

YOSEMITE'S FOUR (almost five) "INSPIRATION POINTS"

YOSEMITE'S FOUR (ALMOST FIVE) "INSPIRATION POINTS"

In his informative book Yosemite Place Names (Lafayette, CA: Great West Books, 1988), p. 66, author Peter Browning says there are eighteen places in California named "Inspiration Point," a fact he calls "somewhat depressing rather than inspiring." Considering that there have been four different "Inspiration Points" along the rim of Yosemite Valley alone over the years, Peter might actually be a little low in his total.

In recent times, the precise locations and histories of these various Yosemite outlooks have unfortunately become largely obscured. This article is my attempt to sort them out. The numbers in parentheses denote the sequence of the names.

"Inspiration Point" (1), elevation 6,802 feet, provided the first panoramic view of Yosemite Valley coming west from Meadow Brook on the old Indian trail from present Wawona to Yosemite. James M. Hutchings had his initial breathtaking look at the Valley from this rocky outcropping on Friday, July 27, 1855, while on his pioneering tourist visit to Yosemite with three companions and two Indian guides. Emil Ernst, Yosemite Park Forester and Hutchings scholar, wrote about the event in the June, 1955, issue of *Yosemite Nature Notes:* "As the [Hutchings] party descended to the Valley from the rim on the south side they came to Old Inspiration Point. This point is on the old meadows trail from Wawona and is not the Inspiration Point known to the many travelers over the old Wawona Road."

Hutchings himself described "Inspiration Point" (1) in Scenes of Wonder and Curiosity in California (New York and San Francisco: A. Roman and Company, 1875), pp. 85-86, as follows:

Almost before the gratifying fact is realized, you have reached 'Inspiration Point,' and are standing out upon a bold promontory of rock, and with feelings all your own, are looking over the precipice of nearly three thousand feet, into the deep abyss. This is the first view obtained of Yo-Semite Valley. Mr. Sidney Andrews, in his correspondence to the Boston Advertiser, thus writes of this glorious scene— 'Suddenly as I rode along, I heard a shout. I knew the valley had revealed itself to those who were at the front of the line. I turned my head away—I couldn't look until I had tied my horse. Then I walked to the ledge and crawled out over the overhanging rocks. I believe some men walk out there—it's a dull clod of a soul who can do that. In all my life, let it lead me where it may, I think I shall see nothing else so grand, so awful, so sublime, so beautiful—beautiful with a beauty not of this earth—as that Vision of the Valley. It was only yesterday evening—I cannot write of it yet.'

In August, 1856, brothers Andrew, Milton, and Houston Mann, proprietors of a Mariposa Livery stable, completed a forty-mile toll trail from Mormon Bar below Mariposa to Yosemite Valley. The trail essentially followed the old Indian route used by Hutchings from the South Fork to the Valley floor. At a place 0.3 miles southwest of "Inspiration Point" (1), the Manns cleared a 150-yard side trail north through the dense brush to a rocky peninsula first called "Mount Beatitude," elevation 6,603 feet. Early photographs taken from this point by Charles Weed and Carlton Watkins show a tall pine tree, which had been stripped of its lower branches by surveyors, standing at the edge of the bluff. The tree has long since fallen. Hutchings wrote of a trip to "Mount Beatitude" from the Valley in *Scenes of Wonder*, pp. 143-44:

Up, up we climb, bench after bench, stretch after stretch, with fine views all the way, until at last, we arrive at the turning off place for 'Mount Beatitude.' Let us now tie the horses, and while they rest, walk out about one hundred and fifty yards to the wonderful sight...

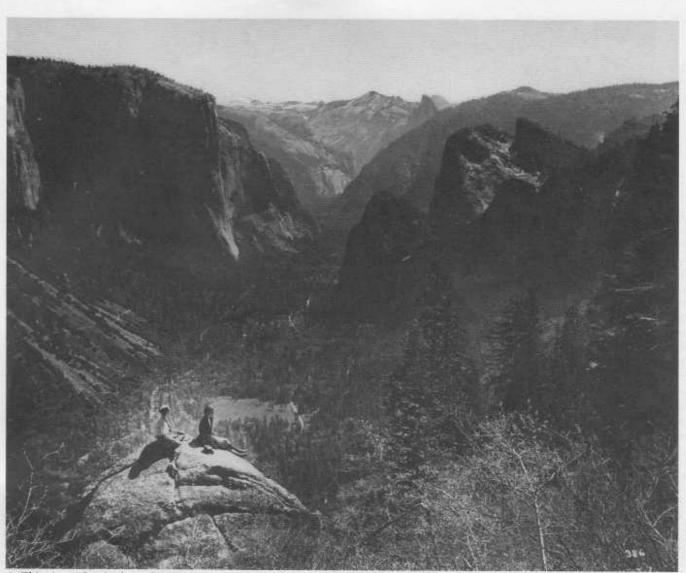
"Inspiration Point' stands out and up at a somewhat greater altitude, but although the view of the distant sierras is more comprehensive, that of the valley is more limited.

As time went on, "Mount Beatitude" became generally known as "Inspiration Point" (2) because it was easily accessible and provided a safer and better overall look at the Valley than the original "Inspiration Point" (1). By the end of the nineteenth century, "Mount Beatitude" was no longer shown on most Yosemite maps. Instead, the location was marked as "Inspiration Point" (2), and after 1875, "Old Inspiration Point." The *real* "Old Inspiration Point" (1), 199 feet higher to the northeast, became largely forgotten.

When the Wawona stage road was built by the Washburn interests from present Wawona through Chinquapin Flat in 1875, it approached the southside bluffs at a much lower elevation than the existing Mann brothers trail. The first full view of the Valley along the new road was presently named "New Inspiration Point" (3),

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Cover: Early photograph of Carlton Watkins of "Inspiration Point" (2)



A. This view, taken in the early 1900s, appears to show "Inspiration Point" (1), which Hutchings described as "a bold promontory of rock."

elevation 5,391 feet, a height more than 1,200 feet below the previous "Inspiration Point" (2), once called "Mount Beatitude," now "Old Inspiration Point." Author Susie Clark provides a vivid and perceptive account of her first look at the Valley from "New Inspiration Point" (3) in her book *The Round Trip* (Boston: Lee and Shepard Publishers, 1890), pp.128-129:

At our second change of horses about noon, we take the opportunity to run down the road ahead of the coach; for a restful change, we inspect the watering trough, the road, the trees, which here allow such restricted range of view, when, speeding on lest the fresh horses overtake us too soon, suddenly, as if the planet had dropped from beneath our feet, the trees disappeared on our right, the sky rolled itself backward like a scroll to give space to a vast army of peaks and domes and mountains and granite, a double row, the verdant gorge between, and we realized with a gasp that was almost pain, that we were looking upon the marvellous Valley. We stood on Inspiration Point...There are some moments, some experiences that come to us which are untranslatable in any human speech, and this was one...How long we might have stood there had not the coach arrived to pick us up, we cannot say.

"New Inspiration Point" (3) remained inspiring to many thousands of Yosemite travelers on the old Wawona Road until superseded by the modern highway in 1933.

About 1900, a rival "New Inspiration Point" (4) made its appearance at a viewpoint along the old Big Oak Flat Road, which entered Yosemite Valley from the north between 1874 and 1943. This second "New Inspiration Point" (4) elevation 4,953 feet, was marked by a two-color metal sign (see photograph D) until about the early 1920s. Who placed the sign at the point and how long it endured is uncertain, but the name received at least semiofficial sanction when Ansel F. Hall, chief information officer for the National Park Service in Yosemite, listed it



B. "New Inspiration Point" (3) was a point on the old Wawona Road from which travelers got their first full view of Yosemite Valley between 1875 and 1933. The photograph was taken by a National Park Service photographer in the 1920s.

in his *Guide to Yosemite* (Yosemite: U.S. National Park Service, 1920) as being "at an elevation of 1,200 feet above the Valley floor on the Big Oak Flat Road." Yosemite Park Historian Jim Snyder says the location appears to be the same place more commonly known as "Rainbow View" because the afternoon sun often caused a rainbow across Bridalveil Fall.

When the remarkable Wawona Tunnel (length 4,230 feet) on the present highway was finished in 1933, it emerged from its eastern portal at a spectacular observation point initially called "Tunnel View," elevation 4,410 feet. Superintendent Charles Goff Thompson described the new vista as "fairly explosive in its grandeur and which a majority of artists and laymen agree surpasses Old Inspiration Point itself." Whether Thompson was referring to "Old Inspiration Point" (2) or "New Inspiration Point" (3) is not certain from his comments. Consideration was given for a time to calling the lookout "Inspiration Point," but saner minds eventually prevailed, and the public was spared the confusion of yet another "Inspiration Point" (5). Since 1977, "Tunnel View," which was apparently not a sufficiently romantic name, has been officially known as "Discovery View."

All four of Yosemite's erstwhile "Inspiration Points" can still be reached by hikers willing to make the effort. The overviews of the Valley that each provides if you can find the right location—the path to "Old Inspiration Point" (2), originally called "Mount Beatitude," is now overgrown with dense brush, for example—are as inspiring today as they were long ago when previous generations of Yosemite tourists first looked down on the same incomparable scene.

Hank Johnston, longtime Yosemite resident, has authored fifteen books on California history. His latest book, The Yosemite Grant, 1864–1906: A Pictorial History, was published by the Yosemite Association.

All photographs are from the author's collection.



C. This is an engraving that appeared in several of James Hutchings' books. It was made from an original pencil drawing sketched by Thomas Ayres on July 27, 1855. Ayres was a young artist hired by Hutchings to supply illustrations for proposed magazine articles about places where the clumsy photographic equipment of the day could not be easily transported. Ayres was one of Hutchings' three white companions on his pioneering 1855 tourist visit to Yosemite Valley. The angle of the sketch indicates that Ayres drew it while at a lower elevation than the original "Inspiration Point," probably when the group was farther down the trail



D. This Herbert Gaytes photograph of "Inspiration Point"(4) dating from about 1900, was taken at a point more generally known as "Rainbow View," about a quarter-mile above the zig-zag turn on the old Big Oak Flat Road. The railing is still in place as of this writing.

A DAM-ABLE IDEA: DAMS IN THE HIGH COUNTRY

"Ranger, when do they turn the waterfalls off?"

A classic question. The image of waterfalls regulated by dams, flumes and locks controlled by huge valves emerging from the granite cliffs of Yosemite Valley seems ludicrous.

Or does it?

During the latter part of the last century controlling the flow of waterfalls was considered a viable option that would yield multiple benefits. A well-placed dam might extend the annual life of Yosemite Falls. Dams would also help regulate water for irrigating California's growing agricultural industry. The damming of Yosemite Creek and the watershed of other Yosemite waterfalls seemed to be the sensible solution to several problems. And the idea had many supporters.

CREATION OF A NATIONAL PARK

Countless visitors are awe-struck by the wonders of Tuolumne Meadows and the high country. Backpackers travel from around the world to hike the John Muir Trail trough the wilderness area of the park. But the original intent of designating the wilderness area around the Yosemite Grant as National Park was not completely an effort to protect its intrinsic aesthetic value. Many of its greatest supporters desired only to protect Yosemite Valley's watershed, and therefore, the waterfalls of Yosemite Valley.

A quick review of Yosemite's history reminds us that Yosemite National Park as we know it today evolved through more than seventy five years of boundary changes. The original Yosemite Grant included only Yosemite Valley and Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoia trees. President Lincoln ceded this land to California as a state preserve in 1864. Later, in 1890, the watershed area above the valley was designated as national park surrounding the state preserve. It was only in 1906 that the two pieces were duly united.

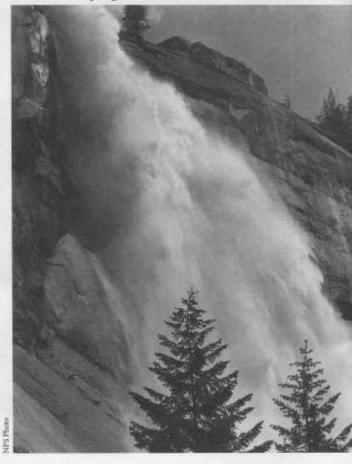
A WATERSHED SOLUTION

The creation of Yosemite National Park was the solution for maintaining the famous waterfalls of Yosemite Valley as a summer-long attraction. Many citizens were concerned that the waterfalls did not maintain their dramatic springtime flow—when the snow was greatest—throughout the summer months. An article in *Harper's Weekly* (July 16, 1892) promotes this point of view: Yosemite Falls is one of the most famous features of the Yosemite scenery; but at a time when tourists find it most convenient to visit the valley there is no waterfall, only a discolored streak on the face of the cliff...Bridal Veil Fall becomes a mere trickling over the rocks...The vast volume of Nevada Fall dwindles into an insignificant dribble...and when the waters come to the precipice that makes Vernal Fall there is scarcely as much as would flow from a street hydrant.

It was hoped that with the protection of the watershed, the valley's waterfalls might significantly extend the season of their remarkable springtime flow.

Before 1890 and its designation as a national park, the land making up the watershed flowing into the Yosemite Valley was in jeopardy. Sheepherders used the land for summer grazing. Many early conservationists were concerned about the extent of the damage caused by grazing sheep. John Muir referred to the sheep as "hoofed locusts" when arguing for federal protection of the land. Allen

Nevada Fall in spring



Kelly, Head Forester of California, stated in 1892 that during the twenty-five years before its designation as a national park, more than 100,000 sheep had been pastured upon this public domain. Kelley reported that, "these irresponsible and usually ignorant men have no concern for anything but feed, and neither know or care what damage they do to field and stream."

The destruction of the delicate subalpine ecosystem of the high country was considered all the more damaging because of its effect on Yosemite Valley's waterfalls. With fewer trees in the high country, snowmelt would accelerate in the spring months, shortening the "waterfall season" in Yosemite Valley. Protecting the mountains surrounding the valley as a national park seemed a natural solution.

In 1890, the United States Congress adopted this land as Yosemite National Park (to be administered by the federal government's Department of the Interior). The watershed, along with the other natural resources of the area, received protection from the U.S. Cavalry once the land was designated as national park. Within two years of protecting the high country from herds of grazing livestock, the benefits were apparent. The State Board of Forestry reported that "a thick growth of seedlings had sprung up on the mountain slopes usually kept bare and barren by the sheep." Kelley reported in the July 16th 1892 issue of *Harper's Weekly*:

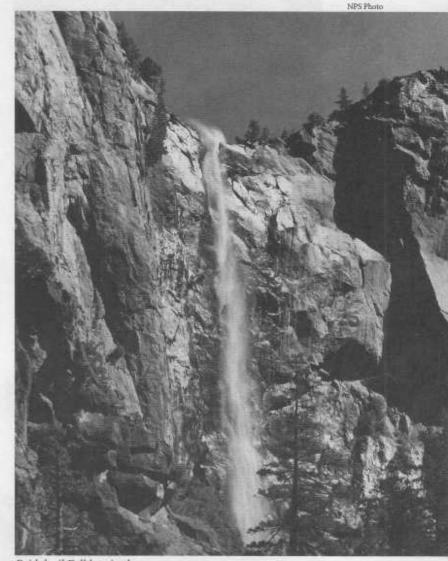
In establishing the Yosemite National Park...Congress sought to protect the watersheds of the Merced and Tuolumne Rivers, and preserve such a flow of water throughout the year as would insure an adequate supply for the falls that add so much charm and attractiveness to the scenery in the valley.

With the designation of the high mountain wilderness as national park, the watershed and the waterfalls of Yosemite had been saved...or so it seemed.

A NEW PERIL

A happy ending, one might suppose. But no, only a brief respite before a new and equally perilous assault upon the newly-designated national park. This time the threat was from those responsible for its protection. Apparently not content with allowing the trees, over time, to act as the protector of the watershed, Head Forester Kelley went further:

But while the protection now afforded will prevent further injury to the forests, it will require many years

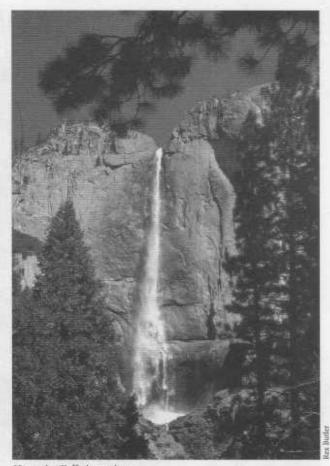


Bridalveil Fall late in the season

to restore them to their original condition; meanwhile larger trees will die and fall, the winter snows will be exposed to the sun, the water will be wasted in spring floods...it is obvious that the natural conservation of water supply must be supplanted by artificial storage, and preliminary steps to that end have been taken in Congress.

The "preliminary steps" referred to by Forester Kelley included plans to survey the area for potential dam sites. Congressman Caminetti of California worked in 1892 to secure Congressional backing and a federal appropriation for a survey of potential reservoir sites in the mountains above Yosemite Valley. Possible improvements were suggested by Kelley in the same issue:

Yosemite Falls could be maintained either by damming the creek or by turning a portion of the Tuolumne River into its bed through a flume about twenty miles long. A dam 100 yards in length across





Yosemite Falls in spring

the mouth of Little Yosemite would store plenty of water for Nevada and Vernal Falls, and a supply for Bridal Veil Fall could be secured by making a reservoir of the meadows along the creek...A dam 1400 feet long at Lake Tenaya, eight miles distant and much higher in the mountains, would not only keep Mirror Lake full but would store a vast amount of water...that would be as precious as gold to the irrigation districts of the plains.

Kelley's dam-able plan was nothing if not ambitious. Poetic justice might have decreed that this scheme to alter the water courses of Yosemite would come to a drizzle and finally fade away, as do many of the Valley's waterfalls in due course. Instead, proponents of the idea seem to surface from time to time in unlikely places.

THE COMMISSIONERS' RECOMMENDATION

The 1897–1898 Report of the Yosemite Valley Commissioners included the recommendation to construct reservoirs within the national park boundaries. The Commissioners' report listed the benefits of the proposal.

We beg to suggest that some cheap construction of dams at Ostrander and Tanaya [sic] would secure a perennial flow of water through the Yosemite State Park and into the Merced River. This would maintain

Yosemite Falls in late summer

the attractiveness of the valley throughout the season...No better point could be selected for the commencement of such a policy. It would beautify the National Park, maintain the attractions of the State Park and be of use in irrigation as well...There are reservoir sites surveyed within the Yosemite National Park at other points; it would certainly be a great advantage if one of these could be constructed on the water-shed of Yosemite Creek, so as to maintain the grandest waterfall, not only in Yosemite Valley, but in the world.

The reservoir sites referred to in the Commissioners' report were surveyed by the U.S.G.S. earlier that decade under the direction of Chief Engineer William H. Hall. In the 1892 Annual Report to the Secretary of the Interior, a summary was given regarding the feasibility of creating water storage at seven possible sites along the Tuolumne, Merced, and Stanislaus rivers. The report stated the "it will thus be seen that water storage is essential on all these streams in order that they may perform their proper share of irrigation of the great plain of the San Joaquin Valley."

Although the report included proposed sites at Tuolumne Meadow, Tenaya Lake and Little Yosemite Valley, it concluded that all of these sites were too distant to make them viable water storage for the San Joaquin Valley. Simple economics protected these sites from environmental degradation; it was too inefficient to move the water that far. Twenty years later, however, the Raker Act would provide legislation for the flooding of the Hetch Hetchy Valley as a means of providing water to the city of San Francisco.

PHILOSOPHY AS POLICY

In 1946, M. Hall McAllister, a past president of the Sierra Club, sent a letter to Newton Drury, the Director of the National Park Service, urging him to consider the idea if diverting water from nearby Indian Canyon to a series of small dams along Yosemite Creek. This "trial" proposal would help ensure that Yosemite Falls would be flowing strong for the Fourth of July crowds. Mr. McAlliser earnestly concluded his letter with the following appeal, "People spend millions [of dollars] for 'water conservation.' Why not a few thousand for 'water sentiment' that is the glory of a great waterfall?"

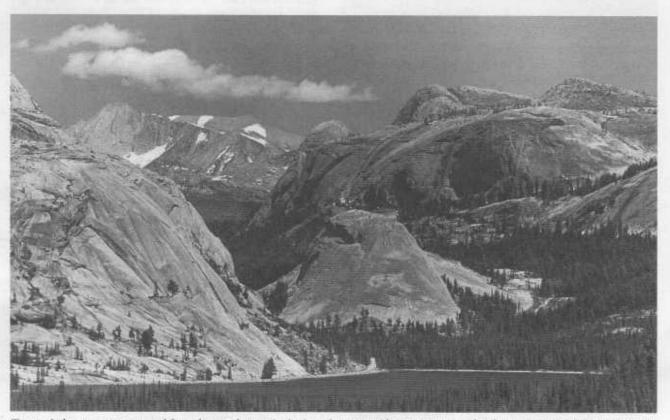
Director Drury showed wisdom in response to McAllister's suggestion:

Suggestions to accomplish this general objective have been considered at various times in the past. Since the fundamental responsibility of the National Park Service, as laid down in the basic Act of Congress in 1916, is to preserve the area in as nearly a natural state as possible, and to hold them "unimpaired," we have conceived it to be our duty to avoid these developments which seek to create or alter natural phenomena by artificial means. Under this policy of conserving the natural scenery, we have disapproved all recommendations to create lakes, divert the flow of streams or otherwise tamper with the scenic assets of national parks.

With this simple application of the Park Service mission statement, Drury laid to rest any further support of the damming of Yosemite Falls. In doing so, he also helped delineate the official policy of the National Park system as a protector, not just scenery and wildlife, but of natural processes, too.

The ebb and flow of the seasons is marked in a variety of ways with each bringing its own trappings to the valley. The tremendous power of the falls is a hallmark of spring. Artificially sustaining the spring run-off of the falls late into the summer is as unnatural as seeing autumn leaves in June or snow-covered pines on the Fourth of July. It is the cycles—dramatic and unimpaired—which have governed Yosemite's natural wonders for millennia and have made Yosemite a treasured place in all seasons.

Jeff Lahr, seasonal NPS ranger-naturalist, is a frequent contributor to this journal. His last article was "Yosemite's Tell-Tale Trees" in the Summer, 1997 issue.



Tenaya Lake was once proposed for a dam and resevoir site in order to provide a constant supply of water to some of the Valley's falls.

MOUNTAIN DREAMERS: VISIONARIES OF SIERRA NEVADA SKIING

Editor's Note: The following are excerpts from the newly published Mountain Dreamers: Visionaries of Sierra Nevada Skiing by Robert Frohlich which, according to Stu Campbell of Ski Magazine, "lovingly chronicles the lives and times of an eclectic band of mountain people who founded and built a skiing tradition that is unparalleled elsewhere in the world." A number of the outstanding skiers spent a part of their long careers in Yosemite, but here are profiles of two who stayed at Badger Pass skiing and teaching, leaving rich legacies and fond memories.



Charley Proctor, Yosemite National Park

YOSEMITE WINTER SPORTS

Yosemite became a national park in 1890; however, it wasn't until Congress created the National Park Service in 1916 that supervised winter activities took place within the park.

Yosemite Park & Curry Company, park concessionaire, established the Yosemite Winter Club in 1928 "to encourage the development of all forms of winter sports" Horace Albright, the club's first director, and Don Tresidder, president of the Curry Company, hired Ernest des Baillets, famous French-Swiss snow sports expert to direct the development of winter sports in the park. They created a small ski hill and ski jump near Tenaya Creek Bridge and organized a ski school under Jules Frisch. He and Gordon Hooley (future general manager of Sugar Bowl), Wolf Greeven and Swiss skier-skater Ralph de Pfyffer led ski tours with instruction to such destinations as Mount Watkins, Snow Flat and Tenaya Lake.

The opening of Wawona Road and Tunnel in 1934 and Glacier Point Road to Badger Pass in 1935 made it possible to build a ski lodge 23 miles from Yosemite Valley at Monroe Meadows. With a summit elevation of 8,000 feet and a vertical drop of 800 feet, Badger Pass was welcoming 30,000 skiers annually by 1935.

The West's first mechanical lift, known as the "Upski," carried six persons at a time up 280 vertical feet. In 1936 it was a extended to Ski-Top, where Badger's famed Rail, Bishop and Strawberry Creek runs were cleared. In publicizing Yosemite, Tresidder claimed that Badger Pass slopes were "as good as the most famous runs in the Swiss Alps or Austrian Tyrol."

Some instructors who were at Badger Pass from the beginning moved on to pioneer skiing at the West's bestknown ski resorts: Sigi Engl went to Sun Valley; Hannes Schroll to Sugar Bowl; and Luggi Foeger to Donner Summit and Lake Tahoe to run the ski schools at Sugar Bowl and Alpine Meadows.

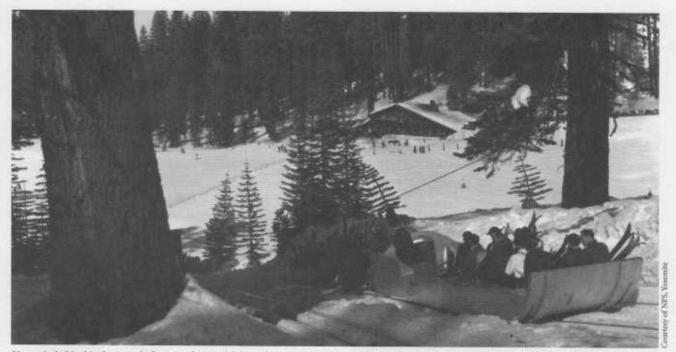
CHARLEY PROCTOR

Charley Proctor arrived with his young family in Yosemite Valley in 1938, far from New England where he was raised and educted. Son of a physics professor at

"When Charley left Yosemite, he was almost seventy, and he was still about the prettiest skier on the slope. He had such style and grace. It didn't look like it took any effort at all." Anne Hendrickson, president of the Far West Ski Association.

Dartmouth College who had set the first ski slalom course in North America, Proctor was a well-educated and accomplished skier.

Assured and graceful on the snow, Charley Proctor had challenged slopes considered unskiable by most. He



Yosemite's Upski, the West's first mechanical lift, nicknamed the "Queen Mary," took skiers to the famed Rail Creek, Bishop and Strawberry Creek runs in 1936.

was the first to shuss Tuckerman's Ravine, a 1000-foot drop down a fifty-five degree slope on New Hampshire's 6,288-foot Mount Washington.

As an intercollegiate jumping champion at Dartmouth, he had captained the ski team in 1927and 1928. He pitted his skills against the world's best as a member of the U.S. Olympic Team in the 1928 Saint Moritz Winter Games, competing in ski jumping and cross country. That same year he was the first American to race in the inaugural Arlber-Kandahar in St. Anton, Austria.

Proctor laid out ski trails at Pico Peak in Vermont and Pinkam Notch in New Hampshire and directed the design of ski trails for the U.S. Forest Service in other Eastern states. From 1935 to 1937 he coached the Harvard ski team and wrote two books on skiing.

Don Tresidder, president of Yosemite Park & Curry Company, met the quiet, young man who was on a business trip to California. They agreed to ski together at Badger Pass, after which Tresidder invited Proctor to move to the West to become the director of Yosemite's winter sports program.

Although the ski industry was still in its infancy, Badger Pass, with the addition of its first lift, was becoming popular with the social elite, which was no problem for the Dartmouth grad, who was seldom seen without his trademark cap. "We liked Yosemite and the people liked us," he recalled in his journal. "They wanted us to stay, and the company gave me a job as assistant supervisor of all stores and gift shops. We drove back east and sold our house." He was considered America's foremost authority on skiing in 1940, examining the skills of the best instructors in the country who were being certified. "His focus was the development of the sport, " remembers his daughter, Peggy Dean, who was born in Yosemite. "And skiing itself remained his passion. He did a lot of exploring throughout the park, in Tuolumne and on Mount Hoffman."

He worked closely with the Tresidders in improving the runs and exploring the area for the site of the soon to be constructed Ostrander Hut. Proctor's passion and immense joy for skiing can be discovered in a passage he wrote about touring near Ostrander Lake with Mary Tresidder. "She loved the mountains and enjoyed being in them. Her skiing was a means to this end, not an end in itself as it is to many. When we found a beautiful long slope of perfect spring snow or light powder, she would ski it with obvious pleasure and was enthusiastic, but always seemed to express her feelings in a quiet way."

It was a comfortable place to live and work for Charley Proctor and his family. "The guests who came to Yosemite to ski were, in a way, comparable to the skiers we had left back East," he wrote. "They were the socially prominent leaders in the business world: back East from Boston, and here, from San Francisco; back East, Harvard students, and in Yosemite, Stanford and Cal graduates."

He became the first secretary for the California Ski Association and its vice president when the organization was renamed the Far West Ski Association. In 1958 he was appointed as a member of the Squaw Valley Olympic Ski Advisory Committee and elected a member of the U.S. National Ski Hall of Fame. "The ski industry has changed, the competition has changed, but the one thing that hasn't changed is the thrill of getting someone to make their first run. I don't think that thrill will ever diminish."

NIC FIORE

Nic Fiore first arrived in Yosemite Valley in December 1948. "For myself it was a culture shock. I didn't speak the language too well. I said, 'What's going to happen?' I almost chickened out.

"Luggi hadn't been able to pick us up at the train station in Merced until 7:30 in the evening. I was studying the palm trees. That was the first time I'd seen palm trees. I say, 'Gee, boys, I wonder where we're going.' We waited and finally he arrives."

It began snowing hard. The twenty-eight-year-old French Canadian skier and his Canadian friends helped Luggi Foeger, Badger Pass ski school director, put tire chains on the 1946 Ford sedan in Mariposa. Entering the valley, huge snow flakes fell past unseen granite walls that loomed 3,000 feet above.

"We came in here at night, really tired, went to bed, woke up the next morning. I'd never see so much snow. I was looking around because I didn't have the least idea that we need to drive 23 miles to Badger Pass. I was looking up at Yosemite Falls and I said, "Where in the world do the beginners ski?" I'd never seen a sky so blue. And the sun. It just hit me like a bolt of lightning to see this place."

His journey from Montreal to Yosemite began when he was eight years old. "Somebody gave me a pair of skis. They were huge, 200 centimeters. I went to the mountains in the Laurentians. You paid twenty-five cents to take the train. You saved. Your allowance was ten cents a week. I mean, I come from a family of twelve children. My mother was widowed when I was six years old. You really saved so that you can ski. Once I got on my skis, there was no holding back. I became totally crazy, insane and committed about skiing."

A physical education instructor in the Canadian army during World War II, Fiore skied every chance he could. After his release from the army in 1946, he passed his Canadian Ski Instructors Certification and settled at the Saint Adele Lodge in the Laurentians as a ski instructor and summer sports director. There, the amiable instructor met Luggi Foeger, famed Uber-patriarch of ski instruction.

Foeger, always on the lookout for new talent, asked Fiore to return with him to Yosemite. "I only came for one winter because I wanted to go back to college. I had so many big plans, and I didn't speak English, coming from Canada. I was strictly educated in the French language. When I first arrived, I knew I'd fallen in love with Yosemite. I just didn't want to admit it."

"The first time I skied at Badger we went down Rail Creek. That used to be a national course. It's about six miles and over 2,000 vertical feet. We went down that powder, up to here, and I'll tell you, I'd never seen powder like that. We took a few somersaults. We came back and Luggi said, 'AII of you, you skied like pigs, absolutely



Nic teaching

"A deep strength emerges from being in the mountains. You're in sync with nature, and that gives you an inner strength. I'm going to pull all stops in the world. I hope that I'll never be in a rest home. I'm going to keep on going."

like pigs!' He was very serious about skiing. And when Luggi said something, that was the gospel, the pope of skiing. So, that night we got together, the guys who come with me from Canada, Ross Moore, Jim McCConkey. I said, 'Boys, we better get to work.'"

Work he did. Under Foeger's tutelage Fiore earned his certification in ski instruction in March 1949 at the old Strawberry Resort on Highway 50. "I still remember my examiners, Luggi Foeger, Hannes Schroll, Otto Steiner, Charley Proctor, Corty Hill, Tommy Tindel and Sepp Benedikter."

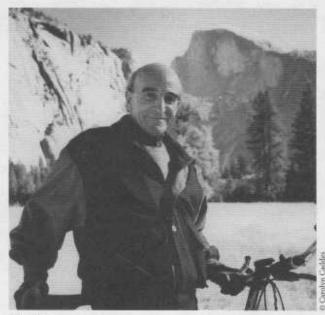
Foeger coached him into becoming an accomplished skier and preached a commitment to the sport. "For my first twenty years of teaching, and I'm not exaggerating, I skied seven days a week. I could never get enough. I was very serious at it. I was taught that you make a commitment, and, gee, that's what it is. To Luggi there was only one way to do it, but perfect. With him we were always at our best, trying to do the very, very best".

Fiore was often asked if he ever thought of moving on to a more glamorous ski area. "Obviously, with the park system, Badger could never expand. I always knew the terrain here could never compete with Sun Valley. How can a small area compete? My answer, I say, 'Come to Yosemite . We have a ski school which really teaches people to ski and focuses on beginner and family. You can have a really lovely day here .""

When Nic Fiore replaced Foeger in 1958, he changed things. "Luggi taught Arlberg Technique, a lot of wind-up and follow-through with a lot of rotation. You never spoke of the feet for turning. What I did was start telling people that the turn is initiated from the feet I had tremendous results. Then I just cut down the amount of wind-up and follow-through. It was a just a slight windup and delayed rotation. Basically, I tried to keep it simple. No student should be burdened with a lot of technical jargon. Let them enjoy themselves, and let them ski."

A combination of modernized ski equipment, Fiore's modified Arlberg system and a simplified approach to teaching skiing created immediate results especially with children. Author of an instructional book called So You Want To Ski? He began one of the first childrens' ski programs in the country. "I had a hard time getting it off the ground. A lot of ski teachers didn't want to bothered teaching children, but I pushed it."

Today, the Badger Pass Pubs Program for preschoolers is extremely successful. "People were satisfied and the ski



Nic Fiore

school grew and grew. As a matter of fact, it ended up we were giving seven, eight, nine hundred lessons a day. I didn't have enough ski teachers." It's estimated that the spirited Fiore has taught nearly 100,000 people to ski. In forty-nine years of teaching Fiore didn' t miss a day of work until an on-hill accident at Badger Pass in 1995 resulted in a broken ankle.

He has been involved more than forty-five years in Professional Ski Instructors of America and served as an officer, director and examiner. In 1971 the organization voted him as the year's most invaluable ski instructor.

The North American Ski Journalists Association presented Fiore with the prestigious Charley Proctor Award in 1986, and the following year he was nominated to the U.S. National Ski Hall of Fame.

His joie de vivre is apparent in his endless stories about life in Yosemite. He smiles, hums a song and admits, "It gets a little harder. The aches and pains won't go away, but, gee, it's better to die walking, or doing a little bit of nordic, than in a rocking chair."

Mountain Dreamers: Visionaries of Sierra Nevada Skiing by Robert Frohlich with photographs by Carolyn Caddes and Tom Lippert, Coldstream Press, 1997 is available from the Yosemite bookstore. Hard cover (#05654): \$50.00 or soft cover (#05662): \$29.95. Use the order form in the catalog section of this journal.

TWO BEAR CUBS



YOSEMITE CATALOG

66871 Two Bear Cubs: A Miwok Legend from California's Yosemite Valley retail by Robert D. San Souci, illustrated by Daniel San Souci. The Yosemite Association is pleased to announce the publication of its newest title for younger readers - a delightful retelling of the Southern Sierra Miwok legend of El Capitan and how it came to be. Mother Grizzly Bear thinks that her two playful cubs are wrestling and having fun along the Merced River in Yosemite Valley while she is checking her fish traps. When she returns to join her sons, however, she discovers the cubs are newhere

All the animal people of the village search vainly for the missing bears, until Red-tailed Hawk reports he has located them high atop a huge granite rock on the valley's rim. Hoping to rescue the cubs, each of the animals in turn tries to scale the vertical wall, but each fails. The fate of the young bears rests with tiny Measuring Worm, who is the last to attempt to climb the hulking rock. In this story about the value of all beings, the

nature of courage, and other themes, masterfully

retold by Robert D. San Souci and wonderfully illustrated by Daniel San Souci, readers will discover how the bear cubs are saved, learn the traditional Miwok tale of how a rock grew to become one of Yosemite's most famous landmarks (El Capitan), and come to realize that being a hero has very little to do with one's size.

The authentic legend takes place in the old days, when, the Miwok believe, the residents of Yosemite Valley were "animal people"creatures that were part animal and part human. The colorful watercolor paintings depict the animal people in traditional Miwok garb, including buckskin skirts and loincloths, abalone shell and glass bead necklaces, and fur headbands. Notes about the life and culture of the Southern Sierra Miwok are included, along with a bibliography and Internet resources for teachers.

Robert D. San Souci is the author of more than sixty children's books, among them *The Tidking Eggs*, illustrated by lerry Pinkney, and *The Faithful Friend*, illustrated by Brian Pinkney. His books have received two Caldecott Honors, three Coretta Scott King Honors, The Commonwealth Club of California Silver Medal, and awards from the library associations of eight states. His brother, Daniel San Souci, is the award-winning artist of nearly forty children's books. His many successful titles include North

Country Night, Red Wolf Country, and Jigsaw Jackson, Mr. San Souci teaches graduate students at the Academy of Art College in San Francisco, where he is also a member of the Advisory Board.

36 pages, Yosemite Association, 1997. Case bound with dust jacket, \$14.95.

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK



07417 Yosemite National Park 1998 Calendar

with photography by William Neill.

The annual Yosemite calendar has become a real favorite with Y.A. members and visitors to the park. This year's version upholds the tradition with twelve beautiful color images guaranteed to evoke warm feelings about the park. Accomplished Yosemite photographer, William Neill, has contributed some of his best work to the calendar, covering park locations from Tioga Pass to the Mariposa Grove.

Each month's calendar page includes important dates and holidays, phases of the moon, thumbnail layouts of the previous and following months, and an informative description of the accompanying

photograph. There's no better way to keep Yosemite in your thoughts the whole year than the Yosemite 1998 calendar. The 12" x 12" full-color calendar unfolds to 12" x 24". Browntrout Publishers, 1997. \$10.95

TRADITION - INNOVATION



01980 Tradition and Innovation: A Basket History of the Indians of the Yosemite-Mono Lake Area by Graig D. Bates and Marthu J. Lee. This beautiful large-format book is an authoritative study of the history and basketry of the Miwok and Painte people of the greater Yosemite region. It is a work that is the product of years

of research and study on the part of the authors, who are both employed as curators in the Yosemite Museum.

The text for the book is richly complemented by 363 dilotone photographs of historic images, most of them from the Yosemite Museum collection, depicting the Indian people and their baskets. The result is a deep, thorough, and detailed coverage of a much-neglected topic if Yosemite history.

The volume is elegantly printed and case bound, with a striking dust jacket. It is 252 pages long and 10" x 11 1/4" in size. Yesemite Association, 1991. Clothbound, \$49,95

20560 It Will Live Forever -Traditional Yosemite Indian Acorn Preparation (revised edition) by Bev Ortiz, as told by Julia F. Parker, with photographs by Raye Santos. In this intimate book, Yosemite's long-time Indian cultural demonstrator, Julia Parker, describes how acorns are gathered, dried, stored, cracked, pounded, winnowed, sifted, leached, cooked, and eaten by the Yosemite Miwok/Paiute people, Julia's remarkable

skills and knowledge were recorded by her close friend, writer and anthropologist Bev Ortiz. It is a fitting tribute to this extraordinary woman, who, with delicacy, reverence, and consummate skill, carries on the ancient traditions of the native people of the Sierra.

The book is extensively illustrated with photographs of each step in the acorn-making process. There's even a recipe provided for "Julia Parker's New Way Acorn." Informative notes and a bibliography round out the volume. 148 pages, Heyday Books, 1996, Paperback, \$12.95





01230 Legends of the Yosemite Miwok compiled by Erank LaPena, Craig D. Bates, and Steven P. Medley: illustrated by Harry Fonseca. This is an updated and

revised collection of

eighteen Native American legends from the Yosemite region. It is 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 origin 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 best - enchanting and informative at the same time. Harry Fonseca's color pencil drawings make this a unique and beautiful book.

64 pages, Yosemite Association, 1993, Paperback, \$11.95

12050 Pajaro Field Bag

This newly developed waist pack features seven pockets for everything you'll need when you're hiking or enjoying time in the outdoors. The main pocket is sized to accommodate field guides, travel books, or binoculars, there are smaller pockets (including one with a zipper) for note pads and maps, and specialized pockets for pencils, pens, and sunglasses. Best of all, a secret pocket sealed with Velcro keeps keys, credit cards, and other valuables safe. It's the best such pack we've found. Made in the U.S.A. of durable Cordura in forest green and black by Pajaro.

\$29.95

Native American Items from the Yosemite Museum Shop





Silver Paiute Eagle Feather Jewelry

For centuries, eagle feathers have been an important part of Painte culture and were used in religious rites and for protection. A person with numerous eagle feathers was considered to be "wealthy." The sale or barter of actual eagle feathers is now prohibited by federal regulations, but fortunately Painte artist Michael Rogers reproduces the valuable eagle feather in solid silver as eye-catching pins, bracelets and earrings.

300026 Bracelet: 1 1/8" wide, \$165.00 90261 Earrings: 2 1/2" long, \$54.00 90438 Pin: 3" long, \$51.00

Half Dome Pendant

Painte artist Michael Roberts was so struck by the moonlit beauty of Half Dome that he returned to his bome in the high desert east of Yosemite and created a replica of the event in silver and 14k gold. A unique and enduring reminder of moonlight nights in the Valley. Rogers bandcrafts each of these pendants especially for the Yosemite Museum Shop, 300717-24" silver chain, pendant 11/4". \$72,00

Bull Pine Nut Necklaces

Bull pine trees grow in the foothills just west of Yosemite, and the cones yield large, hard-shelled pine outs. When the nuts are gathered in the fall, the end of each nut is ground off and the nut meat dug out. The resulting beads are strung along with glass beads of various natural colors into attractive necklaces. Most of the necklaces we offer are made by Lucy Parker, daughter of Yosemite Indian Cultural Demonstrator Julia Parker and great-granddaughter of Yosemite basket weaver Lucy Telles. The necklaces are fine examples of the use by Indian people of native materials and trade goods to create objects of lasting beauty. 90010 Approximately 36" total length, \$18.00



Obsidian Arrowhead Earrings

Ralph Charlie, a Painte man who lives on the Walker River Reservation in Schurz, Nevada, fashions traditional obsidian arrowpoints into modern earrings. The arrowpoint are made in the traditional fashion, carefully chipped out by using a deer antler tine as the only tool.

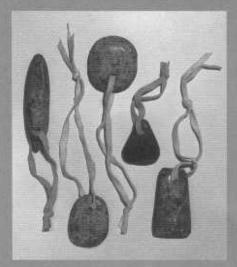
Mr. Charlie finds that making arrowpoints into earrings is one way that people in contemporary times can enjoy objects whose history is thousands of years old. The earrings use silver wire and include a small turquoise bead along with the obsidian arrowpoint. $90404 + 1/4 - 1 + 1/2^n \log 15.00 pair

Dice Tray and

Game Set For centuries

nave people in central

California and Nevada have played a game with pitch-filled half walnut shells. The Yokuts people were particularly well known for producing basketry dice trays on which to play the game, since the trays were a popular item to trade to Miwok people. This one-of-a-kind dice tray was woven by a Chukchansi Yokuts woman using sedge root, split redbud shoots, and deer grass; her only tools were a deer bone awl and a small knife. Representing hundreds of hours of work, the basket was intended as a tray on which to throw the dice. This dice tray comes with a set of walnut shell dice and counter sticks fashioned by Yosemite Indian Cultural demonstrator Julia Parker. A unique collectable, 300090 21" in diameter, \$5850.00



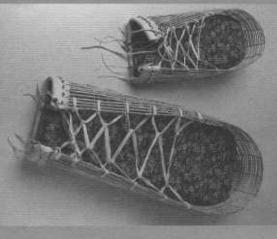
Miwok Charm Stones

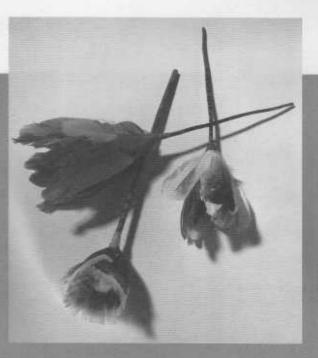
Used to insure good luck in hunting and gambling, these stones have been used by native people in California for over a thousand years. These charm stones are carefully fashioned from steatite or serpentine. Most are made on the Tuolumne Mewuk Rancheria just north of Yosemite. The

charm stones do not come with a guarantee but should produce good results where luck is needed. 90747 Length 1 1/2", \$10.00

Paiute Receiving Cradlebasket

The first cradlebasket made for a Painte child actually cradles the child, with a wide band protecting its head, the sides of the cradle curving around the infant's body. Painte weaver Juanita Ponton of the Walker River Reservation creates these cradlebaskets of willow sticks, trimmed with leather and a few beads. The cradles are available as models (for a collection) or in full size (for use with a newborn infant). The availability of these is limited. 300360 Model: approximately 18" by 8", \$70.00 300320 Full size: 25" by 9", \$150.00





Miwok Cocoon Rattles

Miwok people used these rattles to chase away bad dreams. They are made of the hatched cocoons of the California silk moth, filled with gravel from ant hills, attached to a wooden stick using deer sinew, ornamented with feathers, and painted with red ochre and black bands in Miwok style. A unique example of the use of natural materials, each rattle is slightly different. 90221 Length 12", \$17,50

Mountain-Valley Woman Sculpture

East of the Sierra crest, Painte people of the Owens Valley produced pottery vessels in ancient times. Today, Richard Stewart is one of the few Painte people to continue this tradition. Besides creating replicas of ancient pieces, Stewart has developed his own creation - a sculpture representing the archetypal Painte woman wearing a basketry cap. Created from native clay that Stewart digs himself, these creations pay homage to the importance of the Painte woman. 300034 Height 5 1/2", \$60.00

Soaproot Brushes

35

Long created by Miwok and Western Mono people, soaproot brusches are made of the fibers that surround the bulb of the scaproot plant. The bulb itself is cooked for hours, and then forced through a sieve to produce a thick paste. Layer upon layer of this paste are applied on the bound fiber handle of the brush to produce a durable and beautiful utilitarian object. Originally used to clean baskets, brush the hair, or to sweep acorn flour during the pounding process, today the brushes are often used as whisk brooms or as a unique example of native culture. 90090 Approximately 6" long, \$30.00

If you have questions concerning items from the Museum Shop, please phone Yosemite Museum Shop Manager Letty DeLoatch at (209) 372-0295.



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)



07800 Yosemite Wilderness Pin

Here's a beautiful enamel pin commemorating Yosemite's unparalleled wilderness. It's circular in shape with a high country scene rendered in blues, grays, and greens. A real treasure for collectors. Approximately 1 inch in diameter, \$4,00

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 (please specify color)





400 Sierra Nevada Field Card Set Illustrated by Elizabeth Morales

These handy field identification cards depict the most commonly seen birds, mammals, trees, and wildflowers from the Sierra Nevada region. Illustrated with color drawings and including information about the size, habitat, and other field marks of each, the cards are unbreakable, waterproof vinyl plastic and fit conveniently in one's daypack or glove compartment. Particularly helpful for newcomers to the Sierra as regularly observed flora and fauna can be quickly identified. Four plastic cards printed on both sides, Yosemite Association, 1991 and 1995. \$11.00

07720 Yosemite Bookstore Book Bag

Conserve resources with YA's handy 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. Approximately 17 x 16 inches. \$8.95

07505 Yosemite Association Baseball-Style Cap

Our YA caps are 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. \$9.95 (please specify color)



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Order Form

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

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MEMBERS

Volunteer Barbara Cady-A Profile

For long-time YA volunteer Barbara Cady, Yosemite isn't just a place she visits occasionally, it's a way of life. In any given year, she spends almost as much time here as she does at home. Teased by YA President Steve Medley that the only reason she originally came to volunteer in Yosemite Valley was because she had no air conditioning at her home in Merced, Barbara says the real reason is that she "just likes doing it." And it shows. This retired teacher's congenial personality lends itself easily to the various tasks expected of a YA volunteer in Yosemite Valley-staffing the Museum Gallery, operating the visitor center's Orientation Slide Show, and giving out park information and encouraging membership at the YA booth. Her preferred duty is serving as docent in the Museum Gallery where she likes to interact with visitors by conducting her own personal polls to find out which pieces of artwork are their favorites.

Barbara began volunteering for YA back in the days when it was YNHA (Yosemite Natural History Association). She jokingly claims that the reason the name was changed was because she got tongue twisted pronouncing it. And as the volunteer with the most experience, she has helped train many new folks over the years. In fact, when the volunteer season began last May and the YA staff was unable to reach the Valley due to the closure of highway 140, Barbara took over the training of four new volunteers completely on her own.

Since she resides so close to the park, she is often called upon to serve on short



From left to right: Ruth Strange, Roger Strange, Marion Eggers, Barbara Cady (behind), Bill Eggers, John McCaffrey

notice when a cancellation occurs as well as to fulfill the time slot she signed up for. It is not unusual to find Barbara working in Yosemite in May or June and then returning for additional weeks in July, August, and September. For the past two years she has served as "campsite coordinator," arranging schedules, welcoming new volunteers to the campground, assisting seminar participants, and training new recruits, and doing it all with a sense of humor. According to Barbara, the YA volunteers are like "extended family." She enjoys keeping in touch with coworkers throughout the year and returning to work with them the next summer.

Unlike many who come to Yosemite for lively activities such as hiking, backpacking, and mountain climbing, Barbara is content to spend her leisure time here strolling through the woods, observing the animals, and reading. Last fall while relaxing in the campground on her day off, Barbara looked up from the book she was reading to see a mule deer in full antlers approach her chair and lie down on the ground next to her. Knowing how dangerous those antlers and hooves can be, Barbara did the most reasonable thing she could—calmly went on with her reading. The buck eventually got up and went on his way, leaving an awestruck Barbara to marvel about nature's creatures.

Here at YA we marvel over the talents and hard work of our volunteers. A preliminary tally indicates that this season's 41volunteers logged more than 1,000 showings of the Orientation Slide Show for 26,000 visitors, hosted over 64,000 people in the Museum Gallery, greeted close to 7,000 people at Parson's Lodge, and recruited a grand total of 700 members at the YA booths bringing in over \$22,000. Barbara Cady was a key player in these efforts. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Barbara and all our volunteers for their work on YA's behalf.

Association Dates

March 28, 1998: Spring Forum, Yosemite Valley

September 12, 1998: 23rd Annual Meeting, Wawona

209/379-2317

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

NEW MEMBERS

Regular Members

David & Jonathan Abernathy-Deppe, Mary C. Thomas & M. Abundis, Maiorie L. Alatorre, Donald & Gerardine Albers, Elaine Alexander, Janice Alexander, Rita & Barry Altman, M. J. Anderson, Carlon R. Andre, Rodney Andres, Susan & Joe Anguiano, Mark Arntzen, Beverly Artinian, B. Hemann & K. Baccaro, Emily B. Baglione, Janet & Tom Baillie, Richard J. Ball, L. Rollow & Jan Balsiger, Ephraim Baran, Pamela Barientos, Mayre L. Barry, Lydia Baskin, Nancy & Gary Bausom, Kate & Rick Beatty, Larry O. Bedenbaugh, Rolf & Florence Beier, M. Maxine Benkert, Richard Bennett, Mary Bjorkholm, Jim Blade, Kevin & Kimberly Block, Blanche & Irving Blumenthal, Jo-Neal G. Boic, Anne N. Bonnet, Eryn Bordes, Ardis Bow, John & Jeanne Bowen, Jack H. Bowles, Edward & Patricia Brands, Marilyn Bransford, Gilbert & Ruth Brooks, James Brown, Julia Brown, Mike & Koen Brown, Mr. & Mrs. David Brubaker, Ida & William Bucher, David Bulger, N. A. Bull, D. Woo & Stephen Burger, Jan & Bob Burke, Patty & Patrick Burkes, A. W. Burner, Lori Burnside, Biff Butter, Jim Caldwell, Carole A. Calkins, Tyrone Callahan, Naomi Calof, L. Ferguson & Barry Cameron, Mr. & Mrs. Jim Campbell, Rea Campbell, Herb & Lisa Cantwell, Richard Caprio, Jane Cardi, Robert Wm. Carlson, Catherine Anne Carreiro, Lynn M. Carstensen, Bonnie & Jared Carter, Valerie D & Gene Carter, Josephine Casilang, T. Torrence & L. Castleberry, Charles & Susan Caudle, Judy & Guy Chandler, Elaine Cheng, Dhan K. Chettri, Carol Choquette, Rick Fahrner & Lori Christensen, Phyllis Chutuk, Roberta Clark, A. Lopez & J. Clements, Charles & Patty Click, Judith Clifton, Cullen & Sally Coates, Larry & Vicky Coates, Cheryl Coe, Margaret Cohen, Peter Cohen, Karen Cole, Diana Colon, Nancy Condello, Fred & Sue Cone, Don Conger, Tino & Carole Conness Rebeiz, Toni Conrad, Susan Cook, Suzanne Cooper, M.D., Elizabeth Cormier, Bill Cosgrove, Joan & Donald Cowan, Wendi Craig, Elizabeth Crane, Teresa Cullen, Wallace L. Cullen, John Dangelo, Clare Darden, Nancy Davis, Sharon Joyce Davis, Alan & Kelley Day, Mark De Vitre, Barbara Dean, Katie & Mel Deardorff, Sheila Decter, Amy & Josh Degen, Eric DeMoya, David DeRoo, Abby P. Diamond, Cathy Dillon, Anthony Docto II, Moira Donohue, Phil Dowling, Marlo Duffin, George DuFour, Henry Bright Dunlap, George C. Earl, Linda & Darryl Easter, Pamela R. Edens,

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Ostrander Hul to Open for Season



Ostrander Hut in the early years with ski instructer Luggi Foeger on the weasel. (Photo courtesty of Carson White from Mountain Dreamers: Visionaries of Sierra Nevada Skiing)

The Ostrander Ski Hut will open for the season on December 19, 1997, Located approximately 10 miles in the backcountry, the hut is open and staffed in the winter to encourage ski touring. The trip to the hut requires considerable stamina and cross-country skiing experience.

The hut accommodates 25 people and is equipped with bunks and mattresses, a small kitchen and a woodburning stove. The charge is \$20 per person/per night. A lottery is held in November for weekend reservations. For more information: Ostrander Reservations. PO Box 545, Yosemite, CA 95389 (209/372-0740)

Yose/Nite

is published quarterly for members of the Yosentite Association. It is edited

by Holly Watner and produced by Robin Weiss Graphic Design. Copyright © 1997 Yosemile Association, Submission of manuscripts, photographs, and other materials is welcomed.

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Cover inset photo of Aspens along Tioga Road: William Neill

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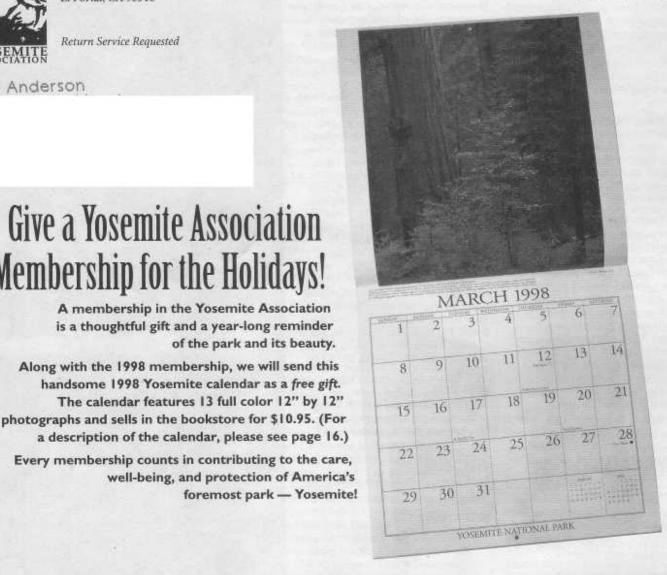
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