The Ephemeral Landscape. R. Burton Litton, Jr. Yosemite Valley is the symbol of Yosemite National Park, and images of the Valley, along with those of Yellowstone, serve as symbols of the national parks in general. Yet Yosemite Valley is an anomaly; it is neither typical of the park that the Sierra Nevada. Per-Valley, in the north-the Park, shared some-Valley’s structure and conversion to a reservoir for San Francisco’s water supply. But Hetch Hetchy lacked the concentrated richness in elements that distinguishes Yosemite. It is that very con-

Yosemite

A Journal for Members of the Yosemite Association, Winter 1993, Volume 55, Number 1
ecologic, scenic and recreational features that gives Yosemite a worldwide reputation and, at the same time, carries the seeds of its own destruction.

While the impact of too much development and too many people in too small an area poses serious design and management problems, the Valley remains an extraordinary creation. Painters of the Hudson River School pronounced the Valley landscape sublime, a product of divine intervention. This explanation of the Valley's aesthetic superiority is not likely to convince contemporary audiences, but an exploration of the Valley's visual structure, its perceptual qualities and the natural processes that occur there help explain why it is a distinctive place.

**Measuring from Wall to Wall**

The visual sense of the Valley begins below Bridalveil Meadow, where the Valley space begins. From here, it is about seven and a half miles east to the closing of the space at Mirror Lake and at Happy Isles. The Valley floor, which is the area in between and which sits at approximately the 4,000 foot-contour (where talus slides and cliff base inhibit ease of use and movement), covers about 2,200 acres — less than one-third of one percent of the Park's total area. Stores, lodgings, the visitor center and administrative offices are concentrated in 1,000 acres of the Valley's east end; most visitors spend time in this tiny piece of the Park.

Cross sections of the Valley show the ratio of floor widths to cliff wall heights varies from 1:1 to 1.5:1, a condition that rarely occurs elsewhere. The sheer walls read as vertical and simultaneously incorporate a scale distinction in their rise from base to sky of two-thirds of a mile or more. When did you last stand close to a wall that shot up 3,500 feet?

Coordinated with the Valley's sectional enclosure is the longitudinal continuity of the space visitors experience by following the road or river. The ground plan of the Valley divides into three spatial compartments with accompanying dog-leg shifts of road and river alignments. These shifting paths of view or movement dictate what the observer sees and encounters as a sequence of visual experiences. Nothing happens all at once; there is a degree of mystery in what will be next. As one travels along, the diversity of the Valley — its stone monuments, subordinate spaces and internal elements — are revealed bit by bit.

**The River and Meadows**

The Merced River, as carving agent and one-time glacial pathway, follows the westward orientation typical of the drainage pattern responding to the Sierra Nevada uplift. On the one hand, the River and its envelope of space are another of the visual continuities of the Valley. On the other, there is ecological richness and contrast based upon dramatically opposed north and south wall exposures.

High up on the north-facing slope (on top of which is Glacier Point), pockets and strings of bigleaf maple and other deciduous vegetation make seasonal displays, enlivening the color of the mosaic dominated by stone and conifers. The south-facing slope (from which El Capitan rises) is more somber and consistent year round with its gray granite and deep green mix of pine and live oak. Maple and dogwood are conspicuous at the north-facing (south side) cliff base, where moisture and coolness suit them; these are not present at the base of the opposite side, where black oak thrives in that hotter, drier environment.

Perceptually, the River and wet meadows serve as a central open space system from which the visitor can best see the Valley and the stone monuments. The water, meadows and riparian dominants of black cottonwood, alder and willow are all dynamic in their seasonal changes.

The meadows have a life of their own as subordinate small-scale spaces contained within the big-scale enclosure of the Valley. That life is not only in the way the meadow sedges, grasses and forbs change with the years' passage, but also with the congregation of visitors, both human and animal, for whom the meadows are a magnet.

If ecology is to have its way, the meadows will disappear, eventually to be engulfed by the mixed conifer forest. Maintaining the meadows as they are is critical to preserving the perceptual and aesthetic experiences visitors seek — and the visual quality of the Valley.

**Temporal Appearance**

The Valley's landscape is ephemeral, perhaps its most...
important quality. A myriad of transient factors — sun, shade, climate, weather, atmospheric conditions, seasonal changes and the presence of animals — affect the way the Valley looks in both subtle and obvious ways. Cataloguing and portraying the Valley's temporal appearances is a fruitless task, but a few examples are appropriate.

Sunlight and shade strike the Valley in response to the sun's orientation, the Valley's dog-leg structure and time of the year. Shade dominates the south side, sun the north. Because of the sinuous form of the Valley, south-facing Yosemite Falls are highlighted in the morning and shaded in the afternoon; the sequence at west-facing Bridalveil Falls is reversed.

Seasonal change contributes significantly to the Valley's visual richness. While Yosemite has a dry, Mediterranean summer, the Valley floor and crests are at a high enough altitude to receive rain and snow at other times. Autumn and winter snows dust the cliff caps, joints and ledges to display surface details inconspicuous in the summer. Water volume of the River, supplied not only by Yosemite's famous waterfalls, but also by a dozen or more perennial and intermittent creeks, doubles in the length of the Valley. The thundering white column of Yosemite Falls in May trickles to nothing in September.

The micro-climate effects transitory moods. After a storm, breaking clouds and fog alternately veil and reveal stone monuments such as Half Dome, pleasing photographers and other observers. Air currents and wet meadows can conspire to create early morning mists. Swirling winds around the base of the falls can push the water stream in one direction for a moment and the other direction the next.

Wildlife is not as abundant in Yosemite as it is in other national parks. Black bear have been encouraged to leave the Valley. But coyote, deer and birds such as Steller's jays and some raptors provide evidence of the presence of animals. Deer are abundant, probably in excess numbers.

A final bit of ephemera — reflections on the river. When the surface velocity of the river drops to a half foot per second or less, normally during the late summer and fall, the reflected landscape joins the real one.

All these ephemeral things were at the heart of what the Hudson River School painters strived to show. The contemporary visitor is probably no less moved by them.

Conclusion

The powerful image of Yosemite Valley springs from the insistent unity of its enclosing space. The Valley is a remarkable place, both for its easily seen, unique spatial structure, and for the diversity of what happens to be packed into that space. Its perceptual assets are such that no visitor need leave unsatisfied if the view of its features from the Valley floor are maintained.

R. Burton Litton, Jr. is a Professor Emeritus in landscape architecture at the University of California, Berkeley, and a pioneer in visual assessment of natural landscapes. His Forest Landscape Description and Inventories and Water and Landscape: An Aesthetic Overview of the Role of Water in the Landscape (with Robert Téteau, Jens Sorensen and Russell Beatty) set methods and standards currently used by the national parks. This article originally appeared in Places – A Quarterly Journal of Environmental Design, published by the Design History Foundation; and is used with permission.
Delaware North Wins Yosemite Concession

Delaware North Companies, Inc., of Buffalo, NY, a family-owned enterprise with wide interests in food service, lodging, and recreation enterprises, has been selected to provide concession services in Yosemite National Park.

Secretary of the Interior Manuel Lujan and National Park Service Director James M. Ridenour announced in December the selection of Delaware North to be the principal business operator in the park, managing lodges, restaurants, gasoline stations, gift shops, horse rentals, and other services available to the more than 3.5 million visitors who visit the park each year.

"Delaware North was the only finalist which was rated satisfactory with respect to all selection criteria," Secretary Lujan said.

"Delaware North budgeted the most money for environmental cleanup and placed no cap on its environmental mitigation responsibilities. They were not the highest bidder monetarily — they were close — but, overall, their proposal represents the best prospect to provide quality visitor services and to enhance the environment of Yosemite National Park," Ridenour said.

Delaware North was one of six finalists in the bidding process for the contract. A team of key Park Service officials, assisted by financial and hospitality consultants from the private sector, reviewed the offers and found this to be the best of several excellent bids. Ridenour noted that the development of the park's requirements and the search for an operator willing to carry them out has been underway since mid-1990. The contract also incorporates the Concessions Services Plan, which was developed from extensive public meetings.

"Their broad range of experience includes operations that reflect virtually every facet of the planned operation within Yosemite," Ridenour said.

Among their many interests are concessions services at several professional sports stadiums and arenas, including Boston Garden, Busch Stadium in St. Louis, Chicago's Comiskey Park, and Detroit's Tiger Stadium. They provide similar services at race tracks including Hialeah Park, Fla., and Hollywood Park, Calif., and other public facilities, including the Miami Metro Zoo. They provide airport services in major cities across America, have extensive interests in Australia, and recently became the concessioner for the Old Moscow Circus in Russia.

"Our recently completed Concessions Services Plan established clear direction for the type and extent of commercial involvement that will serve the needs of Yosemite National Park and the visiting public. This selection, and the pending 15-year contract that will bind the Park Service and Delaware North will set in motion a comprehensive reform of operations in the park to carry out that plan," Ridenour said.

Delaware North, a U.S. corporation, conducts an array of hospitality and recreation businesses through its subsidiaries, Sportsystems Corporation, New Boston Garden Corporation, Sportservice, Concession Air Corporation, and Delaware North Australia.

"Their recently completed Concessions Services Plan established clear direction for the type and extent of commercial involvement that will serve the needs of Yosemite National Park and the visiting public. This selection, and the pending 15-year contract that will bind the Park Service and Delaware North will set in motion a comprehensive reform of operations in the park to carry out that plan," Ridenour said.

The terms of the contract are in keeping with National Park system-wide concessions reform and improvement initiated by Secretary Lujan as a top priority of his tenure. Delaware North will undertake, as of October 1, 1995, implementation of the Concessions Services Plan to reorganize and rehabilitate the business facilities in concert with enhanced resource protection outlined in the park's general management plan.

The contract is expected, at the very least, to provide annual benefits to the park and to visitor facilities equal to 20.2% of the annual gross receipts. Over the 15-year life of the contract, the company will contribute more than $100 million to a fund that will be used to implement the plan.

They will also acquire the facilities now owned by YP & C Co., with their interest in the buildings passing to the government. They will maintain the facilities as the contract progresses and are committed to make periodic repairs and modernizations, as needed. They have also agreed to finish the cleanup of underground storage tanks that remain in the park from past concession operations.

"The choice we have made today promises an unparalleled opportunity to benefit a world-renowned park and its visitors," said Mike Finley, Superintendent. "The management skills and cooperative attitude reflected in the Delaware North proposal provide an expectation of consistent improvement of concessions services and implementation of the general management plan over the life of the contract. The funding the contract assures will provide the resources to finance a wide range of needed work without direct cost to the taxpayer."

Final contract implementation still needs to be worked out, Ridenour said, after which the contract will be provided to both Houses of Congress for a 60-day waiting period before final signature.
Ticks and Tick Diseases

Editor's note: Last year Wilderness Press published a new book titled Ticks and What You Can Do About Them by Dr. Roger Drummond. The volume contains a number of tick-related concerns of interest to those who visit the Sierra and other wilderness areas. We appreciate the cooperation of Wilderness Press in allowing us to reprint this information.

Are the numbers of cases of Lyme disease increasing or is it just that we know more about the disease?

Dr. Drummond: The numbers are increasing. For example, in 1988 there were 4,500 cases of the disease reported. In 1989 there were 8,600. In the last 10 years — since it's been a reportable disease — there have been about 36,000 cases of Lyme disease. Most experts think that this is about one-tenth of all the actual Lyme disease cases.

Tell us about Lyme disease.

Dr. Drummond: Lyme disease, except for AIDS, is probably the new number-one medical problem in the US. Lyme disease is caused by a type of bacteria that ticks carry. They get it into their body by feeding on an infected mouse, for instance. Then, when they feed the next time on a human, they inject the disease organism into that person.

There are three separate stages of symptoms. The first stage is when the tick attaches to you. Your skin gets very red in an area about 6 inches wide around where the tick is attached. You develop flu-like symptoms — fever, chills. These symptoms can last a couple of weeks. Then the tick drops off, leaving the disease organism in you.

About a month later, you get severe symptoms, like facial paralysis, lethargy, aches in your joints and muscles. These can last for a couple of weeks before they go away.

The third stage, the worst part of Lyme disease, occurs a year or two later when you develop severe arthritis in your big joints, in your knees and elbows.

If Lyme disease is diagnosed early on, antibiotics are effective. But if you end up with the arthritis, it's really too late to cure the disease.

How do you take ticks off once they become attached?

Dr. Drummond: First of all, it's easier to keep them off of you than pull them off once they're attached.

All those folk remedies — killing the ticks with a burning match, rubbing alcohol or petroleum jelly don't work. They will kill the tick but leave the infected tick parts still attached. The best way to remove a tick is to take a pair of tweezers, and put them right next to the head of the tick, where it's attached to your skin, grab tightly, and gently pull it off. There's a new instrument out called the Tick Solution. It's a very specialized type of forceps that you can put around the tick and grab the tick's head, where it attaches. You can lift it right out.

The main thing is to not break off the tick's head once it's become attached, because the material left can then become a source of infection. The second thing you don't want to do is crush a tick anywhere on your skin. If you do, some of the disease ticks carry can pass through unbroken skin and infect you.

Is there any way to keep ticks off you?

Dr. Drummond: When you go out in areas where ticks are found, wear a long-sleeved shirt and long pants that you tuck into your socks or put masking tape around. Once you have protective clothing on, you can treat it with two different things. One of them is any repellent that contains DEET. You spray it on your clothes and let it dry before putting them on. When ticks walk on your clothing they become repelled by this substance and drop off. There's something even better than DEET, though. It's called Permanone Tick Repellent. This is a water-based insecticide you spray onto your clothes. It's so effective against ticks that if ticks walk 4 to 6 inches on clothing that's been treated with the repellent, they're killed by the substance. It's safe for clothes, but don't apply it directly to your body.

Are any species of ticks deadly to humans?

Dr. Drummond: There is one kind of tick that, if it gets on you and attaches in the right place, can cause a paralysis of the body. This paralysis, if the tick is not found and removed, will eventually kill you. There are a number of cases every year where people die of this tick paralysis. The funny thing is, once the tick is removed the paralysis goes away. Often people just don't know to look for a tick, which you should always do whenever there's ascending paralysis — paralysis starting in the extremities and moving to the trunk.
North to Yosemite

The story of Yosemite Valley's wonders was only beginning to unfold a little more than a century ago.

During the 1870s John Muir, who was to become Yosemite's fiercest champion and its most gifted advocate, was still busy exploring the area. He had yet to set down his findings in the richly eloquent prose that still has power to quicken the hearts of conservationists.

Yet in those early pre-tourist days, word of Yosemite had trickled out and visitors were trickling in. Hardy Californians sometimes walked, others rode horseback. Many opted for a tedious and dusty journey across the Central Valley and on into the mountains via stagecoach.

Having arrived, these early visitors could not hope for hot showers and gourmet meals. Accommodations were meager and the food unrefined.

Into this valley of matchless natural grandeur and pitifully few creature comforts there stepped down from a stagecoach one day in 1875 a stately 45-year-old Englishwoman named Marianne North. Unlike her fellow travelers, she had come not simply to view Yosemite, but to see — sugar pines, yellow pines and arbor vitae, hung with golden lichen. The forest was thick all over everything; she was to record in her recollections.

And so it was that in early midlife Marianne North sought to overcome her bereavement by means of a goal calculated not only to occupy her time and energy but to do honor to the family name. Her goal was a staggering one: to record in her paintings the flora of the whole world, or as much of it as could be managed, with particular reference to the tropics.

Photography in those days was in its infancy, and while botanists were indeed abroad in the world, records of what they found were in writing, meagerly illustrated with such engravings as could be processed from their sketches. Marianne North's splashy paintings, executed on the spot, were thus destined to enthrall a British public newly enamored of exotica.

Prior to her first arrival at Yosemite (for she was to return again in 1881), Marianne North had visited and painted in the northeastern United States and Canada, not omitting Niagara Falls; and she had toiled at her easel in Jamaica, Brazil and Tenerife, largest of the Canary Islands.

Painting the Mariposa Grove

Such a seasoned traveler might be expected to have had been doing since the death of her widowed father when she was nearly 40.

From early youth, Miss North had traveled, botanized and sketched with her father throughout Europe and much of the Middle East. "He was from first to last the one idol and friend of my life, and apart from him I had little pleasure and no secrets," she was to record in her recollections.

And so it was that in early midlife Marianne North sought to overcome her bereavement by means of a goal calculated not only to occupy her time and energy but to do honor to the family name. Her goal was a staggering one: to record in her paintings the flora of the whole world, or as much of it as could be managed, with particular reference to the tropics.

Photography in those days was in its infancy, and while botanists were indeed abroad in the world, records of what they found were in writing, meagerly illustrated with such engravings as could be processed from their sketches. Marianne North's splashy paintings, executed on the spot, were thus destined to enthrall a British public newly enamored of exotica.

Prior to her first arrival at Yosemite (for she was to return again in 1881), Marianne North had visited and painted in the northeastern United States and Canada, not omitting Niagara Falls; and she had toiled at her easel in Jamaica, Brazil and Tenerife, largest of the Canary Islands.

Painting the Mariposa Grove

Such a seasoned traveler might be expected to have

found the trip to Yosemite relatively easy. Not so. "We traveled by train to Chicago, across the prairies to Salt Lake and onwards by stage — a horrible springless machine," her journal tells us. "I had 14 hours of it, combined with dust an inch thick all over everything."

Still, by 6 a.m. the next morning this Victorian lady, enlisting the services of "an old miner... and a horse," had left for the Big Trees (Sequoiadendron giganteum) of the Mariposa Grove.

Among the trees Miss North painted in the Mariposa Grove was the ancient "Big Grisy," now called the Grizzly Giant — which still stands there today. Her journal's comments on the subject of the giant sequoia are apt:

"All the world now knows their dimensions, so I need not repeat them, but only those who have seen them know their rich red plush bark and the light green eclipse of feathery foliage above, and the giant trunks which swell enormously at the base, having no branches up to a third of their whole height."

"There are about 700 in that one grove of Mariposa alone, and three other groves within a day or two of them. They stood out grandly against the other trees, which in themselves would be worth a journey to see — sugar pines, yellow pines and arbor vitae, hung with golden lichen. The forest was full of strange trails of big bears and other wild animals."

Big bears there well may have been, but Miss North showed no fear of wandering alone in the forest. The rough-hewn miner who had taken her there was impressed and said of her, Miss North reported in her journal, that "I was the right sort. I neither cared for bears nor yet for Injins."

The descent from Mariposa Grove into Yosemite gave the
English visitor "the very best view of the valley; so I got our driver, after he had rested his horses and dined, to give me a lift up the hill again as far as that view, and leave me to paint it . . . and he absolutely refused to take a dollar from me when I offered it."

Next day, while most visitors to the valley were too exhausted to venture beyond the hotel veranda, Miss North and an acquaintance "mounted two very 'sorry nags' and accompanied a large party of tourists all around the valley to the Mirror Lake (which might have been a bit of the Tyrol), then up ladders to 'Snows,' a kind of 'Bel Alp' hotel, which must be quite divine in spring from the quantity of flowers and clear water."

On the following day Miss North returned to Mariposa Grove and painted the biggest of sequoias. "I had a long day's work in that lovely forest painting the huge tree . . . whose side branch is as big as any trunk in Europe."

When she left Yosemite, the artist took with her not only her paintings, but gifts from the miner: "some rattlesnakes' tails and a great lump of bark from the big trees, looking like a brick of solid plush."

Marianne's Return

Six years ensued before Marianne North returned to Yosemite Valley. Weary from travel she wrote that "The view of the valley struck me more crushingly than the first time I saw it; and when I talked of walking back to paint the view I found it was seven miles off! It looked so near!"

To her delight, the falls that had been dry on her first visit were now flowing full. Stopping at the first inn in the valley, she found it "a homely quiet house, and wandered round it on foot for three days, making no expeditions, but enjoying the grandeur of everything in perfect quiet; and a nice old gentleman of Philadelphia, who had come in the coach with me, brought me wonderful flowers from the mountains above."

Only a day or two more remained to her in Yosemite, and then it was time to go. A journal entry indicates that the leavetaking was heartfelt: "I was sorry to say goodbye ..." Did Marianne North and John Muir ever meet during either of her two trips to Yosemite Valley? One longs to think that they did, but the evidence indicates otherwise. When she visited in 1875, John Muir was off scouting the sequoia groves south of Yosemite. And in the spring of 1881 he had left the valley to be with his wife, Louie, at the birth of their first daughter. That the two did not meet is a loss to posterity. What one would not give to be able to read Marianne North's recollec-
Elise Jerram is a former reporter for the Monterey Peninsula Herald, and still resides in Monterey. She advises Y.A. members not to miss a visit to the Marianne North Gallery at Kew Gardens if they visit London. This article originally appeared in Alta Vista Magazine and is used with permission.

All told, the gallery houses an astonishing 832 botanical paintings representing 720 genera and more than 1,000 species. They appear on the walls today exactly as the artist hung them for the gallery’s opening in June 1882.

She apparently was given free rein. She had, after all, donated to Kew the funds for the building and selected the architect who designed it. Until recent years the gallery was lighted entirely from high clerestory windows after the manner of a Greek temple. Purists are said to have objected when supplementary lighting was installed a few decades ago.

The paintings are arranged by continents, and the various sections are embellished with more than 200 varieties of rare woods brought back from the artist’s travels.

The North paintings are not botanical representations in the strictest sense, since most show flowers and trees within a landscape. Some include buildings, animals, insects and occasionally people. Her study of the California dogwood is typical in that while the blossoms predominate, there are blue Sierra cliffs in the distance and rufous hummingbirds in the foreground.

Judged by most standards, Marianne North was only reasonably talented. Virtually self-taught, she had a mere smattering of formal training.

Her sister Catherine said that Marianne “painted as a clever child would.” Perhaps so.

And perhaps it is just that childlike exuberance that takes one’s breath away on walking into the North Gallery. The walls fairly vibrate with color. Added to the visual impact is the realization that here is the lifework of a Victorian artist who reached out and embraced the whole world, including Yosemite, in an era when women were brought up to adorn drawing-rooms.
Beacons of Beauty

Todd W. Bressi

Many of the concerns about Yosemite National Park carry with them an anomalous implication: The Park is actually too beautiful, too beautiful for its own good.

It is the Park's beauty, after all, that attracts so many visitors, who bring with them the crowding, traffic, smog and litter that wear down the ecosystem, clutter the landscape and obscure the experience that makes the Park such a desirable place to visit.

Yosemite may be too beautiful for our good, as well. Think for a minute why we visit Yosemite. Most likely it is to see beauty in its most spectacular, stupendous, awesome incarnation — landscapes that are nothing short of national (or planetary) treasures, certainly nothing like we can find near home.

When we visit, if we are lucky, we will be infused with the inspiration countless artists and the founders of this country's environmental movement found in this remarkable place, or perhaps be driven to a new height of personal dialogue with nature.

Let me suggest another reason why we visit Yosemite, particularly the Valley: because we can. A century ago, our government, deeming it worthy to protect both the landscape and public access to it, designated Yosemite a national park. Since then, as hoped, humans have hardly changed the landscape (compared to how they've changed the landscape elsewhere).

On the other hand, Yosemite has changed more than have wilderness areas, which have even more protection than parks. Highways have been built through it and to its most spectacular attractions, signs and travel guides chart the route to it from hundreds of miles distant, and the park itself is assigned a special color on our maps in order to stand out.

Lodgings, restaurants, gas stations and wilderness outfitters are creeping towards the park's boundaries and are strategically stationed throughout the park. Traveling to and through Yosemite is nowhere near as daunting as it was before Yosemite was designated park land, nor as difficult as exploring other parts of the Sierra Mountains.

Consequently, Yosemite is not only a place where beauty is preserved but also a beacon in the midst of undifferentiated wilderness, a beacon that coaxes us to witness its spectacle. You might call it a beacon of beauty.

Places

A Quarterly Journal of Environmental Design is published by the Design History Foundation. The Spring, 1990 issue of the journal is the source of the articles by Messrs. Litton and Bressi in this publication.

It was originally published with the assistance of the National Endowment for the Arts, Design Arts Program.

For more information about Places or the Design History Foundation, write to 110 Higgins Hall, Pratt Institute School of Architecture, 200 Willoughby Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11205, or call (718) 399-6090.
We cannot become confused; spectacle alone is not beauty. We must not follow Yosemite’s beacon to find beauty but seek it everywhere we can; if we look hard enough, we might find it in places all around us.

Other places, not necessarily beacons of beauty, have moved me just the same. The virgin stands of Gifford Pinchot National Forest in Washington State are being logged vigorously. The clear cutting, at first glance an act of violence, intrigued me because of the abstract, visual impact of logging on the landscape. The removal of trees reveals striking landscapes. Denuded mountains crouch in their raw form, exposing silhouettes and surface textures I had never imagined before. The policy of cutting small stands of trees in any one place at any one time, then replanting, has created a living laboratory of ecological succession.

The lines we draw around national parks are valuable defenses against unwieldy human interference in the course of natural events. In our society, it is essential to make parks accessible to everybody. (Whether this must be by automobile is another matter.) We should all have an opportunity to witness Yosemite’s grandeur and to make what we can of our place in nature.

Yet, as national park borders have been drawn around some of our most spectacular landscapes, those landscapes have become magnets to which people flock. They have come to define what we expect from our encounters with nature and to be the yardstick by which we evaluate our impressions of natural beauty. We cannot become confused; spectacle alone is not beauty. We must not follow Yosemite’s beacon to find beauty but seek it everywhere we can; if we look hard enough, we might find it in places all around us. If we could teach ourselves to do that, our souls would be energized more than they ever would by making pilgrimages, even a thousand times over, to beacons of beauty.

Todd W. Bressi is Associate Editor of Places – A Quarterly Journal of Environmental Design. This article was first published in Vol. 6 No. 3 of Places and is used with permission.

El Capitan Picnic Area Closed

Yosemite Valley's El Capitan picnic area has been closed permanently as part of the Merced River restoration project, Superintendent Michael V. Finley announced recently. The National Park Service, committed to restoring the Merced River to a natural, healthy condition, decided to close the area because of the impact of visitors on river banks, vegetation and wildlife.

Resources Management Specialist Louise Johnson said, “A 250 foot, fairly steep stretch of river bank was denuded of vegetation by visitors who continually climbed down to the water's edge.”

Part of the restoration project will consist of planting shrubs, trees and willow cuttings along the river banks to fortify them against unnatural erosion. The project will also include removal of the two riverside parking lots from the picnic area. The parking area near the road will remain open with several tables and a vault toilet for visitor day use.

The Merced River restoration project is a multi-year program which will restore the riparian habitat of the Merced River. Some of the projects already initiated include revegetation of river banks, enactment of new fishing regulations designed to aid the recovery of natural fish populations, and removal of certain problem campsites and picnic areas. Woody debris and fallen trees, which provide nutrients and habitat for aquatic insects and fish, are no longer removed from the river.

This is the second closure of the year aimed at protecting Yosemite’s natural resources. This spring the Tenaya Lake Walk-in Campground was also closed permanently. The decision was made to prevent further damage to fragile wetlands at the lake. The lake’s shoreline, the creek outlet, and the low, wet areas outside the campground are particularly sensitive to the impacts of campers on soils, vegetation, wildlife and water quality. The 50 lost campsites will be offset at other locations along the Tioga Road corridor sometime in the future.

New Edition of “100 Years”

Carl Russell’s time-tested history of Yosemite National Park, One Hundred Years in Yosemite, has just been re-issued in a new “Omnibus” edition by the Yosemite Association. Annotated, updated and supplemented, the new edition has significantly improved on previous versions of the work and should be of enormous value to Yosemite historians, researchers and fans.

Hence M. Allibone once said about the book, “I know of no one better fitted to present the history of Yosemite’s early years in interesting and accurate form than Carl E. Russell. . . . through strenuous endeavor he unearthed a wealth of material regarding the human events in the Yosemite region.” I gladly give Dr. Russell’s books my hearty endorsement.”

Local author and Yosemite authority, Hank Johnston, has annotated the text whenever new information has become available or errors might have occurred. He has also brought the included Yosemite chronology current to 1991, and provided an informative printing history for book collectors and other interested parties. The new version has been characterized as “Omnibus” edition for it gathers together the best components from several earlier editions of the work including a group of historical documents regarding the Mariposa Indian War and an extensive bibliography. To make One Hundred Years even more useful, the book has been completely re-indexed.

This is the second volume in the “High Sierra Classics Series” which includes the previously published Discovery of the Yosemite by Lafayette H. Bunnell. It is 269 pages long, paper bound, and sells for $9.95. See the order form at the rear of this journal for ordering information.
Spring Forum: March 27

YA's popular Spring Forum will be held on Saturday, March 27, 1993 in Yosemite Valley. This annual event features a full day of informative programs on Yosemite history, resources, and management. The day begins with registration from 9:00 to 9:30 a.m. at the East Auditorium which is located behind the Visitor Center in the Valley. From 9:30 a.m. on, there will be a series of hour-long talks, slide shows, and walks (weather permitting) throughout the day, with a break for lunch. At 5:00 p.m., members and speakers will gather for a wine and cheese hour.

There are a number of excellent people who will be presenting programs. One of these will be Michael Ross, familiar to many members as a noted author, botanist and seminar teacher, who has just written The World of Small. This new book, YA's latest publication, is filled with activities and includes a hand lens in the packaging, is designed to lure folks of all ages into a more intimate relationship with the natural world. During the day, Michael will be leading walks which explore the "world of small" and will also be available to sign books and talk with members at the wine and cheese hour.

Other sessions will include Jim Snyder, Park Historian, on "The Lost Wilderness." Two well-known Yosemite photographers, Keith Walklet and Michael Frye, will present slide shows of their inspiring work, and Kat Anderson, ethnobotanist, will present an informative program on early conservation - the Indian uses of burning in the Yosemite region. Representatives from the National Park Service will bring members up to date with the latest issues in park management, wildlife, and air quality, along with new developments in the river restoration project. There will also be a selection of naturalist and history walks offered.

YA members have recently received all the details on the Spring Forum weekend by mail, including a reservation form for lodging in the park as well as a list of accommodations outside the park. If you wish to join us for the event, either for the day or the weekend, please return the card from that mailing along with $5 for each person attending, if you would like a more complete agenda when we finalize the schedule, please send us a stamped, self-addressed envelope. If you have any questions, please call Holly or Connie at (209) 379-2646.

1992 Visitation Breaks all Records

Yosemite's visitation continues to climb to record levels. The recently released figures for 1992 show a total of 3,957,642, which is an 11.6% increase over the 1991 previous high of 3,547,166.

Yosemite License Plates

The State of California and the non-profit Yosemite Fund have recently announced plans for a special Yosemite license plate. The plate will feature a four color graphic representation of Yosemite Valley's famous "tunnel view," and the proceeds from its sale will jointly benefit Yosemite National Park and the State of California Environmental Fund.

Park Superintendent Michael V. Finley stated, "The National Park Service is excited about the Yosemite License Plate Program and the opportunities it provides to provide an enduring benefit to the preservation of Yosemite. It will enable us to complete many restoration projects that otherwise could not be undertaken." Yosemite's share of the funds from the sale of the license plate can only be used for restoration and preservation projects in the park, not for operations or administrative costs.

The Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) will issue the Yosemite plate once a minimum of 5,000 plates have been purchased. The cost is $50 over the usual vehicle registration fee and $40 annually to renew. It is estimated that of these fees, Yosemite will receive $13 on each newly issued plate and $20 on each renewal. It is hoped that the first plates will be delivered in the summer of 1993.

To learn more about the Yosemite license plates or to request an application, contact the Yosemite Fund. Call (415) 434-1782 or write to 155 Montgomery Street, Suite 1104, San Francisco, CA 94104.

Association Dates

March 27, 1993: Spring Forum, Yosemite Valley
July 11-17, 1993: Member Work Trip, Yosemite Valley
July 25-31, 1993: Member Work Trip, Yosemite Valley
August 22-28, 1993: Member Work Trip, Tuolumne Meadows
October 8-9, 1993: Member Work Trip, Yosemite Valley
September 11, 1993: Annual Meeting, Tuolumne Meadows
March 26, 1994: Spring Forum, Yosemite Valley
Ballots cast in the annual Yosemite Association board election have been tallied. The vote count shows that Allen Berrey and Phyllis Weber will fill the two expired positions and serve new six year terms. The final results are as follows: Phyllis Weber - 1,432 votes; Allen Berrey - 1,363 votes; and Catherine Soria - 382 votes.

Phyllis Weber is an incumbent trustee who has served two previous terms with the Association. An elementary school teacher in El Portal, she has been a member of both the Publications and Seminars Committee and the Grants and Aid Committee. Phyllis is married to Art Baggett, a supervisor for Mariposa County, and has two school-age children. In her candidate statement, she emphasized her desire to be actively involved in determining Yosemite's future. Allen Berrey will begin his first term as a board member, though, he is hardly new to Yosemite and YA. Allen was born and raised in the park, and his father Henry worked as a Forest Service and the Department of the Interior. An attorney by training, he is Deputy County Counsel for Merced County. Allen lives with his wife and daughters in Merced.

Leaving the board will be Beverly Barrick who, due to her relocation from Las Vegas to Texas, chose not to run for re-election. During her six years with the Association she participated as a member of the By-Laws and Personnel Committees. Everyone at YA extends thanks to Beverly Barrick for her service to our organization and wishes her the best in the future.

Did You Get Your 1993 Seminar Catalog?

It was mailed the second week in December and should have arrived on your doorstep just before Christmas. Did you set it aside, intending to check your calendar to make plans? Were you one of the hundreds of members who called the YA office to sign up? All but four of the seminars are still open, so check your schedule and join a class before the one you want fills up!

Here are some highlights of new 1993 courses. Dr. Glenn Keator is teaching Getting to Know Shrubs, June 17-20, and Flowers and Their Pollinators, July 18-22, at Crane Flat. Dr. Keator is also offering a glimpse into the small world of mosses, lichens, ferns and mushrooms on April 23-25 in and around Yosemite Valley with his course, Yosemite Low Life: Lichens, Ferns, Mosses & Mushrooms.

Michael Frye is offering two sessions of Tracking and Observing Wildlife. The first, held on February 19-22 at Crane Flat, will have the benefit of snow tracking. The second course will be held July 10-12, and is headquartered at Bridalveil Creek. Aldaron Laird will introduce students to the intricacies of the River Ecosystems and Fluvial Processes of the Tuolumne River, August 20-22. This group will gather specific data on the physical and biological components of the waterways in Yosemite's outstanding high country.

Gathering the Mountains - Sierra Miwok Ethnobotany is a new seminar taught by Kat Anderson and Corinne Elwart on June 24-27. With a series of day hikes, the course will focus on modern and traditional uses of native plants. Bev Ortiz has shortened her hands-on Central California Indian courses: Sierra Miwok Coiled Baskets (May 8-9), Lifeways of Central California Indians (July 3-4), and The Twined Basketry of Central California Indians (October 9-10). There are several new art, writing, storytelling and photography seminars in the new brochure, such as Autumn Trees: A Drawing and Painting Backpack, September 10-14, is taught by Andie Thrams.

Backpackers can enjoy new trips such as Women in the Wilderness - Intermediate Backpack, September 22-26, led by Tony Finley. Beneath The Ritter Range, August 9-13, is a new advanced backpack taught by Joe Medeiros. Give Penny or Lou a call in the seminar office if you have any questions about these or any of the courses for 1993!
California History – Indians of California, the magazine of the California Historical Society. A collection of eight scholarly editorials written by individuals with the qualifications to bring you interesting reading and knowledgeable information on their specific subjects. The studies cover the history of the California Indians, as well as European influences on their cultures, the mission and the controversy over the perception of changing the people and their ways. There are articles from contemporary Native Americans active in revitalizing their old ways, and giving us a glimpse of what it is like for a Pomo woman to live in an urban city. It is a wonderful collection of works, by experts in history and anthropology, with many black and white illustrations. There is also a section of books reviews and a checklist for further reading. 156 pages, $9.95.

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. Paper: $9.95.

Tradition and Invitation: 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. Cloth bound: $49.95.

One Hundred Years in Yosemite - Omnibus Edition, by Carl Parcher Russell. A reprint, the second in the High Sierra Classics Series published by the Association, is a readable, yet scholarly study of the history of Yosemite National Park, illustrating the human experiences and events of the Yosemite region, and growth of the concept of land preservation. This edition, reproduced from the last with which Dr. Russell was directly involved, contains a new introduction, a printing history of the book and an author profile by local historian, Hank Johnston who has also annotated the text. Nine rare documents which appeared in the first edition of 1932 are reprinted, as well as an extensive bibliography from the first and second editions. The chronology has been updated through 1991. 269 pages, $9.95.

Tradition and Innovation: A Basket History of the Indians of the Yosemite-Mono Lake Area

Yosemite Association, WINTER 1993 PAGE THIRTEEN
The Yosemite Calendar – 1993 with photographs by William Neill. This is the first time that the Yosemite Association has printed its own wall calendar, and we’re very pleased with our initial offering. Gifted Yosemite photographer, William Neill, has assembled 14 of his best images which are reproduced beautifully in full color. They are matched with excerpts from poetry by writers like Gary Snyder, Robert Frost, Rainer Maria Rilke and Joe Bruchac. Each month includes significant dates in Yosemite history, holidays and moon phases. It’s all printed in a 12” x 12” size on handsome recycled paper and wire-o bound. We think you’ll agree it’s elegant and attractive.

Order Form
Credit card orders call: (209) 379 2648 Monday—Friday, 8:30am—4:30pm

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item #</th>
<th>Qty</th>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Price Each</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>07500</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Pelican Pouch, Wilderness Belt Bag</td>
<td>$9.95 (please specify color)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07505</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Yosemite Association Baseball-Style Cap</td>
<td>$9.95 (please specify color)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07800</td>
<td></td>
<td>11” x 2”</td>
<td>Yosemite Enamel Pin</td>
<td>$6.50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07516</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Yosemite Association Patch</td>
<td>$3.00 (please specify color)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07510</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Yosemite Association Mug</td>
<td>$6.50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07506</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Yosemite Association Patch (embroidered on colorful, sturdy fabric for placement on daypacks, shirts, blue jeans, jackets, or wherever)</td>
<td>$11.95</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07504</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Yosemite Association Patch (embroidered on colorful, sturdy fabric for placement on daypacks, shirts, blue jeans, jackets, or wherever)</td>
<td>$11.95</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07503</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Yosemite Association Patch</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Join a Summer Work Week!

For the last five years, Y.A. Work Trips have provided hundreds of members with the winning combination of giving valuable service while enjoying spirited camaraderie and the joys of a week in Yosemite. As federal budgets tighten, volunteer groups are needed to provide crews for several important projects. This year, four YA Member Work Trips are scheduled. There will be two midsummer work weeks in Yosemite Valley: July 11-17 and July 25-31, and one in Tuolumne Meadows, August 22-28.

Each of these three groups will be working on revegetation projects in the park. For the first time this coming season, a fall work week will be offered from October 3-9. The focus of this week will be to assist in the river restoration project. These work weeks have become a successful venture in cooperation for Yosemite. Y.A. organizes the groups and signs up its members for the labor crews, the National Park Service directs the projects and tasks, the Yosemite Institute contributes the leadership and food service, and the Yosemite Park & Curry Co. donates the funds to make it all possible.

In each of the trips, 15 Y.A. members arrive for a five day work project directed by the NPS Resources Management Division. The group camps together in special sites, has their meals provided, and works together for four days with a day off in the middle of the week. Members need to be in good health — the work can range from easy to strenuous. The ages of participants often range from families with enthusiastic teenagers to energetic folks in their sixties and seventies. These trips become more popular each year. To sign up, call or write Connie or Holly.

Recent Donations
Otto Best, California Psychiatric Association; Henry Hall, Felix & Phoebe Famann, Jim & Diane Huning, and Mrs Robert Maynard, Dr & Mrs Herbert C Moffitt, Mrs Harvey & Pat Rhodes, Lennie & Mike Roberts.

In Memory of Henry Berrin: Mrs Phoebe Famann, Jim & Diane Huning, Peggy Baubus, Richard & Angela Carew, and Mrs Robert Maynard, Dr & Mrs Herbert Moffitt, Mrs Harvey & Pat Rhodes, Lennie & Mike Roberts.

In Memory of Herbert Blasdale: Eva Bates, Edith Knoller, H J Waldman, Mrs Pearl B Yeager & Family.
Join the Yosemite Association

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

A critical element in the success of the Association is its membership. Individuals and families throughout the country have long supported the Yosemite Association through their 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;
- Special membership gifts as follows:
  - Supporting Member: A selection of 8 handsome notecards (with envelopes) featuring beautiful photographs of Yosemite;
  - Contributing Member: A Yosemite Association mug — new design;
  - Sustaining Member: A copy of the award-winning video, Yosemite: The Fate of Heaven;
  - Life Member: Matted color photograph by Howard Weamer of a Yosemite scene; and
  - Participating Life Member: Ansel Adams Special Edition print, archivaly mounted.

Membership dues are tax-deductible as provided by law.

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

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

Name (please print): ____________________________ Phone Number: ____________________________
Address: ____________________________ City: ____________________________ State/Zip: ____________________________
Enclosed is my check or money order for $ ______ or charge to my credit card
BankAmericard/Visa Number: __________ Expiration Date: __________ Expiration Date: __________
MasterCard Number: __________
Mail to: Yosemite Association, Post Office Box 230, El Portal, CA 95318. 209/379-2646

Yosemite Association

Board of Trustees
Lennie Roberts, Chair
William Alsup
Allen Berry
Barbara DeWitt
Edward C Hardy
Kathleen Orr
Richard Reitnauer
David Robertson
Anne Schneider
Thomas J Shepherd
Jean West
Phyllis Weber
Dena Welfer
Leonard W McKenzie, NPS Representative
Michael V Finley, NPS Representative
Andrew F Herr, Ex officio
Jeffery C Lapham, Ex officio
Elvira Nishkian, Ex officio

President
Steven F Medley
Sales
Patricia Wight, Manager
Mary Volgel, Assistant
Seminars Penny Overall, Coordinator
Lou Carter, Assistant
Bookkeeper/Office Manager
Claire Hiley
Membership
Holly Wares, Coordinator
Connie Nielsen, Assistant
Secretary/Cashier
Anne Stood

Yosemite Guide
Hannah Schneider

For Office Use
Paid: __________ Card #: __________ Exp. Date: __________ Gift: __________ File: __________ Comp: __________