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Yosemite

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Jeffrey Schaffer

When did the Sierra Nevada begin to rise? Did it rise uniformly as a solid, west-tilting block? When will it cease to rise? Answers to these and other questions are necessary if one is to understand when Sierran glaciation began and how it will change over time, or if one is to understand the migration, extinction or evolution of plants and animals in the changing Sierran environment.

Determining Sierran uplift is made difficult due to a paucity of evidence. For example, there are only a few lava flows that have been uplifted since they flowed down Sierran river canyons. One can estimate the flows' original gradients and measure today's gradients, and thereby determine the amount of uplift. But such flows are few and far between, so extrapolation of data to the entire Sierra Nevada is very risky. Furthermore, while one can estimate the uplift of a given flow, when uplift began and how fast it occurred cannot be determined. Take, for example, a massive, 100-mile-long lava flow in the Stanislaus River drainage just north of the park. We know it flowed down a river canyon about 9 million years ago. But did uplift begin at that time? Had uplift already been occurring? Did uplift begin only one million years ago? Was the rate of uplift constant, or did it vary over time? Geologic field evidence can't answer these questions.

The Plate Tectonic Model

Lack of evidence has stimulated

Past and Future Uplift



the development of a plate-tectonic model that estimates past and future uplift along the Sierran crest over about an 8-million-year period. Looking at Oregon's Cascade Range shows how the Sierra Nevada looked millions of years ago, for the same processes producing that volcanic range today were operating in the Sierra in the past. There is a plate off the Oregon coast that is diving under the state, melting at depth, and part of the melt is rising and yielding magma. If the magma solidifies before reaching the earth's surface, it becomes a granitic body known as a pluton. If it erupts at the earth's surface, it is laid down as volcanic rock, often constructing a volcano. We can be certain there is granitic rock under the Cascade Range today, and we can be equally certain volcanic ranges stood above the Sierra.

The plate tectonic model assumes there are two stages of height increase for the Sierran landscape. The first is an increase in height due to volcanic eruptions. In the Sonora Pass area just north of the park's boundary, such eruptions left deposits that are several thousand feet in thickness. The second stage is an increase in height due to uplift. It appears that while volcanism is occurring, no substantial uplift

Half Dome, viewed from Glacier Point. Ultimately, the Sierra should uplift sufficiently and the Merced River system should cut sufficiently so that the top of Half Dome will stand about 2,000 feet higher above the Yosemite Valley floor than it does today (7,000' vs. 5,000').



takes place, despite the formation of plutons beneath the surface. Certainly, the Cascade Range shows little sign of uplift. However, once the north-migrating, diving plate moves past an area, then the land is free to rise. Currently, the southern edge of this plate, the Juan de Fuca plate, lies under Lassen Volcanic National Park, and is moving north at a fairly constant rate of about 36 miles per million years.

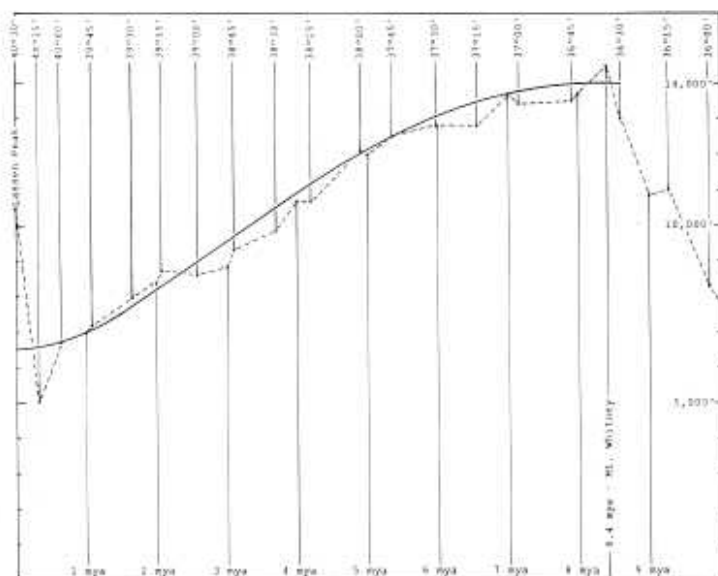
The Northern Sierra Continues to Rise

By extrapolating this rate back in time, we can determine when the plate's southern edge left any given latitude in the Sierra Nevada, and consequently can determine when uplift began. For Mt. Whitney, this time was about 8.4 million years ago (mya); for Minaret Summit, near southeastern Yosemite, it was about 5.7 mya; for Tioga Pass it was about 5.1 mya; for Sonora Pass, near north-eastern Yosemite, it was about 3.9 mya.

The model assumes (for reasons too lengthy to be discussed here) that the average height of the Sierran crest at initial uplift was about 6,500', and the average height at cessation of uplift will be about 14,000'. The time span for this required uplift is about 8.2 million years, and the amount of uplift, in 1 million-year intervals, is given below:

Time	Crest Height	Change
0 my	6,500'	
1 my	6,990'	490'
2 my	8,180'	1,190'
3 my	9,530'	1,350'
4 my	10,890'	1,360'
5 my	12,120'	1,230'
6 my	13,100'	980'
7 my	13,730'	630'
8 my	13,980'	250'

The model implies that uplift in the southern Sierra has stopped, while to the north, it is about to



Generalized curve of rate of uplift, from the Lassen environs south to Mt. Whitney. Curve implies that over 8 million years was required for Mt. Whitney to reach its present height.

stop. At Minaret Summit, which already has seen 5.7 my of uplift, only 2.5 my remain, and the predicted elevation increase is 1,160'. At Tioga Pass, 3.1 my of uplift remain for a total increase of 1,770'. At Sonora Pass, 4.3 my remain for an increase of 3,240', while up at Lassen, with uplift about to commence, 8.2 my remain for an increase of 7,500'.

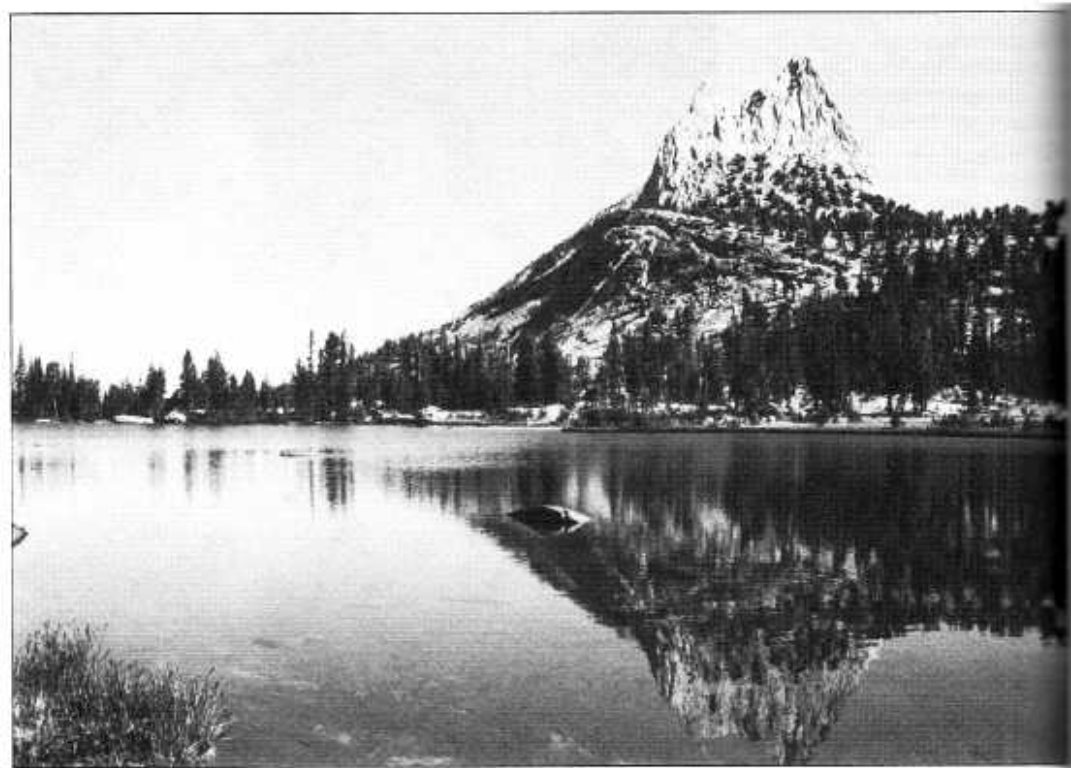
Sierran Glaciation

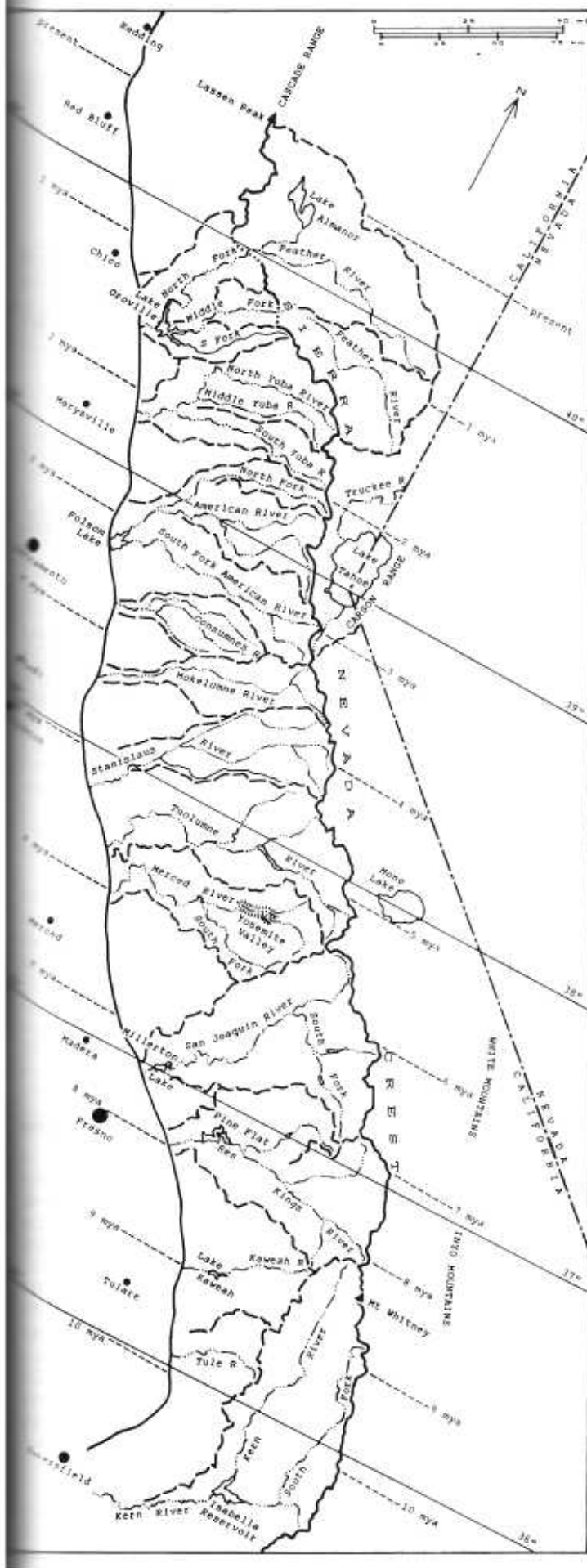
Now we can ask questions such as "When did Sierran glaciation begin?" We know that from about 5 to 2.5 mya, there were short periods of time when conditions were probably cold enough to produce small glaciers in the Sierra, or at least produce some snowfields. However, prolonged cold periods didn't begin until about 2.5 mya, and we can use the model to see if the Yosemite crest back then was high enough to support considerable glaciers. The model predicts that the high peaks along Yosemite's crest

stood at about 9,000–10,000'; so yes, they could have supported glaciers. To visualize what the crest might have looked like, one has only to look at a similar-elevation in southern Yosemite today, the Buena Vista Crest. During glacial times this crest is capable of generating glaciers several miles long, and such was probably the case along Yosemite's crest 2.5 mya.

In the northern and central Sierra Nevada, where the range is essentially tilted west as a rigid block, elevations of any given point can also be determined. Three prominent landmarks around Yosemite Valley have been studied, and all are being raised at the rates shown in the

Cathedral Peak reflected in Upper Cathedral Lake. This landscape has been severely glaciated for perhaps 2–3 million years. In the early days of glaciation, the landscape would have been lower and less glaciated, and it would have resembled the Buena Vista Crest landscape.





Time (my)	El Capitan	Sentinel Dome	Half Dome
+3.0	8,660'	9,273'	10,086'
+2.0	8,524	9,129	9,931
+1.0	8,158	8,743	9,514
0.0	7,569	8,122	8,842
-1.0	6,819	7,331	7,987
-2.0	5,982	6,448	7,033
-3.0	5,139	5,559	6,071
-4.0	4,376	4,755	5,201
-5.0	4,023	4,382	4,798

chart. The fractions of change with regard to crest change are: El Capitan, 0.620; Sentinel Dome, 0.654; Half Dome, 0.707.

These elevations are based on changes in elevation at Tioga Pass. It's interesting to note how much Half Dome, at Yosemite's east end, grows in time above El Capitan, at the valley's west end.

generally advancing into the valley as they typically have over about the last 1-2 million years, will generally advance beyond it, down the Merced Gorge to El Portal and beyond. As the Merced Gorge is excavated, the valley too will become deepened. Three million years from now the valley floor could lie at a 3,000' eleva-



By extrapolation, one could guess that about 40 mya, when the current range was around its lowest, there was little difference in elevation between these two features.

The Dardanelles. Part of the massive, 100-mile-long lava flow (actually, a series of lava flows and mudflows) in the Stanislaus River drainage just north of the park. Dated at about 9-9.5 million years.

The Valley Will Deepen

And just what kind of future lies in store for Yosemite National Park? With continuing uplift, the glaciers west of the Sierran crest will grow even larger and more magnificent. In Yosemite Valley, these larger glaciers, instead of

tion, way below 10,000' Half Dome at its east end. What an impressive sight that would be!

But what about eastern lands just outside the park? The Mono Basin will continue to sink, as it has been doing for perhaps the last 3-4 million years. As the Sierran crest continues to rise, an increasingly more-pronounced rain shadow will develop. During glacial times, the eastern glaciers actually may be smaller than

Major drainages of the Sierra Nevada. Map shows the location of the subducted south edge of the Juan de Fuca plate in 1 million year intervals (present back to 10 mya).



Mono Basin and Dana Plateau, from Mt. Dana. This basin will continue to sink, as it has been doing for 3-4 million years.

those of geologically "recent" glacial times. The Mono Basin will become drier, and during interglacial times such as ours, Mono Lake could be reduced to little more than a chemical sump (which is what Los Angeles DWP wants it to be anyway).

Such changes in the Sierra are bound to have a dramatic effect on the area's flora and fauna. For example, in the park, alpine plants and animals are bound to

proliferate, while around Mono Lake, migratory birds may have their numbers severely depleted. It will be the job of future generations to study and respond to what could be profound changes in the Yosemite environment.

Jeffrey Schaffer is the author of several hiking guides published by Wilderness Press including "Yosemite National Park." His educational background is in Biological Field Sciences and Physical Geography, and he is beginning work toward his PhD in geography and botany. A life member of the Association, Jeff is a true Yosemite aficionado.



Ranger Bob Johnson measures snow depth and water content at Snow Flat as part of Yosemite snow survey.

Snow Pack Below Normal

Measurements from the 1987 (March) snow survey in Yosemite National Park have confirmed precipitation amounts well below average for the year. Based on water content figures, Yosemite and the central valley can expect a drier than normal summer. In fact, some forecasters are predicting drought-like conditions.

The following are the results of the March survey compared to last year's numbers.

	Elevation (feet)	1986		1987	
		Snow Depth (inches)	Water Content	Snow Depth (inches)	Water Content
Gin Flat	7000	77.0	35.3	42.1	16.5
Snow Flat	8700	139.9	84.0	62.4	22.1
Tuolumne Meadows	8600	76.2	37.1	32.6	11.0
Dana Meadows	9850	104.3	47.9	50.4	18.5

National Park Service Co-founder Dies

Horace Marden Albright, the National Park Service's co-founder and its second director, died March 28 in Los Angeles. He was 97 years old.

Albright began his notable career in Washington, D.C., in 1913 working as a clerk to the Assistant Secretary of the Interior. He was detailed to the task of establishing a National Park Service, and played a major role in guiding legislation through Congress that enabled the N.P.S. in 1916.

One of the original five employees of the National Park Service, Horace Albright was assigned as a legal aid to the first Director, Stephen T. Mather, in 1915. In 1916, Albright became Assistant Director.

In the following years, he helped establish a number of national parks including Mount McKinley, Grand Canyon, Acadia and Zion. He also served as Superintendent of Yellowstone and field director of all western park units. In 1929, Albright succeeded Mather as N.P.S. Director.

Albright left the National Park Service in 1933 to go work for



American Potash Company. He retired as president of American Potash in 1956.

A graduate of the University of California at Berkeley, Albright authored a number of books about the national parks including "Oh, Ranger!" and most recently "The Birth of the National Park Service."

The contributions of Horace Albright to the national park system were multiple, and he was largely responsible for the structure, principles, and philosophy of an organization that has become a model for national parks throughout the world.

For his work, Albright was awarded the Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor, by President Reagan in 1981.

Tioga Pass Opens Early

The Tioga Pass Road, the trans-Sierra highway through Yosemite's spectacular high country, opened for the season on May 1, 1987. That's nearly a month earlier than normal.

Mild winter weather, a warm spring plus a snowpack that was only 50 percent of average allowed park road crews to clear the section of Highway 120 East

within the park ahead of schedule. The roadway outside the park between Lee Vining and Tioga Pass was cleared by California Department of Transportation employees earlier in the spring.

Typically, the 9,941 foot Tioga Pass opens the Friday before the Memorial Day holiday is celebrated. The earliest opening date was April 8 in 1977, a legendary drought year. The latest opening followed the near record winter of 1982-83, when the road was not cleared until June 29.

The Walls Came Tumbling Down

Yosemite Valley was literally shaken this spring by two major rock slides. The first, in early March, resulted when the east face of the Middle Brother (part of the Three Brothers rock formation) collapsed and dropped tons of granite and other debris down the Valley's north wall about ¼ mile west of Yosemite Lodge. No one was reported injured in the slide, but Northside Drive, the main exit road from the Valley, was covered with rock and closed to traffic. It is expected to remain closed until July or until NPS officials are satisfied that the cliff face has stabilized.

The more recent slide occurred April 12, in the vicinity of the Snow Creek Trail which climbs to the north rim of Yosemite Valley near Mirror Lake. Three hikers were injured, one seriously, when a huge slab of granite estimated to weigh 340 tons came free from near the rim and fell some 1,800 feet into the Valley. It broke into large boulders, some the size of Volkswagens. The slide measured about 300 feet at its widest point, and levelled trees and other vegetation.

The Middle Brother area has continued to see slide activity since March. An inspection by NPS experts and scientists from the US Geological Survey has resulted in a finding that the slide area is very unstable. The slope will be monitored for the foreseeable future, and Northside Drive will not be cleared of rubble until all slide activity has stopped for at least two weeks.

Jim Snyder, a Yosemite trail crew foreman, estimated that the Middle Brother slide contained 800,000 cubic yards of material weighing 1.4 million tons and was large enough to cover a football field. Dozens of large trees were ripped from their holds on the Valley wall, and boulders from the slide even reached the Merced River.

The Snow Creek Trail slide, though not nearly so large, endangered considerably more persons given its location. In an area



The east face of Middle brother. The rock slide originated at a point just left of center.

Workers survey trail devastation in wake of rockslide on the Snow Creek trail.



of the trail known as the "Tenaya zig zags," at least 28 switchbacks were covered, and many of those were destroyed completely. Though there is no sign of further instability on the cliffs above it, the trail has been closed and will remain so until a temporary trail can be completed. That should take 3 weeks or longer.

While rock slides are a normal process in Yosemite, there have been a number of major slides in recent years. Since 1980, three hikers have been killed and 12 injured by falling rock. Predicting the occurrence of a rock slide is impossible, and the possibility of encountering a shower of granite while hiking in the park is a real one for park visitors.

Cascade Dam Closer to Removal

Removal of the abandoned Cascade Dam on the Merced River in Yosemite National Park is planned by the National Park Service.

The NPS has prepared an environmental assessment for completion of the second phase of the proposal to replace the valley's electrical distribution system.

Park Superintendent John Morehead said the park will buy its electrical power from Pacific Gas and Electric Co. He said the decision was made because it will lead to the fewest long-term environmental consequences.

"It will allow about two acres of mixed conifer habitat and 1½-mile stretch of the Merced River to return to natural condition," Morehead said.

The proposal to abandon the system followed several environmental and cultural resource evaluations in 1986, including a formal stream flow study of the river.

The environmental assessment is available from Morehead, Box 577, Yosemite 95389.

MICHAEL DIXON/NPS

MICHAEL DIXON/NPS

Books for the Spring

The following selection of books are works which chronicle the wide and varied scope of Yosemite and the High Sierra region, or the national parks generally. All can be purchased from the Association at the Yosemite Valley Visitor Bookstore, or by mail order, using the order form on page 18 of this issue. Members of the Association are entitled to a 15% discount of retail prices.

The Birds Around Us

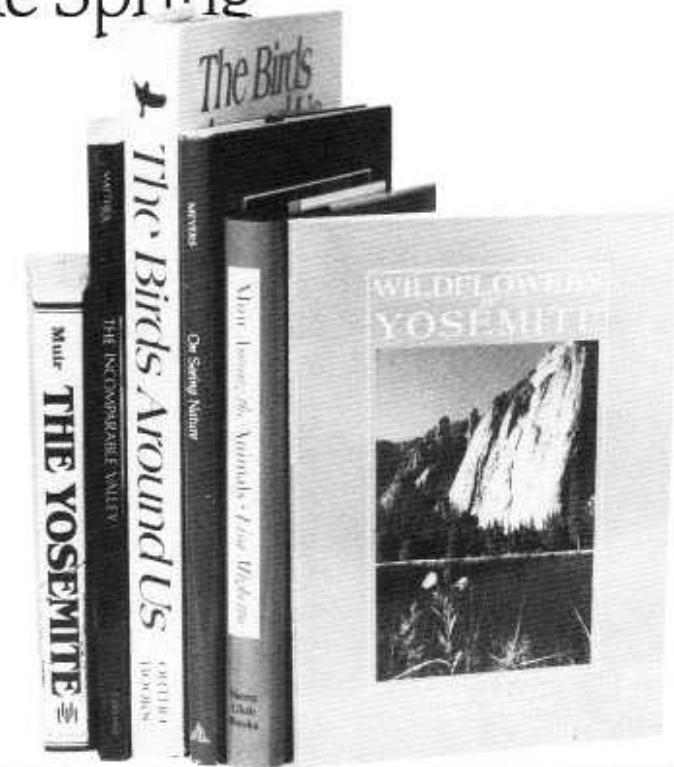
Alice Mace, editor.
Ortho Books, 1986.
6235, cloth \$25.00.

Here is a handsome, full-color guide to attracting, observing, identifying and photographing birds. The introductory chapter, by noted ornithologist Roger Tory Peterson, outlines the ways in which bird-watching can bring enjoyment to us, and the myriad activities available to bird-watchers. Successive, well illustrated chapters give detailed information on bird evolution, behavior, ecology, flight, migration and navigation. Two well-drawn chapters give specifics for attracting birds to your yard (i.e., offering bird baths, feeding stations, nesting materials and shelters), and helpful techniques for photographing birds. The final chapter is an information-filled reference guide to 125 of the commonest bird species of North America.

On Seeing Nature

Steven J. Meyers.
Fulcrum, Inc., 1986.
14430, cloth \$15.95.

Seeing is an art. Although we are given the sense of sight at birth, it is a tool we must continually develop in order to not merely look, but in order to truly see. We apply this sense as we wish, all too often letting our familiarity with the sights and sounds around us breed a sluggish blindness to the intricacies of our natural world. Only during childhood do many of us see nature and the world with freshness, clarity and wonder. This book, in text and photographic images, explores



Two of Yosemite's long-time classics, **The Incomparable Valley**, by Francis E. Matthes, and **The Yosemite**, by John Muir, had both gone out-of-print within the last year. Both books contribute significantly to a better understanding of this national park. Therefore, we at Yosemite Association were sorry to learn of their unavailability from their respective publishers. Fortunately, the University of Wisconsin Press chose to issue a new edition of Muir's work, making it again available to readers. And, through a special purchase arrangement, Yosemite Association was able to convince the University of California Press to reprint **The Incomparable Valley**. Thus, it too, is once more available. We highly recommend both:

The Incomparable Valley: A Geologic Interpretation of the Yosemite

University of California Press, 1950.
11525, paper, \$8.95.

This is the popular geological interpretation of Yosemite, based on Francois Matthes' acclaimed lifetime scientific research for the U.S. Geological Survey. An essential resource for anyone who loves the Sierra Nevada and wishes to understand the real drama of the earth's forces. The

book serves as an introduction to Yosemite and the Sierra in general, and a guide to its special features—its peaks and walls, high country and valleys, domes, streams and waterfalls, and, above all, its glaciers. Well illustrated with fifty photographs, twenty-four by Yosemite's own celebrated photographer, Ansel Adams.

The Yosemite

John Muir.
University of Wisconsin Press, 1986.
18600, paper, \$10.95. # 18601, cloth, \$32.50.

"The sauntering Muir climbed sometimes barefoot on the glacial polished granite of Yosemite. He relished a good slosh through a boggy meadow. He touched what he called the living Mother Earth with his feet and his whole body, because intimate contact allowed the beauty to soak in. So when he put together *The Yosemite*, he created a guidebook and something more. As a guidebook, it provides all the usual information, where to go, what to see, when to see it, and how. But with Muir one always gets something more: a guide to intimate contact with Nature." —from Michael Cohen's foreword to the Wisconsin edition.

preferences. This book is a must for all bird-watchers' libraries.

Muir Among the Animals: The Wildlife Writings of John Muir

Edited by Lisa Mighetto.
Sierra Club Books, 1986.
13060, cloth, \$17.95.

Collected here for the first time are Muir's superb essays about the animals he encountered during his wilderness journeys (wild sheep, deer, porcupine, birds, bear, coyote, insects, lizards and snakes, etc.). Written in lively and often humorous prose, his writings reveal much about attitudes toward animals at the turn of the century and, at times, Muir's prescience about future wildlife issues. The reader's sense of empathy and understanding for the lives of animals are enriched by Muir's keen observations.

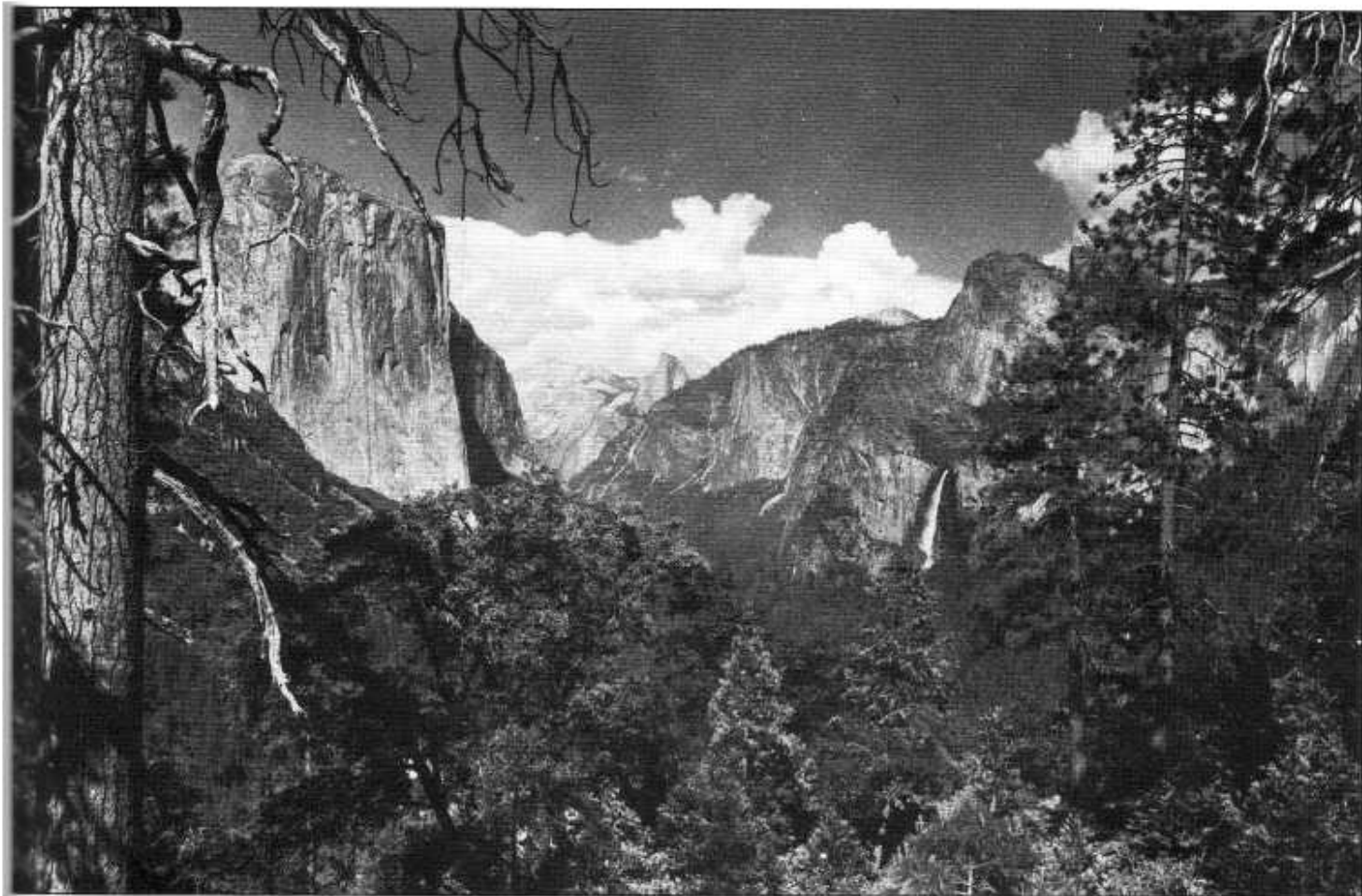
Wildflowers of Yosemite

Lynn & Jim Wilson and Jeff Nicholas.
Sunrise Productions, 1987.
18355, paper \$9.95

This new, easy-to-use guide to the wildflowers of Yosemite National Park and the central Sierra Nevada is written and illustrated with color photographs by three knowledgeable and talented park residents. The book's opening chapters discuss the major geographic regions of Yosemite, and list the outstanding flower-viewing sites within each area, offering suggested tours and optimum flowering seasons for each. The book's mid-section contains beautiful, detailed color photographs of the 224 flower species identified. Finally, accurate descriptions of each species are listed, detailing the identifying characteristics, habitat, elevation and blooming season. A helpful glossary of plant structures is included. A "must" for all of Yosemite's wildflower lovers!



A Phenomenal Showing of Interest



NPS PHOTO

For the Yosemite Association, 1986 was a year brimming with activity, progress and change.

As an organization that depends for its existence on the support of friends and donors, the Association witnessed a phenomenal showing of interest in our efforts throughout the year. That demonstrated interest was reflected in our burgeoning membership and in the large number of donations made to The Yosemite Fund.

In every category, from seminars to sales to publishing to membership, our operation prospered, and our educational goals were furthered. Similarly, the fundraising program continued to grow, and provided unprecedented support for a variety of park

projects. Above all, the Yosemite Association intensified its efforts to join private corporations, foundations, and individuals in a partnership to benefit this national treasure called Yosemite National Park.

As always, we are deeply appreciative of our members, friends, donors and volunteers for their continued participation in our effort. The Yosemite Association looks forward to 1987 with expectations of a banner year and with the determination to make it one.

Respectfully,
Steven P. Medley, *President.*

As of January 31, there were 3,220 active members . . . an increase of 36% over last year.

General

In March of 1986, the Yosemite Association made the long-awaited move of its offices from Yosemite Valley to the Bagby Station in El Portal. The railroad station once stood near the Merced River at Bagby (between Mariposa and Coulterville), and served as a stopping place on the Yosemite Valley Railroad line. When the McClure Reservoir was created, the structure was moved to El Portal to become part of the transportation exhibit.

Following a complete rehabilitation of the station by the National Park Service project crew, the long vacant building was transformed into a highly attractive office facility. A gala "grand opening" celebration was held to commemorate the move, and by year's end, Association staff members were comfortably settled in their new home.

Another meaningful event during 1986 was the presentation of the annual Yosemite Award to Yosemite Association consultant and former Managing Editor Henry Berrey. Following a career which covered some 40 years in the park, Henry was honored for his outstanding contributions to Yosemite by the Yosemite Alumni Association.

Board of Trustees

Three candidates ran for two available seats in the Association's annual board election for 1986. Incumbent Phyllis Weber was elected to a new six-year position as was Beverly Barrick who narrowly defeated Jean H. Watt. Ms. Weber is an elementary school teacher in El Portal, while Ms. Barrick recently completed her term as a Mariposa County Supervisor and now serves as a private consultant.

For the second straight year, the Board of Trustees expanded in size. This time, three ex-officio members were added to the board to represent The Yosemite Fund Board of Directors. It is hoped that this change will foster interaction and communication between the Association and fundraising boards.

Appointed to fill these three new board positions for 1987 were Byron L. Nishkian, a San Francisco engineer and Chairman of *The Yosemite Fund*, Richard H. Peterson, retired Chairman of the Board of PG&E, and Richard C. Otter, an investment broker from Belvedere, CA.

Membership

The Association set a membership goal of 3,000 for 1986, and thanks to impressive public support, we were able to surpass it. As of January 31, there were 3,220 active members of the YA. This represents an increase of 36% over last year, and exceeds 1985's 30% increase. We are indebted to new members and renewing members alike for the good health of our organization.

The membership category breakdown is as follows:

Regular, 2094
Supporting, 326
Contributing, 163
Sustaining, 72
Life, 523
Participating Life, 42

On May 10, 1986, the Association hosted the Yosemite Association Art Exhibit, a "members only" event held in the Tudor Lounge of the Ahwahnee Hotel in Yosemite Valley. Some 200 members got a chance to see special collections, works of art and various artifacts from the



Environmental journalist Harold Gilliam addresses Association members at September meeting in Wawona.

The guest speaker for the day was Harold Gilliam, noted author, environmentalist, and columnist for the *San Francisco Chronicle*. Adding to the enjoyment of the event was a wine & cheese get-together, raffle, stage-coach rides, barn dance, slide show and other presentations.



Yosemite Museum, and to hear speakers share their knowledge of topics such as trail blazing, Yosemite basketry, and the future of the museum.

1986 marked the eleventh annual members' meeting, which was held in historic Wawona. This fall event was a big success, with almost 400 members attending—our biggest turnout ever!

850 people came to Yosemite during the year to learn about flowers, rocks, trees, birds and other related topics.

Seminars

Seminar enrollments increased in 1986, reflecting the high level of interest that exists for educational opportunities in Yosemite. 850 people came to Yosemite during the year to learn about flowers, rocks, trees and birds and other related topics. Participants in winter/spring ski tours, history classes, and wild-flower treks totalled 158 persons, and fall courses involved 103 more curious individuals. The balance of the enrollees took part in the 45 summer courses held at a variety of locations from Tioga Pass to Wawona.

For the first time, several of the summer courses were presented at the Crane Flat facilities of The Yosemite Institute. This cooperative arrangement allowed seminar attendees to enjoy the convenience of hot showers, dormitory-style quarters, and hot-cooked meals served in a communal dining room. An introduction to Yosemite's Natural History, Ben Kudo's Watercolor Workshop, and both of David

bird-banding seminar participants examine wing feathers of netted bird.

Gaines' birding courses were held at Crane Flat with much positive comment.

Some of 1986's noteworthy seminars sponsored by the Association are described below. They included Laurel Munson and Ginger Burley's strenuous seven-day trip in August entitled Backpacking Across Yosemite's Southern Passes. A hearty group traversed up and down Chiquito and Fernandez Passes, spent a night in the Ansel Adams Wilderness (Minarets), and then topped both Post Peak Pass and Red Peak Pass (11,200 feet). Following a layover day at Ottoway Lakes for fishing and exploring, the group continued to Merced Pass and a gentle entry to the South Fork drainage, with an eventual return over Chiquito Pass. All reports were that the trip was very rewarding with terrific scenery!

Bob Fry's Ethnobotany of the Western Sierra Indians course allowed students to explore the many uses of plants by this region's earliest inhabitants. Learning to identify the many properties of Sierra plants for food, medicine, baskets, homes, fibers, weapons, music, art and magic was the focus for participants. Study was done in the field and some research in Yosemite's

Research Library enabled students to come away with a greater knowledge of Yosemite's Indian culture.

Tim and Barbara DeWitt's Family Day Hikes in Tuolumne were well-received by families with small children. Families camped in the group campground

and met each day for an enjoyable dayhike to one of Tuolumne's unique areas. Both parents and children were pleased with this new program.

Throughout the year, YA offered courses which attracted people from a variety of backgrounds and geographic locations with the goal of expanding their thinking and knowledge about Yosemite. The most frequent comment we hear from participants just returned from a seminar is, "We had a great group of people, a wonderful instructor and know considerably more about one of the most beautiful parks anywhere!"



E.F. MENNING



Three species of the tiny but colorful alpine, top to bottom: *Erigeron pygmaeus*, *Podistera nevadensis*, *Hulsea algida*.



E.F. MENNING



During 1986, YA developed five new publications and four new products, reprinted nine books, maps & art prints, collaborated on a new video cassette and won two NPS awards.



Publications/Products

Publishing has always been one of our organization's important educational and revenue-generating functions. Recently, YA has broadened this traditional endeavor by expanding our product line to include a selection of Yosemite and Association-related items of interest to our members. During 1986, YA developed nine new publications and products:

Faces in All Kinds of Places: A Worm's Eye-View of Flowers, written and illustrated by Michael Ross, is for young readers. The book introduces children to the world of flowers through the eyes of a curious worm. Whimsical color drawings enhance the story.

To coincide with the first annual Yosemite Renaissance art show, sponsored by the Yosemite Art Guild and the Mariposa County Arts Council, YA was called upon to produce *The Yosemite Renaissance Art Exhibit Catalog*, containing information about the show, as well as reproductions of each of the exhibited paintings.

Two art pieces from the above show were selected by YA for reproduction as poster calendars. Sonora artist Don Hukari's serigraph of Yosemite Valley was chosen for our *1986 Poster Calendar*. The oriental-style painting of Yosemite Valley by Ellen Frank Chan, of San Francisco, was selected to appear on the *1987 Poster Calendar*.

NPS naturalist/interpreter Jon Kinney wrote and prepared a visitor's pamphlet for the Mariposa

Grove. YA published this as the *Mariposa Grove: Map & Guide*. The piece serves as an orientation and trail guide to the grove.

The four new general products developed during the year are *Yosemite Fund Coffee Mugs*; a very attractive *Yosemite Pin*, depicting a colorful waterfall view; *Ostrander Lake Ski Club T-Shirts*, to coincide with our operation of the Ostrander Lake Ski Hut; and *Yosemite Association "Pelican Pouch" Book Bags*, used to carry field guides, etc. on one's belt while hiking, birdwatching, etc.

Nine books, maps and art prints were reprinted during the year. Included were *Cycles-Cycles-Cycles*, *Discovering Sierra Trees*, *The Manmade Bear*, *Sierra Wildlife Coloring Book*, *Yosemite Road Guide*, *Indian People of the Ahwahnee*, *Sierra Tree Prints*, and the *Winter Trail Maps for Glacier Point Road and Crane Flat*. Both *Cycles* and *Discovering Sierra Trees* sported new cover designs.

Additionally, the Association collaborated with the production of a new Yosemite video cassette

tape, *Yosemite and the High Sierra*, with Yosemite naturalist/photographer Bob Roney. YA staff offered assistance towards the production of Dream Garden Press' *Yosemite - 1987 Calendar*. As one of our ongoing tasks, Association assistance and advice were also provided to numerous authors, artists, photographers and publishers on a variety of Yosemite-related materials and publishing projects.

Final publications news for 1986 is that YA was the pleased recipient of two National Park Service publishing awards, presented at the Conference of National Park Cooperating Association's biennial meeting held at San Diego in November. Entries in the NPS competition included submissions of publications from units throughout the National Park System, produced during 1985 and 1986. Recognized for excellence in the "poster" category

Jane Ayer's beautiful new watercolor, "Yosemite East" offered to members in a limited edition.



was YA's *Half Dome: The Return of Light Campaign* poster by well-known Yosemite artist, Jane Gyer. An award winner in the miscellaneous category was our quarterly member's bulletin, *Yosemite*. Our staff and production assistants are justifiably proud of these accomplishments.

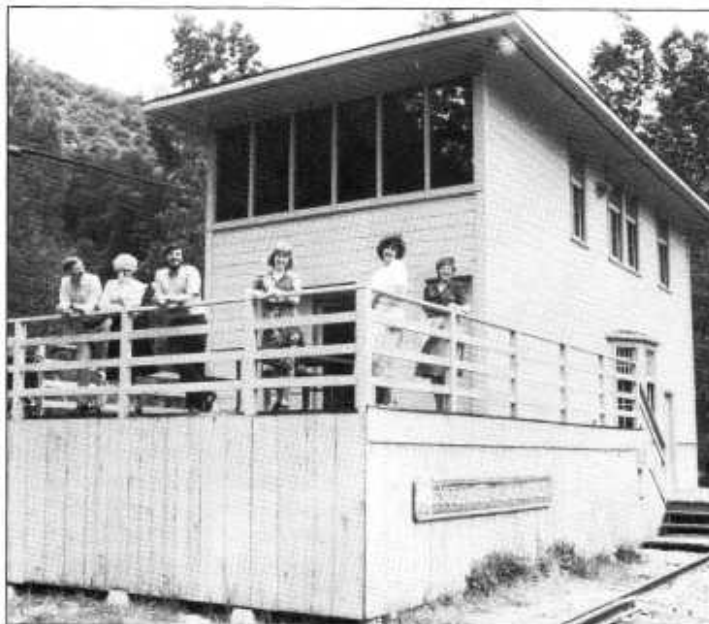


The major challenge in 1986 was the relocation of offices and warehouse space to El Portal.

Sales

During the year, YA carried a total of 1060 different books, maps, posters and prints, 35mm slides, video and audio cassettes, postcards, notecards, calendars and other Yosemite-related educational products for sale to park visitors. In addition to generating a very vital source of income for the Association, and subsequently assistance to the National Park Service, the information contained in our merchandise provided a vital interpretive link for literally hundreds of thousands of park visitors in Yosemite.

The major challenge of the YA sales department in 1986 was its relocation of offices and warehouse space to El Portal. Since the majority of our business activity is conducted within Yosemite Valley, we were suddenly forced to handle many daily business situations by "remote control." But, with new systems developed and implemented, business eventually returned to near-normal. The biggest hardship of the move is the temporary lack of warehouse space to store our large inventory. Upon our arrival in El Portal, we quickly took physical possession of the old Yosemite Valley Railroad baggage car and caboose, and used their interior space as storage areas. As overflow, warehouse space was rented in Mariposa, thirty minutes away. The original waiting room of the Bagby Railroad Station, our new headquarters, was converted to our order processing area, where shipments are received and sent. Plans for an adequate warehouse building behind our office are underway, slated for early 1987 construction.



MICHAEL DIXON/NTS



A highlight of this year's sales activities was the expansion of the *Yosemite Catalog*, from the pages of the members' bulletin into a full-color merchandise catalog released to the public prior to Christmas. A mass-mailing to 40,000 individuals was made. Also new to the YA sales program was the advertisement of products in nationally distributed periodicals. Both new programs show promise.

Continuing in our traditional realm, Yosemite Association operated retail book/map sales counters at eleven locations within the Park during 1986. By rank of sales volume, they were the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center, Big Oak Flat Information Center, Mariposa Grove Museum, Happy Isles Nature Center, Pioneer Yosemite History Center, Tuolumne Meadows Wilderness Permit Kiosk, Wawona District Ranger Office, South Entrance Station, Badger Pass Ranger Station and Tioga Pass Entrance Station. Total park retail sales were \$707,397, up 11% from 1985.

Other Association retail sales categories are mail order, school, library and government sales, with 1986 totals of \$55,189, up 34% from last year. Total 1986 resale (wholesale) sales of Yosemite Association publications amounted to \$97,238, up 1%.

The above figures represent Yosemite Association's total 1986 sales revenue of \$859,824, an overall gain of 15% from last year.



For the second straight year, the Yosemite theatre program was expanded...the park visitor is willing to pay for quality programs.

Other Programs

Summer Loop Trips

At the request of the National Park Service, the Association again administered the staffing of the High Sierra loop trips in Yosemite during 1986. The first trip didn't start until mid-July due to excessive snow pack in the high country, but two trips were run each week, making a total of 14 trips. Training of new staff was arranged on four of the trips.

Yosemite Theater

For the second straight year, The Yosemite Theatre program was expanded. Attendance figures also increased supporting the Association's belief that the park visitor is willing to pay for quality interpretive programs within the park. Lee Stetson returned as dean of the theatre program with his show, "Conversation With a Tramp," in which he portrays John Muir awaiting the decision on whether the government will dam Hetch Hetchy. Lee also added a matinee in 1986 titled "Stickeen," based on Muir's book by the same name.

Josh Jossi performed his one-man show, "Stone, Sea, Earth and



Lee Stetson who portrays John Muir in his performances for the Yosemite Theater program.

Sky," which includes original songs and poetry by Mr. Jossi. Peter Kern, an accomplished Swiss photographer and rock climber, added variety to the theater program with his new, expanded movie on "Climbing in Yosemite." Bob Roney completed the billing with his movie called "Yosemite and the High Sierra."

Art Activity Center

The Association co-sponsored the Art Activity Center for the sixth straight year, along with the Yosemite Park & Curry Co. During 1986, 26 weeks of instruction were provided by 25 different artists to over 2,000 participants. Each artist was a volunteer who typically considered the engagement at the Center as a "working vacation." Classes were taught over 7 days by the same artist. In addition, 2 evening classes each week were offered to employees and residents of Yosemite. The Association considers the program another important way to educate visitors to truly "see" the park.

Ostrander Lake Ski Hut

Since 1981, the Association has handled reservations and staffing of the Ostrander Lake Ski Hut in Yosemite's backcountry. Open from mid-December through early April, the Ostrander Hut is available to nordic skiers for overnight use on a reservation basis.

Charging only \$8.00 per person per night, the Association was able to make financial ends meet and still turn over enough to the NPS to help offset on-going maintenance costs.

Contributions to the National Park Service

The Yosemite Association was established to support the educational and research programs of the NPS in Yosemite. To accomplish this goal, we donate money, products and services each year as "Aid to the National Park Service." During 1986, contributions in the sum of \$107,913 were made for a variety of projects as detailed below. As well, The Yosemite Fund provided additional funding to the NPS in the amount of \$75,987 (see *Yosemite Fund Report*).

Free publications	\$ 5,727
Library periodicals & books	3,558
Baskets for museum	5,395
Photos & prints for museum	1,153
Rare books & memorabilia	2,888
Association Coordinator	2,000
Basket insurance	2,000
Yosemite Guide	10,000
PHYC living history program	1,600
VHS videocorder	1,500
Slide collection	3,000
Taxidermic mounts	1,500
Stereo & mixer	4,000
Computers	12,300
Reprint foreign & campground brochures	5,000
Tape recorder	1,140
Microfilming	4,000
Sales/Information clerks	20,017
Indian Cultural exhibit	2,700
Administration aid	8,528
Vacuum former machine	874
Micrographic printer	5,128
Programs & supplies	3,910
Total for Year	\$107,913

Two intrepid skiers head for the Ostrander Lake ski hut, a winter use facility managed by the Yosemite Association.



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The Yosemite Fund

The Yosemite Fund effort continued to progress and grow during 1986. Early year difficulties were resolved when the Yosemite Association entered into a "Memorandum of Agreement" regarding fundraising with the National Park Service. This document authorized the Association to fundraise for Yosemite, and establish the guidelines.

Based upon the NPS agreement, new by-laws were adopted establishing a semi-autonomous Yosemite Fund Board of Directors and defining a detailed structure of committees and sub-committees for *The Yosemite Fund*. Two meetings of the board were held during 1986, and an increased level of involvement and activity resulted. Elected as officers for 1987 at the fall meeting were: Byron L. Nishkian, Chairman, Daniel E. Wolfus, Vice-Chairman, Ann Witter Gillette, Secretary, and Richard C. Otter, Treasurer.

Thanks to major gifts from American Savings and Loan Association and Chevron USA Inc, a total of \$1,052,813 was

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The Association donated a total of \$107,913 to the NPS in Yosemite in 1986, and provided additional funding of \$75,987 through the Yosemite Fund program.

raised during 1986. Through the year's end, over 15,000 donors had contributed to The Yosemite Fund. As well, projects valued at \$75,887 were funded during the year (see descriptions below).

A significant event during 1986 was the establishment of a development office in San Francisco. Mary Lou Edmondson was hired to staff the office at 155 Montgomery Street, Room 210. Ms. Edmondson will emphasize foundation and corporate solicitation and will work closely with our fine volunteers.

Other noteworthy *Yosemite Fund* activities in 1986 included the following:

Kiosk Program: For the fourth straight summer talented volunteers operated information kiosks in the park. Located in Yosemite Valley and Tuolumne Meadows, the kiosks provided exposure for *The Yosemite Fund*, and generated some \$10,000 in donations and 150 new Yosemite Association memberships.

Fall Mailing: A major direct mail effort was initiated in November. Almost 95,000 pieces of mail were sent, and the response to our appeal was excellent. Donations totalling more

than \$120,000 were made as a result of the mailing, and our mailing list has grown to 35,000 names.



Chevron Poster: During December, Chevron USA, Inc, sponsored a promotion by which donors of \$10 or more to The Yosemite Fund could receive a beautiful color poster of the Great Grey Owl. The entire program was underwritten by Chevron, and contributions of more than \$50,000 were received.

These derelict buildings near Bridalveil Falls are part of the sewer plant which will be removed as a project of The Yosemite Fund.

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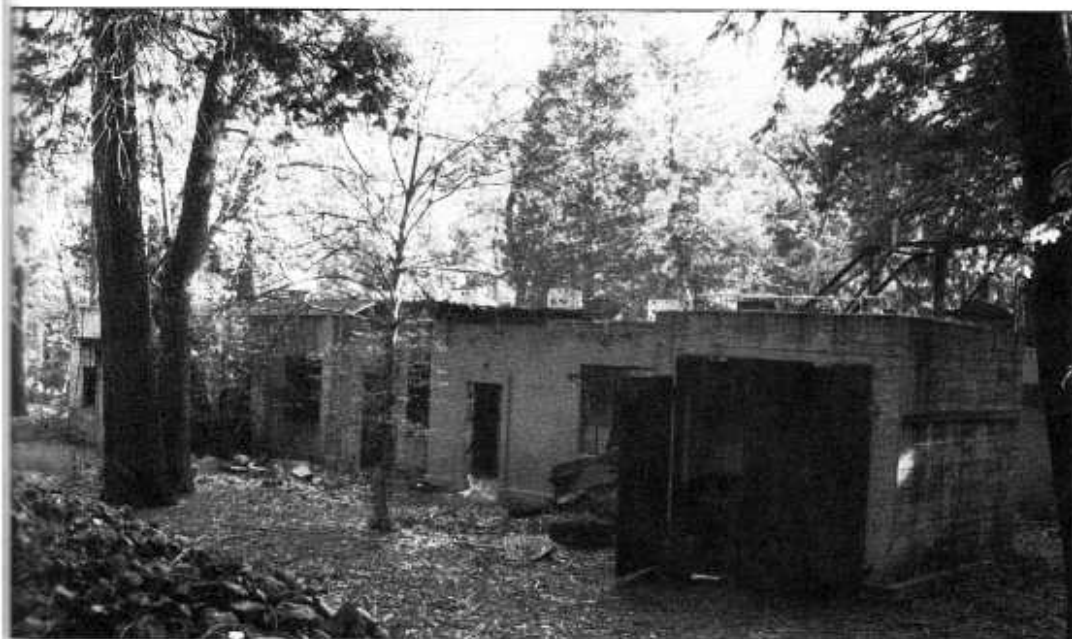
Projects Funded

The National Park Service requested funding from *The Yosemite Fund* during 1986 for the following projects:

Student interns	\$27,824
Peregrine falcon augmentation program	5,724
Bighorn sheep restoration	2,984
Mono Lake Committee grant	10,000
Merced Canyon Committee grant	10,000
Backcountry monitoring program	1,133
Great grey owl research	8,022
Fire research	1,000
Radio system, search and rescue	2,000
Indian basket collection	5,000
Native plant use study	1,200
Yosemite flora book development	1,000

Total Projects Funded \$75,887

Yosemite Museum employees catalog and store Indian baskets purchased through The Yosemite Fund.



1986 Annual Review

Financial Report

Summary of Combined Balance Sheets

	Yosemite Association	Yosemite Fund
Assets		
Cash	\$ 71,818	\$816,404
Accounts Receivable	35,483	
Inventory	338,527	
Prepayments	1,140	
Total Assets	\$446,968	\$816,404

Liabilities and Fund Balances

Liabilities

Accounts Payable	\$ 64,930	
Loan Payable	3,000	
Accrued Taxes	4,100	
Vacation Payable	8,778	
Total Liabilities	\$ 80,808	

Fund Balances

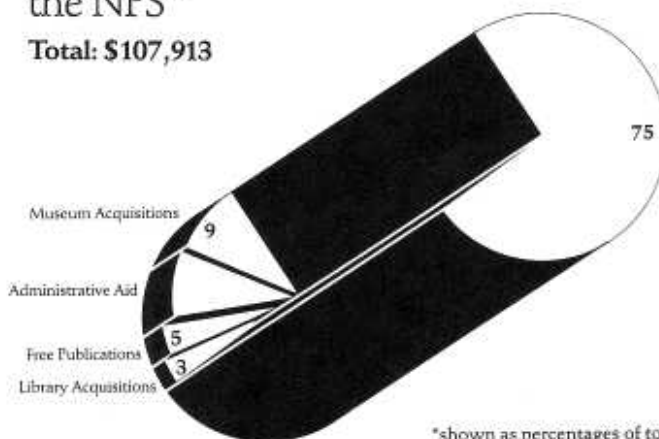
Unrestricted	\$303,234	\$503,701
Restricted	62,926	312,703
Total Fund Balances	\$366,160	\$816,404
Total Liabilities & Fund Balances	\$446,968	\$816,404



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

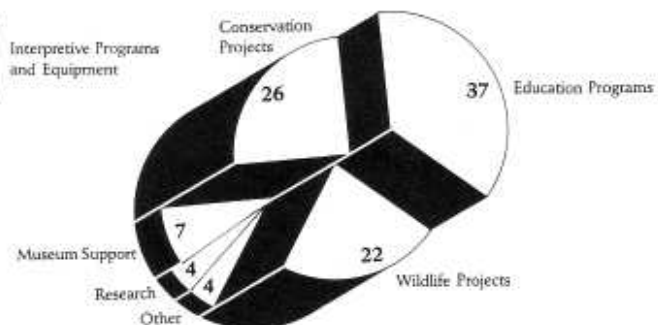
1986 Donations to the NPS*

Total: \$107,913



1986 Yosemite Fund Support*

Total: \$75,887



*shown as percentages of total

In Search of Joseph Walker's Trail

A
Little
History



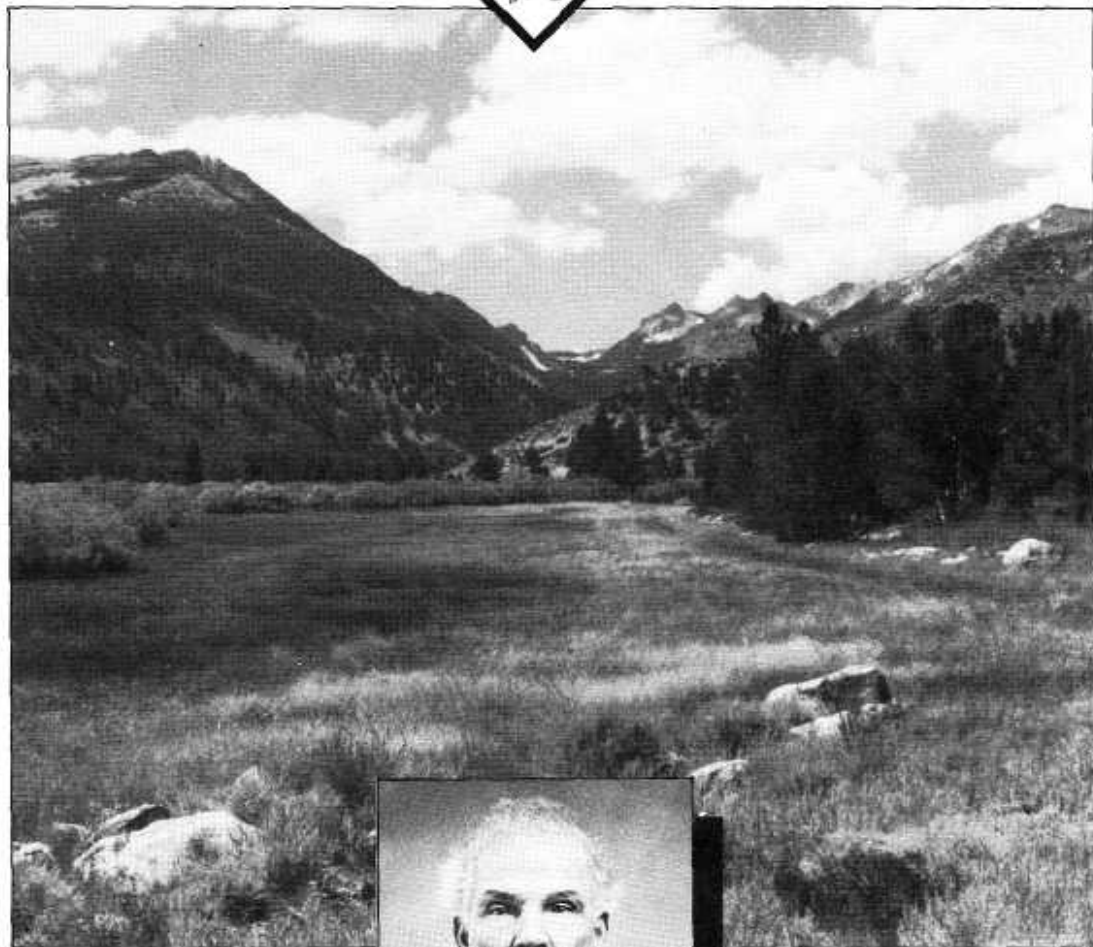
Linda Lee and Steve Spohn

In the summer of 1833, a group of Rocky Mountain fur trappers beaded out on an expedition from the Green River in Wyoming to the Pacific Coast of California. In so doing, they became the first men other than Indians to cross the Sierra Nevada from east to west. They also were the first other than Indians to see Yosemite Valley and the giant Sequoia trees.

The captain of this expedition, Joseph Rutherford Walker, was regarded by many in his day as "the best there was." His reputation as an explorer and leader resulted in his being hired in 1825 as a guide for the US Government Survey of the Santa Fe Trail. Two years later he became one of the co-founders and the first sheriff of Independence, Missouri. In the years after his famed Sierra crossing, he guided the first emigrant wagons over California's border, was consulted by the government on prospective routes for the Transcontinental Railroad, and was the discoverer of the famed Prescott gold fields of Arizona.

Aside from his many significant accomplishments, Walker's personality and character were what made him special, and in fact, enabled him to be the success that he was. It was his integrity, levelheadedness, strict discipline and incomparable wilderness skills that made him such an outstanding leader. His was an unmatched record. Only one man ever died while under Walker's leadership. He became lost only once, and was surprise-attacked by Indians only once in his entire 46-year career. Unlike most mountain men, Joseph Walker was only a "ceremonial" drinker, gave up gambling early in his career, and had very little patience with foul language and tall tales.

Because Walker intentionally kept a low profile, he is not as well known today as he deserves to be, especially for his exploratory trip to California in 1833.



The Joseph Walker Route

The annual fur trappers' rendezvous was held that year on the Green River in southwestern Wyoming. There Captain Walker recruited about 40 of the toughest mountain men he could find, and young Zenas Leonard was hired on as company clerk. Leonard had less than 5 years of actual wilderness experience, but Walker often took young men under his care as "apprentices." (While Sheriff of Independence, he had taken the then unknown Christopher "Kit" Carson under his wing). The elaborately outfitted company headed out from the Green River on July 27. By mid-August they were passing along the north shore off the Great Salt Lake. Early in September they were on the Humboldt River, fol-

lowing it until it sank into the sands of western Nevada.

By early October, their provisions had run out, and they found themselves at the eastern base of the "California Mountain"—the

Sierra Nevada. After searching for a few days, they found and followed what they thought was a trail leading from Bridgeport Valley over the mountain, but soon lost it in rocks and snow. Two days later they came to what they took for the "top of the mountain," most likely Virginia Pass, from which they could view the deserts to the east and the endless Sierra peaks to the west. From there they complained of the way being continually obstructed by snow and rocks, and the horses had become feeble and useless to them, forcing the men to walk. During the course of crossing the Sierra Nevada, 24 horses died, 17 of which were used for food.

Eventually they found themselves crossing several streams rushing out from under the snow and leaping from lofty precipices




CAPT. JOSEPH R. WALKER
 Born in
 Roan Co. Tenn.
 Dec. 13, 1798
 Emigrated to Mo. 1819.
 to New Mexico 1820.
 Rocky Mountains 1832.
 California: 1833.
 Camped at Yosemite
 Nov. 13, 1833.
 Died Oct. 27, 1876.
 F. 77 on 10ms 114ds

into the deep, beautiful valley of the Yosemite. They made several attempts, but found it impossible to descend. Continuing on their way west, they came to what Leonard called the "brink of the mountain," possibly the massive heights of El Capitan, and, looking through the spyglass, they caught their first glimpse of the golden glow of the San Joaquin Valley. From this point on, their course became easier and they were once again able to find game for food.

Presently they came across some trees, "incredibly large . . . from 16 to 18 fathoms round the trunk at the height of a man's head . . .", the magnificent Sequoias of the Tuolumne Grove. After almost a month in the Sierra, Walker and his men followed the Tuolumne River through the San Joaquin Valley. Leonard praised this river as "beyond doubt the most remarkable of any other water course." Its banks were very steep and rocky, creating a series of spectacular roaring rapids and deep beautiful pools. As they continued on their way toward the Pacific, they were both surprised and fascinated by the impressive meteor shower of November 12,

The Walker party probably left the west side of the Sierra Nevada at this point on the Tuolumne River near LaGrange. Above is the headstone of Joseph Walker at the Alhambra Cemetery, Martinez, California.

and shortly after that, a mild earthquake.

They spent the winter as typical "tourists," camping on the outskirts of Mission San Juan Bautista. Activities included such things as beach parties, a New Year's party aboard a ship, sight-seeing, fandangos, rodeos and general buffoonery. On February 14, 1834, the group, minus a few who decided to stay on, began their journey back to the Rocky Mountains. They travelled south and were directed by local Indians to cross the Sierra at the place now known as Walker Pass. Eventually connecting up with their original westbound route, they made it back just in time for the July rendezvous.

Finding the Route

One hundred and fifty years later, in the summer of 1984, we set out from the suburbs of Los Angeles to seriously search for the "Joseph Walker Route." To our knowledge, we were the first to undertake such a venture.

The idea came to us after reading Walker's biography, *Westering Man* by Bil Gilbert. We had been looking for an interesting trans-Sierra hike to do, and decided, "why not do it the way the first guys did?" In searching for more information, we learned that there is no designated route as such, and in fact, very few people had even heard of Joseph Walker. For over two years, under the guidance of Yosemite Research Center's Scott Carpenter, we have been whittling away at the puzzle in whatever "spare time" we had.

The work consists of both literary research—many a rainy day in library dungeons, and field research—some 20,000 miles put in between Lovelock, Nevada and Santa Cruz, California by car, plane, and by boot. During the course of our project, we have met many wonderfully helpful and encouraging people, both at Yosemite and elsewhere, especially Joseph Walker's great grand-nephew, who would dearly love to see his great granduncle get the respect and recognition he earned.

The focal point of our research is the journal which Zenas Leonard kept during the expedi-

tion. He often described major and minor details of the terrain they passed over, noting to what extent it affected their progress. Tying these various "landmarks" together should give us a good idea of the route they followed. It sounds more simple than it is. The trick is to have an understanding of the habits, motivations and limitations of the men who made this passage, to accurately interpret Leonard's phraseology, and to match his descriptions to the land in proper sequence. To complicate things even more, several of the dates he mentions are contradictory.

However, nothing can take the place of simply getting out there, putting yourself in Walker's shoes and looking. Literally following each possible route variation mile by mile, and often step by step, we have taken volumes of notes and thousands of pictures to mull over later. The eastern approach, while especially complicated, is of particular concern because where you end up often greatly depends on where you start out. The descent of the western slopes has been another puzzling area in that Leonard's narrative becomes more vague, and so does the landscape.

The bottom line to all of the work and research is twofold. First, we intend to hike the route—from the eastern base of the Sierra to the San Joaquin Valley during approximately three weeks in the fall of 1987, keeping roughly the same time-frame as Walker. Second, from this expedition and all the work leading to it, we will write a book on the subject including a guide to the rediscovered route. Further, we hope to produce a film or video on the trek. There are still many logistical and financial problems to be worked out beforehand but we are confident that this "way over the mountain" will be found again.

Linda Lee and Steve Spohn are independent researchers working with the Yosemite Research Center. They both reside in the Los Angeles area.

THE Yosemite CATALOG

SALE!
INVENTORY
REDUCTION

Discounts From 20-50% off Regular Prices
(Plus the additional 15% off for YA members)
Sales subject to available stock on hand

A Custom Compact Binoculars. A high-quality, lightweight model by Bushnell with excellent clarity, 7x26, long eye relief, field of view 368', center focus, porro prism, weight 11 oz., exit pupil 3.7 #50451. \$239.95—**now \$149.95! (member \$127.45).**

B Black Bear Hand-puppet. With soft, moveable head and legs to allow him to participate in the most meaningful of conversations and enough stuffing to allow him to join your stuffed animals when you're not around, this realistic warmer is ready to entertain young and old alike. 11" tall, hand washable. #50200. \$28.00—**now \$16.95! (member \$14.40).**

C Raccoon Hand-puppet. This partially-stuffed cousin of the popular woodland creature is very soft and moveable, and instantly ready to delight young and old alike with whatever entertainment you plan. 13" (not including tail), hand washable. #50210. \$15.00—**now \$11.95! (member \$10.15).**



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t is not enough to fight for the land; it is even more important to enjoy it.

— EDWARD ABBEY

D Ostrander T-shirts. Become affiliated with an elite Yosemite ski club with one of our new "Ostrander Lake Ski Club" T-shirts. Available in both long-sleeve (light blue) and short-sleeve (white) models, the Ostrander shirts are heavyweight, 100% cotton printed in four colors. Short-sleeve: #50300 (S), #50301 (M), #50302 (L), #50303 (XL), \$10.50—**now \$7.95 (member \$6.45).** Long-sleeve: #50310 (S), #50311 (M), #50312 (L), #50313 (XL), \$15.00—**now \$10.95 (member \$9.30).**

E Baby Bruiser. Bubba is everything his name implies—big, soft, cuddly! This friendly, furry fellow is going to become your child's favorite teddy or your main squeeze! 23" tall. #50220. \$79.95—**now \$39.95! (member \$33.95).**

F No-Frills Bear. This bear is strictly "back-to-basics"—no plush, no frills, just plain wrap! In fact, he carries the "No Frills Seal of Approval" on his chest for all to see. 10 inches tall. #50230. \$8.00—**now \$4.95! (member \$4.20).**



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B

C



F



Spring Clearance Sale

THE Yosemite CATALOG

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



H Yosemite Association Mug. This distinctive and functional white ceramic mug has our logo and name imprinted in brown. Holds eight ounces of your favorite beverage. #1625, \$5.00.

I Yosemite Fund Mug. This mug is decorated with the newly-designed scratchboard logo for use in conjunction with Yosemite Association's fundraising effort. White with black design, eight ounce capacity. #1626, \$5.00.



J Yosemite Enamel Pin. Designed especially for the Association, our enamled metal pin is a work of art. Each of the 10 different glazes is hand placed and separately fired. The result, from William Spear Design, is an eye-catching and colorful piece. The metal enamel pins are relief engraved in a 1/8" x 2" size. #1695, \$11.95.

K Pelican Pouch, Wilderness Belt Bag. The Pelican Pouch is not only perfect for carrying field guides, but also offers instant access to all the small items that are usually buried in your pack—pocket camera, lenses, maps, or your favorite trail mix! The Pouch is designed with front snap fasteners on the straps. This allows comfortable positioning on your belt—even between belt loops; no need to take your belt off first. The material is high quality Cordura pack cloth with a waterproof coating on one side. Beige with the

dark brown and white Yosemite Association patch, the Pelican Pouch measures 8 x 5 x 2 1/2 inches. #1690, \$11.95.

L Yosemite Association Decals and Patches. Our association logo, depicting Half Dome is offered to our members in these two useful forms. Help announce your affiliation with our organization to others by purchasing and using Yosemite Association patches and decals. Patch #1635, \$1.50; Decal #1636, \$1.00.

M Yosemite Association T-Shirts. Comfortable, heavy quality 100% cotton Hanes "Beefy-T" shirts are printed with the Yosemite Association's handsome Half Dome logo on front. Children's sizes are available in short sleeve; adult sizes in short and long sleeve.

Color: Tan with brown emblem. Child sizes (short sleeve): small, medium and large #1650, \$7.05. Adult sizes (short sleeve): small, medium, large and extra-large #1675, \$9.40; (long sleeve): small, medium, large and extra-large #1680, \$11.75.

Order Form

Credit card orders call: (209) 379 2648 Monday-Friday, 8:30am-4:30pm

Item #	Qty.	Size	Description	Price Each	Total
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					

Subtotal:

Less 15% Member's Discount:

Subtotal A:

6% Sales Tax (CA customers only)

Shipping charge \$ 1.50

Total enclosed

Ordered by:

Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Membership Number:

Yosemite Association, P.O. Box 280, El Portal, CA 95318



Big Horn Herd Begins Second Season

It's been just over a year since California bighorn sheep have been back in the Yosemite region, and 1987 may prove to be a critical year for them. In March of 1986, 27 bighorns were re-located from Mount Baxter, on the Fresno-Inyo county line, to Lee Vining Canyon near Yosemite's Tioga Pass.

Since that time, the sheep have met with some rough times as well as with modest successes. Within the first month at their new location, 9 of the 27 bighorns were dead from the effects of se-

vere spring storms and stress. Interestingly, nine lambs were born last spring offsetting the early mortality.

Other events have impacted the herd. Last fall, a splinter group of three ewes and two lambs divorced itself from the larger herd and moved to a locale some distance away (near Sardine Lakes). The fate of these maverick sheep

is unknown, and it is doubtful that the ewes were bred this year.

Predation of the sheep has also occurred. Over the winter a ewe and a lamb were killed, probably by a mountain lion, and most recently, one of the lambs was eaten by a coyote. The herd count now stands at 20 or 21.

Given the small size of the group and the population

dynamics experienced so far, this lambing season's results are of vital concern to researchers and resource managers who have been watching the progress of the herd. Despite the fact that more mature rams may be needed, the outlook for the sheep is generally encouraging given the fact that they've undergone a total change of environments. In fact, losses were expected, and an added plus is that no illegal hunting of the animals has taken place.

As the year unfolds, the future of the sheep in the Yosemite area will come into better focus. Cautious optimism is the pervasive mood of those associated with the project. Here's hoping that 1987 is the year that the California bighorn becomes firmly re-established in its ancestral range.



MICHAEL DIXON/INPHOTOS

New Members

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

Regular Members

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A critical element in the success of the Association is its membership. Individuals and families throughout the country have long supported the Yosemite Association through their dues and their personal commitments. Won't

you join us in our effort to make Yosemite an even better place?

Member Benefits

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

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

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

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

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

★ A Yosemite Association decal; and

★ Special membership gifts as follows:

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

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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.

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Dan Anderson