probably started his life close where it ended. Most likely he one of two blind 10-ounce cubs, to a mother who was fast in the rotted base of a large

his mother, learning to forage for what me provides — spring's green meadow ses, the yellow jackets and ants of sumand manzanita berries and acorns in

eady to mate again, the mother would e driven him away to fend for himself. then it was his second spring. It was time her to get on with the business of proing another healthy cub, and for him to w to maturity in the solitude normal to bears.

was that same
ing that he discovd human food. He
that have found it
along a trail, or in
arking lot, perhaps
t next to a bear-reant garbage can where
reone had missed. Food
have been left on a

mic table, unattended.
weighed barely 100

bounds, and it must have been and for people to resist feeding scraggly and lanky adolescent. early June he was spotted at a impster. The problem was recogand cleaned up, but he had andy learned that where mans are, so is easy food. Reports of his feeding habits, at least one incident of pression, led to his trapping. National Park Service wildlife logist, Dianne Ingram, eighed him, put a colorful in his ear for easy idencation, and gave him his me - #583. He was re-

used, but because he was a beliem bear, he was fitted oth a radio collar that bewed biologists to track

Dianne's assistant, Cindy

s movements.

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Yose/Nite

1993

Making Preservation
V. 55
DO. 4
BIOS

FRAMPTON

Making Preservation

Come First

The State of the Park

DEC 01 1993

HEDEATH OF BEAR NO. 53

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the state of the

YOSEMITE ASSOCIATION, FALL 199

Shultz, spent many hours radio-tracking #583 and chasing the young bear away from trouble. She also spent time talking to people about the importance of keeping food away from bears.

In July #583 knocked down a night security guard after running out of a building he had entered in search of food. He later bluff-charged a woman and child, coming within 5 feet of them before turning away. He entered a restaurant kitchen and took food while a person was present. There were many other incidents, despite Cindy's efforts.

Bears are not destroyed for finding garbage or stealing food but for aggressive or extremely destructive behavior. Even a small bear can do tremendous harm to a person if it is frightened or aggressive. Past relocations of problem bears within the park had failed. The bears either returned to the site of capture or died. So the order was signed to destroy #583.

Dianne knew his patterns. He typically began his foraging between 8:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m., when truly wild bears are

Editor's note: The preceding article is about a bear that became dependent on human food in Seauoia and Kings Canvon National Parks. Black bears (Ursus americanus) of Yosemite, Sequoia, and Kings Canyon have similar habits and live in virtually identical habitat. Unfortunately, the three national parks share a high rate of human/bear incidents like those described below. Bears in each park have been killed in order to protect public safety. In 1992, park managers in Yosemite had to destroy five food-conditioned bears that exhibited aggressive behavior and caused large amounts of property damage.



beginning to bed down for the night. Bears that have become habituated to human foods adopt activity patterns that mirror those of the sources of their food. Preferring to avoid the humans themselves, they wait until activity dies down after dark, then get up and take advantage of what's been left behind. The youngster's radio collar told the story; by 8:15

p.m. he was up and moving.

At 8:45 p.m. Dianne intercepted him, fired a dart rifle, and trailed him for 10 minutes until the drug took affect and he fell asleep. By then night had fallen. With the help of three other employees she rolled #583 onto a stretcher, and they carried him back to the truck, trying not to stumble on the dark trail.

After a short drive to a secluded area, Dianne and another biologist took the bear from the truck, laid him on the ground, and shot him through the head. They knelt to take off his ear tag and collar, then pushed his body over a steep embankment. His final resting

place was the only natural thing about his death.

Destruction of a bear is quiet. "During the procedure you're very focused and careful," says Dianne. "You're dealing with rifles and ammunitie and a hazardous drug, Afterwards there's no talking. You just pack up your gear and ge in the car."

After a while, according to Dianne, the "if only" discussion begins. "We say, 'If only we could reach everyone to tell them about food and bears.' And we search for ways to in prove our efforts."

Later this year, when winter's snows start to fall, the bears will again go to their dens. Come January, another generation of tiny cubs will b born. Nature, in her generosi will give us another chance to keep them wild.

Malinee Crapsey works for the National Park Service in the Polic Affairs Office at Sequoia an Kings Canyon National Parks



Making Preservation Come First

George T. Frampton, Jr.

tot's note: What follows
text of a speech made
George Frampton, AssistSecretary of the Interior for
and Wildlife and Parks,
the occasion of the Eighth Annual Members' Meetof the Yosemite Association in
tunne Meadows on Septem11, 1993.



ally was delighted to be ed by the Yosemite Associmake and to come and speak ou this weekend. Yosemite that up there at the top of places that I committed to self that I would visit, or rerevisit, as soon as possible I was confirmed and offiy started this job (which in the until after the fourth liv).

That's partly because this adstration is going to pay a attention to the parks, to this park, but also for monal reasons. For personal wal and to remind myself way it is that I'm doing this And I have to say that just www hours of hiking this ming out along the Lyell with my wife, Betsy, was weigh to do that and to reme again how Yosemite a unique combination mandeur and intimacy. We were talking this mornabout the fact that the hike me also how much

place is still pretty well

protected. And I want to take my hat off to the park staff, to Mike Finley and his team for that.

I feel really honored to be spending this beautiful day with so many people who have given of your energy and your intelligence over such a long period of time, many of you for decades, to protect this place for another hundred years. After seven years of working for an advocacy organization, I've really come to appreciate how important it is to the stewardship of the park system and a park like this to have a passionate, involved, knowledgeable, responsible citizen constituency for protecting this place.

I'm talking about those of

you who are interested in Yosemite and work for Yosemite through the Association and through other organizations as individuals, as employees of the National Park Service. That is a tremendous constituency, not only to be a partner with the Park Service and to support the service when it's doing the right thing, but also to be a point of pressure, a watch dog and a gadfly, to make sure that the hard decisions are made the right way. I salute you, and I ask you not in any way to relax your commitment to and your interest in Yosemite.

Now that I'm a government bureaucrat, I have to tell you that this administration is not going to be able to do everything that some of you may want to see done in the national parks or in Yosemite. We're certainly not going to be able to do some of the things as fast as some of you might like, or as fast as I might like. We have some severe budget problems and a lot of other issues to contend with.

But we're going to do our best, and I fully expect that there will be those of you here who are going to make me feel pretty uncomfortable in the next three or four years. And I hope you will. And my pledge to you is simply that I will try my best not to take it personally, and to realize that it is a critical part of a larger dynamic that has to continue to go on if we are really going to preserve Yosemite for our grandchildren and their grandchildren. So keep it up.

In terms of the overall priorities of the Babbitt administra-

The Babbitt Priorities: 1. Reliable science-National Biological Survey

tion, there are four things that have really come to the top. Science, public land management reform, an ecosystem approach to what we're doing, and fourth, which is really a variation of the third, a new and more flexible way to approach protecting endangered species and critical habitat.

National Biological Survey

The Secretary's number one priority is to try to make sure that resource management decisions get made on the basis of good science, period.

The major initia-

tive that we've undertaken to try to move that forward is to plan for the creation of a National Biological Survey which will go into existence on October 1st.

That Survey is a bureau of the Department of Interior which will also report to me (as does the Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) that combines all of the biological research in the Department of the Interior, which is currently spread out among the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Park Service, BLM, Minerals Management Service and other bureaus, and by and large is not done in any coordinated fashion.

The larger purpose of creating a National Biological Survey is to cause the federal government as a whole to do a complete survey of biological resources in the country so that there is a scientific basis, an informational basis, to plan pro-actively to avoid resource management conflicts, rather

than get involved in what the Secretary has called "train wrecks." Science is the number one priority of this department.

Public Land Management

Second, public land management reform. Now we didn't necessarily expect to be doing grazing reform, mining reform, and forest reform all at once in the first three months. But the budgeteers decided that raising grazing fees and imposing a mining royalty was important in the President's budget. Of course, that disappeared from the budget for reasons that we could discuss later. But the Interior Department is absolutely committed to take grazing and

mining reform forward full tilt.

Several weeks ago we released a comprehensive proposal jointly with the Department of Agriculture, the Forest Service, to reform grazing practices on the public lands and to raise the grazing fee. The high lightning rod here is the fee. But actually the dollars are not that significant. We're talking about 30 or 40 million dollars a year. What's important in that program is a comprehensive reform of the way grazing is managed, who manages it, and to what standards it's managed. A system that will, we hope, protect riparian areas,

reduce overgrazing, and allow a broader range of public interest to participate in the planning of grazing on pulic lands.

A lot of time on the part of the Secretary and others went into the hearings around the West this spring and summer We've committed to eleven more hearings to get more feedback on this plan, and frankly the Secretary's objective here is to listen until everybody's finished having their say, and then we're goin to take all that into account and put this into effect.

Mining law reform, however cannot be done administratively: It's going to take Congressional legislation, and I think that's probably going to be the biggest environmental battle of this fall — mining law

I salute you, and I ask you not in any way to relax your commitment to and your interest in Yosemite.

2. Public land management reform 3. Ecosystem management

form - in the U.S. congress. In fact, we look at our menda for the next aree or four months, ning law reform and trying to press for mactment of a Calimia Desert Protecon Act (which was posed for many wars under previous ministrations) mose are going to be two big issues for department this fall.

Management of Ecosystems

Third, I mentioned cosystem management. his is clearly going to the buzz word for the meties. Everybody has meir own idea of what cosystem management means. There are a lot of evelopment interests who afraid that ecosystem management is an environmentalist plot, sort of the on and grandson of the Enangered Species Act, to much out and lock everying up. And there are some people on the environmental who are concerned that system management can we as sort of a cover to make empromises, a triage, give ome away while we save some. Ecosystem management is, est of all, choosing a large mough area, a watershed or en an ecological region like west side of the Cascade Mountains in Oregon and shington and Northern Calimenia which contain most of e remaining old growth forin this country, so that you m work on a regional basis. hen it's about how you manat all of the resources, all of species, and all of the communities in that region, not just

one or two or three things that are the high priority, but some overall balance. I'm talking about human communities, too, and economic communities, because they are a very important part of any ecosystem.

It's also trying to involve all of the different managers, so you're not just looking at federal land or public land, but private land and private landowners as well. Most important, and something that many people miss in ecosystem management, is that it is a process of trying to push decision-making down to the lowest possible level. To involve the people who are going to be impacted

If we're going to do ecosystem management for national parks, we're going to have to start building some partnerships which are really unlike those that the Park Service has been challenged to build before. in decisions about planning and management, up front.

It is an attempt to be anticipatory, to have a strong set of scientific standards from the top, but to have the decision-making proceed at the state and county and local level, and to involve people who are going to be the ones to live with the consequences.

The Endangered Species Act

The fourth priority is trying to design new, more flexible and broad ways to protect endangered species and endangered habitats, and

to use the technique of ecosystem management to do that. I think the Endangered Species Act is in some trouble. It's viewed by many people, partly unfairly, as a very sharp and dangerous regulatory meat cleaver. What we do is simply wait until it's almost too late and then we come down with this meat cleaver through the Endangered Species Act and we sweep across the landscape and we say you can't do anything on the remaining habitat or potential habitat of this creature that is about to disappear.

That's like trying to build a house with only one tool in your tool kit. We need a full tool kit. A big part of that is habitat-based planning, involve

4. Protection of endangered species and critical habitat

state and local people, create a scientific basis, and get ahead of the problem: use the Endangered Species Act and other federal and state laws that have never been used to try to deal with these problems in advance.

If we can't do that and build public support for endangered species protection and approach this, not as a regulatory problem but as a planning problem, then I fear that we're not going to have an easy time even reauthorizing the Endangered Species Act.

There are a couple of places where the department has started to do ecosystem management, obviously in the Pacific Northwest. In Southern Florida we've put together for the first time ever a task force of five different federal departments (Interior, EPA, NOAA, the Corps of Engineers, the Agriculture Department and the Justice Department) to design a whole new restoration plan that may take twenty-five years to build. The Corps of Engineers, which put us in this problem, is going to build us out of it. That can't be done unless you have cooperation between many federal agencies and state and local people, as well.

Priorities Application

That's a broad brush on the department's priorities, the Secretary's priorities. How does that translate into priorities for the park system and Yosemite National Park? Roger Kennedy, the new Director of the Park Service, and I have tentatively identified some things that we

er for force

know are going to be priorities for the Park Service.

Priority number one is to invest in people. The National Park Service has an incredible number of tremendously committed people who work as seasonals, temporary employees, and fight to get into this agency for wages that most other people wouldn't work for, in spite of the fact that housing is terrible, working conditions are very difficult, their support system is not well-funded, and there aren't the

kind of career advancement and training opportunities that you'd have in the private sector.

Investing in the people that do this work means professionalization of work force, career opportunities, better pay, and employee housing.

At an equal priority level is a new emphasis on resource protection. The Park Service has always been, from 1916, in the business of balancing protection and enjoyment of park resources. The hospitality business is not only a matter of allowing people to enjoy and be inspired by park resources, it is to educate people to build a constituency for or natural heritage and our cultural heritage. We increasing see that the preservation business and the hospitality business come into conflict. While both are important objectives of the system, when push come to shove it's the resource protection that has to come first

We need to put a new emphasis on that, and we want create an atmosphere (after twelve years) where people who work in the National Pa Service feel that they are not only going to be supported when they make managemen decisions or recommendation but they're going to be expected to do that. It may be that the ultimate decisions the are made on the basis of thos recommendations are not the ones that they initially come up with, but there would be process where people feel the

How are we going to get those increasing numbers of people into the parks, how are they going to get out of the parks, in a way that preserves and enhances the quality of their experience and also protects park resources? SEMITE ASSOCIATION, FALL 1998

the forefront

been thinking

about it. There

are transportation

studies and activi-

ties, and there is a

tremendous coop-

eration between

the local counties

that's begun. We

are going to make

this a major initia-

tive under this ad-

ministration. It is

likely that we will

pick four or five or

six parks as labora-

four years to create a

new approach to re-

gional planning with

partners in state and

local government,

regional planning ef-

different. In Grand Canyon

you have proposals for major

land exchanges with the Na-

development. In Yosemite you

tional Forest so you have a

place to have new private

forts. And each park is

and to fund and en-

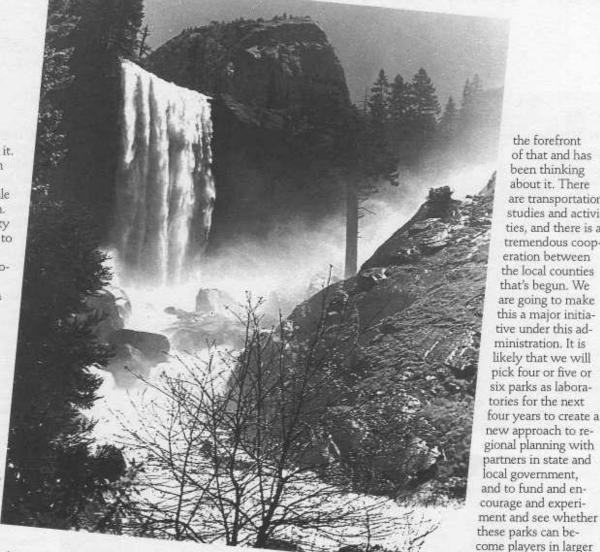
tories for the next

of that and has

are encouraged to it the way they see it. hat is also investing in cople and creating an sency with high morale resource protection. The third high priority the system is going to ma new emphasis on merships. If we're goto have new parks the Presidio (which going to have to be my a public-private thership), we're goto bring universityand real estate msing-style expertise put it together with things the Park wice does well. We have to reach to new partnerps for which the memite Association be a model, as bably the most ective publisher and educator among all park associations in the mentry. If we're going to do susystem management for namal parks, we have to start ding partnerships which are ke those that the Park Serhas been challenged to before.

The New Partnerships

If you look twenty-five years wwn the road, the greatest mblem and challenge in parks this, particularly the big s, and it's true of Yellowand Denali and Grand anyon and Acadia and others, that increasing numbers of ple want to come to these wis. How are we going to get mose people into the parks? new are they going to get out the parks, in a way that preerves and enhances the qualof their experience and also mtects park resources? When think about that as an



over-arching challenge to the National Park Service, you realize that that is something that the Park Service simply cannot do alone.

The idea that the major function, the major management goal of the park superintendent and the National Park Service is to draw a line around a protected resource and manage what's within that line is a concept that's totally obsolete. The Park Service, park managers and superintendents are going to have to become people who are involved in regional planning and regional development

with county governments, local governments, state governments and other federal agencies. It is inevitable.

It is not going to be easy to ask the Park Service to be a player in state and local politics, in regional transportation planning, in regional development planning, but that is what it's going to take if we want to accommodate even a few more visitors, preserve the quality of the experience, and protect the resource. That's a tremendous challenge.

And obviously, Yosemite is at

have major transportation planning issues. In Yellowstone you have problems with gateway communities and development and winter use. But the set of problems - regional, economic, land use and transportation planning - are the same set of problems. To share with you a personal perspective, if this administration can focus the Park Service and provide the resources for the Service to develop the interest and expertise and build those partnerships, I think we will have done something very important.

It is likely that we will pick four or five or six parks as laboratories for the next four years to create a new approach to regional planning with partners in state and local government.

Post Card Pretenders

Yosemite Misprints and Misrenderings

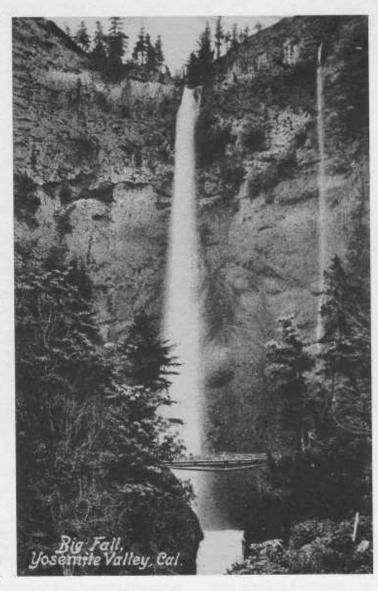
Dean Shenk

There is a growing number of people who collect a variety of Yosemite memorabilia. It seems almost inevitable that when collectors of Yosemite postcards look through an antique dealer's Yosemite postcard section, they will also find Yellowstone, Sequoia/Kings Canyon, Calaveras Grove or coast redwood cards. Publishers of postcards have also made mistakes in identifying the subjects of their cards.

I have identified at least five categories of postcards with erroneous labels. The category that probably has the largest number of "offenders" is the generic "Yosemite" novelty card. Many of these are still in print. Some are printed on wood, they all show a "non-Yosemite" scene (such as a grizzly bear or a Plains Indian wearing a war bonnet), and each is emblazoned with YOSEMITE in big letters.

The same cards have been printed for other locations, but they have different place names printed on them. I don't consider these cards to be true "mistakes," but they do comprise a category of cards with erroneous labels.

In the world of out-of-print and historic postcards, I have seen postcards with erroneous titles or labels that fall into four additional categories. Some cards illustrate Yosemite scenery but are labeled with an incorrect Yosemite place name or location. This would include cards which label North Dome as Half Dome, Sentinel Rock as Cathedral Spires, the "Dead



Giant" of the Tuolumne Grove as "Big Tree 'Wawona' Mariposa Grove" or identify the Mariposa Grove as being in Yosemite Valley.

My personal favorite is Britton & Rey's number 2001. This is a vertical "litho" card of Galen Clark next to the opening of the Wawona Tunnel Tree. What's remarkable is that it's labeled "Wawona, Big Tree, Mariposa Grove, California. Joaquin Miller, the Poet of the Sierras, in foreground." Cards such as these should be relatively easy to acquire since they are identified as Yosemite and thereby make their way into the dealers' Yosemite section. These cards are fun because they allow the collector to enjoy his or her superior knowledge of the park and its features.

Collectors also discover postcards that, according to their labels and titles, are illustrations of Yosemite, but which are actually views of other places. The example of this category that I see most often is the picture of Multnomah Falls, which drains into the Columbia River 30 miles east of Portland, Oregon. I have three versions of this card, each labeled "Big Fall Yosemite Valley, Cal." All three cards were printed from the same negative but apparently were published by different companies. Two versions do not have any indication of the publisher, the third was issued by the "Illustrated Postal Card Co. New York."

Another postcard in this category is a hand-colored view three glaciated peaks identified on the back as "Three Sisters," Yosemite Valley." The unusual long description on the card continues: "The Three Sisters Yosemite Valley, California, is one of the most beautiful natu ral wonders of this celebrated spot. No where on earth is there such a variety of natural beauty in cliffs, mountains, va leys, etc., as in the Yosemite Valley. A trail leads all around these Three Sisters, and the view of the surrounding valle from the trail as it winds in a out is most enchanting." Cath dral Rocks were, on occasion, known as the Three Graces, but the peaks illustrated on the card are not in Yosemite. The locale sounds and looks like a wonderful place to visit, but I can't go there since I don't know where these mountains really are. The scenery looks a if these peaks may be in the northern Rockies.

One of the Sequoias near the Mariposa Grove museum was named "General Grant" but the tree illustrated in card number 205 published by I. Scheff & Bros. and labeled "General Grant' at Yosemite National Park, Calif." is actually the General Grant of Kings Canyon National Park, (which was or inally named General Grant National Park). Pacific Novelt

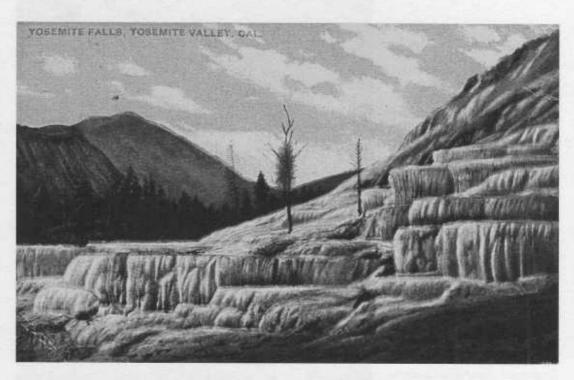
ompany's card number Y-127 another with an image from the Sequoia/Kings Canyon area at was misidentified as being fosemite card. This card tows mounted cavalry troopes lined up in front of and on the pof a fallen Sequoia and is sentified as "U.S. Cavalry on the Monarch, Mariposa Big the Grove, California."

While the trunk and roots the Fallen Monarch are of ourse intact, visible in this and is the sawn butt of the unk of this tree. The photosph used for this card was eiter taken in a logged forest ar the boundary of the original General Grant National ark or in Converse Basin.

The only other card in this stegory that I know about is a sew of Mammoth Hot Springs Yellowstone National Park at is labeled "Yosemite Falls, semite Valley, Cal." These rds, like those in the previous tegories, are likely to become ailable to the collector since sey are identified as Yosemite enes and are often sorted into sir Yosemite section.

Rarer are those postcards at illustrate Yosemite, but we labels or titles that fail to we recognition to Yosemite. The famous postcard company, ward H. Mitchell, issued at mast five such cards. In a series Holiday Greetings" postands, park scenes (with one exception) are identified as news of Yosemite. The excepson is an unnumbered card which has a colorful view of Three Brothers at its center with poppies to the left and poinsettias to the right.

Card number 2273 is entitled taging in the Mountains."
his postcard shows a Califormud wagon, drawn by four orses, descending into YosemValley along the old Wawona and. Card number 1580 is en-





titled "The Big Trees of California" and is a composite image of a ridiculously large Fallen Monarch of the Mariposa Grove overshadowing an especially small Southern Pacific train and person on horseback. Card 1558, "A Fight to the Finish," is another composite image. This card shows a giant trout hooked on a line that is superimposed over the rapids at Happy Isles.

The most striking composite image postcard, which neglects to acknowledge its Yosemite "heritage" is surely Mitchell's number 1991 which is entitled "Indian Boy and His Bear Cub Pets." Prominent in the background are the Haverford and Ohio trees of the Mariposa Grove with the museum visible through the hole of the Haverford. In the foreground is a superimposed, composite picture of a Native American youth. By chain leashes he is holding on to two bear cubs which are wearing white shirts!

The postcards that I find the most intriguing and most elusive are those that are illustrations of Yosemite identified as somewhere else. What obviously makes these cards rare for the Yosemite postcard collector is that most people (dealers and collectors included) don't realize that these are actually Yosemite cards. I only own two cards that fall into this category.

The card that I have seen more often is Detroit Publishing Company's card number 79832 which is labeled "Going to the Cache, Mission Indian, California." This "litho" card has a vertical image taken in the Indian Village which stood where Lewis Memorial Hospital was built. A portion of Sunnyside Bench and the cliff near the base of Upper Yosemite Fall is visible in the background. The card shows Chris Brown's grandmother, Lucy Brown, with a large basket in her left hand, a walking stick in her right, walking away from the camera towards an acorn granary.

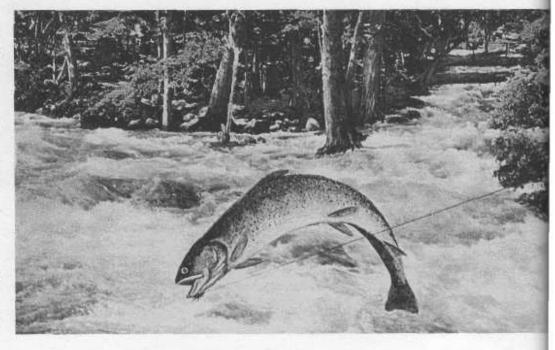
Britton & Rey's card number 4005 is labeled "Santa Cruz Big Trees — Largest grove of Giant Sequoia Sempervirens in the World. 6 miles from Santa Cruz on coast line of Southern Pacific from Los Angeles to San Francisco via Santa Cruz." This also is a "litho" card with a vertical image. Despite its title, this card illustrates the Confederate Group, a cluster of five Giant Sequoias in the Mariposa Grove located across the road from the Telescope Tree.

Every collector defines the scope of what he or she is willing to purchase. Some postcard collectors specialize in cards featuring vehicles, buildings, or Giant Sequoias. I collect post-



cards of Yosemite, but since one category of my collection is misprints and misrenderings I now find that in my Yosemite postcard collection I have postcards that aren't of Yosemite subjects! In this article I have purposefully ignored "real photo cards" which are often distinguished by bad spelling and inaccurate labels. If you know of additional "litho" or "chrome" cards with erroneou labels, especially those that are pictures of Yosemite incorrectly labeled, I'd love to hear from you.

Dean Shenk is a ranger-naturalist at Yosemite National Park who has long been afflicted with the collector's virus. This article originally appeared in the newsletter of the Yosemite Collectors Club. If you are interested in learning more about the club, you should write Mariella Haney, 3260 E. Westfall Rd., Mariposa, CA 95338. You can write Dean at P.O.Box 400, El Portal, CA 95318.



Christmas Bird Count Coming Up

As fall slowly progresses
to winter, the animals of
semite are busy preparing
the long, cold months
head. In the same tradition,
Yosemite National Park's
fildlife Office is preparing for
park's 53rd annual winter
and count, to be held this year

bird count, to be held this year on December 19th. Winter bird counts began in BB1, when four local birders munted 556 birds from 26 diferent species on a clear, cold winter day in Yosemite Valley. Annual bird counts became an acreasingly popular winter acwity in the 1930's for residents of the park, as well as for park waitors, with annual participason growing to an average of neven birders spending a day in the field. Birdwatching conations varied greatly, as they today, with the luck of the meather ranging from winter mow flurries and temperatures suppling well below zero. beautiful, clear skies and "almy" temperatures in which count birds. The "Christmas" and Count", as the bird census new to be known, continued a yearly event until World Il interrupted many of memite's typical activities. The Christmas Bird Count was such project suspended in 1, not to be resumed again intil the war was over. From the inception of the anal bird count, it has been the pe of Yosemite Valley orni-

From the inception of the anal bird count, it has been the pe of Yosemite Valley orniologists that the counts could strate variation in the relate abundance of various ecies over a period of many ars. From the data collecteding the yearly count, park logists have hoped to interest the results, taking into count weather, food, and ther factors, to determine the asons for fluctuations in bird pulations. With nearly sixty ars of data, biologists are

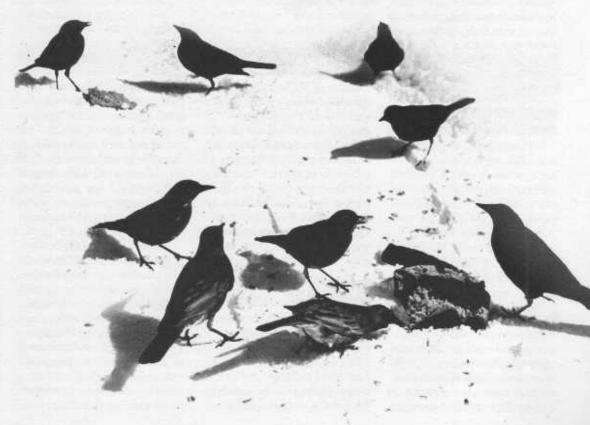
now looking at ways to complete that task. With generous assistance from the Yosemite Association, the park's wildlife staff has undertaken the project of assimilating bird count statistics into a computer database. This information will be used to chart year to year abundances in bird species recorded during Christmas Bird Counts.

This year's National Audubon Society count will mark the 53rd winter in which local residents and bird watchers from far and wide gather to identify and count birds in the Yosemite region. The date of this year's Christmas Bird Count is December 19th, and will last from just after dawn until late afternoon. For those of you who have participated in a Christmas Bird Count, sponsored by the National Au-

dubon Society, you know the rules: spend a day in the field keeping a tally of different species, and the numbers of individual birds counted in an assigned area, and keep track of hours and miles on foot or in car. The count area is a 15-mile circle centered around a the Pohono Bridge, on highway 41. The count area is divided into seven zones ranging in elevation from El Portal (2,000 feet), to Badger Pass (7,000 feet). Yosemite is home to approximately 50 species during the winter months, but participants occasionally see some unusual winter migrants in the area as well!

An organizational meeting will be held on Friday, December 18th, in Yosemite Valley's East Auditorium from 5:00 to 6:00 in the evening, and a postcount meeting with refreshments will directly follow the count at the same location. To help defray the costs of publishing count results in the journal American Birds, the Audubon Society charges a \$5.00 fee for each participant. For more information, call Steve Thompson at (209) 372-0474, weekdays.

In 1947, count organizer Bona May McHenry wrote that there are "a thousand delights of ear and eye, and the bird counter goes out not knowing what surprise may be in store." More importantly, the more birders there are in the field, the more thoroughly each count zone can be covered. Participating in the annual CBC not only is a wonderful way to explore the Yosemite Valley region for a day, but each birder contributes important data on Yosemite's winter bird populations.



PAGE TWELVE YOSEMITE ASSOCIATION, FALL 1992

The State of the Park - 1993

Park Superintendent Michael V. Finley

Editor's note: At the recent YA Members' Meeting, Yosemite Superintendent Mike Finley presented a comprehensive report on the status of affairs in the park. His topics were wide-ranging and specific Because much of what Mr. Finley discussed has not been reported elsewhere, we have decided to share his comments with all our members.

Mammals

In Yosemite, unfortunately, the last comprehensive mammal survey was done in the 1914-15 to 1919 range. That's a shame to say, but that's the truth. We have had some sporadic studies that have addressed issues that were controversial or were problem areas (such as black bear studies because we have had some serious human-black bear interaction problems). But we know very little overall about our mammal community for the most part.

Mountain Lions

We do know more about our mountain lions, but not because we've done a comprehensive study. It's because we've had more anecdotal reports, more mountain lion activity than before. They've been spotted on the North Dome trail by visitors and by staff. They've been reported on Highway 120. And more recently we had an incident where a mountain lion entered the Hodgdon Meadow Campground and tried to take someone's dog from its campsite. So they are active. It appears that we may now have to engage in a more active public education

program on dealing with mountain lions, some of which are not the least bit afraid and aren't easily driven off in trail encounters.

Bighorn Sheep

Many of you remember that the Association and the Fund contributed to the bighorn sheep restoration. That project continues to shine brightly and illustrates what can happen when people put their minds to restoration. Remember the beginning with 27 animals? And now we flourish with over 72 sheep, depending on misadventures or productivity at any given time.

Black Bears

Our biggest problem today continues to be the humanbear interactions. In 1988 we killed eight bears; in 1992 the Park Service disposed of seven bears. We had 750 incidents. In 1993 we've disposed of four Damage caused by bears determined to raid visitors' food remains a serious problem.

bears so far, and we're anxiously hoping that the three cubs of the mother that we had to destroy will not also have to be destroyed. Unfortunately, bear behavior is like that of a crack cocaine addict. When exposed to human food, it's something they don't easily or naturally shake. Once they become familiar, it's something that they feel they must come back to again. So it's not the bears that are a problem—we are the problem.

In 1991 we had \$186,000 in property damage. Visitors' broken windows, vehicles torn down, tents ripped up. In 1992, \$168,000 in property damage, and so far this year we've had \$90,000 in property damage. The sow that we killed several weeks ago had been relocated before. We weighed carefully what we should do. We decided to err on the side of the

sow and the cubs. We spent \$4500 and flew her to one of the most remote locations we could find in the northern part of the park. In three weeks she was back in Little Yosemite Valley, where she proceeded to swat a gentleman visitor from Great Britain, almost taking out his jugular. We felt at that time, unfortunately, she had to go. That left us the three cubs, the ones that we're

cubs, the ones that we're watching that we hope we don't add to our statistics this fall.

One third of our bear incidents occur in the three Valley campgrounds in Yosemite Valley (Upper Pines, North Pines and Lower Pines), where only 20% of the sites have bear lockers. Now this is what's extremely frustrating for us. We have yet to develop a sexy, catchy term for bear food lockers. They don't compete well for funding dollars. I don't know how they did it in Hawaii, but goat fences got funded, while bear boxes don't here. One's a mechanical enclosure to keep goats from eating native plants; the other is a mechanical enclosure to keep bears from eating human food There is a relationship and a correlation. With only 20% of those campgrounds with bear boxes, you can imagine that we do not have a comprehensive and reliable program.

Bear lockers are expensive. Our old models, we have about 1400 of them, are inefficient. They were experimental in design; they have a piano hinge along the bottom and the moisture gets in and rusts out the piano hinge quite regularly. They are a maintenance monster, they do not accommodate large ice chests, and they need to be replaced over time.

The new design, on which

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we worked with some Association members and the Fund, are on legs, they're kept up from rusting, they hold two ice chests. They are substantially designed to resist bears, but they cost about \$500 apiece. By the time you paint them and install them in rebar concrete, you're looking at about \$675. 50 400 of them would cost ou \$270,000.

The House of Reprerentatives in our appropriations bill included \$250,000 for bear boxes, but the Senate those not to fund that amount. We're hoping that in conference that amount will survive. There seems to be a philososhy that a large park with a budget like Yosemite can find \$250,000 if we really wanted to. I think many of you who mow the way we allocate our budget, the way we use your mterns to supplement an everaminishing staff, we couldn't and \$250, let alone \$250,000. so think of a way to raise the consciousness about bear boxes. It's terrible that we have alled 88 bears since 1975. We an do better, and we'll look be your continued support in at arena.

We're going to work hard to mish the campground bear to mee. If the appropriation to some some some survive this fiscal year, have a pledge from the Namal Park Foundation for 250,000 for our share of the million Yosemite donation, at I will write the National ask Foundation and ask that entire amount be given to and we'll buy bear boxes.

Deer

We have an agreement with alifornia Fish and Game that mits the type and level of ming activity that occurs side the park. The Depart-



ment has been very supportive — the number they've set is at a level that's lower that for other areas in the state.

Fisheries

We are going to focus this year on enhanced fisheries management. Two years ago we stopped the last stocking with California Fish and Game in the Park so that any fisheries that remain will be managed on a natural reproduction basis. We hope to try and monitor the effect of recreational taking. It's hard to manage, though, without a fisheries biologist or a fisheries program. More importantly, it's hard to manage without a plan. So we will be conducting some meetings around the state and asking those visitors who utilize Yosemite, who love its backcountry, who love catching golden trout, or rainbow trout, who love bringing their families to participate in that recreational aspect, how they think

Hunting deer around the

perimeters of the park is

restricted more than usual.

ational aspect, how they think we should manage the fishery.

When I arrived in 1989, the limit was ten fish a day per person. You can imagine, with large numbers of sport fishermen, that not only is the recreational aspect diminished, but the non-recreational aspect of hiking or standing next to a stream, or in the case of Yosemite Valley, the lovely Merced River and looking and seeing a deer or a coyote, and looking down and seeing a rainbow trout, that experience too is spoiled. Our goal is not just put and take fishing.

So, those of you it interests, look forward to some public meetings this fall. We do not have a plan, we'll be soliciting your input and your concern about how the fishery could and should be managed. As you remember, we did have some public meetings two

years ago. As a result we implemented a catch and release
fishery program in Yosemite
Valley, barbless hooks, artificial
lures only. That was as a result
of some studies with Cal Fish
and Game and the U. S. Fish
and Wildlife Service based on
habit, habitat and age classes
of those fish

The rainbows were natural to Yosemite Valley. What did we find out? We had lots of oneyear olds, lots of two-year olds, very few three-year olds. Well, it's like eating your seed corn. Most rainbows don't become sexually mature until about two-and-a-half to three years old. We were having very little reproduction and we had exotic brown trout interfering with that capacity for them to reproduce. So as a matter of regulation, now it's catch and release for rainbows, and you may take and enjoy all the brown trout that you want up to five a day.

Inter-agency Cooperation

We meet twice a year with the Forest Supervisors, the Superintendent of Sequoia National Park, and the District Manager for BLM. In those meetings, we discuss how we can manage the Central Sierra more as one ecosystem. Out of those meetings have come products that I think you're aware of. One was the joint backcountry group size.

Clean Air

We formed a federal clean air partnership, where our air quality specialists work on testimony for the Air Resources Board. Any one of the federal agencies may give testimony for the others and that has happened. We sign joint papers concerning air quality issues and will continue working on air quality related matters. Part of that is an educational aspect. We feel it's important to educate the Air Resources Board on the value of natural fire and the role of fire in sustaining the Sierra Nevada ecosystem. But it's a coordinated approach and a joint approach that's working very well. We're working on a common data basis for geographic information systems, where we can exchange readily more information and the data we gather will be more compatible.

Backcountry

Throughout the Central Sierra, in all federally managed backcountry areas, we now have a group size limit of 15 people and 25 horses, as a uniform policy. You will remember that some Forest Service wilderness areas had unlimited horses and people in group size. Others were different between units. You may now cross between federal units and not have to drop off people or parties.

Closures

As a result of looking at some of these issues, there are some closures that have taken place. We did not take great joy in closing the Tenaya Lake Campground two years ago. But those of you who love Tenaya Lake Walk-in Campground also know that it was in a riparian zone. You would walk in there and the puddles were ringed with pine pollen, that's how wet it was. It really didn't belong there. And we will work with you to reallocate those camping spaces be-

Prescribed burning is regu-larly scheduled in cooperation

cause they're called for in the GMP somewhere within this corridor.

We recently closed Half Dome to camping. Why did we do so? Well, six of the seven original pines were dead. Part of them disappeared as firewood. We had feces problems all over the top. It was windy and is windy on Half Dome, and much of the talus and the granite rock were built into igloos and wind shields, much to the chagrin of the Mt. Lyell Salamander. What we're trying to do is protect the habitat of the Mt. Lyell Salamander, reduce the impact of human waste and feces, and save the one remaining tree from firewood taking.

Fire Management

We will continue our prescribed burn program. We just started our program again this fall when we burned in the Mariposa Grove of Sequoias. We're scheduled to do a burn

be the second co-cross-boundary burn with the Forest Service. Now those of you who have had a history with the Park, I want you to think back a few years ago, even six years ago, to when the Park Service and the Forest Service weren't even talking across their boundaries. Now we're having a mutual burn for ecological pur-

poses, a cross-boundary burn

Service land. I have to say that

with the support and the coop-

over Park Service and Forest

I am very pleased and happy

on North Mountain, which will

with the Forest Service.

Camp Fires

eration we're receiving.

We're also working internally to reduce our impacts on air quality. I mentioned what we're doing as far as education and working with the Air Resources Boards. Internally, we

work with our campers to try to cut down on the particulate matter that is generated from the campgrounds. If you will remember last summer we had an experimental program where we brought monitoring equipment that measures particulate matter less than

ten microns, and during July we let the campgrounds run as they do, laissez-faire, and took the measurements.

During August we implemented a restriction. We asked the campers not to burn mornings, not to burn noons, and don't go to bed and let your campfire burn at night, while you're sleeping. Extinguish your fire at night. The results were astounding. Most of our visitors really appreciated the reduction in smoke in our campgrounds, they understood the need to reduce particulates in the air, and particularly in the summer.

That ban last year again was experimental in August, September and October. Now as it gets colder again, we took the ban off because it was certainly more appropriate. We have fewer visitors in October and it's chilly in the mornings and you may indeed enjoy a fire.

This year we put the ban on permanently beginning in May and running through October. Now there were a few people who angrily stomped into my office and felt that this was an unreasonable restriction on the part of Government, that morning and noon campfires were something to be valued, that this was an unnecessary restriction. We had the charts from the monitoring that showed we were in violation of State particulate standards. In a 24-hour period, we were supposed to stay below 50

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parts per million, and during the evenings we were shooting up to 340. It measures on a 24our period, so we were hoverng around 40 to 60.

We believe we should stay and live our ethic within the particulate standards. We think we can preserve the traditional campfire, but we'll be moving toward cleaner, tryer fuels. You will noace the vending mathines we had in the campgrounds this year. A atipulation in the permit was for dryer, cleaner fuels. We'll continue the ban on gathering of firewood and will continue to look at reasonable sources of alternative fuels to sell in losemite such as walnut/pecan mell composites that burn even more cleanly. And hopefully we can maintain the ammance and the public health mat's necessary.

Biological Studies

For example, all Central serra federal agencies have a oncern about certain species fowls, notably the great gray, as spotted owl, but we also save concerns about amphibens. This park, this year, has nitiated a three-year study. We're hopeful that we can get ome additional funds to exand that to some of the sursunding forests concerning a yellow-legged frog and the semite toad, and some other mphibian species.

Aquatic Resources

One of our highest priorities to look at the aquatic resurce as a whole. You remember two years ago we stopped moving trees from the Merad River. The Park Service did at for years for two reasons:

rafting safety; and two,

Trees and woody debris are

Trees and woody debris are no longer removed from the Merced River.

because during high flood periods loose logs could jam against the bridges, and the hydraulics created such pressure that we could lose a bridge. We determined that it was more appropriate to leave the woody tissue, and to allow the natural processes of trees falling in the Merced. We do not want anyone to be harmed rafting, but to the extent rafting takes place it will now take place on your own at your own risk. We've written our policy that way, and if we lose a bridge, so be it, we can replace it right-it won't have its abutments in the river where they don't belong in the first place.

Transportation

We have established within the last two years a Yosemite regional transit work group. The surrounding counties are signatory. Supervisor Art Baggett is the chairman of that group. That group is working together on several aspects.
The group is working to develop and coordinate some other studies that we hope to fund in the future, and developed the Mariposa Express as an experiment from Yosemite to Merced, both for visitors and employees to use to reduce private automobiles.

We are issuing experimental permits right now to shuttle services in each of the gateway communities for two vehicles a day. For example, Bass Lake Tours will be one. The goal is to leave the cars parked in front of the Marriott in Fish Camp, have the day tour brought in by bus, and we hope to never see those cars in Yosemite. We have provided such permits to each one of the communities from Lee Vining to Groveland to Mariposa and Oakhurst, and we're hopeful that that will be the beginning

of cooperative transportation ventures between the Park and communities in providing shuttle incentives.

Conservation

We insulated government houses to cut down on employees burning wood, to save on their electricity bills in some of our older homes that were uninsulated. And we worked with PG&E and they contributed about \$250,000 at no cost to the government on insulating homes. We felt that was again appropriate for living our ethic.

Alternative Fuels

We're working diligently in the conversion of the government fleet to low-emission alternative fuels. Our new acquisitions under fleet management are multiple fuel vehicles, both methanol and unleaded. Our contract with the new park concessioner requires alternative fuels to be available at all the service stations. We recently purchased an electric van in cooperation with Pacific Gas and Electric, the California Energy Commission, Yosemite Park & Curry Co., and the Park Service, and that was just really a program to say, "Yes, we can do it. We can work together."

We now have an electric van that is serviceable in the Valley. It's a small van, its not going to haul a lot of people. In fact we changed its role from shuttling visitors to shuttling bus drivers in support of the transit system. But nevertheless my feeling and the reason I want to do it was it was the first step to say we could do it.

We held a conference on August 20 with the California Energy Commission, PG&E,

follows the new construction

in El Portal and movement of

that maintenance area. I hope

Railroad Flat and look at the

some of you will drive through

warehouse complex in El Portal

We are just finishing up a phase

of moving the warehouse and

support facilities out of Yo-

semite Valley. The covered storage, 30,000 square

feet, is up, just about completed. The

open storage

yard is about

to be com-

pleted.

And

with several other co-sponsors, we had representatives from Ford Motor Company and GM. The workshop demonstrated to others the current state of technology, everything from Cummins Diesel to the electric cars being worked on by Ford and GM. We did announce at that time and the van did pay off, that we were going to collaborate on a \$1.2 million acquisition of three electric shuttle busses. So you hopefully will see by next year at this time that we have added three minimum-30-passenger electric vehicles to the Yosemite Valley

shuttle fleet.

One of the regional group's major successes was obtaining a CalTrans grant for \$2.2 million for what we call a Yosemite Area Regional Transportation Information System, YARTIS. We'll be working with the signatory counties on electronic signboards at distances from Yosemite to relieve traffic congestion, reduce the use of fossil fuels and the inefficient and wandering manner of visitors during peak visitation. There will be travellers' plazas for travellers' information, travellers' information radio systems at our entrances so that we can give up-to-date information and again increase the enjoyment of the visit while decreasing congestion.

Planning

We have a couple of plans we are beginning and a couple we need to bring to closure. The Valley Implementation Plan is a new EIS that we're just beginning in Yosemite Valley. Its goal is to finally and firmly come to grips with transportation systems coming from outside the park and how they interface with internal transportation

systems. That is where we capture vehicles coming into Yosemite Valley and put people on a shuttle system. Also we've asked the study team to look at relocating our roads out of meadows, and when you ask yourself why Food lockers still need we have roads in the middle of funding for a Sentinel Meadow, Stoneman comprehensive in-Meadow, and El Cap Meadow, it goes back to a time when we

were bringing people in and doing some windshield exploring in cars. The question has to be asked, when you redo your roads in 1993, should you repave roads in Yosemite Valley in the middle of meadows if in fact you can relocate them back to the edges where they were originally placed. In the case of Sentinel Meadow when you come in by the Chapel, the old road is at the south edge of the meadow over by the cliff. We want to look at these, look at where they originally placed

We're waiting on one more study, a study on alternative transportation which should be finished soon. We want to take that study, about an alternative transportation system for Yosemite, combine it with the Wilderness Society Study, the Caplan Associates study, work with our regional transportation group, and develop a synthesis of the best of all those plans as our transportation plan.

The new Valley plan's purpose is to deal

with the park's

ongoing problem

vehicles.

Maintenance

We want to redesign the maintenance area. The redesign of the maintenance area this December, \$10 million worth of

construction will

begin on the ware-

house building proper.

So what that means is that's the first phase of moving major support facilities out of Yosemite Valley. In other words, 88 jobs and 44 pieces of equipment, not to mention that our warehouse where we keep pipes, fittings, washers, light bulbs, toilet paper, etc., is actually going to be built. The sec-

stations were open, we had

13,316. This year we believe

a moratorium two years ago

erators. We need to come to

grips with the numbers.

we'll have over 15,000. I issued

on new licenses for tour opera-

tors, but new groups have just

been booking with existing op-

Three weeks ago I went

View. There were six

tour busses there.

With each car-

rying 40

people

there

were

to that lovely Tunnel

and phase when we move the beavy maintenance shops where we fix our snowplows, our bulldozers, our other becess of equipment), will wait a year because we can't have two major construction rojects in that small area.

In that interim year, fiscal year 1995, we're going to be working on the El Portal wage treatment plant the upgrade the digesters and increase the efficiency of that plant. We're hopeful mat Congress will fund \$18 million in 1996 to finish the maintenance complex, which means that all of those support acilities, all those shops, all of those administrative operations other than headquarters, that at least that will be out of the Valley and we can turn attenoon to restoring and redesignmg what remains in Yosemite Valley, which should be a dismict project.

Sentinel Bridge

We're rebuilding the Sentinel ridge, \$4 million, a very nice eridge. I think you'll be pleased, particularly when you compare to what's there. Again, the mationale was the other one was condemned, it was more expensive to fix it up than it was to build a new one adsecent to it. The new bridge will be aesthetically pleasing with cut granite stone, will be low lying, and have no abutments in the river. It passes 25% more water than the old bridge. It should pass floating logs, at least we hope it does, and on its upstream portion it has an eight-foot sidewalk so that people who enjoy the Half Dome view. Photographers can now capture the scene without being out in the mad. And I know many of you have avoided people with their

The new Sentinel Bridge promises to be a very pleasing addition to the park.

cameras in that section of the road.

Road Work

You're seeing construction about to begin up here on the Tioga Road. A \$5 million Federal Highways project for which you paid nickel a gallon tax money. That construction will take two years. It will start now. There are 14 identified weak spots, and for those of you who remember, in 1991 we lost that section of road up by the entrance station. It was just too wet, there was no road base. We're going to grind up the road base and recycle it into the new pavement that is laid down. We are not widening the road at all, we are not changing the character of the road. We will eliminate some pull offs, we will preserve the historic rock culverts, and we will reroute the power line in the road. People will be

inconvenienced for this fall and next fall, but we think it's

We have to limit the

impact of the huge

worth it.

Bus Management

We have been working, I'd like to say with, but sometimes against the National Transportation Tourism Association and the California Bus Association on limiting tour busses in this park. In 1980, we had 5,000 busses; last year, based only on counts from when the entrance

over 200 people trying

to look into

Yosemite Valley.

When I got out of my car and walked over, I couldn't see the Valley. I sure as heck couldn't take a picture of a loved one in front of Yosemite Valley unless it was part of a group photo and you drew a circle around your subject later. We could do better. We need to manage those busses. That's the goal.

The Spirit of Tuolumne Meadows

Summer's End for an Old Ranger

By Carl Nolte Chronicle Staff Writer

Early September in the High Sierra is a time when the days are as bright as they were on the first afternoon of the world. The air is sharp with the smell of pine needles and the beginning of autumn. Carl Sharsmith, the senior ranger naturalist at Tuolumne Meadows, can feel the seasons changing.

Already the temperature drops below freezing at night, and soon there will be a hard frost. "The meadow will turn a lovely golden brown," he said. "The frost will bring it. Things are going to sleep even now. It's getting toward winter."

It is also the end of the season for Sharsmith, who on Labor Day guides his last party of visitors this year over the rocks and through the trees and along the gentle streams of Tuolumne Meadows. He is 90 years old, the oldest park ranger in the United States, maybe the world. He is an emeritus professor of botany, an expert on plant life in the Sierra Nevada. He has been nearly everywhere in the Sierra, most of it on foot.

"More than any man alive, he is the spirit of the meadow," said Doug Threet of San Jose, who has gone on Sharsmith's nature walks every summer for 19 years.

He is legendary. He is also among the last of a generation of mountaineers who hiked and climbed in the Sierra before modern techniques were invented and before backpacking was popular. Sharsmith first saw the range in 1927, crossed his first Sierra pass that year and has come back every year since.



In 1930, the year he was asked to become a National Park Service ranger, he first saw the place he loves more than any other in the world—the long, beautiful and open Tuolumne Meadows, almost 9,000 feet above sea level. Yosemite Valley is more spectacular, but Tuolumne Meadows is the heart of the park's high country. A river runs through it, and so does a highway, which stays open until the first snow.

John Muir called it "the most delightful pleasure park in all the High Sierra" and said he would like to live there forever. "It is home to me, so to speak," Sharsmith said. "It is the happiest place in the mountains. God blessed this place."

Sometimes he becomes exasperated; there are too many cars and gas stations and the park service is building some "god damn permanent buildings." But just a step off the beaten path is the meadow as Muir first saw it. "God bless it," he said, "It remains the same."

In his youth, in his middle years and well into his old age, Sharsmith climbed and hiked when he could. He led parties of visitors into the mountains on long trips. Now Sharsmith is bent with age and very slow, "We appear to be going at a snail's pace," he told a party of 30 or so visitors on one of his nature walks on the last day of August. "We are like the old prophets, staggering along a little at a time, a little at a time, but you get there."

Sharsmith has a devoted following, people drawn to his cheerful optimism and his simple delight in explaining the life of the meadow, the rocks and the plants. Many people have taken his walks for years and have come back with their children and even grandchildren.

A walk with him is "a golden two hours," said Threet, one of the late August visitors.

"Look," Sharsmith said, pointing with his walking stick.
"Yampa. This plant has a small tuber, like a potato. The Indians ate it. You," he said, pointing at one of the visitors, "You would starve here, but they wouldn't."

He pointed out sedge and map lichen, which he said grows only on the north side of rocks. "Now you know," he said, "you can go in the mountains and not get lost. You can depend on that."

He smokes Prince Albert tobacco in an old pipe. He likes beer, "Especially," he says, "when someone else buys it."
He lives in a tent in the summer and cooks for himself on an old wood stove. "What more do you want?" he said.

But even Sharsmith cannot go on forever. He fell on his first day at Tuolumne Meadows this summer and was out of commission for a couple of days. He lost his balance and fell on a recent nature walk. His followers gasped, but the old man got up. "I'm OK," he said, "I'm fine."

"Will I ever give this up?" he asked. "I have to when age creeps up, and it's creeping

Will he be back next year when the snow melts and the flowers start to bloom again in Tuolumne Meadows? Sharsmith set his jaw as if the question annoyed him. "I presume so," he said.

Reprinted with permission from San Francisco Chronicle, September 6, 1993

Report on Yosemite

A new report, "Improving the Visitor's Experience in Yosemite Valley: Thirteen Good Ideas" recommends that the National Park Service discourage and limit visits at peak times, disperse visitor use within Yosemite Valley, and transform the transportation system to eliminate use of the automobile in the Valley. It urges the NPS to establish a summer reservation system for day-users to complement the system for overnight lodgers and campers.

Copies of the 48-page report are available from Yosemite Restoration Trust, 116 New Montgomery St., Suite 516, San Francisco, CA 94105. Please enclose \$2.50 for postage & handling.

Yose Nite



1400 /001401
Obata's
semite -The Art and Letof Chiura Obata from
Trip to the High Sierra

= 1927 with essays by Janice T. esbach and Susan Landauer. Ben Obata, a gifted California and born in Japan, made his visit to Yosemite in 1927, the erience deeply affected his Not only did he produce markable collection of thes and paintings (later become woodblock prints), he recorded the details of trip in a fascinating series etters and post cards. This volume presents Obata's the Sierra journey in his own and art. Included are 85 color reproductions of pensketches, watercolor paintand woodblock prints, plus

a detailed narrative of the sixweek Yosemite visit as told through Obata's letters and cards to his family.

Adding to the volume are essays by Janice T. Driesbach, curator at the Crocker Art Museum in Sacramento, and Susan Landauer, an art historian trained at Yale University. Their contributions touch on Obata's background, his technique, and the significance of his work and the Yosemite trip.

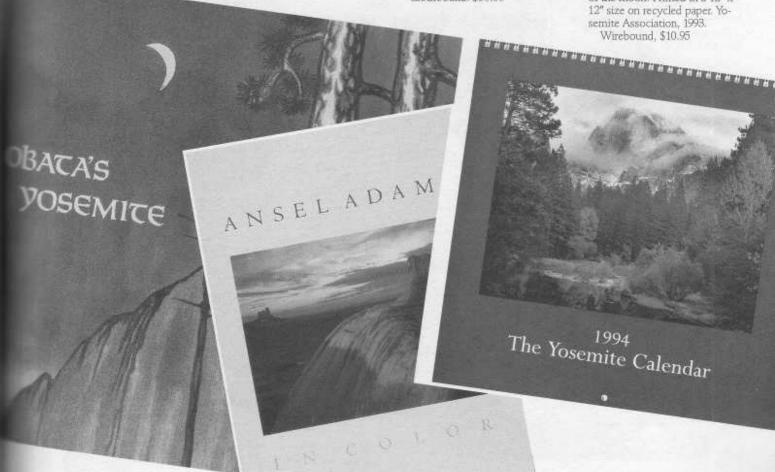
Beautifully printed in a 10° x 10° size. Yosemite Association, 1993, 156 pages.

Clothbound, \$44.95; paperbound, \$24.95. 14465 Ansel Adams in Color by

Ansel Adams, edited by Harry M. Callahan. Ansel Adams began to photograph in color soon after Kodachrome was invented in the mid-1930s. But for work done on assignment, most of his color images were never published or exhibited. This work changes that through the presentation of 50 color photographs marked by Adams' technical mastery and distinctive vision. The images are sumptuously reproduced and reveal the photographer's passionate love of the American landscape. Paired with a selection of Adams' fascinating, often contradictory writings on color photography, these magnificent photos add a fascinating new dimension to Ansel Adams' enduring legacy. 132 pages with 50 color plates. Little, Brown and Co., 1993. Clothbound: \$50.00

06801 The Yosemite Calendar -

1994 with photographs by Charles Cramer and poetry by Joseph Bruchac. The Yosemite Association's new wall calendar is as beautiful and functional as ever. Charles Cramer, an instructor for the Ansel Adams Photography Workshops and a former Yosemite Artist-in-Residence, selected 13 of his most stunning color images of Yosemite which have been reproduced with remarkable clarity and detail. Each monthly photograph is matched with a poem specially written by Joseph Bruchac, a writer and storyteller best known for his book entitled Keepers of the Earth. His poetry is sensitive, evocative and moody, while it reflects a deep love for Yosemite and the environment. The calendar also notes significant dates in Yosemite history, holidays, and phases of the moon. Printed in a 12" x 12" size on recycled paper. Yosemite Association, 1993.



The World of Small - Nature Explorations with a Hand Lens by Michael Elsohn Ross, illustrated by Cary M. Trout. A guide to nature in miniature, this new book from the Yosemite Association is for curious readers age 7 years and older. It comes packaged with a high quality hand lens with which you are invited to observe insects, body parts, dirt, plants, even slime and other yucky things, like you've never seen them before - magnified to five times their normal size. The numerous activities inside this colorful handbook are eye-opening, enlightening, and entertaining. Alongside whimsical, full-color illustrations here are easy to read paragraphs that explain scientific concepts and everyday phenomena. Portions of the text appear in italics and provide instructions for a range of hand lens activities to involve children (and others) in the natural environment.

The lens was manufactured by Bausch & Lomb, makers of fine optical equipment. It features live power magnification and a durable, impact resistant case which snaps shut to provide protection from scratching. The lens comes packaged in a clear plastic box which doubles as a collecting and viewing container. Yosemite Association, 1993,

64 pages, wire-bound, with hand lens, \$15.95.

Wor

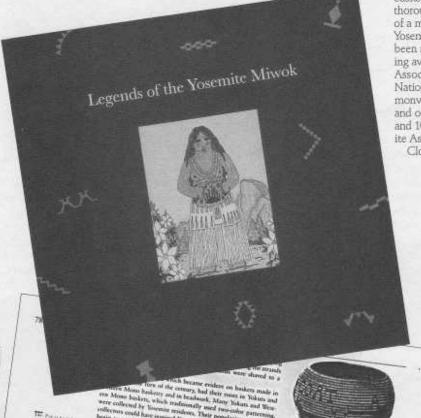
Legends of 230 Legends of the Yosemite

Miwok compiled by Frank LaPena, Craig D. Bates and Steven P. Medley; illustrated by Harry Fonseca. This an updated and revised collection of 18 Native American legends from the Yosemite region. It's genuine, representative and entertaining Featuring characters such as Coyote and Falcon, the stories touch on a variety of themes central to the Sierra Miwok culture. For this revised edition, the legends have been rewritten to reflect their earliest and most authentic forms whenever possible. Additional stories from historical sources have been

included, and the volume contains notes providing the source of each legend, information about alternate versions and variations, and an annotated bibliography with a list of important original works. It's indigenous folklore at its bestenchanting and informative at the same time. Harry Fonseca's color pencil drawings make this a unique and beautiful volume.

64 pages, 81/29 x 81/29. Yosemite Association, 1993. Paper: \$11.95

Tradition and Innovation: A Basket History of the Indians of the Yosemite-Mono Lake Area by Craig D. Bates and Martha J. Lee. This awardwinning book is now in its second printing. It's 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 author 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 a variety of their baskets. The result is a deep, thorough and detailed coverage of a much-neglected topic of Yosemite history. The book has been recognized with publishing awards from the American Association of Museums, the National Park Service, the Commonwealth Club of California and others. It is 252 pages long and 10%" x 11%" in size. Yosemite Association, 1991. Clothbound: \$49.95



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Yosemite Association Baseball-Style Cap. After long being out of stock, our YA 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 YA 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.

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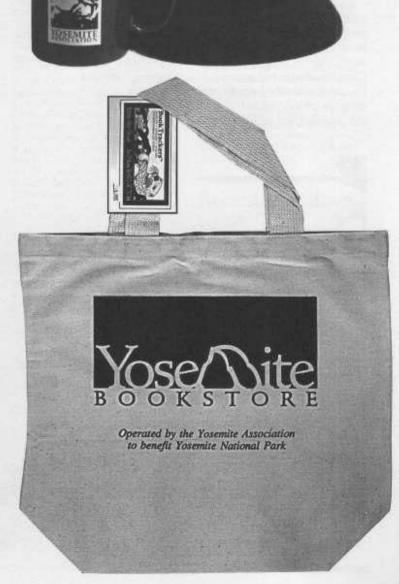
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Ostrander Opens for the Season

Ostrander Lake Ski Hut will open for the season on December 17, 1993. Operated by the Yosemite Association for the National Park Service, the hut is located approximately 9 miles into the backcountry. During the winter season, more than 1300 people ski out to the hut from Badger Pass using one of several marked trails. All routes to Ostrander require considerable stamina, backcountry ski equipment and cross-country skiing experience. The trip is not for novices.

Staffed by a hutkeeper, the rustic building sleeps up to 25 people in bunks with mattresses. There is limited cookware, a wood burning stove, Coleman stoves and lanterns. People ski into the hut carrying their own food, water filter, sleeping bag and personal gear.

The charge is \$10 per person per night. Groups of up to 15 people are welcome. A lottery for space at the hut occurs in late October where people compete for Saturday nights and many weekends. Reservations for the remaining space can be made after November 15 by telephoning the Association office (209) 379-2317.

Association Dates

December 1, 1993: Grant deadline March 26, 1994: Spring Forum, Yosemite Valley September 10, 1994: Annual Meeting, Wawona

Reservations

For the Annual Meeting in Wawona scheduled for the weekend of September 9 and 10, 1994, the Association will only have half as many rooms on reservation as compared with previous years. This will make the lottery for rooms even more competitive. However, members can make their own reservations for Wawona Hotel rooms by calling the Yosemite Concession Services, Inc. at (209) 252-4848. Members may also make their own room reservations for the Spring Forum.

Research Grant Deadline December 1

Individuals seeking grant funding from the Yosemite Association for the 1994 calendar year must submit their proposals to YA by December 1, 1993. This year the Association's grants program provided about \$30,000 to a number of researchers for a variety of projects.

An information sheet and grant request form for the 1994 program are available from the Association at: PO Box 230, El Portal, CA 95318, or call Anne Steed at (209) 379-2646.





New Members

would like to welcome to the emite Association the following persons who became members within the past three months. Your

port is greatly appreciated. Regular Members op #4058, Lynn M Abess, Marjie ahamson, Bill & Connie Alexan-Diane Allessi, Martha J Ames-Sara M Anderson, P Andrews, Raveen & Margo Arora, David ambach, Michelle & John Ashworth, Ince Austin, Anita & Robert Baderteller, Eunice W. Ball, Colleen & Ron echtold, Angela Beevers, Brett etzel, John & Diane Bercan, Martin desa, Sharon J Berg, John & Annie Jegin, Victoria Bissell, Harvey Blatt, & Fran Blomgren, Oliver Bohl-Rich Boles, Mike & Heidi Brad-wy, Patty Bradford, Chris Braley, Branch, Ronald Brandley, abeth Breedlove, Chris Brown, my Brown, Sondra Brown, Emi & Bryan, Lee & Karen Bryant, Buerger, David & Patty Bunker, an L Burgess, Richard & Karen mett, Louis Burns, Charles Bush, mifer & Steve Bush, Jack & Karen am, D. L. Calkin, James Callahan, bra L Campbell, John Campbell, E & Herb Cantwell, Missy Carlile, Boise H Carlton, Linda S. Carr, cronica Casale, Angela Casimano, Torrence & L Castleberry, Yenyen Chan, Laura Chen, Loren Chen, Mam B Chew, Jack Chin, Connie lark, Louise Clarke, Apieh Clayok, Cynthia Coffman, Miriam & phen Colaco, Laurie E. Compana, Condon, Miles C Cope Sr, orma Craig, Alice Crane, Carol souch, Boni Cruz, Gayle King & Judy Cruz, Nora M. D'Antonio, maron Joyce Davis, Judith Deeds hy & Bill Delaney, Mic Denfeld, bara Denn, Leon R Devriendt, Bill k, Michelle Dick, D Seale & R etz, Lary Dilsaver, Bernadette Dirr, mela Ditto, Andrea & Ella Doch-Rhea Dom, Sandra Dounce. mane Dunning, Henry & Phyllis aronslet, David & Marcy Dwyer, bert & Ginger Dyer, Carrie Edards, Gary & Constance Edwards, with Ehret, Sandra Endo, Fred Esteez, Matt & Sam Evans, Marcia C lkner, Carrie & Joe Fay, Ellen Fin-thut, Tom Finnegan, Bill Flanders, like & Terria Flick, Cecile Forbes, Miriam Forman, David Fosse, Michael & Linda Fostinis, Todd & ebbie Fraser, Wendy Arme Free, tota Freisinger, Jeff Frentzen, D W my, Tinka Friend, Velma V Fruhling, Fuller, Kathy Funari, David Fur-riski, Elizabeth Lynn Galiste, Tis Gallery, Frederick E Garrity Jr, abeth Gary, Dawn Gause, Glenn Gerwitz, Harrison Gill, Susan shi, Aimee Godel, Sue M Godfrey, mne Golding, Richard Goldschmidt, Melinda Goncalves, Keith Gordon, at Dory Grade, Jimmie Graham, Betty Granger, Daurice Graves, Doris Gregowski, Susan Grundy, Polly

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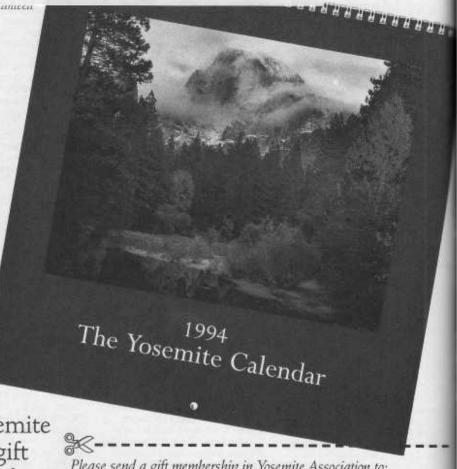
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