anything is.

We talked about the early Yosemite climbers, famous before Mark was born. Wayne Merry, who made the first ascent of El Capitan with Warren Harding, Chuck Pratt, Royal Robbins, Bridwell, Frost, Colliver and others whose names and deeds are remembered still by the more-or-less permanent residents of Camp Four, now Sunnyside.

## Always Going For It!

A Profile of  
Climber  
Mark Wellman



BARRY STAVER

Mark Wellman turned thirty last month. He was born and grew up in the Palo Alto area; his father ran a restaurant in the Stanford Barn. Schooling consisted of Palo Alto High School and DeAnza College. His father was kept busy as the bread-winner for the family, hence Mark came under the influence of an uncle, John Wellman, who lived on the Mendocino Coast at Gualala in a cottage overlooking the sea and a rocky cove 200 feet below. It was Uncle John's influence, Mark feels, that instilled in him an appreciation for the wilderness.

Wellman's earliest mountaineering and climbing had not been particularly noteworthy and he seems to have been drawn more to mountaineering than to steep wall climbs. In discussing his boyhood experiences he refers often to Uncle John as the one who exposed him to the wildness of the Sierra, the Cascades, the Trinity Alps and the coastal mountains. There were the usual Boy Scout hikes and encampments in his youth—he scrambled up Mt. Lassen at ten.

In 1980, after a long stint working at the Palo Alto Ski Hut, well known for catering to the more serious mountaineering people, Mark packed up and set out on a five month jaunt in the French, Swiss and Italian Alps. During his Alpine tour, he spent several weeks in the Chamonix Valley, scaling some of the more demanding mountaineering routes, including Mont Blanc.

### The Fall

After Mark returned from his European climbing holiday, he went back to the Ski Hut. All the while, he continued his mountaineering and backpacking junkets, mainly in the Sierra, but somehow never got into sheer-face climbing.

In August of 1982, Wellman with three companions was on a fairly simple Class 4 scramble on a 13,000 foot peak called Seven Gables in the John Muir Wilderness Area on the east side of the



The Shield Route that Wellman and Corbett took up El Capitan.

Sierra. At about five pm, he and his partner Peter had completed their ascent and were making their way down the slope. Wellman, unbelayed, was descending on a slab of granite when his feet slipped on a patch of scree. He bounced down a 50 foot cliff, landing in a rocky, icy crevice. After the immediate shock wore off, he realized that in addition to being banged up, bruised and lacerated, he couldn't move his legs... he'd broken his back. Peter made his way down to Mark, conscious and in considerable pain. After some three hours attempting to make Wellman less uncomfortable, Peter set out to find help. It was a 25 mile trot back to the trailhead.

Wellman, in shock, lay motionless in his rocky cradle for 24 hours, alone and conscious. At 13,000 feet, the night was cold, there were sputterings of snow. Mark feared that if he fell asleep, he just might not wake up. Staying awake and waiting for the sun to rise were the extent of his activities.

Twenty-four hours after the

fall—at 5 pm—Mark heard the kathump-kathump of a helicopter; it was a US Forest Service machine, dispatched to locate him. Shortly, a US Navy Huey from Lemoore NAS arrived. While the ship hovered, medics were lowered, Mark was strapped to a Stokes litter and winched aboard. Earlier, to lighten the load in order to reach the 13,000 foot altitude, much of the helicopter's fuel had been dumped. So, an unscheduled landing was made in Zumwalt Meadow in Sequoia NP. Here, Wellman was transferred to a CHP copter and flown to Valley Medical Center in Fresno. (Mark learned later that a standby rescue team of Yosemite climbers had been alerted. The team leader was Mike Corbett who soon would affect Wellman's life.)

Despite the shock and the trauma, Mark recalls that the flights and the transfers were bitterly painful. Doctors at Valley Medical got him stabilized, examined and determined that vertebrae T-11 and T-12 were smashed and the central nerve all but severed. Neurosurgeons implanted what are known as Harrington rods on each side of his spine to ensure immobilization; they remain in place.



EVAN WINNSLOW SMITH

HAROLD CORN

After two weeks mending in Fresno, Mark was flown to the Kaiser Neurological Center in Redwood City to start seven months of recuperation.

Following his accident and two years of physical therapy, Mark's interest in being close to the mountains hadn't waned. The state rehabilitation people suggested that there might be a role for him with the National Park Service. This took him to the Golden Gate National Recreation Area where he met rangers Frank Dean and Jim Milestone. They arranged for him to do volunteer work at Fort Funston. Meanwhile, he had earned a Park Management Certificate at West Valley College.

Mark's first seasonal job in Yosemite began in 1986, as a fee collector at the Big Oak Flat Entrance Station. This was followed by an internship with the Valley District Interpretive staff working in the Visitor Center. Among those rooting for him was the park architect, Don Fox, who sought his advice in planning access routes for visitors confined to wheelchairs. Much encouragement, too, has come from the head of Valley District Interpretation, Bruce Fincham. Fincham,

This was a young man who, though seriously immobilized physically, was philosophically positive and enthusiastic about what lies ahead.

Mark says, has made it possible for him to address outside groups of handicapped people, to visit rehabilitation facilities where he has, he trusts, been able to drum up hope and inspiration in recently injured patients.

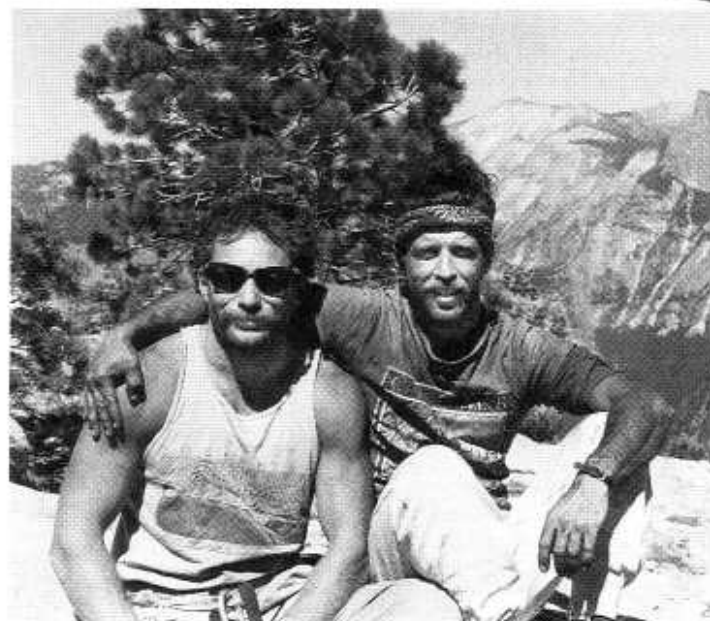
Work in the Valley Visitor Center answering questions on every imaginable subject Mark considers to be "front line duty." Though most of the questions are commonplace, some deal with park policy matters. Here, Mark, judiciously creates a dialogue on the importance of park priorities and resource protection, de-emphasizing the recreational aspects of park use.

In the hour or so we spent together, it became apparent that this was a young man who, though seriously immobilized physically, was philosophically positive and enthusiastic about what lies ahead. He appears committed to three themes: that he will make his plans work, that he will help other handicapped people, and that while parks are for all the people, there must be vigorous and immediate efforts to stem the intrusions into the resource.

"Careful attention to the resource is the most important element . . . all other considerations are secondary."

Earth Day's twentieth anniversary had occurred on April 22, just prior to our talk. Mark reflected that, in his judgement, over the intervening years, young people seemed to have become less enchanted with the notion that environmental and ecological preservation is a premier consideration, favoring instead the pursuit of MBAs and six-figure incomes. "It's stylish now to express environmental concerns, but it seems to be mostly talk, lip service. I don't see a lot happening to keep the conservation movement of the '70s alive and well."

This appears to echo the sentiments of Dennis Hayes who coordinated the 1970 Earth Day event and was chairman of the 1990 anniversary. Hayes feels that



BRUN GROGAN

there is a near unanimous agreement among the leaders of the environmental movement in America today that, since April 22, 1970, the cause is losing ground; that many of the gains of the '70s have been offset by the reversals of the eighties and that only a colossal change in human behavior can turn it around. "I think we're losing the war," Hayes said.

### The Climb

Four years ago, after he'd settled in at his NPS job in the Valley, Mark met Mike Corbett, a climber of all Yosemite's great walls — he'd climbed El Capitan a dozen times. Corbett lived in Sunnyside, the "climbers' camp," and worked at the Yosemite Medical Clinic. The better, more serious climbers are allowed to live in Sunnyside for extended periods, in return for which they make themselves available to perform search and rescue missions.

Wellman and Corbett talked climbers and climbs. It just seemed to happen that Corbett began to guide Wellman toward climbing on vertical cliffs where he could ascend using his upper body and arms. They practiced on tree limbs, bouldered in Sun-

Mark Wellman (left) and Mike Corbett rest at the top of El Capitan.

nyside, set pitches under Bishop's Balcony near the Church Bowl. El Capitan slowly took shape as their goal.

The climb began on July 20 with Mike piggy-backing Mark across the talus to the base of El Cap. They'd selected the route known as "The Shield," just west of the El Cap nose. It was all very steep, no overhangs and only one traverse. As Mark could use only his arms to propel himself upward, it was less difficult for him to move vertically than to pull himself across the granite.

The pair hauled 225 pounds of gear and food and water; they didn't plan on any resupply. Special equipment had been developed for the climb which allowed Mark to hoist himself up with his arms, then lock off with a braking device. Meanwhile, Corbett handled the belaying rope. After Wellman reached a fixed position, Corbett would set up the next pitch, descend and ready Wellman for the next move upward. This procedure they repeated for eight days. Wellman figures he made some 7,000 pull-ups, inching his way up the 3,200

foot cliff, while Corbett's scrambling up and down amounted to having scaled the cliff three times.

For the most part, the climb went according to plan and they reached the summit the middle of day eight. Because of the low angle at the crest, Mike packed Wellman on his back the last hundred yards to the top where scores of well-wishers had assembled to greet them with cheers, tears and champagne, and reporters and cameras.

Corbett said that the climb was somewhat more difficult than he'd expected because of the gear and food hauled, and that he'd had some bad moments when they were obliged to climb upside down under the Shield Roof, some 1800 feet above the Valley floor. "I was uneasy, but we attacked it." Of Wellman, Mike said, "He was so solid, always going for it."

### What's Ahead?

Wellman has done a good deal of work in the development of gear for the use of handicapped people. He put knobby tires on wheelchairs, the better to move across rough terrain. He's helping engineer an arm-propelled Nordic ski (he plans one day to ski from Lee Vining to Crane Flat). He's competing in wheelchair tennis and basketball, and hopes to find a niche in the 1992 Olympic Games.

If he stays with the National Park Service, which he'd like to do, he would choose to devote his time, considering his skills and experience, to the creation and improvement of access programs in all the parks, perhaps working out of the NPS Service Center in Denver.

Whatever comes, it's a good bet that Mark will help wherever he can, inspiring and encouraging physically handicapped to realize and believe that they can improve their lot with work and determination.

As Mark ended our conversation, he observed: "I'd never

*continued on page 14*

# September Members' Meeting in Wawona



On Saturday, September 8, the Yosemite Association will hold its 15th Annual Members' Meeting in Wawona. Alfred Runte, a leading environmental historian and authority on national park management, will be the featured speaker. His controversial new book, *Yosemite: The Embattled Wilderness* has just been published and is reviewed elsewhere in this journal. In addition to speaking, Mr. Runte will be available to sign books and talk with members.

Registration for the day long event occurs in the morning on the lawn of the Wawona Hotel, followed by a cheese and crackers snack lunch. At 1:30 pm, the actual Members' Meeting begins on the grounds of the Pioneer History Center. Wawona weather in September is usually warm and pleasant, but members should bring lawn chairs or blankets since seating is on the grass. After the meeting, there will be the usual lively raffle accompanied by wine and soft drinks. Last year's auction of Yosemite memorabilia

## Association Dates

- July 16-22, 1990:** YA Member Work Trips, Tuolumne Meadows
- August 20-26, 1990:** YA Member Work Trips, Tuolumne Meadows
- August 27-September 2, 1990:** YA Member Work Trips, Tuolumne Meadows
- September 8, 1990:** Members' Meeting, Wawona
- December 1, 1990:** Deadline for Grant Applications.
- March 23, 1991:** Spring Open House, Yosemite Valley
- September 14, 1991:** Members' Meeting, Tuolumne Meadows

was enormously successful and quite competitive; a repeat is planned for Wawona. In the early evening, there will be a Western style barbecue served on the lawn of the hotel followed by a barn dance. On both Saturday and Sunday mornings, there will be walks and talks by National Park Service staff.

The Association has reserved rooms at the Wawona Hotel for members for the nights of Friday, September 7, and September 8. Because there is often more demand than space, there will be a lottery for room assignments. Details of the lottery arrangements will be sent separately to YA members. If you have questions or would like information regarding other accommodations in the Wawona area, please call Gail or Holly at 209-379-2317.

## Centennial Symposium Planned

A major symposium to celebrate the Yosemite Centennial and focus on the issues of preservation and management of natural areas has been planned for October 13-19, 1990, in Yosemite National Park and the San Francisco Bay Area. With support from the Yosemite Fund, the conference will be a joint effort with Yosemite National Park and the Natural Areas Association, a non-profit organization concerned with the identification, evaluation, management, protection and study of natural areas. Resource managers, scientists, agency administrators, students, conservationists and interested members of the general public are invited to attend the conference which is titled "Natural Areas and Yosemite: Prospects for the Future."

Many distinguished speakers have been invited, and the final keynote address will be given by Gilbert Grosvenor, President of the National Geographic Society. Mr. Grosvenor's presentation is sponsored by the Commonwealth

## Summer Work Trips

There are still some openings for this summer's YA Member Work Trips. The Work Trips are each a week long and are based in Tuolumne Meadows. Members stay in a special use campground and tackle work projects in the area. Food and leadership are provided. Most of the work this year will be with the National Park Service's revegetation crew, who are restoring damaged trails and impacted campsites. The people who head up this project are eager for volunteer labor and are very appreciative of the added help. The Work Trips each year are a joint effort by several Park groups: the Yosemite Park and

Curry Company provides the financial underwriting, the Yosemite Institute staffs the trips with leaders and cooks, while the Association handles the organizational work and recruits workers from its membership.

The dates for the three upcoming trips are: **July 16-22, August 20-26, and August 27-September 2.** Volunteers spend four days working in the field and have a free day in the middle of the week to enjoy the wonderful surroundings. YA Members who have been on the trips the last two years have reported that they thoroughly enjoyed themselves and also relished having a chance to do some worthwhile work for the Park. Please call Holly or Gail at 209-379-2317 if you are interested or would like more information.



Club of California, and will be broadcast nationwide on National Public Radio from San Francisco.

An inspirational introductory program in Yosemite will be offered the weekend of October 13-14. Participants will visit key areas to review educational and research projects, and hear from NPS representatives about current management and research efforts in the park. A series of one-day field trips will also be conducted during the conference to natural areas, preserves and parks in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Please note this is not a YA sponsored event. For additional information regarding the symposium, contact Jerry Edelbrock, Coordinator, Yosemite Symposium, GGNRA, Fort Mason Building #201, San Francisco, CA 94123 or phone 415 556-1009.

## 209-379-2317

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

## Correction

In the Winter issue of *Yosemite* a line was inadvertently omitted from King Huber's article about the evolution of the Tuolumne River. On page 6 the section beginning with "The drainage of..." should have read as follows: "The drainage of this ancient San Joaquin River included the area now occupied by the Mono basin. The ancient Tuolumne River evidently never extended east of this range of hills." We regret any confusion that this omission may have caused.

1 9 8 9

## ANNUAL REVIEW

*Another year of success for the Yosemite Association. All departments of the organization worked hard to achieve the goals set last year. A number of high-quality, attractive publications and products were completed, and the seminar program offered an extensive list of varied and informative courses. Membership continued to grow and exceeded previous levels. Other programs like the Yosemite Theater, Ostrander Lake Ski Hut and the Art Activity Center all prospered.*

*The health of these activities was reflected in YA's financial condition. Sales reached the highest point ever as did all receipts for the organization. Not surprisingly, our net revenues after consideration of all expenses were greater than they have ever been.*

Vol. XIII MAY 1904 NUMBER 1

## SUNSET



10 CENTS A COPY NEW YORK: 233 Broadway SAN FRANCISCO  
ONE DOLLAR A YEAR CHICAGO: 402 Clark St. CALIFORNIA  
LONDON: 40 Leadenhall St.

*Our financial prosperity allowed us to commit to over \$280,000 in funding for the National Park Service in 1990, as well as to budget over \$31,000 for research programs. Obviously, YA's organizational performance is closely linked to the assistance we can provide at the Park. We feel fortunate that 1989 was good to us and Yosemite both.*

*Once again we are indebted to the many individuals and companies who have contributed so significantly to our work. Everyone at the Yosemite Association encourages your continued support while we endeavor to carry our success of 1989 into Yosemite's Centennial Year.*

Sincerely,

*Steven P. Medley*

# YOSEMITE VALLEY

## Board of Trustees

Board members Barbara DeWitt and William Alsup were declared re-elected without a vote to new six-year terms in 1989. When no nominations by petition for board vacancies are received at the Members' Meeting, the board bylaws provide that the candidates nominated by the board are deemed elected without the requirement of an election.

Barbara DeWitt has served on the board of the Association since 1984 and was very active in the creation of the Yosemite Fund fundraising effort. She personally initiated YAs volunteer program and spent many hours in planning, organization and training. Along with her husband, Tim, Ms. DeWitt has led a number of YA seminars, particularly those involving families and children. A location scout and production coordinator for commercial photographers, she resides in Mariposa.

William Alsup was appointed to the board in early 1989 to fill a position made empty by a resignation. He is an attorney in San Francisco who served as a law clerk to William O. Douglas on the US Supreme Court. A gifted amateur photographer, he produced the images for the YA publication *Such A Landscape!*, which he also edited. His first year on the board was a very active one.



NPS PHOTO

# SOUTHERN PACIFIC

## Membership

The Yosemite Association membership program had a very successful year in 1989 as we passed the 5,000 mark and ended the year with close to 5,500 members. Many of the new members (634) joined as a result of the good work of the YA volunteers at the summer membership booth in Yosemite Valley. YA volunteers also staffed the Museum Gallery and participated in two member work trips during 1989. The work trips were based in Tuolumne Meadows and assisted the Park Service with its revegetation work. The trips were a joint effort of the Yosemite Association, the Yosemite Institute, the Yosemite Park & Curry Co. and the National Park Service.

The September Members' Meeting was held in Tuolumne Meadows this year. The 350 members who attended it enjoyed a talk by the noted outdoor photographer, Galen Rowell, as well as walks and talks, a spaghetti lunch, and a lively auction and raffle. An extra treat was the blanket of snow Sunday morning.

A second member event was the Spring Open House held in April. The YA faithful were treated to a variety of in-depth presentations on wilderness history and management, the latest in archaeological research and computer mapping, and contemporary art in the Park (among other topics of interest). In the evening, there was a premier screening of the new film produced by YA and Sundance Institute and narrated by Robert Redford, *Yosemite: The Fate of Heaven*.

## Sales/Publications

1989 was another banner year for the sales department of the Yosemite Association. Gross sales climbed to \$1,281,625 which figure represents an increase of 20% over last year's mark. This continued success was due to a number of factors including a more efficient sales operation, many second-year seasonal employees, and field managers with an interest in interpreting through books and other educational materials.

During the year seven new publication projects were completed. Most notable was the development of the video version of the YA/Sundance Institute film *Yosemite: The Fate of Heaven*. The film received a number of awards including a Blue Ribbon at the American Film and Video Festival and Best Environmental Film at the Banff Film Festival.

New books included *Mountain Sage* (a biography of naturalist Carl Sharsmith) by Elizabeth O'Neill, a reprint of *Yosemite: Its Discovery, Its Wonders and Its People* by Margaret Sanborn, and a reprint of N. King Huber's *The Geologic Story of Yosemite National Park*. An audio tape tour of Yosemite Valley entitled *Yosemite Audio Guide - Yosemite Valley Tour* was produced by Bob Roney, and a set of four color note cards featuring the wildlife photographs of Michael Frye was printed.

Wholesale sales were boosted by the placement of 22 book racks in Yosemite area motels, restaurants, and shops. Thanks to these racks, visitors were able to obtain materials about Yosemite on their way here. 1989 was also the first year that a complete catalog of all YA publications was printed and mailed to bookstores and libraries.

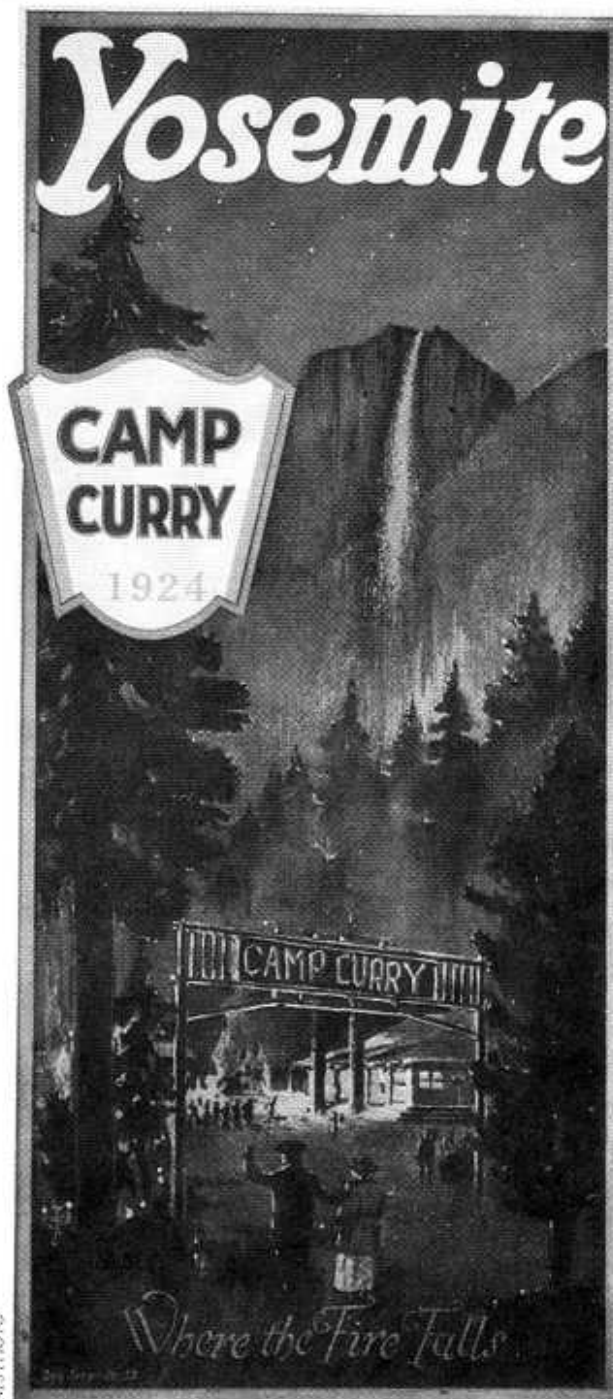
## More Awards for *Fate of Heaven*

The film produced last year by the Yosemite Association and Sundance Institute entitled "Yosemite: The Fate of Heaven" continues to be recognized for the quality of its production and message. Earlier this year, the National Geographic Society bestowed its prestigious "Earthwatch Award" on the film.

Recently, the American Library

Association's *Booklist Magazine* gave the film a starred review and a "Starred in Booklist Medal" for its outstanding contribution to literature. The review concluded with the following observation: "Exquisite cinematography and pointed scripting that melds past and present are evocatively structured in this powerful plea for the preservation of Yosemite."

*The Fate of Heaven* is also a semifinalist in the "C.I.N.E." film competition and has been entered in the Environmental Film Festival.



## Contributions to the NPS

The Yosemite Association was the first cooperating association established in the National Park System, and was originally formed to accept a donation for the construction of the Yosemite Museum. Over the years we have worked to enhance the quality of the Yosemite experience for millions of visitors through our educational programs, services, publications and contributions.

In 1989, direct aid to the National Park Service totalled \$187,428, and an additional \$27,245 was made available to individual scientists and researchers. This level of support was 22% higher than in 1988.

### Contributions by category:

Interpretive Program	\$ 44,921
Museum Acquisitions & Exhibits	54,245
Free Publications	23,165
Student Interns & Environmental Ed.	19,197
Research Library	9,500
Research and Archeology	16,085
Public Information	3,000
Resource Projects	7,000
Administration/Public Relations	10,315
<b>Total for 1989</b>	<b>\$187,428</b>

## Research Grant Program

The second year of the YA research grant program saw a total of \$27,245 committed to a variety of projects. Among the grants awarded were those for a tree-ring study, analysis of volcanic ash at Swamp Lake, rephotographing Watkins and Muybridge views, a social history of Yosemite photography, an ethnobotany data base, and support for the Wilderness Conference. Yosemite Association-funded research was ongoing for both 1988 and 1989 projects.

# Balance Sheet, 1989

For year ending  
December 31, 1989

## 1989 Board of Trustees

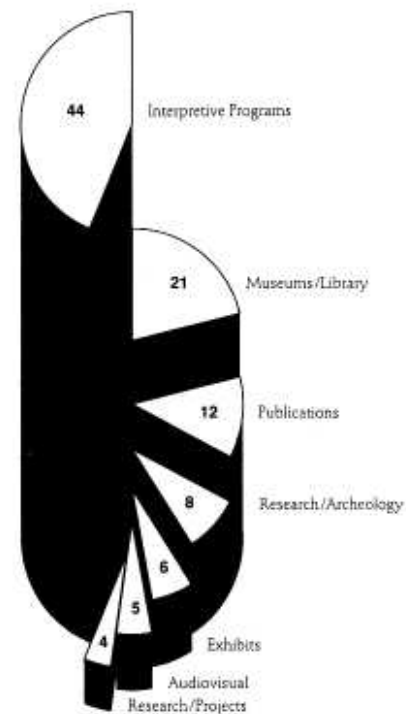
William Alsup  
Beverly Barrick  
Barbara DeWitt  
Carlo Fowler  
Edward C. Hardy  
Jeffery C. Lapham  
Elvira Nishkian  
Richard C. Otter  
Richard Reitnauer  
Lennie Roberts  
David Robertson  
Annie Schneider  
Thomas Shephard  
Jean Watt  
Phyllis Weber  
Daniel Wolfus

	<i>Operating Fund</i>	<i>Restricted Funds</i>	<i>Plant Fund</i>	<i>Total All Funds</i>
<b>Assets</b>				
Cash	\$181,600	\$92,840		\$274,440
Accounts Receivable	63,869			63,869
Prepaid Expense	3,314			3,314
Inventories at Cost	392,828	5,252		398,080
Equipment			137,263	137,263
Accumulated Depreciation			(56,224)	(56,224)
<i>Total Assets</i>	<i>641,611</i>	<i>98,092</i>	<i>81,039</i>	<i>820,742</i>
<b>Liabilities</b>				
Accounts Payable	57,343			57,343
Loan Payable	4,000			4,000
Accrued Taxes	4,592			4,592
Accrued Payroll	6,987			6,987
Vacation Payroll	8,927			8,927
Deferred Restricted Gifts		8,092		98,092
<i>Total Liabilities</i>	<i>81,849</i>	<i>98,092</i>		<i>179,941</i>
<b>Fund Balances</b>				
Invested in Equipment			81,039	1,039
Unappropriated	559,762			559,762
<i>Total Fund Balances</i>	<i>559,762</i>		<i>81,039</i>	<i>640,801</i>
<b>Total Liabilities and Fund Balances</b>	<b>641,611</b>	<b>98,092</b>	<b>81,039</b>	<b>820,742</b>



# Statement of Activity, 1989

<b>Support and Revenues</b>	<i>Operating Fund</i>	<i>Restricted Funds</i>	<i>Plant Fund</i>	<i>Total All Funds</i>
Publication Sales	\$1,303,988			\$1,303,988
Seminars	112,492			112,492
Membership	152,370			152,370
Gifts		4,222		4,222
Investment Income	17,354			17,354
Theater	131,225			131,225
Auxiliary Activities	87,643	87,855		175,498
<i>Total Revenues</i>	<i>1,805,072</i>	<i>92,077</i>		<i>1,987,149</i>
<b>Expenses</b>				
<i>Support Services:</i>				
Management and General	226,717		9,419	236,136
Membership	68,061		164	68,225
<i>Cost of Sales and Expense of Auxiliary Activities:</i>				
Publication Costs	891,220		3,805	895,025
Seminars	112,575		6	112,581
Theater	80,450		51	80,501
Auxiliary Activities	67,392		610	68,002
<i>Total Expenses</i>	<i>1,446,415</i>		<i>14,055</i>	<i>1,460,470</i>
<b>Excess of Revenue Over Expenses</b>				
	358,657	92,077	14,055	<b>1,460,470</b>



**1989 Donations to NPS  
Total: \$187,428**

This summary of financial information has been extracted from the Yosemite Association's audited financial statement. To obtain copies of the complete financial report, please contact the YA office.

# YOSEMITE IN WINTER



## Other Programs

**Art Activity Center.** The Art Center enjoyed its ninth season in 1989, and provided free instruction to over 3,000 park visitors and residents. The ever-popular watercolor, oil, and drawing classes were expanded with a new Semi-E class and a print-making class that did copper-etchings. The volunteer program is now booked two years in advance with many new artists anxious for their turn to instruct. Artists this year came from South Carolina, Virginia, Connecticut, Michigan, Nevada, and as always, California. The Association arranges for the guest-artists and maintains a mailing list for participants, Yosemite Park & Curry Co. provides the art-related store and room/board for the artists, and the National Park Service houses the operation. The program has been very successful in presenting a creative way to view the Park.

**High Sierra Loop Trips.** In 1989 there were 19 total loop trips with 15 different leaders and 356 participants. By way of these trips, visitors to the High Sierra Camps experienced the flora, fauna, and geology of the area from a new perspective, as they traveled through country which offers some of the most beautiful vistas in the park. Four of the trips were also used to train new interpreters. Expenses for the trips were passed on to the participants and YA handled the logistics of uniforms, payroll, and accounting. Trip leaders were picked, as usual, by the Mather District Interpreter.

**Yosemite Theater Program.** For the seventh year Lee Stetson was the main Yosemite Theater attraction with his portrayal of John Muir in two different one-man shows. Bob Roney produced and showed a new narrated film on the wildlife of Yosemite, and continued with his *Yosemite and the High Sierra* film. Gail Pyle sparkled as usual with her original "Yosemite By Song" family show. Peter

Kern demonstrated climbing techniques and safety as part of his presentation of his *Yosemite Climbing* film. This year YA was proud to add showings of our new film, *Yosemite: The Fate of Heaven*, to the Yosemite Theater lineup.

## Field Seminars

The seminar program experienced an exciting year with a fine variety of offerings and increased overall enrollments. The winter/spring schedule accommodated 320 participants, and an additional 750 attended during summer and fall. The combined total of 1,070 enrollees was almost double the same figure for 1985!

Several new courses were offered in 1989. Among them was "Yosemite Animal Ecology" presented by Paul Todd. He provided students a thorough introduction to the park's many bird and mammal species. Several National Park Service professionals addressed the group as "guest speakers" and added their expertise.

Other new programs included "Teaching About California Indians" by Bev Ortiz, "A Literary Naturalist's Workshop" presented at Crane Flat by Paul Tidwell and Inka Christiansen, and a "Family Fishing" course taught by David Rice and Art Baggett.

Making the program more "accommodating" this year was the development of a special YA seminar area in the Tuolumne Meadows Campground. Not only were seminar participants able to camp together, but the sites were quiet and available. Seminar campground hosts were on location for six weeks at a time to assist students and coordinate logistics in Tuolumne.

## Ostrander Lake Ski Hut

YA has now run the Ostrander Lake Ski Hut at the request of the National Park Service for nine years. Reservations for the hut are handled at our office in El Portal, and YA hut keepers are stationed at Ostrander. 1989 marked Howard Weamer's sixteenth year at Ostrander where he has become a veritable fixture.

During the year approximately 2,000 nordic skiers visited the hut for an overnight stop. They were charged a nightly fee of \$10, which covered the costs of staff, maintenance and supplies. The season extended from mid-December through mid-April.

## Film Assistance Program

This program, during its second year, continued to offer help to filmmakers, video crews and still photographers working in Yosemite. YA provided logistical assistance, location scouts and other support for a fee, and also requested donations in lieu of the traditional location fee.

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## Park Highlights 1989

### February

Three photographs of nudes in Yosemite were removed from an exhibit in the Yosemite Museum, causing a minor controversy and generating extensive

coverage in the press.

A rockslide closed the Big Oak Flat Road on February 14.

### March

A rockslide occurred on the Four Mile Trail, March 29. No one was injured.

### May

Superintendent Jack Morehead accepted a new position as Asso-

ciate Director of Operations for the National Park Service in Washington, D.C.

Secretary of the Interior, Manuel Lujan, visited the park, May 17-18.

### June

The gathering of firewood in Yosemite Valley was banned on June 1 to reduce smoke from campfires and damage to vegetation.

The Yosemite Park & Curry Co. received the "Take Pride in America" award on June 23.

The new Hetch Hetchy entrance station opened June 30.

### July

Mark Wellman and Mike Corbett climbed El Capitan, July 19-26.

A minor rockslide from Middle Brother rock closed Northside Drive for 18 hours on July 25.

### August

Mike Finley was named new Park Superintendent on August 11.

The General Management Plan Examination Report was released for public comment on August 29.

### September

The Tioga Road was closed due to snow, September 17-18.

### December

In response to a mass mailing by the Yosemite Park & Curry Co. regarding the GMP Examination Report, several controversial stories about the plan appear in the press.

# Yosemite — An Embattled Wilderness?

Reviewed by Gene Rose

When Alfred Runte, a park ranger turned author, tries to make a case that the National Park Service has failed in its mission to protect Yosemite National Park, he points to the free flow of alcohol.

"Hardly had the first tourist begun arriving in the (Yosemite) valley when tent saloons started popping up alongside popular overlooks and trails," Runte writes in "Yosemite—The Embattled Wilderness," a book just released by the University of Nebraska Press.

Now, a century later, he continues, Yosemite boasts 35 outlets for beer, wine or other liquors, with 23 of those sources in Yosemite Valley.

The alcohol example is one of many Runte cites in his 283-page book, which focuses on the park service's preservation efforts.

When it comes to that basic mission, he says, the park service is more likely to act as chamber of commerce or tourism department.

"When it comes to preservation vs. profit, it's always been profit, hands down."

Runte worked as a park naturalist from 1980 to 1983, speaking to visitors about the human and natural history of Yosemite. Often the history was not what some park officials and concessionaires liked to hear.

On one occasion, he recalled, a woman approached and asked permission to tape his evening program on park history for college study. Somehow the tape ended up on the desk of the superintendent via the concessionaire's office and Runte's history talks ended there.

"My knowledge of park history, I admit, was sometimes uncomfortable for management personnel, who expected history to vindicate their actions rather than suggest a possible need for more critical reviews."

Runte's somewhat bombastic book comes at a critical period; The park is celebrating its centen-

ennial this year and is in the midst of a controversy over a reexamination of the 1980 master plan, which called for steps to return the park to a more natural state.

In the book, Runte contends, the justification for commercialism in Yosemite has always been "public demand," whether or not offering various goods or services is in keeping with park values.

He believes compromises have corrupted the integrity of the service since the late 1800s, when an irascible David Curry began making demands of the US cavalry, the first managers of the park.



**Yosemite, The Embattled Wilderness** by Alfred Runte, University of Nebraska Press, \$24.95, cloth.

## Book Review

vice allowed the concessionaire to build "bear feeding platforms" in the valley, where visitors could see bears being fed. The concessionaire even offered special evening programs for a fee. But when the bears began wreaking havoc with guest cabins and driving off business, the concessionaire demanded a solution—not recognizing its own complicity in the turn of events.

The result was that hundreds of bears were destroyed, he notes.

"If ever there was a conflict of interest between profit and preservation—between the park service as protector of the resource or as facilitator of the company's gain—this was it," Runte maintains.

It was not until 1973, when a mound of bear remains was discovered, that the park service began more scientific bear management.

Runte claims that almost every positive idea for enhancing the park experience has come from outside the park system. For instance, the preservation of wildlife, the nature walks or interpretative programs originated with scholars from outside the park service.

If there is any hope for keeping Yosemite "inalienable for all time," it is education, particularly education that emphasizes preservation and natural values.

"The moment educators adopted Yosemite National Park, preservation everywhere won greater legitimacy. Once the public was encouraged to learn about natural resources and not merely to observe them, the future of Yosemite was much brighter and unquestionably more secure."

The book is a sequel to Runte's 1982 book, "The National Park Experience."

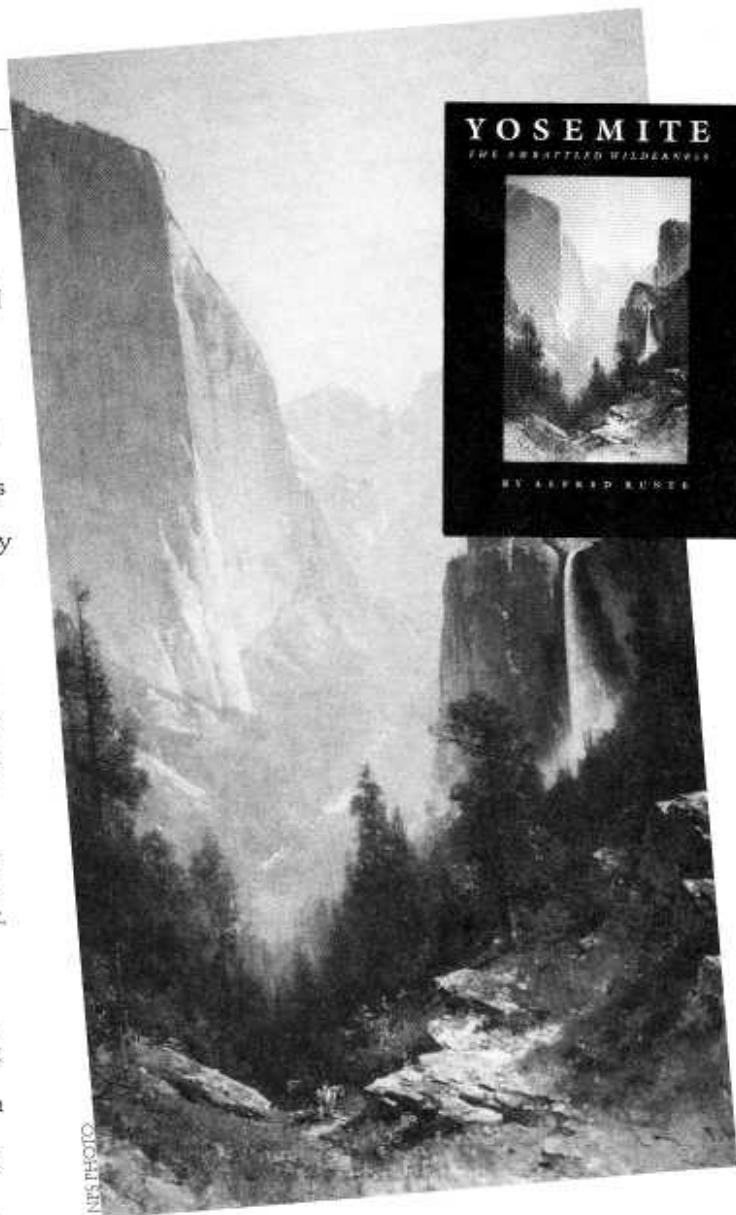
*Gene Rose, a life member of the Yosemite Association, has covered Yosemite for the Fresno Bee for many years. This review first appeared in the Bee and is reproduced with permission.*

The situation was compounded when the park service forced the unification of the old Yosemite Park Co. and the original Curry Camping Co. providing the park with a solitary concessionaire, he says.

Runte cites a litany of commercial activities in Yosemite that have little to do with the enjoyment of the natural scene, including the famed Bracebridge Christmas pageant, ice skating and downhill skiing.

Another indictment of the agency is the treatment of bears, he said.

In the early 1920s, the park ser-



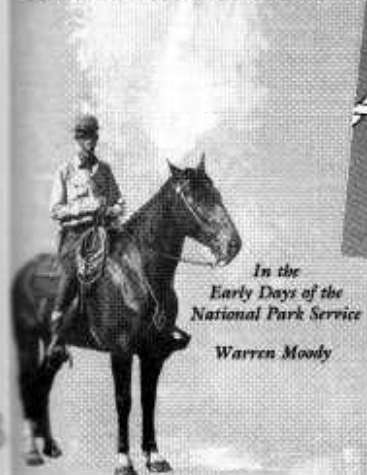
# THE Yosemite

## CATALOG

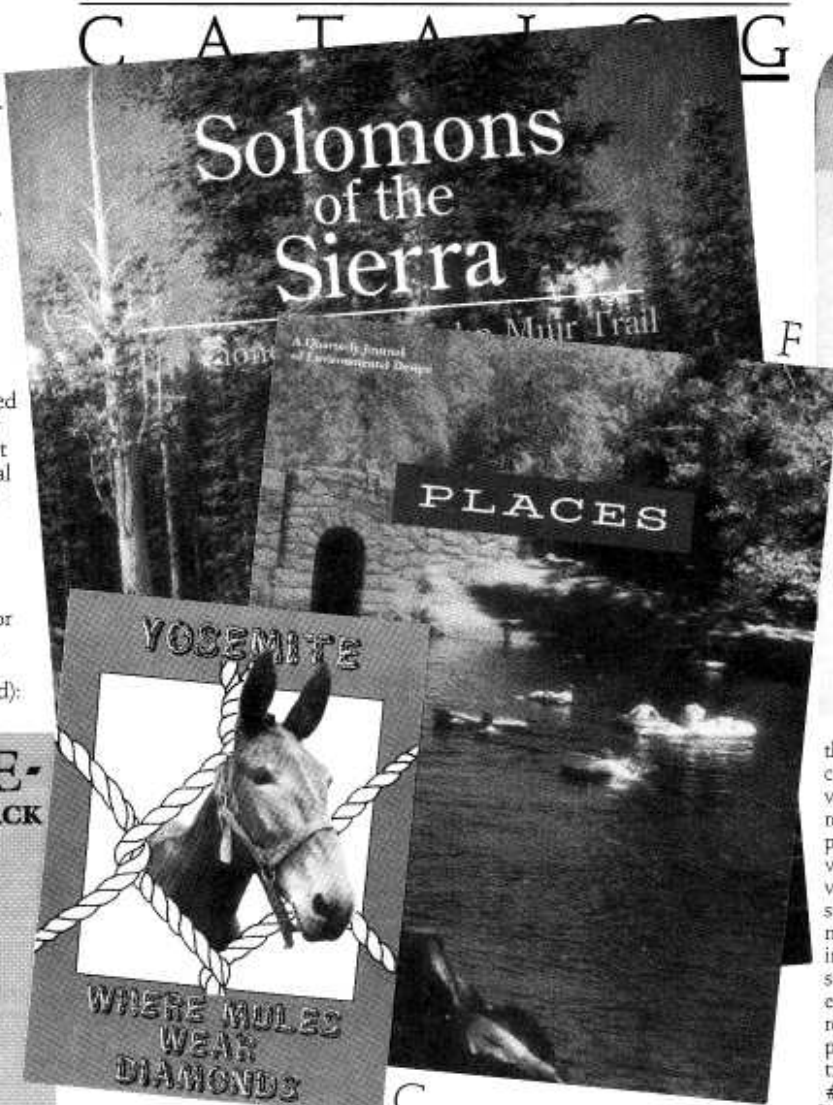


**A** *Yosemite: The Embattled Wilderness* by Alfred Runte. In this long-awaited work, the author details the history of the tension and shifting balances between preservation, an ideal from the park's beginning, and use in Yosemite. The preservation ideal has been compromised, Runte asserts, by the need to accommodate people and by a competing set of management values under which the National Park Service has toiled. Because Yosemite is too important "to be just another place," Runte believes that this fact should guide all future management policies for the park. With 6 color and 50 black and white illustrations. University of Nebraska Press, 1990. #19350 (clothbound): \$24.95.

### YOSEMITE- RANGER on HORSEBACK



**B** *Yosemite Ranger on Horseback* by Warren Moody. Here are the personal reminiscences of a mounted ranger who spent three summers in Yosemite during the 1920s. His duties were varied, from taking back country patrols and fighting forest fires to escorting visiting VIPs, planting fish and confronting bears. The late Horace Albright called the book "an important contribution to the literature of Yosemite and ranger life." The 85 page book is liberally illustrated with black and white photographs and drawings. Pioneer Publishing Co., 1990. #19890 (paper): \$7.95.

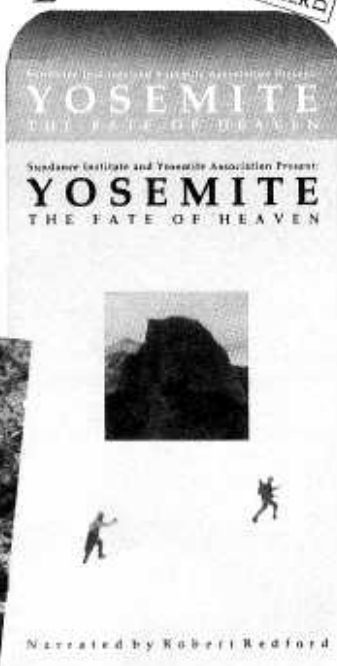


**C** *Yosemite—Where Mules Wear Diamonds* by Bob Barrett. The author started packing for the National Park Service in Yosemite in 1956 and is still at it. In this personal history, he shares his experiences around horses and mules in the park's backcountry. It's replete with many anecdotes about the characters who people Yosemite's wilderness, and chock full of information that would be hard to find anywhere else. He even includes a roster of packer employees since 1915, and a list of the mules that served him over the years. Printed in an 8 and 1/2 by 11 inch format with lots of Barrett's black and white photographs. Loose Change Publications, 1989. #20090 (paper): \$12.95.

**D** *Solomons of the Sierra* by Shirley Sargent. This exhaustive study of Theodore S. Solomons (who was almost

solely responsible for the John Muir Trail) is the result of years of research (37) and writing (8). Solomons was a genuine mountaineer who explored widely in the Sierra. He was the first to photograph the Tuolumne Canyon, and he discovered and named many of the peaks in the Evolution Basin. Richard Dillon has stated that: "This biography will serve as another kind of monument to a cantankerous—but dedicated and important—member of the cadre of mountaineers who pioneered the Sierra." Flying Spur Press, 1989. #16311 (cloth): \$19.95; #16310 (paper): \$12.95.

**E** *Yosemite: The Fate of Heaven* narrated by Robert Redford. This is the new video cassette produced by the Yosemite Association and Sundance Institute. The documentary takes a look at the many forces at play in Yosemite from



the varied perspectives of rock-climbers, trail builders, rangers, visitors, backpackers, visitors and residents. What emerges is a compelling and thought-provoking work with high entertainment value. The color photography is stunning and captures Yosemite's moods in all four seasons. An original musical score adds immeasurably to the film, and all its elements combine to produce a remarkable vision of Yosemite past, present and future. Running time: 58 minutes. #1570 (VHS), #1571 (VHS/PAL): \$19.95.

**F** *Places—A Quarterly Journal of Environmental Design* (Vol. 6 No. 3; Spring, 1990) from the Design History Foundation. This special issue of "Places" is devoted to what is characterized as a "place debate" over Yosemite National Park. Almost twenty different articles are included by such authors as David Brower, David Robertson and Joseph Sax. Divided into sections entitled "Prospects," "Portfolio" and "Perceptions," the issue is handsomely designed and illustrated. Topics include Yosemite of the spirit, towards an architecture of Yosemite Valley, Yosemite as a mythical place, maintaining the Yosemite experience and more. The coverage of cultural and visual perceptions of Yosemite, as well as of the ideas for preserving and managing the park is excellent. 8 and 1/2 by 11 inches, 96 pages. Design History Foundation, 1990. #50030 (paper): \$10.00.

**G** Yosemite Association Cap. Complete your outdoor wardrobe with this trendy item from the Association collection! It's the perfect hat for a hot, sunny day in the great outdoors—mesh fabric to keep a cool head, a generous bill to shade your face, and adjustable strap in the back to insure a good fit for everyone. All of this plus the Yosemite Association patch to let everyone know what your favorite organization is! Brown with white accent. #1600, \$6.00.

**K** Pelican Pouch, *Wilderness Belt Bag*. The Pelican Pouch is not only perfect for carrying field guides, but also offers instant access to all the small items that are usually buried in your pack—pocket camera, lenses, maps, or your favorite trail mix! The Pouch is designed with front snap fasten-



ers on the straps. This allows comfortable positioning on your belt—even between belt loops; no need to take your belt off first. The material is high quality Cordura pack cloth with a waterproof coating on one side. Beige with the dark brown and white Yosemite Association patch, the Pelican Pouch measures 8 x 5 x 2½ inches. #1690, \$11.95.

**L** Yosemite Association Decals and Patches. Our association logo, depicting Half Dome is offered to our members in these two

useful forms. Help announce your affiliation with our organization to others by purchasing and using Yosemite Association patches and decals. Patch #1635, \$1.50; Decal #1636, \$1.00.

**J** Yosemite Enamel Pin. Designed especially for the Association, our enameled metal pin is a work of art. Each of the 10 different glazes is hand placed and separately fired. The result, from William Spear Design, is an eye-catching and colorful piece. The metal enamel pins are relief engraved in a 7/8 x 2" size. #1695, \$11.95.

## Always Going For It!

*continued from page 3*

climbed El Capitan, which climbers dream of. I'd never climbed El Capitan. Now I have."

Postscript: Wellman and Corbett were recently named recipients of Tanqueray's 23rd Annual Amateur Athletic Achievement Award. They received their honor at the Explorers' Club in New York City on June 5. Along with the recognition went a donation of \$5,000 to an organization of their choice. They selected the Yosemite Association, specifying that the money go towards the development of a handicapped ski program at Badger Pass and to support the search and rescue operation at Yosemite.

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## New Members

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

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## Join the Yosemite Association

**You can help support** the work of the Yosemite Association by becoming a member. Revenues generated by the Association's activities are used to fund a variety of National Park Service programs in Yosemite. Not only does the Yosemite Association publish and sell literature and maps, it sponsors field seminars, the park's Art Activity Center, and the Ostrander Lake Ski Hut.

A critical element in the success of the Association is its membership. Individuals and families throughout the country have long supported the Yosemite Association through their dues and their personal commitments. Won't you join us in our effort to make Yosemite an even better place?

### Member Benefits

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

★ *Yosemite*, the Association bulletin, published on a quarterly basis;

★ A 15% discount on all books, maps, posters, calendars and publications stocked for sale by the Association;

★ A 10% discount on most of the field seminars conducted by the Association in Yosemite National Park;

★ The opportunity to participate in the annual Members' Meeting held in the park each fall, along with other Association activities;

★ A Yosemite Association decal; and

★ Special membership gifts as follows:

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

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

*Sustaining Members:* A colorful enameled pin depicting a Yosemite waterfall by William Spear;

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

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

Membership dues are tax-deductible beyond the value of the benefits provided to the member.

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## Moving?

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

# YoseMite

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Dan Anderson