

Spring 1988  
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# Yosemite

Published for Members  
of the Yosemite Association

## Is the Master Plan Feasible?

**In September of 1980**, the National Park Service released its long-awaited General Management Plan (GMP) for Yosemite. On page one of the 81-page document was written: *"Yosemite is now at a crossroad. During a century of public custodianship of this great park, many decisions have been made, all well intended, which have resulted in a march of man-made development in the Valley. Today, the Valley is congested with more than a thousand buildings—stores, homes, garages, apartments, lodging facilities, and restaurants—*



*that are reflections of our society; the Valley is bisected by approximately 30 miles of roadway which now accommodate a million cars, trucks, and buses a year. But the foremost responsibility of the National Park Service is to perpetuate the natural splendor of Yosemite and its exceedingly special Valley.*

*"The intent of the National Park Service is to remove all automobiles from Yosemite Valley and Mariposa Grove and to redirect development to the periphery of the park and beyond. Similarly, the essence of wilderness, which so strongly complements the Valley, will be preserved. The result*

The greatest concerns were over accommodations, traffic congestion and overcrowding. . . . The removal of all cars had been perhaps the most enthusiastically received of all the GMP proposals.

*will be that visitors can step into Yosemite and find nature uncluttered by piecemeal stumbling blocks of commercialism, machines, and fragments of suburbia.*

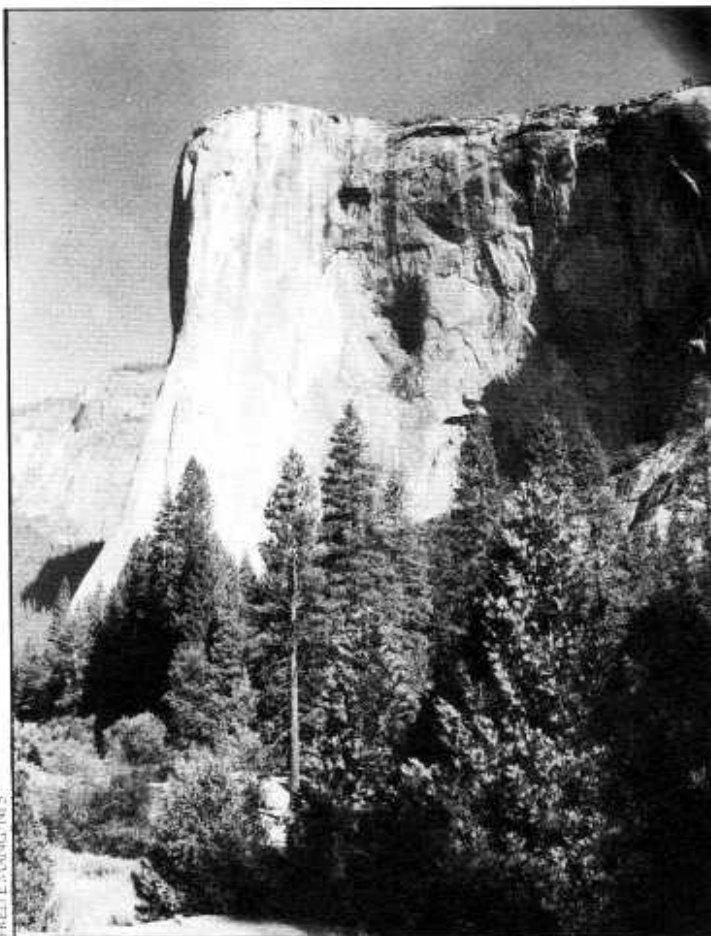
*"Implementation of this general management plan will be the first big step in carrying out this intent and a distinct turning point in the management of the park."*

The plan was finally finished, but it had not been easily prepared. The path to its completion had been long and twisty.

The process began in 1968 under a federal policy which directed that each park and monument within the system would develop a management plan. The first draft of a plan for Yosemite was completed in 1971 and presented to the public. While there was strong support for certain aspects of the plan, such as the elimination of automobiles for the Valley, there were concerns over the proposed increase in the number of visitor accommodations in the Valley and at Tuolumne Meadows. The plan was shelved.

The NPS then engaged an engineering firm to assess the implications of the plan's transportation-related proposals and of the removal of administrative and maintenance facilities from the Valley. The study, completed in 1974, was extensive, treating short and long term goals, developing cost estimates, etc. Among its other conclusions, it found El Portal to be the most feasible site for the proposed relocations.

At about the same time, the Park Service delivered a refinement of its 1971 draft plan to the Department of the Interior. This plan was abandoned when the public raised complaints over the prospects of too much development and the fact that some of the issues already raised by the public had not been discussed thoroughly. So, bloodied but unbowed, the Park Service began a third try at a Yosemite Management Plan. To sidetrack the earlier outcry—that there had been too



FRED EWING, NPS

little public expression—a series of workshops was scheduled. Because Yosemite is a national treasure, not simply a recreation ground for Californians, 48 public forums were staged in fourteen cities around the country in such places as New York, Atlanta, Dallas, Santa Monica and, of course, in Yosemite. The workshops dealt with broad topics—such as “what kinds of activities, facilities and transportation are appropriate to the preservation and enjoyment of Yosemite?” A subject for discussion was presented to the workshop audience, the responses were gathered by the staff people, sorted out and a summary assembled of the opinions expressed.

While there was no numerical evaluation of the responses, the summaries indicated that the people in Atlanta felt pretty much

about Yosemite as did the folks in Santa Monica. The greatest concerns were over accommodations, traffic congestion and overcrowding. (One individual evidently felt that visitor-stays should be limited, as he commented that “if you have to wash clothes and take a bath, you’re staying too long”).

In its zeal to encourage public participation, the NPS prepared and mailed workbooks and worksheets to sixty-odd thousand people who wished to express their vision for the park's future. The 32-page workbook was accompanied by a worksheet, 2' by 3', which offered some 700 response-choices, and took the average citizen about five hours to complete. The possible responses to the many options ran into the millions—one news-

paperman suggested as high as seventeen million. The results were organized, computerized and evaluated, and these data provided much of the substance for the final 1980 GMP version. Costs of processing the results reached almost \$2 million by some estimates.

It was recognized at the time that the General Management Plan would undoubtedly be subject to alterations in detail and that it might not prevail against all circumstances. Unfortunately, the plan had been developed and approved without concern for budgetary constraints or other restrictions. Little consideration had been given to the potential lack of development money and adequate developable land. But the plan was finally in place, and the spirit for implementation eager.

While a number of the elements of the 1980 GMP have been accomplished over the past seven years (see accompanying list), several major aspects of the plan have not been addressed. In mid-December, 1987, Park Superintendent Jack Morehead indicated that certain GMP elements have not been and cannot be achieved given the existing constraints which face the N.P.S. in Yosemite. Calling certain portions of the plan “unrealistic” and “unattainable,” Morehead suggested that an update to the GMP is needed, and proposed that a planning team be formed to study the goals, priorities and schedule for the plan, particularly as they relate to the next ten years.

Among the examples cited by the Superintendent are the plans for administrative development in El Portal and for parking facilities at Crane Flat. The relocation of park headquarters along with the majority of concessioner and NPS maintenance facilities to El Portal had been high on the implementation list. But Denver Service Center planners have informed Morehead that there is simply not enough buildable land in El Portal for everything. To

Why is it, seven years after the approval of the much-touted GMP, that the NPS finds itself behind schedule and faced with considerable rethinking and replanning?

make matters worse, the existing water supply is inadequate for the proposed new facilities. At this point it looks as if NPS warehouses, administrative headquarters, maintenance functions and housing will move to El Portal, but not Yosemite Park & Curry Co. offices or housing. Possible alternative sites for the latter are being studied. There is no room, either, for a satellite vehicle parking area or bus terminal.

At Crane Flat, a 200 car parking area had been planned as another staging area to reduce traffic in Yosemite Valley. (The removal of all cars had been perhaps the most enthusiastically received of all the GMP proposals.) Recent information about the Great Gray Owl and its dependence on the open meadows of Crane Flat has prompted Park Service officials to question the proposed parking development. To disturb the meadow habitat could be disastrous to the owl's continued existence.

Why is it, seven years after the approval of the much-touted GMP, that the NPS finds itself years behind schedule and faced with considerable rethinking and replanning? There are at least two answers. First, the plan was, in many respects, ill-conceived. The failure to consider realistically the economics and scope of additional land requirements probably doomed the plan at its birth. And second, despite the efforts of the NPS, full funding for the GMP has not been forthcoming. The original planners determined that the total cost of implementation would be \$155 million. In the seven years since, costs for development have skyrocketed, millions have been spent, and only a fraction of the projects included in the GMP have been accomplished.

General needs for funding at Yosemite have increased at the same time, forcing hard choices about project priorities. Following a recent study, the ten-year construction program to rehabilitate existing park roads only was



NPS PHOTO

given a price tag estimated to be \$33.7 million, and projected ten-year construction needs add up to over \$70 million. These sums would not come close to covering the major GMP funding requirements. More than ever there is the need for realistic construction estimates for finalizing GMP implementation.

National Park Service faces a series of difficult decisions as it comes to grips with the problems of the present General Management Plan. Superintendent Morehead has two major goals for the process. Without changing the objectives of reducing congestion and impacts, restricting and managing traffic better, and relocating unnecessary operational facilities, he hopes to update or amend the GMP to make it practical, realistic and attainable. More-

Trail improvements in the Mariposa Grove called for in the GMP were completed in 1987.

head also wants to keep the public well-informed about what to expect in the way of GMP implementation between 1990 and 2000.

Anything as complex as a long-range blueprint for a park like Yosemite is bound to hit snags along the way. It is hoped that with its new recognition of the impracticality and unattainability of aspects of the GMP, the NPS will systematically review, rethink and replan those elements in the spirit of the original document. With a realistic approach and adequate funding, the expectations of thousands of interested

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## Major Actions Called for By the Plan



**Designation of 90%** of the park's three-quarter million acres as wilderness, forever free from development.

**Removal** from Yosemite Valley of substandard National Park Service and concessioner staff housing and relocation of warehouses, maintenance and storage buildings, administrative offices, and other non-essential facilities outside the park in El Portal.

**Reduction** of concession-operated lodging facilities in the park by 10%, including a 17% reduction of overnight facilities in Yosemite Valley.

**Reduction** in use of private vehicles in Yosemite Valley as alternate transportation options are expanded with a long-range goal to eliminate vehicles from Yosemite Valley.

**Identification** and enforcement of specific carrying capacities within the park for both day and overnight occupancy.

**Improvement** and expansion of information and reservation services.

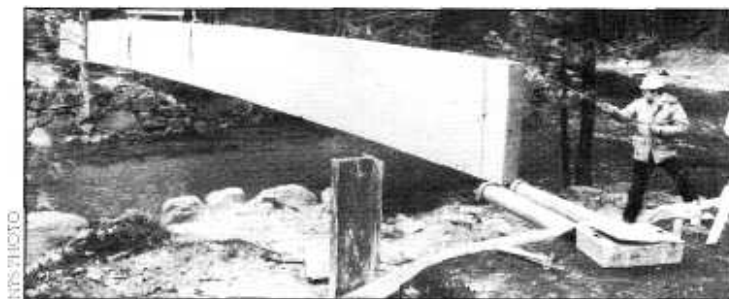
The relocation of the Park Headquarters along with the majority of the concessioner and NPS maintenance facilities had been high on the implementation list . . . but there is simply not enough buildable land in El Portal for everything.

persons for the orderly implementation of a meaningful plan can be met. The "distinct turning point" in the management of the park contemplated by the GMP may finally be reached.

## Implementation Highlights

**1981**

A study evaluating alternate transportation systems was completed by the U.S. Department of Transportation.



The bicycle bridge over Yosemite Creek is set in place.



In 1980, the asphalt parking lot in front of the Visitor Center was removed. Then NPS Director William Whalen initiated the process.

The historic Mariposa Grove Museum was reconstructed.

**1982**

Phase I construction of a bikeway (Camp Curry to Yosemite Village) was completed.

The old Glacier Point restroom was removed, a new septic system was constructed, and an interim mobile restroom was installed in the parking lot.

Construction began on the El Portal Waste-water Treatment Plant to provide for tertiary sewage treatment.

**1983**

The Yosemite Park & Curry Co. relocated their warehouse and reservation functions to Fresno.

Abandoned sewer treatment plant removed from Yosemite Valley.

Mariposa Grove trail system improved.

**1984**

The California Wilderness Bill passed designating 89% of Yosemite as wilderness.

Phase III of the Yosemite bikeway was constructed (Yosemite Lodge, south across swinging bridge, east along the Chapel,

then back to the Phase II segment at the former residence of the Superintendent).

Forty-five NPS seasonal employee tents were removed from Camp 6.

**1985**

Phase IV of the bikeway was completed (Camp Curry 4-way intersection to the shuttlebus road at "Boy's Town").

The hydro-electric plant and penstock in Yosemite Valley were permanently shut down.

A study of the Great Gray Owls was initiated.

A new water treatment facility was constructed at Tuolumne Meadows.



The hydroelectric power plant in Yosemite Valley.

**1986**

Twenty-seven California bighorn sheep were introduced into the park. Nine sheep died, however, nine lambs were born that spring.

Seven structures were removed from Wawona and Foresta

and the sites restored to a natural condition.

Twenty-seven abandoned fuel tanks were removed parkwide. Ten additional tanks were repaired, and an additional 29 were tested and remain in service.

**1987**

Preliminary architectural plans for the new warehouse/maintenance complex at El Portal completed.

Abandoned sewer treatment plant removed from Yosemite Valley.

Mariposa Grove trail system improved.



Alternative transportation systems like Yosemite's shuttle buses are integral to the 1980 GMP.



# Adding to the Bighorn Herd



*Jan W. van Wagtenonk*

**Recent reports** of the demise of the bighorn sheep reintroduced into Lee Vining Canyon east of Yosemite National Park are, as Mark Twain remarked, premature. Not only are thirteen of the original 27 sheep doing fine, but eight out of the nine lambs born to the herd are alive and well! True, there have been some unexpected setbacks like the nine sheep that died or disappeared during a severe storm that occurred two weeks after the initial release, and the five sheep killed by mountain lions; but, up to this point, the reintroduction has been a success.

During the first year, the rams and ewes explored their new winter range at the east end of Lee Vining Canyon and summer range on the cliffs and peaks above the canyon. Forays into new territories, including the Park on one occasion, extended their familiarity with their new environs. During the first summer, they concentrated their activity to an area within four miles of the release point and returned to the original winter range after the first snow storm. That is, except for three ewes and two lambs that decided to take a trip to Bloody Canyon, five miles to the south. Not only did those sheep summer on the slopes of Mt. Gibbs, but they spent the winter there as well.

The summer of 1987 was a season for exploring new areas and extending their range. Some of the ewes stayed in the previous summer range, but others took lambs with them to the Tioga Crest and to two peaks above Lundy Canyon. The ram range included all of the areas between the various ewe groups. Group membership also changed as the sheep moved around. The Bloody Canyon group also explored new territory south to Parker Pass and were seen both inside and outside the Park.

Last December the members of the Sierra Bighorn Interagency



LES CHOW/TELEVISION

Advisory Group met in Bishop to discuss plans for the future of the Lee Vining herd. Of concern was the fact that the splintering of the herd had left it with only five ewes of breeding age. In order to insure the success of the reintroduction, the group decided to augment the herd with ten additional ewes and up to nine additional rams. We had only 19 collars available and felt that the Mt. Baxter herd could not sustain the

A group of bighorns in a dry creekbed in Lee Vining Canyon. At times they have been seen by the side of the Tioga Road.

removal of more sheep than that. We also decided that, because of the vulnerability of the herd, any mountain lions directly associated with sheep mortality would be tracked and killed.

As it turned out, our fears were well founded. Soon after the

Bishop meeting, news of a complete die-off of fifty sheep reintroduced into the Warner Mountains in Northern California hit the papers. Fish and Game veterinarians strongly suspect diseases transmitted by contact with domestic sheep as the causes of this herd loss. The wisdom of developing geographically removed bighorn herds to prevent the entire population from dying, proved to be correct. This gave impetus to the augmentation and planning proceeded on schedule. The capture was postponed twice because there was not enough snow to bring the sheep low enough to capture. Finally, on March 29th, eleven sheep from the Mt. Baxter herd, including eight ewes and three rams, were captured. The sheep were released that afternoon and the following morning, and immediately moved to areas that had been used by the original herd. Some mixing is occurring as the sheep become acquainted with each other.

As this spring moves into summer, the sheep will move up slope to the lambing areas and then on to the summer range. We will be watching them closely to chronicle their movements and numbers. It is our hope that the information we collect will help insure the survival of the herd. It is important to note that none of this information would have been available without the study jointly funded by the National Park Service and the Yosemite Fund nor the cooperation and help of the Yosemite Association. As we look to the future of the herd, it may again be necessary to consider paying the holders of domestic sheep allotments to not use them. Through the combined efforts of the agencies and cooperators involved, we may finally have a viable population of bighorn sheep occupying the Sierra Nevada crest in the Yosemite region.

*Jan Van Wagtenonk is the Research Scientist at Yosemite National Park.*

# Disappearing Pioneer Cabins

Robert C. Pavlik

Over thirty-five years ago, a major survey of pioneer cabins in the Yosemite area was undertaken by Robert F. Uhte and others. The findings of that survey were somewhat alarming. "Physical evidence of the many cabins built by the pioneers in the Yosemite region is disappearing so rapidly that persons interested in the history of the region have felt it worthwhile that such material as is available be gathered quickly," wrote Uhte in a *Sierra Club Bulletin* article dated May, 1951.

My interest in Yosemite's cultural resources, and particularly pioneer cabins, led me to wonder whether the physical evidence of these structures was still disappearing, and if so, for what reason. I determined to undertake a limited field survey of my own.

Although Uhte emphasized Yosemite cabins in his article, he did include two structures that were found just outside the park's southern boundary in Biledo Meadows. He called these log buildings "unusually handsome cabins," and he was right. In the summer of 1906 I had the good fortune to visit Biledo Meadows and the nearby Nelder Grove of Giant Sequoias, where one of the cabins is now on display. Working under the direction of Kathy Moffitt, Sierra National Forest Archeologist, and in cooperation with Yosemite National Park Archeologist Scott Carpenter, I reviewed the history of these two buildings for the U.S. Forest Service. This is the story of the Biledo Meadows cabins, thirty seven years after Uhte's "pioneer" study.

The large, grassy meadow on the southwest slope of Raymond Mountain was named for Thomas Biledo (or Biledaux), who arrived in Madera County in the late 1880s and secured employment as a miner at the Star mine in the Mt. Raymond Mining District. He constructed his cabin, still standing in the

meadow that bears his name, in 1890. The on-again, off-again nature of the Star mine and the ready availability of land for mining claims apparently kept Biledo, characterized by one source as a "reclusive mountaineer," in the region year-round for many years. During the long, cold winter months, Biledo supplemented his food supply and cash income by running trap lines. In the summer he raised strawberries in the meadow and packed in his supplies on mules from Fish Camp.

The cabin Biledo built is made of round red fir logs, with saddle notches cut in the tops of the logs. Although this made for an easier method of building the log walls, the scooped out portion of the log tends to collect, rather than drain, water, speeding the process of deterioration. Split shingles once overhung the exposed log ends, but have since broken or deteriorated, and the log ends have suffered some rot. A roof of gal-

vanized roofing material covers the original split shingles. A loft of milled lumber and a dilapidated porch complete the sleepy structure.

In his later years, Biledo was befriended by Monty Bradford and his nephew, Wes Smith. They took care of Biledo until his death in Madera in 1926. In turn, the mountaineer bequeathed his property, including his water rights and mining claims, to Bradford and Smith. It is believed that the pair made improvements on the cabins, including the additions of porch, loft, and tin roof, in the early 1930s. The cabin continued to see seasonal use by the new owners for many years, and Biledo's building still stands in its original mountain meadow. An adjacent cabin, built some time in 1880 by an unknown individual ten years before Biledo's arrival, has not remained on site.

In 1980, one hundred years after the approximate date of its

construction, the square hewn log cabin that stood at the edge of Biledo Meadows was dismantled and removed to the Nelder Grove of giant Sequoia. Uhte described this structure as "a compact hand-hewn log cabin . . . in excellent condition." The original logs that comprised the structure's walls were red fir, commensurate with the higher elevation of its original location. The old logs, due to their advanced age and deterioration, were replaced with new square hewn sugar pine and white fir logs. The old/new cabin is adjacent to a United States Forest Service campground and the popular Nelder Grove, one of the few remaining groves of giant sequoia found in the Sierra National Forest, outside the usual protective status of a national or state park. The cabin is used seasonally as an interpretive center that

Illustration from John Muir's "Picturesque California," 1888.





houses displays on the early logging history of the region, local plant life, and other natural and human history topics. A small outbuilding, which was also moved from the meadows, is used for storage.

Why were these buildings moved from their original locations? Why were they not left on site? Although I was not able to document the reasons for their relocation, through my discussions with numerous informed individuals, I have learned some of the more common reasons that such structures usually do not survive intact on their original sites.

A common reason cited by U.S. Forest and Park Service officials is one of public safety. Abandoned cabins present tempting targets for amateur arsonists, squatters and survivalists. In order to remove the temptation for

havoc, the threat of liability from an injury or accident associated with the structure, or damage to public lands from fire originating at a cabin site, many land managers make the decision to remove the perceived source of the problem, which, in many cases, is an historic resource as well. Relocating historic resources to other, "safer" sites is seen as a reason-

able solution to the problems of preservation and public safety.

Top left: this cabin built of round timbers by Thomas Biledo in 1890, still stands in its original location. The second cabin from Biledo Meadows (top right) has been relocated to the Nelder Grove of Giant Sequoias. Below: the Fuller and Hoyt cabin on the Mono trail.



PHOTO

An historic cabin in the Pioneer Yosemite History Center.



Moving structures to other locations, however, results in the loss of integrity that a structure possesses from its association with its original landscape. In the case of the square-hewn Biledo Meadows cabin that was moved to the Nelder Grove, for example, the log walls were replaced with materials from a different elevation and, consequently, different trees. The cabin has suffered a loss of integrity from its physical location as well as its original configuration. The hands that hewed the logs and set the stone of its original foundation are not the same hands that dismantled, moved, and rebuilt the second cabin. In effect, it is not the same structure.

Public safety issues are very real, and very expensive. However, the loss of our historic resources is also costly, but not in a monetary sense. When pioneer cabins, tree blazes, or other vestiges of human occupation of the Sierra Nevada are removed or destroyed, we lose some sense of our past and a tangible link to those who preceded us. These fragile resources are simply reminders of how far we have come, and how much we have changed. The original builders are no longer around to tell us their stories of hardship and elation; but their handiwork is. Pioneer cabins lie lightly on the land; they have endured a hundred punishing Sierran winters and as many crystalline summers. Constructed of natural materials, they are subject to the processes of decay that all once-living things give themselves up to. It is only decent of us to allow them their time and place to decay, without hastening the process. Removal by government decree or a vandal's match amounts to the same conclusion.

*Robert C. Pavlik is an historian for the California State Parks at Hearst Castle. He was formerly employed at Yosemite's Research Center.*

# Experiencing the Life of a Pioneer of the 1800's

Rose Bacchini

The Environmental Living Program (ELP) is an actual living experience for children that takes place at the Pioneer Yosemite History Center in Wawona. The Pioneer Yosemite History Center was created after a flood along the south fork of the Merced River nearly destroyed the covered bridge in 1955. The National Park Service restored the covered bridge, and at the same time relocated several historically significant buildings, which represented different eras, from throughout the park. After carefully moving and restoring the structures, the National Park Service dedicated the Pioneer Yosemite History Center in 1961. Today, the Center commemorates the efforts of people, the events they experienced and the issues they faced during the establishment and development of Yosemite National Park from the 1880's to the early 1900's.

Through the Environmental Living Program, 4th-6th grade students, and occasionally 7th-8th grade students, become a part of Yosemite's rich history. By participating in the program, students are able to achieve a deeper understanding of the processes by which our national parks came about, and specifically how Yosemite's history influenced the birth and growth of the national park idea.

Participation in the ELP begins long before students actually arrive at the center. The program relies heavily on pre-site explorations and study, extensive classroom preparation, role playing, and problem-solving—both individually and in small and large groups. One of the most important preparatory steps the students take is the research of a character they wish to portray. There are five broad categories, or roles, to choose from. These role groups are the explorers/mountaineers, artist/photographers, hotelkeepers/roadbuilders, preservationists, and protectors.



By playing a specific role in a broad category, and by portraying an actual person from Yosemite's past, students can see how different characters fit into the overall history of the park. They become aware of the forces and issues which contributed to the park's development.

Once at the history center, students experience, as nearly as possible, the life of a pioneer in Yosemite in the 19th century. For 24 hours, they chop wood, cook on a wood stove, hammer iron at the forge, and learn to harness a team of horses. By confronting and solving problems of everyday pioneer living, the students become aware of the differences and similarities of the two environments—the pioneers' and their own.

The focus of the ELP is the role task station. Instead of stepping back in time to a particular year, students explore the process by which Yosemite became a National Park. For example, the explorers/mountaineers map and name the area they have "discovered." The artists/photographers draw pictures of the new land to publicize the area. The hotelkeepers/roadbuilders develop hotels and roads to provide the goods and services needed and wanted by the visiting public. The preser-

Environmental Living students experiencing the blacksmith's trade of pioneer times.

vationists advocate national park status for the entire Yosemite region. Finally, the protectors create and enforce the rules and regulations that allow the park to run effectively.

At the role task station, and during the group presentation that concludes the program, students simulate the establishment of a National Park. By participating in this simulation, students recognize that problems faced by people who struggled to establish this park in the 1800's, are similar to the problems we face in struggling to preserve and protect the park in 1988. The goal is to bring students to the conclusion that Yosemite's future depends on concerned citizens acting for its preservation. Thus, each year approximately 800 students become advocates for, and stewards of, Yosemite National Park.

If you are a teacher interested in bringing your class to Wawona for an experience in Environmental Living, there is a mandatory workshop held the second weekend in October each year. For more information, write Dan Card, Wawona District Interpreter, Box 2027, Yosemite, CA 95389

## Work Trips for YA Members

A new program has recently been developed which will bring Association members to the Park this summer to participate in clean-up projects and other work details. Co-sponsored by the Yosemite Association, Yosemite Institute, and the Yosemite Park & Curry Co., the program will involve up to fifteen participants for each of two week-long sessions. Typical activities will include litter pick-up, river clean-up, and light trail maintenance.

Participating members will stay free of charge at the Yosemite Institute's Crane Flat facilities where their meals and lodging will be provided. Costs of the program will be borne by the Yosemite Park & Curry Co. through its "environment fund" which was developed in conjunction with the YP&C. Co. recycling program. Work leaders will supervise the various clean-up and related activities, and all necessary tools will be supplied.

Dates for the two YA sessions are July 10-16 and August 7-13. Things will begin with dinner on Sunday night, Wednesday will be a free day, and the week will conclude on Saturday.

Association members interested in participating in either of these work trips should call or write the YA office. You should be in good physical condition as hiking and other physical exertion will be required. The two trips will offer great opportunities to spend time in Yosemite while helping to keep it beautiful and clean. For additional information call 209-379-2646.

*Rose Bacchini is a field interpreter for the National Park Service in Wawona. She handles the Environmental Living Program, and is a former Y.A. intern.*



## Record Levels of Project Funding

During 1987 the Yosemite Association enjoyed a variety of satisfying accomplishments. Not only did many of our traditional activities reach "all-time" high levels of involvement and productivity, but The Yosemite Fund experienced another year of growth and record levels of project funding and completion.

Our publishing and sales program exceeded all previous years' performances, and the seminar program proved to be healthy and popular with participants. Our membership also topped a record level for our organization, and our fundraising programs all prospered. This success was reflected in our highest total for overall net revenue in



history, and one of our most sizeable contributions to the National Park Service in recent years.

The Yosemite Fund continued to receive impressive support from the public, and donors to the effort now total almost 25,000. Several major projects were accomplished during the year with the help of a variety of individuals, foundations and corporations. The total contributed to the park through The Yosemite Fund was far and away the highest yet.

Overall, the year was both exciting and rewarding. The Yosemite Association's increasing ability to serve Yosemite has been gratifying to all involved.

Respectfully,  
Steven P. Medley, *President*

# 1987 Annual Review

## Financial Report

### Summary of Combined Balance Sheets

<b>Assets</b>	<i>Yosemite Association</i>	<i>Yosemite Fund</i>
Cash	\$174,796	\$834,327
Accounts Receivable	55,728	
Inventory	31,896	
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$547,420</b>	<b>\$834,327</b>



*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.*

### Liabilities and Fund Balances:

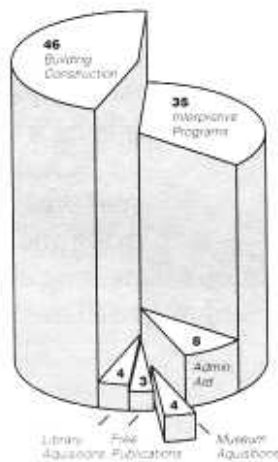
#### Liabilities

Accounts Payable	\$ 42,016	\$ 22,215
Loans Payable	23,548	
Accrued Taxes	5,495	
Accrued Payroll	3,195	
Vacation Payable	4,001	834
<i>Total Liabilities</i>	<i>\$ 78,255</i>	<i>\$ 23,049</i>

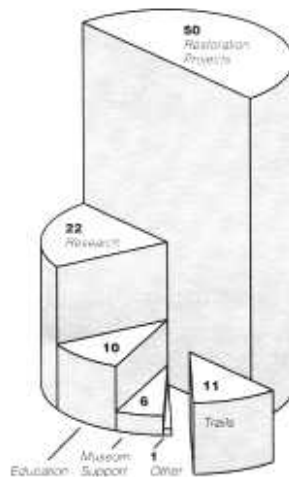
#### Fund Balances

Unrestricted	\$391,841	} \$811,278
Restricted	77,324	
<i>Total Fund Balances</i>	<i>\$469,165</i>	<i>\$811,278</i>
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Fund Balances</b>	<b>\$547,420</b>	<b>\$834,327</b>

### 1987 Donations to the NPS Total: \$131,564



### 1987 Yosemite Fund Support Total: \$283,658



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As of January 31, there were 4,421 active members, an increase of 37% over last year's record total.

## General

**1987 was the Association's** first full year in its new headquarters in El Portal. The staff settled into the former Bagby Station and has found the new facility both comfortable and efficient.

In the spring, the long-awaited warehouse was completed and occupied. The 1500 square foot, two-story building allowed Y.A. to consolidate all of its inventory into one location. The warehouse was designed by Tim DeWitt and Roger Stephens Engineering, constructed by Dave Clayton's RoDathe Constuction Co., and financed by the Yosemite Bank of Mariposa.

## Board of Trustees

**The annual fall election** saw the re-election of incumbent Anne Schneider and the election of Richard Reitnauer to the Y.A. Board. Dr. Harvey "Dusty" Rhodes, who had served on the board since 1974, was defeated. Schneider and Reitnauer will fill positions with six year terms. An attorney living in Davis, Mrs. Schneider has lent her legal expertise to the organization and served on the "Grants and NPS Support Committee." Mr. Reitnauer worked for many years for the Association and lives in Mariposa.

The board size stayed at sixteen throughout the year including thirteen elected board members and three "ex-officio" positions representing the Yosemite Fund. For 1987, Thomas J. Shephard served as Board Chairman, Dusty Rhodes as Vice-Chairman and Daniel Wolfus performed the duties of Treasurer.

Dr. Rhodes' fourteen years of service to the Yosemite Association were filled with major contributions and impressive growth. Dusty and his wife Pat will be missed, and their unfaltering assistance and support will long be remembered and appreciated.



## Membership

**A major milestone** was passed in 1987 when the Association's 4,000th member was enrolled. As of January 31, there were 4,421 active members of Y.A. This increase of 37% over last year's membership total just exceeds the 1986 increase of 36%. We thank our members, old and new alike, for making the Yosemite Association the largest such membership organization in the national park system.

The number of members per category is as follows:

Regular, 2979  
Supporting, 506  
Contributing, 250  
Sustaining, 98  
Life, 530  
Participating Life, 58

Our members enjoyed YA's first annual "Yosemite Open House" which was held April 4th in Yosemite Valley. A large turnout was entertained with a variety of programs on such topics as search and rescue, bear management, concessions, and law enforcement. The reception for the event was so positive that we will be establishing it as an annual program.

The twelfth annual Members' Meeting was held in Tuolumne Meadows during September. Despite technical difficulties with the sound system, almost 400 people were entranced by the words of poet Gary Snyder and by the cloud-covered scenery of Tuolumne. As usual, a luncheon, wine and cheese reception, and raffle were part of the weekend schedule.

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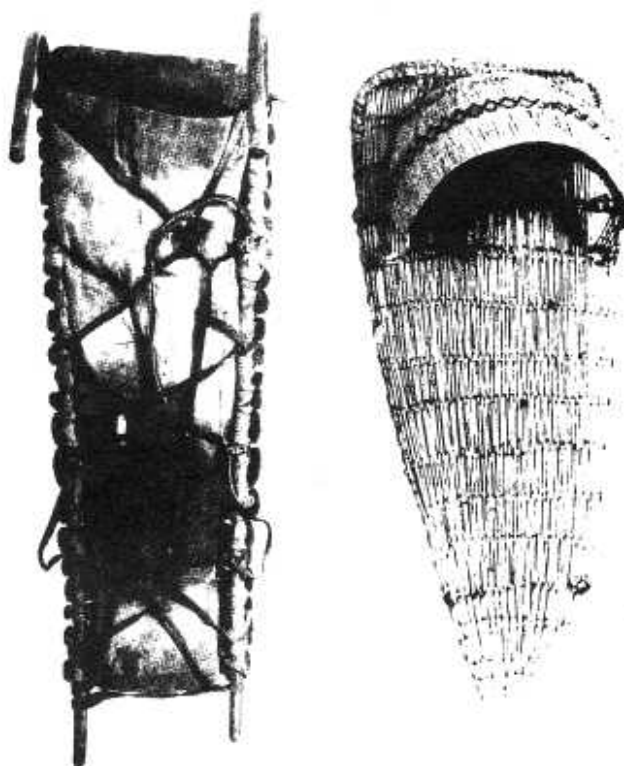
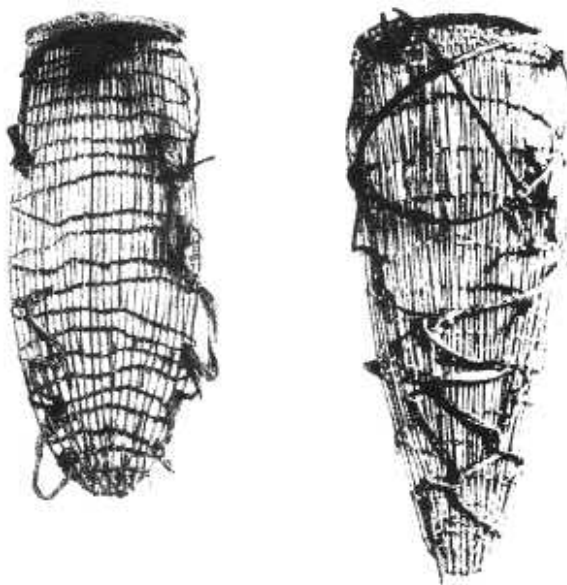
Total retail sales were \$779,900, an increase of 9% from 1986, and the highest sales volume in the organization's history.

### Sales/Publications

During 1987, YA made available approximately 1100 different books, maps, posters, video and audio cassettes, postcards, note-cards, and calendars for sale to park visitors in nine locations. These products provided the visiting public with high-quality information and materials about Yosemite and the national park system. In addition, the funds generated allowed the Association to make the gift of sizeable sums to the National Park Service.

The Association completed and moved into a new warehouse facility located behind the office in El Portal. As a result, the sales office streamlined its operations and increased the efficiency of the organization. We quickly consolidated our stock into the one building, abandoning use of the old cabooses and railcar in which many of the books were stored, and discontinuing rental of a mini-warehouse facility in Mariposa.

The Yosemite Association operated retail book/map sales counters at nine locations within the Park. By rank of sales volume, they were the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center, Big Oak Flat, Mariposa Grove Museum, Pioneer History Center, Happy Isles Nature Center, Parson's Lodge, Tuolumne Meadows Permit Kiosk, and the Wawona District Ranger Office. Total retail sales were \$779,900, an increase of 9% from 1986, and the highest sales volume in the organization's history.



Other Association sales via mail order and to schools, libraries and government entities, totalled \$49,274 for 1987. All 1987 resale (wholesale) sales of Yosemite Association publications amounted to \$100,004, up 3%.

The above figures combined to produce Yosemite Association's total 1987 sales revenue of \$929,178, an overall gain of 7% from 1986. Because there was a corresponding decrease in sales expenses, net revenue for 1987 was also at an all-time high.

### Summary of 1987 Publications

New publications and products developed by the Association in 1987 are as follows:

- "Yosemite Fun Book" by Michael Ross
- "Pictorial Guide to Yosemite," (Spanish Edition)
- "Such a Landscape!," by William Brewer with photographs by William Alsup (in conjunction with Sequoia Natural History Association).
- "1988 Poster Calendar," from a watercolor by Linda Abbott

The following publications were reprinted by Y.A. during the year:

- "Discovering Sierra Mammals"
- "Domes, Cliffs and Waterfalls"
- "Miwok Material Culture"
- "Pictorial Guide to Yosemite" (French and German editions)
- "The Tioga Road"
- "Yosemite, Story of an Idea"
- "Sierra Wildlife Coloring Book"
- "Yosemite Road Guide"
- "Trails of Yosemite Valley"
- "Guide to the High Sierra Trails"
- "Winter Trail Map-Glacier Point"
- "Indian Cultural Museum Guide"
- "The Indian People of Ahwahnee, Trail Guide"

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Many students say that Yosemite's outdoor classroom is a great way to learn — there were 870 participants in 1987's seminars.

### Field Seminars

The seminar program experienced a healthy 1987, with many talented instructors and motivated students. Steve Botti took an enthusiastic class to a select group of Yosemite's alpine regions to learn more about hardy alpine communities, while observing spectacular, and minute, wildflowers. Doris Sloan taught two separate groups about geology of the Sierra Nevada, and Dave Gaines instructed beginning and intermediate Bird Populations and Breeding Ecology courses, moving from west to east across the Sierra Nevada Range. Bob Fry led a great many people over these mountains studying the flora, forests, ethnobotany and the various patterns of nature. It was a dry and therefore early season for field observation. Students learned first-hand how the lack of winter storms affect the summer's vegetative growth.

YA enrolled 897 seminar participants in 1987, a slight increase over 1986, with approximately 15% applying for college credit through Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. The summer/fall program offered 55 field seminars with 639 participants; the winter/spring program offered 18 ecology ski tours and spring botany courses with 231 participants.



ogy ski tours and spring botany courses with 231 participants.

The programs at the Yosemite Institute Crane Flat Campus were streamlined and participant reaction was positive because of the peaceful atmosphere and the fact that this area is so centrally located for class visits to Tuolumne Meadows or Yosemite Valley. Accommodations and meals were simple yet well received by our groups. The availability of daily showers was a special plus. Foresta Group Campground was made available for YA seminar use this past summer, and aside from a one-time water problem, proved to be another quiet, out-of-the-way class basecamp. Bob and Jane Bergeron were our campground hosts, and were helpful to our groups using the facility.

Many students say that Yosemite's outdoor classroom is a great way to learn. We get letters from participants (which makes doing this program all worthwhile!) like the one from Helen Johnson to Howard Weamer about the Wawona Photography Workshop which said, "The Wawona Workshop is one of the best things I've ever done and I really appreciate your great leadership and teaching. The week was so enjoyable, thanks to you. Among the many lessons of special value to me was to recognize the need for patience and the importance of analyzing what is seen in the viewfinder."

The Association donated a total of \$131,564 to the NPS in Yosemite, an increase of 21% over 1986.

## Other Programs

**Summer Loop Trips.** The Association again handled the staffing of the High Sierra loop trips during 1987. The first trip started in early July and two trips were run each week, making a total of 17 trips with 331 participants during the season. Training of new staff was arranged on four of the trips, and six new leaders joined the staff this year.

**Art Activity.** The Association co-sponsored the Art Activity Center for the seventh year, along with the Yosemite Park & Curry Co. During 1987, 26 weeks of instruction were provided by 25 different artists to over 2,000 participants. Each artist was a volunteer who spent a week-long "working" vacation in Yosemite Valley. Classes were taught over 7 days by the same artist. In addition, two evening classes were offered each week to employees and residents of Yosemite. Each year new artists and media are sought for the Center. This year copper etching and photorealism painting were added.

**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.



NPS PHOTO

**Yosemite Theater.** The acclaimed one-man stage production, *An Evening With John Muir*, which made its debut in 1983, finished its fifth season of regularly scheduled shows. This portrayal of John Muir, created and performed by actor/director Lee Stetson, is drawn from the eminent naturalist's books, articles and unpublished journals.

A second Muir show, *Stickeen and Other Fellow Mortals*, was added to the program this year. Lee Stetson weaved together many of Muir's encounters with his animal neighbors including rattlesnakes, bears, Big Horn Sheep, dogs and a sad, lonely pigeon named Martha.

Nature filmmaker Bob Roney again showed his superb film, *Yosemite and The High Sierra*. With live narration Bob presented the Yosemite story from the glacial period through pioneer times to the present.

The Ostrander Ski hut makes enough to help offset the maintenance costs.

*Yosemite Climbing*, produced by Peter Kern, Swiss filmmaker and rockclimber, was enjoyed by thousands of park visitors. Peter also demonstrated climber's equipment before the show.

Gail Pyle joined the theater group this year with her program, *Yosemite by Song*. Her collection of songs touched some important resource and activity themes in Yosemite. Slides and music encouraged group participation.

## 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 1987, contributions in the sum of \$131,564 were made for a variety of projects as detailed below. This was an increase of 21% over 1986. As well, The Yosemite Fund provided additional funding to the NPS in the amount of \$283,658 (see *Yosemite Fund report*).

### Contributions

Free publications	\$ 4,118
Library books and periodicals	3,041
Microfilming for library	2,902
Slide collection	1,518
Computer for backcountry management	2,500
Wagon replication for PYHC	16,228
El Portal warehouse building	60,896
Video recorder	1,274
Taxidermic specimens	516
Baskets and bowls for museum	2,500
Basket insurance	300
Photographs and stereo views	1,500
Art purchases	1,118
Maps and brochures	2,058
Sales/Information clerks	16,468
Programs & supplies	4,758
Administrative aid	9,869
<b>Total for Year</b>	<b>\$131,564</b>

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The NPS finalized an extensive list of projects to be financed by The Yosemite Fund . . . the goals of the Fund are now firmly established.



*Yosemite Fund*

**This important fund** grew in all dimensions in 1987. More dollars were raised, more people participated and more projects were undertaken and completed than ever before.

Major gifts were received from Polaroid Corporation and a very generous anonymous donor. Polaroid has also provided funds for a one hour film about Yosemite. In conjunction with Robert Redford's Sundance Institute, filmmakers from San Francisco have been visiting the park all year to produce a work which will show Yosemite through the eyes of visitors, employees and residents. The program will be aired on television in 1988.

For the first time a direct mail campaign was undertaken during the summer in addition to the year-end campaign. Both had excellent results and brought nearly a quarter of a million dollars to The Fund. Kiosks were again staffed by volunteers in Tuolumne Meadows and Yosemite Valley, while other energetic individuals raised money in their own communities.

The Fund continued to support the Peregrine Falcon nest augmentation program, student internship throughout Yosemite, research on Great Gray Owls and research on the Bighorn Sheep herd. The highlights of the year were two major projects which have been goals of the National Park Service for some time. A sewage treatment plant,

unused since the early 1970's, was demolished and removed from Yosemite Valley, and Stoneman Meadow was the site of the first-ever meadow restoration in Yosemite. Non-native plants were eliminated and replaced with native vegetation, a maze of worn trails was reduced to a single access route and the soil was aerated to encourage growth of natural flora.

The National Park Service in Yosemite finalized an extensive list of projects to be financed by The Yosemite Fund. The list was approved by the Washington office of the National Park Service and forwarded to The Yosemite Fund Board of Directors. The goals of The Yosemite Fund are now firmly established and this will permit more aggressive fundraising efforts by The Fund.

The outlook for The Yosemite Fund and Yosemite National Park in 1988 is indeed bright.

**Yosemite Fund Project Funding**

Bighorn sheep research	\$ 13,951
Native plant study	3,600
Great Gray Owl research	34,795
Student interns program	28,254
Botany book development	980
Sewer plant removal	69,861
Pacific Crest Trail rehabilitation	30,000
Basket collection purchase	9,400
Chevron/meadow restoration	73,127
International student exchange	2,000
Frank Latta papers purchase	7,500
Vegetation mapping	8,830
Archeological brochure publication	1,360
<b>Total Projects</b>	<b>\$283,658</b>



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The Association is, above all, about people and their relationships to a very special place. Special thanks to these many persons who were kind to Yosemite and the Association in 1987.

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# Banning Chlorofluorocarbons No.2: Styrofoam

**Yosemite Park & Curry Co.** has begun phasing out all polystyrene foam products, commonly known as "styrofoam," in its operations here.

The YP&CCo. ban helps protect the environment from harmful chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) that are used to produce some polystyrene foam products. CFCs are believed by scientists to damage the earth's ozone layer.

Ozone in the upper atmosphere protects the planet from harmful ultraviolet radiation. CFCs are also believed to contribute to the Greenhouse Effect that is credited with raising the earth's temperature.

"The Curry Company's action is a message to manufacturers of the threat posed by CFCs to our planet," Garrett DeBell, environ-

commented.

"American business must take the lead in refusing to purchase products that are proven to be harmful to the environment. Despite their convenience or economy, polystyrene foam products should not be used." Ed Hardy, YP&CCo.'s president said.

DeBell predicted that within six months, YP&CCo. will deplete its current supply of foam coffee cups, meat trays, egg cartons, ice coolers, beverages sold with polystyrene insulators, and will convert to more environmentally-sound materials.

"We are replacing foam products with alternatives that are reusable, recyclable or biodegradable. Only when alternatives cannot be found, will exceptions be considered. We've existed for

## New Postage Stamp Features Yosemite

*Orthello L. Wallis*

The US Postal Service has recently chosen Yosemite to be the subject of a new postage stamp in its "flag stamp" series. The design is still under development, but the stamp apparently will feature the US flag and a forest scene with the words "Yosemite National Park" in the lower corner. In keeping with the new postal rates, the stamp will bear a 25 cent price.

The planned release date for the stamp is May 20 and a special ceremony will be held to commemorate the event. The festivities are planned for 1:00 pm in front of the Yosemite Valley Post Office. Interested collectors may obtain a first day cancellation in Yosemite on the 20th, or for 30 days from release date from the Philatelic Agency in Washington, DC.

Yosemite's postmaster, Leroy Rust, had campaigned for a new stamp to celebrate Yosemite's 100th anniversary as a national park in 1990. The Postal Service resisted this request, however, insisting that there are an inordinate number of such proposals and that there is a back log already. Rust is pleased with the "flag stamp" to the extent that it should be in circulation for a number of years.

Scenic attractions of Yosemite previously have been featured on two stamps—on one stamp by intent and on the second by error. Yosemite's Vernal Falls is portrayed through a designer's mistake over the title "Pagsanjan Falls" on the 1932 postage stamp of the Philippine Islands.

Actually Pagsanjan Falls, with a height of nearly 200 feet, is one of the largest waterfalls in the Philippines. It is located near the town of Pagsanjan, on the island of Luzon. Vernal Falls on the Merced River in Yosemite has a



height of 317 feet.

This stamp, which is red orange in color and 18 centavos in denomination, has considerably more interest and value to the collector than other stamps in the same series because of this unusual error. Recent catalogue value exceeds \$25.00.

Yosemite's massive El Capitan was pictured intentionally on the US green one-cent postage stamp in 1934 in the popular series of stamps issued to honor America's national parks. Subsequently, the stamp was released in imperforated souvenir sheets of six stamps issued to complement the Trans-Mississippi Philatelic Exposition and Convention, Omaha.

On March 15, 1935, the stamp was issued again; this time in imperforated sheets of 200 stamps. Issuance of these complete sheets resulted from the protest of collectors and others at the practice of presenting, to certain government officials, complete sheets of unsevered panes, reports Scott's Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue.

*Orthello Wallis is a retired NPS employee who held jobs ranging from ranger naturalist to Chief Aquatic Scientist for the park system. For the past four summers he has worked as a volunteer.*



An employee at Yosemite's Village Store displays several of the styrofoam products to be removed from inventory.

mental consultant, said, "Within less than half a century we could see major changes in the way we live if we don't take action now to protect our atmosphere," he added.

Another reason for the YP&CCo. ban on polystyrene foam products is the unsightly litter which foam containers create. "They break into small, white particles that don't decay for years," DeBell adds. All polystyrene foam products are being banned including those produced with gases other than CFCs. "Regardless of how it's made, polystyrene wastes fossil fuels, a limited resource," DeBell

thousands of years without foam products. To receive an exception from me, a manager will have to prove that there are no alternatives and that polystyrene foam is essential," Hardy stated.

This plan continues YP&CCo.'s initiatives to help protect the environment. The company previously banned aerosols containing CFCs and beverage containers with detachable flip tops.

# Architects for Yosemite's Landscape?

Leslie Jane Lew

**Sheer monoliths of granite,** thundering waterfalls, rolling carpets of lush green meadows, rippling azure pools, spectacular alpine scenery . . . the stuff Ansel Adams photographs are made of . . . what could any of this possibly have to do with the profession of landscape architecture? Of what benefit could a landscape architect possibly be to such awesome works of the creator's own hand? As a park ranger with a degree in landscape architecture, I am asked that question more frequently than I care to mention. "Landscape architecture in Yosemite?! What are you gonna do, build condos on Half Dome and plant posies on El Cap?!" Landscape architects don't really want to do that. Actually, landscape architects have played a vital role not only in the inception of Yosemite National Park, but continue to influence the National Park Service today.

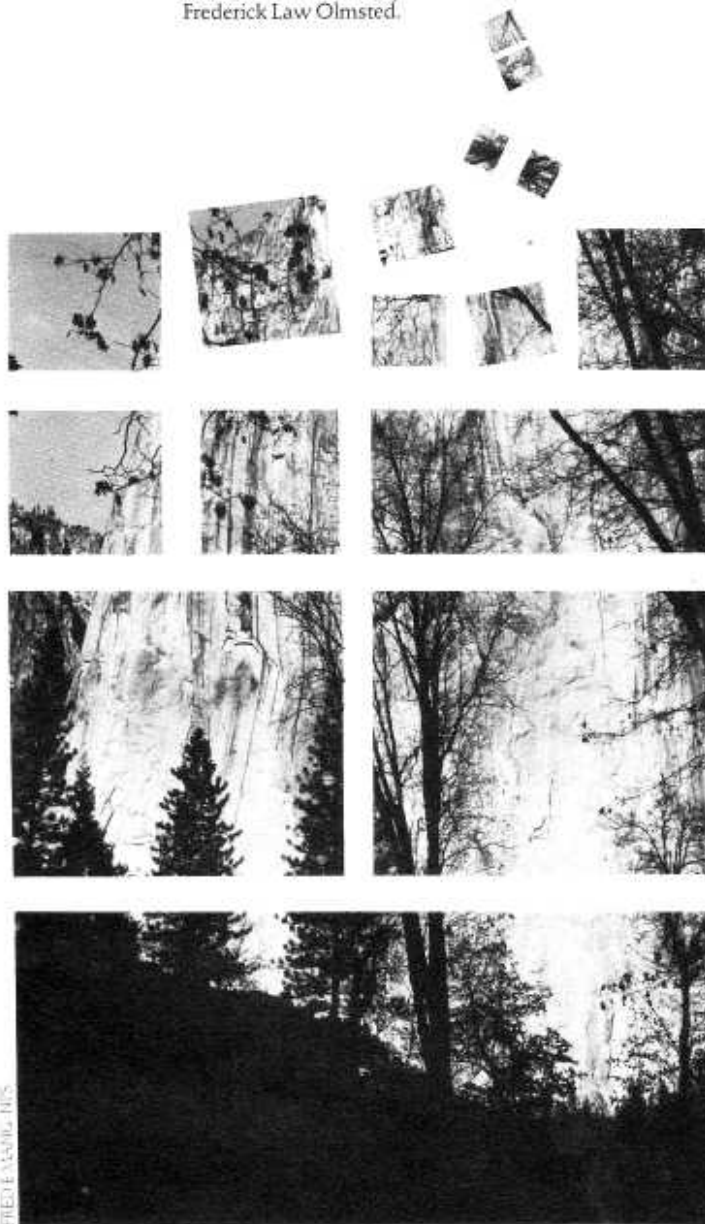
Contrary to popular belief, landscape architects are not primarily gardeners who plop down shrubs in rich people's backyards. Although that is one of the areas in which landscape architects are skilled, the field of landscape architecture is a much broader and more complex profession. It covers such diverse, yet related areas as planning, policy, management, resource management, art, horticulture and architecture, while at the same time demonstrating a sensitivity to the environment. A landscape architect can synthesize these skills to carry out a project that celebrates the uniqueness or spirit of the place. To maintain that spirit of place, it is especially important in Yosemite that all development — trails, buildings, and other facilities — reflect, not interfere with, the surrounding landscape. Furthermore, landscape architects are qualified to create a policy and/or management plan for sustaining and maintaining that place.

You may ask, "Why, in a beau-

GEORGE FISKE, NPS LIBRARY



Yosemite's first landscape architect, Frederick Law Olmsted.



FRIEDRICH NIS

tiful natural place like Yosemite National Park do we even need people with such skills?" A quick review of the Organic Act, the document which created the National Park Service reveals that:

*The purpose [of the National Park Service] is to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such a manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.*

Landscape architects who possess the skills mentioned above, are eminently qualified to carry out those seemingly contradictory goals of preservation while allowing access to the objects for all to enjoy.

Although not widely known, landscape architects have played a key role in Yosemite's development and, indeed, its very creation. Frederick Law Olmsted, considered the father of landscape architecture, was the head of the first Yosemite Commission — acting essentially as the first superintendent of the park. As the chief administrative officer of the park, one of his duties was to prepare a report for the California Legislature making recommendations as to how the park (granted to the State of California in 1864) should be managed. Olmsted's landmark policy "in short . . . formulated a philosophic base for the creation of State and National Parks." Due to his diverse training, "Olmsted was the man best qualified on the commission and probably in the country, for this unprecedented task [the formulation of policy]."

Landscape architects again played a major role in not only Yosemite's fate, but in the fate of all National Parks. In 1916, the National Park Service was finally formed, unifying all National Parks. As the director, one of the first tasks that Stephen T. Mather set out to accomplish was the professionalization of park buildings. To Mather, it was imperative that the buildings reflect the spirit of the places they were located. To this end, one of the first people he

hired when he had procured funds was Charles Punchard, a landscape architect. It was essential to hire experts sensitive to the environment who could design buildings, roads, trails, and other facilities that would not clash with each other or the natural environment.

The second NPS landscape architect, Daniel Hull, and his assistant, Paul Kiesel, developed a new architectural style, the "NPS-rustic." It is seen in the present Yosemite Village Post Office, Administrative Building and District Office (museum), as well as in many other buildings throughout the National Park System. In the NPS-rustic style of architecture, "early pioneer and regional building techniques were revived because it was thought that a structure employing native materials blended best with the environment." Wouldn't a building with aluminum siding in the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias look strange?

Landscape architects continue to play an important role in Yosemite National Park on two levels. Both levels are ultimately responsible for carrying out the major actions called for in 1980

by the General Management Plan (GMP); both levels are responsible for correcting past development projects that did not work, such as the parking lot in front of the Valley Visitor Center.

At one level are the design and planning teams of the Denver Service Center (DSC). DSC retains fifteen landscape architects to develop plans for all the national parks. These landscape architects are responsible for large scale landscape facilities projects which are funded by Congress. Current projects on DSC drafting tables include the El Portal Housing Project—a project which will provide more employee housing in El Portal and relieve crowding in Yosemite Valley; a new water treatment plan in Wawona; the reconstruction of various Yosemite roads and vista points; and new roadside areas for snow chain installation.

At the other level, Don Fox, the landscape architect for Yosemite National Park, is responsible for smaller scale landscape planning and design funded through the Park's existing budget, as well as through private grants and funds from the Yosemite Association. Fox is more aware of and re-

sponsible for local landscape management problems, such as the trampling of meadow vegetation, than the Denver Service Center (DSC). In the past, Fox worked closely with DSC to redesign Yosemite Village, eliminating auto traffic from the village. He also created the planting plan for the Village, using only plants native to Yosemite. Currently, Fox is a very busy man, working on a myriad of projects, including the restoration of meadows like Stoneman Meadow and the Ahwahnee Meadow; several projects for the disabled, including a fully accessible nature trail at Happy Isles and a wheelchair lift for the chapel; and an environmental assessment and conceptual development plan for Tuolumne Meadows which evaluates the criteria for the new wild and scenic status recently granted to the Tuolumne River in the context of the 1980 General Management Plan. Furthermore, as the landscape architect of Yosemite, Fox, at some level, is responsible for input into all the DSC projects.

The original Yosemite Museum, designed in the "rustic" style, as it appeared prior to landscaping.

*Leslie Jane Lew worked as an information receptionist in Yosemite Valley during the summer of 1987. She is a graduate of U.C. Davis, and is presently serving a nine month internship in landscape architecture with the California State Parks.*

Landscape architects have been unheralded, yet key players in the history of the National Park Service and Yosemite National Park. So, the next time you're in South Lake Tahoe and want to know why the casinos don't quite fit in with the surrounding landscape, think of those unassuming, unheralded landscape architects and smile.



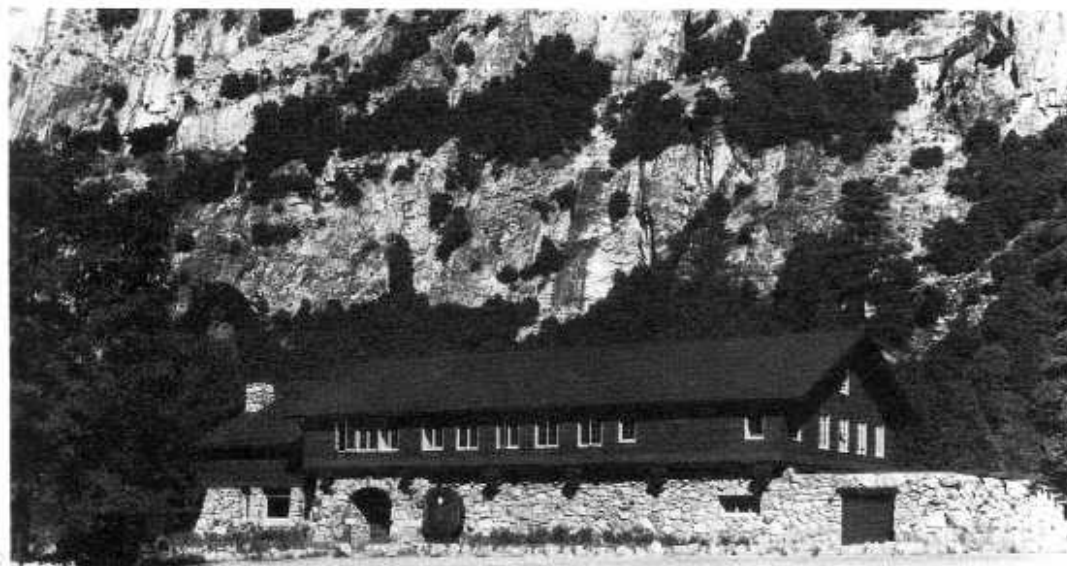
## Yosemite Fund Separates from YA

**In a development** that was in the works for almost a year, a new organization called the Yosemite Foundation has been created to assume responsibility for The Yosemite Fund and most fundraising activities to benefit the park. This change which was requested by both the Director of the National Park Service and his Western Regional Director will mean that the Yosemite Association will concentrate again on its traditional educational activities.

The new foundation is headquartered in San Francisco where expanded offices and staff have been arranged. Executive Director for the Fund is Susan Singer who most recently headed the corporate and foundation development program of The Fine Arts Museums in San Francisco. She has a long career in non-profit administration and development.

The separation was an amicable one, and representatives of the Fund and the Association have voiced their intentions to work closely together to serve the best interests of Yosemite.

If you have questions about the new structure call or write The Yosemite Fund, 155 Montgomery Street, Suite 1104, San Francisco, CA 94104, 415-434-1782.



# Yosemite's Magnificent Deer Herd

Karl M. Pierce

**The Yosemite deer herd** is comprised of California mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus californicus*). This subspecies is closely related to the Rocky Mountain mule deer (*O. h. hemionus*) that occupies the eastern Sierra and the Black-tailed deer (*O. h. columbianus*) which occupies the coastal mountains.

Most of these mule deer may be identified by short, round tails, which are nearly all white with a black tip. The white rump patch goes over the base of the tail onto the rump and another distinguishing characteristic is dichotomously branched antlers. Mule deer vary in weight from the Black-tailed deer of the San Juan Islands (100 lbs.) to the "lava bucks" of the eastern Sierra (400 lbs.). Mule deer are not truly a herd animal, although they may form small family groups or activity centers and sometimes large temporary feeding groups.

The boundaries of the Yosemite deer herd range extend from Tioga Pass and Mt. Conness along the eastern park border, to the Tuolumne River and Paiute

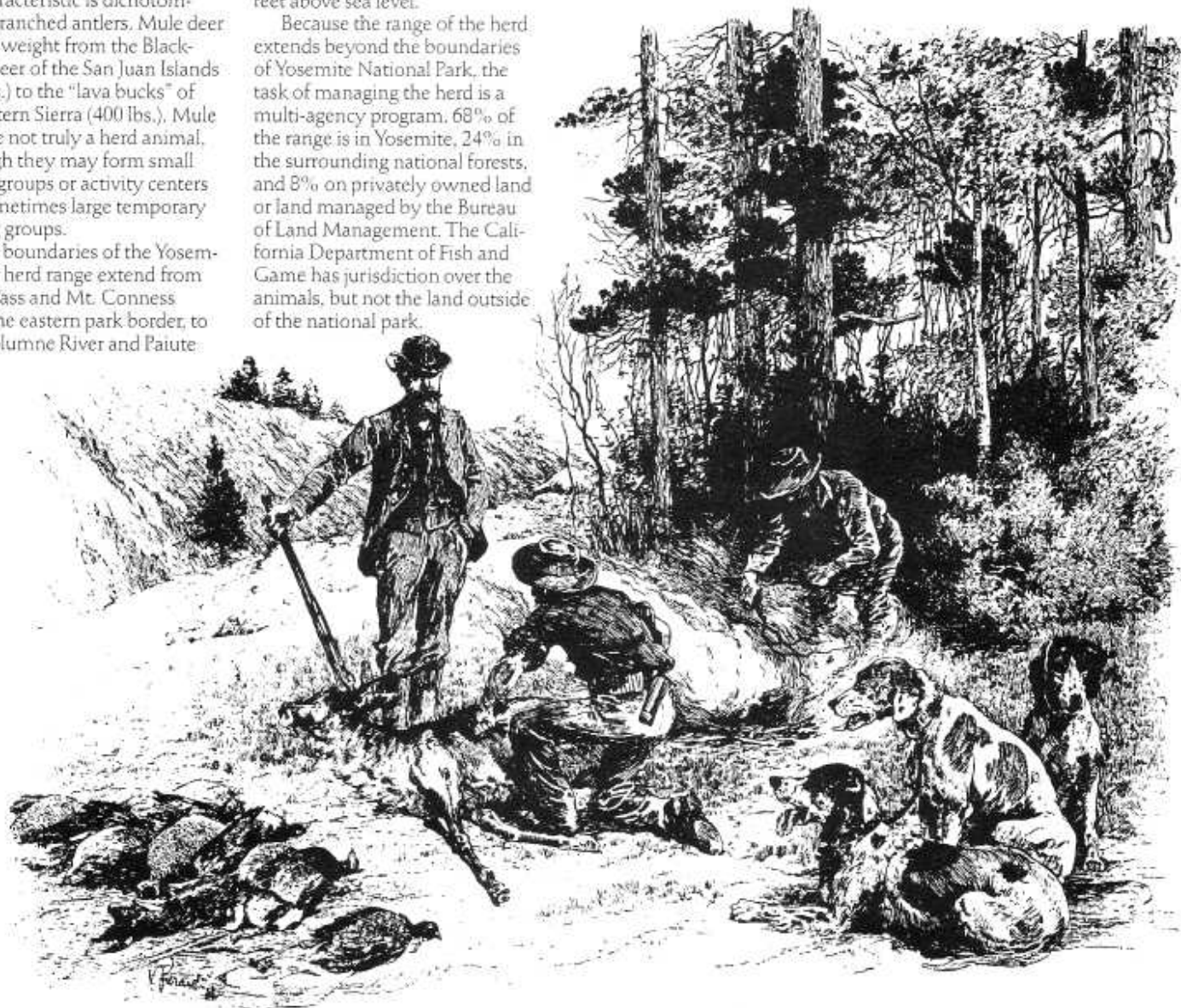
Creek in the North, to Groveland, Telegraph Hill, Briceburg and Buckingham Mountain in the west, and Paloni Mountain, Miami Mountain, Mariposa Grove, Merced Peak, Mt. Lyell and Kuna Peak in the south. The western and southern boundaries are determined more by the aspect of the terrain and the elevation than by any geographical barrier. This range falls on the western slope of the Sierra Nevada in Tuolumne, Mariposa, and Madera Counties. Its total area is over 1,200 square miles and it varies in elevation from 1,800 to 13,000 feet above sea level.

Because the range of the herd extends beyond the boundaries of Yosemite National Park, the task of managing the herd is a multi-agency program. 68% of the range is in Yosemite, 24% in the surrounding national forests, and 8% on privately owned land or land managed by the Bureau of Land Management. The California Department of Fish and Game has jurisdiction over the animals, but not the land outside of the national park.

Not much is known about the early history of the herd as our earliest knowledge comes from the journals of explorers and trappers. The population was low and not very dense. There were more deer at lower elevations because the best habitat was there. The California Goldrush of the late 1840's and 1850's brought miners who needed meat and hides which were provided by market hunting camps. This was the beginning of man's major impact on the herd. Unregulated hunting, logging and livestock grazing combined with severe

winters to keep the population low between 1851 and 1910. With the establishment of Yosemite National Park in 1890, the deer became protected (there was no hunting, grazing, or logging and fire was suppressed). The Stanislaus National Forest was created and a law passed in 1901 making venison sales illegal. These developments, combined with the 1907 license law which provided funds for wildlife law enforcement, led to an increase in the Yosemite deer herd size until about 1940.

Over the years, management

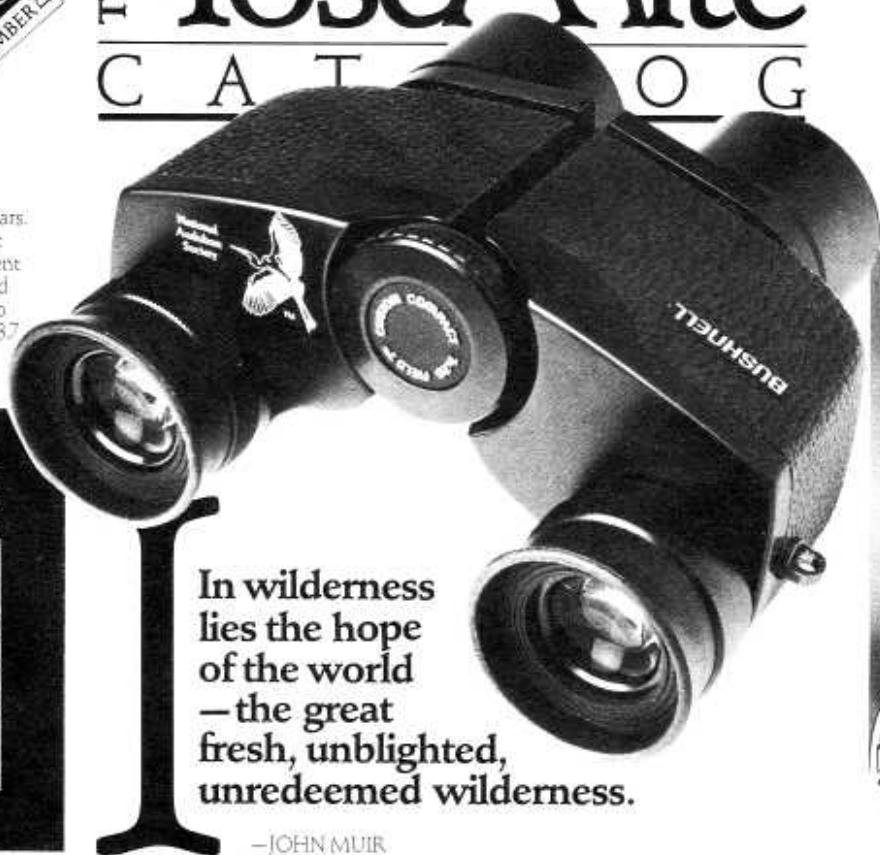




# THE Yosemite

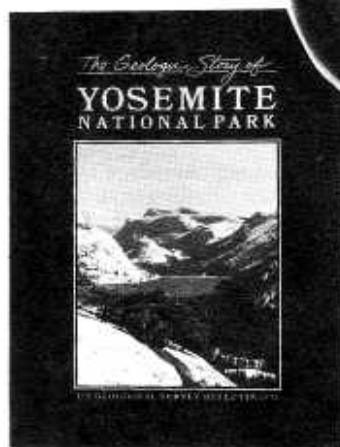
## CATALOG

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—JOHN MUIR



**B** The Geologic Story of Yosemite National Park by N. King Huber. A comprehensive geologic view of the natural processes that have created—and are still creating—the stunning terrain we know as Yosemite. The book illustrates geologic features with numerous colored photographs and includes a generalized multi-colored geologic map of the park and a large-scale geologic map of Yosemite Valley. 84 pages. #10315 (paper) \$5.00.

**C** The Yosemite Fun Book by Michael Ross. A children's guide to Yosemite featuring coloring pages, games, riddles, puzzles and songs. This will keep kids entertained as they learn about the park. #815 (paper). \$2.95.



**D** The 1988 Yosemite Calendar. This beautiful full-color wall calendar has become a favorite of Yosemite lovers. 15 stunning photographs are included, and the calendar measures 10" x 13". For 1988, the writings of naturalists and pioneer environmentalists are featured. #4190. \$8.95—  
now \$5.25.



YOSEMITE  
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**E** Yosemite National Park View-Master Set. Enjoy the magnificent scenery of Yosemite on three dimensions! The set comes complete with a View-Master viewer and 21 3-D color photographs on 3 reels. A unique way to see the park. #4030. \$7.50.



**F** Yosemite National Park Medallion. This handsome solid bronze medallion commemorates the Centennial of the National Park system of 1972. Hand sculpted the medallion features Half Dome on one side and the head of John Muir on the reverse. It's a popular collector's item produced by the National Park Foundation. #4400. \$7.50.



# 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



## Yosemite Association



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, 100% cotton, light tan colored Hanes "Beefy-T" shirts are printed with the Association's Half Dome logo in brown.  
*Child sizes (short sleeve):* small, #1650, medium #1651, and large #1652, \$7.05.  
*Adult sizes (short sleeve):* small #1653, medium #1654, large #1655 and extra-large #1656, \$9.40; *(long sleeve):* small #1657, medium #1658, large #1659 and extra-large #1660, \$11.75.



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## Deer Herd

*continued from page 20*

of the Yosemite deer herd has ranged from non-involvement to a policy of monitoring the population to a plan to increase the population size and balance consumptive and non-consumptive use of the herd. The main methods of herd management are 1) monitoring the herd and 2) habitat improvement.

Since 1954, annual data has been collected, including annual buck harvest (from tag returns) and spring and fall composition counts. This method of population size estimation is known as "change-in-ratio." It tends to underestimate the actual herd size and is not very exact. Data from more intensive studies are lacking and there are no studies currently underway. The last major study was conducted in 1966 using a method known as "mark-recapture." Observations of marked animals were provided by park visitors, National Park Service personnel, United States Forest Service and California Department of Fish and Game personnel, as well as hunters and local residents. The information from these observations has provided additional knowledge of winter ranges and migration routes.

The winter range of the Yosemite herd is from 1,800 to 4,500 feet above sea level and includes the Upper Sonoran and Transition (Yellow Pine Belt) Life Zones. The primary species browsed in the winter are buckbrush, western

mountain mahogany and California redberry. The Intermediate Range is from 4,500 to 6,500 feet elevation in the Yellow Pine Belt. The primary browse species here are deerbrush, mountain white-thorn and bitter cherry. It is in the Intermediate Range where the migration routes and holding areas, where the deer stay during delays in migration, are located. The summer range is from 6,500 to 13,000 feet elevation (top of the Sierra) and includes the Canadian and Hudsonian life zones. The primary browse species here are mountain whitethorn, herbs and the mast crop of huckleberry oak. Here the propagation units (areas providing the food, water, and cover necessary for successful

birth and rearing of fawns) are located.

Besides habitat, the main factors limiting herd size are fire suppression, urbanization and development in deer habitat, competition with livestock for available forage, weather and man. Man has impacted the deer in many ways besides habitat loss, road kills and hunting. In Yosemite the deer are often fed at close range, which is a dangerous practice even with the "tamest" deer. Moreover, this unnatural feeding causes stomach disorders and tends to concentrate the animals in too small an area, thus encouraging parasites and other diseases.

We have a magnificent herd here in Yosemite. It's important that we manage and preserve it.

## Special Event in Martinez

**Members of YA** have been invited to a special evening entitled "Exploring Yosemite... Its Trails and Mysteries" by the Contra Costa County chapter of the Yosemite Fund. On Tuesday, May 17, 1988, from 7 to 9:30 p.m. at the John Muir National Historic Site, special presentations will be made by Jim Synder, Yosemite Trail Supervisor, and Jeffrey Schaffer, author and naturalist. Barbara Simpson of KTVU, Channel 2, will serve as Master of Ceremonies.

## 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

Rogene Abney, Jeanine Ambrose, Albert/Nancy Anderson, Marcy Aschoff, Harold Bishop, S Broken-shire, Lisa Chaffey, Dick & Lonnie Haggarty, Edward Hinz, M/M Donald Holst, Ink Inc, Margaret Johnston, Debra Keller, Tom & Jane Lee, John Levy, Willard Lohuis, Gordon Ludwig, Gary & Chris Mazzone, Robert & Char-

lotte Meador, Martha Miller, Bill & Connie Nelson, Katherine Okohira, Bev Phillips, Tara Flynn Phillips, Bernard Pranger, Clark Randall, Patricia Roth, Marian Sawyer, Jacqueline Schmutz, Meredith Sender, Susan Singer, Paulette Steinhoff, Frank Stewart, Marcy Tabasz, Neil Thompson, Sharon Trueblood, Eleanor Trulsen, Dr James Truman, Sylvia Waters, Kelly Watkins, Andrew Weiss, Ona Willoughby, Ronald Wilmoth, John Van Heerden

### Supporting Members

Jan Copley, Ceil Copsey, Sam Crilly, Mr & Mrs C T Fincher, Gaspar & Carr, Conrad & Cathy Gaunt, David Lumpkin, Erica Miller, Jackie Mullarky, Janet Payne, Leslie Rosenfeld, Suzanne

The evening will begin at 7:00 p.m. with bring-your-own picnics on the grounds located at 4202 Alhambra Avenue, Martinez. Blankets and sweaters are advisable. From 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. slide presentations and talks will be made. There will be no admission charge or solicitation of funds at the program.

The evening is being underwritten by Wilderness Press with the support of R.J. Roberts, Inc., and John Muir National Historic Site. For more information call 415-370-8080.

## Special Photographic Exhibit

**A special exhibit** of photographs by William Alsup will be hung at the Michael Shapiro Gallery in San Francisco from June 21 through July 9, 1988. Mr. Alsup is best known to Yosemite Association members as the editor and photographic illustrator of Y.A.'s recent fine book entitled "Such A Landscape!". His stunning black and white images treat landscape throughout the Sierra Nevada, and many full size views from the book will be on display.

The Michael Shapiro Gallery is located at 210 Post Street, Suite 412, and there will be no admission fee for the show. Viewing hours will be noon to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. For additional information, call 415-398-6655. Association members are encouraged to visit and enjoy the exhibit.

Roth, John Scheibe, John Schmolle, Margaret Stokes, Karen Stone

### Contributing Members

Marilyn Coble, Suzanne Esnard, J Kermit, Bill Maxson, Michael Newman, William Paca, Karen & Brad Perkins, Diane Regan, Mike Wilburn.

### Sustaining Members

Allan Betz, Raymond Orr

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## Join the Yosemite Association

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

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

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

### Member Benefits

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

- ★ *Yosemite*, the Association bulletin, published on a quarterly basis;
- ★ A 15% discount on all books, maps, posters, calendars and publications stocked for sale by the Association;
- ★ A 10% discount on most of the field seminars conducted by the Association in Yosemite National Park;
- ★ The opportunity to participate in the annual Members' Meeting held in the park each fall, along with other Association activities;

★ A Yosemite Association decal; and

★ Special membership gifts as follows:

*Supporting Members:* Matted print from an illustration by Jane Gyer in "Discovering Sierra Trees";

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

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

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

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

Membership dues are tax-deductible as provided by law.

## Yosemite Association

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## Moving?

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

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