

# **The Four Seasons in Yosemite National Park (1938) by Ansel Adams**

Ansel Adams  
1936 Yosemite Park and Curry Company

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## **About the Photographer**

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## The Four Seasons in Yosemite National Park (1938) by Ansel Adams

r r  
r r *Ansel Adams* by F. Malcolm Grany, r  
r circa 1947-1951 r r

r r Ansel Easton Adams was born February 20, 1902 in San Francisco, California. r One day as a boy, his Aunt Mary gave him a copy of r *In the Heart of the Sierras* when he was sick. r The book piqued his interest enough to persuade his parents to vacation in Yosemite in 1916. r Most of the photographs in the book are by George Fiske, r who Adams later emulated in his scenic photographs. r However, Adams first interest was in music and learned to play the piano. r However, he developed an interest in photography from frequent visits to Yosemite Valley. r In 1928, Adams married Virginia Best, daughter of Yosemite photographer Harry Best. r In 1935, he inherited his father-in-law's photography store, and the store continues to be operated by the family today. r Adams career in photography was difficult at first and had various setbacks in early business deals. r r

r Starting in 1931, Adams was commissioned by the Yosemite Park and Curry Company, the park concessionaire, to produce photographs of Yosemite National Park. r The relationship ended when Stanley Plumb, Curry Company's Advertising Director, published this book, *The Four Seasons in Yosemite*, in 1936 without Adams's knowledge. r Adams found out only after finding it for sale while browsing in a gift shop. r The contract he had with Curry Company specified Adams was to be paid royalties for all images. r Adams sued and the matter was settled out-of-court in 1939 for \$500. r However, this was the last Adams produced photographs for Curry Company, except for reprints from old negatives. <sup>1</sup> r

r

r After several years more of hard work and publicity, r Adams finally achieved fame and money from his photographic work. r Ansel Adams died April 22, 1984. r

r r

r \_\_\_\_\_  
r <sup>1</sup> r Alinder, Mary Street, *Ansel Adams: A Biography* (Macmillan, 1988), pp. 130-132. r

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## Bibliographical Information

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r Ansel Easton Adams (1902-1984),r Stanley E. Plumb, editor (1896-1974),r *The Four Seasons in Yosemite National Park:r A Photographic Story of Yosemite's Spectacular Scenery*r 3d. ed.r (Los Angeles: Times-Mirror Printing and Binding House, 1938).r Edited by Stanley Plumb.r Copyright 1936 by Yosemite Park and Curry Company.r 51 leafs, unnumbered.r Illustrated with one color photograph; the rest black and white. 31 cm.r Map and Half-dome drawing by Della Taylor Hoss (1900-1997).r Bound in brown-stamped green paper; saddle-stitched.r Textured glassine cover.r No LCCN;r Library of Congress call number F868.Y6 A33.r

r r

r Other editions,r 1st, 2d, and 4th, were printed in 1936, 1937, and 1940,r respectively. The first edition is rare and has about 38 pages.r r

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r —Dan Anderson, [www.yosemite.ca.us](http://www.yosemite.ca.us)r

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The Four Seasons in Yosemite National Park (1938) by Ansel Adams

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The Four Seasons in Yosemite National Park (1938) by Ansel Adams

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r THE FOUR SEASONSr  
r IN YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARKr

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r A PHOTOGRAPHIC STORY OF YOSEMITE'S  
SPECTACULAR SCENERYr

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r r

r PHOTOGRAPHED BY ANSEL ADAMSr  
r EDITED BY STANLEY PLUMBr

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r r

r Copyright, 1936r  
r YOSEMITE PARK AND CURRY COMPANYr  
r Permission to use any of the material inr  
r this book will be granted upon applicationr

r r

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r Printed in the U. S. A. by the Times-Mirror Printing and Binding Houser  
r Division of Times-Mirror Company, Los Angeles, Californiar  
r Third Edition 1938r

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# ***The Four Seasons in Yosemite National Park*** **(1938) by Ansel Adams**

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## **Introduction**

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r Geologists say that long ago in the Ice Age two great glaciers, slowly movingr down the canyons which rise eastward on either side of Half Dome, joined;r and that with terrific power, they ground and gouged away the granite slopesr of a lesser canyon, leaving the wide gorge and perpendicular walls which isr now Yosemite Valley.r

r r

r Reason and evidence tell us this is true. ‘But sometimes it is easier to believe that some prehistoric race of giants, directed by a master sculptor, hewed andr carved the huge monuments of granite which tower almost a mile above ther level Valley floor; and then led the mountain streams to the edge of ther precipice and sent them thundering down.r

r r

r This childish thought is scarcely more fantastic than the actual scenery whichr seldom fails to amaze even the most seasoned traveller. Yosemite defiesr description. It is a place of contrasts. Tremendous yet jewel-like in precisionr and beauty—formidable yet friendly—brooding yet gay—magnificent yetr done with the simplicity of Nature’s master works.r

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# ***The Four Seasons in Yosemite National Park*** **(1938) by Ansel Adams**

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## **SPRING**

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r In most of California the transition from season to seasonr passes almost unnoticed; but in higher altitudes of the mountains, winter snows, spring flowers, lazy summer days, autumnr foliage, come and go with dramatic change.r

r r

r Yosemite is one of Nature's most favored spots. When ther warm spring sun has melted the last trace of snow from ther Valley floor, meadows turn green and the oaks and maplesr shoot out their tender leaves. Delicate mountain wildflowersr carpet the Valley; dogwood and azaleas burst into bloom; birdsr return with their gay songs and the black bears leave theirr winter dens for their haunts among the pine trees near the river.r

r r

r In April and May the melting snow on the high mountainsr swells the waterfalls to full flood. Their reverberations arer heard throughout the Valley as the waters plunge from ther brink of the lofty walls.r

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The Four Seasons in Yosemite National Park (1938) by Ansel Adams

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r Spectacular Yosemite Falls is one of the world's highest. The upper fall drops 1,430 feet, the middle cascade 815 feet, and the lower fall 320 feet—a total of 2,565 feet.r

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r r r

SPRING

The Four Seasons in Yosemite National Park (1938) by Ansel Adams

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r rrr  
r Spotted fawns and mischievous bear cubs are a constant source of delight to Yosemite visitors.  
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r rrr  
r The cool green Valley is strewn with azaleas, Indian paintbrush, and shooting-stars. Along the banks of the Mercedr River dogwood blooms abundantly.  
rrrr

## The Four Seasons in Yosemite National Park (1938) by Ansel Adams

The Merced River slides from the rim of the canyon to the Valley floor in a series of two great waterfalls and about three and one-half miles of roaring, white-crested cascades. In the first plunge the river drops 594 feet over a sheer cliff to form Nevada Fall, one of the most spectacular and dynamic of Yosemite's famous waterfalls.

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SPRING

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The Four Seasons in Yosemite National Park (1938) by Ansel Adams

r The Easter Sunrise Servicer at  
Mirror Lake in Yosemiter National  
Park has becomer an annual event  
of greatr charm and distinction,r  
attended each year byr thousands  
who come tor worship in this  
beautifulr natural setting of  
cathedral-like cliffs.r

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r Bicycle riding is a favoriter means of  
locomotion inr Yosemite Valley.r

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The Four Seasons in Yosemite National Park (1938) by Ansel Adams

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r Graceful,

stately

Vernal

Fall is

reached by

a

well-worn

trail which

leaves the

Valley at

Happy

Isles.

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The Four Seasons in Yosemite National Park (1938) by Ansel Adams

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SPRING

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r [Maggie Howard,  
*Ta-bu-ce*]r

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BRIDALVEILr  
r The shifting  
winds play odd  
tricks with this  
greatr gauze veil  
of water. A  
strong gust  
blows it first to  
one side, then to  
the other;  
sometimes a  
strongr upward  
draft will hold  
the water  
suspended in  
mid-air. The  
superstitious  
Indians called  
this waterfallr  
“Pohono,”  
meaning “evil  
spirit,” and were  
frightened. How  
foolish of  
them—a  
mischievous  
waterfall  
perhaps, but  
certainly a gay  
and beautiful  
one,r and well

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The Four Seasons in Yosemite National Park (1938) by Ansel Adams

described by the  
name  
“Bridalveil.”r

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# ***The Four Seasons in Yosemite National Park*** **(1938) by Ansel Adams**

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## **SUMMER**

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r Summer is playtime in Yosemite. The pure mountain air is filled with the fragrance of pine and cedar, distilled by a warm sun in cloudless skies. Hiking, riding, fishing, swimming, golf, tennis . . . all have an added zest in this ideal climate and grand setting of natural beauty.

r r

r Far up in the higher mountains over the rim of the Valley, the last trace of snow has disappeared from the trails, and groups of hikers and riders exchange a cheery “hello” as they pass, bound for their favorite camping or fishing spots, beside a sky-blue lake or a cool, white-crested stream.

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The Four Seasons in Yosemite National Park (1938) by Ansel Adams

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r A "horseback" picnic is an exciting adventure for the youngsters.r

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The Four Seasons in Yosemite National Park (1938) by Ansel Adams

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r At Happy Isles the Merced River in a noisy, playful mood, rushes in white-crested foam past rocky islands.r

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r No words can describe the awe-inspiring panorama seen from Glacier Point. On one side are the distant peaks which form the backbone of the Sierra Nevada. Far below, Yosemite Valley appears as a miniature garden of toy houses peopled by tiny midgets. From this point, 3,214 feet straight above the Valley floor, the story of the creation of Yosemite Valley can easily be read.r

r r

r Three waterfalls are visible from this famous point. Directly across the Valley, Yosemite Falls drop like a long shining ribbon of white and, to the east, Vernal and Nevada Falls glisten in majestic rhythmic beauty.

It is an axiom among world travelers that no one can truthfully say that he has seen Yosemite without viewing it from Glacier Point.r

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The Four Seasons in Yosemite National Park (1938) by Ansel Adams

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SUMMER

The Four Seasons in Yosemite National Park (1938) by Ansel Adams

The huge bulk of El Capitan stands guard at the entrance to the gates of the Valley. This tremendous monolith of granite rises 3,604 feet above the Valley floor, and is one of the famous landmarks of Yosemite.

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r The pleasant summer nights are ideal for campfires and barbecues.r

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The Four Seasons in Yosemite National Park (1938) by Ansel Adams

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r The sharp, jagged rocks of ther Cathedral Spires rise 2,154 feet.r

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r Mirror Lake reflects the surrounding domes in its still, limpid waters.r

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r Near its southern boundary, Yosemite is guarded by six hundred livingr giants older than the pyramids of Egypt. Graceful and beautiful, theser great Sequoia trees of the Mariposa Grove are a constant source ofr wonder. In this grove stands the Wawona Tunnel Tree, probably ther best-known tree in the world, and also the Grizzly Giant, one of ther three largest in existence. The Mariposa Grove of Big Trees is one ofr the major attractions of Yosemite.r

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SUMMER

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The Four Seasons in Yosemite National Park (1938) by Ansel Adams

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r The Wawona Hotel, situated at a healthful elevation of 4,000 feet in ther beautiful Wawona Valley, was included in the Yosemite National Parkr area in 1932. The golf course, which is adjacent to the hotel, ranks asr one of the outstanding mountain courses in the country.r

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r The late afternoon casts deep shadows as the remaining light sharply outlines Nevada Fall and the high peaks of the Yosemite High Sierra. r

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The Four Seasons in Yosemite National Park (1938) by Ansel Adams

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r A strenuous game of tennis on the Ahwahnee courts or just to rest in ther charming surroundings of one of  
the Ahwahnee cottages makes a perfect day.r

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The Four Seasons in Yosemite National Park (1938) by Ansel Adams

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r The ageless granite walls of the Valley inspired ther Ahwahnee's rugged design.r  
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r Camp Curry lies in a beautiful grove of pine and cedarr trees, in the cool shadow of Glacier Point.r  
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r r r **Map of Yosemite National Park by Della Taylor Hossr** r r

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SUMMER

The Four Seasons in Yosemite National Park (1938) by Ansel Adams

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r ¶ r [Yosemite Valley from Tunnel View]r

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r Far up in the crags of Yosemite's High Sierra, blue lakes sparkle like jewels set in rings of white granite . .  
. here is an almost mystical grandeur . . . soundless but for the lap of the water against the rocky shores and  
the splash of leaping trout.r

The Four Seasons in Yosemite National Park (1938) by Ansel Adams

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SUMMER

The Four Seasons in Yosemite National Park (1938) by Ansel Adams

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r r A circle of five High Sierra camps provide plain foodr and comfortable mountain accommodations so r  
thatr one may traverse this high mountain wonderland,r carrying only personal necessities.r  
r r r  
r Fishermen who whip the hundreds of lakes and white-crested streams of Yosemite's high country, are  
seldomr disappointed either in their catch of fish or in theirr measure of pure contentment.r

The Four Seasons in Yosemite National Park (1938) by Ansel Adams

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SUMMER

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The Four Seasons in Yosemite National Park (1938) by Ansel Adams

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r The real fisherman will tell you there is only one way to enjoy trout. They must be taken from a cold mountain stream and immediately cooked in the usual battered frying pan which forms a part of every old-timer's equipment.

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r For those who love the far places there is nothing quite equal to a trip over some of the 700 odd miles of trails. These have been built through the remote mountainous regions of Yosemite, and are maintained by the National Park Service.

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The Four Seasons in Yosemite National Park (1938) by Ansel Adams

r r r r  
r The White Cascade in the Tuolumne Canyon is typicalr of hundreds of such waterfalls and cascades foundr  
throughout the higher mountains.r  
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r A lone sentinel near timber-line.r

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# ***The Four Seasons in Yosemite National Park*** **(1938) by Ansel Adams**

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## **AUTUMN**

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r In Yosemite, when the oaks, maples and dogwoods turn to flaming colors of red, gold, and brown, the Valley is ablaze with autumn color. In such a setting one would scarcely be surprised to come upon legendary Robin Hood and his men, making merry as they did on brown October days in storied Sherwood Forest.

r r

r October is nature's own holiday month, a season of happy adventure for those who love the autumn woods and countryside. Golden Indian Summer days . . . overhead brilliant red and gold foliage; underfoot, a carpet of crisp brown leaves, patterned by the hazy yellow sun; the air pungent with the smell of burning leaves.

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AUTUMN

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r For young and old alike, ridingr is a favorite autumn pastime.r

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r Brilliant colored leaves against the somber gray of Cathedral Rock.r

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# ***The Four Seasons in Yosemite National Park*** **(1938) by Ansel Adams**

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## **WINTER**

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r When winter spreads a thick white blanket over the mountains, r Yosemite becomes a great snowy playground. In the Valley, r sleigh bells jingle and Alaskan dog teams mush through the deep drifts . . . ice skaters whirl 'round the large outdoor rink; r the shrill screams of excited tobogannners mingle with the hilarious laughter of those who slide down "ash-can alley." r

r r

r Through the Wawona Tunnel, and a few miles up the Glacierr Point road, the Badger Pass Ski House is the center of skiingr activities. Here, Hannes Shroll, famous Austrian ski instructor, r directs the Yosemite Ski School. Almost from the door of the ski house, an "upski" carries skiers to the tops of domes rising a thousand feet above, and from which trails radiate in allr directions. r

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The Four Seasons in Yosemite National Park (1938) by Ansel Adams

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r The Ski House at Badger Pass.r

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The Four Seasons in Yosemite National Park (1938) by Ansel Adams

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r Yosemite  
is  
recognized  
as one of  
the best ski  
centers in  
the  
country.  
The ski  
terrain  
compares  
favorably  
with the  
famous  
European  
winter  
resorts, and  
snow and  
weather  
conditions  
are ideal.  
Expert  
instructors  
teach  
modern ski  
technique  
at the  
Yosemite  
r Ski  
School.r

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The Four Seasons in Yosemite National Park (1938) by Ansel Adams

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r Yosemite roads are always kept clear by large rotary r plows operated by the National Park Service.r

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r Children learn skiing r rapidly and parents watch r their  
amazing progress r with envy.r

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The Four Seasons in Yosemite National Park (1938) by Ansel Adams

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r This mechanical lift takes the “up” out of skiing—r  
hence has been christenedr the “Upski.”r

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WINTER

The Four Seasons in Yosemite National Park (1938) by Ansel Adams

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r An ardent skier lives only for winter when he can skim over a ten-foot blanket of snow and see the glistening peaks of distant mountains.r

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r Hannes Schroll, who directs the Yosemite Ski School, is an international champion. He expected to find only sunshine and oranges in California but instead found ski slopes and snow conditions in Yosemite equal to those in his native Austrian-Tyrol.r

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The Four Seasons in Yosemite National Park (1938) by Ansel Adams

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r The toboggan slide offers  
“mile-a-minute” thrills in a setting of  
incomparable scenic beauty.r

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r Trees in snow-white dress are  
as beautiful as in summer’s  
leafy green.r

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WINTER

The Four Seasons in Yosemite National Park (1938) by Ansel Adams

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r r r

r What would winter be without the merry jingle of sleigh bells?r



The Four Seasons in Yosemite National Park (1938) by Ansel Adams

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WINTER

The Four Seasons in Yosemite National Park (1938) by Ansel Adams

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r The famous Wawona Tunnel, cut through solid granite, offers easy access to Glacier Point and the Mariposa Big Trees. r

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The Four Seasons in Yosemite National Park (1938) by Ansel Adams

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r The Big Trees are spectacular under a winter blanket of deep snow.r

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WINTER

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The Four Seasons in Yosemite National Park (1938) by Ansel Adams

r In winter most of the deerr migrate to  
lower altitudes butr a few always  
remain in ther Valley.r

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r Alaskan dog teams furnish ar novel  
means of transportationr for winter fun.r

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The Four Seasons in Yosemite National Park (1938) by Ansel Adams

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WINTER

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The Four Seasons in Yosemite National Park (1938) by Ansel Adams

r On the great outdoor ice rink,r graceful figure skaters add tor winter's gaiety.r

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WINTER

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The Four Seasons in Yosemite National Park (1938) by Ansel Adams

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# ***The Four Seasons in Yosemite National Park*** **(1938) by Ansel Adams**

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## **Map of Yosemite National Park by Della Taylor Hoss**

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The Four Seasons in Yosemite National Park (1938) by Ansel Adams

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The Four Seasons in Yosemite National Park (1938) by Ansel Adams

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The Four Seasons in Yosemite National Park (1938) by Ansel Adams

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# ***The Four Seasons in Yosemite National Park*** **(1938) by Ansel Adams**

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## **About the Photographer**

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## The Four Seasons in Yosemite National Park (1938) by Ansel Adams

r r  
r r *Ansel Adams* by F. Malcolm Grany, r  
r circa 1947-1951 r r

r r Ansel Easton Adams was born February 20, 1902 in San Francisco, California. r One day as a boy, his Aunt Mary gave him a copy of r *In the Heart of the Sierras* when he was sick. r The book piqued his interest enough to persuade his parents to vacation in Yosemite in 1916. r Most of the photographs in the book are by George Fiske, r who Adams later emulated in his scenic photographs. r However, Adams first interest was in music and learned to play the piano. r However, he developed an interest in photography from frequent visits to Yosemite Valley. r In 1928, Adams married Virginia Best, daughter of Yosemite photographer Harry Best. r In 1935, he inherited his father-in-law's photography store, and the store continues to be operated by the family today. r Adams career in photography was difficult at first and had various setbacks in early business deals. r r

r Starting in 1931, Adams was commissioned by the Yosemite Park and Curry Company, the park concessionaire, to produce photographs of Yosemite National Park. r The relationship ended when Stanley Plumb, Curry Company's Advertising Director, published this book, *The Four Seasons in Yosemite*, in 1936 without Adams's knowledge. r Adams found out only after finding it for sale while browsing in a gift shop. r The contract he had with Curry Company specified Adams was to be paid royalties for all images. r Adams sued and the matter was settled out-of-court in 1939 for \$500. r However, this was the last Adams produced photographs for Curry Company, except for reprints from old negatives. <sup>1</sup>r

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r After several years more of hard work and publicity, r Adams finally achieved fame and money from his photographic work. r Ansel Adams died April 22, 1984. r

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r <sup>1</sup>r Alinder, Mary Street, *Ansel Adams: A Biography* (Macmillan, 1988), pp. 130-132. r

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## Bibliographical Information

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r Ansel Easton Adams (1902-1984),r Stanley E. Plumb, editor (1896-1974),r *The Four Seasons in Yosemite National Park:r A Photographic Story of Yosemite's Spectacular Scenery* 3d. ed.r (Los Angeles: Times-Mirror Printing and Binding House, 1938).r Edited by Stanley Plumb.r Copyright 1936 by Yosemite Park and Curry Company.r 51 leaves, unnumbered.r Illustrated with one color photograph; the rest black and white. 31 cm.r Map and Half-dome drawing by Della Taylor Hoss (1900-1997).r Bound in brown-stamped green paper; saddle-stitched.r Textured glassine cover.r No LCCN;r Library of Congress call number F868.Y6 A33.r

r r

r Other editions,r 1st, 2d, and 4th, were printed in 1936, 1937, and 1940,r respectively. The first edition is rare and has about 38 pages.r r

r Converted to HTML by Dan Anderson, May 2008,r from a personal copy.r These files may be used for any non-commercial purpose,r provided this notice is left intact.r

r —Dan Anderson, [www.yosemite.ca.us](http://www.yosemite.ca.us)r

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