

# Yosemite

## Excerpts from *The Sierra Nevada—A Mountain Journey*

Tim Palmer

*Editor's note: The following passages from Tim Palmer's new book give testimony to the fresh angle from which he views Yosemite and the Sierra Nevada. His journey by van to discover why these mountains are important to so many people resulted in hundreds of encounters with the people and the landscape. The excerpts below are specific to Yosemite, but the book looks at the entire range and the spectrum of life throughout it. We wish to thank Island Press for its kind permission to reprint this material.*

### I. A Refuge from Cars?

I'm plagued by this vexing issue of cars. If I were coming to the valley for a day, I would not complain about riding a bus. If I camped or roomed overnight, which is what more than two-thirds of the visitors do, I would have no problem parking my van for the duration. No cars and no driving—it would be fun, like taking a boat to the other side of the lake. We have used cars for seventy years out of several million of human existence. Is it too much to leave the gas guzzler be-



LEWIS KEMPER

hind for a day? I can see that the average visitor might rather drive. The average visitor wants pizza faster. Of course people say they want to drive. Those who disagree have left. The average visitor is not the average Yosemite enthusiast; many live in exile, avoiding the valley because of cars, crowds, and development.

While supporting the shuttle bus system as it exists, most park officials I talk to do not think buses can replace cars. "To keep cars out would be to keep people out," said assistant valley ranger

Steve Hickman. But buses deny no one access; buses are the vehicles used by people who are too old to drive, too handicapped to walk, and too poor to own a car. Critics of car cutbacks also say new technology is needed. But why wait for technology while here sits a road and a fleet of vehicles capable of bringing in sixty tourists at a time? We need a rack on the bus for coolers, and a parking lot down the road instead of here in the world's masterpiece of nature, where 200 square feet are consumed to park each car. A

large percentage of private cars have been banned from other parks: Mount McKinley, the Shark Valley portion of the Everglades, and Devils Postpile National Monument right here in the Sierra. Not to mention Jim Hildinger's resort near Lake Tahoe. The town of Zermatt, Switzerland, is restricted to rail access. Tourist destinations as busy as Nantucket Island, Massachusetts, and Williamsburg, Virginia, succeed phenomenally without cars. Why not Yosemite?

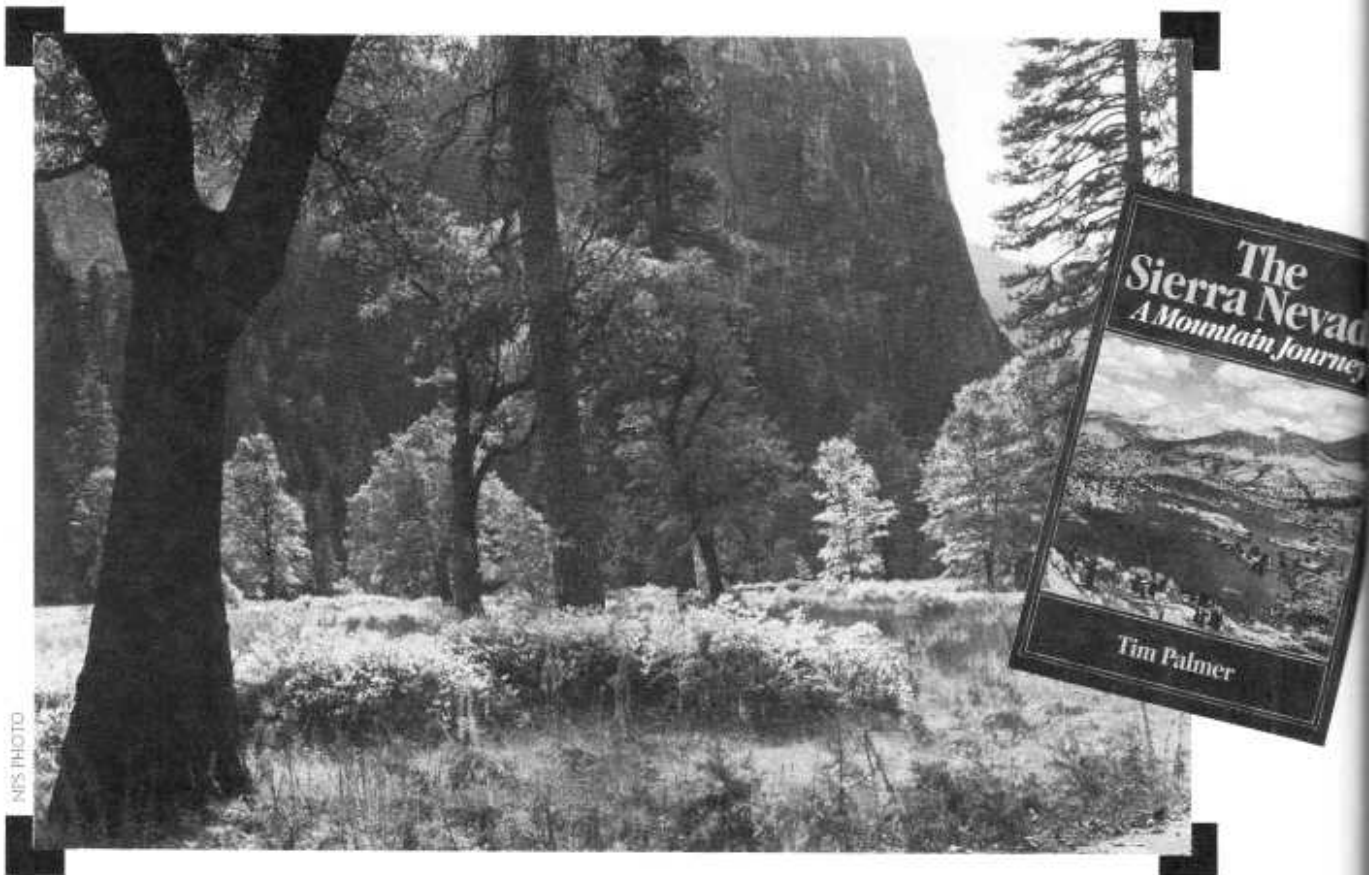
Congressman Richard Lehman, representing part of the park, said, "I think Yosemite is at a real juncture in the way it's managed. There are too many people, too many cars, and too much pollution. Anything we can do to get the cars out of Yosemite, or at least limit them, is going to help."

What could be done? Incentives to not drive could be tried—say, a free entrance permit but a fee every time drivers pass a checkpoint instead of walking, bicycling, or riding the bus. Fringe parking areas near Yosemite entrance gates could be combined with free admission to people who ride the bus and steep entrance fees for those who drive.

If people parked their cars and left them at their lodge or campsite, and if single-day users were shuttled in by bus, then one road through the valley might be

But I Want to Escape to *Here*  
Because *Here* is the Best Place on Earth

Finally I arrived at my riverfront. I saw the tree that I had leaned my pack against, but no pack. I looked under another tree. I walked circles around a dozen trees, then I walked upriver, and, faster now, I walked downriver. The pack was gone.



MIS PHOTO

enough. One side of this meadow — heaven if it exists anywhere — could be a refuge from cars. Yosemite Valley could be a world apart. I wonder, do people want to get away or simply to drive to another pretty place? Another Lake Tahoe. Is Yosemite just another stop on a road to monuments, curiosities, and accommodations?

## II. The Missing Backpack

In 1968, I hitchhiked here after backpacking in the Tuolumne canyon. In Chicago, the Democratic National Convention was underway. Yosemite Village was loud with tourism, congested with cars. The campgrounds were full, so I set my pack along the river and talked with two young campers. They had loafed in the valley for months, moving now and then to "give the rangers the slip." I didn't blame them for wanting to stay.

Trusting, tired, and hungry, I left my pack near the river and walked to the village with only my surplus gas-mask bag that held my camera, film, and notebook. For \$2.50, at Degnan's smorgasbord, I ate a glutton's number of courses, then sat outside until dark. I took a shortcut back to the campground and became confused. All the campgrounds and all the loops of roads looked alike.

Finally I arrived at my riverfront. I saw the tree that I had leaned my pack against, but no pack. I looked under another tree. I walked circles around a dozen trees, then I walked upriver, and, faster now, I walked downriver. The pack was gone.

With no place to go, I lay down on a flat spot and fell asleep, but not for long. I woke up cold. Remembering that bums back home had stuffed newspapers in their clothes for insulation

at night, I walked to the yellow-lit restroom and pulled off yards of toilet paper and stuffed it inside my shirt.

A man walked in. Groggy, he squinted at me. "What are you *doing*?" I told him. "Good grief, sleep in my car."

At dawn I began the search. My pack had a \$6 frame, my brother's canvas rucksack tied on, a sleeping bag, a wool shirt, a rubber poncho, shorts, and small things — not much, but that wasn't the point. The point was that I had nothing else.

The two young men with whom I had talked slept in, but next to them, an elderly couple was starting breakfast. I asked if they'd seen my pack. The woman said, "Sit down and have a cup of coffee. How about some breakfast?"

She poured the coffee, broke the eggs, turned them, peppered them, served them, sat down,

looked at her husband, looked at me, and said, "I think I know what happened."

The two men next door had friends nearby. "Only yesterday one of them told me they were going to Big Sur, and I couldn't understand much of what he was talking about, but he needed a sleeping bag and some clothes. I think he wanted a handout. Well, last night they were talking to those two right there and walking around. We wondered what they were doing. At about seven they pulled out." A white van with a blue emblem on it — I decided that if I didn't find it in Yosemite, I'd hunt in Big Sur.

After talking futilely with the two men who I now thought gave my pack away, and finding no evidence in their camp, I walked to park headquarters, where a ranger completed a form that he filed with hundreds of others. He said they would write

I can find isolation here. I can find a hiding place from the frenzy of Yosemite Valley, but I do not find that Yosemite Valley is a hiding place from the frenzy of the world.

REPRINTED FROM "THE SIERRA NEVADA: A MOUNTAIN JOURNEY BY TIM PALMER, BY PERMISSION OF ISLAND PRESS. © 1988 TIM PALMER. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. FOR ORDER INFORMATION, PLEASE SEE THE CATALOG SECTION ON PAGE 43.



NHS PHOTO

me if they found my gear, "but don't count on it." He said that rangers were too busy to look for the white van, so I walked through every campground.

With no gear for sleeping out, no suspects, and no money for new supplies, I had no choice but to leave Yosemite Valley less than a day after I had arrived. I hitchhiked to Sacramento. A friend, Wendy, whom I had met while hitching across Nevada, could put me up for a night. From there I would hitch to the coast. But Wendy wasn't home, I never made it to Big Sur, and I never thought I would see my pack again.

In September I was at college when my father was called by the local sheriff. He had received a call from the Tuolumne County sheriff, who explained that rangers in Yosemite had found a body. The man had fallen from the top of a waterfall and wore no iden-

tification except on his pack: Tim Palmer, Beaver, Pa.

### III. Escape

It's not until my final evening in the valley that I go for the Walk. When I leave the van, I have no idea that I will see anything special. I pass the gas station, the tent city behind Yosemite Lodge, and the fresh asphalt of the bike trail. Here I leave my sneakers. In a quarter mile the trail bridges the Merced, I enter Leidig Meadow.

Within ten steps I stop. Something has changed. The grass underfoot is the first signal, soft and wild. The touch of grass resets my senses so that I once again see a landscape that is almost unbelievable. The smell of the sweet evening air imprisons me. I hear the swish of water against the shore.

My narrow path bends to the river, where I walk in coarse sand that long ago crumbled from gran-

ite. I see three deer. Across the river stands a dark, silent forest. Downriver, the Cathedral Spires rise high. The day's final light shines on massive Sentinel Rock. The flat side of Half Dome, four miles away, is gold.

I think of what Robert Redford said about his first view of Yosemite Valley when he was seventeen: "It was the most magnificent thing I had ever seen. To some, the size and the space are overwhelming, but I didn't see it that way. I saw it as an opportunity, as a challenge. To me, that image of the valley meant unlimited opportunities, unlimited possibilities. Much of my concern for the environment relates to that first impression, and it helped to set a course for the rest of my life."

What with the campground, cafeteria, grocery store, laundry, reservations, bike riding, and cars, I haven't seen the unlimited possibilities very well.

Now the Merced is a silent mirror reflecting cottonwoods, a symbol of wet lowlands. It is not only the big scene that captures me; each detail is exquisite. Near the water, alders grow in a cluster of three, where wrens and sparrows feed. The sky is violet behind spires streaked with white and gray. I stand as an insignificant speck in a place that gives me prospect and refuge, unlimited opportunities. At this moment, this place makes me feel better than anyplace I have ever known. If this is not sacred, what is?

My sense of belonging lasts only minutes because the traffic noise converges from both sides of the wide meadow. Inbound traffic runs to my left, outbound to my right. I stand on the world's most beautiful median strip.

I dream of the Escape to places uncramped by traffic. But I want to escape to *here* because *here* is the best place on earth. ▀

# The Final Frontier

Lisa Strong-Aufhauser

**Star Date: 0988.** The stars of the original Star Trek crew beamed down to Yosemite last October to film a segment of the movie, *Star Trek V—The Final Frontier*. Their mission: like 3.3 million earthlings in 1988, a scenic holiday. The only difference is that the Trekker's holiday takes place in the year 2300. It's a relief to learn that while Kirk, Spock and McCoy were exploring the universe, the folks back on earth managed to preserve Yosemite National Park into the twenty-third century. It seems that when the rigors of space travel become wearisome, Yosemite is still a majestic, glorious place to visit, camp and climb.

The Star Trek adventure provided a perfect opportunity to initiate a new Yosemite Association program, and a perfect opportunity for me to learn first-hand about film-making Hollywood style. During 1988, YA established a new service to provide assistance to commercial filmmakers and photographers when they are working in the park. Oftentimes such persons contact the Park Service for film permits, then ask whether there is anyone who can do some location or model scouting, or guide them around the park. The Park Service doesn't have the staff or resources to do this location legwork for outside filmmakers. What is a filmmaker or photographer to do?

For starters, call the Yosemite Association, which in turn calls me. I am a resident freelance photographer and writer, "on call" to provide local assistance through the Yosemite Association. I know a great deal about Yosemite, having worked for the NPS Public Information Office, the Yosemite Institute, and the Yosemite Association as a High Sierra Camp Loop Trip Leader. Also familiar with the Park Service guidelines for filming known as NPS-21, I can help the media people abide by the conditions of their special film permits.

Spock, better known as Leonard Nimoy, receives his orders from director William Shatner.

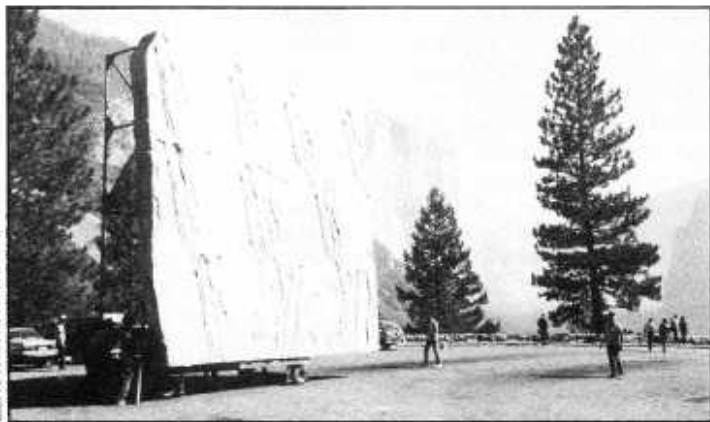
To give examples of what we do through the program, a producer from the BBC Natural History Unit asked to see glacial polish, a good camera angle to illustrate a V-shaped valley, and striking glacial erratics. It was my job to show him. An ad agency wanted to do a Chevron commercial, and used the Yosemite Association service to get location ideas and photography.

Paramount Pictures contacted the National Park Service in July to begin arrangements to obtain its permit for filming in the park.

(A surprising number of commercial filmmakers and photographers use Yosemite as a location. In fact, an NPS employee in the Concessions Management Division devotes up to one quarter of her time evaluating and issuing film permits.)

From the beginning, Paramount Pictures willingly cooperated with the National Park Service, and honestly wanted to undertake a model filming operation. The film's Executive Director, Ralph Winter, explained to Park Service repre-

A bit of El Capitan on wheels, this 30 foot by 48 foot wall was rolled into position at Tunnel View.



LISA STRONG-AUFHAUSER

LISA STRONG-AUFHAUSER

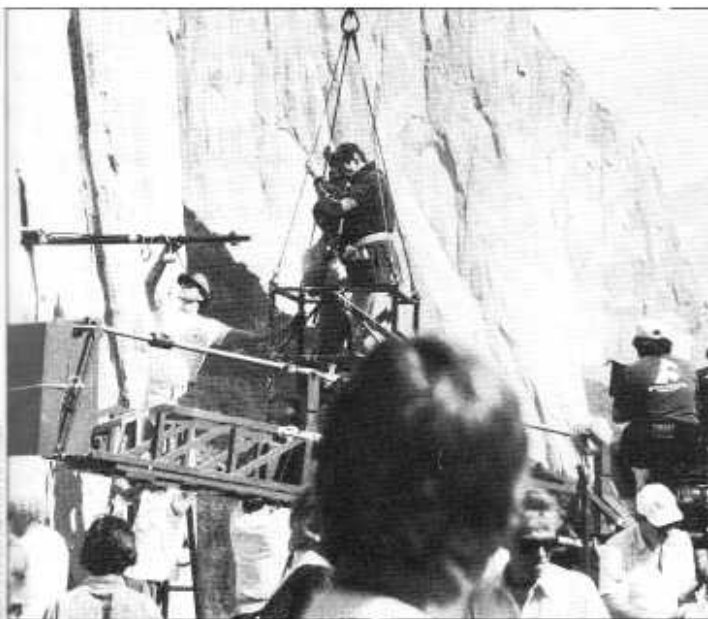
sentative Jeff Cobb that as funny as it sounded, he wanted the filming to go so smoothly for everyone so that Yosemite might invite them back. And one of their best moves to accomplish that aim was to contact the Yosemite Association.

It was immediately obvious that the Paramount job was much too big for a single employee of YA to handle. Gary Moon, a former YA media production assistant, and I were hired to supervise other community residents employed to handle the event. My responsibility was public relations. Gary took charge of security and traffic control. He coordinated and helped design the traffic management plan and the bus staging pattern, while supervising the traffic control people. There were twelve of us in all.

When tour buses let their passengers out at Tunnel View (site of much of the filming) for the wonderful view, it was quite a public relations challenge to let people know what was going on. Often one of us would try to board the buses before the passengers disembarked to explain the situation. Many of the buses contained foreign visitors, and we had to find interpreters to help. As the interpreter rattled away in some foreign language, we could usually make out the words, "Star Trek," and the passengers would Oh and Ah and nod.

We had to deal with the conflict between the filming operation and the public's normal use of the park. According to NPS-21, commercial filming in a national park is an appropriate use; it is recognized by the Park Service as a First Amendment right. However, the filming crews must adhere to both film regulations and normal park laws and rules. The guidelines also prohibit activities that "conflict unduly with the public's normal use of the park," and natural and historical resources must be protected from any damage.

Tunnel View doesn't have



Final touches are added to the enormous fiberglass wall which

quite the same ambience when there are almost 200 people milling about an enormous fake granite wall standing conspicuous in the parking lot. Many people got side-tracked by the excitement of the filming operation and the chance to see a movie star. We worked to continually remind people that the real star was Yosemite, and encouraged them to walk over and take a good look at the view.

Throughout the filming, Paramount Studios and Star Trek cast and crew received no special treatment or privileges. For a camping scene less than 50 yards from the road, heavy movie cameras had to be carried in by hand because wheeled vehicles (including dollies) are forbidden off designated roadways and paved bike paths. The director, William Shatner (a.k.a. Captain Kirk), had hoped to release some birds in one scene, but had his idea nixed by the Park Service. Releasing wild or domestic animals in Yosemite (this includes dogs off their leashes) is against park regulations.

At two filming locations, very

popular vistas, the Park Service was concerned that filming might "conflict unduly" with visitor access. One such place was Tunnel View as noted above. To ensure visitor access, a traffic management plan and a bus staging pattern were developed, overflow parking was designated, and a special shuttle bus was contracted by Paramount to bring people up and back from the Bridalveil parking area to the Viewpoint. Because of the presence of the large set, special care was taken to ensure that the public could walk to the edge and take their classic picture of the valley.

The other popular vista was Glacier Point. Paramount was not allowed to drive its equipment to the point, though it was allowed to hand cart it in on little wagons along the paved handicapped access path. A portion of the overlook at Glacier Point proper was occupied by filming paraphernalia—scaffolding, a set, cameras, reflectors, and people. The movie operation took up about one third of the railing area. While the view of Half Dome was impacted by a foreground of movie madness, if one was truly interested in viewing or photographing Half Dome, a very short stroll to the Geology

Dear Friends of Yosemite,

For 3 days in October, we will be here in the park, shooting sequences for our fifth *Star Trek* feature film.

Those of you who are familiar with our films, and particularly with our last one, *The Voyage Home*, know we as a group of artists and performers are committed to the preservation of our environment. Accordingly, we intend to leave this glorious place exactly as we found it—and in no way interfere with the other visitors with whom we are sharing it.

If you would like to watch us work (tedious as that work tends to be), we welcome you. We would ask only that you not intrude upon those who work, even as we would not intrude upon you.

Without giving away the plot of our movie, it should be obvious to the *Star Trek* lovers among you that our filming here does make a statement: Yosemite will be alive and well in the 23rd Century. We hope your courtesy will help us make that statement to millions of filmgoers in the Summer of 1989.

Live long and prosper.  
The Cast and Crew of *Star Trek*.

Exhibit stone hut afforded a fabulous, unobstructed, peaceful view with Vernal and Nevada Falls flowing nearby.

The range of questions posed to us was astounding. I'm sure I answered more questions about the park than the filming operation. "Which one is Half Dome?" "Does Yosemite have grizzly bears?" I even answered questions from the stars. I pointed out some Yosemite features from Glacier Point for George Takai (Mr. Sulu) and Walter Koenig (Mr. Chekov), and explained about

A Y.A.-furnished stand-in waits for his turn on the set.



LESA STRONG-AUFHAUSER

natural succession at Mirror Lake.

It was also usually me who tried to explain to disgruntled visitors why the National Park Service allowed this filming operation to proceed when in their opinion it was clearly an inappropriate use of Yosemite. At Glacier Point, one woman identified me as an official, swept up to me and indignantly proclaimed, "I've come 3,000 miles to see Yosemite; I did not come to see this garbage," pointing at the set and movie crew.

The Superintendent of the Park had written a memo explaining the circumstances under which Paramount got its permit. We xeroxed it so we could hand it out to people who objected. But before I could tell her about the Geology Exhibit overlook, or ask if she wished to hear the Superintendent's position, she glared at me, turned on her heel and stormed away. Obviously, not everyone was thrilled. Others expressed concern over such activities in the Park, but they were more constructive, accepting a copy of the Superintendent's memo with the intent of writing to him with their views.

I would estimate that 95% of the people I spoke to and saw were more than happy to watch the magic of movie-making. The fact that it was a *Star Trek* movie had something to do with the peoples' attitudes too. One man asked me in a blase tone, "So, what movie are they filming?" When I told him it was part of *Star Trek V*, he exclaimed, "Really! Is Captain Kirk here? And Mr. Spock!?" People got to see their intergalactic heroes, and in Yosemite no less! For many visitors it was the icing on their visit to Yosemite.

The location managers Michael Mann and Bruce Rush kept things together until the end. They made sure the filming locations were as clean or cleaner than they were found. They strived to meet all Park Service expectations, and then went a

Continued on page 15

# Open Pit Gold Mines Near Yosemite's Border?

Henry Berrey

In 1984, Golden Bell Resources, Inc., of Vancouver, B.C., leased from the A. J. Land Co. of Los Angeles, land in Mariposa County from which it intended to mine gold. The mine's site lay on the east and west sides of Highway 49, 12 miles north of Mariposa town, two miles north of the hamlet of Bear Valley, and about 16 miles south of Coulterville.

And, as the crow flies and the wind blows, about 15 miles west of the western edge of Yosemite National Park.

On the land are two inoperative mines, the Pine Tree and the Josephine. These were discovered and worked in the 1850's by John C. Fremont. They were in fact worked until 1944 when the price of gold, about \$35 per ounce, made it uneconomical to continue. Now, the price of gold at around \$400 an ounce, along with high tech methods which have reduced recovery costs, have combined to make gold mining lucrative once again.

Golden Bell is a subsidiary of the ABM Gold Corp., also of Vancouver; ABM presently is the principal owner of the Jamestown Gold Mine in Sonora. During the first quarter of 1988, this mine produced 20,600 ounces of gold and 7,100 ounces of silver from 526,000 tons of processed ore. Though the figures would appear attractive, the firm's annual report shows a loss of \$1,154,000, attributable, it states, to production costs, interest payments, royalties, depletion, etc.

The Mariposa Pine Tree Project, as Golden Bell calls its Mariposa undertaking, will occupy 750 acres on which there will be open pit mines of 140 acres, 200 acres for overburden storage, 170 acres for tailings storage; on the remaining 340 acres will be a processing plant, a gold extraction plant with a toll roaster, access roads, etc. The plot plan indicates certain acreage for wildlife habitat enhancement.



John C. Fremont



JULIAN GROCAN

The mine site in the Sierra foothills near Bear Valley, lies close to the boundary of Yosemite.

The operation of the roaster, which accomplishes the function of a smelter, involves the use of chemicals to liberate the gold from the carbon found in this particular ore. Overburden is the material lying over the gold-bearing ore; tailings are what's left after

the primary crushing has taken place. As the mine property straddles Highway 49, Golden Bell will be obliged to realign several miles of roadway so as to skirt the mine area.

To date, the Golden Bell people claim to have invested \$6 million in the exploration and analysis of the project. And by start up time, they will have in-

vested a total of \$50 million in planning, excavation, installation of the massive processing machinery, vehicles of various sorts, including huge trucks capable of handling in one load 100 tons of ore.

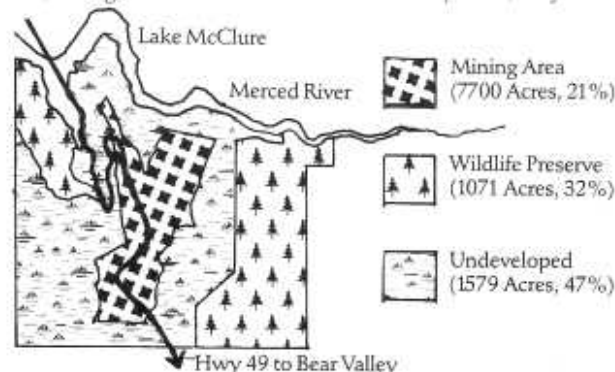
For their trouble and financial risk, the mine company anticipates recovering 130,000 ounces of gold annually during the ten year life of the mine. Costs are expected to run about \$290 per ounce of gold recovered. Down the line, when the somewhat richer ore is dug from underground deposits, production costs are expected to decrease to \$220 per ounce. To reach either return figure it will be necessary to process 8000 tons of ore every 24 hours, 365 days a year.

The mine area and the surrounding countryside are of typical lower Sierra nature, rugged, treeless, chaparral covered and not particularly hospitable, though it is a habitat for the limestone salamander.

Before an undertaking of this type and size can be undertaken, an Environmental Impact Report (E.I.R.) must be prepared and presented to the county fathers, the Board of Supervisors, the Planning Commission and the Air Quality Office. If all the many considerations are met, the Supervisors may issue a permit to proceed; if there are flaws or omissions, the E.I.R. must be revised to show how the questionable elements are to be mitigated. The first draft was delivered in September, 1987.

Shortly after the news of the project was abroad, sides were drawn up among the Mariposa residents between those who supported the mine and those who were not sympathetic. The former group pointed mainly to the fact that the Mariposa economy would benefit hugely from the mine's presence. Golden Bell predicted that some \$16 million would be realized from taxes, wages, local purchases, etc.

It was projected by the mining people that 280 long term jobs



would be open, principally to locals, with an additional 180 jobs during the construction phase. This prospect was attractive, as Mariposa now depends heavily on the tourist trade to Yosemite. This being seasonal, the mine would offer year-round employment. At the Sonora operation by comparison, it appears that while there were 300 employed during construction, once operations began about 90 Sonorans remained on the payroll.

The enthusiasts insisted, somewhat sentimentally it would seem, that Mariposa having been at the south end of the rich Mother Lode a hundred years and a thriving mining community, it should follow that a renewal of mining would be both welcome and appropriate.

Following the submission by Golden Bell of the first draft of the E.I.R. and its broad circulation, the town was abuzz with opinions. The *Mariposa Gazette and Miner*, the town's weekly paper, ran news stories about the mining plans and, as well, published scores of "letters to the editor." While initially these centered on the blessings or evils of the mine, they later seemed to become a name-calling exercise with one letter writer condemning another letter writer of the opposing opinion. Few seemed to address the central theme.

Two activist groups soon emerged: The Downwinders, originally made up of people who lived close to the mine site. They were vigorously opposed to the project and by their alarms attracted others who were of like minds, though not necessarily living near the mine site. Somewhat later, the Mariposa County Development Corp. came on the scene. This group cited all the positive reasons for giving the go ahead to the mining project.

The first public hearing on the E.I.R. was held in the high school's gymnasium. There were 300 in attendance, which more than filled the building. Fifty citizens expressed their desire to



BRIAN GREGG

The sleepy town of Mariposa stands to reap economic rewards from the mine but at what cost to the environment?

speak. Because of the number insisting on being heard, the chairman was obliged to limit each speaker to three minutes on the platform. An informal tally indicated that about 80% of the audience took a position against the mine development.

It had been expected that the E.I.R. would promptly be certified, but after this event, with the *vox populi* indicating a negative attitude, no decision was reached and the E.I.R. went back to the Supervisors for further study.

Because of the large turnout for the first public meeting, the second was held at the Fairgrounds on August 15, with some 400 in attendance. The Golden Bell people passed out little white caps imprinted with "Citizens for Golden Bell . . . certify, amend, permit Golden Bell." A quick count of the hatted vs the hatless

indicated about a 50-50 split. The County Supervisors, after a second reading, indicated their concern over the contents of the E.I.R., finding 75 matters that needed revision. Thus, Golden Bell would be obliged to answer these concerns to mitigate the problems. The revision was expected within 90 days.

Meanwhile, a group identifying itself as "Concerned Citizens" gathered signatures and the county counsel's approval for a ballot measure, Measure "B." This would create a zoning law that prohibited open pit mining or the operation of a chemical plant within 10,000 feet of a residence, school, or church. As there were residences within that distance of the mine site, passage of the measure would seriously affect Golden Bell's activities. The measure went on the November 8 ballot. Of the 7,200 votes cast, 43% favored the zoning law, 56% opposed it. This expression encouraged the Golden Bell people



as they viewed it as a vote for the mine.

It is said that the Mariposa County Development Corp. spent some \$30,000 in its effort to defeat Measure "B"; eight percent of the funds came from donors in the county, the balance from mining corporations in and out of the state.

Those opposed to the project were concerned chiefly over health hazards imposed by the operation of the toll roaster. It would be called upon to handle 8000 tons of ore daily and by the nature of the process would emit into the filtration system sulfur dioxide, arsenic, mercury and lead. Golden Bell claims that 95.6% of the emissions would be captured as arsenic trioxide and sulfuric acid, to be hauled off and sold. Despite the capabilities of the removal process, the possibilities exist that harmful amounts of these toxic substances may escape into the air. Other doubters felt that the number of heavy trucks which would be hauling out the spent chemicals would pose not only a traffic problem but also a hazard were they to upset and spill their toxic loads. The county is ill-prepared to deal with such mishaps. Other concerns were expressed over the noise level at the mine site as well

*Continued on page 15*

## MERG

In the wake of the Measure B election, a new conservationist organization emerged on the Mariposa scene. Calling itself Mariposans for Environmentally Responsible Growth (MERG), the new group claims it will be watchful not only for such prospects as the creation of a gold mine but also for any proposed activity which could challenge the environmental stability of the County.

# Two New Yosemite Classics



KAPPA PHOTO CO.

Jim Snyder

**Richard Dillon** called J. Smeaton Chase the "Prose Poet of the Trail" in his effort to renew interest in a writer who has "fallen into that unhappy limbo of authors who are dead, out-of-print, and largely forgotten." Tioga Publishing Company has made Chase available again to the reading public by reprinting his three best books, *California Coast Trails*, *California Desert Trails*, and finally *Yosemite Trails*, the last originally published in 1911. To the Tioga edition of *Yosemite Trails*, is added a brief introduction and botanical notes by Carl Sharsmith, who originally suggested reprinting the book, because Chase had many years earlier helped to introduce Sharsmith to Yosemite.

J. Smeaton Chase (1864-1923) never lost the English heritage he brought to this country in 1890 when he was in southern California as a social worker, teacher,

amateur botanist, and photographer. Perhaps it was his background that gave him a different perspective of Yosemite, about which he began writing as early as 1908. Use of the language was easy for him, and his fluid, open prose style gives us vivid pictures of much of Yosemite's high country at the turn of the century. Chase came up from southern California to visit Wawona first, slowly moving deeper into the park on successive trips, often in company with friends such as Carl Eytel, sketching and painting along Chase's trails.

Chase kept copious notes as he travelled, relying on these for the writing of his books. The "forest frame of mind," he wrote, "is not a wide-eyed wondering frame of mind, but is made up of innumerable small and quiet sensations, incidents, and reminiscences." This is what makes *Yosemite Trails* so attractive to us now. Through his trips, Chase allows us to visit and to con-

template many places, trees, and flowers, the unusual as well as the commonplace. Yet he was also clearly fascinated by the larger processes we all observe in Yosemite: the ongoing formation of Yosemite Valley (he thrilled to his thunderous vision of a cataclysmic origin), or the transition zones of plants and changing plant habits as one climbed higher in elevation. He had read Muir and felt he needed to see things such as the giant sequoias with the spirit because "the mind sees them about one-tenth their size."

He had also read Bret Harte, who probably contributed to Chase's romantic view of the tumbledown backcountry cabins he saw on his trips. Chase endowed the trees, falls, and other Yosemite features with animal qualities for striking characterizations: the snow plant "is a Mephistophelian among plants, a kind of diabolical asparagus;" and the growth of dwarf currants makes them look like they are

Was Rodgers Lake really named after Roy Rodgers?

"trying to clamber away out of sight in an awkward, high-legged fashion, like spiders." His imaginative description was one reason he said of his writing that it was not by a botanist but "by a tree lover for tree lovers."

At the same time Yosemite's high country provided for Smeaton Chase something of an antidote for social ills he saw in urban areas elsewhere in California. He dreaded that the passing of an earlier, more genial, more slowly-paced California might eventually destroy much of the park as well. The "chewing gum age" with its road traffic, trash, noise such as "Edison's diabolical invention," the phonograph, which Chase and party had to contend with in their stopover at Ackerson Meadow, or the appropriation of Yosemite features for advertising, all prevented people from seeing or sensing the moun-



tains they visited, insulating them from appreciating the real park as opposed to the park presented them on many platters.

Chase's description is valuable now for giving us a picture in time of Yosemite's high country. He described places, trails, cabins, even particular trees in 1911 in such a way that we can see the changes from his time to our own. One wishes his high country photographs might have been included in the new edition of his work because he was one of the unusual visitors who took photographs outside the Valley and because he was there just before a series of momentous changes, reconstruction of the Tioga Road and construction of Hetch Hetchy, to mention only two.

Chase devoted a chapter of *Yosemite Trails* to a discussion of park names to discover the origins of some names and to voice strong opinions on how things should or should not be named. It was only natural, then, that Peter Browning used Chase's book extensively in his newly published *Yosemite Place Names* (Lafayette, CA: Great West Books, 1988), itself certain to become a Yosemite classic.

Information on Yosemite area names has been scattered widely through Yosemite Research Library files, Francis Farquhar, who was present at the creation, so to speak, published his *Place Names of the Sierra Nevada* in 1926 having known and interviewed many Yosemite old-timers of the period. Richard Hartesveldt worked on "Place Names of Yosemite Valley," which came out as an issue of *Yosemite Nature Notes* in 1955. The tireless and extravagantly thorough researchers, Bill and Mary Hood, gathered voluminous information on Yosemite names in the 1950's and '60's.

Much of this work was unfinished or preliminary when Browning jumped into the field. He began with Farquhar's notes to publish a new *Place Names of the Sierra Nevada* (Berkeley: Wilderness Press, 1986). Browning's



NPS PHOTO

Benson the mule stands on a sand spit in the middle of his namesake lake.

subsequent research on Yosemite names ranged widely through newspapers, manuscript diaries and journals, different map editions, the work of those before him, and a considerable amount of correspondence to compile his newest place names book.

The study of names can be an uncertain task and unforgiving as well because it likely can never be finished. For this reason some students have stuck closely to the decisions of the U.S. Board of Geographic Names to narrow their scope of study and to lend the credence of officialdom to their work. While setting some limits and goals for himself, Browning ventured beyond official limits because he was enthused about his subject and found it more colorful and interesting than those rather dry decisions made it seem.

In the process Browning added a couple of chapters to the book: One on Indian names in Yosemite is an attempt to record some of those names which have not remained in the official nomenclature. Often the meaning of these names has been lost, confused by anglicization, or romanticized beyond recognition. Their preservation may help us yet to discover more about their origins. Some names, such as "We-ack," referring to the fallen rock at Rocky Point in Yosemite Valley, tell us that the Yosemite we experience, such as the prolonged Middle Brother rockslide of 1987, is not unique to our own time.

Browning also added a generous reprinting of early news articles about Yosemite Valley and early naming of its prominent points. And, fascinated as he has been with the naming process over the long run, he added a chapter on "Old Names, Fanciful Names, Names That Won't Be Missed." The naming process will remain fluid, though we try hard to formalize names for places and geographic features, often arguing at great length over one name or another or over a version of a name, if only to give ourselves common points of reference in a wilderness without many of the cultural references we normally recognize. Browning's chapter on old names recognizes this fluidity. No doubt some formal names we now accept will disappear or be replaced with new names in the future. Changes of names show how different places were not only used but perceived over time, while also making a good tale, appropriately embellished, over well-laced eggnog on a mid-winter evening.

These old names give a perspective Smeaton Chase may have approved of, in part at least, though he could never abide the naming of places after available relatives, friends, or "some inept sentimentality." Browning has worked to carry through his broad perspective on names by

showing origins and derivations of accepted place names in the heart of his book. His research is backed by a sense of humor often used to fill gaps in the record, as when he presents the confusion over a name such as Vogelsang, a person's name which also means "a meadow in which birds sing." Chase resolved the problem in his own original way: "I was on the point of giving up the riddle [of the name] when the strident voice of the Clark crow . . . gave me a clue, and I perceived that a spirit of irony had suggested the name."

At least one friend is reading Browning's book to find a name for a new family member. Some will read it for history, others for curiosity, and still others simply for the flavor of Yosemite's human past. It is the sort of book one does not tire of rummaging through; the reader can open it anywhere and become engrossed. *Yosemite Place Names* is no doubt a book as open ended as the naming process itself, so that future editions will add and subtract to reflect changes in the process and changes in what we know of the bestowing of names. And it will be like Sharsmith's friend's copy of Chase's *Yosemite Trails*, a book to be handed round, read, repeated, and followed out from the printed page to forest, peak, stream, and meadow.

Both books are well suited for reading on those wintry days when we begin to feel the twitch that leads to mountain outings the following summer. Both books are available from the Yosemite Association. (*Yosemite Trails* — #2000 [paper]: \$9.95. *Yosemite Place Names* — #19850 [paper]: \$12.95.)



# Ask The Superintendent



*Editor's note: In this issue we introduce a new feature which allows our members to pose questions about Yosemite to John M. "Jack" Morehead, the Superintendent of the Park. We hope our readers will use this opportunity to satisfy their curiosity about whatever Yosemite topics concern them.*

**Q: How do Yosemite's fire situation and program differ from Yellowstone's? Is there any likelihood that a major wildfire could burn a large portion of Yosemite?**

**A:** There are significant differences in fuel loading between Yosemite and Yellowstone National Parks. Fuel loading is the amount of accumulated burnable material. In a large portion of Yosemite the

fuel loadings are near or only slightly higher than their natural levels. This is due to the park's active natural and prescribed fire program which has burned over 40,000 and 26,000 acres respectively. These fires have returned fuel loadings to more natural levels which help prevent large scale crown fires. Crown fires

travel through the tops of trees and burn with great intensity.

It is interesting to note that the fire history of Yosemite gives no indication of large scale crown fires. This implies that big fires like the Stanislaus Complex can be prevented in the park if the natural and prescribed fire programs are active enough to keep fuel

loading near their natural levels. This program is designed to greatly reduce the likelihood of a catastrophic wildfire.

The question implies a concern that Yosemite might experience a similar fire season as Yellowstone. Scientists who have studied the Yellowstone fires indicate that only a small percent of the park was actually burned by high intensity crown fires. This is exactly opposite the impression many people received. ▀

*Please send any questions that you would like answered by Superintendent Morehead to: Ask the Superintendent, Yosemite Association, P. O. Box 230, El Portal, CA 95318.*

## Summer 1989 Field Seminars

**Following is a preview** of dates for classes being planned for the summer/fall 1989 season. Hopefully, this will give you a chance to work out vacation schedules in advance and possibly obtain accommodations near the class

Stars Over Yosemite	Ron Oriti	July 24-28 July 31-August 4
Nature Study for Elementary School Teachers	Michael Ross	July 24-28
Language Arts & Nature - A Class for Elementary School Teachers	Michael Ross	June 27-July 1
Identification, Behavior & Breeding Ecology of Sierran Birds	Jon Winter	June 21-24
Plant Identification	Bob Fry	July 10-14
Universals: Fundamental Pattern in Nature	Bob Fry	July 17-21 August 21-25
Geology	Doris Sloan	August 14-18
Meadows of Yosemite	Bob Fry	July 24-28
Sub-Alpine Botany	Bob Fry	July 31-August 4
Alpine Botany Backpack	Steve Botti	July 31-August 4
Yosemite Forests	Bob Fry	August 28-Sept 1
Grasses & Sedges	Carl Sharsmith	July 17-21
Sierran Wildlife	Glen Frederick	July 7-9
	Paul Todd	
Introduction to Yosemite's Natural History	Roger McGehee	July 9 (eve)-14
Life at the Top	Michael Ross	July 17-21
Tuolumne Field Journal	Michael Ross	July 10-14

sites. We will take enrollments only after the mailing of the catalog early in March. If you're interested, mark your calendar and get in touch with us as soon as the catalog comes out.

Fall Backpack: Glacier Point to Wawona	Michael Ross	October 7-10
Clark Range Backpack	Roger McGehee	August 7-13
Grand Canyon of Tuolumne	Gary Moon	June 26-30
Boundary Lakes Loop Backpack	Burley-Munson	August 14-20
Women's Backpack	Suzanne Swedo	August 18-21
Women's Backpack	Sue Beatty	July 21-23
Waterfall Backpack	Roger McGehee	July 2-4
Family Backpack (for those with small children)	Michael & Lisa Ross	July 7-9
North Rim Backpack	Michael Ross	June 10-12 June 16-20
Drawing Wildflowers with Colored Pencil	Chuck Stasek	Aug 16(eve)-20
Watercolor Workshop	Ben Kudo	July 19-23 August 21-25 October 26-29
Nature Writers Workshop	Paul Tidwell	July 5(eve)-9
Photography	William Neill	June 9-11
Wildlife Photography	Michael Frye	July 8-10 October 20-22
Black & White Photo Backpack	Wm. Alsup	August 14-18
Westside/Eastside Photography	Howard Weamer	July 6-9
Wildflower Weekend, Wawona	Howard Weamer	July 22-23
Wildflower Weekend, Tuolumne	Howard Weamer	August 5-6
Base Camp Photography	Howard Weamer	August 7-11

### Yosemite Field Seminars

PO Box 230,  
El Portal, CA 95318.  
Phone: 209 379-2321.

# Come to Spring Open House!

**YA Members** will have a special opportunity to get a good behind-the-scenes look at Yosemite National Park during the upcoming Spring Open House, on Saturday, April 8. The day long event will be filled with informative talks, tours and slide shows by noted park personalities, a wine reception/booksigning and finally a private screening of the new film, "Yosemite: The Fate of Heaven."

Both back by popular demand, John Dill will describe the heroic efforts of the Search and Rescue Program in his lively slideshow, and Jim Snyder will show slides on his new Historic Wilderness Resources Study. Other talks and presentations will look at fire management in Yosemite, life in the backcountry, Peregrine Falcon nesting, ongoing archaeological projects, and the use of the GIS, a new computer based program for locating key geographic factors to assist park operations. B. J. Griffin, Assistant Park Superintendent, will use her expertise in an open ended session, "Everything you've wanted to ask... about Yosemite!"

In addition, there will be tours of the special museum collections with Park Curator, Dave Forgang, and a chance to go behind the scenes at the Ahwahnee in several excursions there with hotel personnel. There will be signup sheets available at registration for these events which can accommodate only limited numbers.

In the late afternoon, there will be a wine and cheese reception for members. That gathering will also celebrate the publication of the new book, *Mountain Sage* which is the life story of Carl Sharsmith. Both Elizabeth O'Neill, the author, and Carl will be present to sign books which will be available for sale.

"Yosemite: The Fate of Heaven," a new hour-long video produced by The Yosemite Association and Robert Redford's Sundance Institute, with funding provided by Polaroid Corporation, will be shown in the East Auditorium in the evening.

tion, will be shown in the East Auditorium in the evening.

Registration will begin at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 8 in front of the East Auditorium behind the Visitors' Center. There will be events throughout the day continuing into the evening with breaks for lunch and dinner. A block of rooms has been reserved through the Yosemite Park & Curry Co. for the nights of April 7 and 8. If you wish to reserve one of those rooms, please call Paula at 209-454-2016. If you would like more information on the schedule or if we can be of any further assistance, call Gail or Holly at 209-379-2646. ▀

## Another Successful Member Work Week

**Eleven more enthusiastic and energetic YA members** arrived in the Park last August for the summer's second successful work week. Equipped with work gloves and garbage sacks, the group moved around Yosemite with a different project each day—walking trails and riverfront to clean up litter and prowling meadows to pull up exotic (non-native and invasive) vegetation.

This second group of members, like those who came last July, expressed feelings of camaraderie coupled with the satisfaction of real accomplishment. So both the individuals and

the Park environment seem to benefit greatly, YA members for August were: Ann Harding, Nancy Menken, Ruben Balzar, Andy Cohen and his daughter Rachel, Nancy Schulenberg, Jean Thompson, Charles Clark, Susan Taylor, Mary Vocelka, and Herb Lee.

At the conclusion of the two trips, the record was impressive. Mullein, an exotic plant from the Mediterranean, had been cleared from all known sites in the Yosemite Valley. Thousands of plants were pulled up and seed heads carefully discarded. The banks along the Merced River in the Valley were cleaned up with major amounts of litter collected. A sizable section of the South Fork of the Merced was also cleaned, and Park Service personnel estimated that it was a 10 year accumulation of trash. Volunteers walked the Four Mile Trail, Panorama Trail, Pohono Trail, Glen Aulin Trail, and several other major trails. Each trail produced at least one full garbage bag of debris. And finally, approximately 25 large fire rings were obliterated from areas near the John Muir Trail as part of a project to return overused campsites to a more natural condition.

If you would like to participate in this year's work trips, watch for announcements in upcoming bulletins or call the El Portal office and talk to Gail or Holly at (209) 379-2646. ▀

A YA seminar group at Boothe Lake.

## Wanted: Two Tuolumne Volunteers

### The Field Seminar Program

needs two volunteers for the seminar campground area in the Tuolumne Meadows campground. These are new positions designed for the summer programs held in Tuolumne which require your presence during the times when participants are arriving for their classes to assign campsites according to type of vehicle and length of each person's stay. In addition, you'll work with the NPS and Ticketron staff.

The volunteers can be a couple or individuals who would like the opportunity to meet lots of enthusiastic folks, help them get to the right campsite, and generally be an information source for teachers and participants so that the campground arrangements run smoothly.

For your effort you'll receive a small stipend of \$6 per day, a free campsite, a day here or there on some of the seminars, and a chance to help a great program be a success in Tuolumne Meadows. The dates would start at the end of July and go through the end of August. If you're interested, please write to the Seminar Coordinator, Yosemite Association, P.O. Box 250, El Portal, Ca. 95318. Any questions, please call (209) 379-2646. ▀

## A Take Pride Winner

**The Yosemite Park & Curry Co.**, the concessionaire at Yosemite National Park, has been recognized as one of seven winners in the California division of the Take Pride in America program.

Take Pride in America is a nationwide effort to protect and preserve the natural and cultural resources on public lands. Henry R. Agonia, state director of parks and recreation, cited the company for funding and carrying out environmental projects in the park. ▀



DAVE SANTOS

# Yosemite Viewpoints

## Lack of Clarity

We hope you will keep us informed through the newsletter on the status of "management" and "let-go" burns in the park, especially the rethinking of the national directors of policy that is bound to occur since the so-called debacle at Yellowstone.

Actually, our feelings are mixed: for at least the last five years when we've been in Yosemite, either North Rim or Southern Yosemite high country, the skies have been grey with smoke. Sometimes acrid smelling. We find ourselves apologizing to our foreign and out-of-state visitors, "Shoot! If you could only see this tremendous view without all the smoke..."

On the other hand, there is such an accumulation of material on the slopes below 9000 feet, probably from eighty years of a no-burn policy, that we'll be lucky if thirty years of judicious let-burns can control the situation. We're trying to resign ourselves to the reality of never seeing clear skies again. So we would appreciate any clarity you can contribute to the problem.

Mrs Gordon Williams  
Pacific Grove

## Ranger Dick & the 7-day Loop

During the week of July 3, 1988 I had the absolute pleasure and joy of taking the 7-day loop trip in Yosemite. That hike in and of itself is certainly spectacular. I must say, however, that it was made even more special by the fact that we had as our group leader Dick Ewart.

Dick brought such a special quality to that week that I had to write and let you know what a treasure you have in "Ranger Dick." He carries a wonderful combination of deep love of Yosemite, a remarkable knowledge of the area, high energy, sensitivity, and "people skills" that made this experience truly unique and special for me and my sister-in-law. We felt at all times that we



NPS PHOTO

were in good, capable, and knowledgeable hands.

I thank the Yosemite Association and "Ranger Dick" for a truly memorable week.

Terry Kulka  
Oakland

## Too Negative?

Having just been reelected to the Board of Trustees of the Yosemite Association for a third term, I feel it is timely to offer constructive advice of the status and future of the Association.

As President of the Yosemite Park and Curry Co., I have been intimately involved in protecting the Yosemite environment and feel that I have a good grasp of the state of Yosemite and environmental trends in the Park.

I believe the Association has been taking a needlessly negative attitude toward Yosemite and the very real progress that has and is being made to improve it. I believe that Yosemite is in pretty good shape, and most important, is steadily improving, not "in danger" as the headline of the summer issue of *Yosemite* proclaimed.

Yosemite is in good shape and rapidly progressing toward excellent condition. It has been a pleasure to watch improvements being made in the past decade

Vogelsang Lake, for which Joseph Smeaton Chase had his own place name explanation.

and we are proud to play a part in some of them. Let's look at the improvements over the past few years.

**1. Land occupied** by development has been substantially reduced in Yosemite. Due to the actions of the NPS and the Yosemite Park and Curry Co., the YP&CCo. woodyard by the Lower Brother was eliminated, the employee housing between the chapel and Curry Village was removed, and the NPS buildings used as a community center and as an outreach facility were removed and the Big Trees Lodge in the Mariposa Grove of Big Trees was removed. The NPS Camp Six was removed. With major funding from the Association, the abandoned sewer plant has been removed. These many acres have been freed of development and are reverting to a natural condition. The only new development is minor: a new courthouse, two buildings for NPS campground reservations, a few tents and support facilities for employee housing and some necessary improvements to utility systems. The net effect has been that more of Yosemite is in a natural condition than a few years ago.

**2. Two endangered species** have returned to Yosemite. The Peregrine Falcon on its own, with help from the NPS, and the Bighorn Sheep which was reintroduced to Yosemite by the NPS with major funding from YA. No species have disappeared or become less abundant. Habitat for the Great Gray owl has been expanded through cessation of grazing of substantial meadow complexes at Empire Meadow and Wawona. Studies are showing that this endangered species is more abundant than once believed.

**3. Fragile meadow areas** previously impacted by grazing or human trampling have been and are being restored. In addition to the meadows previously mentioned, YA is helping to restore meadows in Yosemite Valley with funding from Chevron.

**4. Legislative protection** for Yosemite has improved. Only recently was most of Yosemite protected as wilderness. Both the Tuolumne and the Merced Rivers are now in the Wild and Scenic system, providing additional protection within Yosemite as well as protecting critical scenic, recreational, habitat, and wilderness values on the Park perimeter. Mono Lake, a critical part of the greater Yosemite ecosystem, nears protection through congressional action and the efforts of the Mono Lake Committee. The threat of low level scenic overflights have almost been eliminated by congressional action actively supported by the Curry Company.

**5. Environmental initiatives** by the Curry Company have contributed to making the management of Yosemite a model for the nation. Environmentally unsound products ranging from polystyrene foam to detachable flip tops and chlorofluorocarbon aerosols have been eliminated. Recycling has become a routine means for disposal of aluminum, glass, cardboard, newspaper, computer printouts, crankcase oil, and

*Continued on page 15*

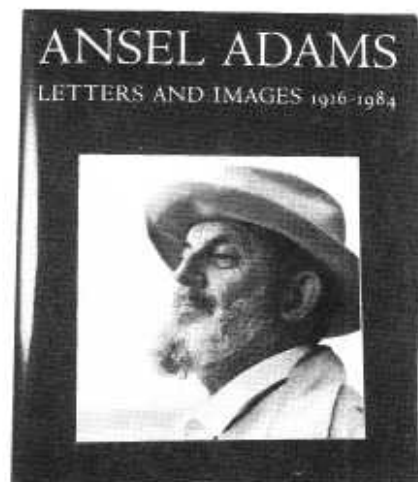
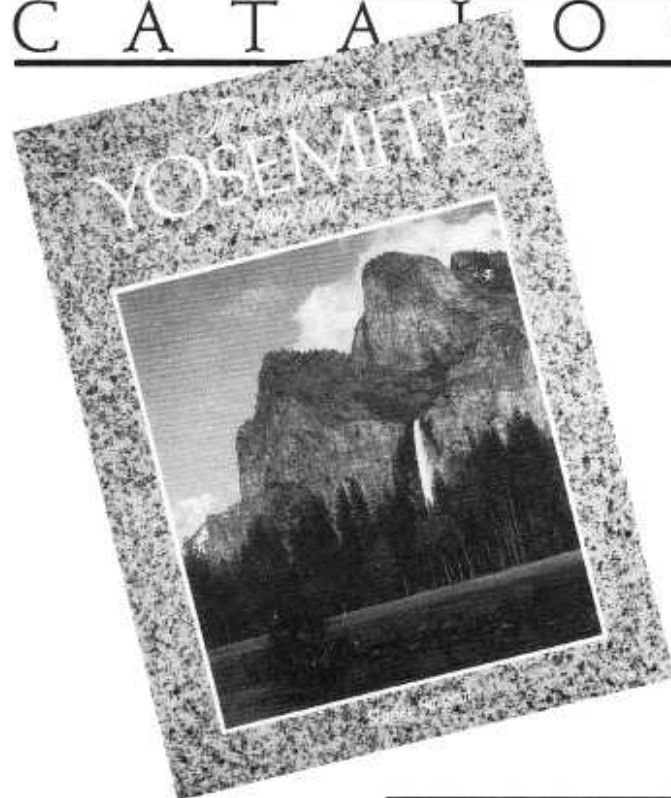
# THE Yosemite

## CATALOG



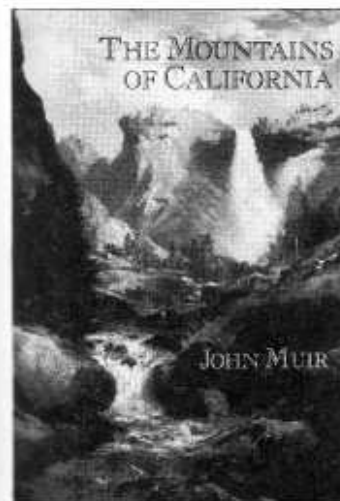
**A** *Yosemite 1890-1990: The First 100 Years* by Shirley Sargent. Here is the first book to celebrate Yosemite's upcoming Centennial, and it's a beauty. Utilizing large format color photographs and a first-rate text by local historian Shirley Sargent, this volume is handsomely designed and printed. Chapter coverages range from pioneer adventures to wildlife and geology. Yosemite Park & Curry Co., 1988. #19625 (paper): \$8.95. #19626 (cloth): \$15.00.

**B** *Keepers of the Earth: Native American Stories and Environmental Activities for Children* by Michael J. Caduto and Joseph Bruchac. This is a fine resource book combining traditional Native American stories with science studies. The clear message for children is that we are all connected to nature and that we need to understand and care for the earth. Highly recommended for parents and teachers alike. Fulcrum, Inc., 1988. #12130 (cloth): \$18.95.

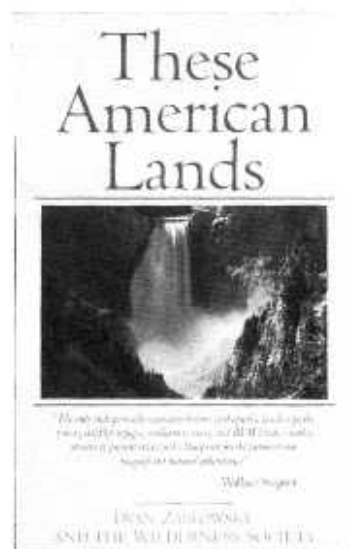


#15915 (paper): \$14.95. #15916 (cloth): \$31.95.

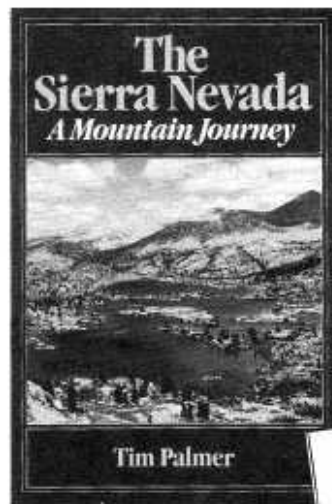
**F** *Ansel Adams—Letters and Images 1916-1984*, edited by Mary Alinder and Andrea Stillman. This is the long-awaited companion to Ansel Adams' best selling autobiography. Handsomely produced, it combines the highlights of a lifetime of letter writing with his distinctive photographs. Wherever he went, Adams carried a portable typewriter, and during his life he wrote thousands of letters and postcards to family, friends, fellow photographers, environmentalists and politicians. From these pages emerges a rich vision of the celebrated photographer's passion and love for life. #5570 (cloth): \$50.00.



**C** *The Mountains of California* by John Muir. Published in honor of John Muir's 150th birthday, this new edition is illustrated with etchings and engravings from the ten-volume *Picturesque California* edited by Muir some 100 years ago. If your library does not yet contain a copy of this classic study of the Sierra and Coast mountain ranges, this book is well worth the addition. With an introduction by Robert C. Baron. Fulcrum, Inc., 1988. #13000 (cloth): \$22.95.



**D** *These American Lands* by Dyan Zaslowsky and The Wilderness Society. This is the first book ever published to give the history and propose a future for each unit of federal and held in public trust — land that accounts for almost 1/3 of our nation's land-mass. Included is assessment of management policy and a plea for vigilance to ensure protection for the future. An informative appendix and black and white illustrations. Henry Holt, 1986. #17030 (cloth): \$22.95.



**E** *The Sierra Nevada: A Mountain Journey* by Tim Palmer. The source of the essays excerpted in this issue, the book is the author's account of his nine month trip from the southern end of the Cascades to Walker pass and the desert beyond. Palmer has a knack for getting people to talk, and his hundreds of conversations produced a fascinating array of images of the Sierra from a wide variety of perspectives. Considerable references to Yosemite are extremely insightful. Quite readable and non-traditional. Island Press, 1988. #15915 (paper): \$14.95. #15916 (cloth): \$31.95.



Michael J. Caduto and Joseph Bruchac  
Foreword by N. Scott Momaday  
Illustrations by John Kalvezon Pankake and Carol Wood

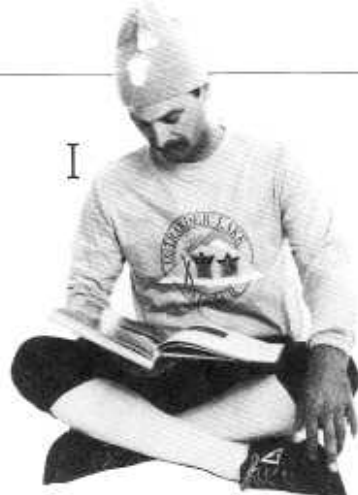
B

# 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** Ostrander Lake T-shirts. Become affiliated with an elite Yosemite ski club with one of our fashionable "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 (S,M,L,XL), \$10.50, #1670  
Long-sleeve (S,M,L,XL), \$15.00, #1674



**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.

**J** Yosemite Enamel Pin. Designed especially for the Association, our enamel 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.



J



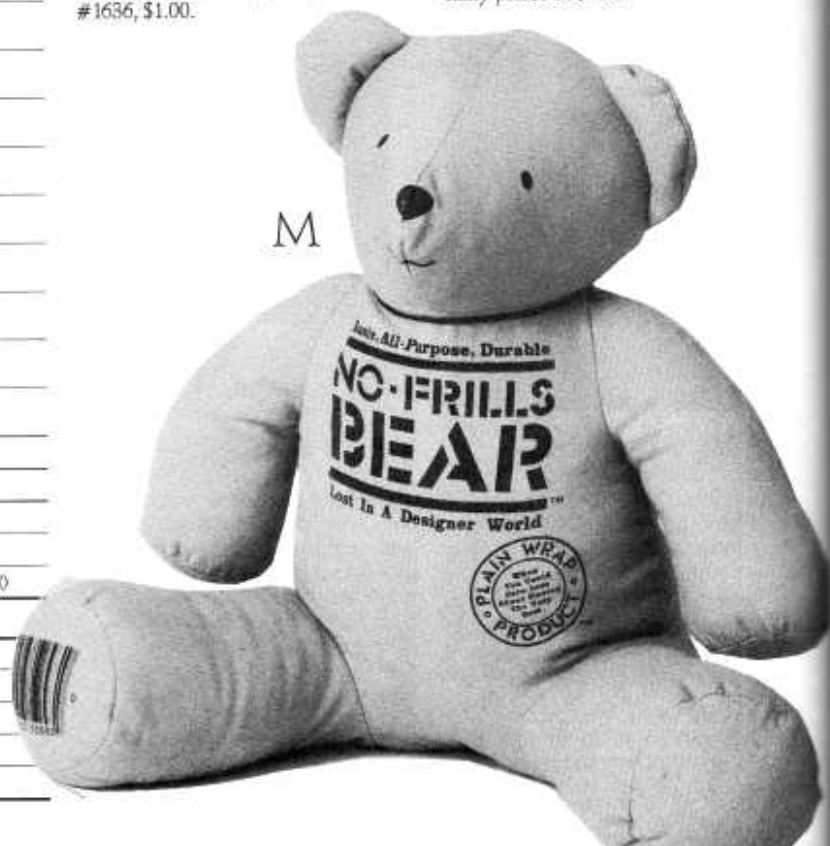
L



## Yosemite Association

**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** No-Frills Bear. He may be basic, but he's definitely lovable. Light brown in color and declaring himself "lost in a designer world," our bear will never go out of style. A favorite of kids, the "No-Frills Bear" stands 10 inches tall. #50230: \$8.00—now specially priced at \$4.95!



M

## 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:	
				<b>Subtotal A:</b>	
				6% Sales Tax (CA customers only)	
				Shipping charge	\$ 1.50
				<b>Total enclosed</b>	



Ordered by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Membership Number: \_\_\_\_\_

## Open Pit Gold

*Continued on page 7*

as that created by the massive trucks. Population increases, they contended, would place a burden on schools, law enforcement and health agencies. Then, there were those who were content with the county's present relaxed pace and preferred it to remain, despite the potential for a boosted economy.

The Mariposa planning people have kept Yosemite officials informed of the details of the Pine Tree Project. Because of the relatively short distance between the mine and the Park's western boundary, concerns have been registered over the chance that in the mine's normal operation, a potential exists for toxic substances to be airborne over the Park, creating acid rain which would be a real threat to the waters, the fish and wildlife, the forests and meadows. Park officials, with the advice of the N.P.S. Air Quality

Division in Denver, expressed no fears that Yosemite's environment would be at risk. Monitoring stations have been set up along the Park's western edge and a base air quality norm established. These would register any unacceptable level of toxic material. What action would be taken if the toxicity level is exceeded isn't clear. Would Golden Bell be required to shut down, or in the unlikely event of a major malfunction, could the offending machinery be repaired before severe and permanent damage befell Yosemite?

### A Winding Down?

Information for the above was gathered sporadically over the past several months. It was expected that the defeat of Measure "B" would represent a climax to the long period of debate and would cause the mining people

to prepare their revised E.I.R., get it certified by the Mariposa Supervisors and be off and running... or digging. This hasn't happened.

## YP&CCo&Yosemite

*Continued on page 12*

most recently, antifreeze.

There has been so much progress. Why isn't this ever mentioned? Why the negative approach? Let's appreciate the improvements and work to do more. We should point out real problems and needs and constructive ways to address them. We should help implement solutions, not constantly exaggerate Yosemite's problems.

Edward C. Hardy  
Yosemite



## Incumbent Board Members Retained

**YA Board** incumbents Tom Shephard, Ed Hardy and Dan Wolfus have been declared elected without a vote to new six year terms. As provided by the bylaws, when no nominations for board vacancies are received at the Members' Meeting, no election is held and the candidates nominated by the board are deemed elected.

Tom Shephard has served as Chairman of the Board of the Association for many years and works as an attorney in private practice in Stockton. His many contributions to the organization and his fine leadership have distinguished his service.

Ed Hardy, President of the Yosemite Park & Curry Co., has contributed his knowledge of the park and a willingness to involve the concessioner in projects with YA. Dan Wolfus has been active on many levels with both the Association and the Yosemite Fund. The President of Hancock Savings and Loan in Los Angeles, he owns a home in Wawona where he spends lots of weekend time.

The Yosemite Association congratulates these board members on their new terms and looks forward to a continued benefit from their participation in our work.

## 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

Babette Yeager Jackson, Jim & Vanita Meehan, Rebecca Fall, Don & Stacey Hickman, Robert & Diane Volpe, Dr William M Lande, John T Moore, Tobey Barnes, Ben L Barnes, Lecia Duplechin, Knight Malinowski, Marlene Sandberg, John Gould, Judy Have, Alfred Eggen, Paul & Fran Rubendall, Donald English, Sydney Smith, Frak Papiernial, Carolyn Naples, Robert Jones, Karen Thurber, Don & Donna Bane, Frances Liu, Mike Deas, Mr & Mrs A R Williams, Mr & Mrs Robert J Lee, Rick Hartman, Murry Buckheim, Mrs E Modlin, Silvana DeJonghe, Dr Rasjidah Franklin, Matt & Deb Labass, Taki Tu, Joseph Poppo, Joe & Pat Kappl, Jonathan Bates, David M Morgan, Claudette Jenkins, Bob & Barbara Deal, Eduardo Xavier, Carolyn Louis Fitzgerald, Edith Blankman, Bar-

bara Green, Marianne Johnson, Nancy Ostrawski, Bill Cronquist, Mary Kay & Bill Stoehr, J Yang, Joseph Lau III, Denise Fruitt, Dr Gordon Ainsleigh, Diane & Gary Elia, Joanne & David Deyell, Tom Henrichs, Regina Palley, Louise & Rudy Shappee, Maxine Hutchin, Marian Perry, Michael Maionchi, Marcia & Ralph Johnson, Alan Sweger, Nelle Minnick, Bobby & Jennifer Moore, J Fulton & A Prescott, Dave & Cynthia Talabar, Mr & Mrs David Hudson, Richard Baugh, Jane Commet, Vicki Yuhasz, Mr & Mrs H Keyani, Jean Clemente, Harold Mountain, Jan Altman, Gerald Brown, Jess Ducey, Joy & Chuck Rowbotham, Tom Leatherman, Shawn Stiner, Rick Stryd, Dr Elise Haug, Marie Acree, Gay Katilus, Joan & Russell Jones, William Jones, Doug & Theresa Swincheart, Mr Peter Beeman, Joe & Joan Baadman, Sherri Kikuchi, Frank & Meg Gerlach, William H Ryan, Freddy Alewine, Karrie Roth, Jack Goddard, Mr Hubert Zielske, Mrs Terry Nelson, Nancy Englund, Harold Levy, Barbara Cross, Anson Moran, Wade Hamilton, Guy Neenan, Ray O'Connell, William Ransley, James & Marsha Rea, Gerry Dunning, Roy Buckner, Dave & Carrie Lambert, Joan & Harold Brashears, Robert & Linda Cohenour.

## Yosemite Visitation Hits 3.3 Million

**Travel to Yosemite** increased 2% in 1988 with a record 3,333,927 visitors counted. The bulk of the increase came during the winter months, the traditional off-season period. National Park Service officials report that over the past ten years, winter use has increased 50%. As well, the busy season (generally May through September) has been expanding to April through October.

## Final Frontier

*Continued on page 5*

step further. They hired two people for two days to double check the filming locations for litter. When it was decided that the filming sites were clean, they let the Park Service decide what areas needed work, and Paramount paid for some extra trash clean up in the Park. In addition to the clean up work, Paramount donated \$10,000 to the Yosemite Association for the funding of environmental projects in the Park. It also donated \$3,000 to the Mountain Safety Fund.

If you're interested, *Star Trek V—The Final Frontier*, is scheduled for release in June. Yosemite, of course, is open all year.

### Supporting Members

Melinda Goodwater, Bob & Claudia Law, Mrs Sally Huff, John & Ruth Heine, Larry Wolken, Cheri Delgado, David & Beatrice Lifton, Julie Baucorn & Brent Carey, Charles Robert Johnson, Lester Van Tatenhove, Jan & Ron Torrano, R M White, Barbara Cordero-Hill, Lauri Klimasewiski.

### Contributing Members

Ann-Jeanette Rankin, M H Lobell, Renee Taylor, Mark & Linda Evans, H S Anderson & Pat Sager, John Packel, Capt & Mrs J Douglas Smith, Mike Glantz, Mark Cossari.

### Sustaining Members

Ronald A Lugone, John & Georgette Dewyer.

### Life Members

Mr & Mrs Jim Block, Helen E Abromovitch, Patrick & Charlotte McDuffee, Mr & Mrs James Goggin, Barbara Chasteen.

### Participating Life Members

Chris Koerner.



Yosemite Association  
Post Office Box 230  
El Portal, CA 95318.

Address correction requested  
Forwarding and return postage guaranteed

Non-profit Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Yosemite Association

00145920

U C Berkeley  
Main Lib./Serials Dept  
Berkeley, CA 94720

## 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 Sydorak;

*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, achivally mounted.

Membership dues are tax-deductible as provided by law.

## Yosemite Association

### Board of Trustees

Thomas J Shephard  
*Chairman*  
William Alsup  
Beverly Barrick  
Barbara DeWitt  
Carlo S Fowler  
Edward C Hardy  
William J Popejoy  
Richard Reitnauer  
Lennie Roberts  
David Robertson  
Anne Schneider  
Phyllis Weber  
Daniel Wolfus  
Leonard W McKenzie  
*NPS Representative*  
John M Morehead  
*NPS Representative*  
Jeffery C Lapham  
*Ex officio*  
Elvira Nishkian  
*Ex officio*  
Richard C Otter  
*Ex officio*

### President

Steven F Medley

### Sales

Patricia Wight  
*Manager*  
Rose Laughter  
*Assistant*

### Seminar Coordinator

Penny Otwell

### Bookkeeper/Office Manager

Claire Haley

### Membership Coordinators

Gail Pyle  
Holly Warner

### Secretary/Cashier

Sandy Halasz

### Consultant

Henry Berrey

Please enroll me in the Yosemite Association as a . . .

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regular Member \$20.00    | <input type="checkbox"/> Contributing Member \$50.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Life Member \$500.00                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting Member \$35.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining Member \$100.00  | <input type="checkbox"/> Participating Life Member \$1,000.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse add \$5.00         |  |   |

Name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my check or money order for \$ \_\_\_\_\_, or charge to my credit card

Bankamericard/VISA: Number \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

MasterCard: Number \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to:

Yosemite Association, Post Office Box 230, El Portal, CA 95318. 209/379-2646

### For Office Use

Paid:	Card #	Exp. Date:	Gift:	File:	Comp:
-------	--------	------------	-------	-------	-------

## 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.

# Yosemite

is published quarterly for members of the Yosemite Association, edited by Steven P. Medley, and designed by Jon Goodchild/Triad. Copyright ©1989 Yosemite Association. Submission of manuscripts, photographs and other materials is welcomed.





Digitized by  
Yosemite Online Library

<http://www.yosemite.ca.us/library>

Dan Anderson