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# YOSEMITE NATURE NOTES

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"LEARN TO READ THE TRAIL-SIDE"

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This is the official publication of the Educational Department of Yosemite National Park. It is published each month by the National Park Service with the co-operation of the Yosemite Natural History Association, and its purpose is to supply dependable information on the natural history and scientific features of Yosemite National Park. The articles published herein are not copyrighted as it is intended that they shall be freely used by the press. Communications should be addressed to C. P. Russell, Park Naturalist, Yosemite National Park, California.

E. P. LEAVITT

Acting Superintendent

# YOSEMITE NATURE NOTES

THE PUBLICATION OF  
THE YOSEMITE EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT  
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## REMINISCENCES OF THE BODIE STRIKE

By J. F. Parr

565 Boulevard Way, Oakland,  
California.

Mr. C. P. Russell, Park Naturalist, Yosemite National Park, California.

Dear Mr. Russell: I am sending you a few facts of the early days revival of the mining camp of Bodie, as I remember them. I find that it is quite a "chore" to turn back for 40 years, and hard to remember dates and names. I first saw Bodie in 1875, on a sage hen hunt. The hills were full of sage cock and mountain quail, and Bodie and Rough creeks were full of trout. I went in with Warren Rose in 1876 and remained for many years and am probably the only living person left of that crew.

You can use article in any way you like, and hope that you will be able to pick out of it some facts you can use.

If I should come into the valley this summer, I shall certainly be glad to meet and have a talk with you.

Yours truly,

J. F. PARR

[Editor's Note: Considerable general interest is manifested in the romantic history of the Mono country, and, in keeping with our plans to make details available, we publish this unvarnished account of events which led up to the Bodie boom. Mr. Parr writes of personal experiences, and we express our sincere thanks to him for permitting us to record these bits of history which have been unattainable in California literature.—  
C. P. R.]

The revival of the old mining camp Bodie, started in the fall of 1875, when Pete Eshington and his partner came into Aurora, Nevada, with considerable gold bullion they had cleaned up from their arrastras on Rough creek. Eshington and Lockberg had been working on the Bunker Hill and Bullion claims in Bodie for a couple of years. They built three arrastras on Rough creek, 6½ miles northeast of Bodie, that were run by water power. They would crush four or five tons of rock per day. Bull teams hauled the rock over the hill

from the mine to the arrastras. They were about making expenses when in an accidental way a strike of rich ore was made. The hanging wall caved, exposing rich ore. What they had supposed to be the hanging wall, was in fact, a small "horse" in the vein, and the cave exposed the full width of the vein and rich ore. They had run some of this rock through their arrastras and cleaned them up and brought the bullion into Aurora to ship to the Carson City mint. They were jubilant over the amount of bullion produced, and when the returns for the bullion came from Carson City they had a celebration. There was no excitement. A mining man, Warren Rose, who had been running the Gumata mine, in Aurora, for the Bank of California, and which had shut down, became interested and went to Bodie to see the new strike. Judge McClinton, F. K. Bechtel and Horace Marden also saw it. (Marden was the grandfather of Horace Marden Albright, Assistant Director of National Parks). Rose quietly investigated the Bodie district and the properties there.

#### **Improvements Made Under Difficulties**

In the spring of 1876, Rose with H. M. Yerington of Carson City and others, formed the Syndicate Milling and Mining Company. They had bought the old Osceola mine and mill (for taxes, less than \$300). The property consisted of three patented claims—the Osceola, Tioga and Isabella, and a fine brick 16 stamp mill. The mine was opened by tunnels. Considerable work had been done and rock crushed by the former company. There were buildings for a crew of men, boarding house blacksmith shops and

water piped from the springs to the mill. All these improvements were made in 1864 and 1865 when the nearest railroad was Sacramento and freight about ten cents a pound. The engine and boiler was said to have come around Cape Horn. The rock had to be hauled down from mine to mill by bull teams.

In June, 1876, Rose took a crew of men from Aurora to Bodie to reconstruct the mill and start work in the mine. They were H. Marden, W. Ball, J. F. Parr, Tom Parr, C. F. Quinby, H. Walker, H. Steblen and others, with Uncle Bill O'Hara (colored) and his cook crew. They put in 10 new 7-foot amalgamating pans, with rims two feet high that ran eighteen revolutions per minute and 5 settlers. They used the old 16 stamp battery. It was a "Pan Mill" to catch fine gold. Nut pine wood was hauled (by Bowman from Bishop) with bull teams, from a company wood ranch. The Syndicate mill started about the 15th of September, 1876. They expected to make a much better recovery of the fine gold by this pan process. The mill ran about six weeks, then shut down. H. Walker, foreman in the mine, accidentally was killed, and Rose paid off the entire mine crew and discontinued work.

#### **The Beginning of the Syndicate Mill**

I will now go back to Eshington and Lockberg at their Bunker Hill and Bullion claims. There was a very heavy snow fall in Bodie county, in the winter of '75 and the roads were blocked until about the first of June, 1876. Eshington and Lockberg started their arrastras early in June. The grade of their rock continued good but they made no effort to increase the output

from the mine. They were working about eight men, and were satisfied to let the equipment and mine "go as she lay." They were making good money and all they wanted. It was common gossip that Eshington was afraid to push work on their claims as he was afraid the ore was only a bunch and was very liable to pinch out or peter out in value. For that reason they worked slowly, taking out only a small amount of rock, just what they could work easily in their arrastras. They were ready to sell to anyone who wished to buy and rush work on the prospect.

Along in the summer, 1876, George Storey came into camp, and after a few days he left with a bond in his pocket of the Bunker Hill and Bullion claims, that was Eshington and Lockberg's property. Eshington continued to work for a short time until the mine had been sold to Seth and Dan Cook (brothers) and Col. J. F. Boyd of San Francisco, Calif. The price was cash to Eshington and Lockberg, \$65,000, and Storey received \$10,000 commission from Boyd. William Irwin came in with a crew of men and took charge about August, 1876. With him were Joe Maguire, his foreman; Mooney, W. A. Irwin, his son, and others.

When the arrastras were cleaned up at Rough Creek, they turned out more gold than had been expected. Irwin began active operation on the property, a donkey hoist was erected on the small incline shaft that Eshington had used, and a crew of men put to work in the mine. Buildings were erected; boarding house, bunk house and office. The new company named their property "Stan-

dard Mine." Irwin made arrangements with Rose to mill 1000 tons of ore from the Standard mine at the Syndicate mill. The mill started on Standard ore in November, 1876. Horace Marden hauled the rock from the mine with horse teams.

#### **The Election of Hayes and Tilden**

Presidential election (Hayes and Tilden) took place that fall and the polling place was Syndicate mill probably the only time they were ever held there. About twenty-one votes were cast in the Bodie precinct held in the Syndicate boarding house. The 1000-ton mill run was cleaned up and bullion sent down to the express office in Aurora under a guard of four men, and the Syndicate mill shut down for the winter. A few miners—six men—remained at the Syndicate to drive a tunnel from the mill to the top of the mine 700 feet below the outcrop on Bodie Bluff. The mill run on Standard rock was satisfactory, much better than expected, and Irwin continued work developing the mine all winter.

In March, 1877, men were started at the Syndicate, to tear out the old 16 stamps and put in a new battery of 20 stamps. The work was completed about May, 1877, and the mill started milling Standard ore, with a capacity of 1200 or 1250 tons per month and producing about \$45,000 in gold bullion, value about \$10 per ounce. The Syndicate mill continued to run for two years on Standard ore, \$14 per ton milling and hauling.

#### **Beginning the Town of Bodie**

The Standard Company built a 20-stamp mill about a mile up the creek, on the hillside and facing the flat, on which the town of

Bodie was beginning to build. John Welch put in a stock of goods moved from Bridgeport (county seat 20 miles northwest). His store was the first one in camp and in a little back room Ned Marston was killed by a deputy sheriff named Davis. It roused a very bad feeling and Davis fled to Bridgeport and from there left the country. Silas B. Smith, a merchant of Aurora, moved a stock of goods from Aurora that grew to a big store in a few months. Restaurants, lodging houses, hotels, saloons were doing a thriving business. A postoffice was located in Smith's store, as was an express office, with Major Attee in charge and Eph Mills as assistant.

By the time the winter snows began to fall in 1877 there were more people in Bodie than could be taken care of. The elevation, 8210 feet on the main street, and the cold weather, often 20 below zero, with no house room or adequate sleeping quarters, started an outbreak of pneumonia that raged all winter and many young and strong men died as well as the older ones. It was a tough winter in Bodie but the people still flocked into camp. In the spring of 1878, Bodie was a booming mining camp. The hills were full of new prospecting and many new hoists were built and shafts started on the hills. However, no new discoveries of real value had been made outside the Standard Company's ground.

In the summer of 1876, C. E. Loose and Jack Fause had located the ground adjoining the southwest boundary line of the Bunker Hill claim. They called it the "Bodie," and did some work on it, but they did not find any values. They sold the location to Col. J. F. Boyd for

a small amount of real money, and were very pleased with themselves. Boyd incorporated the Bodie Company for 100,000 shares and listed it on the San Francisco stock board early in 1878.

There were two 20-stamp mills running on Standard ore, and shipping from \$90,000 to \$100,000 per month. Bodie was growing every day and many mining men were giving Bodie the "once over." The sporting element were coming strong, while many ambitious young men came to live there, hoping to make a lucky strike somehow.

#### **Operating On High Grade Ore**

Early in May, 1878, there were rumors of a "strike" in the Bodie mine. The stock on the San Francisco board moved a little and got up to \$4.70 per share, then fell back to \$1.70 and recovered to \$3.50 to \$4 about the first of July, 1878. After the Fourth of July, Steve Moore, then superintendent of the Bodie, made arrangements to switch the Syndicate mill from the Standard Company and make a run of 1000 tons of ore from the Bodie mine.

The first load of rock, hauled by H. Marden's crack black team of six horses, pulled onto the scales on June 10, 1878, with over 19,000 pounds of rock that showed gold in every piece. Two guards came down with the load. One went back with the team, the other remained on the mill dump with the rock. At night there were two guards at the mill, one guard traveled with the team. On July 12 the mill started on Bodie ore. The stock sold as high as \$12 per share on the San Francisco board that day. Johnny Parr, foreman of the Syndicate mill, went down to Aurora that night and George Daly asked him how Bodie closed on the San Fran-

cisco market. Parr told him \$12. Daly remarked that he had 50 shares he would like to sell for \$12. "Sold," said Parr, and taking Daly over to Wells Fargo, G. Novacovich paid Daly \$600 for the 50 shares. Daly was so pleased that he bought a basket of two dozen bottles of wine and there followed a nice little party, of which we know nothing in these days of prohibition.

The rock was a sugary quartz with black spots on yellowish white and brown base. (I guess that's as clear as mud).

The mill ran 20 stamps about 16 hours every day; the rock was soft. The pulp from the stamps was discharged into square tanks, from where it was charged into the amalgamating pans for treatment. The quicksilver had to run through the "strainer" after every charge, for it was very rich. The mill ran for 31 days and produced \$601,000, roughly, or as Colonel Johnnie Boyd said, "it lacked \$19,000 of making an average of \$20,000 per day for the entire run." The bullion was worth about \$9 per ounce. The stock touched \$57.25. When the mill shut down the stock backed down.

#### **The Formation of the Mono Company**

The Bodie Company split the Bodie ground into two equal parts. Retaining the "north half" that joined the Standard, as the Bodie, and with the "south half" they formed a new company and called it the "Mono." One hundred thousand shares were authorized and the Bodie shareholders received one share of Mono for each share of Bodie. Mono stock went on the San Francisco mining board at \$12 per share, and that was top price for Mono. The Bodie Company also

paid cash dividends, a dividend and \$4 extra dividend on the Bodie mill run of 1000 shares that averaged about \$1.50 per share. It sent a thrill through the world. It was like a big boom. Many people would not believe it was true. It was rumored that the company was shipping the ore out through Carson and then back through Sonora to make a mining deal.

The Bodie Company had a mill about one mile below the Bodie mill, a short time ago. The Bodie mill run on 1000 shares.

#### **The Town Runs Wild**

The town of Bodie ran wild. The big Bodie mine started everything any mining town had—and more. It set a bad name on the town. Writers tell all about the town of Bodie, but the hundreds of good men who worked and made the town knew there were any number of bad men in Bodie. The workers, for the energy of the mass, never had man a thought. They were too busy. If a "cheater" killed another "cheater" the question might be asked: "didn't he kill the fellow?" There was no limit, and the town was open to the whole world. "Bad men" and their "bad wives" and their "bad marriage wives" lived in the town that was a lawless town and no attention was paid to them. Many were killed. A killing of some "claim jumpers" attracted considerable attention, but there were many more "claim jumping" firms. It resulted in a killing. If any man who was hunting for gold could find it very



die. The man who went on the outside away from Bodie and loudly proclaimed himself "the bad man from Bodie," was a miserable "four-flusher" and would not have lived over night in Bodie. It was dangerous to run a bluff on a gun play in Bodie. The open season for kill-

ing did not last long, and for many years no town could boast of a better class of people than lived in Bodie. They scattered over the earth as one by one the mines shut down. In every state in the Union there is some old-timer who has a warm spot in his heart for "Old Bodie."

## A TICK-INFESTED DEER

By George M. Wright

The mule deer of the Sierras are prey to many insect pests, not least among them the Western dog tick. In fact, this species could be more appropriately named deer tick. Whether or not these pests cause much physical suffering and actually inflict considerable injury, is at present an open question.

In January of the present year a young buck was found dead near the foot of the Coulterville road. The body was literally infested with ticks, hundreds of them along the neck and the insides of the flanks. There were solid rows of the gorged females and the body swarmed with the younger undeveloped individuals.

There was no evidence that this spike horn had met death by accident, nor did it appear to have been affected by any disease. Except for a slight deficiency in weight, the body appeared to be that of a reasonably healthy animal—that is, ex-

clusive of the ticks.

The Western dog tick is the commonest variety on the Pacific Coast. Dogs, sheep, cattle, horses, deer and ground squirrels are subject to infestation, and man is frequently enough the unwilling host. But deer are the greatest sufferers, ticks abounding as they do on ceanothus and others of their chaparral food plants. The female ticks are reddish brown with white markings. Their oval bodies average around 10-12 millimeters in length when gorged.

Though the buck looked as though it might actually have died of ticks, the theory is hardly tenable, according to most biologists. Nevertheless, it is true that unhealthy individuals being unable to rid themselves of these tenacious ectoparasites, are heavily parasitized and may thus suffer an accentuation of their already weakened condition.

## UNIVERSITY FIELD WORKERS IN YOSEMITE

Professor E. O. Essig and his summer field class in entomology are making the Yosemite Museum their headquarters during a six weeks' period. The class is composed of five men from the College of Agriculture, University of California. Six units of credit are awarded for the completion of the work. Incidentally the Museum profits from the enlargement and revision of its insect collections.





# MUSEUM NOTES

## RECENT MUSEUM ACCESSIONS

By C. P. Russell

J. M. Pedrini presented literature pertaining to the tourist camp that once existed near the foot of the Four-Mile Trail, "Camp Ahwahnee." This camp came into being in 1908.

Twelve books, including files of Yosemite nature notes, were bound at the expense of the Yosemite Natural History Association.

The California Department of Natural Resources has supplied a number of its publications which will be of use to staff members.

Fred DeWitt gave copies of the Mariposa Gazette for February 8, 1879, and November 27, 1886. Both papers contain items of Yosemite historical significance.

Seventy-three lantern slides were prepared from museum negatives at a cost of \$54.20. This expense was met by the Yosemite Natural History Association.

Gov. R. K. Colcord, pioneer of the Mono country, has supplied invaluable data on Mono country history. This material is in the form of an unpublished manuscript.

"Lighting and Heating Utensils in the United States National Museum" and "The Canadian Lake Region" by W. W. Campbell, were presented by Mrs. David White.

Roosevelt's "The Deer Family" was purchased by the Yosemite Natural History Association.

J. F. Parr, pioneer of Bodie during its boom days, has written personal reminiscences of his experiences in the mountains east of Yosemite. He has also supplied two photos of the Syndicate Mill, the first mill to run on the rich rock from the Standard and Bodie mines.

L. L. McCoy gave a copy of "History of the Lassen Volcano" by B. F. Loomis, and six portraits of Galen Clark.

F. S. Moody presented a copy of the 1850 San Francisco directory "Bonanza, a Story of the Gold Trail" by Raine, was received from Christian B. Zabriskie.

"Mountain Magazine," the publication of the Associated Outdoor Clubs of America, is to be received in exchange for "Yosemite Nature Notes."

"How Animals Talk," by W. J. Long; "Bird Homes," by A. R. Dugmore; "California History," by Gertrude Atherton, and "Natural Wealth of California," by T. F. Cronise, were obtained through exchange of surplus Veterans' Bureau books possessed by the Yosemite Museum.

Richard Shafer lent two large early photographs of Yosemite scenes.

The following books were purchased by the Yosemite Natural History Association:

"My Circular Notes," by J. F. Campbell, 1876.

"The Beaver," by E. R. Warren, 1927.

"Animal Life of the Carlsbad Cavern," by Vernon Bailey, 1927.

"Preparation of Scientific Papers," by Trelease and Yule, 1927.

The United States National Museum gave the following books by Arthur Cleveland Bent:

"Life Histories of North American Wild Fowl. Order Anseres" Bulletin No. 130

"Life Histories of North American Petrels, Pelicans, and their allies. Order Tubinares and order

Steganopodes," Bulletin No. 212.

"Life Histories of North American Marsh Birds. Orders Odon to glossae, Herdiones, and Paludicola," Bulletin No. 135.

"Life Histories of North American Shore Birds. Order Timicolae (part 1)," Bulletin No. 142.

E. B. Hooker very generously gave \$200 with which to complete unfinished exhibits and purchase needed reference works.

The Yosemite Natural History Association has purchased the following supplies for museum use:

One gross 8x10-inch photographic enlarging paper.

One thousand 5x7-inch negative filing envelopes.

Mrs. Alma J. Brown, for some years a generous friend to the Yosemite Museum, recently died in Burlington, Kan., and bequeathed the remainder of her Indian collection to the National Park Service. The following articles have been received from N. I. Nesbit, executor of Mrs. Brown's estate:

One horn spoon.

Two wood spoons.

Eleven pieces of Indian pottery.

Three Indian baskets.

Ten pieces of Indian bead work.

Edward Jesurun has obtained the fault map of California, published by the Seismological Society of America, for use in connection with Yosemite geology exhibits.

A complimentary subscription to the Official Record, published by the United States Department of Agriculture, was obtained through L. R. Ender of that department.

H. S. Bryant of the United States National Museum assures that reports, proceedings, bulletins and contributions from the United States National Herbarium, all publications of the National Museum, will be presented to the Yosemite Museum as published.

Mrs. Leon J. Richardson has presented the following historical items:

Large framed photo of McLena-

than and Coffman's Yosemite barns.

Portrait William E. Ritter, scientist.

Portrait William Bradford, artist "The Ship," publication of 1879. Six numbers containing Yosemite items.

Black's Hotel business card.

The California Division of Mines and Mining has supplied a number of bulletins and maps for use to the Yosemite Educational Department.

Recent publications in the form of reprints, from the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, were received from that institution and filed for use of staff members.

The Yosemite Natural History Association has purchased the following books and publications for the Yosemite Museum:

The Journal of Mammalogy, vols 1, 5, 6, and 7.

Romance of Geology, E. A. Mills.

Waiting in the Wilderness, E. A. Mills.

Watched by Wild Animals, E. A. Mills.

Stories of First American Animals, George Langford.

Back Yard Explorations, P. G. Howes.

Bood of Woodcraft, E. T. Seton.

Tales You Won't Believe, G. Stratton-Porter.

The Aristocratic West, K. F. Gerould.

Building the Pacific Railroad, E. L. Sabin.

Mammals of Colorado, E. R. Warren.

Stories of Stanislaus, S. P. Elias.

Fur-Bearing Animals, E. Coves.

The Century Magazine, bound vols. XVIII and XIX, 1890 and 1891.

Two Watkins stereoscopic views of Yosemite Valley.

Mrs. J. D. Foley gave a belt covered with Indian bead work.

Chief Ranger Townsley presented the skull of "Old Hornv," remarkable mule deer buck with a third antler growing from the nasal bone.

# YOSEMITE NATURAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK  
CALIFORNIA

YOSEMITE MUSEUM

Dear Friend:

Here are three good reasons why you should become a member of the Yosemite Natural History Association:

1. It will keep you in touch with Yosemite through "Yosemite Nature Notes".
2. It offers you opportunity to secure NATURE MAGAZINE, AMERICAN FORESTS AND FOREST LIFE, or both, at an unprecedented low price.
3. You materially aid a non-profiting Government educational activity (The Yosemite Museum and its attendant nature guide service) when you remit your membership fee.

Please read a sample of "Yosemite Nature Notes", consider our purposes, and don't overlook the benefits of the combination offers with the American Nature Association and the American Forestry Association. Remit by check or money order.

Cordially yours,

C. P. Russell  
Park Naturalist



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Dan Anderson