It's been almost ten years since the 1980 General Management Plan (GMP) for Yosemite National Park was signed, sealed and delivered by the National Park Service (NPS). With the coming of Yosemite's centennial as a national park in 1990, a special NPS "team" was commissioned within the last year to examine the goals of the GMP to determine what's been accomplished in the past decade and what lies ahead at Yosemite.

The result of the team's efforts is a disturbing document entitled Draft Yosemite GMP Examination Report dated August, 1989. The report restates the NPS commitment to fulfilling the "basic vision" of the 1980 GMP, but by its handling of the examination, by its apparent willingness to compromise basic elements of the plan, by its failure to actively seek funding for implementation and by its focus on obstacles and not solutions, the Park Service has effectively repudiated the plan and its goals.

**History**

The 1980 GMP was the culmination of five years of planning and public involvement. Data collection including a Visitor Use Survey and public meetings began the process, and formulation of alternatives and the development of a workbook for the public followed. I remember I journeyed to Yosemite to sit out in Churchbowl Meadow to complete my workbook. It was not a simple task, and there were others I saw in the park that day also doing their homework.

Phase three required over two years and saw the analysis of the workbook results (somewhere on the order of 60,000 people responded) and the creation of a draft General Management Plan and a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Public hearings on the draft plan followed, and during 1979 the final plan and EIS were written. Supplementary material was added to each of the documents in early 1980, and the revised final General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement were approved on September 17, 1980.

The plan was the product of much thought, consideration and discussion. Care was taken to identify problems, both potential and existing, and to develop a policy for the plan in light of impediments, based both on the NPS mandate and the will of the public.

**A Flawed Process**

Given the thoroughness with which the 1980 plan was developed, the Examination Report is remarkable for its lack of input from the public or from park managers, for its secretive nature, and for the restrictiveness of its comment period.

The report was prepared by two NPS staffers from outside the park, neither of whom worked on the 1980 GMP. This team reportedly sought no meaningful input from NPS management or staff in Yosemite (single, isolated
The tone of the latest report suggests a willingness to delay to the point of reversing policies put in place by a wonderful democratic process in 1980.

— YA MEMBER LINDA V. ELKIN, PALO ALTO

The following air dates and times are tentative only, so be sure to consult your local listings for the broadcast schedule in your area.

San Francisco Bay Area (KQED): 12/9 at 8 pm, 12/10 at 6:30 pm, and 12/14 at 11:35 pm
Fresno (KNTF): 11/21 at 8 pm
Sacramento (KVIE): 11/21 at 9 pm, 11/22 at 7 pm, 11/24 at 11 am, and 11/26 at 5 pm
Redding (KIXE): 11/21 at 9 pm
Eureka (KEET): 11/21 at 9 pm, 11/22 at 11:30 pm, and 11/25 at 5 pm
Los Angeles (KCET): 11/21 at 9 pm and 11/29 at 11:30 pm
San Diego (KPBS): 11/21 at 9 pm and 11/23 at 1 pm
Reno (KNTB): 11/21 at 9 pm, 11/23 at 1 am, and 11/24 at 12 Noon.

Yosemite Film on National Television

Yosemite: The Fate of Heaven, the new documentary film co-produced by the Yosemite Association and Sundance Institute, has been scheduled to air nationally on the Public Broadcast System in November and December. It will be included in the “American Experience” series.

Directed and produced by Jon Else with narration by Robert Redford, the film was the winner of a Blue Ribbon at the American Film and Video Festival this spring. While the documentary has qualified for an Academy Award nomination, it has not yet been so nominated. All those associated with the film are keeping their fingers crossed.

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San Francisco Bay Area (KQED): 12/9 at 8 pm, 12/10 at 6:30 pm, and 12/14 at 11:35 pm
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Get Your Facts Straight

Critics of the examination report point out that the document is full of factual inaccuracies and errors and that it cites visitor preferences and social trends which are undocumented (which makes the choice to eschew in-park review even more inexcusable).

For example, in commenting on the plan to use shuttle buses to bring visitors into Yosemite Valley, the report states: “It is estimated that to accommodate existing visitation, buses would be required to leave once a minute from destination and satellite sites.” No known study substantiates this estimate, it is probably incorrect, and it inaccurately suggests that at present a private automobile enters the park every 3 or 4 seconds (60 bus passengers versus 4 occupants per car). Why hasn’t the matter been studied and hard data developed?

In discussing the relocation of non-essential operational structures out of Yosemite Valley, the authors state that “the definition of which operational functions are essential to stay in the Valley or which should be removed, as allowed by the 1980 GMP, has not been fully resolved.” This assertion is ridiculous in light of the fact that the 1980 GMP clearly and specifically provides that definition by detailing the eventual disposition of every single function in Yosemite Valley (see pages 31 through 43 of the plan).

The examination draft cites the conflict with the 1980 GMP posed by the recent designation of certain historic buildings in Yosemite Valley “which should be retained by law” and cannot now be removed as specified in the plan. This is patently untrue in that the federal law allows such historic structures to be removed following complete documentation and photographing (the “106 process”). The process is a time-consuming one and is not automatic, but the buildings can be removed.

El Portal was identified in the 1980 plan as the preferred location for all administrative functions. The examination report states that El Portal has proven to have severe limitations on how many new structures can be accommodated there, among them a presence of archeological sites in the fatter portions of the area. Hundreds of hours of archeological work have been performed since 1980 in El Portal to mitigate the impact of proposed development, and the Park Archeologist has reportedly stated that archeological concerns are manageable at this point. Why didn’t the NPS examination team call the NPS archeologist and find this out?

More “facts” presented in the context of the overnight accommodations issue are the following: “With the graying of America, comes the graying of the park visitor with a strong preference for more private lodging with a bath available in all four seasons. Given these considerations, there are a large number of people who object to reducing the status quo in numbers of overnight lodging units.” Who are these people, where do they live, who interviewed them, what other results came out of the study, and who conducted the research? These opinions should not be passed off as data.

While other examples exist, the above illustrations point to major problems with the report. Unevenness, factual errors, and a lack of thoroughness infect the document and make it suspect.

The Documents Compared

At the heart of the 1980 GMP was a desire to make Yosemite Valley a place less congested, less
developed and more attuned to the uncluttered, inspirational natural beauty and rhythms that visitors anticipate. Key objectives of the plan were as follows:

- relocating non-essential operational structures out of Yosemite Valley;
- relocating non-essential NPS, concessioner and other housing out of Yosemite Valley;
- markedly reducing traffic congestion in Yosemite Valley;
- reducing overnight accommodations; and
- allowing natural processes to prevail.

These goals were based on consistent policy considerations, and specific steps for implementation were then formulated. These prescribed actions included such items as removing 116 campsites adjacent to the Merced River, retaining the Ahwahnee Hotel, and moving NPS and Yosemite Park & Curry Co. (YP&CC) administrative, maintenance, and warehousing functions to El Portal.

The Yosemite GMP Examination Report is reportedly not an "action" document; it proposes no changes. But if it is to be used as the basis for future planning decisions, its philosophy and thrust are significant for Yosemite. Fortunately, the impression one gets from a cursory study of the Examination Report is that implementation of much of the 1980 GMP is either too complicated, too unpopular, or too costly. I am sure that those who worked on the GMP knew that it would be difficult to implement. That is not an adequate reason for modifying it.

—YA MEMBER DOROTHIA F. BAMFORD, MONTE SERENO.

A Draft Analysis of Accomplishments to Date, (a document to which almost no attention has been paid) is frighteningly specific in its proposals for major modifications to the 1980 blueprint. Ostensibly prepared to list point by point accomplishments in the implementation of the GMP, the analysis goes much further. It includes "potential changes from the 1980 GMP" and "projections for the future."

A typical example is the discussion relative to the proposal to remove Degnan's which includes a restaurant, fast-food service, delicatessen and gift sales. A "potential change" identified is to retain Degnan's for the foreseeable future. The entry reads: "Intent of removal was to have space for bus turn around and to open up scenic vista." The document projects for the future that perhaps gift sales will be dropped, but removal is not anticipated. By who's decree is this change to be made?

Also shocking is the treatment of several 1980 GMP recommendations relating to the concessioner's operation. Removal of the concession headquarters building, removal of Camp 6 (a concession employee tent area), and the removal of the row of houses that sits on the edge of Ahwahnee Meadow were all called for in 1980, but none of them have been accomplished. NPS "projections for the future" state that each of the issues will be included in the NPS/concessioner contract negotiations which will be taking place sometime before 1993 when the present concessioner contract expires. Since when have elements of the General Management Plan been the subject of negotiations between the Park Service and its contractor?

Policy Changes Uncalled For

The Examination Plan is disturbing itself. Many of the comments provided as descriptions of the "Dimensions of the Problem" read like excuses for taking a new policy course. Under the topic of traffic congestion, four obstacles to realizing the 1980 goal are listed. Reasons like funding, visitor resistance, and a difficulty in locating satellite parking areas suggest the conclusion that automobile problems can't be solved.

Much of the blame for the congestion problem is placed at the feet of day-users, those who do not spend the night in Yosemite Valley. But for the past decade, the NPS has been encouraging the development of overnight accommodations on the park's boundaries, and enormous numbers of new units have been built. To suggest now that day-users should somehow be limited or penalized for using these out-of-park accommodations is betrayed at best.

The report implies that a variety of factors prevents the removal of administrative facilities, both NPS and concessioner, to El Portal. Operational functions have not changed and historic building obstacles can be overcome, but no major operations have been moved from Yosemite Valley with a corresponding reduction of office or administrative space. Not a single valid reason,

"We don't mean to minimize the volume of people you have to deal with, but we think the Park Service approach to 'de-market' the park is severely inadequate. People may prefer the convenience of their own car, but that is not realistic in this situation. Nor is waiting for some miracle in technology and funding."

—YA MEMBERS KATHERINE AND PAUL PAGE, MAMMOTH LAKES.
“Most of us grays’ prefer vacations out of season when accommodations everywhere are more easily available. Our time scheduling is flexible. Many of us still hike (and backpack), and while an indoor bath is certainly preferable in winter, if it means more buildings in the Valley, I’ll opt for the communal bathhouse.”

—YA MEMBER E.D. RIEGER, SAN FRANCISCO

Graying Americans will understand that there are only so many rooms available at the inn! Even if they don’t understand, the number of rooms is still constant. Graying Americans are savvy and will eventually understand the NPS is protecting the integrity of Yosemite.

—YA MEMBER JIM WEAVER, RIVERBANK.

To Get a Copy of the Examination Report

You may obtain a copy of the Draft Yosemite General Management Plan Examination Report by calling Allan Bedwell at (415) 556-5750 or writing him c/o NPS, 450 Golden Gate Avenue, Box 36063, San Francisco, CA 94102. Be sure to also request copies of the 1980 General Management Plan and the document entitled The 1980 Yosemite GMP: A Draft Analysis of Accomplishments to Date. If you choose to comment on the Examination Report, please share a copy with us by mailing it to the Yosemite Association, PO Box 230, El Portal, CA 95318. The NPS deadline for comments is January 1, 1990.

Skipp McLaughlin is an environmentalist, an architect of and the first donor to the Yosemite Fund, and a life member of the Yosemite Association who served for many years on its Board of Trustees. The opinions expressed in his article are not necessarily those of the Board or management of the Yosemite Association.
New Yosemite Superintendent

Michael V. Finley, 42, was recently named to the superintendent of Yosemite National Park. Finley, an Oregon native with extensive experience in the National Park Service, had been serving as superintendent at Florida's Everglades National Park.

NPS Director James M. Ridenour said: "Mike Finley is a dynamic manager whose career has been marked by a succession of accomplishments. I have the utmost confidence in Mike for this important position. He expressed a deep interest in taking on the challenge of Yosemite, and I definitely feel he is the right person for the job."

"Everglades has been an exceptional challenge with the diversity of ecological concerns that affect the delicate resources of the park," Finley said. "Only the rare opportunity to work with the comparable, though very different, challenges of Yosemite could have induced me to leave Florida."

"I deeply appreciate the confidence that Director Ridenour has shown by allowing me to make the move to Yosemite. I'm looking forward to developing a close working relationship with all levels of government, the private sector and the public in this new setting," Finley added.

Stanley T. Albright, director of the Service's Western Region, echoed Ridenour in noting that Finley's wide-ranging experience provides a strong background for managing Yosemite, one of the world's most famous parks and a focal point for a wide variety of visitor-use and environmental issues as the Service looks toward the celebration of Yosemite's centennial in 1990.

Finley will replace John M. "Jack" Morehead who recently left Yosemite to assume the Park Service's third-ranking post as Associate Director for Operations in Washington. Morehead also preceded Finley in the Everglades superintendency.

Finley has had three previous California assignments during his career, serving as a ranger at Pinnacles National Monument and at Yosemite as well as working as an "exchange ranger" assigned to the California State Park System.

His first superintendency was at Assateague Island National Seashore, followed by a stint as Associate Regional Director for Operations in Alaska. He moved to his Everglades position in May, 1986.

While in Florida, Finley was cited for his outstanding conservation efforts including the Conservationist of the Year Award from the Florida Audubon Society. Finley recently received an honor award from the National Park Service in recognition of his dedication and leadership in managing the natural resources in Everglades National Park.

"My family and I are, of course, also happy to return to the west where we can be closer to our families and our original home," Finley said.

A 1970 graduate of Southern Oregon State College, where he met his wife, Lillie, Finley holds a B.S. degree in biology. Their older daughter, Devon, 18, will enter the University of California at Davis as a freshman this year. Laura, 15, is a high school student.

Incumbents Keep Seats

Current YA board members

Barbara DeWitt and William Alsup were recently declared re-elected without a vote to new six-year terms. When no nominations by petition for board vacancies are received at the Members' Meeting as was the case this year, the board bylaws provide that the candidates nominated by the board are deemed elected without the requirement of an election.

Barbara DeWitt has served on the board of the Association since 1984 and was very active in the creation of the Yosemite Fund fundraising effort. She personally initiated YA's volunteer program and spent many hours in planning, organization and training. Along with her husband Tim, Ms. DeWitt has led a number of Association seminars, particularly those involving families and children. A location scout and production coordinator for commercial photographers, she resides in Mariposa.

William Alsup was appointed in early 1989 to fill the remaining year of the term of Skip McLaughlin who resigned. Alsup is an attorney in San Francisco who served as a law clerk to William O. Douglas on the U.S. Supreme Court. He is a gifted amateur photographer who produced the images for the YA publication, "Such A Landscape!" which he also edited. Chairman of the Association's General Management Plan Committee, he has been very active in his first year as board member.

The Yosemite Association congratulates these trustees on their re-election, expresses its thanks for their many contributions to our work, and extends best wishes for six more years of success.
“Doc” and the Professor

Susan Gahm

It's a windy day on Tioga Hill. It's the kind of day when eyelids try to close and escape from the relentless drying wind. In the shelter of a boulder I sit and listen to the wind and watch tiny plants shake in its gusts. Along with some other hikers, I have walked up Tioga Hill to ponder the past. It was here over 100 years ago where men dug and blasted holes into the earth in pursuit of gold and silver. Stone buildings which once housed those hardy workers now slowly crumble each year from the weight of snow, the force of frost-heaving and the occasional tourist's shove.

A typical visitor to this ghost town, I wonder what life was like then; I peer into the deep mines and shudder. But unlike most visitors here, I can stand where I know “Doc” Chase stood and made his claim to the riches locked in these rocks. I walk to the edge of Tioga Hill and look down to the meadow east of Tioga Lake where Professor Clayton and the others camped. I enjoy a vista only slightly different from the one they saw. The visit of Chase, Clayton and their associates was brief but significant for this country. Those campers at Tioga Lake were remarkable men, several of them famous during their time, but now largely unknown. They are worthy of remembrance.

In the late 1850's and 1860's, the area around Tioga Hill was little used by prospectors and miners who merely passed through. Few people bothered to stop for more than a drink of water. Gold and silver country lay either far to the west in the Mother Lode or to the east of the Sierra. The old Mono Trail came through Tuolumne Meadows and on over Mono Pass. Some travelers skirted the base of Tioga Hill to follow Brown's Pass Trail, but the hill itself was bypassed and avoided as an unnecessary climb.

In 1859 George W. "Doc" Chase, a dentist, left the town of Mono-ville (also called Mono Diggins) in the hills just north of Mono Lake. Near the northwestern shore, he headed west into the mountains, then south toward Ellery Lake by way of Brown's Pass Trail. At Ellery, Chase left the trail and headed west examining rocks that had tumbled down from the slopes. As he neared Tioga Lake, he began to climb the cliff to the west, what he saw looked promising. Near a small lake atop this mountain known as Tioga Hill, he found what he had been looking for: a quartz vein to remember. Making a mental note of his location, Chase rejoined the trail west and headed home to Mariposa. He kept his discovery to himself.

The following year, 1860, Captain Allan S. Crocker of Crocker's Station, and Judge Micaiah M. McGehee, Justice of the Peace in Big Oak Flat and Congressman for Tuolumne County, headed onto Monoville, traveling through the placers of the western hills. Along with McGehee and Crocker traveled "Professor" Joshua E. Clayton, Lawrence A. Brown, and George W. "Doc" Chase. Chase had other things on his mind besides a source of water—he was remembering that promising vein atop the Sierra crest.

After exploring the headwaters of Lee Vining Creek the party camped at the eastern base of Tioga Hill near Lake Jessie, today's Tioga Lake. The next day, while the rest remained in camp, Chase ascended the hill with a pick, shovel and tin can intent on claiming for the group "the biggest silver ledge ever discovered." He carefully studied the rock and walked the vein looking for the best location for a mine shaft. Choosing a site, "Doc" repeatedly swung the pick to break rock, and shoveled debris until he was satisfied with what he had found beneath the overlying rock.

The view from Tioga Hill looking northeast. Tioga Lake is in the foreground, Ellery Lake to the left background, and the Tioga Road winds its way down canyon. The party of 1860, including Doc Chase, probably camped in the meadow in the right foreground.

Flattening out the tin can, he scratched a message into the surface. ("We, the undersigned... 1860" were the only words of the mining claim left on the rusted metal note of his location, Chase rejoined the trail west and headed home to Mariposa. He kept his discovery to himself.

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that Clayton assay their newly found ore. The results showed the samples to be rich in silver. Most of the town emptied quickly with the loss of the ore. Clayton, Chase and Brown near the front of the pack heading for the new silver fields of the Esmeralda District and the newest boomtown of Aurora, Nevada.

In the first few days of Aurora's existence, Chase, Clayton and Brown made claim to one lode after another, formally laid out the town of Aurora, and proceeded to buy and sell town lots. To describe the times as "wild speculation days" is to understated things considerably.

Of the three men, "Doc" Chase attained the greatest wealth. Both records and rumors indicate that the single sale of a valuable mine put Chase on "Easy Street." The mine was the Wide West — the very mine that Samuel Clemens (Mark Twain) and his friend Cal Higbie attempted to acquire through a crafty but legitimate legal maneuver under the developing mining law of the time. As Clemens tells the true story in his book "Roughing It," he and Higbie proved to be "millionaires for a day" only. Through a series of unfortunate events, Clemens and Higbie lost their claim to the mine about as quickly as they had come by it. While Clemens had come to Aurora desiring riches and fame, he left richer in experience and anecdotes about the miner's life.

Aurora had transformed George "Doc" Chase from a simple Mariposa dentist into a wealthy mining investor. In later years he lived in San Francisco, Mexico and finally settled in Kern County. Lawrence A. Brown reportedly left Aurora with enough money to invest in Santa Catalina Island where he raised sheep and goats.

Joshua E. Clayton (the Professor) did not experience such financial success in Aurora, but he did adhere to his impressive and unparalleled knowledge of mining while he was there. Clayton was perhaps the most interesting and colorful of the Mariposa group. In 1855, he had testified before the State Assembly in favor of the exclusion of foreign workers from mining in California. Several years later Clayton worked for Colonel John C. Fremont as manager of Fremont's Mariposa estate. It was the Professor who surveyed and drew up the boundaries of the vast estate which included the town of Mariposa.

In the late 1850's a bitter dispute broke out between Fremont and Clayton over the design of the proposed Mariposa Canal. In a letter to a Fremont associate, Clayton made it clear he intended to defend his reputation as an honest engineer rather than bend to Fremont's demands that Clayton utilize a design that, in his opinion, would not work.

1860 found the Professor without a job, but with the freedom to prospect. On his journey to the mines, he stopped for a brief visit in the mountains around Tioga Hill. Arriving in Aurora, he was swamped with surveying, laying out the town lots, mapmaking, assaying, investing, and operating the most efficient mill in town. It was at this mill that Clayton became friends with two young men eager to learn his secret milling process. One of those young men was a fledgling writer — Samuel Clemens. In letters to his brother Orion, Clemens sang the praises of Joshua Clayton, but the latter's lessons were apparently wasted on the writer. Within two years, Clemens would be working for the Territorial Enterprise in Virginia City, Nevada, under the pen name of Mark Twain.

After Clayton left Aurora he worked throughout California, Utah, Nevada, Idaho, Montana and Oregon as a mining consultant advising mine owners and investors about everything from mining methods and canal design to geology, metallurgy and mineralogy. He was frequently assisted by his old friend, Lawrence Brown. Clayton's professional reputation was untarnished and unchallenged; he was frequently called in to court cases as an expert witness to comment on disputed mining claims. This was at a time when mining was big business and big money.

When Clayton died in a tragic stagecoach accident in July 1889, he was the most widely consulted and respected mining expert of his day — a great accomplishment for a man whose knowledge was gained not through formal schooling but from voracious reading and study in the field. The name "Professor" was given to him by friends who respected this knowledge and enjoyed his company.

None of the five men who called in to court cases as an expert witnessed the development of mines on Tioga Hill, the town of Bennettville and its Great Sierra Tunnel may never have occurred. And without Bennettville we can only speculate about how, when and if the Tioga Road would have been built.

In 1874, word got about this "lost" claim on Tioga Hill, and the real Yosemite silver rush began. It all started when a young sheepherder brought his herd to the windy spot. He found a pick, shovel and a rusty tin can that had been scratched with the words: "We the undersigned... 1850." Dreams of vast riches and an easy life filled his head. But that is another story...

Susan Calum is an Association member from Fresno with a passion for Yosemite's early history and the past mining activity here. She and her husband regularly explore the Sierra crest between Tioga Hill and Parker Pass.
Park Not Expanding

Thank you for contacting me to express your interest in HR 361 of the 100th Congress (a bill to enlarge Yosemite's size). I appreciate your interest in this matter.

HR 361 was a skeleton bill which set out some general areas of interest, including Yosemite expansion. It did not become law, and I have not reintroduced it in the 101st Congress. As you may know, I received many comments in opposition to the idea of even studying park expansion and many people confused my idea of studying Yosemite expansion on the eastern side with other more specific boundary changes proposed by various groups.

Again, thank you for your interest in our national parks.

Richard H. Lehman
Member of Congress
Sanger

Thank You, Volunteers

I would like to express my gratitude for all the excellent work provided to Yosemite's wilderness revegetation program by the volunteers from the Yosemite Association. Thanks to their tremendous effort, over 4,000 plants were prepared for propagation and will be planted back in denuded sites during the summer of 1990.

The volunteers also completed restoration of a closed trail in Tuolumne Meadows, and a large bare area in the meadows. Their high spirits even during a torrential downpour helped to inspire the Youth Conservation Corps crew that worked with them in our plant nursery. I hope we can do this again next summer.

Ben Alexander,
NPS Revegetation Specialist
Yosemite

Growing Apathy?

I read in disbelief in the Los Angeles Times about the Yosemite 10 year plan, and how so much of it seems to be canceled. As a California native and camper of Yosemite for the last 18 years, I am really appalled. There is no question that cars need to be limited in the Valley area, and that buildings should be removed. We cannot restore the ground cover unless we find a way to control day use. A daily limit of visitors would be in order. Any State Park and even beaches here in California have that kind of limitation.

I have also read that the Park has to remain accessible to everyone. Certainly we want everyone to enjoy the Park, but that is not humanly possible. If one is incapable of physically walking or hiking in Yosemite, does that mean we will put in an elevator to Half Dome? Of course not. We are naming not only a State treasure, but a National treasure if we do not adhere to the 10 year plan that was wisely developed. I wonder how my yearly donations to Yosemite can mean anything or do anything for the Park under this seemingly growing apathy to doing something to save it.

Susan A. Stanley
Mission Viejo

Attack of the Mountain Beaver

I was absolutely delighted with Paul Todd's excellent article in the YA publication, Yosemite, on the elusive Apodemus natalis californicus. In all my 46 years of close association with Yosemite's flora, fauna, and natural wonders I have never seen nor even heard of the mountain beaver — until August 28, 1989. Here's what happened.

A friend and I had hiked to Dewey Point via the McGurk Meadows trailhead. The sky was partly cloudy and as we were heading back after lunch, the clouds got darker and darker. Upon approaching the second Bridgell Creek tributary we noticed a willow bush on the edge of the trail shaking unusually hard for the slight breeze that was present. Then it stopped, and we proceeded with me in the lead.

We passed the willow and were wading through the tall grass hanging over the trail when I suddenly heard rustling about 5 feet from the trail edge. I stopped to observe a very large gopher-like brown furry creature with beady yellow eyes coming towards me.

Seeing he was about to attack me, I did a little dance so that he would hit my high-top leather boots rather than my bare shins. And that is exactly what he did, getting tangled a bit among my boots during his frenzy. He then disappeared into the grass just as quickly as he had appeared. I searched for awhile, but not knowing what he was, I didn't know what signs to look for.

I was thrilled at the sight of a “new” critter in Yosemite (my friend, however, had retreated 50 yards!) and I couldn’t wait to look him up. I finally found his description in Sierra Nevada Natural History which explains his nocturnal behavior, except occasionally he's active on dark cloudy days.

So now you must realize how exciting I was when I received the summer issue of Yosemite. Thanks to Paul Todd for his fine work and informative article.

Nancy Eckart
Mariposa

David Gaines Award to Reigelhuth

Dick Reigelhuth, long-time Chief of the Division of Resources Management at Yosemite who died last December, was honored recently as winner of the David Gaines Award for 1989. The award, established to recognize David Gaines and the contribution he made to protecting Mono Lake and increasing the public's knowledge of the greater Yosemite area, is sponsored by the Yosemite Association, the Yosemite Park & Curry Co., and the Ansel Adams Gallery.

Announcement of the award was made by Garrett DeBell at the annual meeting of the Mono Lake Committee, and he praised Reigelhuth for his important role in environmental protection and his love for Mono Lake and Yosemite. DeBell voiced his hope that the award will help bring recognition to those who have done so much and encourage others to follow in their footsteps.

A grant of $1,250 accompanies the award. The Reigelhuth family has asked that the money be forwarded to the Mono Lake Committee in Dick Reigelhuth's name. A perpetual plaque has been placed at the Mono Lake Visitor Center in Lee Vining, and Reigelhuth, the award's second recipient, will be honored there.

Nancy Eckart
Mariposa's Open Pit Mine Abandoned

Goldenbell Mining Corp. will not pursue plans to develop a gold mining project at two inactive mines in Mariposa County as had earlier been proposed. Open-pit operation of the Pine Tree and Josephine mines located in Bear Valley between Mariposa and Coulterville proved politically controversial and economically questionable.

Announcement of the change of heart came as a surprise to many when it was made by Carolyn Clark, vice-president of ABM Corp. of Vancouver, British Columbia, which owns Goldenbell. Speaking to the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors just before the board was scheduled to hear an appeal on the permit, Goldenbell had been granted by the Planning Commission in April. Clark indicated that her company was feeling pressure from the county to back away from the project and decided to withdraw until it had more support.

The $60 million dollar project would have employed 250 people and had an annual economic impact of $100 million (according to Clark), and in November, 1988, county voters had rejected a ballot measure that would have effectively prevented the mine. But following that vote, support apparently waned.

A number of environmental concerns were never addressed such as potential release of toxic chemicals and asbestos dust into the air, adverse earth movement from blasting, toxic spills, contamination of ground water, damage to the scenic beauty of the area and detrimental effects on wildlife, schools, roads, traffic and governmental services.

Chairwoman of the Board of Supervisors, Gertrude Taber, has been quoted as saying, "Goldenbell officials have not responded to the concerns that we had. We asked questions at the public hearings that we wanted responded to and they have never been responded to."

Whether the decision not to pursue the project is final or may be reconsidered at a later date is not known at this time.

Research Grant Deadline Approaching

Individuals seeking grant funding from the Yosemite Association for the 1990 calendar year should submit their proposals to YA by December 1, 1989. Now entering its third year, the Association's grants program provided almost $30,000 in 1989 to a number of researchers for a variety of projects.

The diversity of 1989 funded programs was wide. For example, the California Wilderness Coalition was awarded $2,000 to help finance that organization's 1989 California Wilderness Conference. Specifically, the money will be used for general operating costs and to sponsor a panel discussion on wilderness management. In contrast, scientific studies such as the one entitled "Tree-Ring Evidence for Long-Term Climate Variation: Yosemite National Park" also were funded. Lisa Graumlich of the University of Arizona received $2,950 for her work on this topic.

Other projects being undertaken through the YA grants program this year are M. Kat Anderson's "Data Management System in Ethnobotany" ($4,750), the preparation of a book to be entitled "Yosemite View Finders: Social Perspectives on Landscape Photography" by Robert Woulard ($5,000), and photographer Brian Grogan's work to rephotograph the mammoth plate views of Carleton Watkins and Eadweard Muybridge taken in the 1860's and 70's ($5,975).

A proposal to do volcanic ash analysis at Swamp Lake by Susan Smith of Northern Arizona University was funded for $720, and the second year of Paul Todd's study of the Sierra mountain beaver was also underwritten this year.

Late in the year, the National Park Service made a request that the Yosemite Association provide assistance to two on-going research projects that the NPS was unable to fund itself. YA responded with grants totalling $8,000 to R. Scott Anderson and M. Kar Anderson.

An information sheet and grant request form for the 1990 program are available from the Association at P.O. Box 250, El Portal, CA 95318, or call (209) 379-2646. Applications must be received by December 1, 1989 to be considered.

YA's Holiday Wish List

As Christmas time approaches and we enter the holiday season, we are winding up another successful year at the Yosemite Association made possible in large part by the gratifying support of our members, patrons and allies. Appreciative and mindful of the impressive help we have received over the past year, we thought we would follow the lead of other non-profit organizations and compile a list of items that we could really use in our office and our programs but which have never been purchased. If any of our members or friends would like to help us out with the purchase of all or part of a "holiday gift," we would be delighted!

In-kind donations are welcomed, too. The values we have provided in the list are approximations only:

- IBM-compatible 386-based computer with hard disk ($3,500);
- two large capacity Coleman-style ice chests ($50 each);
- several bear boxes for the YA seminar campground at Tuolumne Meadows ($150 each);
- two hand-held, Motorola-style two-way radios for the seminar program ($978 each);
- rental of our postage meter ($75 per quarter);
- Hewlett-Packard Laserjet II laser printer ($1700);
- a 15" paper cutter ($40);
- two work tables for the warehouse ($189 each);
- computer modem ($400);
- software programs for our computer system (Lotus 1-2-3, $300; Fastback, $125; Harvard Presentation Graphics, $275; Norton Commander, $50);
- rolling steel safety ladder for the warehouse ($174);

...
Great Reasons to Give a YA Membership to Family & Friends for The Holidays

1. First, a membership in YA is a year-long reminder of the Park and its beauty—a thoughtful gift.

2. Members receive the quarterly journal "Yosemite" featuring fascinating articles and photographs. They also receive Summer and Fall Field Seminar Catalogs, which are filled with classes and outings offering in-depth studies of Yosemite's natural wonders.

3. YA Members also are entitled to a 15% discount on all books, maps, posters, videos, and publications stocked for sale by the Association—plus a 10% discount on most field seminars.

4. YA Members only are invited to special events held in the Park—notably, the fall Members' Meeting and the spring Open House.

5. In December, we will send an attractive Yosemite notecard announcing your gift.

6. To make your gift even more special, we will also send the beautiful 1990 Yosemite Calendar as a free gift. The calendar features 13 breathtaking full color 9" x 12" photographs and sells at the bookstore for $8.95. (If you wish, we can send the calendar to you for your enjoyment.)

7. Lastly, there's the good feeling you will have in knowing that you are helping the Association to continue and expand its support of the Park. Every membership counts in contributing to the care, well-being, and protection of America's foremost park—Yosemite!

Membership Levels: Regular $20, Supporting $35, Contributing $50, Sustaining $100, Participating Life $1,000 (with spouse add $5).

For last minute gift-giving, call (209) 379-2646.
Snow on the YA Parade!

Holly Warner

For someone who loves Yosemite, what could be more of a treat than waking up in Tuolumne Meadows to the first snowfall of the season? YA members attending the 14th Annual Members' Meeting on September 16 had such an experience on the Sunday morning after the meeting. Most found it a perfect finish to a great weekend which had featured Galen Rowell, photographer and writer, as the main speaker. Approximately 327 people attended the weekend which began informally Saturday morning with registration and walks, including the always popular "Reminiscences with Carl Sharsmith."

The official start to the weekend's events was a hearty spaghetti lunch outside Tuolumne Meadows Lodge, followed by the meeting which was held on a wide spot overlooking the Tuolumne river. Against dramatic and threatening skies, Rowell spoke to the assembled members on his view of both the personal and the global side of Yosemite.

After numerous outdoor excursions, Rowell has concluded that his favorite place in the world is Yosemite and the High Sierra. He said that the Park's upcoming centennial is a celebration of not only 100 years as a National Park but of the survival of Yosemite (outside the Valley) in the "same good, basic natural condition it was 100 years ago." Having just completed a new publication, a reprint of John Muir's "The Yosemite" accompanied by Rowell's handsome photographs and additional text, he noted that Muir's world is essentially still here. And it is this, greater wild part of the park that is being celebrated next year.

Rowell went on to compare the Yosemite model for a national park with parks throughout the world. He ended by concluding that citizen involvement was crucial to protecting all wilderness and especially Yosemite and the High Sierra.

The outdoor setting of Tuolumne Meadows was perfect for the business portion of the YA Members' Meeting.

The expected rain helped end the business part of the meeting following Rowell's talk, and members gathered back at the Lodge for wine and cheese. During this time, Rowell graciously signed copies of his new book (a special Yosemite Association edition) and was available to chat with members. Later on in the afternoon was the familiar lively raffle.

This year's prize list featured some excellent prints by noted park photographers, several gourmet picnic baskets, a case of wine, as well as dinner and a night's lodging at the Ahwahnee. Following the raffle there was a short but very competitive auction of some Yosemite memorabilia. A small volume of Galen Clark's "Indians of The Yosemite," dated and signed by Clark drew the hottest bidding, but the response was exciting on all the items.

A bit damp yet undaunted, members broke for dinner at the Lodge, and the hardest returned at 10:00 p.m. to pack the dining room for a showing of "Yosemite: The Fate of Heaven," the new YA film narrated by Robert Redford.

New YA Edition of Galen Rowell Book

Working with the Sierra Club, the Yosemite Association has arranged for the joint publication of a special edition of Galen Rowell's illustrated version of John Muir's "The Yosemite." The book, which was delivered just in time for the Members' Meeting, was published in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the founding of Yosemite National Park. The regular trade version is sold for $40, but the Yosemite Association Edition is priced at $29.95 less a 15% discount to members, an exceptional value.

A perfect gift, "The Yosemite" is clothbound in a large format with 224 pages and over one hundred color images. Accompanying each photograph is commentary by Galen Rowell imparting a feeling of present-day Yosemite and explaining what drew the photographer to the subject matter.

Members and others wishing to purchase the book should use the order form on page 14 of this journal.

A. The Yosemite by John Muir, illustrated with the photographs of Galen Rowell. For Yosemite's centennial year, acclaimed nature photographer Galen Rowell has assembled 101 of his superb full-color images and placed them alongside the complete text of John Muir's classic, "The Yosemite." The result is a powerful evocation of Yosemite's lasting beauty and a testament to the importance of preserving the world's most precious natural places. The book unites the artistic vision of the two principals: Rowell's photographs find inspiration in Muir's words, and Muir's text is enhanced by Rowell's photographs. Published in a "coffee table" size of 10" x 12" in a special Yosemite Association Edition. Sierra Club, 1989. #18601 (clothbound): $29.95.

B. Carleton E. Watkins: Photographs 1861–1874 with an essay by Peter E. Palmquist. This volume presents more than 100 images made by Watkins in his travels through California, Oregon and Utah between 1861 and 1874. Some of the finest are of Yosemite. Many of the included photographs are published here for the first time ever. Through sophisticated laser printing technology, the original albumen prints are reproduced with delicate tonalities and extraordinary detail. The 230-page large format book is elegant and fine. Fraenkel Gallery in Association with Bedford Arts. Publishers. #6375 (clothbound): $75.00.

C. Mountain Sage: The Life Story of Carl Sharsmith by Elizabeth O'Neill. This is the long-awaited biography of Yosemite's ranger-naturalist legend, Carl Sharsmith. Following his life from childhood to his work in the woods to his botanizing and his employment as a ranger, the author paints a delightful picture of this complex, fascinating and important man. Fans and admirers of Carl and Yosemite will find this an entertaining and enlightening volume. Yosemite Association, 1989. #550 (paper): $7.95.

D. Yosemite: Its Discovery, Its Wonders and Its People by Margaret Sanborn. This is a never-before-available paperback edition of an excellent historical study of Yosemite Valley originally published by Random House in 1981. Long out of print, the 350-page book was reprinted by the Yosemite Association to fill an obvious void in the Yosemite literature. The focus is on the people of Yosemite like John Muir, Grizzly Adams, James Mason Hutchings, Carleton Watkins and Frederick Law Olmsted. Eminently readable, "Yosemite" is a work of both love and insight. Yosemite Association, 1989. #1614 (paper): $7.95.

E. Yosemite: Its Fate of Heaven by Robert Redford. This is the new video cassette produced by the Yosemite Association and Sundance Institute. The documentary takes a look at the many forces at play in Yosemite from the varied perspectives of rock-climbers, trail builders, rangers, visitors, backpackers, volunteers and residents. What emerges is a compelling and thought-provoking work with high entertainment value. The color photography is stunning and captures Yosemite's moods in all four seasons. An original musical score adds immeasurably to the film and all its elements combine to produce a remarkable vision of Yosemite past, present and future. Running time: 58 minutes. #1570 (VHS), #1571 (VHS/PAL): $19.95.

F. Yosemite: 1890–1940: The First 50 Years by Shirley Sargent. This beautiful new book celebrates Yosemite's upcoming centennial as a national park. Utilizing large format color photographs and a first-rate text by local historian Shirley Sargent, this volume is handsomely designed and printed. Chapter coverage ranges from pioneer adventures to wildlife and geology. Yosemite Park & Curry Co., 1989. #14625 (paper): $9.95, #14626 (cloth): $18.00.
Ansel Adams: Letters and Images 1916-1984 edited by Mary Alixier 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.

The Yosemite 1940 Centennial Calendar by Dream Garden Press, see page 10. This Yosemite calendar has become a favorite of Y.A. members with its beautifully reproduced full-color images of Yosemite’s landmarks and scenery. This special centennial edition features quotations from Carl Russell’s classic “One Hundred Years in Yosemite” and includes the usual notations of the birthdays of notable environmentalists and Yosemite-philes. Sized in a 10” x 13” format with 13 large photographs, #4810: $8.95.

Eight striking black and white images of Yosemite’s landmarks and scenery. 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.

Conversation with a Rump. An Evening with John Muir performed by Lee Stetson. Here on audio tape is Lee Stetson’s complete stage show which has become such a favorite of Yosemite visitors. Dramatically presented are Muir’s experiences clinging for hours to the top of a fir tree in a windstorm, being washed from his perch in the midst of Yosemite Falls, and defending Hetch Hetchy Valley from the threat of damming. One cassette with a playing time of 1 hour and 30 minutes, #4554: $8.95.

John Muir’s Letters and Images 1916-1984, edited by Mary Alixier 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.

Yosemite National Park, the calendar is filled with photographs which capture fleeting moments of great beauty and natural phenomena. Holidays and phases of the moon are noted for each month, and 14 large format full-color images are included. Page size is 14 1/2” by 11 3/4”. The calendar makes a beautiful gift to last the whole year. #4110: $8.95.

The Wonder of Birds by the National Geographic Society. Here is an amazingly beautiful study of the birds of North America. Filled with hundreds of color photographs, the book is written by a series of experts who cover such topics as diversity of birdlife. return and renewal, rites of passage, and the hand of man. 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.

The activities of American birds through all four seasons are recorded and photographed. A remarkable value for a clothbound book of 280 pages with extensive color photography. #15475: $19.95.

Yosemite By Son performed by Gail Lynn Pyle. This audio cassette is loaded with catchy tunes about Yosemite. Selections such as “Falling for my Hike.” “Snow Shoe Shuffle,” and “The Black Bear Boogie” are guaranteed to entertain and enliven your audience. Gail Pyle works as Y.A.’s membership coordinator when she’s not writing music. and during her life she’s field tested the tape on lots of local kids. Their evaluation: Terrific! #4532: $7.95.

Yosemite’s landmarks and scenery. 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.

Send your holiday wishes on tasteful cards by Ansel Adams. Eight striking black and white images are boxed in each Christmas assortment. The inscription inside each card reads “Season’s Greetings.” Includes envelopes. #50110: $8.50.

Galen Rowell’s Yosemite 1940 Calendar published by the Sierra Club in 1940. The images in this colorful new calendar were selected from Rowell’s new edition of John Muir’s classic “The Yosemite.” Celebrating the one hundredth anniversary of the establishment of Yosemite National Park, this new calendar is filled with photographs which capture fleeting moments of great beauty and natural phenomena. Holidays and phases of the moon are noted for each month, and 14 large format full-color images are included. Page size is 14 1/2” by 11 3/4”. The calendar makes a beautiful gift to last the whole year. #4810: $8.95.

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The arches are Muir’s experiences clinging for hours to the top of a fir tree in a windstorm, being washed from his perch in the midst of Yosemite Falls, and defending Hetch Hetchy Valley from the threat of damming. One cassette with a playing time of 1 hour and 30 minutes, #4554: $8.95.
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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: A selection of 8 handsome notecards (with envelopes) featuring beautiful photographs of Yosemite;
  - Contributing Members: Full color poster of Yosemite's wildflowers by Walter Sydoriak;
  - Sustaining Members: A colorful enamelled 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, archivally mounted.

Membership dues are tax-deductible beyond the value of the benefits provided to the member.

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

- Regular Member $20.00
- Contributing Member $50.00
- Life Member $500.00
- Supporting Member $35.00
- Sustaining Member $100.00
- Participating Life Member $1,000.00
- Spouse add $5.00

Name (please print): [Name]
Address: [Address]
City: [City]
State/Zip: [State/Zip]
Phone Number: [Phone]

Enclosed is my check or money order for $ [Amount], or charge to my credit card

Bank Americard/VISA: [Number] [Expiry]
MasterCard: [Number] [Expiry]

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

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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