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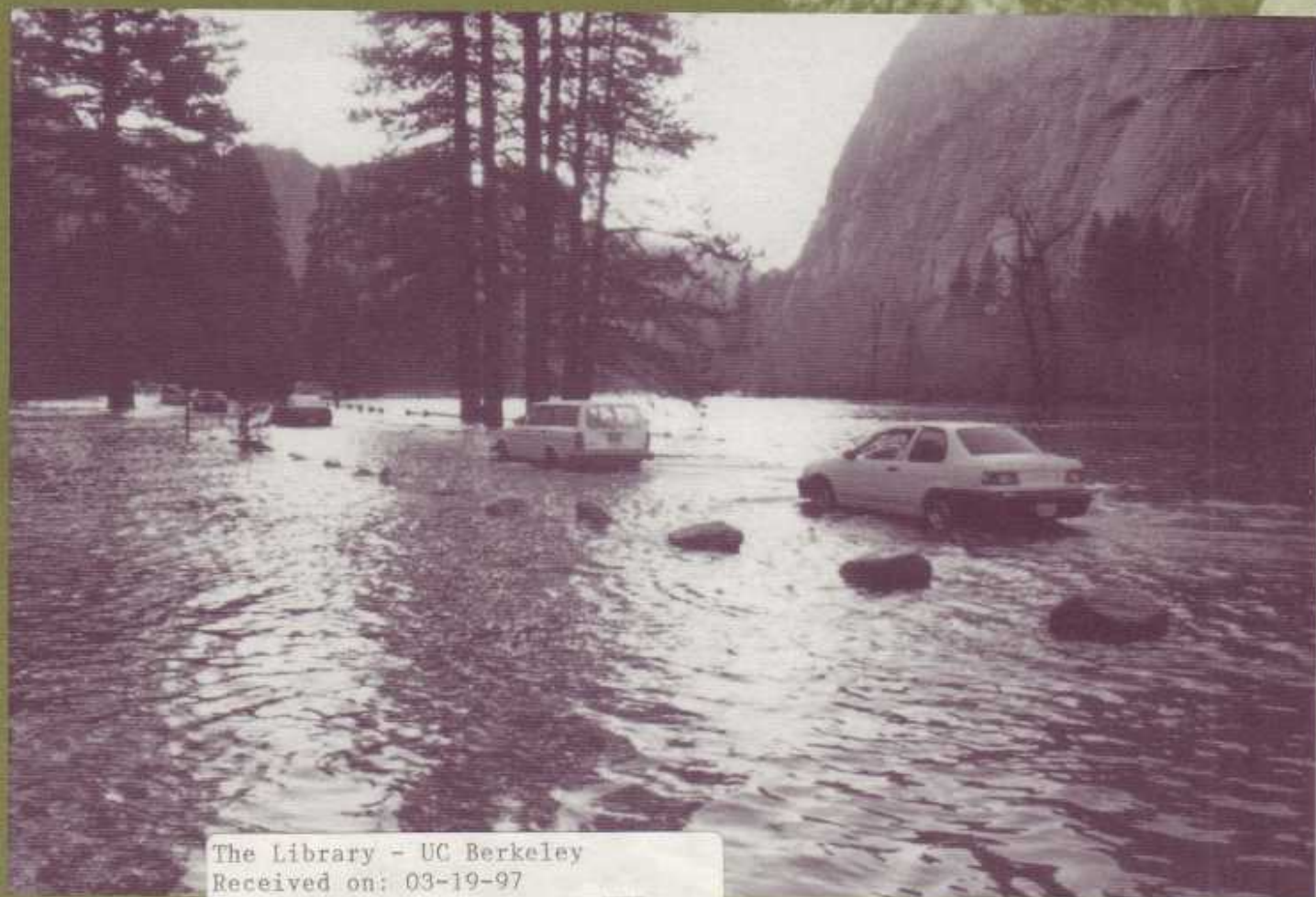
Yosemite

A JOURNAL FOR MEMBERS OF THE
YOSEMITE ASSOCIATION

Winter 1997 Volume 59 Number 1

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HIGHWATER 1997

The storms which swept through Northern California in early January had a devastating impact on Yosemite Valley and its access roads. The park has closed for an indefinite time period as the National Park Service assesses the damage and begins the process of repair and recovery. Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt has announced that the cost to fully repair and restore the park could run as high as \$178,053,000. Copies of the Preliminary Damage Assessment Report released by the NPS can be obtained by writing Yosemite National Park, PO Box 577, Yosemite CA 95389, Attn.: Public Information Office. The complete document is also on the internet at <http://www.nps.gov/yose>.

In a future issue of the journal, we intend to have a detailed report of what occurred and what the restoration process might entail. For this issue, however, we've gathered unofficial photos from several local residents who documented the storm and its aftermath. We thought YA members would appreciate seeing firsthand some of the havoc created by the flooding.

Cover photo taken by Geoff Green near the Yosemite Chapel as visitors were evacuated on January 3, 1997.

Northside Drive looking towards Yosemite Lodge at 11:30 a.m. on January 2, 1997



Geoff Green



Tent cabins damaged in Camp 6, an employee housing area.

Cook's Meadow at noon on January 1, 1997.

Upper River Campground as the waters receded on January 4, 1997.

In El Portal, the Parkline Restaurant's kitchen was washed away by the Merced River.

Geoff Green



Geoff Green

Geoff Green



Brian Grogan



Clockwise from top:

Highway 140 washed out in the area called the "Cookie" between the Arch Rock Entrance and the Cascades.

Road damage at Happy Isles.

Damage to Lower Yosemite Falls bridge, January 4, 1997.

In El Portal, another area of major damage to Highway 140.

Facing page:

A medical rescue from Yosemite Lodge on January 2, 1997 using a front end loader to navigate through high water.



Leroy Radanovich



Geoff Green



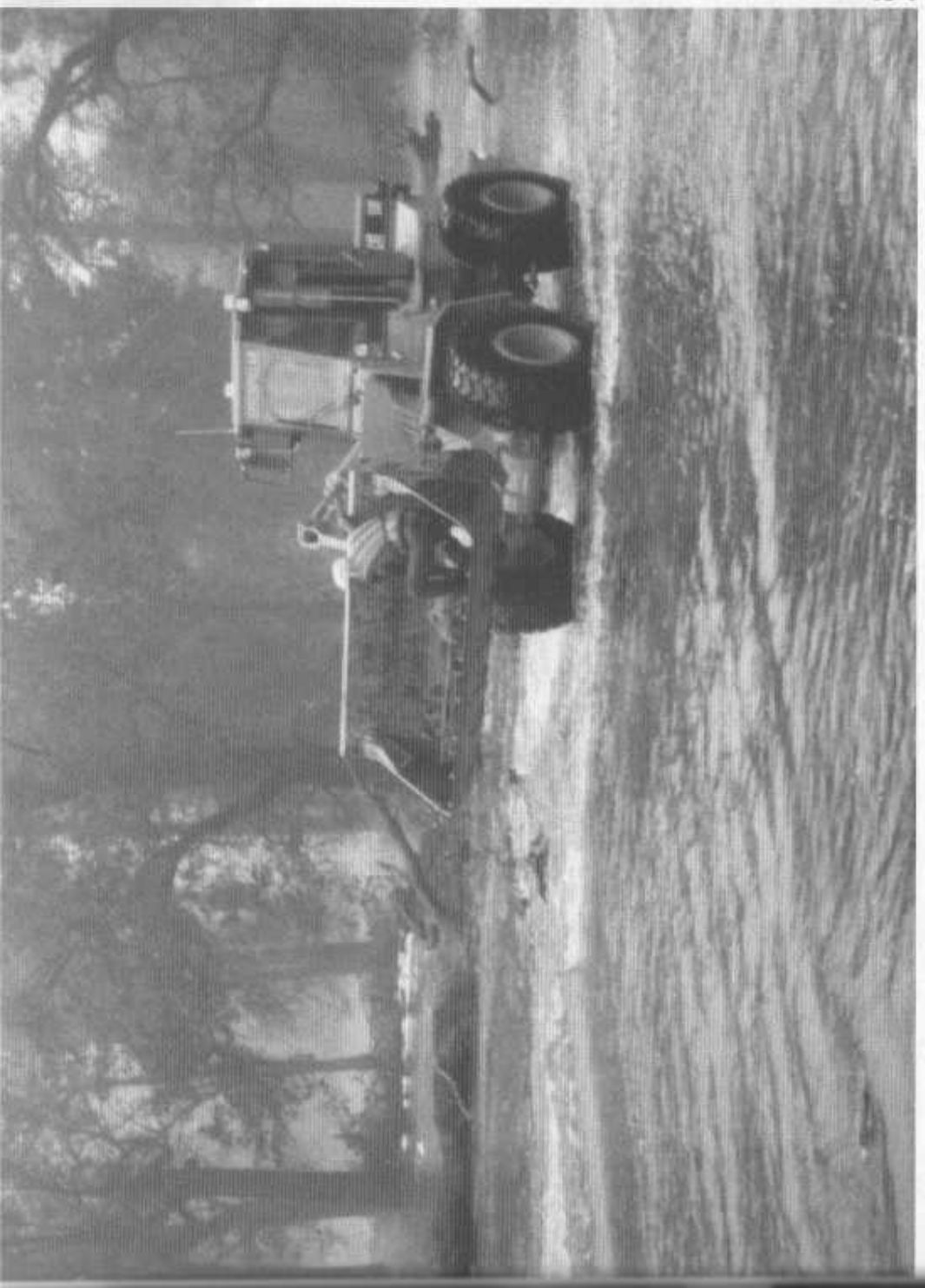
Mary Coelho



Eric Lusignan



Geoff Green



Geoff Green



Mary Coelho



Geoff Green



Eric Laignan

*Damage to Superintendent's Bridge in Cook's Meadow.
The Village Store parking lot on January 2, 1997.
Floodwaters in Camp 6, an employee housing area.*



Geoff Green

View of Pohono Bridge from the air.

Close up of damage to Pohono Bridge.

*Highway 140 in El Portal on January 2, 1997
as the Merced River was rising.*



Geoff Green



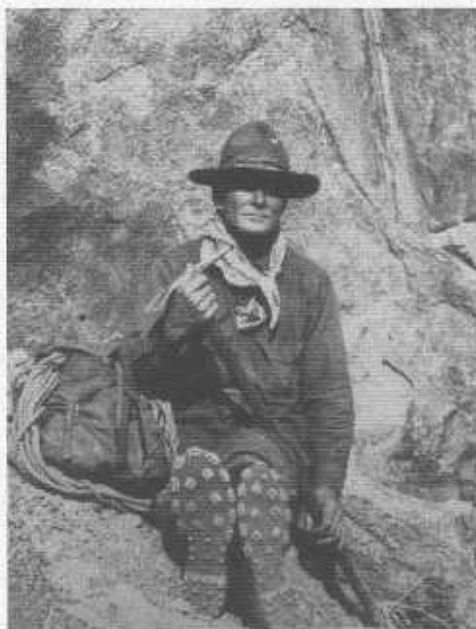
Brian Grogan

Flood Video Now Available

A seven-minute video featuring impressive footage of the Merced River at flood stage is now available from the Yosemite Association. Produced by the National Park Service, the video provides a glimpse of the impact of the flood and the river's awesome power. The VHS cassette is priced at \$6.00 and can be ordered by phone or by using the form on page 21.

THE MOUNTAINS OF THE YOSEMITE REGION

BY NORMAN CLYDE
INTRODUCTION BY
ROBERT PAVLIK



Norman Clyde

The history of California's Sierra Nevada is replete with the legendary exploits of numerous men and women who explored, revealed in and revealed the beauty and terror of this great mountain range. The life history, writings, and philosophy of individuals like John Muir have been well chronicled; less well known but nonetheless important is Muir's twentieth century equivalent, mountaineer and nature writer Norman Clyde (1885-1972). Like Muir, Clyde was of Scottish descent and a transplanted Californian who came to know this portion of his adopted state better than any living person.

During his adult life he made numerous ascents of High Sierra peaks and penned articles that appeared in publications such as Touring Topics (Westways), Motorland, Sierra Club Bulletin, Fresno Bee and others. Some of his writings have been collected into limited edition volumes which continue to find favor among a small cadre of hikers, climbers and other aficionados of the

Range of Light. Who was this elusive character who was out of place in town and yet at home among the high peaks?

Norman Clyde was a mountaineer who explored an unknown part of the state — the vertical world of the High Sierra, entirely under his own power. In his own words, he "came between the pioneers and the rock climbers." He was the first person to ascend over two hundred peaks throughout western North America, literally standing where no other human being had ever been. He eventually climbed more than one thousand peaks in his lifetime, some several times over. He had a deep and abiding love of the outdoors, fostered at a young age in the woods of western Pennsylvania and Canada. As a teacher he shared his love of the natural world with others. He has made a lasting impression, not only on his fellow mountaineers, but on past and future wilderness travelers through his writings.

His was a world of dazzling granite and glacial ice, deep blue sky and toweringly ominous thunderheads. Clyde was often alone in this rugged world with only the sound of the wind, his boots on rock and snow, and his slow steady breathing. His longtime friend, Jules Eichorn, captured the essence of Clyde when he wrote, "To me there can never be another human being so completely in tune with his chosen environment — the mountains — as Norman Clyde."

After resigning from his post as principal of Independence High School in 1928, Clyde supported himself as a writer and guide. He was a prolific author; the catalog of his writings, housed at the Bancroft Library, identifies 1,467 articles written by Clyde on a number of subjects, most of which related to hiking and climbing. Others included rescues, geographical descriptions, natural history subjects, and his favorite hobbies, pastimes, and pursuits: skiing, photography, guns, camping, and mountaineering. A sampling of titles include "A Day in May on University Peak," "Consider the Machete," "Unavoidable Hardships — Ignore Them," and

"Snow Bound in the Sierra Nevada." If one was rejected, Clyde would rewrite and edit the piece for submission to another publication. He always remained shy about his writing abilities remarking that "Once in a while...I find an editor foolish enough and dumb enough to accept one or more of my articles."

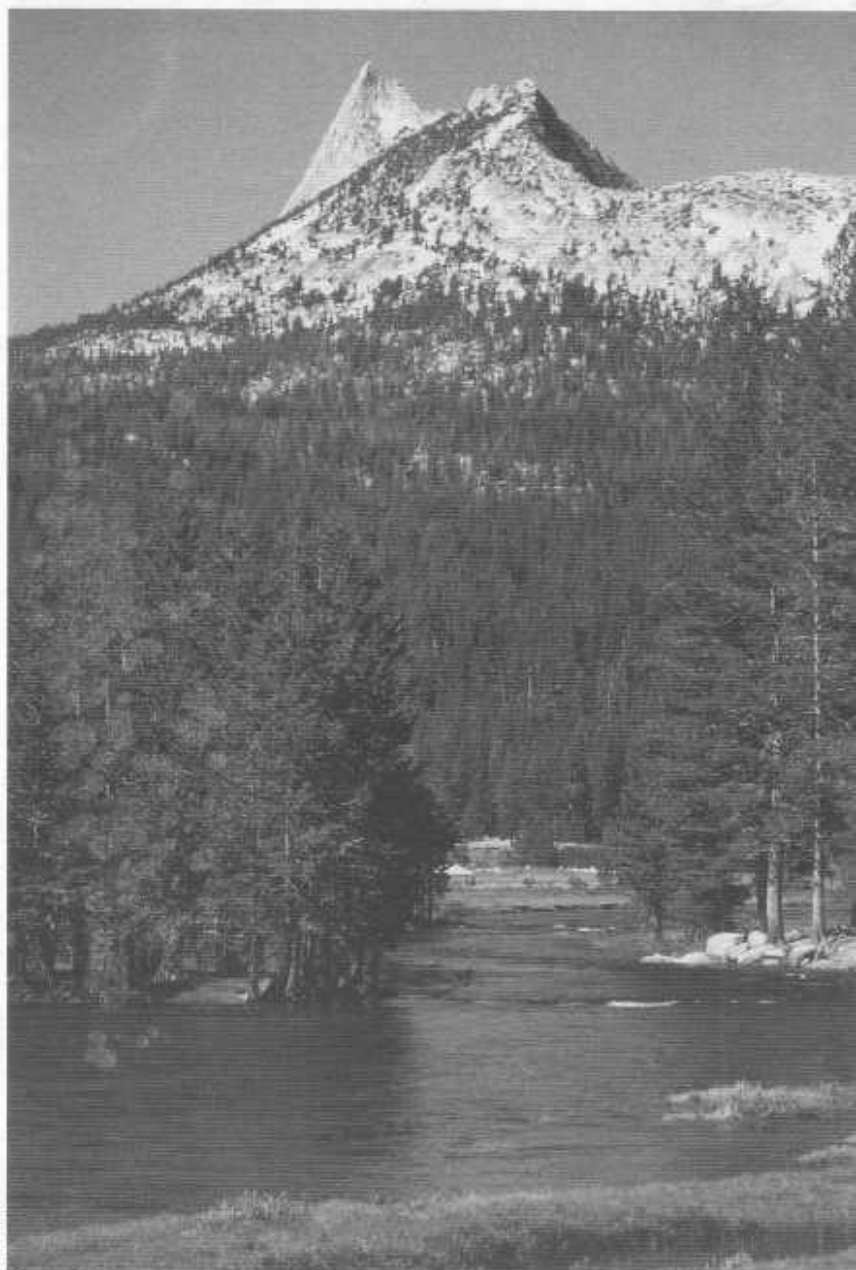
The following sample of Clyde's writing was probably written in the 1950s, toward the end of his long climbing career. He first visited the Yosemite region in 1910, as a young man fresh from his westward travels and hungry for wilderness. He hiked and climbed for another fifty years, both alone and in the company of others, including David Brower, Richard Leonard, and Carl Sharsmith. Although Clyde spent most of his life and climbing career in the central and southern Sierra, he was familiar with Yosemite's peaks and valleys, and he even wintered at Glacier Point for a few years, courtesy of his friend and park ranger Bert Harwell. The following previously unpublished article, "The Mountains of the Yosemite Region," is Clyde's tribute to Yosemite.

Robert Pavlik

Although the lure of the Yosemite Park and the adjoining areas is due most of all to its unsurpassed waterfalls and matchless canyons, its lofty mountains also possess an enthralling fascination. For upwards of a half century those surrounding the Tuolumne Meadows, an area of alpine grassland some ten miles in length extending from an elevation 8500 feet above sea-level to one of about 10,000 feet, has been a favorite among lovers of the Sierra Nevada.

The finest of these is Mt. Lyell, 13,090 feet in altitude, the loftiest and most beautiful mountain in Yosemite Park, and having on its north face the second largest glacier in the range. From many vantage points to the north and northeast it is a remarkably spectacular mountain whose beauty is greatly enhanced by the glacier which clothes much of its north face extending well up to its summit. To the southeast and west respectively of it are Mt. Rodgers and Mt. Maclure, both some 13,000 feet in elevation and both rather striking peaks.

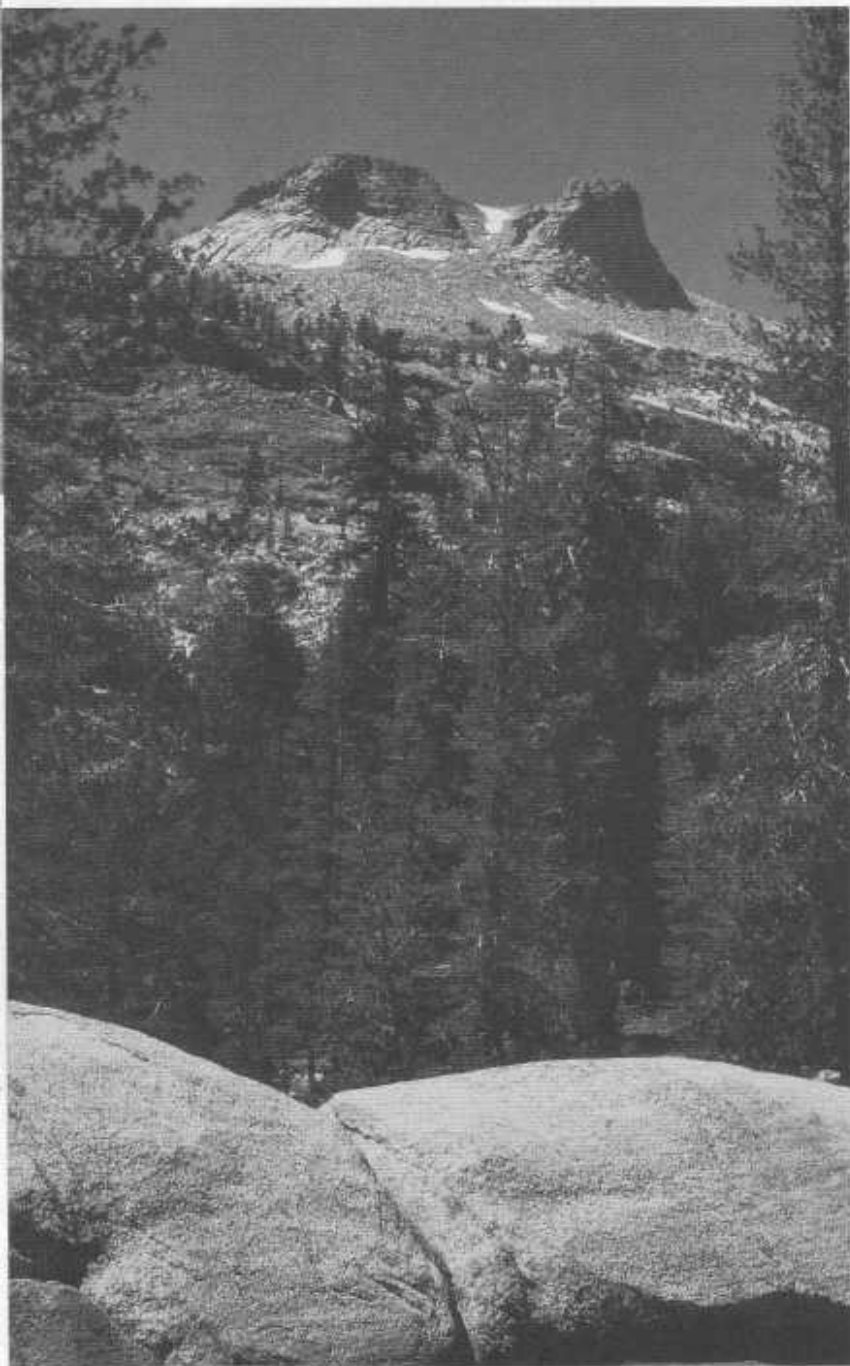
A few miles in an airline southeast of Mt. Lyell stands a spectacular group of dark jagged mountains including Banner Peak (12,957), Mt. Ritter (13,156) and the Minarets (12,27?). From points far up and down the range and from others far out in the valleys east of it,



Rex Butler

Cathedral Peak

One should not leave unmentioned Mt. Hoffmann, for although 10,921 feet in elevation its central and isolated position renders its summit an excellent vantage point from which almost the entire area of the Park can be surveyed.



Mt. Hoffmann

these peaks form a beautiful and impressive landmark. To the west they drop away abruptly to the rugged upper reaches of the canyon of the North Fork of the San Joaquin River; to the east to the headwaters of several streams flowing into the Middle Fork of the same river. The most beautiful of these is Shadow Creek, with its series of unusually charming lakes beginning with Minaret Lake near the foot of the jagged Minarets, at an elevation of some 10,000 feet, and continuing through Iceberg, Ediza and Shadow Lakes, all fascinatingly beautiful with superb, alpine settings. Eastward and northeastward respectively of Banner Peak lie Garnet and Thousand Island Lakes, the former noteworthy for the spectacular background of Banner Peak as seen to the west; the other for scores of rocky islets protruding above its limpid waters.

To the east of Tuolumne Meadows rise Mts. Dana (13,050) and Gibbs (12,700). From most directions they display gently curving lines, but to the northeast the former possesses striking cliffs with a small glacier nestling at their base. Viewed from Tuolumne Meadows at sunset their red slates assume roseate hues deepening to crimson.

Northward a few miles from the lower end of the meadows stands a handsome light gray mountain with spectacular cliffs to the southwest. This is Mt. Conness, 12,556 feet in elevation. Its summit commands an exceptionally wide panorama for a mountain of its elevation, extending northward and southward over the Sierra Nevada for scores of miles. Its north face drops steeply to a glacier.

Southward a short distance from the meadows, rising in a striking manner above a conifer-clad valley slope, rise a number of granite spires. The most noteworthy of these is Cathedral Peak (10,933) which from various directions has a resemblance to a Gothic cathedral. Worthy of mention also is Unicorn Peak (10,849) owing its name to the single sharp peak on the west end of its summit arete. Other striking pinnacles, or rather groups of them, are the Echo Peaks and Columbia Finger.

Along the divide extending northwestward from Mt. Conness runs a series of rather high peaks which reach their culmination in Matterhorn Peak (12,281) so called from the fact that from certain directions it has some resemblance to the Matterhorn. It is relatively easy of ascent, but a superb view is obtained from its summit. This is the least frequented portion of the Park, yet it contains many beautiful canyons — the finest of which are probably those of Matterhorn and Virginia Creeks — and many charming lakes, the best of which are perhaps Benson and Rodgers. Around the latter are several easily ascended peaks which command good views.

One should not leave unmentioned Mt. Hoffmann, for although 10,921 feet in elevation its central and isolated position renders its summit an excellent vantage point

from which almost the entire area of the Park can be surveyed. Tuolumne Peak, its nearest neighbor to the northeast, commands an excellent view down the Grand Canyon of the Tuolumne River.

South of the headwaters of the Merced River runs a line of beautiful peaks. The finest of those is Mt. Clark (11,506) a striking granite peak of Matterhorn type, of which impressive views can be had from most elevations on the rim of Yosemite Valley, notably from Glacier Point and Sentinel Dome. Other peaks in this group are Gray (11,581), Red (11,700), Merced (11,722) and Triple Divide (10,996) Peaks. Mt. Starr King (9,166) an isolated granite cone a few miles west of Mt. Clark, is a conspicuous landmark and its seldom-scaled summit commands a very extensive panorama.

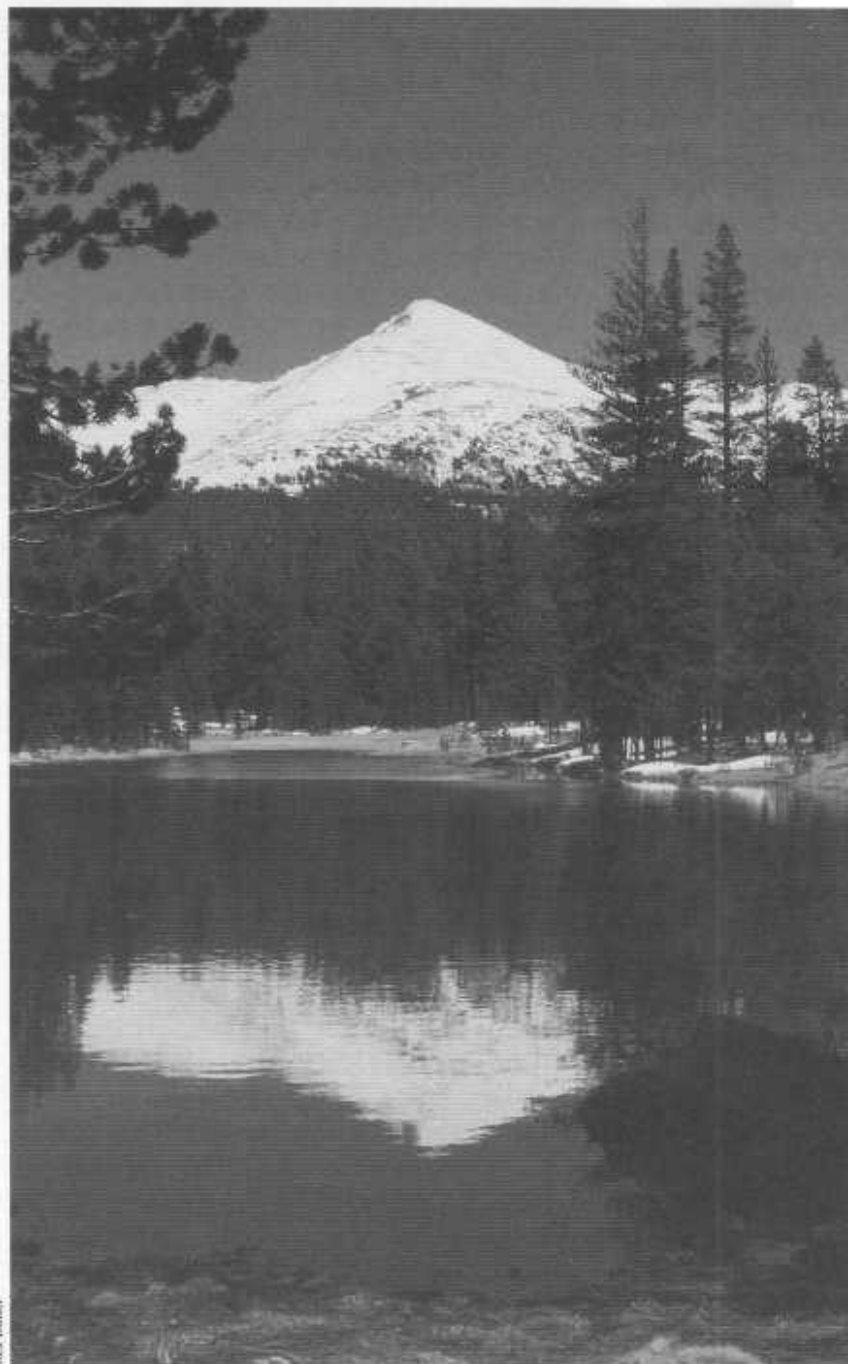
To the mountain-climber, the peaks briefly described above afford numerous interesting and some fascinating ascents. Mt. Lyell is most readily climbed from the north across the glacier, a route which always involves snow and sometimes ice-climbing. Mt. Maclure can easily be scaled northeast. Mt. Rodgers can be climbed without difficulty from the southeast, a side which is, however, not readily accessible. Banner Peak is an easy climb from the saddle between it and Mt. Ritter, a very difficult one up its eastern face. Mt. Ritter is a moderately difficult one from the above mentioned saddle, and can also be ascended from the northwest and the southeast. The Minarets possess a variety of pinnacle-climbs.

The summits of Mts. Dana and Gibbs can easily be reached from the west; the former offers a rather arduous escalade up its northeastern cliffs. The top of Mt. Conness can be readily attained from the south; by more difficult routes from the northeast and up the north face. The spires to the south of Tuolumne Meadows have many interesting and several difficult rock scrambles. Matterhorn is a good climb from the south. Mt. Hoffmann is very easy, as is also Tuolumne Peak, although the latter is less accessible. Mt. Clark is usually ascended from the north and sometimes from the northwest. There is some excellent rock work on its summit-arete, but this is not nearly so "airy" as Clarence King would intimate. The other peaks of this group are comparatively easy ascents from the north and northwest. Mt. Starr King is a somewhat dangerous "rubber shoe" climb from the northwest.

The above sketch is intended to afford merely a birds-eye view of the loftier peaks of one of our finest National Parks. To know them thoroughly and intimately is a matter of many seasons of exploring and climbing among them, but a passing acquaintance with them is very worthwhile.

Robert Pavlik lives in San Luis Obispo and is writing a biography of Norman Clyde. He can be reached at 493 Woodbridge Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401.

Viewed from Tuolumne Meadows
at sunset their red slates assume roseate
hues deepening to crimson.

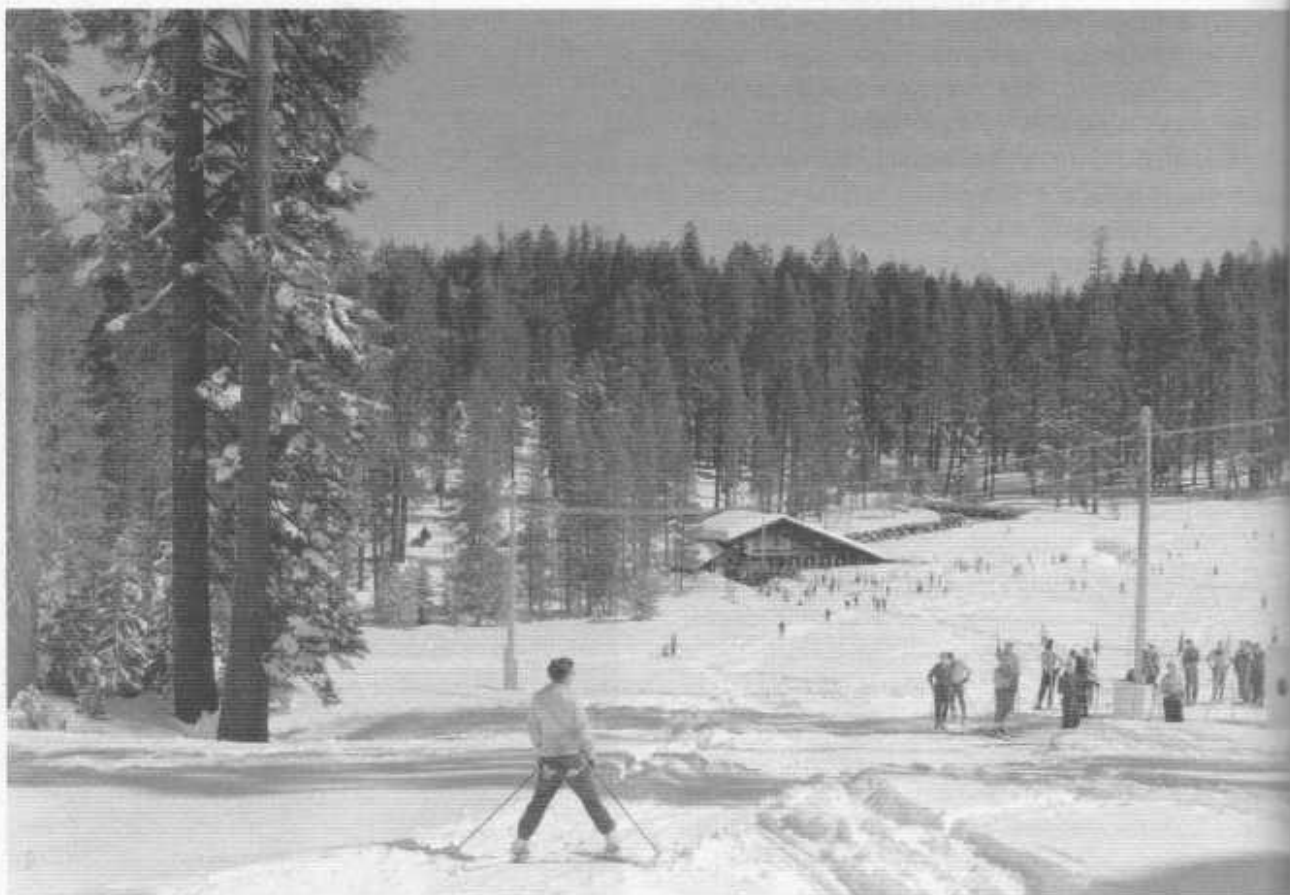


Rex Barber

Mt. Dana

BADGER PASS—AN AMERICAN SKI WAY

BY GENE ROSE



When old skiers begin telling lies about the early days of American skiing, nearly all of those tales eventually come home to the slopes of Yosemite's Badger Pass. Before such big names as Sun Valley, Aspen or Alta unfolded on the American ski scene, Badger Pass stood as the nation's first resort devoted exclusively to skiing.

In the winter of 1934-35—and in the middle of the Great Depression—Badger Pass opened its doors to an eager crowd of skiers. Over the next few years it attracted world-wide attention, luring many of the “big names” to its slopes, including Jules Fritsch, Hannes Schroll, Sigi Engl, Charles Proctor and Luggi Foeger.

Yosemite's trail with the slippery slats goes back even earlier. In the 1920s, Don Tressider, the president of the Yosemite Park & Curry Co., the concessionaire, cast about for ways to boost use in the company's overnight facilities, normally limited to the summer tourist season. Tressider, along with his wife Mary, had earlier been exposed to skiing in Europe. As they saw it, Yosemite could be the winter sports capital of the nation — and help fill up their overnight facilities during the slow winter months. A new, all weather highway was also making

its way up the Merced River Canyon, and that might help push the ski scene.

“We had ourselves been infected by the deadly ski virus, and we saw Yosemite with its background of beauty as an outstanding winter place,” Mary Tressider recalled some years before her death in 1974. After attending the 1928 Winter Games at St. Moritz, the Tressiders could see ski tracks at Yosemite. At those games, the skiing competition was limited to cross country and jumping. As a result they believed a series of high country huts that would allow skiers to gain access to the majestic high country of the park should be developed.

They returned home and started making plans. After briefing staff, a small ski chalet was constructed on the North Rim of Yosemite Valley at Snow Creek. A ranger cabin at Tenaya Lake was also converted to a ski chalet as was another park services building at Tuolumne Meadows. In Yosemite Valley, an ice skating rink, and toboggan run were built, and the Mountain House at Glacier Point was modified so it could accommodate winter sport enthusiasts.

The Tressiders then toured Canada and Europe and



hired some of the best skaters and ski instructors they could find. At the same time, they encouraged the formation of the Yosemite Winter Club, which was intended to spread the gospel of winter sports. "We confidently expected that within a few years the High Sierra Camps would be a series of winter huts like those found in the Alps or the Tyrol with skiers touring from one to another," Tressider added.

But it was not to be. While hut skiing was promoted for several seasons at Yosemite, few of the participants were mentally or physically prepared for the rigors of ski mountaineering. But a strange thing happened along the way. Across the country a handful of Americans were discovering the thrills of something known as down mountain skiing — which went on to become downhill skiing. In Yosemite Valley itself, ice skating, tobogganing, and even a version of downhill skiing were also generating rave reviews. Winter sports were on their way.

For some time a handful of park residents had been sliding down the slopes of a small mound near the valley stables. One of those young skiers by the name of Tom Sovulewski enjoyed the sport so much that he began looking around the park for other areas. Sovulewski's father, Gabriel, had arrived in the park as a cavalry trooper. At one point he served as "park supervisor" before taking charge of trail construction. As such, the elder Sovulewski knew the Yosemite area well. He suggested an area near Badger Pass named Tempo Dome, on the south rim of the valley. Young Tom checked it out and found the skiing just to his liking. Others followed. Soon the Tressiders figured they had better go along with the flow and began providing transportation to the site,

about 20 miles south of Yosemite Valley. Gradually skiing took hold. Tom Sovulewski and his sister Gabrielle went on to become state ski champions. Over time, other super skiers came along, including Leroy Rust and the famous Blatt brothers.

About that time Yosemite and six other sites made a strong bid to host the first Winter Olympics in the United States. But in 1929, Lake Placid was selected after a bitterly contested effort to bring the games to Yosemite. It was a bittersweet victory for Lake Placid. Fortunately, the downhill events were not included in the 1932 winter games, for Lake Placid came up bare that winter. During the actual competition, ski jumpers were leaping onto a stack of hay, and the cross country skiers had to make their way over a narrow path of snow trucked in from other areas. Meanwhile at Yosemite, skiers were swishing across 14 feet of snow.



Mary Curry Tressider (on the left) skiing with friends in the early years of Badger Pass.

Over the years and down the slopes, Badger acquired a rich and colorful heritage, one that touched many of the pioneer skiers. For years, the mark of a Badger Pass ski was to ski the main event in less than a minute, giving rise to the "Flying 50" event. In the winter of 1948, a young Nic Fiore was added to Luggi Foeger's ski school. After arriving at Merced by train, Fiore was picked up and driven to Yosemite late at night and in the middle of a blinding snow storm. Arriving near midnight, Fiore was assigned a room and retired for the night, unaware of the surrounding landscape. The following morning, he stepped out into the dazzling sunlight and viewed the snow-covered splendor of Yosemite Valley. The storm had broken. The big walls were coated with fresh snow. Fiore was stunned by the awesome beauty of the place. But he was also troubled; all he could see was steep vertical walls surrounding the valley. At that moment Foeger arrived on the scene to show him around. "But Luggi," he asked immediately, "where do the beginners ski?"

Despite its ups and downs, Badger Pass has continued on. Though sometimes disparaged as "Badger Flats" for its minuscule 700 feet of skiable elevation, the veteran ski area has remained a popular destination with many skiers. Beginners and the timid gain confidence on its gentle slopes. Old time skiers also love its laid-back atmosphere and easy going ways.

But Badger may encounter some rough going in the years ahead. A growing number of park observers believe that "mechanized recreation" has little or no place in a national park, where natural values should predominate.



The National Park Service has eliminated downhill skiing from several national parks, including Mount Rainier, Lassen, and most recently at Sequoia National Park. In 1991, the National Parks and Conservation Association urged the park service to remove the ski area at Badger Pass. Along the same approach, the organization also suggested that the golf course at Wawona be eliminated so that the meadow could revert to its natural condition.

Whatever the future holds for Badger Pass, it has a rich past with good memories that remain in many skiers' hearts.

Longtime YA member Gene Rose lives in Fresno and is a freelance journalist.



YOSEMITE SKI SCHOOL - WINTER 1948

BOB BERLEFORD ROSE MOORE NORM PALMER JIM MC KINNY CHUCK FRESHWATER NIC FIORE TONY FREITAS BILL CROW LUGGI FOEGER (DR)

Instructors of the Yosemite Ski School for 1948 include Nic Fiore (fourth from the right).

SEMINARS—They're Happening!

Yosemite Field Seminars are filling with enthusiastic participants for spring and summer classes at the park. Opening dates for Yosemite Valley are still unclear, but our scheduled classes appear to fall within the National Park Service's projected plans. Several courses are already full: Wawona Wildflowers, Waterfalls, & Giant Sequoias, and two new classes, the Bear Facts and the Bristlecone Pine course. But there are seventy-seven other terrific seminars with openings!

Courses scheduled for spring in the foothills will provide an opportunity for you to get a first-hand look at the dramatic changes in the Merced River Canyon in addition to the usual wonderful wildflower display. We have made further room accommodation arrangements for folks to stay in El Portal, in addition to the ones made in Yosemite Valley when it opens.

Summer field trips in Tuolumne Meadows are filling and even though we think the spring runoff shouldn't affect these course logistics, we recommend that you make plans now for summer 1997. As the Yosemite Association staff did during the fires of 1990, we will work hard to make the field seminar trips go!

Call Penny or Lou if you have any questions—we hope to see you at Yosemite this year!

1997 Spring Forum Canceled

With the recent flooding and subsequent closure of Yosemite Valley for an indefinite period of time, we have been forced to cancel the annual YA Spring Forum which would have been held on March 22 in the valley. Since this is such a popular member function, we explored several options including changing the date and holding the event outside the valley. Unfortunately, none of the alternatives was feasible, which led to the decision to cancel the Forum for this year.



Audrey Hulburd

Roberts and Holloway Re-elected to YA Board

Incumbent trustees Lennie Roberts and Christina A. Holloway were re-elected to serve new six year terms on the Yosemite Association Board of Trustees. Nominated by committee, Roberts and Holloway were unopposed for their seats and, as provided in the Association's by-laws, declared winners without the balloting process.

Serving on the YA Board since 1982, Lennie Roberts presides over the group as Chairman. She is also a member of the Yosemite Fund Council of Directors. Lennie lives in Portola Valley and is an active and longtime participant in a number of Bay Area environmental issues. She joined the Committee for Green Foothills in 1968 and still serves as their Legislative Advocate for San Mateo County. In 1972, she was a founder of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District.

Lennie was appointed in 1994 to the Citizens Advisory Commission for the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) by Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt. The Citizens Advisory Commission serves as the "eyes and ears of Congress" and advises the National Park Service on management issues in the GGNRA. Most recently, Lennie was Chairperson of the successful citizen's

initiative, Measure T, which requires Caltrans to build a tunnel at Devil's Slide on the San Mateo County coast. Measure T passed in the November 1996 elections by a landslide 79% yes vote.

Christy Holloway joined the YA Board in 1993. She serves on several committees and presently oversees the Association's work in strategic planning for the future. Christy has also been active in a number of Bay Area environmental groups interested in both preserving open space and teaching the next generation to appreciate and preserve the earth. She serves as President for the Peninsula Open Space Trust, one of the most successful land trusts in the country. She was a founding member of the Environmental Volunteers, an organization with 150 trained volunteers who visit classrooms and teach creative environmental education to peninsula school children. She also works with the Trust for Hidden Villa in Los Altos which serves over 17,000 children each year in programs blending environmental education and multicultural understanding.

Both Lennie and Christy are eloquent advocates on Yosemite's behalf, as well as valuable and hard-working members of YA's Board of Trustees.

Volunteer in Yosemite!

The successful and popular YA volunteer programs provide a variety of opportunities for members to share some of their time with park visitors and improve park resources. The January flooding and subsequent closure of Yosemite Valley for an extended period of time may have an effect on these programs for the coming season.

One short-term volunteer program is the Member Worktrips. These work weeks are cooperatively sponsored by YA which supplies the labor, the Yosemite Institute which provides the meals and leadership, the NPS which establishes and supervises the work projects, and Yosemite Concession Services which contributes the funding for the program. In each worktrip, 15 energetic YA members gather for a five day revegetation project



in the park. The volunteer groups camp together in special tent sites, have their meals provided, and work four days with a free day in the middle. Typically, there are two trips scheduled for the Tuolumne Meadows area in the summer, another trip that tackles projects in the backcountry, and two more work weeks that take place in Yosemite Valley in the fall, often working on river restoration.

Another way to volunteer is through the Member Volunteer Program where people perform a variety of tasks such as signing up new members, serving as hosts for seminar participants, and assisting the Park Service naturalists by answering visitor questions. These volunteers come for a 4-6 week period and share campsites in Yosemite Valley or Tuolumne Meadows. In the Valley, volun-

teers staff the Museum Gallery, operate the Visitor Center's Orientation Slide Show, and work in the YA Membership Booth answering visitor inquiries and encouraging membership. The Tuolumne Meadows volunteers staff a membership booth and welcome seminar participants into the seminar campground. Volunteers in both these locations work a 4-5 day week and receive a stipend of \$6 per workday.

Because of the impact on campgrounds affected by the flood, we are unsure about the status of these programs for this season. However, interested members should call or write either Holly or Connie at (209) 379-2646 for an application or more information as it becomes available.



Russ Morimoto



Russ Morimoto



Geoff Green

Indian Creek flowing over road near the Village Store

Public Comment Solicited on Draft Housing Plan

The Draft Yosemite Valley Housing Plan Addendum, Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement has been released for public comment. Superintendent B. J. Griffin announced that "the release of the Draft Yosemite Valley Housing Plan Addendum represents a major step forward in the process of implementing the park's 1980 General Management Plan (GMP)."

The goals of Yosemite's 1980 GMP were originally developed with widespread public input. The plan called for reducing congestion and restoring Yosemite's natural processes by removing unnecessary housing and administrative facilities from Yosemite Valley. The preferred alternative of the draft plan proposes to relocate housing for 345 employees, and move National Park Service and Yosemite Concession Services administrative headquarters facilities from Yosemite Valley to El Portal.

Comments on the Draft Yosemite Valley Housing Plan Addendum will be accepted for a 90 day period, from December 13, 1996 until March 13, 1997. Public input in this process is an extremely valuable part of planning for Yosemite's future," Superintendent Griffin stated. If you would like to receive a copy of the Draft Yosemite Housing Plan, please write the Superintendent, Yosemite National Park, PO Box 577, Yosemite, CA 95389, Attention: Draft Yosemite Valley Housing Plan.

Large Gift of Stock Received

The Yosemite Association recently received a generous gift of stock from long-time Yosemite lover and former resident, Helen McIntosh of Burlingame. Helen was introduced to the beauties of Yosemite in the summer of 1929 during a school break from her first year at UC Berkeley. An accounting major, she found a job in the Curry Company payroll office, and quickly became an indispensable employee. Working with Donald Tressider, she learned first hand about the rivalry between Stanford and UC. She earned \$135 a month and paid \$17 for a dormitory room across from Yosemite Lodge.

Helen returned to Yosemite every summer during college, and became a full-time employee after graduation. She enjoyed the "firefall" in summer and went ice-skating in the winter. Her experiences working and living in the park enriched her life and provided her many pleasurable memories. It was also in Yosemite that she learned the value of conservation; she feels strongly that Yosemite is an irreplaceable natural treasure that must be cherished.

Everyone at the Yosemite Association thanks Helen McIntosh for her kind gift and for her commitment to Yosemite. Gifts of securities are always welcomed by Y.A.; please call our office at (209) 379-2646 with any questions about the process.

Association Dates

YA Worktrip Dates:

To be announced

September 13, 1997:

Twenty-second Annual Meeting,
Tuolumne Meadows

March 28, 1998:

YA Spring Forum, Yosemite Valley

209/379-2317

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

Remembering the Firefall

Here's an activity that is nostalgic, fun, and doesn't cost anything.

Recently, some friends and I were discussing the Firefall at Yosemite Valley. We all remember it quite clearly, but the memories we have are very different from each other. Nobody who saw that mesmerizing cascade of fire from out of the inky blackness will forget it, but whose memory is most accurate?

If you want to participate in my absolutely unofficial survey of what really happened, drop me a note at the address below. Write what you remember about the dialog, the music played or sung, and any other aspects which colored your perceptions. I'll collect the data and publish it in an appropriate form for us all to share sometime next year.

Don Landauer, Box 624002, S. Lake Tahoe, CA 96154

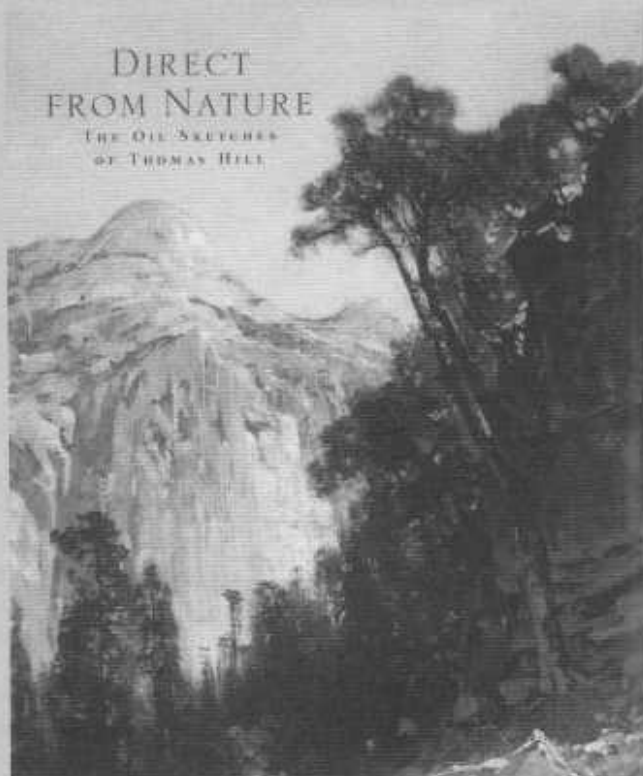
**00425 Direct from Nature:
The Oil Sketches of Thomas Hill**

by Janice T. Driesbach with an essay by William H. Gerdts.

The newest publication of the Yosemite Association, this is the first book to draw attention to the remarkable oil sketches of famed landscape artist Thomas Hill. These smaller pieces, painted in the field directly from nature, represent some of Hill's finest work and include subjects as diverse as Yosemite, the White Mountains, and Alaska.

An essay by Janice T. Driesbach, curator of art at the Crocker Art Museum in Sacramento, details Hill's production of the oil sketches while providing much new valuable information about his life. Driesbach contends that Hill, through his small works, helped define an aesthetic for depicting California and broader American landscapes. There is considerable treatment of Hill's work in Yosemite, including his time in Wawona and Yosemite Valley.

The essays are illustrated with over 90 reproductions (most in full color) of paintings by Thomas Hill and other landscape artists. A chronology of the artist's life and an index have also been added. With its thorough coverage of the subject and key new biographical information about Thomas Hill, *Direct from Nature* is a landmark work. It is sure to appeal to a wide audience including art historians, students of California history, and lovers of Western landscape art. 128 pages, copiously illustrated, primarily in color. Published in association with the Crocker Art Museum. Paper, \$19.95.



**THE FINE ART OF
CALIFORNIA
INDIAN BASKETRY**



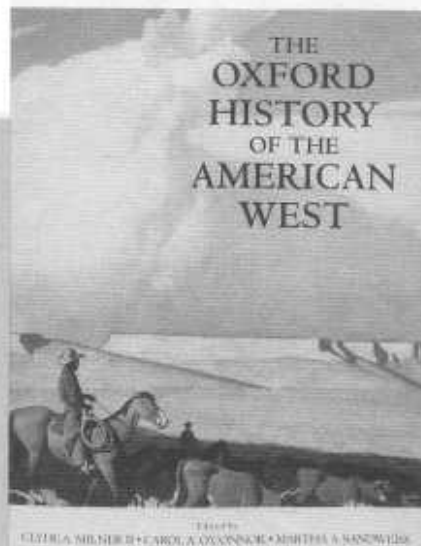
17545 The Fine Art of California Indian Basketry

by Brian Bibby.

This publication grew out of an exhibition of California Indian basketry held at the Crocker Museum. Sixty-two different baskets, from modern to quite old, are pictured and described, and then comments from various authorities including weavers and scholars are attached. The baskets have been divided into various groups such as burden baskets, storage baskets, caps and cradles, and ceremonial and gift baskets, allowing fascinating comparisons of like baskets.

Among the commentators on the baskets is the Yosemite Museum's Craig Bates, author of *Tradition and Innovation - A Basket History of the Indians of the Yosemite-Mono Lake Area* published by Y.A.

The book gives testament to the fact that there is a renewed appreciation for basketry as a medium of cultural and artistic expression, and that basket weaving is a vigorous and ongoing contemporary art. 128 pages, 62 color photos, multiple other illustrations. Crocker Art Museum in association with Heyday Books, 1996. Paper, \$20.00.



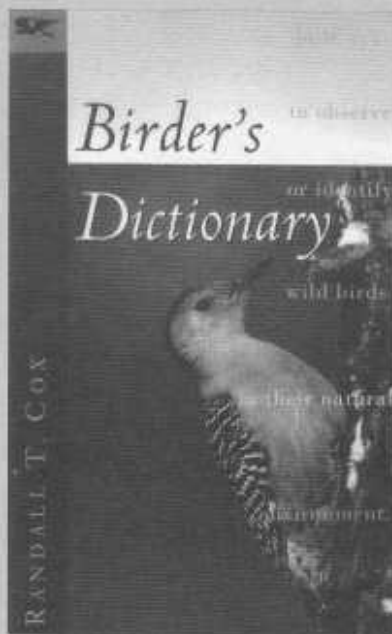
26280 The Oxford History of the American West

edited by Milner, O'Connor, and Sandweiss.

Here is a comprehensive study of the rich complexity of the vast and varied American West. Covering events from the arrival of the Navajos in the Southwest, to the first Spanish settlements in New Mexico, to the large Mormon migration to the Great Salt Lake, to the development of the neon landscape of Las Vegas, the history stretches across centuries and embraces many voices and contrasting cultures.

The volume is not limited to written documents; it includes thoughtful analyses of important paintings, books, and films. Furthermore, it is well-illustrated, with over 200 illustrations ranging from Native American rock art to photographs by Dorothea Lange and Ansel Adams and paintings by Frederic Remington and Georgia O'Keeffe. Key recent events, such as the Los Angeles riots of 1992, are also considered.

This is a lively, authoritative work, based on fine scholarship, that continually challenges the familiar as it broadens the reader's understanding of the great American West. 872 pages, illustrated in both color and black and white. Oxford University Press, 1994. Paper, \$25.00.



15198 Birder's Dictionary

by Randall T. Cox.

Intended for birders and outdoor enthusiasts of all types, this is a convenient source for biological, anatomical, physiological, behavioral, and taxonomic information about birds. Its small size makes it perfect for window ledge, glove compartment, backpack, or library. Colloquial as well as technical terms are presented in an easy-to-read format, and the text is complemented by beautiful line drawings of avian anatomy.

Appendices list North American and world bird orders in several formats, and there is a helpful bibliography. This one-of-a-kind reference is perfect for the novice or experienced birder, the student, the researcher, the artist, or the photographer. 186 pages, black and white illustrations, Falcon Press, 1996. Paper, \$8.95

12050 Pajaro Field Bag

This newly developed waist pack features seven pockets for everything you'll need when you're hiking or enjoying time in the outdoors. The main pocket is sized to accommodate field guides, travel books, or binoculars, there are smaller pockets (including one with a zipper) for note pads and maps, and specialized pockets for pencils, pens, and sunglasses.

Best of all, a secret pocket sealed with Velcro keeps keys, credit cards, and other valuables safe.

It's the best such pack we've found. Made in the U.S.A., of durable Cordura in forest green and black by Pajaro. \$29.95

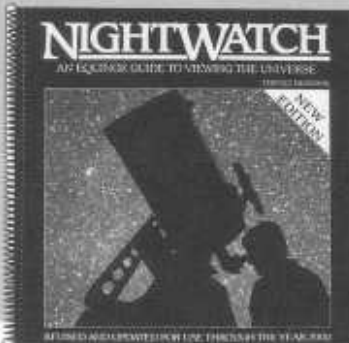


25598 Nightwatch - An Equinox Guide to Viewing the Universe

by Terence Dickinson.

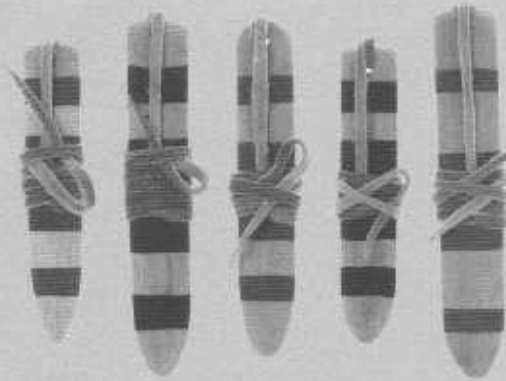
This wire-o-bound book is aimed at all those who want to know more about astronomy but don't know where to start. The author's overriding goal is to provide a complete first book on amateur astronomy. He has undoubtedly succeeded. Coverage is thorough, with treatments of the stars, the planets, the moon and sun, comets, meteors, and auroras. The universe is introduced in eleven steps as the cosmos are revealed to the beginning astronomer.

Activities include backyard astronomy with extensive information on stargazing equipment, and photographing the night sky. And there's a large section laying out the various resources available to astronomers from magazines and books to clubs and conventions and planetariums and observatories.



Extensively illustrated with many color and black and white photographs as well as with star charts and other drawings, the book is a great introductory volume for the lay person guaranteed to stimulate interest in the heavens. 160 pages, Firefly Books, revised edition, 1996. Wire binding, \$24.95.

Native American Items from the Yosemite Museum

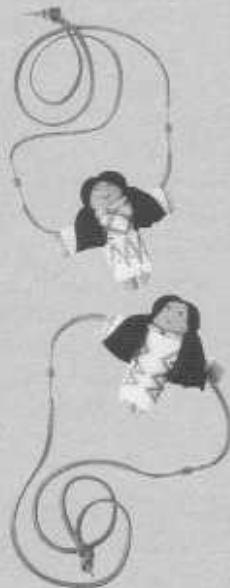


90001 Bull Roarer.

An ancient toy, common to many cultures around the world. When whirled above the head on a thong, the bull roarer makes a loud "roaring" noise, thought by some to imitate the sound of thunder. These Miwok examples are carved from split sugar pine, painted with red ochre and black geometric patterns, and provided with a thong of smoked elk hide. A popular item with children, ethnomusicologists, and collectors. \$10.00

90900 Doll Necklace.

These charming 3 inch dolls are made by well-known Kiowa artist Virginia Vesta Harragarrah, who lives northwest of Yosemite. Using a pattern perfected years ago by her mother in Oklahoma, Ms. Harragarrah dresses these dolls in soft leather dresses emblazoned with traditional patterns, and fits each with a beaded necklace. The doll is then attached to a leather necklace. Every necklace is a unique creation. They have been a popular item at our Yosemite Museum Shop, and make excellent gifts. \$16.00



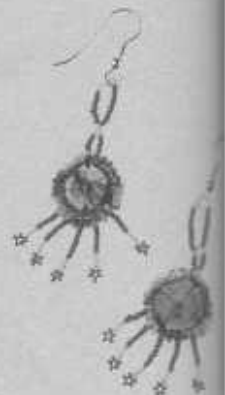
90227 Chief Lemee.

This 15" tall hand-carved wooden replica depicts the well-known Yosemite Miwok dancer Chris 'Chief Lemee' Brown. Chief Lemee (c. 1900-1956), was descended from hereditary Miwok leaders. Between 1926 and his death in 1956 he performed dances for visitors to Yosemite Valley in the Indian Village behind the Yosemite Museum. This model of Chief Lemee is complete with miniature feather capes, meticulously painted moccasins, beaded necklaces, a cocoon rattle, and other items based on careful study of historic photographs of Chief Lemee and his regalia in the Yosemite Museum Collection. A unique Yosemite collectable. \$400.00



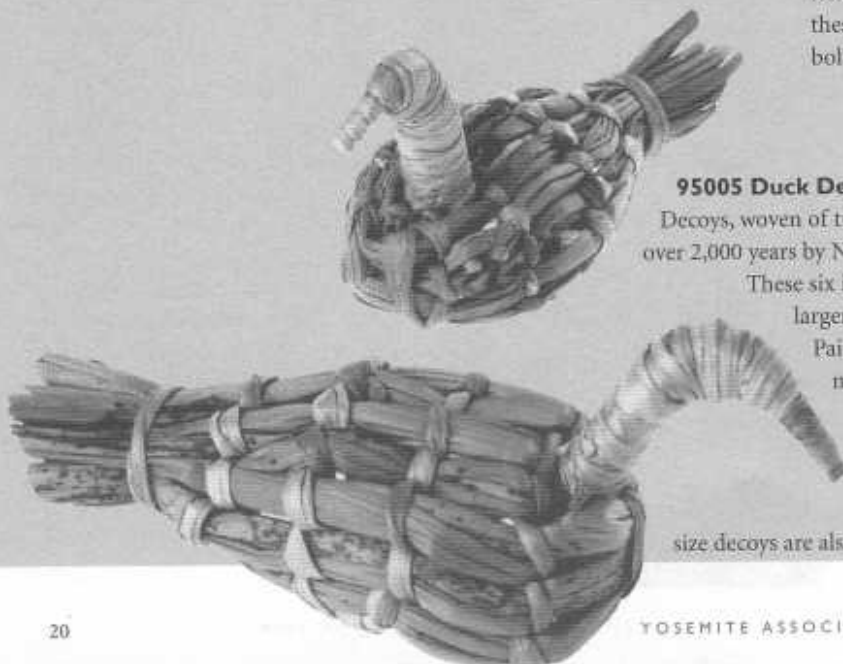
92500 Crossrock Earrings.

Blending the perfect symmetry of nature with Native American artistry, these earrings are the creation of local Native American Sandi Chapman. Made using small metamorphic rocks she finds in the Merced River west of Yosemite, Ms. Chapman matches pairs of these gray "cross-rocks", and then embellishes them by weaving small black iridescent glass beads around them. To Ms. Chapman, the natural four-part cross pattern she finds in these stones is a visible manifestation symbolizing the Four Directions. \$18.00



95005 Duck Decoy.

Decoys, woven of tules and cattails, have been used for over 2,000 years by Native American hunters in Nevada. These six inch long models are replicas of the larger decoys made in historic times by Paiute men. Each duck decoy is unique, made of the stems of the aquatic tule, bound and wrapped with tough cattail leaves. They represent the survival of Native American technology over thousands of years. (Full size decoys are also available at \$45.00 each.) \$12.00





07516 Yosemite Association Patch

Our Association logo is embroidered on colorful, sturdy fabric for placement on daypacks, shirts, blue jeans, jackets, or wherever! The newly-designed patch

is available in three attractive colors: dark blue, forest green, and maroon: \$3.00 (please specify color)



07800 Yosemite Wilderness Pin

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

07510 Yosemite Association Mug

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



400 Sierra Nevada Field Card Set

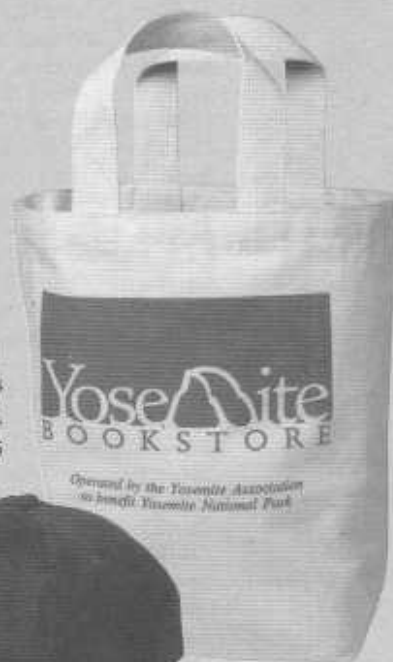
Illustrated by Elizabeth Morales

These handy field identification cards depict the most commonly seen birds, mammals, trees, and wildflowers from the Sierra Nevada region. Illustrated with color drawings and including information about the size, habitat, and other field marks of each, the cards are unbreakable, waterproof vinyl plastic and fit conveniently in one's daypack or glove compartment. Particularly helpful for newcomers to the Sierra as regularly observed flora and fauna can be quickly identified. Four plastic cards printed on both sides. Yosemite Association, 1991 and 1995. \$11.00



07720 Yosemite Bookstore Book Bag

Conserve resources with YA's handy book bag made from durable 100% cotton fabric with a sturdy web handle. Cream-colored, it's imprinted in blue with the Yosemite Bookstore logo. Fine craftsmanship and generous oversized design make this a bag you'll want to take everywhere. Approximately 17 x 16 inches. \$8.95



07505 Yosemite Association Baseball-Style Cap

Our YA caps are made of corduroy with an adjustable strap at the back so that one size fits all. The cap is adorned with a YA logo patch, and comes in dark blue, forest green and maroon colors. The cap is stylish and comfortable, and wearing it is a good way to demonstrate your support for Yosemite. \$9.95 (please specify color)



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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, the Wilderness Center, and the Ostrander Lake Ski Hut.

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

MOVING?

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

MEMBER BENEFITS

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

- * *Yosemite*, the Association journal, published on a quarterly basis;
- * A 15% discount on all books, maps, posters, calendars, 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 members' meetings and volunteer activities held throughout the year;
- * A Yosemite Association decal; and

Special membership gifts as follows:

Supporting Member: A selection of 8 handsome notecards and envelopes featuring beautiful photographs of Yosemite;

Contributing Member: A handsome Yosemite Association mug in burgundy or forest green;

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

Life Member: Matted color photograph by Howard Weamer of "Half Dome—Storm Light;" and

Participating Life Member: Ansel Adams Special Edition print of "Yosemite Valley—Thunderstorm."

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