Crapsey

He probably started his life close to where it ended. Most likely he was one of two blind 10-ounce cubs, born to a mother who was fast asleep in the rotted base of a large tree. The next year and a half were spent with his mother, learning to forage for what nature provides — spring’s green meadow grasses, the yellow jackets and ants of summer, and manzanita berries and acorns in the fall.

Ready to mate again, the mother would have driven him away to fend for himself. Then it was his second spring. It was time for her to get on with the business of producing another healthy cub, and for him to grow to maturity in the solitude normal to adult bears.

It was that same spring that he discovered human food. He might have found it along a trail, or in a parking lot, perhaps next to a bear-resistant garbage can where someone had missed. Food had been left on a picnic table, unattended. He weighed barely 100 pounds, and it must have been hard for people to resist feeding this scraggly and lanky adolescent. In early June he was spotted at a dumpster. The problem was recognized and cleaned up, but he had already learned that where humans are, so is easy food.

Reports of his feeding habits, and at least one incident of aggression, led to his trapping. A National Park Service wildlife biologist, Dianne Ingram, weighed him, put a colorful tag in his ear for easy identification, and gave him his name — #583. He was released, but because he was a problem bear, he was fitted with a radio collar that allowed biologists to track his movements.

Dianne’s assistant, Cindy ...
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 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 effect 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 ammunition and a hazardous drug. Afterwards there's no talking. You just pack up your gear and get 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 improve 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 be born. Nature, in her generosity, will give us another chance to keep them wild.

Matinee Crapsey works for the National Park Service in the Public Affairs Office at Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks.
Making Preservation Come First

George T. Frampton, Jr.

Editor's note: What follows is the text of a speech made by George Frampton, Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, on the occasion of the Eighteenth Annual Members' Meeting of the Yosemite Association in Yosemite Meadows on September 4, 1993.

It really was delighted to be asked by the Yosemite Association Board to come and speak to you this weekend. Yosemite is up there at the top of the places that I committed to myself that I would visit, or really revisit, as soon as possible. After I was confirmed and officially started this job (which wasn't until after the fourth of July), that's partly because this administration is going to pay attention to the parks, to this park, but also for personal reasons. For personal renewal and to remind myself why it is that I'm doing this on. And I have to say that just a few hours of hiking this morning out along the Lyell Fork with my wife, Betsy, was enough to do that and to remind me again how Yosemite is such a unique combination of grandeur and intimacy.

We were talking this morning about the fact that the hike reminded me also how much of this 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 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 administration...
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 initiative 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 public 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 going 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.
Public land management reform

In the U.S. Congress. In fact, as we look at our agenda for the next three or four months, mining law reform and trying to press for enactment of a California Desert Protection Act (which was opposed for many years under previous administrations) — those are going to be the two big issues for this department this fall.

Management of Ecosystems

Third, I mentioned ecosystem management. This is clearly going to be the buzz word for the nineties. Everybody has their own idea of what ecosystem management means. There are a lot of development interests who are afraid that ecosystem management is an environmentalist plot, sort of the son and grandson of the Endangered Species Act, to reach out and lock everything up. And there are some people on the environmental side who are concerned that ecosystem management can serve as sort of a cover to make compromises, a triage, give some away while we save some. Ecosystem management is, first of all, choosing a large enough area, a watershed or even an ecological region like the west side of the Cascade Mountains in Oregon and Washington and Northern California which contain most of the remaining old growth forest in this country, so that you can work on a regional basis. Then it's about how you manage all of the resources, all of the 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 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
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 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 seasonal, 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 our natural heritage and our cultural heritage. We increasingly see that the preservation business and the hospitality business come into conflict. While both are important objectives of the system, when push comes to shove it's the resource protection that has to come first.

We need to put a new emphasis on that, and we want to create an atmosphere (after twelve years) where people who work in the National Park Service feel that they are not only going to be supported when they make management decisions or recommendations but they're going to be expected to do that. It may be that the ultimate decisions are made on the basis of those recommendations are not the ones that they initially come up with, but there would be a process where people feel the...
They are encouraged to call it the way they see it. That is also investing in people and creating an agency with high morale and resource protection.

The third high priority for the system is going to be a new emphasis on partnerships. If we're going to have new parks like the Presidio (which is going to have to be really a public-private partnership), we're going to bring university-style and real estate-assessing expertise to put it together with the things the Park Service does well.

We have to reach out to new partnerships for which the Yosemite Association can be a model, as probably the most effective publisher and educator among all the park associations in the country. If we're going to do ecosystem management for national parks, we have to start building partnerships which are unlike those that the Park Service has been challenged to build before.

The New Partnerships

If you look twenty-five years down the road, the greatest problem and challenge in parks is this, particularly the big parks, and it's true of Yellowstone and Denali and Grand Canyon and Acadia and others, that increasing numbers of people want to come to these parks. How are we going to get these 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? When you think about that as an overarching 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 the large numbers of visitors, preserve the quality of the experience, and protect the resource. That's a tremendous challenge.

And obviously, Yosemite is at the forefront of that and has been thinking about it. There are transportation studies and activities, and there is a tremendous cooperation between the local counties that's begun. We are going to make this a major initiative under this administration. 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, and to fund and encourage and experiment and see whether these parks can become players in larger regional planning efforts. And each park is different. In Grand Canyon you have proposals for major land exchanges with the National Forest so you have a place to have new private development. In Yosemite you 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.
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.

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, Calif." 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 of 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 natural wonders of this celebrated spot. No where on earth is there such a variety of natural beauty in cliffs, mountains, valleys, etc., as in the Yosemite Valley. A trail leads all around these Three Sisters, and the view of the surrounding valley from the trail as it winds through it is most enchanting." Cathedral 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 as 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 originally named General Grant National Park). Pacific Novelty
Company's card number Y-127 is another with an image from the Sequoia/Kings Canyon area that was misidentified as being a Yosemite card. This card shows mounted cavalry troopers lined up in front of and on top of a fallen Sequoia and is identified as "U.S. Cavalry on fallen Monarch, Mariposa Big Tree Grove, California."

While the trunk and roots of the Fallen Monarch are of course intact, visible in this card is the sawn butt of the trunk of this tree. The photograph used for this card was either taken in a logged forest near the boundary of the original General Grant National Park or in Converse Basin.

The only other card in this category that I know about is a view of Mammoth Hot Springs in Yellowstone National Park that is labeled "Yosemite Falls, Yosemite Valley, Cal." These cards, like those in the previous categories, are likely to become available to the collector since they are identified as Yosemite scenes and are often sorted into their Yosemite section.

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

Card number 2273 is entitled "Staging in the Mountains." This postcard shows a California mud wagon, drawn by four horses, descending into Yosemite Valley along the old Wawona Road. Card number 1530 is entitled "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 79632 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 postcards 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 erroneous 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 95338.
As fall slowly progresses into winter, the animals of Yosemite are busy preparing for the long, cold months ahead. In the same tradition, the Yosemite National Park's Wildlife Office is preparing for the park's 53rd annual winter bird count, to be held this year on December 19th.

Winter bird counts began in 1931, when four local birders counted 356 birds from 26 different species on a clear, cold winter day in Yosemite Valley. Annual bird counts became an increasingly popular winter activity in the 1930's for residents of the park, as well as for park visitors, with annual participation growing to an average of eleven birders spending a day in the field. Birdwatching conditions varied greatly, as they do today, with the luck of the weather ranging from winter snow flurries and temperatures dropping well below zero, to beautiful, clear skies and “balmy” temperatures in which to count birds. The “Christmas Bird Count”, as the bird census grew to be known, continued as a yearly event until World War II interrupted many of Yosemite’s typical activities. The Christmas Bird Count was one such project suspended in 1941, not to be resumed again until the war was over.

From the inception of the annual bird count, it has been the hope of Yosemite Valley ornithologists that the counts could illustrate variation in the relative abundance of various species over a period of many years. From the data collected during the yearly count, park biologists have hoped to interpret the results, taking into account weather, food, and other factors, to determine the reasons for fluctuations in bird populations. With nearly sixty years of data, biologists are now looking for 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 Audubon 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 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 post-count 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.
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 human-bear 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 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 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...
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. So 400 of them would cost you $270,000.

The House of Representatives in our appropriates bill included $250,000 for bear boxes, but the Senate chose not to fund that amount. We’re hoping that in conference that amount will survive. There seems to be a philosophy that a large park with a budget like Yosemite can find $250,000 if we really wanted to. I think many of you who know the way we allocate our budget, the way we use your moneys to supplement an ever-diminishing staff, we couldn’t find $250, let alone $250,000. So think of a way to raise the consciousness about bear boxes. It’s terrible that we have killed 88 bears since 1975. We can do better, and we’ll look for your continued support in that arena.

We’re going to work hard to finish the campground bear boxes. If the appropriation does not survive this fiscal year, we have a pledge from the National Park Foundation for $250,000 for our share of the $5 million Yosemite donation, and I will write the National Park Foundation and ask that the entire amount be given to us and we’ll buy bear boxes.

### Deer

We have an agreement with California Fish and Game that limits the type and level of hunting activity that occurs outside the park. The Department 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 fishery 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 fisheries biologists 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 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 habitat, habitat and age classes of those fish.

The rainbows were natural to Yosemite Valley. What did we find out? We had lots of one-year olds, lots of two-year olds, very few three-year olds. We were having 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 because 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 on North Mountain, which will 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 purposes, a cross-boundary burn over Park Service and Forest Service land. I have to say that I am very pleased and happy with the support and the cooperation we’re receiving.

**Camp Fires**

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
parts per million, and during the evenings we were shooting up to 340. It measures on a 24-hour period, so we were hovering 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, dryer fuels. You will notice the vending machines we had in the campgrounds this year. A stipulation 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 Yosemite such as walnut/pecan shell composites that burn even more cleanly. And hopefully we can maintain the ambiance and the public health that's necessary.

**Biological Studies**

For example, all Central Sierra federal agencies have a concern about certain species of owls, notably the great gray, the spotted owl, but we also have concerns about amphibians. This park, this year, has initiated a three-year study. We're hopeful that we can get some additional funds to expand that to some of the surrounding forests concerning the yellow-legged frog and the Yosemite toad, and some other amphibian species.

**Aquatic Resources**

One of our highest priorities is to look at the aquatic resource as a whole. You remember two years ago we stopped removing trees from the Merced River. The Park Service did that for years because the woody debris are no longer removed from the Merced River.

**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, it's 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,
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 travelers' plazas for travelers' information, travelers' 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 we have roads in the middle of Sentinel Meadow, Stoneman 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 the roads.

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.

**Maintenance**

We want to redesign the maintenance area. The redesign of the maintenance area follows the new construction in El Portal and movement of that maintenance area. I hope some of you will drive through Railroad Flat and look at the warehouse complex in El Portal. We are just finishing up a phase of moving the warehouse and support facilities out of Yosemite Valley. The covered storage, 50,000 square feet, is up, just about completed. The open storage yard is about to be completed. And this December, $10 million worth of construction will begin on the warehouse building proper.

So what that means is that 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-
end phase when we move the heavy maintenance shops (where we fix our snowplows, our bulldozers, our other pieces of equipment), will wait a year because we can't have two major construction projects in that small area.

In that interim year, fiscal year 1995, we're going to be working on the El Portal sewage treatment plant to upgrade the digesters and increase the efficiency of that plant. We're hopeful that Congress will fund $18 million in 1996 to finish the maintenance complex, which means that all of those support facilities, 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 attention to restoring and redesigning what remains in Yosemite Valley, which should be a district project.

### Sentinel Bridge

We're rebuilding the Sentinel Bridge, $4 million, a very nice bridge. I think you'll be pleased, particularly when you compare it to what's there. Again, the rationale was the other one was condemned, it was more expensive to fix it up than it was to build a new one adjacent 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 road. And I know many of you have avoided people with their 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're 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 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 buses in this park. In 1980, we had 5,000 busses; last year, based only on counts from when the entrance stations were open, we had 13,316. This year we believe we'll have over 15,000. I issued a moratorium two years ago on new licenses for tour operators, but new groups have just been booking with existing operators. We need to come to grips with the numbers.

Three weeks ago I went to that lovely Tunnel View. There were six tour busses there. With each carrying 40 people there were 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 gone on Sharsmith's nature walks every summer for 19 years.

A walk with him is "a golden two hours," said Threet, one of the visitors, "a golden pleasure park in all the High Sierra." He has taken his walks for years and would like to live there forever.

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.

He pointed out sedge and map lichen, which he said grows on the rocks. "You would starve here, but they wouldn't." He has gone through the meadow as Muir first saw it. "It remains the same." 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," Sharsmith said. "It is the happiest place in the mountains. God blessed this place."

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."

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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 up now."

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.
Obata's Yosemite - The Art and Letters of Chiura Obata from His Trip to the High Sierra in 1927 with essays by Janice T. Driesbach and Susan Landauer. When Obata, a gifted California-born in Japan, made his first visit to Yosemite in 1927, the experience deeply affected his art. Not only did he produce a remarkable collection of sketches and paintings (later to become woodblock prints), but he recorded the details of the trip in a fascinating series of letters and postcards.

This volume presents Obata's High Sierra journey in his own words and art. Included are 55 full-color reproductions of pen-and-ink sketches, watercolor paintings, woodblock prints, plus a detailed narrative of the six-week 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 who 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.

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.

Clothbound: $50.00

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.
Wirebound, $10.95
02300 **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 five 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.
07516 Yosemite Association Patch. Our Association logo is embroidered on colorful, sturdy fabric for placement on daypacks, shirts, blue jeans, jackets, or wherever! The newly designed patch is available in three attractive colors: dark blue, forest green, and maroon. $3.00 (please specify color).

07700 Pelican Pouch, Wilderness Belt Bag. The Pelican Pouch is not only perfect for carrying field guides, but also offers instant access to all the small items that are usually buried in your pack — pocket camera, lenses, maps, or your favorite trail mix! The pouch is designed with front snap fasteners on the straps. This allows comfortable positioning on your belt — even between belt loops; no need to take your belt off first. The material is high quality Cordura pack cloth with a waterproof coating on one side. Beige with the dark brown and white Yosemite Association patch, the Pelican Pouch measures 8 x 5 x 2½ inches. $9.95.

07510 Yosemite Association Mug. This distinctive and functional heavy ceramic mug feels good with your hand wrapped around it. Available in two colors (green and maroon), it's imprinted with our logo and name in black and white. Holds 12 ounces of your favorite beverage. $6.50.

07720 Yosemite Bookstore Book Bag. Here's YA's handy new book bag made from durable 100% cotton fabric with a sturdy web handle. Cream-colored, it's imprinted in blue with the Yosemite Bookstore logo. Fine craftsmanship and generous, oversized design make this a bag you'll want to take everywhere. Conserve resources with a reusable book bag. Approximately 17” x 16”.$8.95.

Credit card orders call: (209) 379 2648 Monday–Friday, 8:30am–4:30pm
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) 579-2817.

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.

Association Dates

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

would like to welcome to the

Regular Members


John & Diane Berez, John B. Berman, Sharon Besser, Debra, John & Diane Bercan, Martin, John & Diane Bercan, Angela Beevers, Brett

Michael & Carole Austin, Anita & Robert Badenberger, Carrie & Joe Fay, Ellen Fincher, C. Glen & Kristin Ehret, Sandra Endo, Fred Estes, 


Chung, Chaun, Lay, Cheol, Chen, William & Chew, Jack Chin, Conne Clark, Louise Clarke, Apeh Claybrook, Cynthia Coffman, Mimi & Richard, Conrad & Marci Condon, Miles Cope Sr., Colleen & Bill Conlon, Michelle Conly, P. Conly, William H. & Linda Conly, Nancy Cooper, Elizabeth Claybrook, Oscar & Susan Cooper, Paul & Mary Cooper, Jeff & Ann Cooper, Linda & Sally Cooper, 

Renato CorREA, Mark Correa, Nicholas & Carol Cortes, Lisa & John Cortez, Nora M. D'Antonio, Louise Clarke, Apieh Claybrook, Cynthia Coffman, Miriam & husband, Jack Chin, Connie, 


Chung, Chaun, Lay, Cheol, Chen, William & Chew, Jack Chin, Conne Clark, Louise Clarke, Apeh Claybrook, Cynthia Coffman, Mimi & Richard, Conrad & Marci Condon, Miles Cope Sr., Colleen & Bill Conlon, Michelle Conly, P. Conly, William H. & Linda Conly, Nancy Cooper, Elizabeth Claybrook, Oscar & Susan Cooper, Paul & Mary Cooper, Jeff & Ann Cooper, Linda & Sally Cooper, 

Renato CorREA, Mark Correa, Nicholas & Carol Cortes, Lisa & John Cortez, Nora M. D'Antonio, Louise Clarke, Apieh Claybrook, Cynthia Coffman, Miriam & husband, Jack Chin, Connie, 

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Every membership counts in contributing to the care, well-being, and protection of America's foremost park — Yosemite!

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