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A Journal for Members  
of the Yosemite Association

# Yosemite

## Continuing the Yosemite Debate

*Alfred Runte*

**It's a privilege to be addressing** you at your Fifteenth Annual Meeting, but more important, is the significance of your meeting being held in this the centennial year of Yosemite National Park.

I can't begin without reminding our friends up there in Yellowstone who like to think that they are the inventors of the national park idea, that the national park idea began right here in Yosemite 126 years ago. On June 30, 1864, President Abraham Lincoln affixed his signature to the Yosemite Park Act and set aside Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias for public use, resort and recreation, "inalienable for all time." I emphasize those words, "inalienable for all time," because they were absent from the Yellowstone Park Act of 1872. Indeed, Yellowstone was not called a national park until after its establishment as a public park on March 1st of 1872.

So I remind you that the national park idea began here and that it went all over the world, has gone all over the world. More than 125 nations list 2,500 national parks and equivalent reserves, and



The three feature articles in this issue are the texts of speeches by Al Runte, Rod Nash, and Martin Rosen. See page 22 for details.

they all trace their origins back here to Yosemite, to this beautiful, to this incomparable valley, the giant sequoias and the high country that became part of the national park on October 1, 1890.

We like to think that the people who stood behind this great national park were John Muir and the Sierra Club and folks of that stamp. Well, the Sierra Club wasn't even here in 1890. It would not be formed until 1892. And what did John Muir say when he acknowledged the presence of those who had created the park 100 years ago? He said, "Even the soulless Southern Pacific Railroad Company, never counted on for anything good, helped nobly in pushing the bill for this park through Congress."

It's an interesting contradiction, is it not? We'd like to think of Yosemite's history in terms of saints and sinners. And the saints are always the John Muirs and the Frederick Law Olmsted and the Sierra Club. Of course, the sinners are always our friends on the other side of the fence, most notable those of the Yosemite Park & Curry Co. in terms of what has been happening in the last couple of years. But it didn't begin that way.

When John Muir needed an ally, he turned to the soulless Southern Pacific Railroad Company. And it was Daniel Zumwalt who was the land agent for Southern Pacific who helped push the bill for this park through Congress and also the bill for Sequoia which became law on September 25, 1890.

Now what's the gist of all this? The gist of all this is that we all, the American people, own this great place. This is our place. And whether we are corporate executives or environmentalists or just backpackers and historians like myself, this is our park. And not to have a debate about its future, not to have a wise and open and sometimes bitter debate about its future, would be to do an injus-



SIERRA CLUB

tice to the place. Because it is the very fact of debate that has protected Yosemite for 126 years.

Indeed, it was in 1865 on August 9th, to be exact, 125 years ago, that Frederick Law Olmsted, the designer and first Superintendent of Central Park in New York

City was here in Yosemite to deliver an address to the Yosemite Board of Park Commissioners. And what did Mr. Olmsted say in that address? "Today visitation is counted in the hundreds, but in a century it will be counted in the millions. And the millions who are hereafter to benefit have the largest interest in Yosemite, and the largest interest should be first and most strenuously guarded."

We have a Yosemite to enjoy today because 125 years ago Frederick Law Olmsted and then John Muir and then the Sierra Club and even that soulless Southern Pacific Railroad Company thought about us, the next generation yet to come. And so we have a responsibility in this the centen-

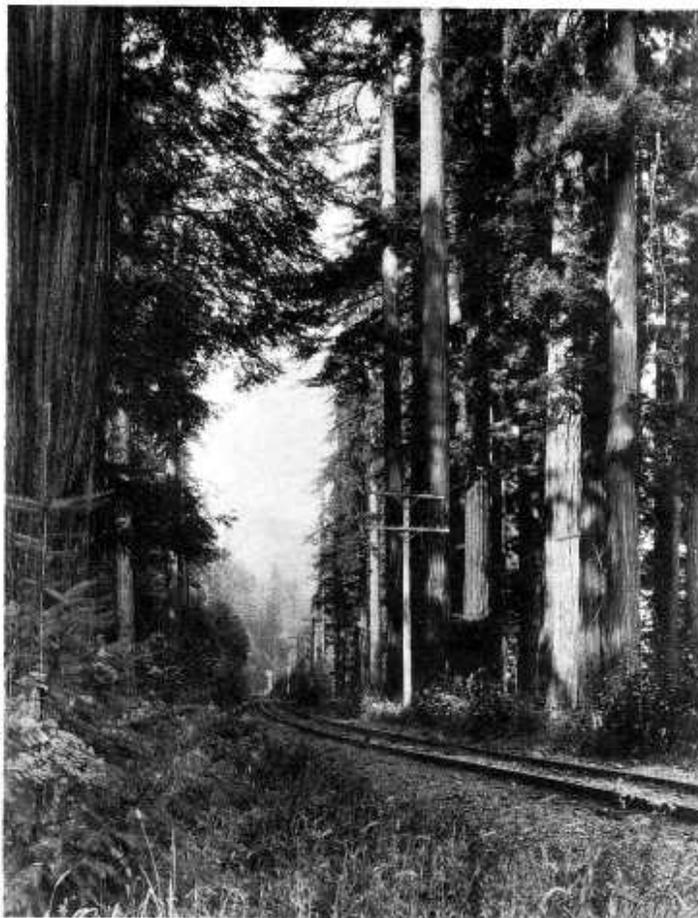
The old North Western Pacific railroad on the Eel River.

nial year of Yosemite National Park to think about the generations yet to come. One hundred years from now when the time capsule that will be buried on October 1st is opened, people will be looking back at us and they will be saying did we do right by Yosemite National Park? Did we do right by the incomparable valley, by the giant sequoias, by the wonderful wilderness high country?

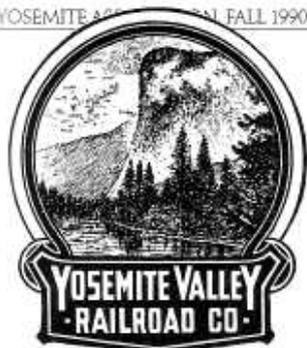
And so I say to you the members of the Yosemite Association, the more you can raise the issues, the more you can study the issues, the more you debate the future of this national park, the more you will be doing the things that are in keeping with this great place.

I hear as I come into this park and I hear over the past several months that the National Park Service is a bit worried about the controversy, and we all know that our friends in the Yosemite Park & Curry Co. would just as soon this debate would go away. And that's understandable. After all, nobody likes to be criticized. I do not like getting those student evaluations at the end of the semester that said that Al Runte couldn't speak past the nose on his face and Al Runte was too opinionated and Al Runte was not objective. I didn't like getting those evaluations. But I accepted them and I tried to learn from them.

I didn't like it in 1980 when the Yosemite Park & Curry Co. taped one of my programs and presented the transcript to Leonard McKenzie and Bob Binnewies and said, hey, you'd better get this guy in tow here. Listen to some of the things he's saying about this national park. I didn't care for that. But it was in keeping with what the privileges were of the Yosemite Park & Curry Co. They're privileged to tape my presentation and privileged to criticize it. And I think I withstood the criticism pretty well. And all of the objections of the Yosemite Park & Curry Co. are



SOUTHERN PACIFIC COLLECTION



now contained in my book, "Yosemite — The Embattled Wilderness." Many of the issues that we raised back in 1980 are now part of the history. I worked harder to look at the history of this place to see that I was being honest with the past of Yosemite, and honest, therefore, about its future.

So, what is the future, then, of Yosemite National Park? Well, that's up to us, isn't it? In 1865 when Frederick Law Olmsted told us what we ought to do with Yosemite, his report was suppressed. Of all things, Israel Ward Raymond who had carried the bill and helped introduce the bill with Senator John Conness of the U.S. Congress, was part of the suppression of Olmsted's provocative report of August, 1865. It never reached the California State Legislature, never became part of the debate of this park. It was not discovered and pieced together until 1952 by Laura Wood Roper, Olmsted's biographer.

So we didn't have the debate about this great document, and we should have had that debate. And the reason I wrote "Yosemite — The Embattled Wilderness" was so that we would know where we have been, and we could have a healthy debate as we look forward to Yosemite's second century and look forward to that second centennial or the bicentennial of Yosemite that will be occurring in the year 2090.

What I would recommend is that we look back on this history and see who are heroes were and see why they were heroes. Frederick Law Olmsted was a hero and a great supporter of this park because he told Americans things they really didn't want to hear. And now we recognize that his wisdom was far ahead of its time. He predicted in 1865 that within a century there would be millions of people coming to Yosemite. His prediction came true in 1954 when Yosemite reached 1,008,000 visitors, and again in 1967 when it reached 2 million visitors. And it was just a couple of years

ago that Yosemite reached 3 million visitors.

Doesn't it stand to reason that common sense would tell us that this kind of escalation of visitation cannot go on at its current rate without destroying the very thing that Yosemite is supposed to be? Are we now going to have 6 million and then 12 million and then 24 million visitation figures? We will have in the year 2090 unless we start to argue and debate now what the future of this park should be and how we are going to accommodate not only the people from our own country, but the people from all over the world who want to be a part of the great Yosemite experience.

So I have a solution. It's not my solution alone, but I take pride in having written it up as



An illustration of the cover of a promotional brochure to the Valley, 1928.

early as 16 years ago. Let's rebuild the Yosemite Valley Railroad. Why is it that the automobile is a sacred means of access into our national parks? Why is the automobile so sacred in our cities where it clogs our streets and pollutes our air? Isn't it time we recog-



Brochure cover for the Southern Pacific Railroad, circa 1920.

We're going to mass produce the automobile. By the year 2000 this contraption, this automobile, will have killed and maimed more Americans by three or four fold than will have died in all of the wars we have ever fought up until that point (provided we don't get into World War III)."

The automobile has killed over 3 million people in this country. It has made para- and quadraplegics out of millions and millions more. Why do we worship this contraption? Why aren't we doing more to have public transportation in this country? And why aren't we doing more to have good, solid public transportation to our national parks?

Trains will not deny anybody access, but they will make people ask themselves the question: "Do I want to carry in another case of beer and sit around and get stoned in Yosemite Valley?" Or "Do I want to go in and see Yosemite Valley for the experience of the place?" "Do I want to bring in my stereos, my television sets, or do I want to go in and experience Yosemite for the beauty of the place?" Public transportation will not deny access to anyone, but it will filter out the frivolous visitor from the serious visitor, and I think it's only fair to say that frivolity in our national parks is no longer in vogue. It is out of date.

One of the reasons I'm a critic of the Yosemite Park & Curry Co. is because of so much alcohol in this park. Now it's not the fact that alcohol in and of itself is a bad way to enjoy yourself. I'll confess that last night my wife and I had a glass of wine along with the board members up at the Wawona Hotel. We enjoyed a glass of wine with dinner. And I'll also confess that my wife asked me for three or four days whether or not I was going to let her have a glass of wine since she knows that I am a strong critic of alcohol inside our national parks.

But you see, we're all part of the problem. No saints and sin-

nized that Henry Ford's invention was not all it was cracked up to be?

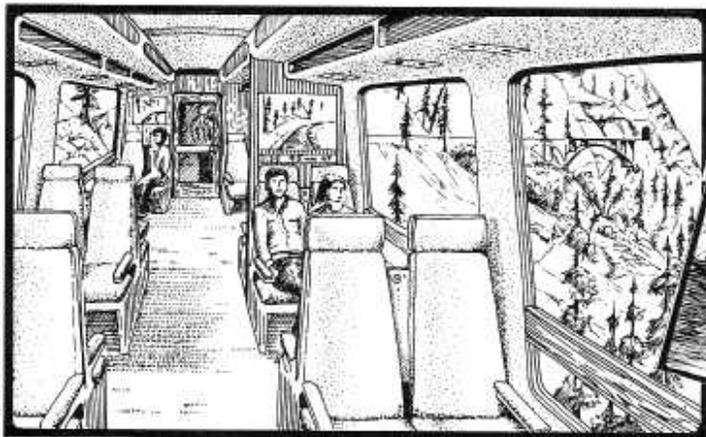
Imagine if Henry Ford upon having conceived the assembly line back in the 19-teens and early 1920s had gotten up in front of the stockholders of the Ford Motor Company and said, "Ladies and gentlemen, stockholders of the Ford Motor Company, we've just invented the assembly line.

ners here. The soulless Southern Pacific Railroad Company helped create this park, and even an environmentalist and a strong critic of alcohol can lapse his own standards. You see, that's what happens. It's so easy to say, "You're the problem and I'm the solution." We're all guilty, even members of the Sierra Club.

I'm reading the *Yosemite Guide* as I'm coming into the park. The *Yosemite Guide* talks about these bicyclists who are going to be going into the park here in a few days and raising money so that we can have bicycle paths in the west end of Yosemite Valley. Well, I haven't read the General Management Plan lately, but that particular proposal will violate the Olmsted line. It was an agreement in the 1930s of the Yosemite Advisory Board that we would not have development west of the Lodge, west of that particular developed area. Now what makes the bicycle any more legitimate than the automobile if we lay down concrete separate from the existing concrete to allow this presence in the valley? We've got to have these debates. And maybe the Sierra Club isn't on the right side of this issue, either.

My proposal is simple. Get the cars out of Yosemite Valley, get the railroads back in. Then we can have bicycles over the existing highway - we won't need to lay down more concrete.

Now just to show you what can happen, I've been meeting over the last four years with Mr. George Weyerhaeuser, the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Weyerhaeuser Company. Over that four year period I've tried to educate Mr. Weyerhaeuser to how Yosemite came to be. You know when John Muir wanted to get the valley receded to the federal government in 1905, he couldn't do it through the California Legislature. Eventually the legislature passed the bill, but the federal government would not accept the bill. So what did John Muir do? He sat down and he



CHRISTOPHER C. SWAN

wrote to Edward H. Harriman who was the owner and operator of the Union Pacific and Central Pacific and Illinois Central Lines.

He asked Edward H. Harriman of the famous Harriman family for assistance. And Mr. Harriman wrote back to Muir and said I'll try to do everything that I can. What he did was collar Speaker Joe Cannon of the U.S. House of Representatives and get the Session Bill through the Congress so that Teddy Roosevelt could sign it on June 11, 1906. So there was the soulless railroad company again.

"Well, Mr. Weyerhaeuser," I said, "this is a great piece of history. You own the railroad tracks to Mt. Rainier. Will you not give them to my foundation or give them to the City of Tacoma so that we can restore rail passenger service to Mt. Rainier? And then call upon the National Park Service to assist us in downgrading the access problems within the park?"

It took four years to convince Mr. Weyerhaeuser, but three weeks ago he donated the tracks, the Chehalis Western Railroad, from the City of Tacoma to the gates of

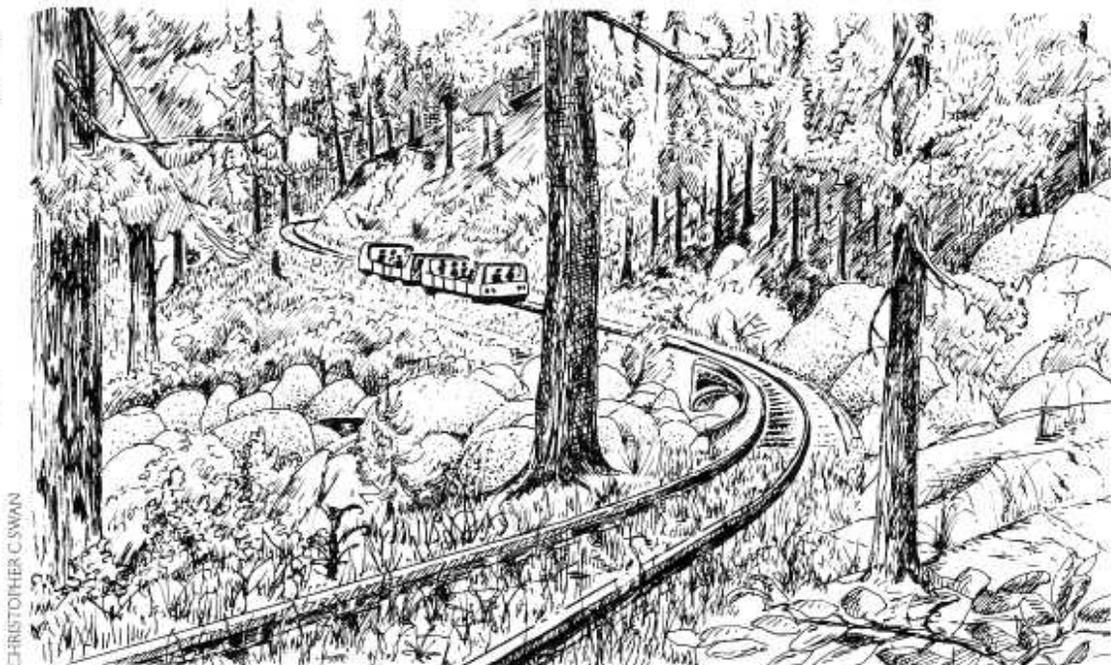
On the way to the Park, backpackers and hikers could disembark at small wilderness stations, returning via another station up the line.



Mt. Rainier National Park, to the City of Tacoma. Within two years we look forward to the restoration of rail passenger service to Mt. Rainier National Park.

So, again, what happened, Alfred Runte, historian and environmentalist, called upon corporate executives, such as Len McKenzie and Steve Medley and others call upon leaders of the corporate community for meadow

On routes within the Park, small open railcars could be used for local trips in place of the shuttle bus.



CHRISTOPHER C. SWAN

**T**HE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE IS A WONDERFUL ORGANIZATION, AND I'M PROUD TO HAVE WORN ITS UNIFORM. BUT HORACE M. ALBRIGHT . . . WARNED . . . THAT UNLESS THE PARK SERVICE WERE CAREFUL IT WOULD TURN INTO JUST ANOTHER BUREAUCRACY.

restoration. You know, Yosemite is going to have a lot of problems in the 1990s because we're not going to see much money in the federal budget for anything except bailing out the savings and loan industry.

And I can just hear our politicians now, from Mr. George Bush who could just as easily play golf on the Wawona Golf Course and be here on October 1st as play golf in Kennebunkport. Come to think of it, do you think Teddy Roosevelt would have passed up the chance to come here for the centennial of Yosemite National Park? I don't think so, and I think Mr. Bush is getting poor advice.

But let's go on a moment with the heroes of Yosemite's history. You see, there are many heroes in the past, and those heroes are the people who have stood four-square behind the protection of these great areas.

Another hero that I like to mention in my book is Joseph Grinnell. He was part of the board of this original association when it was formed back in the early 1920s. He helped conceive its bylaws. And it was Joseph Grinnell who helped establish and formalize national park interpretation right here in Yosemite.

Yosemite is not just the birthplace of the national park idea, it's also the birthplace of formalized instruction in our national parks. I like to think of Yosemite and all the great national parks as a university of the wilderness where we have these debates and where we learn about the natural world all around us. And so Joseph Grinnell had this idea that this association would make possible through the sale of books and through the provision of educational materials the great educational role that Yosemite ought to provide.

And yet here it is the centennial of Yosemite National Park, this greatest of years in Yosemite's 100 year history, and if I were to ask Len McKenzie he would sadly inform me that there's probably one-third or one-half the interpreters here this year of the

number there were just fifteen or maybe 8 or 10 years ago. That's a sad fact when you stop to think about it, that the educational role keeps getting undermined in our parks, and yet the business role of our country and of our nation keeps moving forward.

So, I won't talk too much about the heroes of Yosemite. They're in the book, and they're there because I thought it was important to talk about the many people who have stood for this great resource. We can thank people like Loye Holmes Miller and C.A. "Bert" Harwell and George M. Wright and Carl P. Russell and all of the other early naturalists in Yosemite's history not only for the existence of this as-

sociation, but for the recognition that our great national park, our university of the wilderness, it is here that we will have the debate and here that we will discuss the future needs of the natural environment, not only of the country but of the world.

So what are we to do then? Well, let's have this debate, and let's have it openly and honestly. I don't care when I hear things like people don't want the debate or they want to channel the debate into safe and comfortable areas. You know we all need oversight, we all need somebody looking

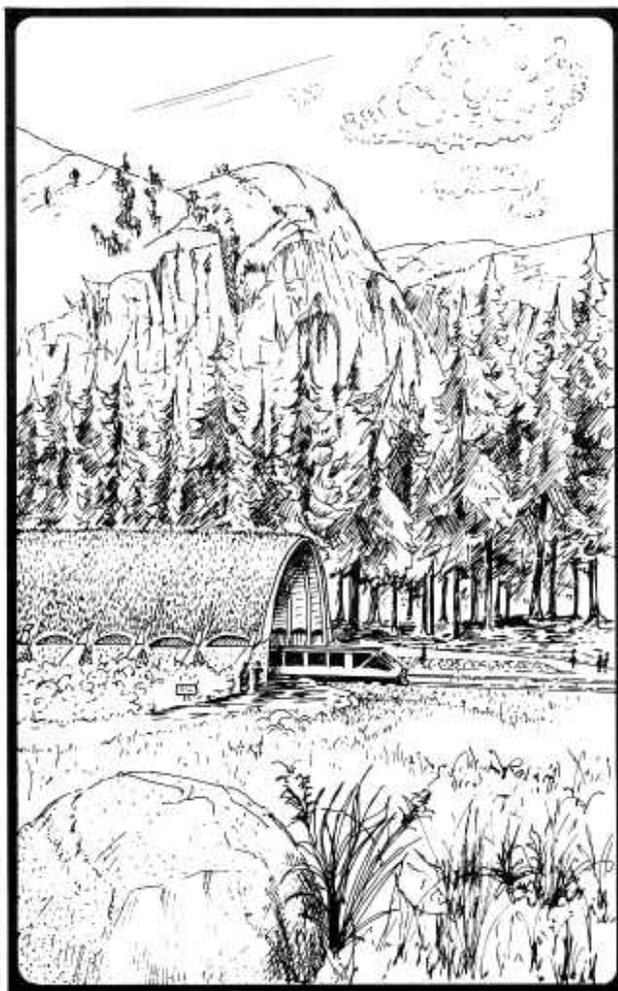
The Yosemite Valley rail station might cover less than 10 percent of the land now under pavement.

over our shoulder once in a while to remind us of what we need to do.

We got into the savings and loan debacle because we thought we could have a savings and loan industry without regulators. And look what we got. We got ourselves the biggest debt in American history. We got ourselves the biggest scandal in American history. It makes the Gilded Age look like a Sunday school picnic. And politicians for the next 30 years will be saying that we can't afford schools, and we can't afford colleges, and we can't afford transportation, and we can't afford our national parks because we have to pay off this debt.

I say to those politicians, "nonsense," if that's the best that you can do. We need our national parks and we need our colleges and universities, and don't use this as an excuse for not doing the things that we need to do.

But the same also applies to what happens inside our national parks. The National Park Service is a wonderful organization, and I'm proud to have worn its uniform. But Horace M. Albright himself, the second great Director of the National Park Service, warned on leaving office in 1933 that unless the park service were careful it would turn into just another bureaucracy. And you know what bureaucracies want—they want the party line. They don't want debate, because the



CHRISTOPHER C. SWAN

*Christopher C. Swan, entrepreneur, writer and designer, has developed a detailed plan for construction of a railroad, development of a new town in El Portal, and restoration of Yosemite National Park. The work was published as YV88 (Sierra Club Books, '77, now out of print). Currently, Mr. Swan is developing a new version of the plan, Yosemite Anew, in concert with his ongoing work as president of Suntrain Inc. Mr. Swan also writes extensively on ecological restoration and energy.*

# Ban cars from Yosemite Valley

Congestion and commercialization threaten a natural treasure as it celebrates its 100th birthday

**Y**OSEMITE National Park turns 100 today, and the natural treasures it encompasses are increasingly threatened by those age-old predators, man and money.

Yosemite Valley is overrun by tourists, gimcrack traffic and, on summer week-ends, chinking smog. Though bear shows are no longer staged for hotel guests, and a proposal to build a tramway to the top of Glacier Point was nixed two decades ago, the carnival instinct remains. You can get your hair done in the valley, rent a video or use an ATM. There are 3.4 million park visitors a year. The seven-mile-long valley where the Ahwahneechee tribe once pitched camp has become a tourist destination and profit center for its concessionaire, Yosemite Park & Curry Co., a subsidiary of MCA. The real Yosemite needs protection before it becomes a victim of its own beauty.

To save Yosemite, cars must be banned from the valley. That's the most important change that must be undertaken. A system of shuttle buses from park entrances—or eventually electric light rail vehicles—could insure valley access to everyone. But visitors shouldn't need, or be entitled, to drive to Yosemite Valley. For visitors unwilling to unsaddle themselves from their vehicles, the Tioga Pass road would remain open to private cars.

In addition, the 1980 National Park Service management plan should finally be adopted. Its aim is to reduce traffic, commercialization and crowding in the valley. It would move most offices and employee housing out of the park, and would reduce the number of overnight accommodations by 17 percent. The plan includes a shuttle bus system and envisions banning private cars altogether. There has not been enough money or political will to implement it.

The third thing that needs to be done is to re-negotiate the contract between Curry Co. and the Park Service. Last year, Curry paid a \$640,000 fee on gross revenues of \$80 million. That's less than one percent, not nearly enough. Higher fees could go toward repairing dilapidated buildings and funding park programs that have gone begging because the park budget has remained flat for a decade.

John Muir, the great guardian of Yosemite, used to hike in the mountains with only a loaf of bread and his overcoat. We need to be so ascetic, but it is the place and not the amenities we ought to go there to enjoy—and protect. We can leave our cars at the gates. There's a no wilderness experience in a traffic jam.

kind of debate that we need in Yosemite and all of the other national parks calls for outspoken views and calls for sometimes a little bit of bitterness and divisiveness so that we can come together on the important issues.

I was on a talk show about three or four weeks ago. It was a program out of New York City called "Heat." I was on opposite Mike Finley. I could tell that Superintendent Finley did not like some of the things that I was talking about. When I tried to steer the discussion to alcohol and jails and courthouses in Yosemite Valley, he tried to steer the discussion back to sugar at the Happy Isles Nature Center. To the fact that the Happy Isles Snack Shop had sugared candy and that some people had protested to him that only natural foods should be sold in Yosemite.

I reminded Superintendent Finley that the real issues of our society were probably more along the lines of the fact that we have 35 outlets for alcoholic beverages in Yosemite, 23 on the valley floor alone. The expansion of the Yosemite jail was not done because we are successful in our management of the park, but because we have failed. And now we have a separate courthouse because of all the legal cases that come to bear pertaining to the erosion of this great natural resource. Those were the things that concerned me, not whether or not somebody was having a Twinkie off at Happy Isles Nature Center.

Well, Mr. Finley responded with some words to the effect that he was getting tired of this

**TIOGA PASS AUTO TOUR**  
 BY STEAMER ALONG LAKE TAHOE'S SHORE

Through the  
**LAKE TAHOE COUNTRY**  
 and  
**YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK**  
 CROSSING CALIFORNIA'S HIGH SIERRA

**SOUTHERN PACIFIC LINES**

BETWEEN  
**TRUCKEE ON "AMERICAN CANYON ROUTE"**  
**MERCED ON "SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY LINE"**  
 IN EITHER DIRECTION

Every Mile Worth While

1940s Germany stuff. This idea that by criticizing the park service we are somehow trying to impose an unpopular view on the park service. Well I can only say that from my knowledge of 1940s history of Germany, Hitler was burning books, not writing books. I write books, and I write them to be critical, but also to inform. And so if Superintendent Finley were here today, I would ask him to come up to the mike and carry on this debate, because this debate is necessary.

It isn't that I have anything personal against the Superintendent. It isn't that I have anything personal against the Yosemite Park & Curry Co. It's just that as an historian, I keep wondering

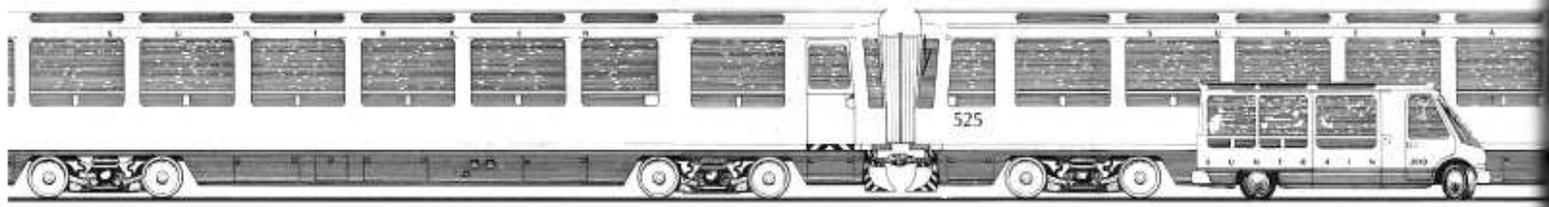
when this country is going to make the next logical step in the future of this republic as well as in the future of this park. And to me the next logical step in the future of Yosemite is to start recognizing that 125 years of nibbling and changing this valley and this park have not worked to the satisfaction of the grand ideal that Yosemite is.

And so I invite the Yosemite Park & Curry Co. to join with me in rebuilding the Yosemite Valley Railroad. And if the Yosemite Park & Curry Co. and MCA take a nice profit from the rebuilding of the Yosemite Valley Railroad, more power to them. But the Yosemite Valley Railroad will be where business ought to be — out-

Attitudes about Yosemite and cars have changed over the years.

side the national park, not inside the national park.

Do you know of any school of business in the United States of America that teaches steady state economics? That teaches a businessman or businesswoman to be happy with the bottom line from last year this year? Do you know of anybody in the business community who gets promoted by saying we did just as well as last year, and next year we expect to do just as well as we did this year? Which is to say we haven't added any facilities, we haven't added to the bottom line, we've got a beautiful park, and that's the way we're going to keep it. Do you know of any business that works that way?



**M**Y PROPOSAL IS SIMPLE. GET THE CARS OUT OF YOSEMITE VALLEY, GET THE RAILROADS BACK IN. THEN WE CAN HAVE BICYCLES OVER THE EXISTING HIGHWAY — WE WON'T NEED TO LAY DOWN MORE CONCRETE.

I don't, but that's the way that Yosemite as a natural resource has got to work or it will not be here a hundred years from now. Because we are going to get 4 and 5 and 6 and 8 and 10 million visitors. We've got to find better ways to carry them.

So maybe the people of the Yosemite Park & Curry Co. should go down to the Grand Canyon where the Grand Canyon Railroad has just been restored. It's owned by Max and Thelma Beegard, two Phoenix investors who have a sense of public service and a sense of public history. The Park Service and the Forest Service have cooperated with the Beegard's to make possible the restoration of the Grand Canyon Railroad. Now we've got public transportation, right to the south rim. No more excuses. Let's say to the people, come in on the train, leave your cars behind. What will that do? It will filter out the frivolous visitor, but it will make possible the salvation of the Grand Canyon.

We could do that here. And I hope in the future that's what we will be doing because I cannot see as an historian or as an environmentalist that 100 years from now people are going to be coming into Yosemite in their cars. Where are we going to put them? Where are we going to park all these cars? And I don't mean to build parking lots just outside the valley. That doesn't satisfy me either. I want those parking lots in Fresno and Merced and Modesto. Keep them out, keep them far away. Let the valley towns have all that transfer business,

and keep the national parks and the Sierra foothills pristine and keep them the way they're supposed to be.

Now does that mean tearing down the Ahwahnee Hotel? Absolutely not. The Ahwahnee Hotel is a beautiful and historic structure, and if you want to see what the future would be without the Ahwahnee Hotel, take a look at the Tenaya Lodge. For crying out loud, the first thing my wife and I thought as we drove past the Tenaya Lodge was where's the O'Hare Airport? These hotels are beautiful, they're historic. We want the tent cabins, we want the historic structures here. There's nothing wrong with sleeping on the floor of Yosemite Valley, there's nothing wrong with having a good meal.

But what happens when we get distracted? When happens when you go over to the Mountain Room Bar and sit down in front of a T.V. set? Then we're distracted, and then we're displacing the visitor who would maybe be here staying in that cabin and out doing something with the natural resource.

I'll never forget research here in 1986 when I was part of this valley for a couple of months once more. It was the Final Four weekend for the basketball tournament, and every bar in Yosemite was jam-packed, and every wide-screen color T.V. was playing away. Nobody was out enjoying the resource, and all of those people were displacing what I would consider to be the serious and bona fide visitor to Yosemite National Park. That kind of be-

havior multiplied by the millions, in Olmsted's words, in future years will not do for the protection of this park.

The National Park Service is constantly called upon to do the kinds of things that are not in keeping with the highest uses of this park. Plowing the snow early, for example, so that the business communities to the east of Yosemite can get down to business that much quicker. A wise, naturally-trained Superintendent would say, "Let Mother Nature melt the snows in the high country, and then let the cars cross." But you know what happens in Yosemite about March 1st; you get all those calls from Lee Vining and Bishop. "When you gonna plow the road?" And so the Superintendent has to set aside, depending on the snow pack, 50, 60, 80, 100 thousand dollars every year to plow the roads. And there are less interpreters and less educators and less opportunity for the debate and the dialog about the future of this place.

Let me just say that I think the Yosemite Association should be commended for raising the issues responsibly and provocatively in the Members' Journal. And for saying to Superintendent Finley and Ed Hardy and Dan Jensen and all the other folks of the Yosemite Park & Curry Co. and the National Park Service, we're going to have this debate. Cooperating association does not mean that we're going to stand by and let this debate continue without us, because we were formed in 1924, we were established by Joseph Grinnell and the original natural-

ist community in this park so that we would advance knowledge and that we would have these debates. And that's what we're all about.

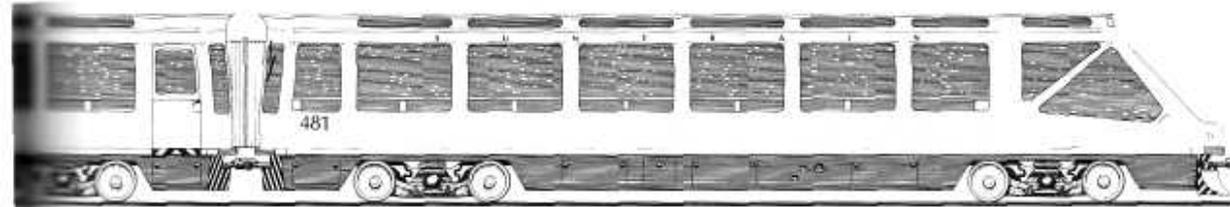
If this means that we have to be sometimes critical of the National Park Service, well, after all, Yosemite belongs to the American people and Congress assembled. It is our park. It doesn't belong to you or to me, it belongs to everybody. And we're going to have this debate.

And so when I see the Members' Journal writing these articles, producing these articles, and I hear the kinds of conversations we had last night around the table, I say this is wonderful because this is what Yosemite is all about. I'm proud of the four summers I spent here under Len McKenzie's direction, despite the fact that I may have continued any ulcer problems he may have had. I'm proud of the four years I spent here. Because Len McKenzie let me raise the issues and recognized that a good interpreter raised the issues and talked about the future of, not only this park, but all national parks.

And that's why I'm proud of this association, not only for inviting me here to raise the issues today, but for raising the issues within the Members' Journal. And keeping the future of Yosemite that much brighter.

So, in closing, let me just say that if you can do any one thing for the future of Yosemite National Park it's to do exactly what you have been doing for these

*Continued on page 19*



CHRISTOPHER C. SWAN

# The Wilderness Balance

*Roderick Nash*

**It's really exciting to be here** for the centennial of Yosemite, October 1, 1890. I'm an American historian, a professor of history. Who was President of the United States one hundred year ago in 1890? Not Theodore Roosevelt, not Michael Jackson. Benjamin Harrison was the man who signed the Yosemite Act.

There were several other interesting things that were happening about that time. One in particular that relates to the whole significance of national parks in this country and to Yosemite was that in the year 1890, the U.S. census said there was no more frontier. This was a shock for Americans; we'd always had a frontier. And to have the census based on popu-

lation distribution say "no mas" made us reassess our whole attitude toward nature. I believe the national park movement benefited from this reassessment by Americans because they began to recognize that if they were to preserve a semblance of frontier conditions, they were going to have to do it legally and institutionally in such places as national parks.

Also in 1890, the Battle of Wounded Knee, last of the great Indian wars up in the Dakota Territories. Finally, after several centuries of Indian fighting and Indian outrage in this country, the last of the great Indian resistance wars was at an end. We might also note that this was also the time

of the disappearance of the last grizzly bear from this part of the American West. It was another sign that times were changing. Urbanization, industrialization, population growth, all of these prompting a reassessment of how we related to nature. No longer an enemy to be conquered, but maybe something to be protected, cherished, and interpreted.

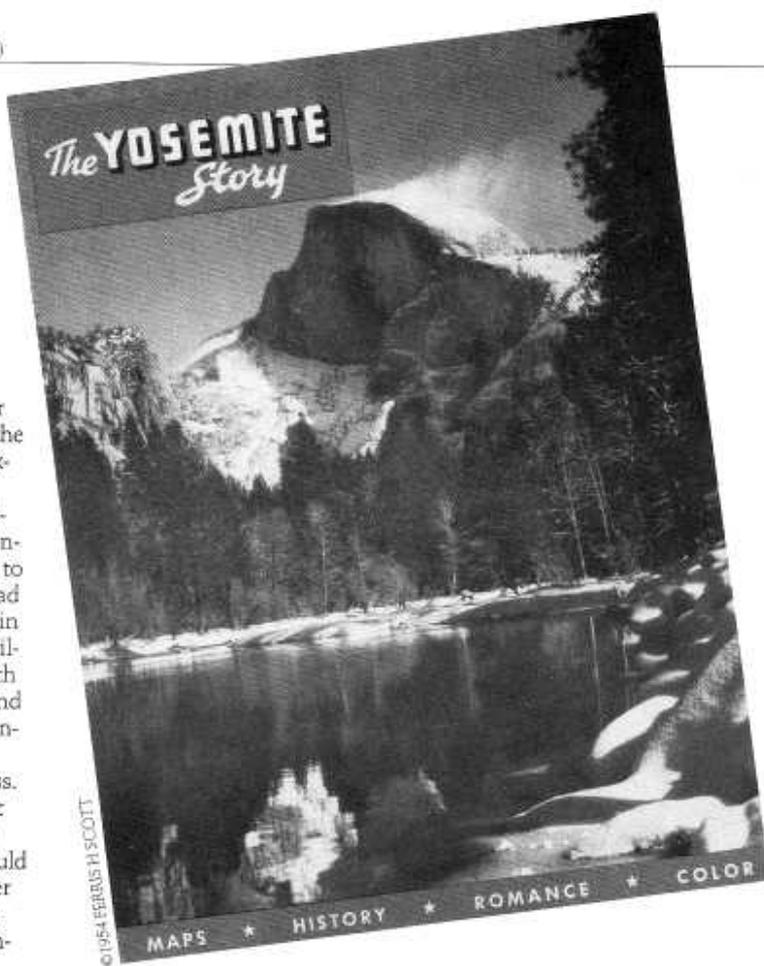
A couple of other things were going on. 1892 marked the founding of the Sierra Club. John Muir was the first President. 1891 saw the passage of the Forest Reserve Act, the legislation in this country that established National Forests and the idea of public ownership,

public management of key environmental resources. And, of course, the establishment of Yosemite as the third national park following Yellowstone and Sequoia, but if you go back to 1864 and the first grant to the State of California of this valley, we see Yosemite, perhaps, at the real birth of the national park concept.

Now this country has done many things that I'm not proud of. We invented atomic bombs and dropped them (the only nation to use them in was so far in 1945). We invented television for better and for worse. We invented the hamburger. We also invented national parks. And we're ad-

Glacier Point sketch, 1903.





mired throughout the world for this and emulated throughout the world. It's an idea that we've exported around the globe.

How can we explain the origin of national parks in this country? Let me give you four ways to explain it. The first is that we had a unique relationship to nature in this country. We were born a wilderness nation. We grew up with wilderness, with the frontier, and by the end of the nineteenth century we had become civilized enough to appreciate wilderness. A few began to understand that the days of conquest were over and the days of preservation could begin. Wilderness was no longer an enemy. So we came up with the idea in the national park concept of a wild park. Normally parks had been mowed lawns, tennis courts, croquet. When you said park in most parts of the world, it didn't mean a place like Yosemite. It meant a city park. We came up with the idea of a wild park; that was what was new.

The second factor was the democratic ideal. There had been wild parks before in world history. They'd mostly been owned by feudal hunting lords, barons and earls, and if you were caught poaching, you might have your ear cut off or maybe even be killed. But we saw it in America, with our democratic ideal, that we would have a people's park, a public park.

As a third factor, national parks were the beneficiaries of a pattern of American expansion. We civilized the East Coast first. We had a desire to protect nature on the East Coast, and in the west we still had wild nature. We still had the privilege of drawing lines on the map and creating preserves. That's what happened in Yosemite and Yellowstone.

Finally, I think the national park movement in this country has been underwritten by our affluence. We've been an affluent nation compared to many. We haven't had to eat our national parks. We haven't had to occupy them as many third world nations

have to do today. We've had the luxury of restraint, of allowing 94% of Yosemite today to be wilderness.

Let me move from the general to the specific. For 18 years my bedroom window looked out onto a big wall. Stark, existential, unchanging—the wall. It was part of a megalopolis on the East Coast called New York City, the Big Apple. As a kid, I could look out that window and not see a single living thing. Not a leaf, not a weed, not a blade of grass. That was New York City.

Looking for a place to be "raised by wolves," to hear the call of the wild was kind of difficult in New York. There was Central Park and I could wander around and it was not too wild unless it was after dark and north of 85th Street. I tried to find some wilder places. I went to the beach to find some solitude. At Jones Beach on Long Island is where, growing up, I first became aware of the idea of solitude and that somehow individual dignity and respect was linked to solitude and to the frontier and the emptiness of the country.

Finally giving up on the East, I went west to find the frontier. I wasn't always successful there. I realized that much of the West

#### Yosemite literature from the 1950s.

had gone the way of the East. But in bits and pieces of the West I found what I was looking for. In the LaSalle Mountains near Canyonlands National Park I was able to acquire a little land, and I spent a good deal of time there looking 140 miles without seeing a single light. Remember this was a kid who grew up staring at a wall ten feet away. In other words, I went from the city to the wilderness. I revolted against the city and I sought out the wilderness both avocationally and professionally. I now spend much time rowing boats in the Grand Canyon, and, if I'm fortunate, get somewhere between 80 and 100 days out in truly wild country each year.

But in time I came to reassess my ideas about the city. I hated the city when I was growing up, but later I began to think "you know, if it wasn't for the city I wouldn't appreciate wilderness." That somehow the urban experience made me want to go to places like Yellowstone, Yosemite, and the Grand Canyon. And I began to realize that as a nation we went through that same process. We had to become civilized enough before we could appreciate wilderness. Had I grown up

in a cabin in the mountains of Colorado, my aspirations would probably have been on running a shoe store in Los Angeles.

To summarize my background, you might call it the Grand Canyon and New York City blended together. And the point I want to make to you, and it's an important one about parks and wilderness, is that we need both. The park and wilderness movement does not say let's go back to skins and really be raised by wolves. What it says is let's keep the option open so that occasionally when we need that relief from civilization we can find that opportunity. We can have some alternative to the man-dominated planet that we have created.

I think that this idea of a balance is part of the process that you are participating in right now. You're in a park, you're surrounded by wild country, but look, we have on all sides of us heavily-modified land. It's that idea of balance that I think is so important.

Look at it this way for a second. People sometimes say, Nash, why are you so radical, why can't you compromise a little about wilderness? The point I reply to them is that the compromises have already been made. Once this country was all wilderness, but now we're dealing with remnants, seeds and stems, bits and pieces of the once wild continent. About 2% of this United States (the lower 48 states) will eventually be protected in national parks and the national wilderness preservation system. About 2% of the same 48 states are paved! Think of that—pavement equals wilderness. And that, my friends, is why I'm radical about wilderness and believe that we should save everything we have left and let the future decide, give them the option. If they say, we don't want wilderness, at least they can make that decision.

It's sometimes said we don't inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children. I'm concerned with giving

our children a full hand. A full hand of species, of environmental options, as much wildness as we can.

The old growth forest in America is clinging to a rather perilous existence. Our old growth forests are very, very few. The historical range of the grizzly has shrunk dramatically. So when I say the compromises have already been made, this is the kind of evidence that I'm suggesting.

A quick metaphor for how to think about a national park. During the 19th and 20th centuries, we created institutions. I call them libraries for protecting the environment. These buildings, these institutions, are the national park system and the national wilderness preservation system. And into these libraries we put books, volumes rich with information like Yosemite, like Grand Canyon, like Mt. Rainier. Now we have the libraries and we have the books in them, but the next challenge, and I think it will be the challenge of the 1990s and the 21st century, is literacy. To teach people how to read those books that we've saved. To increase our understanding and appreciation. Not just to have the books there, but to have them appreciated and have them be instructional to us.

We have rules for libraries, don't we? Quieter please, no eating or drinking, no skateboarding, etc. We also have rules for national parks for the same reason. We're protecting treasured manuscripts here. We're learning to read them, but we can do better.

I'm sometimes asked as an historian if I'm not a little disappointed in the lack of interest in national parks and wilderness in this country. What I sometimes say to people is I'm astonished that we appreciate them as much as we do because of the environmental biases that we have had as Americans. To save land, to keep it wild was really subversive to the main thrust of American values for much of the nation's history. The Indians believed that you can't sell the earth—it is

beyond possession or sale. But not so for most of American history. We long believed in the classic myth of inexhaustibility. The American West was a cornucopia with room for millions.

Things haven't changed that much. You can still find large segments of the American public who believe that the mountains have got to be moved. Let's just tear them up and do it. Maybe one of the problems is that our technology has become so powerful. We have moved mountains. Look at Mt. Rushmore. You carve up a building, they arrest you for vandalism. You do it to a mountain, they make it a national monument. It's huge, maximum impact.

A great place to live has to be the basis, even more basic than a place to work. I think we're beginning to realize that the bottom line has to be the sustainability of a liveable planet. No other problems can be more important than that. Despite the positions of some companies in the U.S., many of us believe that we should "squeeze" the earth less hard and give nature a chance, and recognize its rights on the planet.

Here's a quote from an editorial that appeared in the Sacramento Bee recently: "I'd like to know what is suddenly so good and pure about nature. A million

years of human history tell of nothing but continuous struggle with nature. Even today, nature is the leading cause of death in the world." Now what does that mean? "And now after such a long battle, we finally have victory within our grasp, and we've become too soft and decadent not to press our advantage. Nature has sensed our weakness and counter-attacked with a fury, unleashing drought, deluge, blizzards, famine. Can the big earthquake be far behind? Let us never forget or romanticize nature's treacherous past. And let's finish the job that our ancestors have passed down to us. Harmony may be fine in music, but domination is the only tune nature understands." Holy cow!

That time is long past, my friends. I believe that the conquest is almost complete. Now we need nature, we need wildness to be part of a rich and full civilization, not be considered an enemy.

Ideas about national parks have changed a lot over the years. In the early days of national parks, people were content to have very limited contact with wilderness. In Yosemite at the Mariposa Grove we had the Tunnel Tree which has now fallen over. The hole was cut in 1881, and the party of Theodore Roosevelt drove through it in 1903. This was

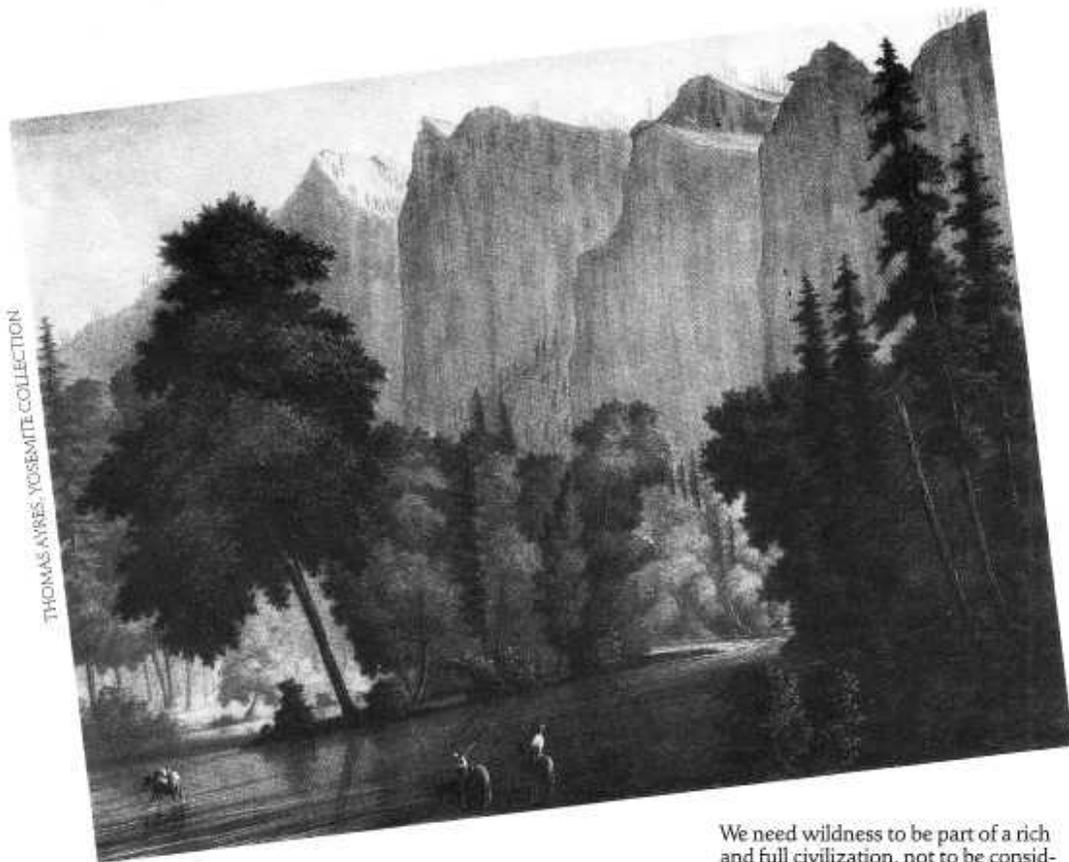
We need wildness to be part of a rich and full civilization, not to be considered an enemy.

a part of what was considered at one time appropriate to do in national parks. Badger Pass downhill ski area was built in 1935. Would a ski area be approved in a



national park today? Very doubtful. I think not at all. Priorities have changed. In Yosemite Valley we had toboggan rides and slides, fun and games, the kinds of things you'd see in a roadside resort. These things have been removed, to show you how the ideas about the importance of parks have changed.

The bear feeding was classic.



THOMAS AYRES, YOSEMITE COLLECTION

Did you know that until 1941 the bears were deliberately fed in the national parks by rangers. Times have changed. What's the first thing you get now when you drive into a national park with bears? A big sign that says do not feed the bears. But the bears were fed and they built grandstands to see them. They fed them with hotel garbage. One ranger had a summer job in Yellowstone guarding the visitors in the first row from the bears, holding a gun in his lap. He went on to become the President of the United States. That was Gerald Ford. We have decided that the parks are really places where we should have wild animals, where animals should do their natural thing, where we should as much as possible try to let the natural ways prevail.

And the Firefall. The last one was in 1968, it began in the 1870s right up here at Glacier Point in the evenings. They built a big fire and pushed it over the cliff and played the Indian Love Call or somebody would sing. People would gather. Many people thought it was the highlight of



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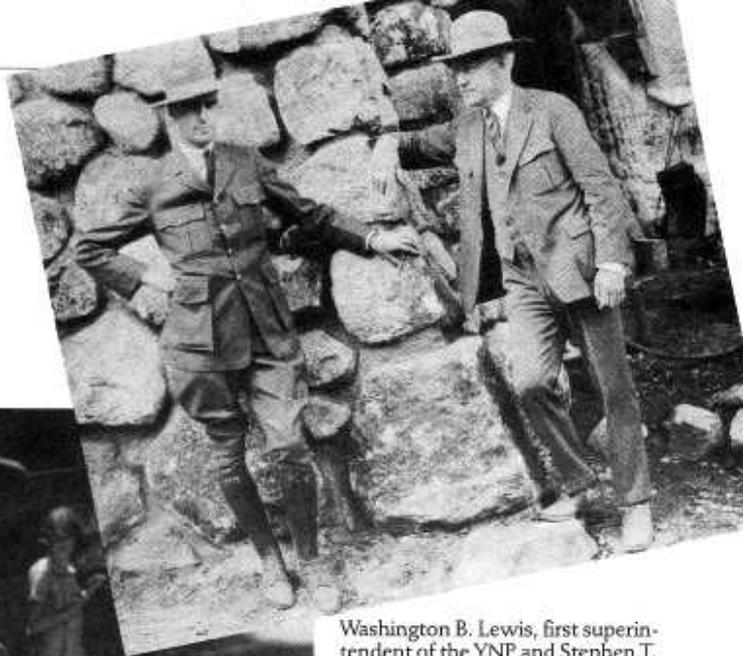
their visit to Yosemite. But by the 1960s, ideas about parks had changed sufficiently so that people thought, hey wait a minute, if you need a Firefall to really enjoy this place, if the grandeur of Yosemite in the natural state is not enough, maybe you really should go to Sea World for your vacation. Maybe this isn't the place for you. So this Firefall was stopped, popular as it was, because park administrators decided we do different things in a national park, we have different concepts of what is called public pleasure. It's not just indiscriminate pleasure, but it's a certain kind of pleasure in nature and one that relates to wild nature.

Stephen Mather was the first Director of the National Park Service. It was Mather and his colleague, Horace Albright, who decided you had to bring the people into the national parks to create a clientele for the national parks. You can't blame Mather, and I'm not doing so. I think in the 1920s he probably acted appropriately. People didn't camp out much then. People wanted hotels, they didn't want to rough it. He provided what he thought the people wanted, and he succeeded.

Bears and deer are no longer deliberately fed to entertain visitors. Times have changed.

Yosemite Valley became crowded. Smog became a problem—the carrying capacity was not enforced. There were no quotas in the campgrounds, and they fitted in as many people as they could. Those kinds of conditions made people step back and say what's the other side of this coin.

Who in American history has been saying let's save wilderness, let's protect the rights of nature? We might start with Henry David Thoreau. On July 4, 1845, symbolically because he wanted to make a statement, he left for Walden Pond. He lived there for the better part of two years, wrote *Walden*—a book that was almost totally ignored by his contemporaries. But Thoreau was the guy who said "In wildness is the preservation of the world." Thoreau was the guy who knew that American needed to hold on to some of its wildness if it was not going to become like the Old World, like Europe, and maybe lose some of its vigor and some of its physical and mental prowess.



Washington B. Lewis, first superintendent of the YNP and Stephen T. Mather, the first director of the National Park Service.

John Muir came to Yosemite in 1868 and for the next few years rambled through the Sierra. It was John Muir who urged people to go to wilderness, who said that civilized people needed that wilderness alternative. He publicized wilderness and received a lot of public commendation denied to Thoreau. But Muir was lucky because he wrote at about the time of the ending of the frontier, and became a celebrated national figure in the early 20th century.

Painters did so much for the wilderness movement. Albert Bierstadt romanticized Yosemite Valley, but he was trying to make a statement, too. He was trying to say that this place is incredible, and for many people before the age of photography, it was the landscape artists they turned to for a vision of Yosemite and what was here.

Theodore Roosevelt grew up about ten blocks from where I did in New York City and like I did, turned to wilderness. Roosevelt, a very popular President, came to this valley in 1903, camped with John Muir, did much for arousing popular interest in the strenuous life in the outdoors about the turn of the century.

Bob Marshall, as in the Bob Marshall Wilderness Area in Montana, had documented walks of 30, 40, 60 and 74 miles in a single day. He died at age 38. A millionaire who walked himself to death, an incredible guy. He did much for wilderness, calling attention to it in the 1920s and 30s.

The list should also include Aldo Leopold, the man behind the first wilderness designation in this country in 1924 on National



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**B**ACKPACKING WAS RELATIVELY UNCOMMON UNTIL AFTER WORLD WAR II. BUT THEN, WITH A TREMENDOUS AMOUNT OF HYPE, THE MODERN WILDERNESS MOVEMENT WAS BORN. WITH THIS HYPE CAME POPULARITY. . .

Forest land in New Mexico. He was also the author of *A Sand County Almanac*.

Ansel Adams, well-known here in Yosemite, was a man who used his camera to take up where the landscape painters left off to give the American public a sense of the beauties that were here. His pictures were worth a thousand words in convincing Congress to set aside parks and wilderness.

David Brower, who's still living, was long-time Executive Director of the Sierra Club, then Friends of the Earth. He's a man who knows Yosemite well, who climbed extensively in the Sierra in the 1930s. The archdruid himself, a man who realized that the coffee table book, the spectacular photograph could generate strong political clout for saving places like Yosemite, Grand Canyon, North Cascades, the Redwoods.

Recently deceased, Ed Abbey was a man who reminded us that wilderness is still tough, still hard, maybe even godless, but valuable for those very reasons. He called our attention to the Southwestern deserts, to some of the toughest country in the 48 states. His *Monkey Wrench Gang* in 1975 pointed out the possibilities of eco-sabotage as it was called, or monkey-wrenching on behalf of nature.

Let's talk a little bit about the reasons that led to the American appreciation of wild country. We had the intellectual revolution, the idea that wilderness, once a hated enemy, a place to be conquered, was now a cathedral, a sanctuary to be saved. And the flip-flop was complete because the city, once the sanctuary, became known as the place where you might get hurt and mugged and was a dangerous place. The city became the wilderness and the wilderness became the cathedral. It was that change that led up to things like national parks and wilderness preservation.

Along with that intellectual revolution there was an equipment revolution. People who hadn't been able to go into wild

country suddenly were able to because of the advent of nylon and aluminum, freeze-dried food. That's how the wilderness became popular.

We also had an information revolution. Guidebooks, professional guides, maps that allowed people to know the unknown. The blank space on the map became filled in.

Finally the access revolution was terribly important. One hundred years ago in 1890, it might have taken you three days to get from San Francisco to Yosemite, and maybe six weeks to get from the east coast to San Francisco. A one week vacation?

No way. By the access revolution I mean not only the advent of air transportation, but paved roads that allowed people to get relatively easily to national parks and wilderness. This was a revolution in public recreational patterns.

The revolution continues with new ways of entering the wilderness. Mountain bikes, although not legal in designated federal wilderness, have been provided other places where they can ride. In the past five years, here is something that has transformed the way many people relate to wild country.

The people who began to take advantage of this change, of this

four-fold revolution, are some of the first people to go into wilderness. They included Sierra Club groups led by John Muir. Women began to enter the wilderness for recreation. Many people used horses. Backpacking was relatively uncommon until after World War II.

But then, with a tremendous amount of hype, the modern wilderness movement was born. A lot of people were willing to say good-bye civilization, responded to the call of the wild. Magazines and guidebooks proliferated identifying "secret" places for hundreds of thousands of people. Whole organizations like the



NIS PHOTO

## IF MY CHURCH HAPPENS TO BE YOSEMITE VALLEY, OR AS JOHN MUIR'S WAS, HETCH HETCHY VALLEY, SHOULDN'T I HAVE THE RIGHT TO WORSHIP THERE?

American Adventure Association were created.

With this hype came popularity, and with this popularity came incredible numbers. An example. I had a man in one of my classes who said that in 1949 he climbed Mt. Whitney with his father, he signed the register. They were the sixth and seventh persons to sign it for the year (this was August). That man in 1972 went back with his son to replicate the trip. He signed the register on the same day in August. They were the 278th and 279th persons to sign the register that day. Six in a year versus 270 in a day! More and more people going to less and less wilderness, the problem of loving wilderness to death. We're part of the problem, people who like wilderness.

The numbers for use of the Colorado River at the Grand Canyon are very revealing. Between the years of 1869 and 1940, only 73 people total went down the river. 1951 it was 29, 1955 it was 70. Then the numbers start to rise because of those four revolutions. They also rise because of the publicity about the Grand Canyon dams at that time. In 1965 we had 500, then it increased to 16,000 in 1972, up to 21,000 in 1986. One could say that perhaps the place is being loved to death, that wilderness values somewhere have dropped between the slats.

This popularity has prompted wilderness managers at this park and elsewhere to start thinking about some things that will be part of the future of national parks and wilderness. One is the concept of zoning where we allow parts of the park to be wilder than other parts. And we say if you want to go into a place, in Yosemite say, where's it very wild, no trail signs, maybe even no trails, maybe even no search and rescue, you should have that opportunity. That's one theory.

Coupled with that idea is the concept of the wilderness license. That maybe we should begin licensing backcountry users like we do drivers, pilots and scuba

divers, and that we should insure these people are able to go back and not only protect themselves, but protect the country, the resource, the animals, where they are.

One of the horizons for wilderness literacy is going to be how we value wilderness. There are a couple of values that I think we'll value more in the future than we have in the past. The first is the scientific value. Wilderness as a reservoir of species, of normal ecological processes, a kind of genetic safe deposit box, a gene pool. Diversity. Aldo Leopold said the first law of successful tinkering is to save all the parts. That's what parks and wilderness are doing — saving all the biological parts that evolved along with us on this planet. Extinction is forever. The extinction of a species is perhaps the sin the future will be least likely to forgive our generation.

A second value is a spiritual one. Most aboriginal people felt the spiritual significance of wild country. Wilderness has long been attributed religious connotations. Here's an idea. We believe in freedom of religion in this country, we believe that one should have the right to worship as one chooses. If my church happens to be Yosemite Valley, or as John Muir's was, Hetch Hetchy Valley, shouldn't I have the right to worship there? Shouldn't I be able to contend for the preservation of that place on the grounds of religious freedom? American Indians have been granted that right, but what about non-Indians who also feel a sacred significance to the land? It's an idea I think where we will see more development.

The psychological value of wilderness. Sigmund Freud argued that one of the problems of our civilization is that we had neuroses stress based on the fact that we were prisoners of civilization, that we needed alternatives, we needed to get out occasionally. Wilderness offers that escape, that contrast to the civilized lives most of us lead. Many argue that

a national park or wilderness is the equivalent to a mental hospital in what it can do for a society. And many groups, like Outward Bound and others, are taking mentally disturbed people into wilderness and finding it has a restorative effect.

The historical value of wilderness, one particularly important to me as an historian. A place where our culture was shaped, where our ideas of individual dignity and freedom and democracy were born. If we destroy wilderness we destroy part of our past. It's like going into that library and ripping out the books. We won't know what the frontier and pioneer experience was like if we don't have a few places like the High Sierra in which to experience it.

I come now to the intrinsic value of parks and wilderness — the rights of nature. Now some are saying that non-human entities have rights. That all life forms, perhaps, have them. Albert Schweitzer's idea of the reverence for life. Most of us now concede that animals have some rights, our pets, for example. We have animal liberation fronts that are pursuing the rights of animals just like say the abolitionists once pursued the rights of black people. Tying in with that the idea that American liberalism has expanded, now some people say that the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (and I would add the whole national park and wilderness concept) expressed the idea that certain non-human residents of the United States have rights to exist, rights to a place in the sun, and that the concept of environmental ethics, the extension of ethics from the human-to-human relationship, to the human-to-nature relationship is embodied in that kind of act. The potential for this is enormous.

If we came to see the national parks and wilderness areas of this country as important not just as places of human recreation but as places where non-human life and ecological processes could go on,

if we looked at Yosemite National Park as a gesture of planetary modesty, a place where we restrain ourselves, and we say, yes, we share this planet. We don't own it, we don't master it, we're members of an ecosystem. This is one of the real frontiers of literacy in the national parks.

We haven't been very good roommates on this planet. We haven't given our earth-mates a place to eat, a place to sleep, a place to have their young. We have extended our dominion over most of it. We are like the 250 pound three-year-old. The metaphor is this. The only reason three-year-olds don't kill each other is they're so small, because their ethics are rather rudimentary. Our civilization is like a 250 pound three-year-old. We have enormous power, but where are the ethics? The frontier, to build an ethic that doesn't just stop with human-to-human relationships but goes on to human relationships to the earth are what "deep ecology" and environmental ethics are all about.

To wrap this up, the planet is very small. It is indeed a spaceship. The image of the earth as seen from the moon reminds us of how fragile and finite and small we are. How great is the potential for disruption. When we talk about parks and wilderness, we're not talking about returning to caves and wolves. We're talking about a balance, and it's a precarious balance. Remember 2% wild and 2% paved? Think about Yosemite National Park in a sea of otherwise rather radically-disturbed land. It could easily go this way. The leaf is gone and we are plunged into the 1984, George Orwellian world of a complete technological termite existence. We could be reduced to climbing the walls of buildings.

I hope the future of national parks will not be this. I hope that the future of outdoor and wilderness recreation will not be this — memories, video tapes of what

*Continued on page 22*

# Yosemite and National Security

Martin Rosen

**What an honor to be here** in America's oldest national park. I know some think that Yellowstone in 1872 is older, but let's not quibble. I date the public's commitment to Yosemite when in the heat of the Civil War, in 1864, Abraham Lincoln was persuaded to sign into law the act proclaiming that Yosemite Valley be set aside for "public use, resort, and recreation" — for all time.

And to be here on John Muir's birthday, who first set foot in Yosemite Valley in 1869 and saw its "divine beauty," its "spiritual power," its majesty wherein "everything in it seems equally divine — one smooth, pure, wild glow of heaven's love."

Thirteen years after Yosemite became a national park, in 1903, it was John Muir who escorted Teddy Roosevelt on an excursion through Yosemite. That experience, I'm sure, was one of the bases which led to President Roosevelt's ringing declaration: "The time has come for a change. We as a people have a duty and a right to protect our children against the wasteful development of our natural resources. The prosperity of our people depends directly on the energy and intelligence with which our natural resources are wisely used. These resources are the *final basis* of national power and perpetuity."

Some 80 plus years since Teddy Roosevelt spoke the words, most Americans appreciate our environment. A recent survey by the Los Angeles Times confirms that in describing themselves, more Americans use the term *environmentalist* than Democrat, Republican, business person, working person, conservative or liberal.

Are we acting on these beliefs or are we taking our environment for granted? Are we overlooking defense of our environment as a vital element of our national security? Can we really address our environmental needs — which are urgent — while we have such a huge deficit and a level of military



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spending that shuts off money for environmental defense?

For the past 15 years that I have been associated with the Trust for Public Land, we have been on the cutting edge of non-profit land conservation in this country. We started in San Francisco in 1972 with a staff of three in a single room. Start-up funds came from the Ford Foundation, the San Francisco Foundation, and the Norman Foundation. Today we have offices throughout the country, a full-time staff of 150. We close a conservation real estate transaction every other business day of the year. We have also helped organize and work with more than 200 community-based land trusts — local citizen conservation groups — all across America. These are groups of special

people who express their love for a special place, much like the Yosemite Association. They are dynamic, powerful and growing. There are today more than 800 throughout the country from Big Sur to Key West, to the Berkshires, to Hell's Kitchen to Napa Valley.

Yet while our spending for military consumption these past eight years has been soaring, our government's environmental investments have been shriveling.

Between 1981 and 1988, as military expenses continued to reach new heights, the federal administration proposed not a dime for new federal parks, forests or wildlife refuges. The only reason we have had any new money for parks was strong, bipartisan congressional initiative that overcame the administration's objection.

We are not the first major power to confuse national security solely with military spending.

Consider the two biggest real estate transactions in this country's history.

In 1802, President Thomas Jefferson struck a bargain with the Emperor Napoleon for 825,000 square miles between the Mississippi and the Rocky Mountains. The Louisiana Purchase effectively doubled the size of the United States for which Napoleon received *four cents an acre*.

Sixty-five years later, Secretary of State William Seward picked up Alaska from Czar Alexander the Second for half that price. Two cents per acre. And they called it "Seward's Folly." Today, Alaska generates more than the total purchase price — every single day.

The point here involves not the seller's patriotism. More instructive for our purposes are the reasons that the sellers sold. Czar Alexander and Napoleon were running up big deficits — they were both strapped for cash to fund their expanding armies. They chose to liquidate their assets — their immense land resources — for a massive military buildup, for the sake of their national security as they then saw it.

Today, according to the office of personnel and management, 34% of all federal employees get their paychecks from the Department of Defense. Excluding all men and women in uniform — 34%!

Compare that with the other defense dollars, the ones that go to provide environmental defense. Monies for clean air, clean water, toxic clean-up, parks, forests and wildlife refuges. These have been cut and cut and cut. Today Mr. Bush proposes to spend only a penny and a half of every dollar in the federal budget on our environment — a cut of 50% from when he took office as Vice President!

Yet our national security and a healthy environment are not at odds. They are inseparable.

What we're talking about here are values, priorities, and how our

spending patterns stabilize or destabilize our society. Which brings us back to land. The land we fight for. The land we defend. The land that gives us our national, regional, cultural identity and security.

What is the highest and best use of our land? That is the abiding question. What uses of the land make us most secure and most productive, that will feed our bodies and uplift our spirits?

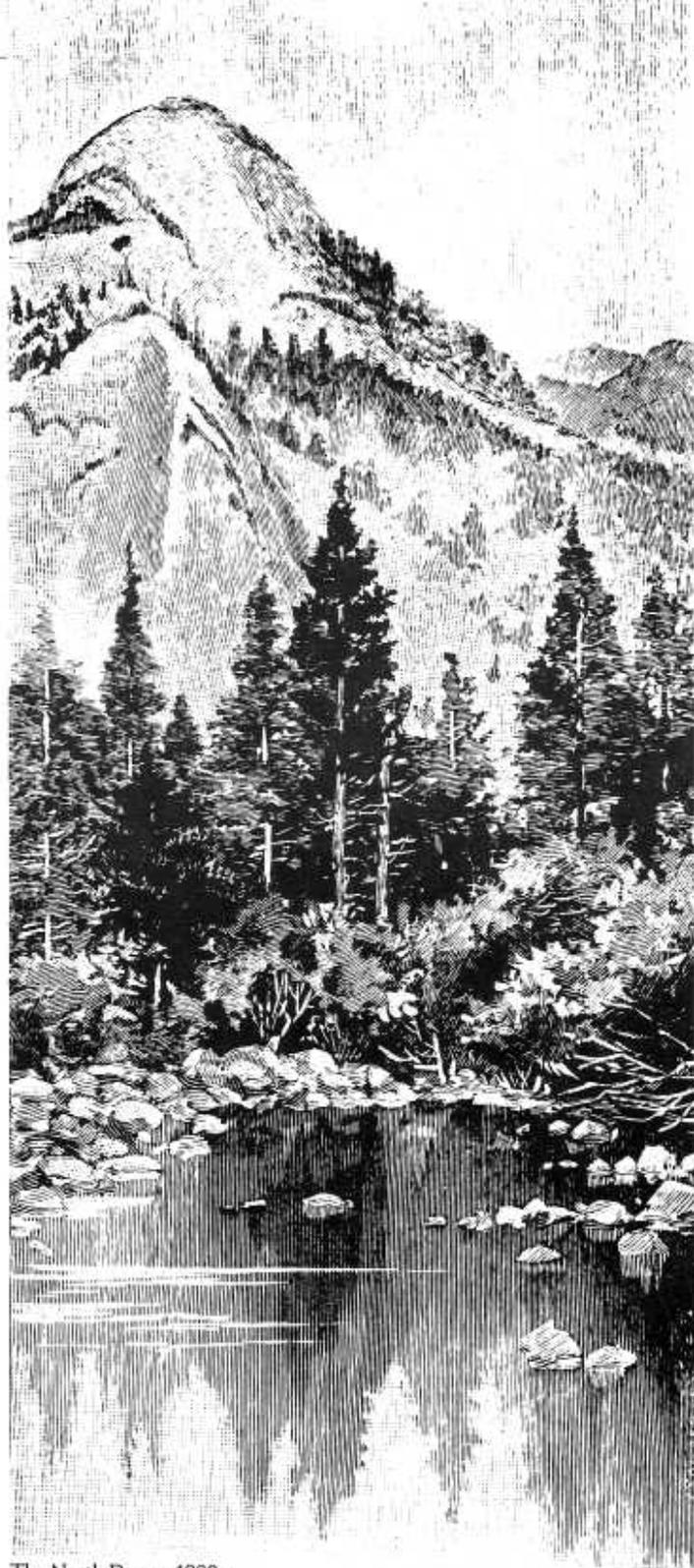
It should come as no surprise that the head of an organization called the Trust for Public Land believes our long-term security rests on not only defending but on protecting and restoring our lands, especially places like Yosemite. We who founded the Trust for Public Land were inspired by a man named Aldo Leopold, who urged us to practice a land ethic—a love and respect for land, and a high regard for its value.

As David Brower reminds us: "We do not inherit the earth from our parents. We are borrowing it from our children."

There was a time early in this century when this country was a pioneer and a leader in national parks. We had the world's first national park system. But in recent years, our country, the wealthiest nation in the world, has slipped behind. In Japan, where real estate prices are perhaps the highest in the world, the people have set aside nine percent of their land as national parks. In the U.S., we've protected less than half that amount, as parks, about four percent. And that figure is virtually stagnant. Since 1981, only one new national park has been established. Great Basin National Park in Nevada is one-tenth the size of Yosemite.

Visits to all of our parks are at an all-time high. Right after World War II, 33 million visitors logged in at our national parks. Last year, that figure was 350 million and is climbing about four to five percent per year. This is in addition to visits to state parks.

Last year more than 140 million Americans participated in



The North Dome, 1890s.

209-379-2317

If you're planning a trip to Yosemite and have questions, give our Members' phone line a call between the hours of 9:00 am and 4:30 pm Monday through Friday. We don't make reservations, but we can give the appropriate phone numbers and usually lots of helpful advice.

## Association Dates

**December 1, 1990:** Deadline for Grant Applications.

**March 23, 1991:** Spring Open House, Yosemite Valley

**September 14, 1991:** Members' Meeting, Tuolumne Meadows

some form of wildlife-related recreation alone. Fishing, hunting, and wildlife photography. These activities contribute more than \$55 billion a year to local, state and national economies. Travel and tourism are either the first, second or third largest employer in 39 of our 50 states.

Why, then, has it been so difficult lately to fund existing parks and create new parks?

In recent years, our federal administration has chosen to shortchange our environmental defense—to sacrifice it—in the single-minded pursuit to expand the military. When you spend \$300 billion per year (that is \$34 million per hour on military consumption, 24 hours per day, seven days per week, 52 weeks per year) there are not many dollars left for parks and forests, especially if they are looked upon as frills or commodities to be exploited.

Last year, in contrast to the military, the federal government spent a total of less than \$14 million for all park operations in Yosemite National Park. That means the U.S. spent for the entire year in Yosemite for roads, trails, maintenance, salaries, services, research, interpretation, and administration, \$13 million—what we spend at the Pentagon in 23 minutes!!

But this is changing, and not a moment too soon. Tomorrow is Earth Day. More than 100 million people in America and probably that many more offshore will be thinking about Mother Earth and the linkages between what is personal and what is global.

Even *Business Week* magazine, which is not a Sierra Club house organ, calls the environment the most powerful and universal issue of the next ten years.

William Colby, former Director of the Central Intelligence Agency under President Nixon, confirms that "real national security" is not merely military in nature. He advocates significant reductions in the military consumption budget and redirection into urgent environmental and educational needs.

We're not here talking about a so-called peace dividend. We're talking about restoration of ravaged and depleted capital resources under an administration that put the environment into bondage under James Watt and Ann Gorsuch — from which it has never recovered! We're not talking about increasing any dividend. We are talking about a capital matter here.

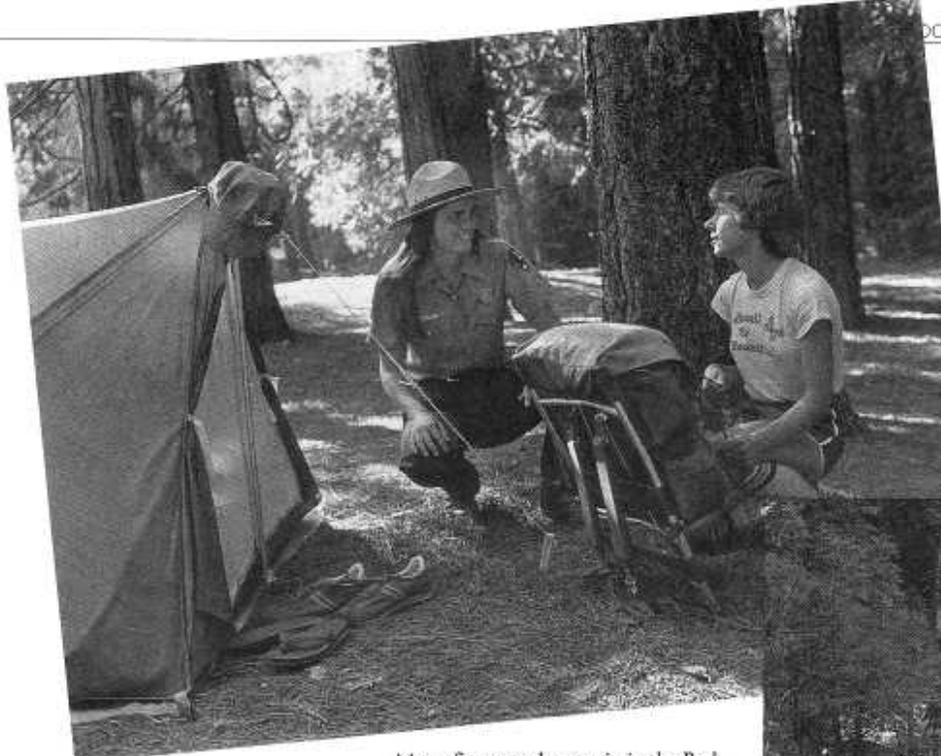
Henry David Thoreau, that thrifty New Englander, once told us: "A man is rich in proportion to the number of things he can afford to leave alone."

This year marks the centennial of one of America's great national parks: Yosemite. It became a park many years before we had a national park system, or really even knew what a national park was. What Yosemite represented, though, was both our past and our future. A recognition that certain places should be left alone as natural areas — for future Americans to know and love — as places of uplifting wonder and exquisite magic.

Writer Wallace Stegner refers to our wilderness as our "geography of hope."

And what has this to do with national security? Everything. At its roots, security is based on faith — faith in country, faith in future, in our ideals, in ourselves, and in one another.

Yes, we have hope, but I confess I am also troubled. I am troubled because each of us, as much as we love this place, can and should do more to preserve it and



RICHARD FREARNTS

Many fine people remain in the Park Service in spite of starvation wages.

to use it wisely.

First, with respect to preservation. As I mentioned we have allowed this park to deteriorate as more and more people seek to experience its majesty. A budget equal to 23 minutes of military expenditures is criminal neglect. Maybe we should not have had a park, but left it as a cavalry base? No, it is a park. And as much as I love the land and the waterfalls and the creatures, I am very, very concerned that we are turning our parks into plantations and our rangers into braceros.

When we throw so much money into military consumption is that why we cannot afford to pay decent wages to our rangers and interpreters of this magnificent resource? May I ask each of you who hire people, who could you expect to hire for \$16,305? That's what a starting ranger, GS-5 Step 2, earns for his or her service, being on call nights and weekends. That is \$7.81 per hour. Maybe the ranger's children never need their teeth straightened, or need tutoring or music lessons. I would hope not because, if so, wages from the Park Service aren't much help. I am troubled by this exploitation because it means that we cannot for the long-term hope to compete for and retain the most qualified, dedicated men and women to defend and restore the land.

The fact that we have many fine people remaining in the Park Service in spite of these starvation

wages is a tribute to their dedication and not a credit to the park system. What our men and women need are champions of their cause. I would hope that along with the Yosemite Fund and other worthwhile capital projects, we awaken within our ranks of park lovers *champions* who will step out, speak up and get some gumption in the higher ranks of the Park Service, the Office of Management and Budget, the Congress — raise the wages and expand the ranks of our park professionals. And let's not hide behind the bogey-man — the deficit. The park professionals have seen their wages shrivel while military spending and the deficit has been skyrocketing. Let's express outrage at this exploitation.

Finally, in this centennial year, I want to talk about the concession contract here at Yosemite. Concessioners are entitled to earn a reasonable return. But having said that, we all recognize that there are areas of mutual agreement and other areas where park values must take precedence, have a higher priority at the expense of the concessioner's return or profit.

There is a lot of money on the table in this concession. Nobody knows this better than the Yosemite Park & Curry Company and I'm sure they feel they are entitled. I'm sure that the two top officials of the concessioner's parent (known as MCA Company) also



earned their compensation or they wouldn't have been paid \$15.1 million in stock options last year. As they say, "That's show business." That's fine.

Of course, that's more than the entire park's budget for the entire year. And yes, that's comparing apples and oranges. I would just like to see that this park's needs for resource protection, interpretation and staffing receive appropriate valuation when the Park Service and the concessionaire attempt to negotiate their arrangement after 1993. For whatever reason, to my knowledge, there has not been any franchise fee renegotiation since October, 1973 when MCA acquired the concession.

When the negotiations commence, I hope the NPS has the best preparation and the best team of experts available to serve the public and the park. At a minimum, I would expect and seek a bond that the concessionaire — whoever it may be — will be re-

**A**ND WHAT HAS THIS TO DO WITH NATIONAL SECURITY? EVERYTHING. AT ITS ROOTS, SECURITY IS BASED ON FAITH—FAITH IN COUNTRY, FAITH IN FUTURE, IN OUR IDEALS, IN OURSELVES, AND IN ONE ANOTHER.

quired to implement promptly the letter and the spirit of the General Management Plan of 1980 without exception or qualification. If, on reflection, MCA genuinely believes that the plan will not be profitable for them to operate under, I hope that they will be both generous and ingenious in finding ways to continue.

Perhaps one idea that MCA might consider is having the concession operated not by a subsidiary, but by something like a Yosemite Park & Curry Foundation. A not-for-profit enterprise which they would organize and operate for the benefit of the park,

the public, and from which it would derive a generous amount of goodwill and probably shareholder satisfaction. Fortunately, MCA is an extremely profitable corporation and if they have the vision, they would see the value of this being done as part of their corporate responsibility and as a gesture of goodwill to demonstrate how proud they are to be able to provide concession services in one of the world's finest national parks.

But if, on the other hand, either in the present form or as a newly constituted not-for-profit foundation, it does not appear

that Yosemite Park & Curry Company can meet MCA's corporate goals, perhaps MCA will step aside on a fair basis and allow someone else to perform this important service.

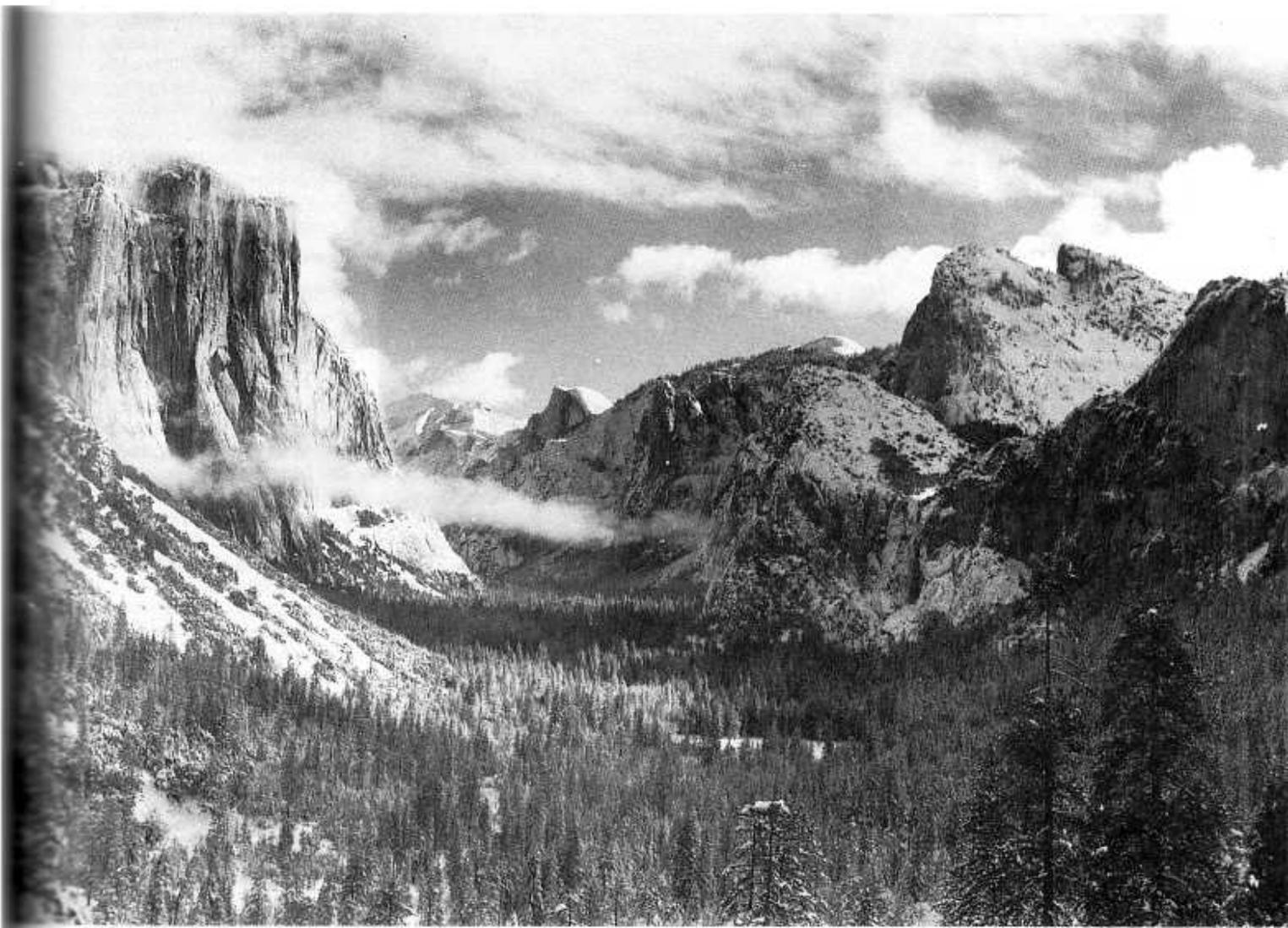
Finally, as you experience this wonderful place, get ready for Earth Day, address the difficult but resolvable problems of national security and parkland protection, decent wages for our dedicated park professionals and a negotiated park concession contract that puts park values first and foremost. Let's remember that this place—as sacred as it is—has always been at risk. An early con-

cessioner, James Hutchings, commercialized this valley until he was finally bought out. We lost about one-third of this park in 1905, and, of course, in 1913 Hetch Hetchy was flooded and carved out of this park.

Controversy is not new to this place because these park values are as attractive as they are vulnerable. Together, it's now our turn to protect, preserve and prepare for the next centennial.

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"A man is rich in proportion to the number of things he can afford to leave alone." —Henry David Thoreau



# Conflict With NPS Resolved

*Tom Shephard, Board Chairman*

**As has been reported recently** in a number of California newspapers, a conflict developed earlier this year between the National Park Service and the board of the Yosemite Association over the comments of the board on the Examination Report which was written in 1989 to evaluate the status of the 1980 General Management Plan and over the criticism of the National Park Service that those comments contained. The differences of the two organizations seem to have been settled, however, and all parties look forward to continuing the long-standing relationship of mutual support they have enjoyed.

In response to both the board comments and an article critical of the NPS that appeared in this journal, Superintendent Mike Finley asked the Association to refrain from taking public positions on issues at the park and from acting as an advocacy group. He noted that cooperating associations traditionally have not been outspoken on political matters, and expressed his concern that any "lobbying" might jeopardize the association's tax-exempt status with the IRS. It is his position that cooperating associations should remain issue-neutral and non-political.

A special committee of the Y.A. board was established to address the matter. In its report to the full board, the committee, while acknowledging that Y.A. had pushed beyond the normally accepted role for an association, recommended that in the future, the board should decide on a case by case basis whether or not to take positions on park issues. Believing that maintaining an amicable alliance with Mr. Finley and the National Park Service in Yosemite was a high priority, the board adopted the recommendation of the committee.

Newspaper accounts of the matter have characterized the board's response as "a complete capitulation," and accused the



NPS PHOTO

association of concealing the incident from its members. The board's actions might be better described as concession and compromise in the interests of peace-making. Contributing to the board's decision was the feeling that its objectives in commenting on the Examination Report and bringing public attention to that document had been met. Several board members felt that it was the wrong time to create a new controversy in the light of the many more important Yosemite issues.

The board had no desire to hide the conflict from the membership. The matter was a minor

one in the eyes of many. Sometimes the reporting of a slight problem results in its being blown out of proportion. Had the incident risen to the status of a critical issue at the heart of the association's successful operation, it would have been quickly and thoroughly reported.

Questions regarding the conflict were posed by several individuals at the 15th Annual Members' Meeting in Wawona. A fear was expressed that the editorial policy of the Association had changed or would change, and that "controversial" topics would no longer be covered in the Members' Journal. That fear is unfounded, and Yo-

osemite will continue to serve as a forum for discussion of the issues that will affect every aspect of the future of Yosemite National Park.

Throughout our discussions, Superintendent Finley regularly referred to the Yosemite Association as a member of the NPS family, and indicated that this was a big reason why Y.A.'s criticism was so bothersome. We believe that our association is family, and that despite difference of opinion and occasional criticism, our love, respect and support for the National Park Service are unceasing. It is those qualities that distinguish family members.

The bottom line of all this is that the Yosemite Association has not been "silenced," that its members have not been duped, and that our commitment to Yosemite and to the National Park Service here has not waned. Out of conflict comes better understanding, and we hope that has resulted in this instance.

## Research Grant Deadline December 1

**Individuals seeking grant funding** from the Yosemite Association for the 1991 calendar year should submit their proposals to YA by December 1, 1990. This year the Association's grants program provided over \$30,000 to a number of researchers for a variety of projects.

An information sheet and grant request form for the 1990 program are available from the Association at P.O. Box 230, El Portal, CA 95318, or call Anne at (209) 379-2646. Applications must be received by December 1, 1990 to be considered.

You want to watch television? Stay home. You want to go to a bar? Stay home. We're all part of the solution, we're all part of the problem. There are no saints and sinners amongst us, and there are no saints and sinners in Yosemite's history.

## Yosemite Debate

*Continued from page 7*

many, many years since the Yosemite Association was first formed. Have those wonderful trips for all of the backpackers and students who want to learn in Yosemite led by people like Carl Sharsmith and Steven Botti. Support the great, new scholarship being done around this park, and as a result of the existence of this park, such as Steven Botti's future study of the botanical resources of Yosemite National Park which is being supported by this association. I applaud that kind of thing. That's what this association should be doing.

Have this debate. Do the educational things. Be a loyal opposition, be a loyal forum for the continuation of this debate. But don't stop it by any means. I have, again, great respect for the park service, and, of course, all of us do as well. And I have great respect for the people in the Yosemite Park & Curry Co.

But I will grant Garrett DeBell his one wish. He said, "You know Al, sometimes the problem is that the National Park Service is so weak. They could tell us what we need to do and we would do it." So let's give Garrett DeBell his wish. Let's give Garrett DeBell a strong and vigorous National Park Service that is truly a regulator in this park and that says no, and we mean no. Case closed, finis, no. No more expansion in Yosemite for the sake of the business community alone. Everything we do in the future of Yosemite is going to be for the sake of the natural environment which is Yosemite's own and only reason for being.

As I believe I conclude my book, Yosemite is too important to be just another place. By every stretch of the imagination, Yosemite is one of a kind. That is the only way to manage the future of this park and its great natural resources. The highest ideals of Yosemite must guide its second one hundred years.



NPS RESEARCH LIBRARY

NPS PHOTO

I know my friends in interpretation are up to that challenge. And I believe that my friends in the highest ranks of management of the National Park Service are up to that challenge. They simply need to be reminded once in awhile. And I think the Yosemite Park & Curry Co. is up to that challenge, too. And maybe they could join the soulless Southern Pacific Railroad Company and Edward H. Harriman of Union Pacific and all the folks of Weyerhaeuser Company and Boise-

Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., followed the lead of his father in working to guard Yosemite against threats.

Cascade and Burlington Northern who joined with me in protecting other great natural areas.

Let's rebuild the Yosemite Valley Railroad. Better yet, we might need two or three branches of it. Let's rebuild public transportation into our national parks. Let's get all frivolous activities out of our national parks. And let's come

here only for the experience of the place. That was Olmsted's vision, that was Muir's vision, that was Grinnell's vision, that was Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr.'s vision, that was Carl P. Russell's vision, and that's the vision of the people that are standing true to the principle "for public use, resort and recreation," yes, but also "inalienable for all time." Use, resort and recreation should be just for the place and the place itself. The experience of the place. Take Yosemite for what it is, and for nothing else.

You want to watch television? Stay home. You want to go to a bar? Stay home. We're all part of the solution, we're all part of the problem. There are no saints and sinners amongst us, and there are no saints and sinners in Yosemite's history. You know, even John Muir once in a while did some crazy things. Let's not forget that even the Sierra Club once owned property in Yosemite National Park.

This is a history we need to be honest about. We need to be true to the principles of Yosemite, now and into the future. Thank you for the privilege of being here. Together we can save Yosemite and still make an honest living, not only here, but everywhere else in this continent and on this planet.

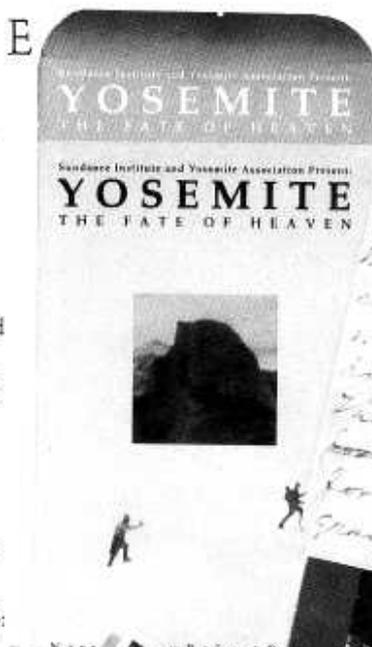
I'll leave you with the wisdom of my good friend Michael Frome who once remarked: "In the beginning God created the Earth National Park." Our only problem is that we've been chipping away at it ever since. We stopped chipping when we came to Yosemite, and that's what we celebrate here today. We have reason to be proud of this great achievement. The reason we have this debate is that we have something to debate over.

We owe that to the past. Let's hope that the future looks back on us the same way that we look back on the heroes of the past. Let this be deserving of the place. Let's make sure that Yosemite is worthy of all of the things that it stands for in centuries and centuries to come.

# THE Yosemite

## CATALOG

**A** *Yosemite: The Embattled Wilderness* by Alfred Runte. In this long-awaited work, the author details the history of the tension and shifting balances between preservation, an ideal from the park's beginning, and use in Yosemite. The preservation ideal has been compromised, Runte asserts, by the need to accommodate people and by a competing set of management values under which the National Park Service has toiled. Because Yosemite is too important "to be just another place," Runte believes that this fact should guide all future management policies for the park. With 6 color and 50 black and white illustrations. University of Nebraska Press, 1990. #19350 (clothbound); \$24.95.



**B** *Yosemite As We Saw It—A Centennial Collection of Early Writings and Art* by David Robertson. This is Y.A.'s new centennial book mentioned in this journal. Representative excerpts from the early literature of Yosemite have been paired with beautiful four-color reproductions of art primarily from the Yosemite Museum. Gary Snyder called the book "a splendid compact gathering of passionate views." *Yosemite As We Saw It* elegantly celebrates more than 130 years of American encounter with the Yosemite. 104 pages with 24 color plates. Yosemite Association, 1990. #800 (clothbound); \$34.95.

**C** *The Rights of Nature—A History of Environmental Ethics* by Roderick Nash. Charting the history of contemporary philosophical and religious beliefs regarding nature, the book focuses primarily on changing attitudes toward nature in the United States. The work is the first comprehensive history of the concept that nature has rights and that American liberalism has been extended to the non-human world. University of Wisconsin Press, 1989. #15078 (paper), \$12.95.

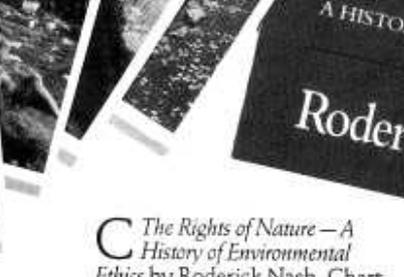
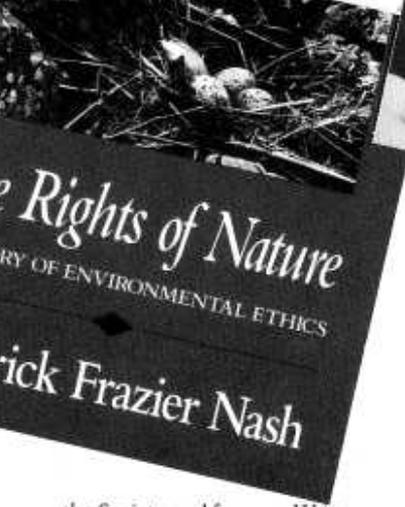
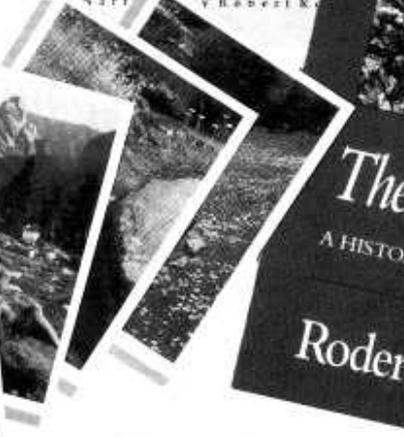
**D** *Yosemite—An American Treasure* by Kenneth Brower. The National Geographic Society has produced this handsome new book for Yosemite's centennial, and it's only available from

the Society and from us. Written by David Brower's son, Kenneth, the volume is a personal study of Yosemite that's full of optimism. Brower looks at every aspect of the park from its natural history to the people who frequent it (there are great sketches of Howard Weamer, Jim Snyder, Julia Parker, and others), and finishes with a chapter on the park's prospects for the future. Illustrated with over one hundred color photographs, the book is 200 pages long. National Geographic Society, 1990. #18590 (hardbound); \$8.95.

**E** *Yosemite: The Fate of Heaven* narrated 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, visitors 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—A Landscape of Life* by Jay Mather and Dale Maharidge. This is the beautiful new, full-color photographic book about people in Yosemite produced jointly by the Sacramento Bee and the Yosemite Association. Published as a handsome paperback that's 9"



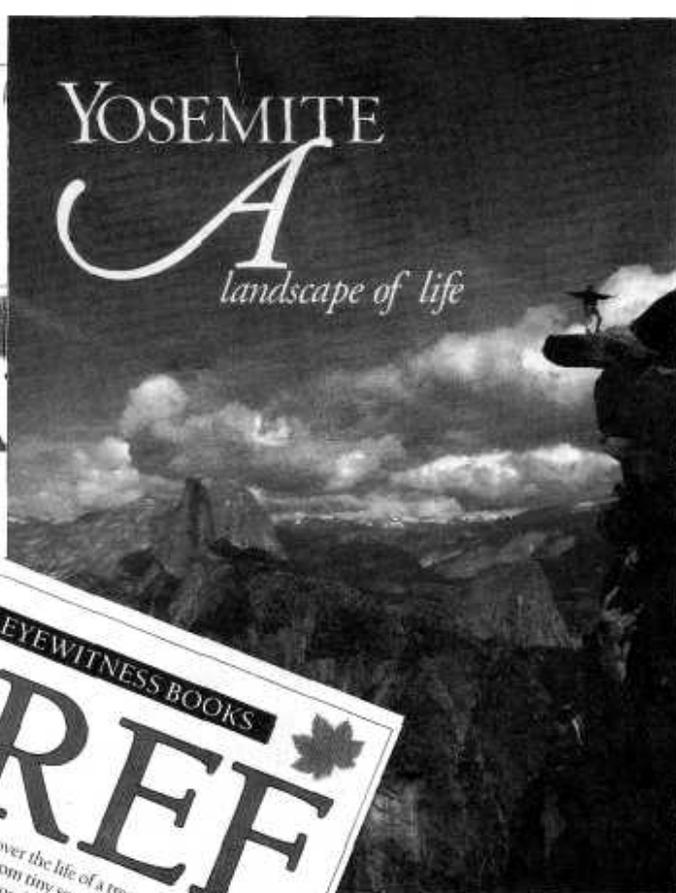


by 12" and 120 pages long, the work is filled with thought-provoking and revealing photographs giving insight into the life that humans bring to the Yosemite landscape. Photographer Mather and writer Maharidge are both Pulitzer Prize winners and have created a book that is unique in the literature of the park. Makes a wonderful gift. #795, \$14.95.

**G** *Wildflower Note Cards* by Howard Weamer. A longtime Y.A. instructor and gifted photographer, Weamer has selected four of his finest images for reproduction as full-color notecards. The theme of the photographs is wildflowers as part of the landscape, and it could not have been better supported. Views include Indian paint brush and Tenaya Canyon, poppies and owl's clover in the Merced

River Canyon, shooting stars at Lukens Lake, and an alpine bouquet. Box of eight cards with envelopes. #1400, \$6.75.

**H** *Eyewitness Books: Bird, Tree, and Mammal* by various authors. This series of books for children has become one of our best sellers. Each combines hundreds of stunning, real-life photographs with lively captions to present entirely fresh looks at a variety of subjects—they are literally color photo essays. "Bird" examines such topics as body construction, feathers and flight, nests and eggs and bird watching. "Tree" looks at different kinds of bark, seeds and leaves, the commercial processing of trees to make lumber, and the creatures that live in trees. "Mammal" covers

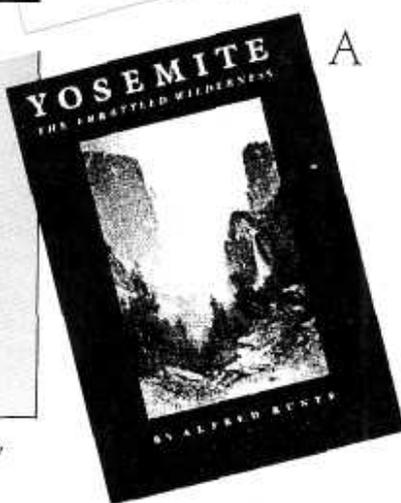


**EYEWITNESS BOOKS**  
**TREE**  
Discover the life of a tree in close-up—from tiny seed to forest to woody skeleton.

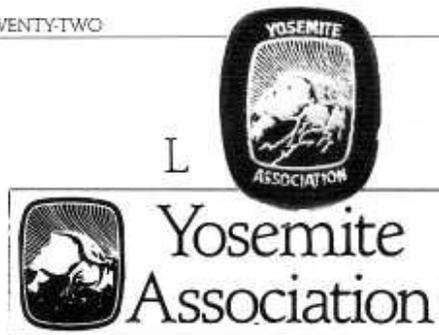


flying mammals, furry and spiny coats, nests, tracks and trails, and more. Each is 64 pages long, hardbound, with full-color photos. (Call about additional titles in the series.) Alfred A. Knopf, 1988. Bird (#9668: \$12.95); Tree (#9674: \$12.95); Mammal (#9671: \$12.95); set of all three books (#9667: \$34.95).

**M** *1991 Yosemite Calendar* by Dream Garden Press. This is the classic Yosemite calendar that has become an annual favorite of Y.A. members with its beautifully reproduced full-color images of Yosemite's landmarks and scenery. This year's edition features monthly spotlights on representative Yosemite mammals, birds and trees, and includes the usual notations of the birthdates of notable environmentalists and Yosemite-philis. Sized in a 10" x 13" format with 13 large format photographs. #4181, \$9.95.



**O** *Such A Landscape!* by William H. Brewer. Introduction, photographs and notes by William Alsup. This finely printed book compiles the diary, fieldnotes, letters and reports of Brewer which he made during 1864 as he and other members of the California Geological Survey explored the Sierra Nevada. Printed letterpress and illustrated with 40 black and white duotones, the book was limited to an edition of 500 copies, all signed by the photographer and numbered. Fewer than 70 remain. Named as one of the "Best Western Books of 1987" by the Rounce and Coffin Club, *Such A Landscape* is an elegant example of fine bookmaking. Yosemite Association and Sequoia Natural History Association, 1987. #860 (cloth): \$125.00.



ers 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 2½ inches. #1690, \$11.95.

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

**I** Yosemite Association Mug. This distinctive and functional heavy ceramic mug feels good with your hand wrapped around it. Available in two colors (green and maroon), it's imprinted with our logo and name in black and white. Holds 12 ounces of your favorite beverage. #1625, \$6.50.



**J** Yosemite Enamel Pin. Designed especially for the Association, our enamled metal pin is a work of art. Each of the 10 different glazes is hand placed and separately fired. The result, from William Spear Design, is an eye-catching and colorful piece. The metal enamel pins are relief engraved in a ¾ x 2" size. #1695, \$11.95.

**K** Pelican Pouch, Wilderness Belt Bag. The Pelican Pouch is not only perfect for carrying field guides, but also offers instant access to all the small items that are usually buried in your pack—pocket camera, lenses, maps, or your favorite trail mix! The Pouch is designed with front snap fasten-



**N** Ansel Adams Christmas Cards. 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.



## Order Form

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**Subtotal A:**

6.25% Sales Tax (CA customers only)

Shipping charge \$3.00

**Total enclosed**

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Zip:

Membership Number:

Yosemite Association, P.O. Box 230, El Portal, CA 95318

## Centennial Speeches

**The three major articles** in this issue of *Yosemite* are actually the verbatim texts of speeches that were presented in the Park during 1990 as part of the Centennial Celebration. Al Runte's contribution is the talk he delivered to the assembled members of the Yosemite Association on the occasion of the 15th Annual Members' Meeting on September 8. Dr. Runte recently had his management history of the park entitled *Yosemite - The Embattled Wilderness* published by the University of Nebraska.

Rod Nash, an historian and

professor at the University of California at Santa Barbara, spoke at the request of the National Park Service in Yosemite Valley in July. An expert on American wilderness values, Dr. Nash discussed several provocative issues that affect the way we manage and use wild places.

Another guest of the NPS, Martin Rosen was the featured speaker at the combined celebrations of Earth Day and John Muir's birthday in April. Rosen is the Executive Director of the Trust for Public Land and a long-time Yosemite Association member. His comments on the funding priorities for our parks are particularly timely.

## No YA Board Election

Because there were no petitions for nominations to the two expiring positions on the YA Board at the Members' Meeting in September, the board nominees, incumbents Lennie Roberts and Jean Watt, were declared re-elected to new six-year terms. As provided in the Association by-laws, there will be no election.

Lennie Roberts is a veteran of the YA board, and has one of the longest tenures of all its members. She has served as Vice-Chairperson of the board for several years, and has been an active member of several committees, most notably the Publications Committee. She was a key member of the group that established the Yosemite Fund in the early 1980s, and continues to work as a board member of that now-independent organization. Lennie and her husband Mike reside in Portola Valley, CA, where she works as "a professional environmentalist."

Jean Watt is the newest member of the YA board, named in 1989 to fill a vacancy that arose. She has been active in local environmental matters in the Newport Beach area of Southern California, and characterizes herself as an urban environmentalist. With the Association Jean has worked as a member of the Grants and Aid Committee as well as the Personnel Committee. She was also instrumental in arranging YA's first members' event in Southern California last month.

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

## Wilderness Balance

*Continued from page 13*

once was beautiful. I hope the future of national parks will not fall to private enterprise. The National Park Service has made some mistakes, I've been one who's pointed them out. But I'm a great believer in national parks, because the alternative is so very bad. By and large the park service has done a fine job.

We need real wilderness, and it is being compromised it seems

every day around us. We also need light-handed management that doesn't turn our parks and backcountry into developed messes. Light-handed management depends on visitor responsibility, getting back to the wilderness license idea.

Lights are moving further and further into the mountains, it's becoming harder and harder to find a place to be raised by wolves. More importantly, to find a place for wolves to be raised by wolves. We've got to remember that wilderness is not a resource, it is the source. It's the source of everything that we are. To cut ourselves off from that source, to submerge ourselves in cultural amnesia seems to me to contain many perils.

Happy 100th birthday, Yosemite. May you have many more.

## 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

Harry R. Abelson, Jean M. Allen, Ron & Cynthia Allison, Gary Arce, Shirley Armstrong, Rose M. Arrieta, James & Shirley Ayers, Russell H. Baggot, Celia Baker, Layne & Sherry Beamer, Debbie Becerra, Mr & Mrs Tom Bettencourt, Ken Bevington, Sharon Blumberg, Cheryl & Mike Bough, Mrs David Bridgeford, Robert C. Briscoe, John C. Broome, Anne M. Brown, Karen M. Buettner, Julia Burgen, Paula Burklin, Stavros & Bernadette Busenberg, Joseph H. Cain, Michael & Jonili Cassidy, D. Page & J. Cauthorn-Page, Tom & Sandra Christie, Steven C. Coffey, Ruben Covarubias, Bruce Cowan, Diana Darcy, Lloyd Dent, Norman Diaz, Mark Diekhans, Lynne Dillon, Pierre Doche, Alan & Sylvia Dower, Steve Dunn, Charles & Barbara Dunning, Arlene G. Dwooskin, Mr & Mrs Barney Elders, Dale & Roland Elliott, Tony Enerva, Nancy Erickson, Evangeline Eriksen, Alan & Karen Eyerly, Nancy Fairchild, Carrie Fay, Mary Fish, Richard & Patricia Flemming, Joyce Friedman, Jackie Gabbert, Sanjay R. Ganpule, Dr & Mrs George Globe, Fernanda Gray, Michael Griffith, Robert J. Gronski, Robert E. Gropp, R. Ortiz & M. Gross, John E. Guidicatti, Donald & Janice Haag, Sandra J. Haley, John Hancock, Beth Hanson, Mr & Mrs R. Harder, Jim Harle, David Harmon, Ralph & Christine Heaney, Patrick & Sheila Hearle, Jean Heintz, Robert Paul Herrmann, Mr & Mrs Jeffery Hickman, Mr & Mrs

Donald Hinman, Rose M. Holland, Joanne E. Hollinger, Magret Homberg, Darlene Hoopes, Vicki Hull, Alyson Jacks, Albert & Florence Jackson, Frances Anne Jaekle, Mrs Marion Jensen, Ruth Ann Johnson, J. Holm & E. Jones, Celeste Ann Jorgensen, Bonnie Jung, Ralph Kahal, Robert M. Kanne, Mrs Hatsue Katsura, Jim Kaump, Betty A. Keel, Paul & Letha Keen, Margie Keskinen, Ryan A. King-Ramirez, D. McBride & M. Kiwalle-McBride, Leona Klerer, Timothy F. Krusmark, Michelle Kuennen, David Kulbarsh, Ken & Meryl Laguna, Rose M. Lamantia, Mr & Mrs Walter Lamb, Elizabeth Lambert, Louis R. LaMont, Mr & Mrs Geo. Lampman, Kathleen Lanahan, Lisa Lane, Judy Larimore, Donald I. Laten, Cecelia E. Laxton, Richard A. Laxton, Gary Greg Leach, Mark David Lecher, Janice W. Leonard, Linda Leyva, Joan Limov, Eileen J. Long, Karen & Joe Lopez-Lewis, Judy Ludeman, Linda J. Luntsford, Michael Lynch, Virginia A. Lyon, Mr & Mrs J. Madden Jr, Katherine Mahler, Bruce Makohon, Michael Markovich, Mr & Mrs T. Marshall, Nancy & Steven Martin, Leslie Martino, Richard & Ellie Masar, Catherine M. Mathews, Glenn Matteucci, Pat McCray, Penny & John McNeel, Gretchen Meier, Peggy Merica, W & B Mersing Jr, Bill B. Miller, David N. Miller, Carol Mock, Ralph Molinar, Helen E. Monroe, Roger Morgan, Marcia Mortenson, LuEllen Myers, Ed & Tracy Nelsen, Victoria Nevinny, Catherine A. Nichelini, Judy & Al Nicholson, Dorothy A. Nielsen, Manuel & Sandi Nieto, Heidi & Richard Noble, Mary Nolte, James Nortman, Herbert & Betty Nudelman, Alice O'Keefe, Dr & Mrs E. R. Oatman, Glenn T. Olf, Thomas J. Osborne, Cynthia Packard, James Paruk, P. Lynn Passmore, Leonard & Diane Patchen, Mr & Mrs N. M. Pereira, Barbara A. Phillips, Elmer N. Place, Will Plotnick, Peter & Sharon Pollaczek, S. Joliat & A. Primrose, Robert Rainey, Pam Ray, Janis L. Reh, Alan & Linda Reinstein, Nancy Renick, Sandy Reynolds, Kevin & Lynda Rice, J. Cross & G. Richardson, John T. Ronan III, Marion Rose, Alan W. Rounds, Christine Rucker, Karen R. Rust, Florine A. Sar, Cassandra Schopperle, Ron & Maria Secor, Zachary & Mary Secor, Daniel F. Selden, Mr & Mrs G. Sferruzza, Harry Shepherd, Steve & Jeannine Sherburne, Ron Shestokes, Richard M. Shields, Effie Siggins, Mike Siller, Jairo Lobo Silva, George Sinclair, Joyce M. Sinclair, Joy Sleizer, Dann & Sandy Slinker, Douglas B. Smithson, John P. Smothers, Anne C. Spencer, Rose M. Spielman, Melvyn Sterling, J. Swanson & D. Stewart, John Stockton, Don Strong, Cynthia Swanson, Marvin Talso, Ellen Tavares, Allen R. Terry, Ann & Jerry Thalls, Rama Thiruvengapam, David C. Tiedemann, Mary E. Titmarsh, Stanley Valim, Cindy L. Victorino, Sarah Vogelka, Jeanette Voelm, Steven T. Votaw, Judith Wagner, Marian Warwick, Marlys Weekley, Christine Weidlen, Burt Weinstein, Jannine M. Weiss, Robert West, Carl & Toni Wetjen, Linda S. White, Kon & Lori Williams, Peter Wilson, James Booth Woodruff, Mr & Mrs John Woolington, Herman Yan, Don & Judi Young, George A. Zaragoza

### Supporting Members

Bruce & Sharyn Baker, Russell Bassett, Cathy Carso, Sharon Civish, Marianne Dryden, Jason & Brittany Dunn, Roger G. Galloway, Robert & Jean Gelfand, K.A. & J.E. Hannan, Kirk & Alice Hanson, Debbie Hildebrandt, William C. Hobbs, Billie S. Jones, S. Carter & M. Klefahn, Tim & Mary Mazy, Robert S. Monaco, Catherine H. Nielsen, Anne & Mike Petrovich, Merle Resnick, Catherine & Walter Scott, Molly Setmire, Bert P. Sheck, Mr & Mrs Ron Wanke, Jacquie Watson, Barry E. Williams

### Contributing Members

Jeff Barnes, Gloria D. Crim, Robert A. Dennis, Nancy M. Ditzler, Mr & Mrs Peter Dolliver, Gary D. Gray, Richard & Bea Heggie, Mary Holbrook, Sandra Kadonada, Rosemary Kneale, David Lindsay, Ann Mead, Russell & Donna Mirov, George & Corinne Sekelarios, Kathy Schlegel, Mark & Tammy Stewart

### Centennial Members

George Agiovlasisitis, Robert Berman, Desne Border, Charles B. Caldwell, Mark & Mary Gentrup, James Hall, Larry J. Hamilton, J. Boots & C. Handler, Juliet R. Hughes, Maurice LeVois, Suzanne Mensor, Katherine Morton, Donna Pantilla, Victor P. Rosasco, Gary & Brenda Ruttenberg, E. Shamis, Nancy Vreeland, Merna & Howard Wechsler

### International Members

P. K. Gowan, Greg McFadden, Tatsuo Mizoguchi, Hideki & Tae Onishi

### Life Members

Bill & Maryann Kilcullen

### Participating Life Members

Rainer Scholz

The following YA Members chose to increase their membership this year to the Life or Participating Life category:

### Life Members

Lois Carwile, Cecelia Hurwich, Clive Martin, Sue Moran, Mr & Mrs Lee S. Mudd, Margo Sonderleiter, Jon Brian Kinney Wash, Dr & Mrs James Watt

### Participating Life Members

Wilma Chamberlain, Toshimi Bill Kumagai, Winkie Scheinwald, Georgia Stigall, Gordon & Marsha Youde, Michael J. Wilburn

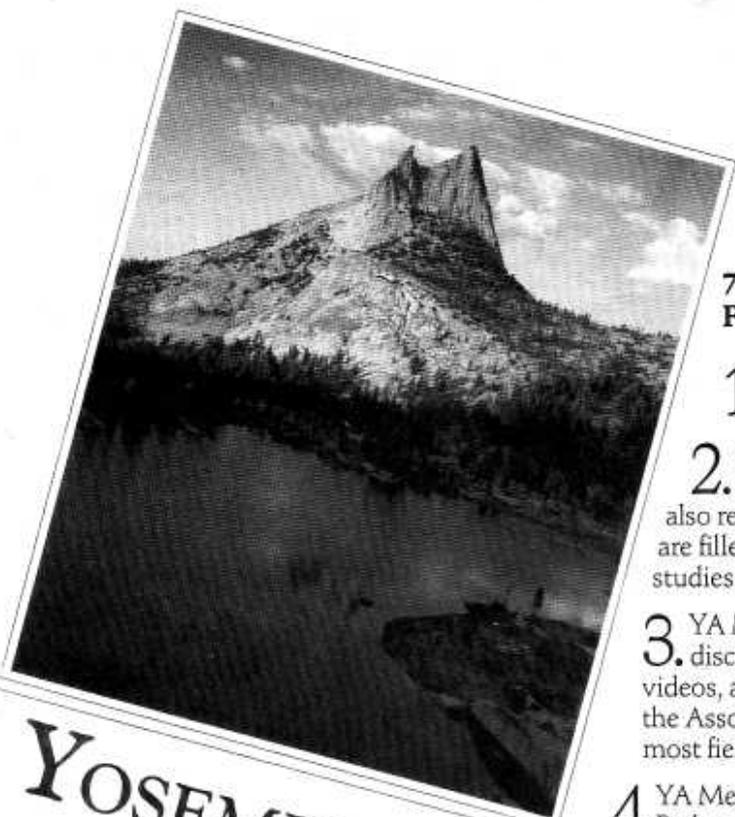


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**For last minute gift-giving, call (209) 379-2646.**

### 7 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 1991 Yosemite Calendar as a **free gift**. The calendar features 13 breathtaking full color 9" x 12" photographs and sells at the bookstore for \$9.95 (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, Centennial \$100, Life \$500, Participating Life \$1,000 (with spouse add \$5).



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Dan Anderson