

Susan Gulm

Mysteries lie scattered about all over Yosemite National Park. Many of us wanderers stumble across these puzzles from the past quite regularly — a large pile of stones, a decaying pile of lumber near timberline, an abandoned mine with its wooden hoisting works tumbled in, or the remains of a log cabin.

It's still possible for the curious hiker to stop for a moment, scan these decaying ruins of human activity and ponder the passage of time.

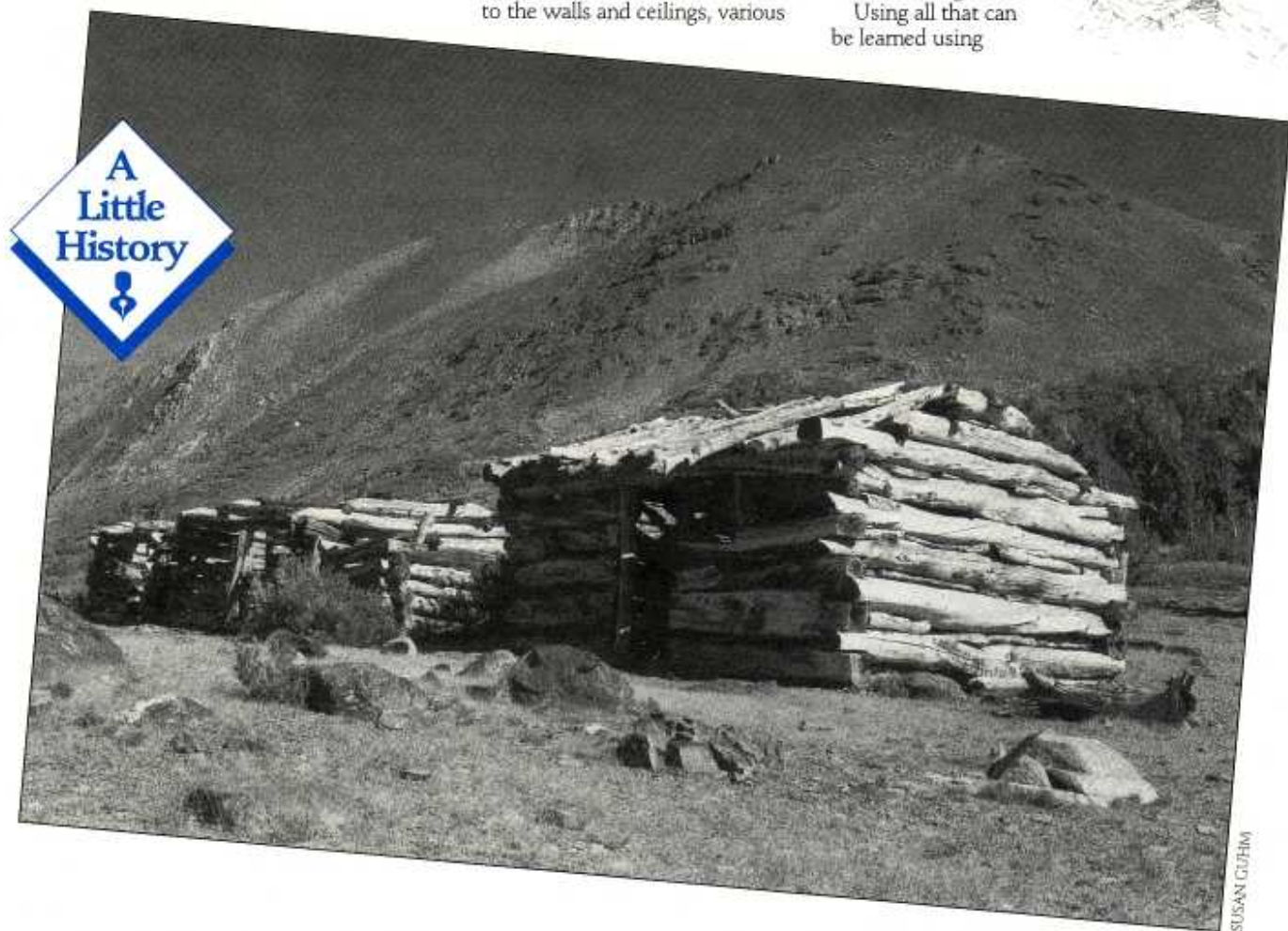
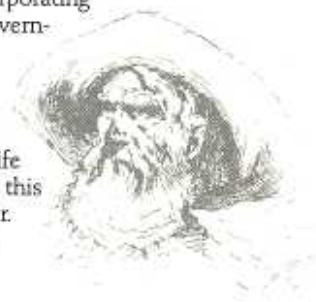
At Mono Pass on Yosemite's

eastern boundary are four cabins built for use when the Golden Crown Mine was operating. The most interesting of the cabins is the only one with squared logs. It was probably the first one constructed here. Sitting upon the most naturally level ground, it was constructed of the biggest whitebark pines in the area. The largest squared log is 18 and a half inches across — the remnant of a veritable giant which once stood at Mono Pass.

A close examination of the cabin's logs reveals two-inch round holes, five to six-inch square notches, board slats nailed to the walls and ceilings, various

square nails, and cloth snagged under nails or jammed in between logs. By carefully studying these bits of evidence and the methods other cabin builders used in attaching beds, tables and shelves to the walls, it is possible to create a mind's eye version of the original appearance of the cabin's interior. By also incorporating information from government records, old newspapers and the records of the Mount Gibbs Mining Company, new life can be breathed into this now-silent log shelter.

Using all that can be learned using



SUSAN GULM

New Life at the Golden Crown

the techniques described above, let's take a trip to Mono Pass in the summer of 1882. What characterized the cabin life of the miners? What sounds would one have heard? What smells and sights would you, as a visitor, have experienced?

Riding horseback eastward into Mono Pass, the forest slowly thins until you find yourself looking out upon a vast bowl. To the right is Mount Lewis, to the left is Mount Gibbs, straight ahead is Mono Pass, and beyond is sky. Between Mount Gibbs and Mount Lewis is a long, sloping meadow bisected by a stream which flows from a pond at the pass.

To the left of the trail, on the lower open slopes of Mount Gibbs is one lone cabin.¹ Its owner, a fun-loving German immigrant, August Cordes, is away working at his New Brunswick mine near the crest of Mount Gibbs.

Whitebark pines are scattered about the slopes on either side of the meadow, but as you approach

the pass, you see more stumps and fewer trees. At the head of the pass the trail turns right, goes downslope and crosses a man-made dike between two ponds. Your horse slowly plods upslope directly towards the cabins ahead. There are no trees to obscure your view of this pass since they have all been cut for cabin building, for timbering the mines and for firewood.

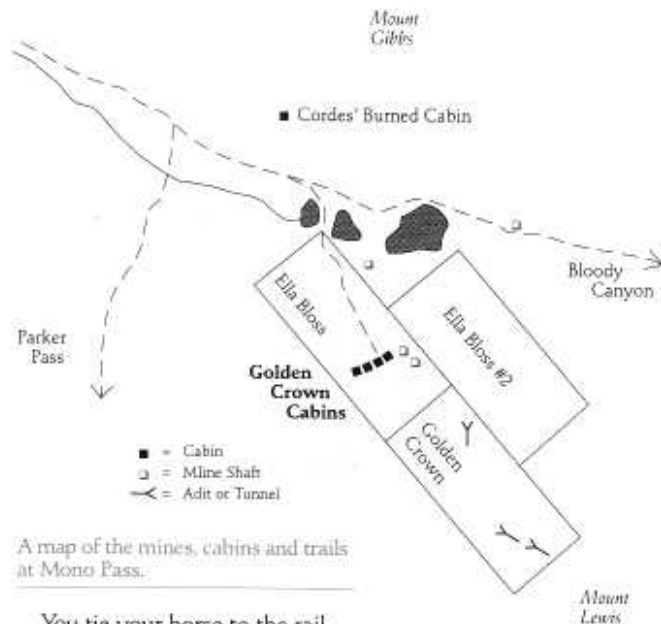
To the left, a few hundred feet away, a young man is lying on his side taking a break from work. He was digging a test trench through the gravel and rock to the bedrock below. He looks up from carving his initials in a log and waves as you pass.

The clop of horse hooves and creak of leather is joined in the distance by the sound of clanging metal. Up ahead through the open door of the easternmost cabin, the blacksmith is at work repairing a broken pulley. Smoke billows from the stack at the back of the cabin.

Groves of whitebark pine which once offered the miners a much-needed windbreak, were cleared off Mono Pass almost entirely. Over the past 100 years the whitebark has repopulated the area.



SUSAN CUPHAM



A map of the mines, cabins and trails at Mono Pass.

KARLEIGH

You tie your horse to the rail in back of one of the cabins and begin to wander around. The men are pretty accustomed to visitors. The mountains which surround Yosemite State Park have become a popular place to visit, and the truly adventurous include a horseback trip either to the Mount Dana area or through Mono Pass down Bloody Canyon to King's Ranch near Mono Lake.² Although the men are interested in where you are from, they are more interested in the newspapers you brought.

The sound of chopping comes from the distant woods. Someone is felling trees on Orlando Fuller's timber claim to let the wood dry for next year's firewood. Up the slope to the southeast comes the roar of tumbling rocks. A miner has wheeled a cart of ore out of the Bulwark tunnel on the Golden Crown claim and dumped the load onto the tailing pile.

Near the cabins are two other log structures, shaft-houses which cover the two vertical mineshafts. The structures keep out rain and snow and allow the men to work through bad weather.³ Near the western shaft-house men stand around talking while the pulley is being repaired. From the eastern shaft-house comes the sound of a windlass hauling up another load of rock — the squeak of metal pulleys and the strain of heavy rope.

From the opposite slope, the south slope of Mount Gibbs, comes a noise which elicits complaints immediately from all around. It's August Cordes on his

sledge screeching his way down the mountain, bringing a load of ore from his mine on top of Gibbs. It's a long way down and Cordes is glad to be done with it. Most of the way he slid on snow, mud and grass, but towards the bottom he hit more gravel and rock.

The long rays of evening's sun are turning Mount Lewis a brilliant crimson. The smell of stew and fresh-baked bread wafts from the square-logged cabin. The men are quitting work, trailing in slowly. Some men sit on nearby boulders, smoking and talking, while others enter the cabin.

The foreman, Orlando Fuller, invites you in for dinner. Realizing that you will not get back to camp in Tuolumne Meadows for at least three hours, you readily accept. As the door opens you see the reflected glow of the evening fire flickering on the opposite wall. There is a burst of laughter from the men inside. One of them is reading aloud a humorous article about a former colleague of theirs now working in the mines at Mammoth.

As you enter the door, to the left, is the fireplace. On the right side of the fireplace is a shelf where cans, boxes and sacks of food rest. On the bench to the left of the fireplace rests one of the miners. He has just pulled off his boots and is now concentrating on rubbing his sore feet.

You are asked to take a seat at the table in the middle of the room where the stew has just been served up. A plate of steaming sliced bread sits in the middle of

the table. Conversations cease as men sit down and hungrily devour the food. The crudely made table wobbles but serves its purpose. It is amazing that it stands up even under Orlando's fist-pounding to drive home a point he is trying to make in his post-dinner debate with another miner about politics in Sacramento.

The cook is slicing more bread on the shelf in the "kitchen" corner — to the right of the fireplace. This six-foot shelf is attached to the wall with wooden dowels and supported by legs. Both on and under the shelf are more bags and boxes of food. Above this shelf and attached to the ceiling is a rectangle of oilcloth put in place to protect foodstuffs and cookware from the bits of twigs, dirt or critters which fall from the ceiling made of branches, pine boughs, rocks and dirt.

Various kitchen implements hang from random nails in the kitchen corner. Opposite the fireplace on the other side of the room are two beds where one miner is already sound asleep. On the floor next to the bed is a half-empty whiskey bottle. The head of each bed is attached to opposite walls and the feet are freestanding on wooden legs. Above the beds is a long shelf with a few books and personal items. The shelf is attached to a vertical board with pegs holding coats, hats, pants, and shirts. A few wooden boxes are nailed to the walls also serving as shelves. A calendar and pictures of dance hall girls hang from nails.

Through the glass window to the left of the door, you can see the sun setting fast. In spite of the chinking and the sheets of fabric nailed to the walls, gusting wind whistles in through cracks.

After thanking Orlando and the other miners for dinner, you lead your horse back to the trail. Small groups of Clark's nutcrackers are flying up from Bloody Canyon to roost for the night in forests to the west. The wind is now rushing across this knoll

unabated. You face into the wind and pull your collar up around your neck as the night air chills.

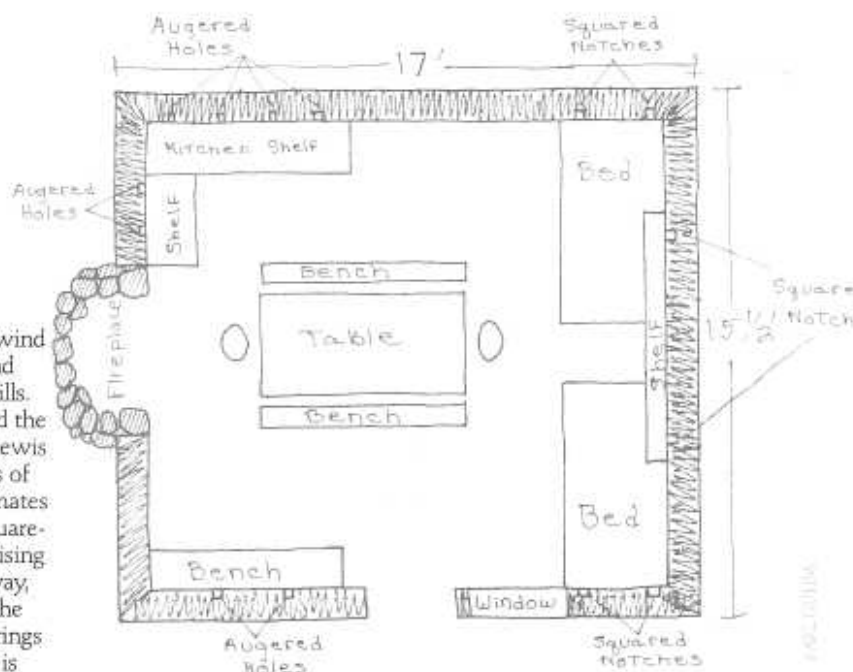
One last look back. Behind the cabins the top of Mountain Lewis is radiant with the last shafts of sunlight. A golden glow emanates from the windows of the square-logged cabin. Glad that the rising moon will illuminate your way, you look forward to seeing the light in the cabin at Soda Springs where the rest of your party is camped.

John Baptiste Lemberg will no doubt be up late again telling wonderful tales of his mountain wanderings and youthful days of mining fever.

This sketch may seem simple and straightforward, but it is based on considerable detective work. My research showed that the builders of the squared-log cabin began with good intentions of constructing a cabin "horse-high, bull-proof and pig-tight." But it appears they soon became impatient, perhaps anxious to get on with mining or driven hard by the intensifying cold and wind. As the cabin grew from the ground up, the logs were squared less and less, the corner construction changed, and the gaps between logs became greater.

A visitor today looking at the walls with the wide gaps and sunshine beaming through may wonder how things like wind, dust and perhaps birds and bats were kept out. Wood slats, split from logs or branches, were either wedged into a gap or were nailed into place. Even smaller gaps were filled by jamming in bits of fabric, usually wool or denim. This still left a lot of space for wind to whistle through.

These particular miners then did something I have not yet found in the literature on cabin building — they covered some interior and exterior walls with fabric. The remains of various types of fabric can be seen caught under nails in all of the cabins, both inside and out.



The floorplan of the square-logged cabin. Holes and notches extend approximately 2 inches into the logs.

In other regions this might be strange, but up here it made good sense. Clay, the usual medium for the final sealing out of wind and weather, is absent in this high country. The men had no choice but to use any available fabric — old worn-out blankets, pants, shirts, and canvas from the tents the men first occupied here.

For the working outdoorsmen of the 19th century, being in these mountains for months on end was not necessarily the "great escape" that it is for most of us today. They may have appreciated the beauty, but they were there to work and they worked hard. Any chance they had to make their shelter more comfortable — within their meager budget — they did.

After a day of sledgehammer-

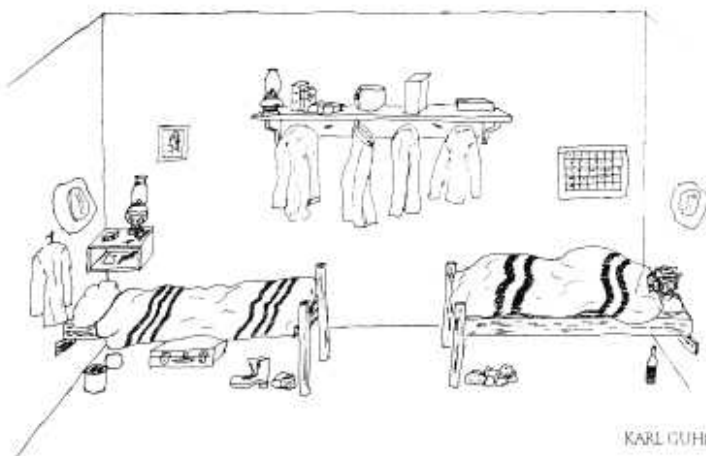
ing, smashing fingers, filling buckets with rocks, hauling buckets up the shaft, and blasting the working face of the mine, the thought of a cozy cabin heated by a roaring fire must have been enormously inviting, especially if one of those unforgiving winter storms.

Although this pass at 10,600 feet can become quite chilly even in summer, the cold is particularly bitter in winter. Since the Mount Gibbs Mining Company kept 14 men working the mines at least through the winter of '82-'83, there was good reason to put fabric on the walls.

It may interest the reader to learn how we (my husband Karl and I) were able to map out the

Continued on page 19

A sketch illustrating the probable appearance of the western wall of the square-logged cabin.



Educational Adventures in Nature's Classroom

Hannah Gosnell

John Muir called Yosemite "nature's grandest creation." Little did he know that it would also become one of nature's grandest classrooms. This year the Yosemite Institute celebrates its twentieth anniversary, having used Yosemite National Park as a classroom since 1971 to educate over 125,000 participants.

Yosemite Institute was established as a private, non-profit, tax-exempt educational institution in October of 1971 by a group of private citizens with the cooperation of the National Park Service and the Yosemite Park and Curry Company. Since then, students from all over the state of California and across the country have come to Yosemite for environmental educational programs tailored to their specific needs.

The mission of the Institute is "to inspire a greater sense of caring and commitment for the home planet through educational adventures in Nature's classroom." While most of YI's programs are directed at school groups, there is a variety of special programs offered to other populations such as the Elderhostel Program, Teacher Training Institutes and family weekends.

With a staff of 26 field instructors, 2 hosts, 7 administrative staff, 3 food service people and one maintenance man accommodating up to 300 students each week, YI is a well-established organization. Each year, approximately 180 schools come to Yosemite Institute, more than a quarter of which have been attending for over 10 years. Sixty-five percent of the schools are public, and the majority of YI students are in Junior High (grades 6-8). The remainder of the students are split between Elementary and High School. Most of Yosemite Institute's business occurs in the Spring, but programs

Students contemplate a question from instructor Karen Kroner as Lower Yosemite Fall looks on.



YOSEMITE INSTITUTE CELEBRATES ITS 20TH BIRTHDAY

"THE QUALITY OF THE INSTRUCTIONAL STAFF, IN ADDITION TO THE LOCATION, IS WHAT KEEPS THEM COMING BACK."

run year round, with summer being the slowest season since most schools are on vacation.

Yosemite Institute is just one of three campuses under an umbrella organization, Yosemite National Institutes, which has its headquarters in San Francisco. The other two campuses under YNI are the Headlands Institute in Golden Gate National Recreation Area, established in 1977, and the Olympic Park Institute in Olympic National Park, established in 1988. An 18 member Board of Directors presides over all three campuses. According to Garry Mitchell, President and Chief Executive Director of YNI, the organization is the oldest and largest of its kind in the nation.

A New Environmental Awareness

Yosemite Institute's Executive Director, Brian Empie, identifies several factors that combined to make Yosemite Institute a reality 20 years ago. There was a growing public awareness and interest in the environment, and visitation in national parks was up. The 1970 Stoneman Meadow riots had occurred the previous summer and as a result, an Interpretive Task Force headed up by Bruce Fincham (currently Project Manager in Yosemite National Park) was sent from Washington DC to Yosemite to see what new programs could be developed to help solve law enforcement problems through better interpretation to young people in particular.

Around the same time, a teacher from Southern California named Don Rees brought his high school students to Yosemite and "borrowed" a Park Ranger to take them around for a week. The experience was so successful that he decided to see about starting a new organization in the Park.

According to Bruce Fincham, Rees consulted with Bill Whalen, Assistant Superintendent at the time, and with input from Fincham and Bill Jones, an Interpretive Specialist, the concept

of an institution specializing in environmental education for young people was approved. The Park Service realized that it had neither the people nor the resources to adequately meet the interpretive need and recognized the YI concept as uniquely able to get the job done. Looking back, Fincham observes, "Yosemite Institute has been a blessing to us, because over the years the federal



During a trust and sensory awareness activity, one Y.I. participant leads his blindfolded partner.

budget has nosedived and YI has picked up the slack by doing the environmental education the government can't handle."

For funding, Rees approached Bob Maynard, a Vice President at Yosemite Park and Curry Company at the time, and asked for a grant. Since Yosemite was a very seasonal park in 1971, the concessionaire had a valley full of cabins and tents that sat empty throughout most of the school year. Maynard saw the opportunity to get occupancy levels up by offering YI students housing at a reduced rate, while at the same time promoting education in the Park. As a result, the Yosemite Park and Curry Company agreed to get

Yosemite Institute off the ground by donating \$20,000 a year for the first two years. According to Rees, "it never would have gotten underway without Bob Maynard, who did all the political work."

As Brian Empie observes, "an idea was born and took off like a rocket." Rees went out and started selling the program to California schools, and in the first year approximately 1600 students attended the Institute's residential school weeks programs. By the time Rees left eight years later to start Squaw Valley Academy in Lake Tahoe, over 8,000 students had been to Yosemite Institute. Since the organization's inception, enrollment has continued to increase each year, with the school year 1990-1991 representing an all-time high.

An Academic Institution

In 1976 the Institute won an award for excellence in the field from the National Environmental Education Association, and in 1984 it won the annual National Wildlife Federation Conservation Education Award. NWF President Jay D. Hair called YI "a leader in environmental education for young people, providing in-depth, residential programs in Yosemite National Park."

What made and continues to make the program so successful? For starters, the fact that the Institute offers its programs in one of the most popular national parks in the country is a major draw to participants. YNI's Garry Mitchell says he can't think of an organization "more blessed than we are by virtue of our partnership with the National Park Service. We would be in a different boat if we weren't operating in Yosemite."

Vince Kehoe, who started as an instructor for Yosemite Institute in 1975 and served as Executive Director from 1980 to 1988, says much of the credit for the Institute's success goes to Rees. "Don set the tone in the beginning and held everyone's feet to the fire. He wanted it to be a

highly regarded academic institution." While Rees set a high standard on quality control and professionalism, he also recognized the value of the instructors as a resource for making the program better. Thus the Institute was and continues to be "instructor-driven" in many ways, according to Kehoe. When things don't work in the field, instructors help administrative staff come up with alternative program ideas.

They Keep Coming Back

For most teachers and chaperones who bring their students to the Institute, the quality of the instructional staff, in addition to the location, is what keeps them coming back. Mario Guerrero, a Selma 6th grade teacher who was recently recognized as one of 12 California educators of the year, spent a lot of time investigating environmental education programs around the state and chose Yosemite Institute largely because of the instructors. "What I liked about YI was first of all the teachers," he said. "They were excited, they were young, they could very easily talk to my students, they were very well educated, and the groups were very small. We love the 1 to 10 ratio."

Mickey McNamee, Vice Principal of San Marino High School in Los Angeles will be bringing a group of high school students to YI for the 19th year this February. He claims that "without question the Institute's greatest strength is its instructional staff. The vast, overwhelming majority are absolutely terrific with the students. They relate to the students so well. Their sincerity and dedication make a very positive impression on our students."

While each instructor adds his or her own personal touch to a YI program, all work off a recently copyrighted document called the *Core Educational Framework* which serves as a curriculum guide to instructors at all three campuses of YNI. Education Director Pete

"THE GROUP-BUILDING ACTIVITIES ALONG WITH THE PHYSICAL CHALLENGES REALLY BOOST KIDS' SENSE OF BELONGING AND SELF-ESTEEM. INTERESTINGLY, MOST OF THEIR TALK WAS ABOUT HOW THEIR INTERPERSONAL RELATIONS HAD IMPROVED, NOT ABOUT THE MAJESTY OF YOSEMITE."

Devine describes it as "an incredibly useful tool that helps instructors build their day, use goals and objectives and themes, and integrate all the different kinds of learning a student experiences — personal, social, academic, intellectual and emotional."

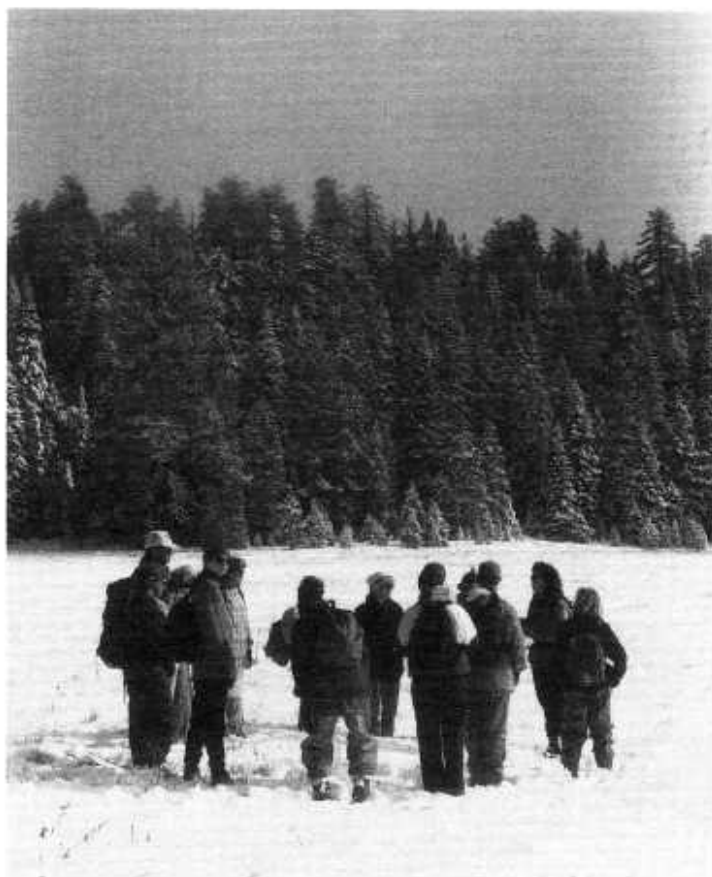
Only recently developed, the *Core Educational Framework* is "probably the single most important step the organization has taken collectively," according to YNI CEO Garry Mitchell. "The CEF has given this organization internally and externally a great deal of credibility. It shows that we have an educational strategy and an educational point of view," he said. While the content of the curriculum taught at YI has not changed much as a result of the development of the CEF, Mitchell and the rest of the organization feel good about "finally writing our music down."

As a result of the YNI curriculum, many participants come away from a Yosemite Institute program with a greater sense of awareness and appreciation for the environment. Walter Elmer brought a group of fifth graders to Yosemite for the first time last year from Elysian Heights School in Los Angeles, and said, "Yosemite Institute provides an opportunity for inner-city youngsters to discover that there really is more to life than asphalt playgrounds, television and gangs."

Ron Whitney of the Heritage School observes, "Our students have an improved understanding of nature and the interrelationship between man and nature." Warren Weaver of La Canada School sees YI's biggest strength "its ability to challenge and/or confirm one's values, one of the most important being environmental awareness. The experience has made us question our values and those of society."

Boosting Self-Esteem

In addition to the academic component, an important part of many Yosemite Institute programs is



the group dynamic that occurs as instructor, chaperone and students experience challenges — physical, emotional and intellectual — together throughout the week. "My students gained an awareness of themselves in relation to others and to their planet," commented Al Janulaw of Cotati Middle School. "They returned talking about how they came to like people that they never liked before and that the group experience had caused everyone to become friends. The group-building activities along with the physical challenges really boost kids' sense of belonging and self-esteem. Interestingly, most of their talk was about how their interpersonal relations had improved, not about the majesty of Yosemite."

As is evidenced by the small group of Yosemite Institute instructors who were once YI par-

Winter ecology is the subject of this discussion in Crane Flat Meadow.

participants, many students are influenced enough by their experience in the Park to go on to environmental careers. Teddy Goodrich of Gilroy High School has seen several of her students decide to make some aspect of science/environmental studies their career. "Many of our participants who wouldn't have dreamt of going to college have gone on or are going as a result of their experience at Yosemite Institute. So much of education isn't 'real'. YI's education is real, and thus it inspires students to learn more."

According to Empie, more and more schools are asking for an integrated experiential education program. They're not just coming up for natural science anymore, but rather for the method of teaching—they want to see

English, math, social studies and history incorporated into the program. Instructors are more than happy to accommodate these requests with journal writing activities, math problems relating to phenomena in the natural world (i.e. "what is the diameter of this Giant Sequoia if we know the circumference?"), and investigations into how Miwok Indians lived in Yosemite.

Another aspect of the Institute's evolution, says Empie, is that the scope of what YI instructors teach has become broader. "There didn't used to be a lot of talk about global problems, global awareness, stewardship. The focus was very much on Yosemite. But we began to notice we had a more sophisticated student and chaperone, and with the 'greening of America' there was an increasing demand for integration: How does this relate to what's going on at home, across the country, around the world?"

Reaching Capacity

But how much more successful can Yosemite Institute get? The way Brian Empie sees it, Yosemite Institute is at a turning point on its 20th anniversary. "After 20 years of continual growth, I think we've reached a plateau, for a number of reasons. One is the economy. Schools can't afford to put as much money towards a trip to Yosemite as they could a few years back. But more importantly, we're realizing that there's a carrying capacity for Yosemite Institute. In the natural world there's a carrying capacity, and we may be at or near ours in this park."

Something that all the different agencies who operate in the Park are coming to terms with lately is that Yosemite is no longer seasonal, with one big busy season between Memorial Day and Labor Day. More and more people are discovering that winter and fall are beautiful and less crowded times to be here. "As Yosemite has begun to be a more



Yosemite Institute Executive Director Brian Empie

year round park, the competition for resources has increased," says Empie. "The Park Service and Curry Company have an obligation to make sure they're doing their job in providing visitor services, so we've taken a back seat in the use of those facilities that we assumed we'd be able to use forever. It's required us to take a different look at the way we do business."

Currently, a large part of the residential school weeks program revolves around the use of NPS and YP&CCo facilities in Yosemite Valley. Students stay in tent cabins at Curry Village or in cabins without baths at Yosemite Lodge for part of the week. They attend evening programs given by Yosemite Institute instructors in NPS auditoriums. Historically, Curry Company has given Yosemite Institute groups discounted rates on their facilities, but as visitation has increased there's a greater demand for these facilities by people who are willing to pay top dollar. Similarly, the Park Service has responded to increased visitation by offering more evening programs in auditoriums that YI has traditionally counted on for its own programs.

Thus in its 20th year, Yosemite Institute is looking into the future with an eye towards adopting to a changing park. The Institute has already taken some steps to respond to the increasing demand on Valley resources by moving one of its two Valley offices to the Cascades area of the Park. In addition, plans are afoot for the Institute to attain its own self-contained campus somewhere outside the Valley. This would alleviate the need to depend on NPS and Curry facilities in the Valley, leaving them more available for regular Park visitors.

Future Environmental Education

For Len McKenzie, NPS Chief Interpreter, starting a program in conjunction with YI that works with teachers on methods for

teaching environmental education in their own classrooms has been a long term dream. "For environmental education to become truly effective and to be as mainstreamed into the education systems as it needs to be requires much more than the Institute or the Park Service or 100 other organizations like us. It's going to require the cooperation of many different people at many different levels. I really hope that we and the Institute could work as a team." McKenzie has talked with YI representatives about the possibility of establishing a teacher resource center in the park. Yosemite Institute has experimented quite successfully with teacher training institutes in the past few years and plans to do more in the future.

According to Garry Mitchell, the organization is "committed to finding more ways to work with the Park Service so that we are a more valuable resource to them, and we are in discussions with other like-minded organizations such as the Nature Conservancy and the Student Conservation Association to look for ways that we can work together to further the overall agenda. There are a lot of ways to do environmental learning and creating an institute is just one of them."

Another important partnership

"WE'RE REALIZING THAT THERE'S A CARRYING CAPACITY FOR YOSEMITE INSTITUTE. IN THE NATURAL WORLD THERE'S A CARRYING CAPACITY, AND WE MAY BE AT OR NEAR OURS IN THIS PARK."

that Yosemite Institute will continue to foster is with the Yosemite Park and Curry Company. Curry Company President Ed Hardy sees the relationship between the two agencies as "very healthy for Yosemite, and it should be ongoing and perpetuated forever." For Hardy, "the Park used properly is a classroom. The Institute is really the educational



Above: A blindfolded student "meets a tree."

Below: Instructor Suzanne Foury with several high school students.



arm of the Park and we're the provider of rooms and meals. We help each other" Hardy would like to see Yosemite Institute do more programs for visitors who are already here staying in Curry facilities. Currently, YI does occasional programs for Curry visitors, such as photo walks in the Valley and the cooperative "Discover Yosemite" program in which participants get as part of the mid-week ski package an interactive evening program given by a Yosemite Institute instructor and two two-hour natural history walks focusing on winter ecology.

Other prospects for the future include more fundraising and the further development of a YNI Annual Fund which was started this year. For most of its first two decades, the Institute has supported itself almost exclusively through income generated by program fees and tuition. But in 1990 a fundraising program was begun by YNI in order to build a base of individual and foundation/corporate support to enable the Institutes to develop more programs for students of color and disadvantaged youth, serve broader populations in environmental learning with new and expanded programs and products, and upgrade the modest facilities of the Institutes.

Commenting on the Institute's 20th anniversary, Pete Devine sums up the feelings of many people in the organization when he says, "I think we're over the initial toddler stage. We've proven that we're a going concern, and that's real substantial — that a non-profit organization can sustain itself in this field. But it's important to remember that this isn't an endpoint or a watershed. There's still so much to do. It's just miles on the road, and it's a long road."

Hannah Gosnell, a graduate of Brown University, has contributed several articles to this journal. She has been an instructor and host at the Institute for 2½ years.

YNP Concession Services Plan

RESPOND BY FEBRUARY 28, 1992

CSP Available for Comment

Yosemite National Park's

"Draft Concession Services Plan/ Environmental Impact Statement" (CSP) was recently released by the National Park Service. This important document is "intended to provide overall management guidance relative to concession services" in the park.

The CSP will be the basis for establishing the "Statement of Requirements" for the next primary concession contract for Yosemite (to be awarded in 1993), and will also set forth the actions that the new concessioner will be required to fund during the course of that new contract.

The CSP is written in the form of an Environmental Impact Statement because many of its proposed actions modify the park's General Management Plan (GMP), a document approved in 1980 that grew out of an extended planning study and public involvement program. Some of the more noteworthy proposed changes to the GMP are listed in the chart accompanying this article.

Copies of the draft CSP are available from the National Park Service at 600 Harrison Street, Suite 600, San Francisco, CA 94107, or by calling (415) 744-3929. **Written comments should be submitted by February 28th** to Superintendent, Yosemite National Park, P.O. Box 577, Yosemite National Park, CA 95389.

Sample GMP Changes Proposed by Concession Services Plan

	1980 GMP Recommendation	1991 CSP Proposal
Yosemite Village Degnan's building	Remove building (and functions)	Remove gift shop; retain Loft restaurant and expand fast food: approximately 370 seats inside, 250 outside
Yosemite Park & Curry Co. Headquarters	Remove building, move function to El Portal	Consistent with GMP (location of primary concessioner headquarters to be determined)
Maintenance/support services	Redesign NPS maintenance area to include YP&CC essential maintenance functions; remove YP&CC warehouse	Retain warehouse building as operations support center, including distribution center, maintenance shops, recycling, administrative offices, etc.
Yosemite Lodge Lodging: Motel rooms Cabin rooms Cabin, no bath Total units Food Service	74 units 32 units 58 units 364 units Retain with approximately 632 seats	445 units 50 units 0 units 495 units Retain with approximately 635 seats inside, 40 outside; remodel within existing service area.
Curry Village Lodging: Cabin rooms Cabins, no bath Tent-cabins Total Units Food service	100 units 90 units 335 units 543 units Retain cafeteria for total of 325 seats inside (fast food not mentioned; pizza and ice cream stand added after GMP)	247 units 0 units 100 units 365 units Convert cafeteria to family restaurant and redesign fast food units: approximately 400 seats inside, 250 outside
Valley Stables Horseback rides	Retain	Retain service, move from river bottom to old Curry dump site; limit valley routes; require interpretation; discontinue pony rides
Valley Campgrounds Showers	Showers not mentioned	Add concessioner-operated showers at major campgrounds
Wawona Food service	Retain dining room	Retain dining room, snack bar; and add small family restaurant: approximately 160 seats inside, 50 outside
El Portal Administration	Relocate from valley to El Portal	Consistent with GMP (location to be considered in housing plan)
White Wolf Food service	Retain dining room	Replace dining room with new facility with 50 seats inside
Tuolumne Meadows Food service	Retain lodge dining room; relocate fast food to service station building	Relocate dining room away from river; move fast food to new store building with 50 indoor seats, for total of about 155 inside seats
Merchandise	Relocate store and mountaineering center and shop to service station	Relocate store and mountaineering center and shop to new store building
Parkwide, Food service Total seats, parkwide Total seats, Yosemite Valley	1,909 seats 1,618 seats	2,960 seats 2,445 seats

1991 Visitation at All-Time High

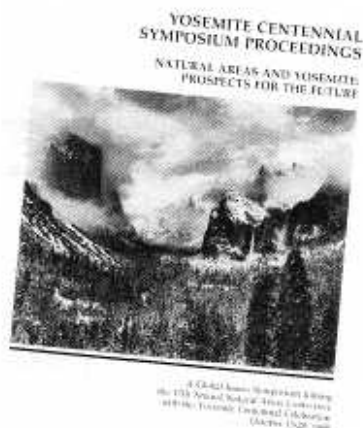
Monthly public use statistics recently released by the National Park Service show that Yosemite's 3,547,163 visitors during 1991 were the most ever recorded. Total visitation exceeded the previous high of 3,308,159 (in 1989) by just more than 7%. Compared to 1980, the 1991 figure represents an increase of over 42%.

Month	1980	1991	Increase
January	66,677	108,860	63%
February	75,612	115,296	52%
March	99,896	122,235	22%
April	120,970	194,893	61%
May	212,971	368,093	73%
June	309,470	410,840	33%
July	16,583	540,040	30%
August	470,491	606,830	29%
September	289,108	456,854	58%
October	238,586	352,044	39%
November	118,024	170,507	44%
December	71,894	118,671	65%
<i>Annual Total</i>	<i>2,490,282</i>	<i>3,547,163</i>	<i>42%</i>

Symposium Proceedings Available

The proceedings of the Yosemite Centennial Symposium entitled "Natural Areas and Yosemite: Prospects for the Future" have recently been published. The symposium was held October 13-20, 1990, as part of the Yosemite Centennial Celebration and the 17th Annual Natural Areas Conference.

The resulting publication is a mammoth 667 pages and includes the complete texts of practically every speech and paper presented. Topics range from natural areas management to wildlife to biodiversity to cultural history and Native Americans, plus much, much more. The coverage is amazingly thorough, and the list



of participants is impressive.

The single, paper-bound volume is available for \$20.00 from the Yosemite Association. Use the catalog order form at the rear of this journal to place your order, or to purchase with a credit card, call (209) 379-2648.

Pacific Bell Removes Phone Cable

In support of Yosemite National Park's effort to restore its pristine beauty, Pacific Bell has removed six miles of aerial cable along Southside Drive in Yosemite Valley. Park Superintendent Michael V. Finley and Pacific Bell Supervisor Ron McMullen jointly announced recently.

"The removal of this cable will not only improve park aesthetics but help to restore and preserve park resources," said Finley.

The stretch of cable is no longer necessary due to recent telephone system modernization, which included the installation of a digital radio transmission system. This has eliminated the need for some inter-office cables and brought new services to the park's phone system.

Extraordinary measures were taken to preserve sensitive environmental and archeological areas during the work. "Instead of using trucks and mechanized

Continued on page 12



"Like a Mirror Hung in the Sky"

The Story of Stella Lake

Robert Pavlik

As one drives along Forest Drive in Wawona today, the sight of Stella Lake may not sufficiently rouse one to write glowing prose describing its attributes. It is entirely possible that one may not even recognize the large depression, hemmed in by earthen dikes, as the site of a popular recreation ground, or as the place where workers gathered for many years in the December chill to cut and store ice for refrigeration during the hot Sierra summer months. For seventy years, Stella Lake was an important part of the daily life of Wawona residents and hotel guests, and its passing did not go unnoticed.

This narrative will illustrate the role that Stella Lake played in the daily operations of the Wawona Hotel, the lake's function as a place of rest and recreation for occupants and visitors of this small mountain community, and its relationship to other centers of natural ice production in the Sierra Nevada.

Wawona Hotel History

The group of buildings known today as the Wawona Hotel complex was developed and constructed by the Washburns in the late 1870s and early 1880s. The resort facilities continue to serve and delight visitors and guests, and since 1975 have been recognized as historic treasures listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Not included in the National Register District is an historic water system known as the brook walk or Washburn ditch. This feature diverted water from the South Fork of the Merced River, channeling the flow for two miles as a source of irrigation water and power generation via penstock and pelton wheel.

Another feature of the Wawona Hotel complex that did not receive formal recognition is Stella Lake. The lake was named for Estella Louise Hill Washburn, daughter



NPS PHOTO

of the famous Yosemite artist and Wawona summer resident Thomas Hill, and wife of John Washburn. The couple was married in 1885, and when the lake was created the following year, it was named in Estella's honor.

Building an Ice Reservoir

The manmade reservoir was excavated in 1886 for the production and harvesting of ice used for refrigeration at the Wawona Hotel during the hot summer months. Stella Lake was unusual in that it was an artificially created reservoir excavated for use as an ice pond, and was not an integral part of a natural feature, such as a river or lake.

No documentation has been discovered on the particulars of its construction. It may be assumed, however, that the lake bed was partially cleared of trees and the bottom deepened with a horse-drawn Fresno scraper. The material removed in scraping was probably dumped and consoli-

dated in the form of the dikes and dam.

Harvesting ice for the Wawona Hotel at Stella Lake, 1940.

Cobbles removed during the excavation could have been utilized in the construction of the rock retaining walls and rock alignments along the lake's pathways. Construction of the South Wawona road may have coincided with the development of the Washburn ditch, the lake, or both, and also may have contributed to the lake's surrounding earthworks.

The Creation of a Local Ice Industry

After construction of the reservoir was completed, water was diverted from small drainages and into the artificial lake. Typically, during the month of December, anywhere from six to twelve local residents would spend up to two weeks cutting ice from the frozen pond and

storing it in the adjacent icehouse.

The last existing icehouse was constructed in 1897 by the Wawona Hotel Company. It stood adjacent to the dam (downstream) on the southwest side of the lake. The board and batten structure was approximately 18 feet wide by 38 1/2 feet long, covered by a split shingle gable roof. The walls were eight inches thick and filled with sawdust for insulation.

The existence of an earlier ice storage facility cannot be documented, but it is assumed that one was present at the time of the lake's completion.

As the cold winter months approached and the ice reached a thickness of five to ten inches, three or four workers would cut the ice into long strips about one foot wide and up to ten feet long. Two men, commonly referred to as "canal men," would pole the ice onto a conveyer belt that lifted the blocks into the icehouse, where another group of three or four men would stack the ice into



NPS PHOTO

tiers and cover the top with eighteen inches of sawdust.

Their tools were both specialized and commonplace, and included ice cutting saws, five-prong ice forks, ice bars to prod and push the floating cakes onto the conveyor, axes, augers, shovels, and ice tongs.

The conveyor belt or "endless chain" was driven by a horse-powered "Persian wheel" that stood on the southwest end of the dam. The operation of the Persian wheel was relatively simple. The horse was harnessed to a horizontal pole that turned a vertical axis as the horse plodded its way around the wheel. A gear converted this energy to an underground horizontal shaft, that turned the chain-driven conveyor belt and moved the ice up from lake level and into the icehouse.

Surplus ice was made available to Bert Hoyle, proprietor of nearby Camp Hoyle, as Stella Lake was the only convenient source of ice available in the area.

Canal men pole the ice onto a conveyor belt that lifts the ice into the icehouse.

Ice Production in Yosemite National Park

Ice cutting in the central Sierra was not limited to the Wawona region. The presence of resort hotels and camps in Yosemite Valley necessitated the construction of cold storage facilities that used ice or snow, but the development of an ice industry in Yosemite Valley does not appear to have taken place until the early 1890s.

Once again, the Washburn brothers may well take the credit for development of an ice industry. According to Bill and Mary Hood, an ice house was built at Mirror Lake in 1890 by the Yosemite Stage and Turnpike Company, a subsidiary of the Wawona Hotel Company that was also owned by the Washburns. A cold storage room was added to the Stoneman House the following year, and the Hutchings House

was so equipped in 1897. The state commissioners also reported the erection of an ice house at Mirror Lake in 1895.

Although it is not known why ice cutting and storage activities were so late in taking place in Yosemite Valley, possible contributing factors may have included the distance and difficulty of transporting perishables from the market to the valley, and the relatively few numbers of visitors to the valley prior to the 1890s. Cold storage on small scale may have also taken place prior to the time of the Washburns' construction of an icehouse and subsequent ice cutting activity.

After the completion of the Yosemite Valley Railroad in 1907, an icehouse was built at the railroad terminus of El Portal, in the vicinity of the present day Bagby station. The tremendous increase in visitation spawned by the railroad's completion and the opening of the national park to automobiles in 1913 led to the addi-

tion of a refrigerator car for cold storage transportation via train between San Francisco and El Portal, where the supplies could quickly be carried into the valley.

A modern power plant had been completed inside the national park in 1918, ensuring an ample supply of electricity for the installation of modern refrigeration equipment. By 1927, all the hotels and camps in Yosemite Valley were equipped with electric cold storage facilities, rendering the use of natural ice in the valley obsolete.

The establishment of three High Sierra Camps by the Desmond Park Service Company in 1916 at Tenaya Lake, Tuolumne Meadows, and Merced Lake also involved the construction of cold storage houses at each of the three camps. The "ice houses," as they were commonly called, measured an average of fourteen feet by eighteen feet and were built of peeled logs, wooden floors and walls of rough cut lumber, filled with sawdust, and shingled gable roofs.

Rather than cutting and storing ice, operators probably filled the houses with snow in the late spring and for storage of fresh meats and vegetables during the summer tourist season. Fresh foods were also packed into the camps on a bi-weekly basis, diminishing the necessity for prolonged cold storage.

Other cold storage facilities have been reported at Lake Eleanor and Mather Camp, both constructed by the City and County of San Francisco during the time of construction of the Lake Eleanor and Hetch Hetchy dams within Yosemite National Park.

Recreation

During the summer months, Stella Lake did not go unnoticed or unappreciated. In a descriptive guidebook published by Daniel J. Foley in 1892, Foley makes reference to the Wawona area as follows: "Turning again we find Wawona slumbering at our feet, the bright little Merced, in its serpentine course, rushing through the

valley, and the sparkling bosom of Estella Lake, shining in the sunlight like a mirror hung in the sky. According to the Shirley Sargent, fishing, swimming, boating and picnicking were popular summer activities at the lake. Thomas Hill has constructed two rowboats for use on the lake named for his daughter.

The era of the automobile in

tion form for Stella Lake that was prepared by Leslie Starr Hart, the death of the lake is attributed to the installation of modern refrigeration equipment in the Wawona Hotel in 1935. In the *Historic Structures Report — Wawona Hotel* monograph prepared by Anthony Crosby and Nick Scratish, the authors report that, according to Mr. Norman May, 1949 was

1956, and they may have also widened the breach in the lower end of the dike to allow the water to drain.

The dam, a large portion of dike paralleling the river, and the inflow channels are all still intact, and with a little imagination or a photo in hand one can readily recognize the features of the former reservoir. The lake has been described as a "derelict pit indicating none of the beauty or usage it supplied for so many years."

Even so, it is a harmless remnant of Wawona's historic past, a relict of a bygone era reflecting a change in technology and the labor-intensive lifestyle of the not too distant past.

Robert Pavlik is an historian for the California State Parks at Hearst Castle. He is a long-time student of Yosemite history, and was formerly employed at the park's Research Center. Several of his articles have appeared in Yosemite.



BACK COVER / NIS PHOTO

Yosemite began late in the 1913 season, and along with the horseless carriages of the following years came demands for expansion of recreational facilities. In August of 1916 a boathouse was constructed at the lake, and a new rowboat was added to the fleet. A bathhouse and diving board also were located on the dam, and a six foot by sixteen foot wooden dock extended into the water from the south shore. The location of the boathouse is unknown.

Obsolescence and Deterioration

Conflicting reports on the obsolescence and eventual demise of the ice reservoir exist in two different government reports. In the "National Register" nomina-

tion form for Stella Lake that was prepared by Leslie Starr Hart, the death of the lake is attributed to the installation of modern refrigeration equipment in the Wawona Hotel in 1935. In the *Historic Structures Report — Wawona Hotel* monograph prepared by Anthony Crosby and Nick Scratish, the authors report that, according to Mr. Norman May, 1949 was

the last year that ice was cut at the lake.

It is feasible that dependence on natural ice continued throughout the period of limited electrical power supplied by the penstock and pelton wheel. Electrical power lines did not reach the Wawona area until 1946, and ice may have been cut after that time as a safeguard against power failure while the system was still new.

The floods of 1950 and 1955 caused extensive damage to the lake's dikes, rendering the small reservoir useless. A cleanup effort by the Park Service resulted in the removal of the icehouse in

YA Board Elections

The results of the recent election to fill two positions on the Yosemite Association Board of Trustees have been tallied. Kathleen Orr and David Robertson were elected to six year terms. Ballots were received from 1,191 members who cast their votes as follows: David Robertson - 983; Kathleen Orr - 759; and Carlo Fowler - 543 (two votes were allowed per ballot).

Kathleen Orr begins her first term as a board member following a many year involvement with the Association as a volunteer, both in the membership booth and the museum. She has visited the park every year since 1934, and considers Yosemite a "special place." She is a retired elementary school teacher, a former bookstore owner, and the mother of four grown children.

This will be David Robertson's second term as a trustee. He has participated in a number of Y.A. projects and activities, notably serving as Chair of the Grants and Aid Committee and as a member of the Publications Committee. He was also elected Vice-Chair of the full board. Robertson is the author of two Association publications: *West of Eden* and *Yosemite As We Saw It*, and is strongly interested in and concerned about Yosemite's future.

The board will be losing the services of Carlo Fowler, who performed ably as a board member

for eleven years. He was closely involved in the rapid growth of the Association, and participated in the development of the fundraising program which later became the Yosemite Fund. His contributions to our organization and Yosemite have been substantial and are deeply appreciated. We will miss Carlo and his wife Dianne, and thank them for their support over the years.

Pacific Bell

Continued from page 9

cable winches to do the work, the cable and poles were lowered, cut up, and carried out by hand," said Pacific Bell Engineer Marlin Nachtigal.

In other restoration efforts, Pacific Bell completed work last summer to rebury an underground telephone cable near May Lake that had been exposed by erosion on a steep trail utilized by hikers and stock animals.

Using a 12-person Youth Conservation Corps crew, the trail was rebuilt and "water bars" were constructed from rock, to divert future water runoff into natural drainages and prevent re-exposure of the cable. This cable provides a telephone link from the Tioga Pass Entrance Station and Tuolumne Meadows to Yosemite Valley.

Future restoration plans include the removal of 15 miles of cable from other areas of the park in 1992.

Yosemite is a Wilderness Isn't It?

We Deny Yosemite Its Identity

We need to be truthful. We don't have time to be anything else.

We visit Yosemite. And we are spoiled. Just think about it. We expect electricity, wood stoves, septic systems, parking places, garbage dumps, stores, even a chef — and if that's not enough, we expect some four-legged animal to take us where there's no road — yet.

We even have business conferences in the park, operas, education conferences, union meetings, *ad infinitum*.

The fact is, this is either a wilderness or it is not. We cannot compromise the definition of wilderness — an uncultivated region — why should we compromise this place itself? We are impacting each time we visit.

I have recently returned from Alaska, from Denali N.P., where only one road leads to the entrance, to a small visitors' center, where there is one parking lot, and one campground, and a person must sign up for a bus, and it shuttles people into the park — 80 miles — and out again. We see; we exclaim at its land and its animals — the griz, the wolf, the eagle, the fox, the caribou; we stand in awe of such beauty, freely given, and then we leave. We must leave. To do anything else is to make it intolerable for the animals there. To do anything else is to stomp the tundra into dust. To do anything else is to deny it its very identity as a wilderness.

This awe is all too fleeting, if it cannot be sustained in the very policies of running the park.

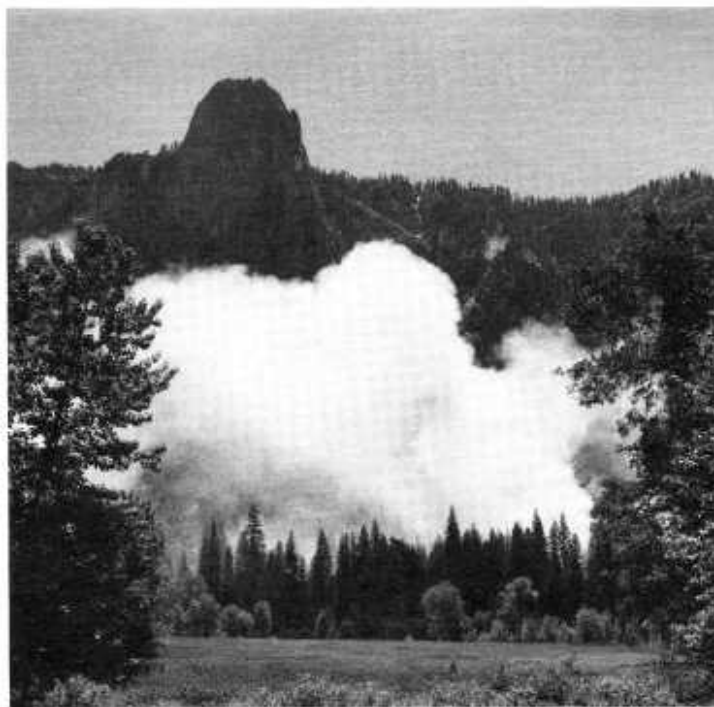
Yet we deny Yosemite — that we claim we love so much — its very identity. For many of us, it's a backdrop, it's a wonderful place to climb, a great place to have family get-togethers in little tent houses, a terrific place to get married in — which propagates the need of the human, but does nothing for Yosemite. Wilderness

is what gave this park its power. It is time to recognize that Yosemite is not a cute city park we hustle around in. We are part of the impact, and the ultimate destruction, and we do not have that right. No matter how the population grows, we do not have that right.

To be truthful, California is dying. If we cannot look inside ourselves and know that this could be the strongest statement for the preservation of life as it should naturally exist — a condition abundant in this state only 100 years ago, if we cannot create what would be the final bastion

individual rights.

But *we are* the Association — we *have* this power — not one Members' Meeting weekend in September, but all the days of the year, in all ways checking how this park is perceived. But where are the protesters, the speakers, the lobbyists, the movers, the educators? We must speak and act now, not tomorrow, with truth in our hearts, and clarity in our minds. This is the wilderness we must defend — voraciously — or we do not have the right to say years from now, "Yes! I sacrificed my fleeting enjoyment for the



Controlled burn one-quarter mile west of Chevron station.

true meaning of this Preserved Land? We must go home, and rethink what this park truly is.

If we do all these things, Yosemite will have given us the opportunity to express our own true glory, and we will have given back to the wilderness its due.

J.J. Kaiser

Bakersfield

Suntrain

I have just finished reading "Response to Suntrain" in the Summer 1991 issue of *Yosemite*. Please note that the five members of my family are all highly in favor of *anything* that will help to preserve Yosemite, and that includes the proposed Suntrain. Mr. Swan should be encouraged to proceed with his light rail system. We are not engineers, so we cannot comment on his proposal in any "intelligent" sense, but the idea certainly sounds like the kind of plan that should be investigated at once and implemented as soon as possible.

Myra B. Young

Fresno

It's too bad Mr. Swan is blinded by the numerous shortcomings of his Suntrain plan. But then he has something to gain by it doesn't he? Mr. Swan needs to come out of the woods so he can "see the forest through the trees."

M. Nauman

Gig Harbor, WA

Memorabilia Club

I have a small but growing collection of Yosemite memorabilia including guidebooks, brochures, and picture albums from the early 1900s onward. The pride of my collection is close to 500 antique postcards dating from 1903 through 1924.

I would like to start a club for collectors of Yosemite memorabilia, and I imagine that many of the participants would be Yosemite Association members. Anyone interested in collecting, selling, purchasing or exchanging Yosemite memorabilia should write me a note detailing his or her interests, and I will arrange contacts between people with similar interests. My address is: 414 N. Montana Ave. B5, Bozeman, MT 59715.

Marty Levine

Bozeman, MT



Spring Forum Set For March 28

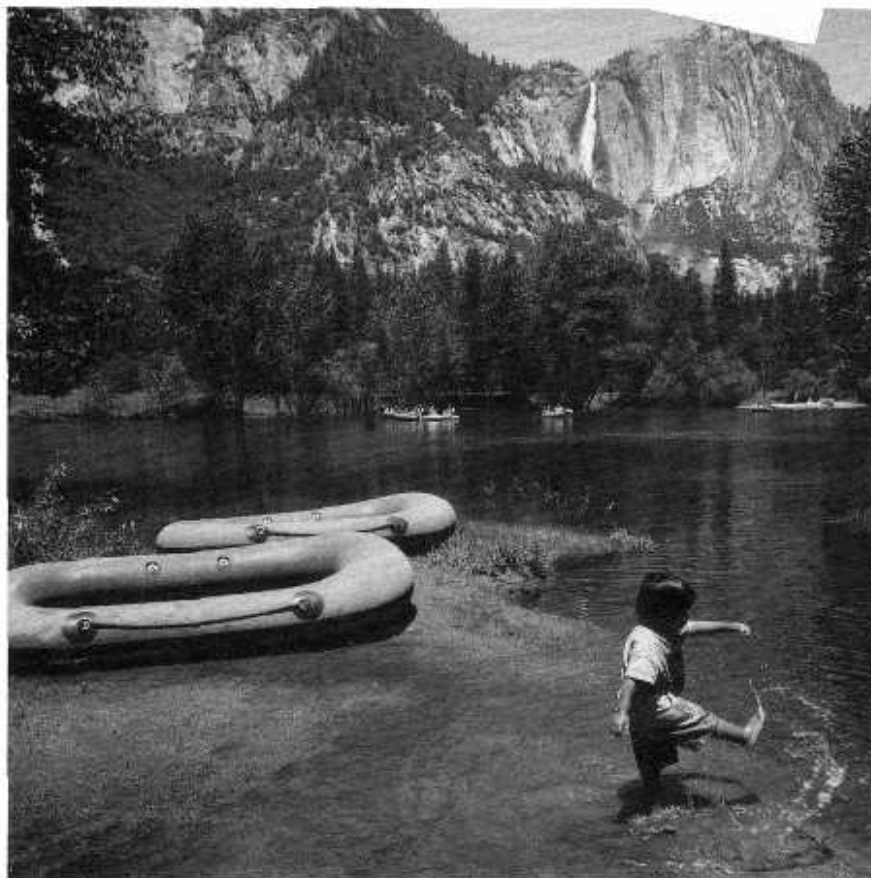
YA's Spring Forum, a day-long event of walks and talks on all aspects of Yosemite, will be held Saturday, March 28, in Yosemite Valley. Registration will be from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at the entrance to the East Auditorium which is located behind the Visitor Center. The forum sessions begin at 10:30 a.m. and continue throughout the day with a break for lunch.

To wind up the day, at 5:00 p.m. there will be a wine and cheese hour combined with a book-signing. Bev Ortiz and Julia Parker, authors of the new book, "It will Live Forever," on the ancient acorn-making traditions of the Miwok/Paiute people of the Sierra, will be available to sign books and talk with members. Earlier in the day, they will be presenting a slide show and talk from the book as part of the forum's offerings.

Other sessions are planned on a wide-ranging group of topics: Steve Crabtree from the Western Regional Office will speak on the newly issued NPS Concession Services Plan and 1993 concession contract process, Brian Grogan will describe the scope of the Yosemite Photographic Survey, the evocative work of artist Chiura Obata will be shown and discussed by Kimi Kodani, and Dave Martin will report on the fate of the Yosemite toad. Dave DeSante, Director of the Institute of Bird Populations, will repeat his popular talk from last year, "The Canary in the Mine: Monitoring the Productivity and Survivorship of Yosemite Songbirds."

Longtime hutkeeper and well-

known photographer, Howard Weamer, will share slides and stories of life in the winter backcountry along with the history of Ostrander Lake Ski Hut. And Sue Fritzke will describe both the park's revegetation plans for the Valley and the experiences of last summer's "crew" from the ranks of YA's membership. Along with some other programs, there will also be a good selection of naturalist walks.



STEVEN DZERIGIAN / PHOTO SURVEY

YA Members have recently received all the details on the weekend by mail, including a reservation form for lodging in the park as well as a list of accommodations outside the park. If you plan to come to the Spring Forum, please return the card from that mailing or call Gail or Holly at 209-379-2317. Hope to see you there!

Volunteer in Yosemite!

Spend this summer in Yosemite as a YA volunteer — enjoy the beauty of the mountains while being productive! YA sponsors a variety of volunteer programs for its members which vary in work, location and time commitments. All of these programs need sign-

ups outside near the Visitor Center), volunteers have lots of people contact, answer many visitor inquiries, and when appropriate, describe the work of the Association and encourage membership. Last year, the volunteers enrolled more than 750 new YA members bringing in \$21,000 plus.

The volunteers work a four-day week and receive a stipend of \$6 per workday. They share a series of campsites in the Valley; some use RV's and others tent camp. The Valley volunteer season lasts from mid-April to mid-October, and we ask for a month time commitment. There is also a Membership Booth in Tuolumne Meadows, and volunteers there both staff it and host the seminar campground — keeping track of seminar participants and answering questions. They work with campground personnel and the Park Service. They also share sites at the seminar campground, receive the stipend, and stay about a month during July or August.

Many volunteers return summer after summer and clearly relish their time in Yosemite.

If volunteering appeals to you, but you don't have a large block of time, then the Member Work Trips may be possible. For the summer of 1992, four such trips are scheduled: **July 5-11,**

July 19-25, and **August 2-8** in Yosemite Valley, and **August 23-29** in Tuolumne Meadows. In each of these trips, 15 energetic YA Members gather for a 5 day revegetation work project in the park. These are projects for which the Park Service needs assistance in these days of tight budgets. The work trips are a combined effort of several coop-

ups for the coming season.

In Yosemite Valley, volunteers split their days between staffing the Museum Gallery and spending time in the YA Membership Booth. The Gallery work is low-key: opening and closing the Gallery, keeping track of visitation, answering questions both on the exhibits and the park. In the Membership Booth (located

erating groups — YA provides the much-needed labor, Yosemite Institute contributes cooks and guides, the National Park Service provides the direction, and the Yosemite Park & Curry Co. gives the crucial financial underwriting that makes it all possible. These groups camp together in special sites, have their meals provided, and work four days with a free day in the middle. Each group seems to develop a wonderful sense of camaraderie and fun, while accomplishing work of lasting value for Yosemite.

If you're interested, please call Holly or Gail, or write us.

Association Dates

March 28, 1992: Spring Forum, Yosemite Valley

July 5-11, 1992: Member Work Trip, Yosemite Valley

July 19-25, 1992: Member Work Trip, Yosemite Valley

August 2-8, 1992: Member Work Trip, Yosemite Valley

August 23-29, 1992: Member Work Trip, Tuolumne Meadows

September 12, 1992: Annual Meeting, Wawona

March 27, 1993: Spring Forum, Yosemite Valley

BRIAN CIRIOGAN / PHOTO SURVEY



"Take Pride In California" Winners

The California Department of Parks and Recreation recently announced that Yosemite National Park had three different winners of "Take Pride in California" awards. The honor goes to groups, companies and individuals which have made significant contributions to California's environment. Recognized were campground

hosts Tom and Theresa Bennett, NPS volunteer Jack Phinney, and the Yosemite Park & Curry Co., the park's main concessioner.

The Bennetts have volunteered in Yosemite Valley campgrounds since 1983. Not only have they set a fine example of minimizing adverse impact on the Yosemite resource, they have assisted in educating the visiting public and monitoring campground activities. Theresa Bennett has also worked with many young people through the Junior Ranger pro-

gram, teaching respect for the environment and the concept of environmental stewardship. Both Tom and Theresa have proven themselves to be capable hosts, have provided a resident staff presence in the campgrounds, and in so doing have freed up park staff for other duties.

Jack Phinney has assisted the interpretive division of the NPS for nine years. A participant in the Volunteer-in-Park program (VIP), he has committed over 7,000 hours of his time to park projects. Much of his work has been at Happy Isles Nature Center where he has laid out, designed, constructed and installed exhibits and other facilities. Since 1983 he has devoted nearly five months each year to aiding the educational and informational efforts of the interpreters in Yosemite Valley. His service, dedication to the ideals of park preservation, and love of Yosemite have made him a role model for visitors, other volunteers, and employees alike. He has also been a fine friend of the Yosemite Association.

The Yosemite Park & Curry Co., received its award for the series of self-financed programs begun in 1974 to educate Yosemite visitors, employees, and residents about the park's natural and cultural history, and to encourage actions which would reduce environmental impacts. Typical programs have included recycling, information cards at restaurant tables, water conservation measures, free environmental education programs, the "Yosemite Studies" program which encourages employees to learn more about the park, and the "Adopt-a-Trail" program for employees and residents which results in trail clean-up and care. The Curry Co. has also cooperated with the Yosemite Association, the Yosemite Institute and other local entities to provide volunteer opportunities and to fund important improvement programs at the park.

Have You Signed Up for a Yosemite Seminar Yet?

The January storms have brought winter weather to the Sierra Nevada, dropping a cover of snow over Yosemite's high country. The enrollment response to our ski trips has been strong, and hopes are high for the present ski conditions to continue.

Many members have signed up for both spring and summer classes already, but there's room for more. The new catalog format describes classes for the entire year, so remember to save your catalog in case you want to

sign up later in the year. The seminars range from ski trips, backpacks, Tuolumne natural history seminars, Giant Sequoia study, birding workshops, California Indian studies, and spring wildflower hikes.

We've added some new intermediate botany courses taught by Glenn Keator — *The Keys to Yosemite's Botany* (July 19 - 24) and *Yosemite's Daisies and their Relatives: A Composite View* (August 7 - 10). These courses are filling, but there still is space.

Spring Foothill Birding taught by Michael Ross on April 25-26 is another new class which will be held in the Merced River Canyon area. This should be of interest to

beginner or experienced birders wanting to learn more about the abundant birds of this habitat.

Bev Ortiz is teaching several interesting Indian and teacher education seminars in Yosemite Valley — these courses delve into the lifeways, tools, basketry and history of Central California Indians. Kat Anderson's *Tending the Wilds* seminar in August will be held at Crane Flat and includes meals and lodging.

During the summer, the Association is offering beginner through advanced backpack trips — sign up now, as these trips always fill up! Call Penny or Lou if you have any questions about any of the seminars. 209-379-2321.

New YA Caps, see p. 17



A *The Complete Guidebook to Yosemite National Park* by Steven P. Medley. Yosemite Association President, Steve Medley, has written a new guidebook which covers almost every aspect of the park. Not only is there standard coverage of things to see and do, reservation information, etc., but the offbeat and humorous are included, too. There's a list of works of fiction with Yosemite as a setting, "The Ten Best Named Climbing Routes on an Animal Theme," "best bets" for every area of the park, and trivia questions sprinkled throughout. For newcomers to Yosemite and for veterans as well, this guidebook is both informative and entertaining. It may even provoke a laugh or two. The 112 page volume is filled with maps and illustrations. Yosemite Association, 1991.

#360 (paper): \$10.95.

Yosemite

C A T A L O G

B *Tradition and Innovation: A Basket History of the Indians of the Yosemite-Mono Lake Area* by Craig D. Bates and Martha J. Lee. This beautiful new book is an authoritative study of the history and basketry of the Miwok and Paiute people of the greater Yosemite region. It is a work that is the product of years of research and study on the part of the authors who are both employed as curators in the Yosemite Museum. The text is richly complemented by 363 duotone reproductions of historic images of the Indian people and of a variety of their baskets. The result is a deep, thorough and detailed coverage of a much-neglected topic of Yosemite history. The book is elegantly printed and case bound in a first edition of 2,000 copies. It is 252 pages long and 10 1/2" x 11 1/8" in size. Yosemite Association, 1991.

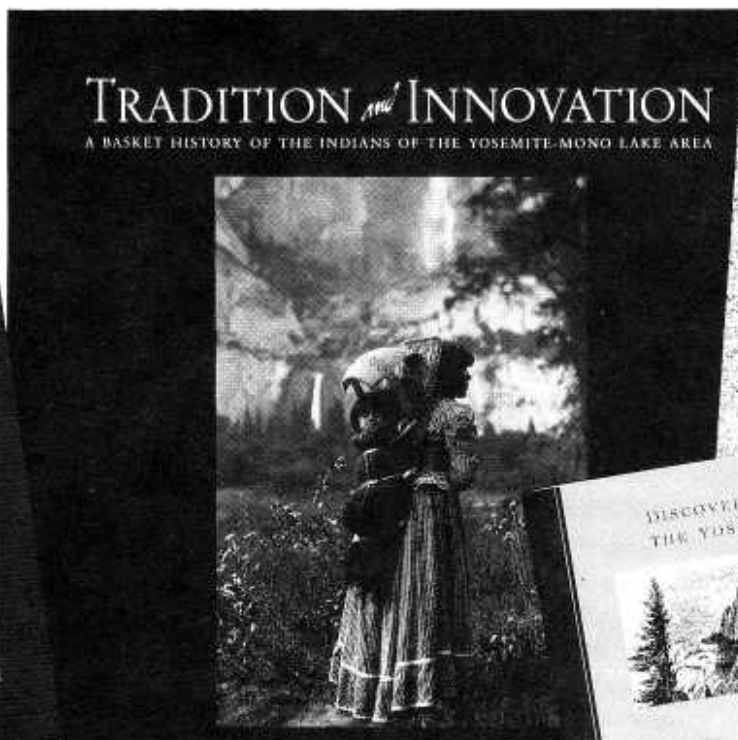
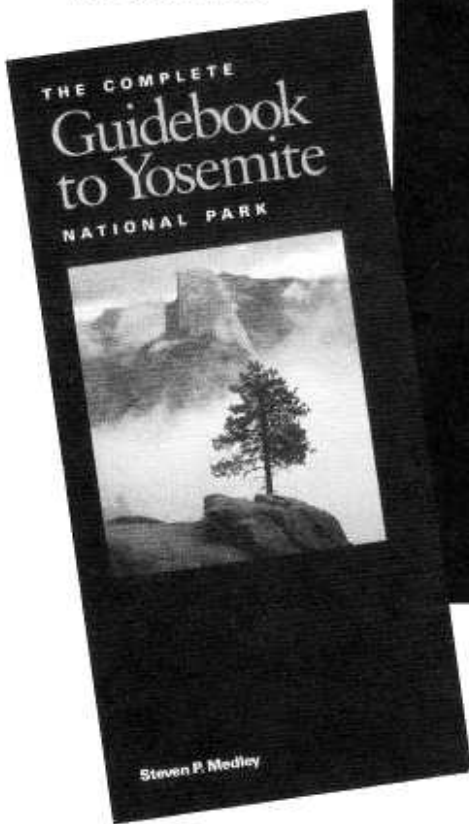
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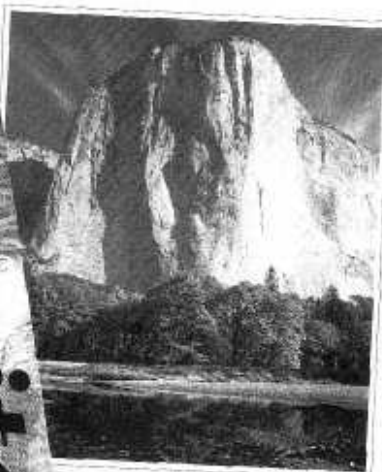
C *Discovery of the Yosemite* by Lafayette H. Bunnell. Here is the long-awaited Yosemite Association reprint of one of the masterpieces in Yosemite literature. The first title in the "High Sierra Classics Series," the book provides valuable references on early park history, particularly to the Mariposa Battalion and the Native Americans they encountered. Bunnell's writing is thorough, reliable and entertaining, and his deep feelings and appreciation for Yosemite are both apparent and inspiring. Excerpts from the book served as the narration for the award-winning film, *Yosemite — The Fate of Heaven*. Out of print in an unabridged version for tens of years, this 316 page volume will be a welcome addition to the libraries of Yosemite-philes everywhere. Yosemite Association, 1991.

#00470 (paper): \$9.95.

D *It Will Live Forever — Traditional Yosemite Indian Acorn Preparation* by Bev Ortiz. Photographs by Raye Santos. For friends of long-time Yosemite resident and Indian cultural demonstrator Julia Parker, this new book will come as a real treat. The author records the methods that Julia has learned, developed and used over the years to prepare acorns for eventual consumption. It is also a tribute to this remarkable woman who, with delicacy, reverence and consummate skill, carries on the ancient traditions of the Native people of the Sierra. The book is extensively illustrated with photographs of each step in the acorn-making process. There's even a recipe provided for "Julia Parker's New Way Acorn." The book is 148 pages long with black and white illustrations. Heyday Books, 1991.

#20560 (paper): \$11.95





YOSEMITE
1992 CALENDAR

E Map and Guide to Yosemite Valley and Map and Guide to Wawona and the Mariposa Grove by Reineck & Reineck. These colorful new publications are much more than maps. Besides plotting the roads and landmarks of both the Yosemite Valley and Wawona/Big Trees areas, these

guides feature information on hiking and trails, activities and highlights, vista points and places to visit, history, natural history, lodging and restaurants, and more. Particularly helpful are lists of phone numbers and key area information which are often hard to come by. The pamphlets fold out to a 37" x 10" size and are printed in full color. The Yosemite Valley guide was written by naturalist Dean Sherk; Y.A. President Steve Medley prepared the text for the Wawona/Big Trees version.

Yosemite Valley - #05050: \$2.50

Wawona and the Mariposa Grove - #05030: \$2.50

F 1992 Yosemite Calendar by Dream Garden Calendars. This perennial favorite is as beautiful as ever for the new year with stunning color photographs of Yosemite in all seasons. Monthly spotlights for 1992 are on the geologic formation of Yosemite Valley, with excerpts from "Granite, Water & Light" by Michael Osborne. Plus there are the usual notations of the birth dates of notable environmentalists and Yosemite-philies AND moon phases. Sized in a 10" x 13" format (opening to 10" x 26") with 14 large color photographs.

#04930, \$9.95. **Save \$5.95.**

G Yosemite Enamel Pin. Designed especially for the Association, our enameled 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 7/8" x 2" size.

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H Pelican Pouch, Wilderness Belt Bag. The Pelican Pouch is not only perfect for carrying field guides, but also offers instant access to all the small items that are usually buried in your pack — pocket camera, lenses, maps, or your favorite

trail mix! The pouch is designed with front snap fasteners on the straps. This allows comfortable positioning on your belt — even between belt loops; no need to take your belt off first. The material is high quality Cordura pack cloth with a waterproof coating on one side. Beige with the dark brown and white Yosemite Association patch, the Pelican Pouch measures 8 x 5 x 7/8 inches.

#0770, \$11.95.

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.

#07510, \$6.50.

J Yosemite Association Patch. Our Association logo is embroidered on colorful, sturdy fabric for placement on daypacks, shirts, blue jeans, jackets, or wherever! The newly designed patch is available in three attractive colors: dark blue, forest green, and maroon.

#07516: \$3.00 (please specify color)

K Yosemite Association Baseball-Style Cap. After long being out of stock, our Y.A. caps are available once again. The new version is made of corduroy with an adjustable strap at the back so that one size fits all. The cap is adorned with a Y.A. logo patch, and comes in dark blue, forest green and maroon colors. The cap is stylish and comfortable, and wearing it is a good way to demonstrate your support for Yosemite.

#07505: \$9.95 (please specify color)

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Schwabacher Basket Collection Donated to YNP Museum

Martha J. Lee

One of the finest collections of Yosemite-Mono Lake basketry from the 1920-1950 period, assembled by James Herbert Schwabacher of San Francisco, was recently donated to the National Park Service's Yosemite Museum by the collector's children and grandchildren. The collection, which has been on loan to the park since 1973, was the inspiration for the book, *A Basket History of the Indians of the Yosemite-Mono Lake Area*, recently published by the Yosemite Association.

Since Schwabacher concentrated his Yosemite-area collecting efforts on baskets that were extremely well-made, his collection comprises a unique selection of the finest baskets made in the Yosemite-Mono Lake area. The donation includes 99 baskets, 16 pieces of beadwork, 4 war bonnets, 2 flicker-quill headbands, 5 Paiute arrows and a pair of feather wands.

The Schwabachers made many gifts to Yosemite during their lifetime, including artifacts to the Yosemite Museum, the provision of a professional designer to assist in revising exhibits and labels in the museum, and an encyclopedia for the Research Library. They arranged for the construction of the stone pylon at the park's El Portal entrance, dedicated to the memory of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Dinkelspiel, Sophie's parents. In 1934 Schwabacher was designated as Yosemite's first Honorary Park Ranger.

James Schwabacher began his collection of Indian baskets in the early 1920s when he was a sponsor and judge at the Indian Field Days in Yosemite Valley. Many of the Field Days prize-winning baskets became a part of Schwabacher's collection, and in 1950, he purchased the largest Yosemite basket ever made, the work of the well-known weaver Lucy Telles.

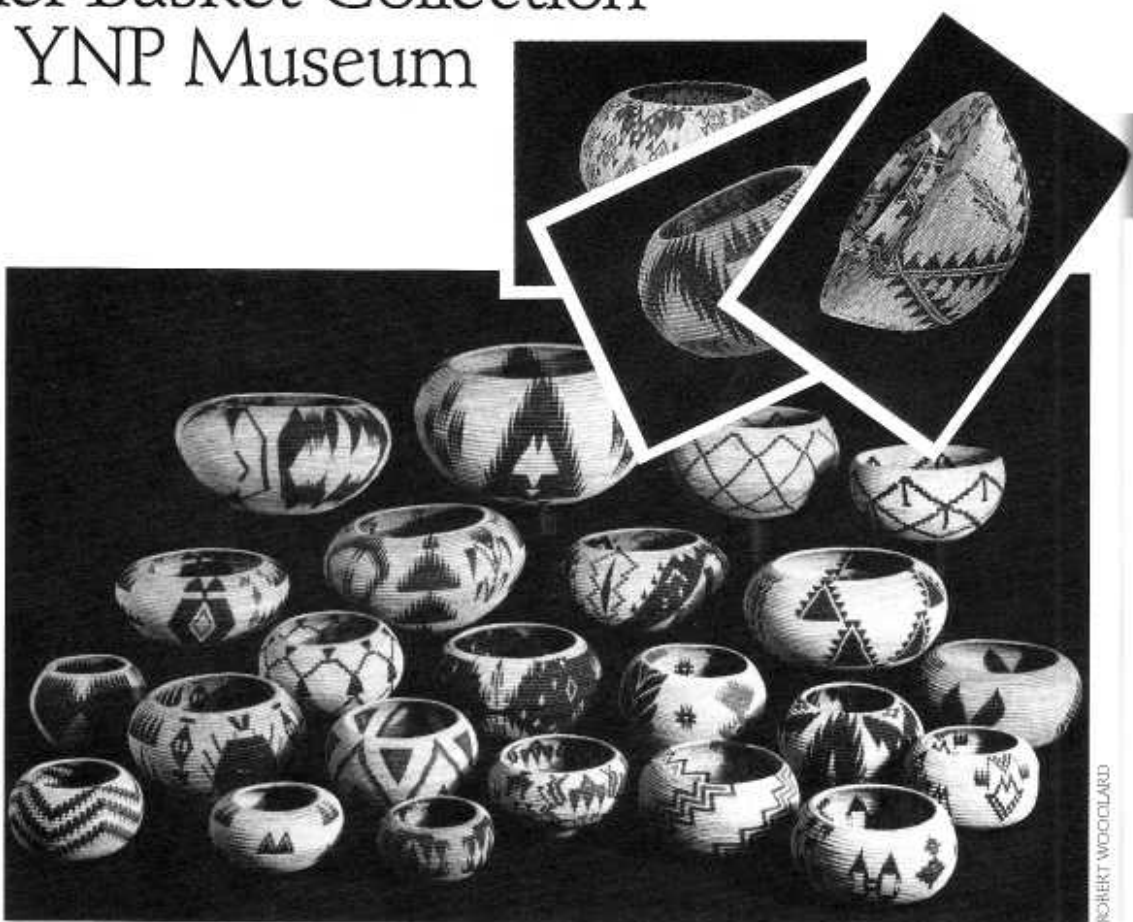
Schwabacher took delight in showing his "Indian Room" to guests in his San Francisco home. The room, designed and decorated

Yosemite Miwok/Paiute and Mono Lake Paiute baskets from the Schwabacher Collection that were recently donated to the Yosemite Museum. They are representative of baskets that were made for sale in the Yosemite area between 1920 and the 1950s.

especially to contain his growing collection of baskets and artifacts, had special cases for displaying baskets and beadwork, with fine Navajo rugs covering the floor. Large baskets were placed around the room and an artist was commissioned to paint a border of basketry patterns along one wall.

Schwabacher shared his collection in other ways: some of his baskets were loaned to the De Young Museum in San Francisco, others were displayed at the Golden Gate International Exposition in 1939, and Lucy Telles' largest basket was loaned to the Yosemite Museum. He donated about twenty baskets to the Stanford University Museum.

After James Schwabacher died in 1958, the collection remained in the Schwabacher's Indian Room undisturbed until 1973, when Mrs. Schwabacher died. The baskets were then placed in the Yosemite Museum; portions



ROBERT WOODLARD



NPS PHOTO

Basket collector James Schwabacher, his wife Sophie and children James, Jr. and Marie Louise at the Ahwahnee Hotel, June 10, 1928. James Schwabacher, Jr. and Marie Louise Schwabacher Rosenberg, along with Carol and Marilyn Rosenberg, donated the Schwabacher Collection to the Yosemite Museum.

and Canada, and ongoing research using the collection has resulted in publications on Yosemite, Mono Lake and Washoe basketry.

James Schwabacher's remarkable collection of American Indian basketry documents the period between 1900 and 1958, an important period of development and change, and epitomizes the contributions basket collectors have made to our understanding of how a culture and an art form can change through a specific period of time.

As a result of James Schwabacher's efforts and the generosity of James Schwabacher, Jr., Marie Louise Schwabacher Rosenberg, Alan Rosenberg, Marilyn Rosenberg and Carol Rosenberg (all of San Francisco), baskets by some of the best, most innovative Yosemite-area weavers are now being preserved and exhibited in the Yosemite Museum for all to enjoy.

of the collection were placed on display in Yosemite in 1976 with the opening of the Indian Cultural Museum.

Through the years, baskets from the Schwabacher Collection have been loaned for exhibit to museums in the United States



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

Paul H. Abram, Nida Alexander, Eleanor Andrews, Frank B Andrews, Shirley L Andrews, Millie Aragon, Mary Pat Arbuckle, Frank & Dorothy Avilla, Roberta Baker, Jan & Lew Barton, Charles L Bates, Jerry Bates, Douglas Beaman Associates, Sharon K Berman, Johanna Best, Lucy Beurmen, Sandy & George Bloch, Nancy & Mike Boom, Kathy Brady, David & Ellen Brennan, Dr Margaret Brink, Carolyn Brown, Stephen Buckhout, Don Burlett, Steve Burman, Patrick Butcher, B J Butterfield, John P Callahan, John Campbell, Tracy R Carroll, Pamela O'M Chang, Wesley & Virginia Clapp, Patricia Clarke, Shirley A Clements, Robt W Clifford Jr, Joy Coffey, Mort & Jan Cohen, Pat Conroy, Angela Jane Craddock, Christina Marie Craddock, Eloise Gobin Cray, Barbara Creighton, Mr & Mrs John Czapowski, Peter D Davison, Deanna Y Dawson, Cristina M Dockter, Pamela Doran, Karla Dyar, Thomas H Dykeman, Connie English, Pamela Erens, David & Carol Escapite, Lesley Estes, S Morey & S Farrell, Erin Fehjar, Terri Figgs, Carol Jean Fitting, Milton Genes, David & Carol Georgi, Jerry C Gillmore, John & Kay Gist, Ilse Gonzalez, Julie Graef, Richard & Pauline Granis, Daniel & Katherine Greenwood, Jane Gregorius, Jo Gustafson, Christina Halsey, Sharon Rue Harrison, Tom Harrison, Mr & Mrs Greg A Hartman, Deborah Hatch, Mr & Mrs Paul Hellvig, Mr & Mrs Wm Hence, Jane Hillman, Melvin W Hollums, Edgar Holton, Edy Horwood, Mr & Mrs Jay Houston, Wayne & Edith Huddleston, Keith Hunsaker, Mr & Mrs Robt Hunt, Susan Huribut, Douglas Hutchinson, Sarah Imbasher, Mrs Evelyn L Iokua, Ruth G James, Mrs R Jarrell, Carleen Jaurena, Andrea G Johnson, Hank Johnston, Mona & Larry Jones, Damian & Steven Jordan, Linda Jordan, Vicki G Jordan, Michael & Karen Kahn, Leonard & Trudy Kane, Pat Kelly, Susan Kjolien, Dan & Margie Klimmer, Thomas Knudson, Katherine D Konkel, Mr & Mrs Carl Landman, Chris Lausten, Terri & Gary Lausten, Russell Lemcke, Elizabeth W Letts, JoAnn & Gerald Levy, M Lieman, Ga Lombard, Kristen & Fernando Lopez, Fred & Toni Loughridge, Mr & Mrs Arnold Ludke, Richard & Diana Lusignan, Don & Judy Machen, Mike Maciaszek, G Marchini, Mr & Mrs Jules Marine, Bill & Pat Martin, Jim Mathews, Ken & Nancy McDonald, Christopher McKenzie, David & CeCe McKenzie, Claus Meisl, Carolyn Mitchell, Gregory Monroe, Marie Monson, Diane Montgomery, Gertrude Montoya,

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In memory of Mr & Mrs Watson, Mrs John Mohler

Golden Crown

Continued from page 3

cabin's original interior. As I sat on a log by the fireplace with notebook at the ready, Karl slowly searched a wall telling me the details he found. While he also measured distances above the floor and from a corner, I sketched all this down. We then started discussing the possible reasons for the nails, fabric caught under nails, augered holes, squared notches, etc.

To the casual observer these bits of evidence might appear to be the results of unexplainable, random activities. But carefully studied, they do take on a pattern of supports for shelves and two beds, pictures and calendars which almost certainly had to be there, wall coverings, and produce boxes nailed upon the walls. There were, however, two squared notches we could not understand — a mystery.

After sketching and brainstorming was done at the cabins, we continued our study of cabin building at the library. This further confirmed conclusions we had drawn at the cabin, plus it solved our mystery. A sketch of the interior of a cattle lineman's cabin showed one method of attaching a shelf which we had not figured upon when we were in the cabin. That added the last detail — the shelf unit over the two beds.

The study of Yosemite's physical history as represented in its relic cabins and other remnants can be exciting, mysterious and rewarding. As Joseph Smeaton Chase has observed, it can allow the imaginative detective to conjure "up again the figures of the bygone miners and sheep-herders who sat around the fires that once roared" in remote mountain cabins. May those fires long roar in our memories.

Footnotes

1. This cabin was later burned to the ground. It is not known how or when it burned. A large pile of ashes with a few chunks of charred log cabin corners still lie on the slope.
2. From 1864 to 1890, Yosemite State Park consisted of Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove of Big Trees only. In 1890, when Yosemite National Park was created, the boundary was greatly expanded to include the watershed country feeding both the Merced and Tuolumne Rivers.
3. Shortly after 1882, the cabin over the western shaft was dismantled and the material hauled up the hill to the Bulwark tunnel. The pile of logs still lies there today. Apparently, the intention was to aggressively work and timber the tunnel, continue work on the eastern shaft and abandon the western shaft.
4. Visitors to this cabin have pulled out most of the chinking to use for firewood either in outdoor campfires, in the fireplace, or, sadly, in interior campfires in the corner of the cabin. This has occurred despite the N.P.S. regulation prohibiting wood fires above 9,600 feet.

Susan Guhm is an Association member from Fresno with a passion for Yosemite's early history and the past mining activity here. She and her husband Karl regularly explore the Sierra crest between Tioga Hill and Parker Pass. Susan is an occasional contributor to this journal.





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

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

effort to make Yosemite an even better place?

Member Benefits

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

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

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

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

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

★ A Yosemite Association decal; and

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