

Yosemite

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3 BEARS TOO CLEVER TO LIVE



Bear attacks in Yosemite are exceedingly rare, fatalities nonexistent, but property damage this year alone is estimated to have reached \$500,000—a record—with more than 600 documented car break-ins.

3 BEARS TOO CLEVER TO LIVE

BY WILLIAM BOOTH
WASHINGTON POST
STAFF WRITER

AT YOSEMITE, SHARING HUMAN TASTES CAN BE DEADLY

December, 1997 The Washington Post. Reprinted with permission.

YOSEMITE VALLEY, California Bear Number 2061, a beautiful sweet-smelling blonde with a white blaze on her chest, had become a problem animal, a repeat offender with a rap sheet four pages long — a dumpster diver, a mauler of cars, and worse. Her death was foretold. The biologists nicknamed her Miney, and with her two cubs by her side, she worked the parking lots of Yosemite Valley, sniffing and searching, until she found the locked vehicles that smelled—if ever so faintly—of human food.

And then Miney placed her long, stout pencil-thick claws on the automobile door frame and heaved, until the window popped, the glass shattered, the metal frame twisted, and the car opened like a can of beans, available for consumption. She sent the cubs in first and they often tore their way through the back seat, en route to the trunk, as if they were ripping a log apart on a hunt for termites.

Kate McCurdy had her eye on Miney for several years. Though the bear had never hurt a visitor, her behavior had become increasingly brazen. She was observed on, at least 20 occasions breaking into vehicles — sometimes early in the evening as a crowd looked on, appalled yet mesmerized.

To those so inclined, McCurdy's work might seem like a dream come true, working as a wildlife biologist in the glacier-carved cathedral of America's most glorious

national park. Except that McCurdy now hates her job. Or more specifically, this part of it.

"I didn't get into this to kill animals," she said quietly in the apple orchard that serves as a parking lot for Curry Village in the commercial heart of Yosemite Valley. Those were about the only words spoken during the early morning hours, when she and three other wildlife specialists performed their duty with a grim efficiency — and a quiet respect for the condemned.

Though many visitors do not realize it, the wild places and wild creatures Americans treasure have become increasingly managed by man — down to the smallest details.

Today, the endangered panthers of the Florida Everglades are kept extant with the introduction of new gene lines from Texas cougars. The Colorado River that roars through the Grand Canyon is released by the twist of a knob from engineers at a dam upstream. And the black bear population of Yosemite, a delight for sightseers, has become divided into good bears and bad bears.

A good bear eats acorns and elderberries, is wary of humans, and is rarely seen. A bad bear likes chili-cheese nachos and car air-fresheners. These bears are bold, are viewed all the time, and display little fear, even after being repeatedly assailed — as Miney and her cubs were — with pepper spray, slingshots, firecrackers and bear dogs. They have developed behaviors that put them on a collision course with humans, or more accurately, with human possessions.

Bear attacks in Yosemite are exceedingly rare, fatalities nonexistent, but property damage this year alone is estimated to have reached \$500,000 — a record — with more than 600 documented car break-ins from the spring until now, as the bears begin to disappear for their winter hibernation.

There is a reason bears perform in the circus. They are extremely clever, and very dexterous. "I'm always amazed at how smart they are," said Steve Thompson, McCurdy's boss and the other wildlife biologist at Yosemite. "It makes situations like this all the more tragic when you recognize that you're dealing with an almost conscious animal."

McCurdy has seen bears unscrew peanut butter jars with their paws. She has watched them open food lockers, using one paw and their snout to trip the latch.

When the park introduced dumpsters whose mouths shut like a mailbox, the bears learned to climb up, open

Cover: Although this is an older dumpster, many Yosemite bears have also mastered entering the new "bear-proof" versions



Jim Kinney

Bears have learned over the years that campers' food makes a tasty and easy meal.

And then Miney placed her long, stout pencil-thick claws on the automobile door frame and heaved, until the window popped, the glass shattered, the metal frame twisted, and the car opened like a can of beans, available for consumption.



Some of the damage done by bears in the past.



the slot, and drop down into the dumpsters, head first, to disappear into the garbage, with only their back legs clinging to the open door. Hundreds of bears have slipped during this delicate maneuver to become trapped inside. If the garbage collectors, on their morning rounds, do not find them first, they can be emptied into the truck's compactors and crushed. A handful of bears have died this way in the last few years.

In the back country, bears are now found at higher elevations that held little food for them until the arrival of backpackers. Hikers were once instructed to hang their supplies over tree limbs with a rope, until the bears learned to chew through the cords. Now, backpackers are supposed to cache their food in a complex counterbalance method, but bear sows are — somehow, it is a mystery — communicating with their cubs, who climb the tree and bounce up and down on the tree branches until the food sacks fall, or failing that, climb above the caches and dive down onto the bundles.

The two full-time wildlife biologists at Yosemite are quick to point out that the real problem animal is, of course, not the black bear but the visitor — and the con-

cessionaires and park managers who, citing tight budgets, have delayed too long employing anti-bear strategies such as food lockers and secure dumpsters.

Bear management in places like Yosemite, however, has evolved over the years and shows clearly how human perceptions of nature and its denizens have changed.

Beginning in the 1920s, as park managers worked to build a constituency of visitors, the bears were baited to “feeding pits” in the valley and fed restaurant scraps, for the enjoyment of guests. But the pits encouraged bears to rely on human food and so the animals became ever more intrusive and the pits were phased out by the mid-1950s. Visitors, however, simply shifted their viewing to the smoldering open garbage dumps, where the bears feasted on refuse until the dumps were closed in the early 1970s — in part to control the bears and to restore the valley to a more pleasing aesthetic.

Yet as they had now adapted to high-fat fast foods, the bears had become serious “pests.” Until 1975, it was park policy to routinely kill problem animals in the valley. Accurate records were not kept, but Thompson said that as many as 60 bears may have been shot each year. It was



Chamberlin

A few backcountry areas have bear-proof poles for hanging food.

not until hikers discovered a bear burial mound on a cliffside that a public outcry led to new management practices.

The park, with the support of the private Yosemite Fund, has been slowly installing anti-bear food lockers at campsites and rigging dumpsters with snap-locks. But opportunities still abound. In Yosemite Valley alone, there are 325 trash cans, 227 dumpsters and 300 recycling bins — most outfitted now with devices to foil the bears, but not all. There is still a dearth of lockers at the popular tent cabins and at trailheads, leaving little alternative but for visitors to hide extra food in car trunks. This is still, indeed, allowed. But it is a big mistake.

While no bear is born “bad,” Miney may have learned her bad habits from her mother. The biologists nicknamed the mother “Swatter” and Thompson, sitting in his truck on a recent hunt, while on stakeout for Miney, explained why.

“I’ve never encountered a bear as aggressive as she was,” Thompson said. “She swatted this British tourist across the face and lacerated him. This was after we had relocated her once by helicopter, she and her three cubs, including Miney, which is really complex and expensive, and two weeks later they were back and she went after the British tourist.

“He’d improperly stored his food nearby, sat up and she jumped on him, whacked him once and ran away. So, we went up there to catch her and all of a sudden, we heard this screaming and hollering, these people with their flashlights running around and there she was . . . like a scene out of Dante’s Inferno.”

Thompson found Swatter in the spotlights. “She was staring at us, sizing us up, talk about aggressive. I darted her right in the chest. It was pandemonium.”

Swatter was euthanized in 1993, but her three cubs — tagged and identified — were allowed to live. McCurdy feared they might starve, but early this summer, Miney reappeared in Yosemite Valley with two cubs of her own. They quickly got into trouble. The Bear Activity Log tells the story, in 26 separate entries: “Cubs in vehicle, sow eating food out in woods. Window pulled out.”

“Camper shell popped open.”

“Bears (all three) in van with lots of eats in and out. Extremely difficult to scare away. Bluff charge.”

“Door frame pulled down and seat torn. Both cubs seen on top of vehicle. Cubs scared away by horn, sow by using sling shot. Estimated damage \$1,000. This break-in occurred 15 minutes after chasing all three into rocks behind tent cabins.”

Miney, like her mother before her, had been relocated away from the populous valley several times. But researchers now believe that relocations do not work.

“We recognize that it is a tragedy to have to destroy any black bear in the park,” McCurdy wrote in her official

memorandum asking permission to destroy Miney, "let alone one with two cubs. It has been especially difficult for us to give up on these bears, as the presence of human foods in Curry Village has clearly led to their demise. Almost half the cars these bears break into have had copious amounts of food inside, a situation easily remedied by provision of food storage facilities in the Curry area and strengthening of food storage regulations."

The order was signed.

And so on a night late last month cold enough to freeze standing water, McCurdy and Thompson, along with seasonal workers Dan Walsh and Tori Seher, met in the parking lot at Curry Village. With still warm leftover prime rib donated from the valley's Ahwahnee Hotel kitchen, the biologists rigged some bait in an apple tree and waited for bears. Over the next four hours, six bears were sighted. But no Miney. The biologists dispersed after midnight and went home for a few hours' sleep.

At dawn, when they returned, the parking lot at Curry Village looked like the aftermath of a looter's rampage. Seven cars had been hit, their doors pried open as if by crowbars. But this was the work of bears.

Tufts of fur clung to one window of a maroon Saab. Smearred paw prints, measuring four inches — Miney's size — covered a Toyota Celica's doors and roof. The car's interior looked like it had fielded a rugby match.

As McCurdy made her rounds, early-rising visitors gawked at the damage. Tourists came out to see their cars trashed, their vacations ruined. One gruff guest told McCurdy, "You ought to kill them bears." Then, over his shoulder: "I'll get my gun and help you."

That night, McCurdy and her companions began their stakeout after midnight. An hour later, the bear and her two cubs were spotted. "Oh, boy," McCurdy sighed.

Miney's last crime scene was a rented silver Geo Metro and her last meal — rooted out of the trunk, as the cubs tore their way through the back seat — was a jar of salsa, a brick of tofu and a grapefruit.

It was completely quiet in the apple orchard parking lot as McCurdy and Thompson loaded their guns with barbed darts filled with ketamine and xylazine. They slowly approached the car. Miney turned and watched them. The cubs, chowing down in the back seat, emerged. And then: Pop. Pop. Pop.

Miney, hit, ambled away, circling the car until she began to weave like a drunk. Then she stopped, sat on her haunches and crumbled in a heap. Both cubs climbed an apple tree after being darted. One eventually fell like a sack of potatoes. The other passed out in the branches and had to be chased and darted again.

Miney, who weighed about 220 pounds, was rolled onto a gurney. She flopped over on her back. Her light brown fur was soft to the touch and she smelled woody.

In the chill night air, McCurdy pulled on a pair of sur-



Chamberlain

Park campsites are slowly being equipped with bear-proof lockers

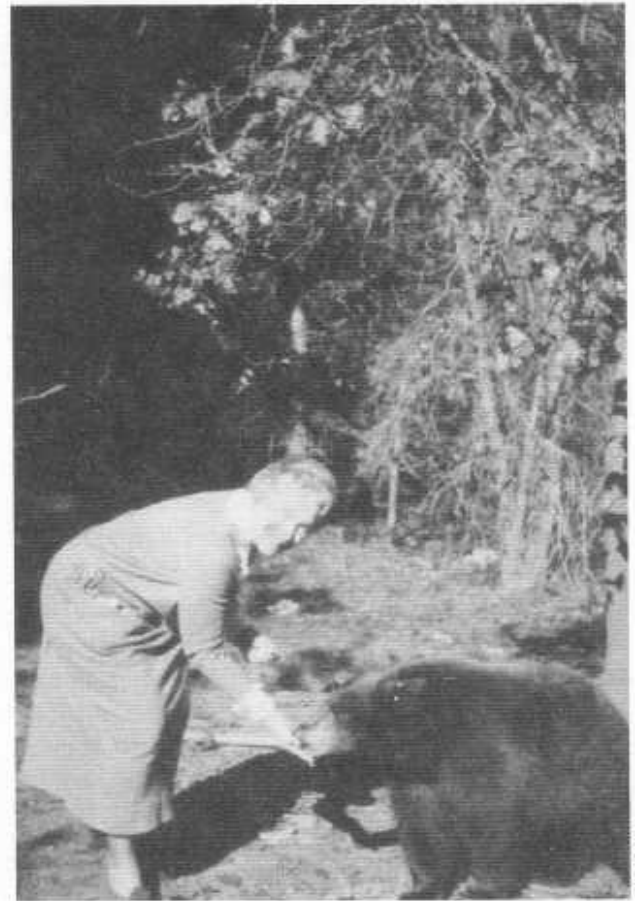


NPS photo

A ranger cites one of many vehicles with improperly stored food.

Kate McCurdy had her eye on Miney for several years. Though the bear had never hurt a visitor, her behavior had become increasingly brazen. She was observed on at least 20 occasions breaking into vehicles — sometimes early in the evening as a crowd looked on, appalled yet mesmerized.

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Decades of misguided park policy encouraged generations of bears to rely on human food.

gical gloves and drew 10 cc of succinylcholine chloride into a big syringe. She felt for the thick vein on the inside of the bear's right hind leg. Miney lay there, her tongue lolling, eyes glazed but open. McCurdy found the vein, slid the needle home, depressed the plunger and waited for death to come.

It did not come quickly.

McCurdy squatted beside the bear and placed her hand on the animal's chest, feeling her heart.

At first, it beat strong and measured, but as the poison moved through Miney's system, the rhythm quickened, became irregular, faster, then slowed, grew faint and

finally could not be felt. And then the bear began to jerk and twitch. This took another few minutes. In a gesture old and unconscious, McCurdy held the bear's paw for a moment. She stood up, exhaled deeply and said, "Okay, let's do the cub."

After a few hours, all three were dead and loaded into the bed of one of the trucks. The biologists drove the bears to a hidden place and rolled them onto the ground, where they will become food for other bears, ravens, coyotes and bugs, problem animals no more.

THE CASE OF THE VANISHING ROAD

To most people, the mountains north and south of Tioga Pass appear wild and untouched, trod only by the hiker or the fisherman. The reality is that 120 years ago, mining men by the thousands were all over the eastern range prospecting for metals, digging ditches, setting up camps, dropping garbage, as well as building cabins and wagon roads.

Much of the evidence of these activities remains, but one of the most puzzling remnants is that of a wagon road on Mount Gibbs. Two sections are easily seen from the trail. The first is where hikers begin walking on the Mono Pass Trail from the Tioga Road. After a few hundred yards it veers away from the hiking trail and melts into the landscape. The second section is about 3½ miles down the trail. At a junction, one branch heads south to Spillway Lake and the other east to Mono Pass.

On the Mono Pass branch a few hundred yards further, the old road can be seen up the slope to the left, a definite line marking the edge of a gently graded wagon road. Along a ways more, the road intersects and, for a short distance, joins today's trail. Then the road fades away.

So how did these sections of road get here to begin with? When were they made and why? And, if there was more to the road, where is it now?

It is still there to be found, by the observant outdoor detective.

THE GREAT SIERRA WAGON ROAD

In 1878 the discovery of silver in the mountains north-east of Yosemite Valley set off a mini-rush of silver and gold hunters of every age. Mining districts were organized with boundaries and laws defined. Claims were made miles north and south of the pass we now call Tioga. A few mining companies were formed, the largest being the Great Sierra Consolidated Silver Company that had a mine just north of Tioga Pass. The town of Bennettville built up around the Great Sierra's tunnel, with company buildings, private homes, mercantile stores, and a post office.

To allow effective supply of the mine and town, a road was constructed beginning in 1882 from Crocker's Station in the west to Bennettville fifty-six miles to the east. On September 4, 1883, the Great Sierra Wagon Road, as it came to be known, reached its eastern terminus at Bennettville.

The history of the Great Sierra Wagon Road is well-known and oft-repeated in books and articles on this region. But company documents and newspaper articles reveal that the Great Sierra management had much bigger plans for their wagon road than historians previously thought.

A TRANS-SIERRA HIGHWAY?

No single document reveals who blasted, shoveled, pick-axed, and leveled the soil and rocks for the Mono Pass Wagon Road, but a series of facts strung together may provide rough answers to the "who, where, when, and why" of its genesis.

In January 1883, a few officers of the Great Sierra company bought up the three most promising claims in Mono Pass - the Golden Crown and the Ella Bloss numbers 1 and 2. The new enterprise, completely separate from the Great Sierra, was called The Mount Gibbs Mining Company. The owners immediately began a more ambitious exploration and operation than had been conducted before. The men worked year-round, even through the bitter winter months at over 10,700 feet elevation.

Four months after the purchases at Mono Pass, an article appeared in the *Mariposa Gazette*. "W.C. Priest, of the Big Oak Flat and Yosemite road has been in full charge of the construction of the Great Sierra wagon road from Crocker's station (on the Big Oak Flat road) to Bennettville, Tioga District... A branch road will also be constructed to Mount Gibbs, or the head of Bloody Canyon." Following the completion of the Bennettville to Crocker's road in September of 1883, with wagons already rumbling across Tuolumne Meadows and on into Bennettville, construction on the branch road to



Susan Guhm



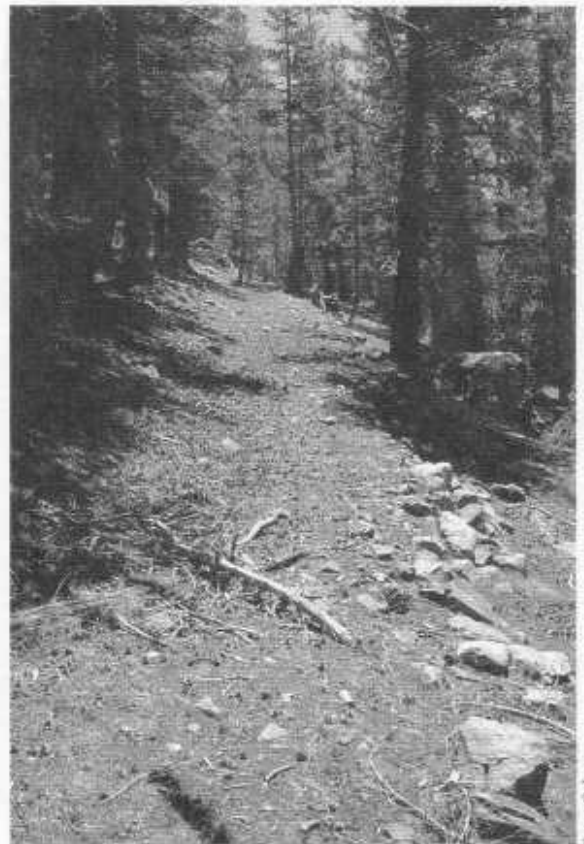
At the end of the Mono Pass Road, log cabins built for the Mount Gibbs Mining Company.



Susan Culham



Susan Culham



Susan Culham

Top left: Looking downslope, the modern trail curves left while the wagon road runs straight ahead.
Bottom Left: Builders found a natural roadway along a mountainside bench on Gibbs
Right: Just east of the Mono Pass/Parker Pass junction is a remnant of the Mono Pass Wagon Road

Mono Pass probably started in the spring of 1884.

In November 1883, a report documenting the progress of both the Great Sierra Wagon Road and the Bennettville tunnel was written by Thomas Bennett, president of the Great Sierra Company. In it he stated, "There remains only about four miles of road to be built to give all the travel from Bodie, Lundy, and Mono County a good stage road across the mountains... and that this link of four miles (ed: to Lundy) will be completed early next year."

The owners of the Bennettville tunnel apparently had visions of a trans-Sierra highway. Their Great Sierra Wagon Road would connect with the Mono Basin and points beyond, through Lundy Canyon. And, best of all, the highway would pass right through their town. Lines of wagons loaded with goods and equipment, and stage-coaches and buggies full of tourists would be pulling into Mono Pass, a respectable community of 5,000, and then into Bennettville, a town of 10,000 industrious citizens.

It was a grand idea, but it fizzled. The road from Bennettville to Lundy was begun, but never completed. In July 1884, operations at the Bennettville tunnel were suspended. With \$300,000 invested and with no profit in view, stockholders balked at contributing more money to the project. The Mount Gibbs Mining Company continued operations in Mono Pass for ten more years. Then it, too, was forced to close.

DEVELOPING THE EVIDENCE

In the summer of 1996, my husband Karl and I investigated a portion of the Mono Pass Wagon Road that runs separately from today's trail. In this section the road builders were blessed with a natural "bench" on this side of Mount Gibbs, one with a gentle uphill grade for several hundred yards. It comes immediately after the steepest portion of the entire route, when the animals and men must have been near exhaustion from the long haul.

Measuring from forty to fifty feet wide along most of its length, the bench made the perfect place for a rest stop. Few young trees stand along its length, giving the grassy stretch the look of a serene, manicured park. Some cut stumps remain in the road, low enough for a wagon to pass over.

On the uphill side of the roadway we found the remnants of decaying hand-hewn timbers, square-nails in trees and logs, a layer of ash within the campfire ring, a few soldered cans opened in a ragged fashion, and an enamelware bowl lying upside down. Most of the seam around the bottom was rusted away. Long a part of the forest floor, its basic elements were being reclaimed slowly by the earth.

Clearly, this road and rest stop had been used. As the evidence came together, a picture took shape of a roadside rest for horse and mule-drawn wagons with hitching



Susan Guhm

Another remnant of the Mono Pass Wagon Road



Susan Guhm

The modern trail to a Mono Pass cabin veers off the old wagon road

posts, a crude kitchen of sorts, a large "comfort station" complete with washbasin.

We measured, photographed, and sketched the site. Before we left, I drew on my past research on the area combined with that day's discoveries and imagined what that rest stop of the late 1880's might have been like.

A SCENE IN CAMP

There is the sound of hammering. An older man wearing baggy denim pants, a well-worn shirt, and crumpled hat is nailing a long narrow branch to the trunk of a tree. The other end of the branch has already been attached to another tree about eighteen feet away. "Okay, you can bring 'em on over. I'll make the coffee now," the old man says. One after the other, a young man releases the mules from their harnesses and brings them over to the crude hitching post. A third man is out picking up twigs and branches for the campfire and piling them up near the rock-lined campfire ring.

The wagon is left standing in the middle of the wagon road, still filled with freight. It holds burlap sacks of flour, boxes of canned beans, meat, vegetables and fruit, iron rods for the blacksmith to shape at his forge, new ledger books for the company office records, and rolls of canvas for the windward log cabin walls.

That night's designated cook stands in the "kitchen" area near a board that has been attached to two nearby trees, giving him a flat, splintery kitchen counter to work at. After heating two cans of beans over the campfire, he pours the contents into three tin pans, and tosses the empty cans on the ground.

When a dinner of beans and beef jerky is done, the young man lies back on his bedroll, propped up on an elbow, his one last cup of coffee in hand. Another man stands near the fire, gazing into the flames. The older man, puffing on his cigar, is off in the shadows in the

"comfort station," hanging onto a branch to steady himself as he squats over the shallow dug hole.

His business done, he begins washing his face and hands for the night with water in an enamel ware bowl set on a short upright log. As he turns to rejoin his companions at the campfire, he accidentally bumps the bowl. It tumbles off its perch, landing upside down on forest duff.

Next morning, the men start off on the final leg of the last wagon delivery to the Mount Gibbs Mining Company works in Mono Pass. They leave behind a few empty tin cans, the hitching posts, a still-smoking campfire, and an enamel-ware bowl.

A VANISHING ROAD

Probably less than half of today's trail follows the old Mono Pass roadway. The route is slowly being obliterated, consumed by natural processes - down slope movement of soil and rock, the slow annual turnover of soil by pocket gophers, frost heaving, and tree roots.

Long ago, people of a different world pinned their dreams of fortune on these abandoned claims and this long-forgotten, vanishing road.

For fourteen years, Susan Guhm and her husband Karl have been searching the area north and south of the Tioga Road for evidence of historical activity from the 1870s through the early 1900s. In summer, they explore and photograph the area and record data; in winter, Susan does archival and internet research to identify those who worked the mines and built the cabins.

UPDATE: DRAFT VALLEY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

In early November, the National Park Service released the *Draft Yosemite Valley Implementation Plan (VIP)* for public review and comment. This is the primary planning document for carrying out the provisions of Yosemite's 1980 *General Management Plan (GMP)*.

A series of open houses and workshops have been taking place throughout the state during November, December, and January. These were designed both to provide the public with the details of the various alternatives proposed in the plan and to give the NPS staff a chance to hear the concerns of the public.

THE PROCESS FOR ADOPTION

The public comment period ended on February 23, 1998. At the close of the public comment period, the National Park Service (NPS) staff will read, summarize and analyze all comments. The draft plan will then be reassessed and revised to produce the final plan. The park Superintendent will then recommend the plan to the NPS Pacific West Regional Director, and he will approve the final version of the *Yosemite Valley Implementation Plan*. If there is no appeal during the following 30 day review period, the plan will be final. With the current timeline, a plan could be approved and in place as early as summer 1998.

What follows is a brief summary of the Draft VIP as taken from an NPS document entitled "An Overview of

the Draft Yosemite Valley Implementation Plan." Alternative 2 is the one favored by the NPS and is designated as the "Proposed Action." It could be adopted in its entirety, or it could be modified by exchanging parts of it for parts on any of the other plans. It could also be rejected.

THE FOUR ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1: The "No Action" Alternative

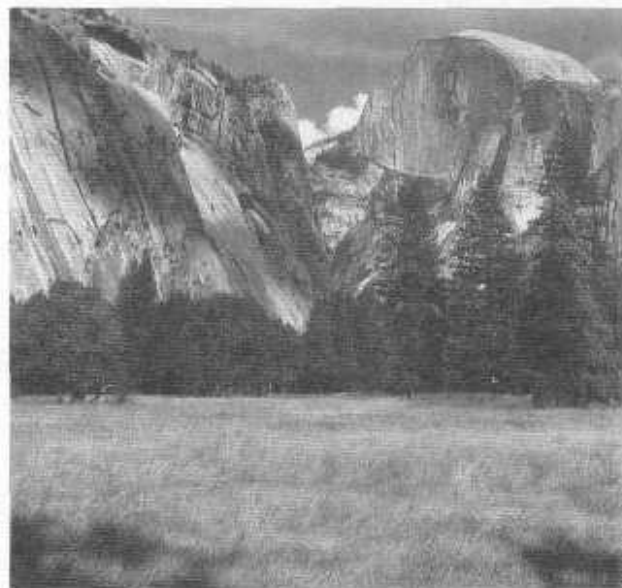
* Under this alternative, no action would be taken to change the approach to the various issues in Yosemite Valley. Projects would be undertaken as they have previously been, area by area without a unifying concept. A few of the elements from the other alternatives might still be implemented, but the changes would not be coordinated into comprehensive plan.

Alternatives 2, 3, 4 (the "Action" Alternatives) have these common features:

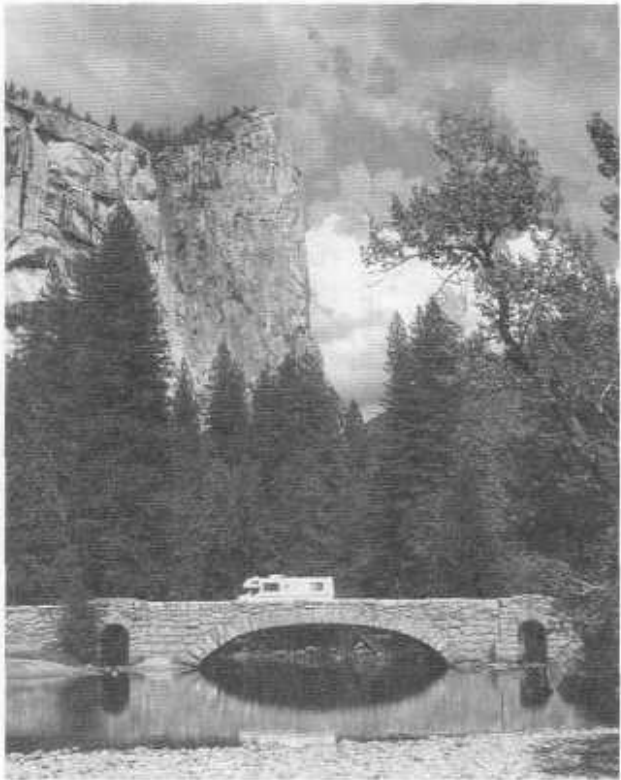
- * Reclaimed land would be restored to a natural state, although the amount of acreage would differ with each alternative.
- * Visitors would use a shuttle system to travel within the Valley.
- * Overnight visitors would park their vehicles for the duration of their stay in the Valley.
- * The Village store would be redesigned to serve as a visi-



Ahwahnee meadow as it looks today.



Computerized vision of how meadow might appear without roadway.



Today Stoneman Bridge spans the Merced River.



Computer generated image of the river without the bridge.

tor center and provide a hub for the shuttle system.

- * Visitor amenities, museums and amphitheaters would be relocated near the redesigned Village store. A grocery store would be located at Curry Village.
- * Many facilities would be relocated. Park headquarters would be moved out of Yosemite Valley and the existing building converted into a natural history museum. Other NPS facilities, the headquarters for the concessionaire, and some employee housing units would be moved outside the Valley. Houses along Ahwahnee Meadow would be removed.
- * Traffic patterns would be improved, although there would be variations with each alternative.
- * A day-use vehicle reservation system would be implemented to alleviate congestion. The reservation system is being developed separately from the Draft VIP.

Alternative 2: The Proposed Action

- * An orientation/transfer facility would be constructed near Taft Toe at the Valley's west end. An interim parking facility would also be created. This parking arrangement would be removed as a regional transportation system is developed.
- * Approximately 147 acres would be restored to natural conditions, 82 acres redesigned and 59 acres developed in the east end of Yosemite Valley.
- * Day-use parking areas in the east end of the Valley would be removed.

- * Miles of biking and hiking trails would be created.
- * Sections of roads through Stoneman, Ahwahnee, and Cook's meadows would be removed and the meadows restored.
- * Three bridges on the Merced River would be removed in order to restore natural flow.
- * Lower and Upper River Campgrounds would be relocated to other areas of the Valley.

Alternative 3

- * An orientation/transfer facility and parking structure would be located near Pohono Quarry. The creation of the parking structure would again be dependent on the status of the regional transportation system. If built, the permanent structure would be visible from major viewing points above the Valley and would be more expensive than the parking area at Taft Toe.
- * Approximately 143 acres would be restored to their natural condition, 93 acres redesigned and 57 acres developed in the east end of the Valley.
- * Day-use parking in the east end of the Valley would be removed.
- * Sections of roads through Stoneman and Ahwahnee meadows would be removed.
- * Two bridges would be removed to restore the natural flow of the Merced River.
- * Lower and Upper River Campgrounds would be relocated to other areas of the Valley.



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Alternative 4

- * Roads and day-use parking would be retained and consolidated, with a minor expansion to accommodate day-use vehicles which must be parked for the duration of the visitor's stay.
- * Three bridges would be modified to restore the natural flow of the Merced River.
- * Approximately 118 acres would be restored to natural conditions, 95 acres redesigned and 36 acres developed in the east end of the Valley.

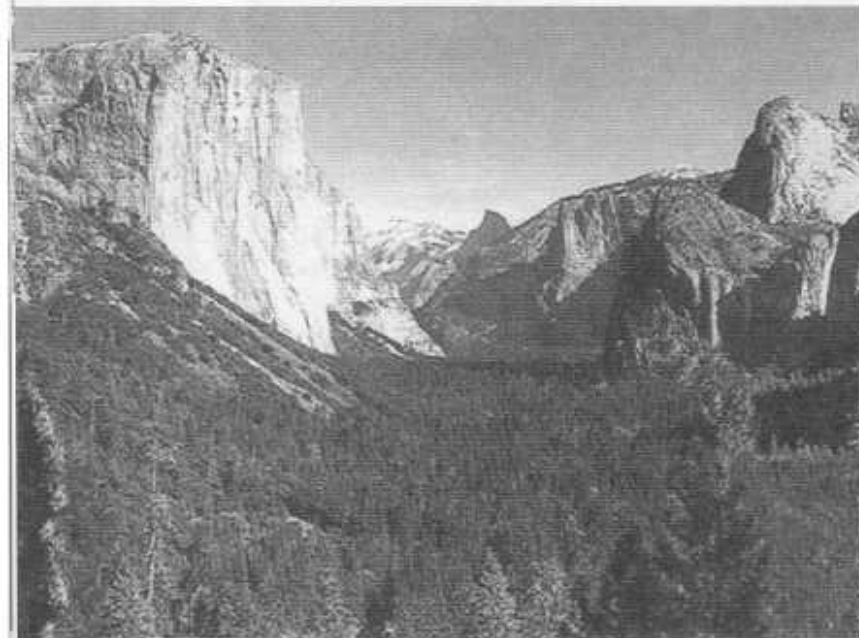
FUNDING IS ALREADY APPROVED

After the flood of January 1997, the severity of damage and the loss of park infrastructure prompted Congress to approve funding for flood recovery and removal of structures from the existing floodplain. Because \$178 million has been appropriated for that flood recovery, Yosemite is in the unique position of having funding already available even though the final form of the VIP has not yet been determined. Approximately \$108 million will be spent on actions that combine flood recovery and implement the 1980 *General Management Plan (GMP)*. Both the *GMP* and the *Draft VIP* call for the removal of structures and facilities from the floodplain.

The address for comments or inquiries is:

Superintendent — Attn: VIP Planning
 Yosemite National Park
 PO Box 577
 Yosemite, CA 95389

Editor's note: The YA Board of Trustees intends to submit comments on the Draft VIP. Its comments will be printed in a future issue of the journal.



NPS photo

Present outlook from Tunnel View.



NPS photo

Computer image of how the parking garage from Alternative #3 might alter the view.

THE YOSEMITE FIELD SCHOOL LIVES ON



In the summer of 1930, a young Carl Sharsmith had his eyes opened to the richness of Yosemite under the tutelage of some of the great field naturalists of his time. As a student at the Yosemite School of Field Natural History (better known as the Yosemite Field School), Carl spent June through August immersing himself in studies of the flora, fauna,

and geology of the park. In his class were seventeen other young college graduates from all over the country with similar interests and passions. One of them, a young botanist from Susanville named Helen Meyers, would later become his wife. The next summer Carl was offered a job as a park naturalist — thus beginning his very long career as a National Park Service naturalist. Carl died at 91 after finishing out the 1994 summer season as a naturalist in Tuolumne Meadows.

Carl Sharsmith is a good example of the well-trained naturalist that Dr. Harold Bryant envisioned when he established the field school on 1925. A former professor at UC Berkeley, Bryant had taken on the job of head of research and education for the California Department of Fish and Game and was later Assistant Director of the National Park Service. He realized that new agencies such as Fish and Game, the US Forest Service, and the National Park Service were all in desperate need of naturalists with field experience.

The school was based in the Yosemite Museum (next to the present Yosemite Valley Visitor Center), and students had access to lab equipment and the herbarium. A single day might involve sessions on botany, fish, amphibians, reptiles, and birds. Many of the classes were taught outdoors where students could have hands-on experiences with the natural world. Field studies were conducted everywhere — from the lower Merced River canyon in El Portal to the top of Mt. Lyell, the park's highest peak. Over the years, Bryant's teaching staff included such notable naturalists as paleontologist Ralph Chaney, legendary entomologist E. O. Essig, Yosemite's first woman naturalist Enid Michaels, geologist and historian Carl Russell, and mycologist Elizabeth Morse. Bert Harwell, another well known name, headed up the Field

School in the '30s, while Joe Dixon was Assistant Director. Before long, graduates of the field school, such as Carl Sharsmith, were serving as instructors.

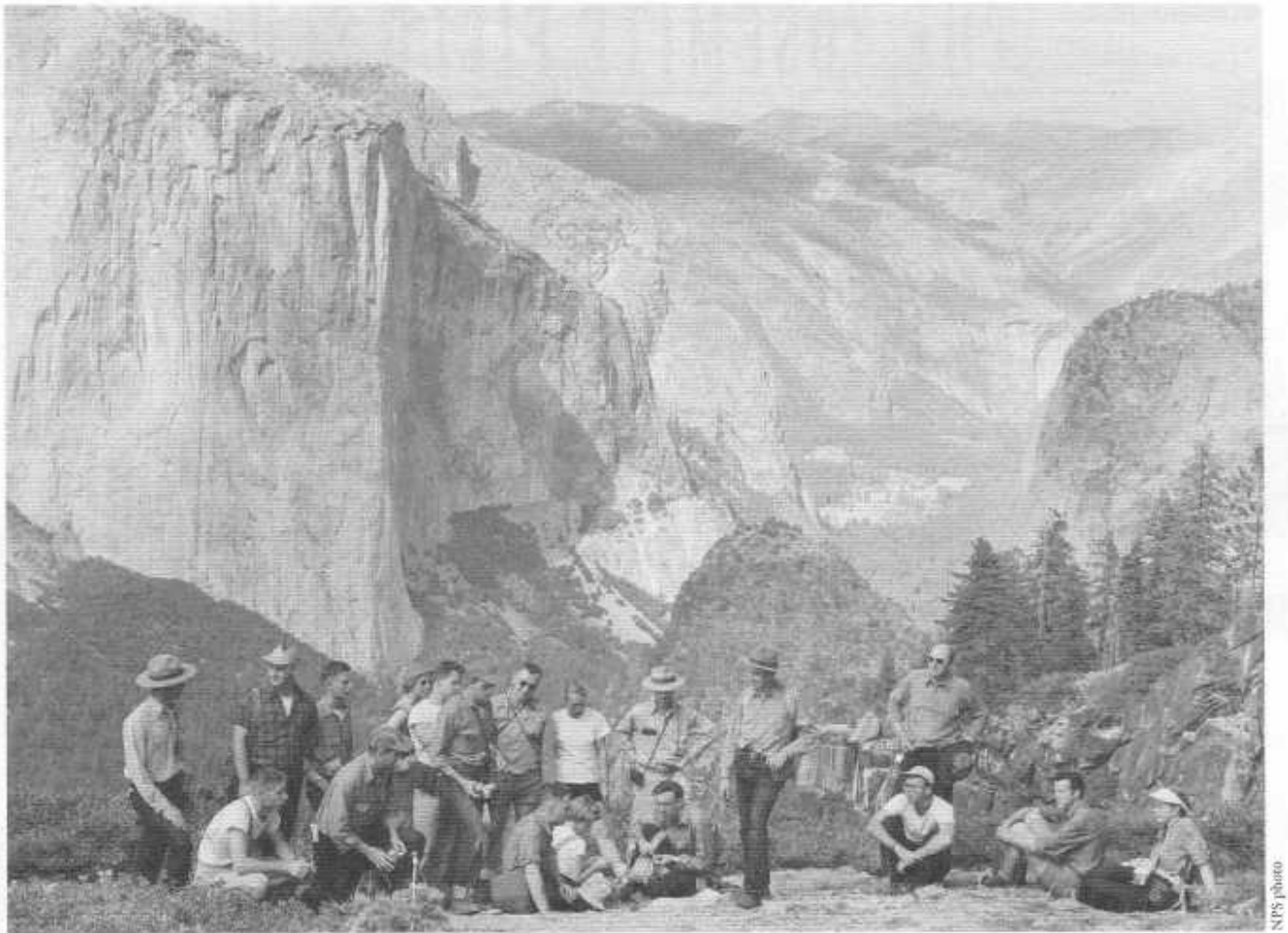
Days in the field were long, with hikes sometimes exceeding 20 miles. Students were expected to focus their studies on an area of special interest. One student identified many species of the park's water fleas (*Cladocerans*), while another surveyed the park's grasses. By the end of the summer, each participant would write a paper about their area of expertise. Over the years, these reports greatly added to the general knowledge of the park. Many of them were published as articles in *Nature Notes*, the early journal of the Yosemite Natural History Association. In later years, students were also required to give naturalist programs, including campfire talks, during the last week of the course.

A summer spent in the field was filled with fun as well as work for the young men and women who studied at the school. In each group, lots of nicknames and jokes developed, along with a strong sense of camaraderie. The yearbooks of each class are treasure troves of silly stories, astute natural history observations, and charming anecdotes about fellow classmates and famous instructors. The photos and drawings that illustrate these scrapbooks portray a different era when Yosemite had fewer visitors and those who came had more time to spend in the park. It was a time of innocence and corny poetry and riddles:



Naturalist Carl Sharsmith was a graduate of and later a teacher at the Yosemite Field School.

NPS photo



1952 Field School class at Stanford Point, overlooking Yosemite Valley.

What did El Portal? She's telling what Merced.

What made Nevada Fall? She fell down glacial steps.

When is granite gniess? When it is squeezed.

During World War II, classes were suspended. In 1948, the Field School resumed, but without many of its guiding forces, Bryant, Harwell, and Dixon had all left. The climate too had changed. Whereas previously hundreds had applied for the twenty places each summer, now only a handful applied. Naturalists were finding fulltime jobs and seemed to have less time for a summer in the field. The 1953 class of fifteen turned out to be the last for the school. A Yosemite tradition had died, but the Field School left a rich legacy. Many of its graduates went on to prestigious careers in education, the sciences, and governmental service.

All was not lost, however. Continuing interest in learning about the park and its natural and human history led to the establishment of another field school, the Yosemite Field Seminars sponsored by the Yosemite Natural History Association (now the Yosemite Association). Unlike the previous field school which was designed to

train naturalists, this school was and is open to the general public. In its first year, 1972, the program offered eight classes on topics such as alpine botany, glaciers, and wildflower photography. The price for a two day workshop was \$20. The staff included park naturalists Carl Sharsmith, Bob Fry, and Will Neely, as well as photographer Dana Morgenson. By 1975, the number of classes had expanded to seventeen seminars and included birding and wilderness management. In the early eighties, painting classes and winter ecology outings were being offered. Instructors, who were experts in their field, came from all over California and the west to teach weekend and week-long seminars.

In 1998, the twenty sixth year of the Yosemite Association (YA) seminar program, the course catalog offers over sixty classes in natural history, pioneer history, California Native American studies, photography, drawing and painting, nature and journal writing, and poetry. In addition, there are outings involving day hikes, backpacking (at all levels), and excursions for families. Even though classes are small (usually fifteen people or less), approximately a thousand students participate each summer. Though the old naturalist Field School is a thing of



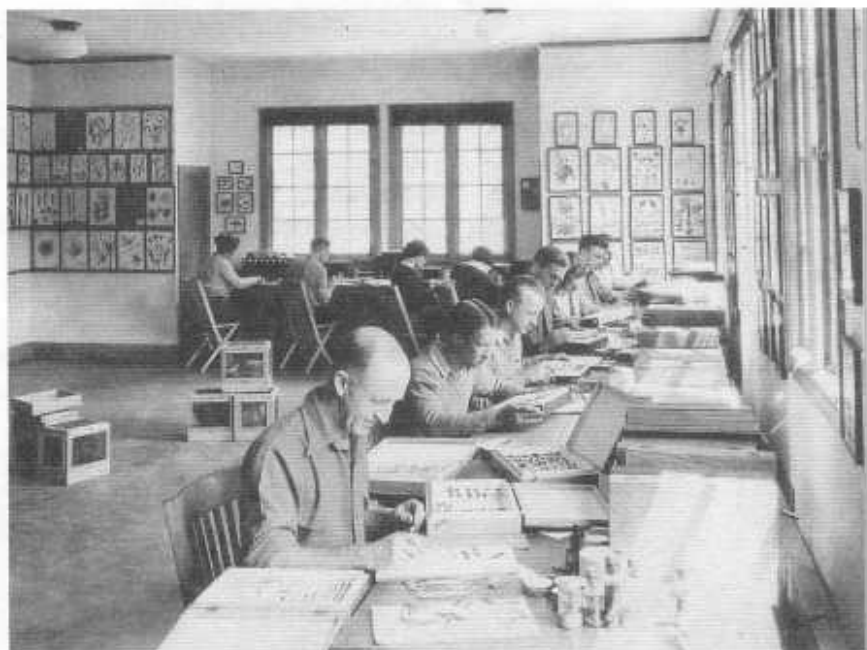
NPS photo

Yosemite Field School class of 1952 taking a break around the fire.

the past, YA's Field Seminar program carries on the fine tradition of people studying in the world's greatest classroom — Yosemite!

Michael Ross has been teaching Yosemite Association classes since 1977 and plans to continue for at least another twenty years. Some of his popular classes include "Mountain Wildflowers for the Relaxed Botanist," "Life at the Top — Alpine Ecology," and "Birds of Yosemite Valley."

Editor's note: There is an active and loyal Yosemite Field School Alumni group with fifty members from the original graduates. A potluck reunion is held once a year in Berkeley with usually six to ten West Coast alumni attending. In the 1970s, some of the original alumni along with a few additional people resumed field work begun by the school during the 1930s. These people continue to monitor ten undisturbed 100' x100' plots, primarily in the White Wolf area, as ecological research sites. They visit the plots yearly, record botanical changes, and accumulate the data.



NPS photo

Students from the class of 1931 hard at work in the lab.

Seminars At The Park



Ted Threlk

Here's a quick look at some spring outings offered in Yosemite:

March 28-29

Mike Ross

\$130

Members: \$121

Spring Foothill Wildflower Walks

Walk in fields of flowers in the Merced River Canyon on this two-day botany seminar.

April 25

Stan Hutchinson

\$85

Members: \$79

Yosemite Valley History Walk

Stroll through Yosemite Valley while hearing about how early residents & visitors thrived.

April 25-26

Mike Ross

\$130

Members: \$121

The Incomparable Valley in Spring

Hikes of a moderately-difficult nature will be taken to learn about the ecology of Yosemite Valley.

May 8-10

Dave Wyman

\$195

East Bike & Photo Workshop

Bike on established trails and roads in Yosemite Valley while learning to photograph awesome spring beauty. Brunch included.

May 14 - 17

Jeanne Lamosse

\$185

Members: \$172

Outdoor Painting in Yosemite Valley

Paint plein air in lush spring growth with abundant water and granite masses in the background with an experienced teacher.

May 23-24

Mike Ross

\$130

Members: \$121

Birds of Yosemite Valley

Observe the greatest bird migration to Yosemite's mid-elevation on this birding weekend and learn to perfect techniques for identification, recognition of bird calls and nesting behavior.

May 23 - 25

Suzanne Swedo

\$165

Members: \$153

Botany Basics in Yosemite Valley

Spring will delight you while you learn the basic elements of flora through the use of keys, about pollination, and how plants are affected by geology and climate.



Penny Otwell

May 29 - 31

Sue Branch &

Noreen McClintock

\$170

Members: \$159

Wawona Wildflowers, Waterfalls & Giant Sequoias

Spend three days in Wawona on hikes (one is strenuous) to observe wildflowers, birds, geology, and a giant sequoia grove with local ranger-naturalists.

Spring Forum Set for March 28

The YA Spring Forum is scheduled for Saturday, March 28, 1998 in Yosemite Valley. This special member event will feature a series of educational slide shows, talks, and walks on a variety of topics related to Yosemite and the surrounding area.

The day begins at approximately 8:30 a.m. with the first of the auditorium programs and outdoor walks. There will be sessions throughout the day with a break for lunch on your own. Members can choose from a variety of programs in the auditoriums or take a guided walk (weather permitting). At 5:00 p.m. we will have a chance to socialize during the wine and cheese hour.

Among this year's speakers is Patricia Winters, from the California Bat Conservation Fund, who will treat members to a presentation centered around live bats indigenous to California. NPS historian Jim Snyder will show slides and talk about both the Happy Isles rockslide and last year's flood. Some of the walks will feature topics as varied as the Valley Implementation Plan, restoration, photography, and Native Americans. Many other programs are planned focusing on the park's wildlife, archaeology, geology, and much more.

Members have already received details about the Spring Forum by mail, and should sign up by returning the registration form along with \$25 (non-refundable) per person. Attendance is limited to the first 500 registrants. A confirmation, finalized agenda, name tags, and infor-

mation about participating in the day's programs will be mailed to those who register.

If you have any questions, please call Holly or Connie at (209) 379-2317.

Margolin and Orr Are Elected to YA Board

Winners of the recent election for the Board of Trustees for the Yosemite Association were Kathleen Orr and Malcolm Margolin. Incumbent Kathleen Orr was re-elected to a second six-year term. A longtime YA member, Kathie has volunteered for both YA and the National Park Service, providing park information to thousands of visitors for the past eleven summers. Camping in the valley each summer for four months has given her a unique opportunity to get to know the park intimately, as well as serve in a variety of ways at the YA booth, the Visitor Center, the Public Information Office, the Museum Gallery, the Indian Museum, and the Happy Isles Nature Center.

Kathie lives in Walnut Creek during the rest of the year and enjoys walking, gardening, reading, and baby-sitting her grandchildren. We look forward to having Kathie return as a YA Board member for another term.

There were two highly qualified candidates competing for the other opening on the Board, Malcolm Margolin, publisher of Heyday Press and Orage Quarles III, publisher of the Modesto Bee. Malcolm Margolin was the winner, and he brings

to the Board a background of many years of involvement in conservation and environmental education. In addition to having worked for non-profits and other boards, he also founded the Native California Network, a foundation dedicated to California Indian cultural preservation. Malcolm has written extensively on California natural history, California history, and California Indian life. Some of those books are: *The Earth Manual*, *The Ohlone Way*, and *The Way We Lived*.

Malcolm has been visiting Yosemite for thirty years, ever since he and his wife moved to California. He looks forward to serving on the YA Board as a way of balancing all the park has given to him. He feels his most valuable asset will be his publishing background. In 1974, Malcolm founded Heyday Books which publishes about a dozen titles a year. YA looks forward to Malcolm's valuable input and expertise in this and other areas on the Board.

We regret that we did not have board openings in order to use the talents of all three people running. Numerous members noted on their ballots, "They all sound great!" or a similar sentiment. We wish Orage Quarles III well, appreciate his interest in our organization, and hope that we can involve him at some future date.

Association Dates

March 28, 1998: Spring Forum, Yosemite Valley

June 14-20, 1998: Work Trip, Yosemite Valley

July 5-11, 1998: Work Trip, Wawona

July 26-August 1, 1998: Backcountry Work Trip, Yosemite Creek

August 16-22, 1998: Work Trip, Tuolumne Meadows

Museum Gallery Exhibits

February 27-May 10, 1998: Yosemite Renaissance XIII

June 8-December 21, 1998: Yosemite Landscape Paintings

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.

1998 Summer Work Trips Scheduled

How about developing strong muscles while working for a good cause? Come for a week's work trip in Yosemite and have a chance to dig and move soil, salvage and replant vegetation, or collect seed material. Some lucky folks may even get to carry containers of water by hand for long distances to fledgling plants!

There will be four work trips in Yosemite during the summer of 1998:

June 14-20: Needed: hale and hearty "Weed Warriors" who will attack "exotic" and invasive plant material (star and bull thistle are prime targets) in along the Highway 140 corridor from El Portal to Yosemite Valley. The group will camp together in Yosemite Valley.

July 5-11: This group will work on revegetation projects in the Mariposa Grove and near Chilnualna Falls in the southern part of Yosemite. Camping will be in a group site in Wawona.

July 26-August 1: Backcountry work trip in the Yosemite Falls area. The group will backpack 5-6 miles to a base camp located 2-3 miles north of the top of Yosemite Falls. They will work on the trail from the camp area to the top of the falls.

August 16-22: This group will work at various sites (possibly May Lake and/or Bud Lake) in the Tuolumne Meadows area at "day hike" distance (1 - 3 miles one way). The group will camp together at a group site in Tuolumne Meadows.

These trips are a cooperative venture of the National Park Service (which plans and oversees projects), the Yosemite Institute (which provides staff and culinary services), the Yosemite Concession Services (which contributes funding) and the Yosemite Association (which supplies members for the crews). The projects vary but often involve restoring damaged trails and campsites and returning impacted areas to more natural conditions.

The format of each trip is much the same. People arrive at an assigned campground (shared campsites) on Sunday afternoon. They work with National Park Service (NPS) project leaders on



Russ Merimato

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. Wednesday is a day off, but often the group plans a hike together somewhere in the park. Meals are supplied, but volunteers provide their own camping equipment.

For an application and/or more information, call Connie or Holly at 209/379-2646.

Campground Reservation System Changes

A new reservation system for Yosemite campgrounds will be in place by March 15, 1998. Destinet Service Corporation, which had been handling reservations for campgrounds nationwide, lost its contract with the National Park Service in October amid allegations that the company owed the government \$600,000. Since October, Yosemite campground sites have been available on a first-come, first-served basis. The plan is for that arrangement to continue until March 15. Beginning on that date (and on the 15th of each month), visitors will be able to make Yosemite campground reservations up to three months in advance.

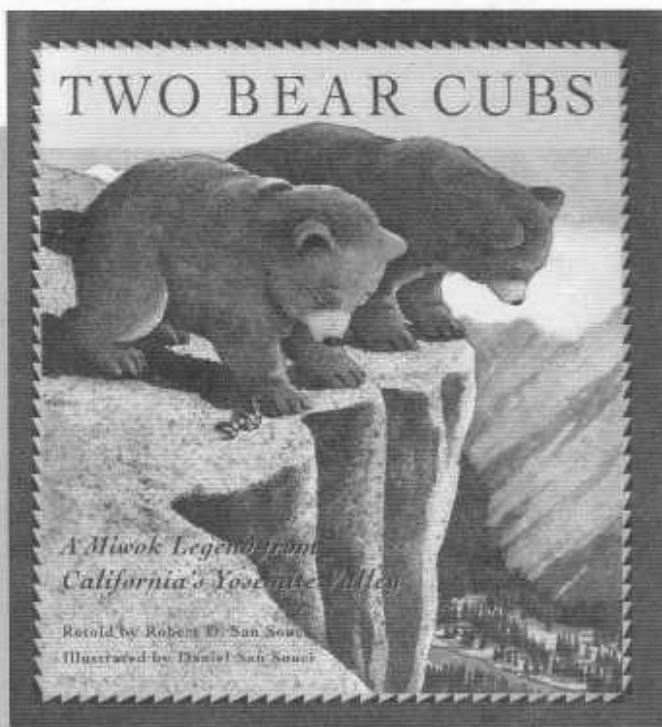
A new reservation company has been named: Biospherics Inc. of Maryland. The details of the new reservation system are being worked out. On March 15 when the new system goes into effect, campground reservations can be made by calling: 800/436-PARK.

Wanted: Summer Volunteers for 1998

Does spending a month in Yosemite Valley or Tuolumne Meadows sound good to you? YA has volunteer places to fill from May through September. The tasks are varied and involve public contact, and the work schedule is reasonable. Volunteers usually work four or five days a week which gives them lots of time off to hike and explore the park. They share several campsites in either the Valley or Tuolumne.

If you'd like more information and/or an application, please call (209) 379-2317.





Two Bear Cubs: A Miwok Legend from California's Yosemite Valley

retold by Robert D. San Souci, illustrated by Daniel San Souci.
This is 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 nowhere to be found.

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.

Robert D. San Souci is the author of more than sixty children's books, and his brother, Daniel, is the award-winning artist of nearly forty children's books. They have received many awards including two Caldecott Honors, three Coretta Scott King Honors, The Commonwealth Club of California Silver Medal, and awards from the library associations of eight states.

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

Mountaineering in the Sierra Nevada

by Clarence King, with a biographical essay by Edgar Beecher Bronson.

The classic work by famed geologist and adventurer, Clarence King, has recently been reprinted by the Yosemite Association. The author's accounts of his experiences in California and the Sierra Nevada during the 1860s are by turns exhilarating, insightful, and bombastic. The glimpses of frontier life that the volume affords moved Henry Seidel Canby to call it "one of the obligatory books for readers who would know their country."

King was hired to be part of the California Geological Survey party that was responsible for exploring the Sierra Nevada, developing maps, and making general surveys of the area. In undertaking its work, the group climbed many peaks for the first time, entered previously unrecorded locations, and named many of the geographic features of the mountains they visited. King and his compatriots assigned the name of the survey's director, Josiah D. Whitney, to the tallest peak in the Sierra Nevada.

The anecdotal narrative includes stories on a harrowing ascent of Mount Tyndall, the survey's visit to Yosemite Valley and the responses it evoked, colorful hotelkeepers and their mysterious guests, unsophisticated homesteaders from Arkansas and Missouri, and the nerve-wracking flight on horseback to evade highwaymen. But King's vivid and unnerving descriptions of various difficult attempts to scale Sierran peaks are the heart of the book. In recognizing this fact, Franklin Walker called *Mountaineering* "probably the most exciting book ever written about mountain climbing."

290 pages, Yosemite Association, 1997. Paperback, \$9.95



Companion to
the PBS Special
The Gold Rush
Narrated by
John Lithgow

GOLD RUSH

A Literary
Exploration

Walt Whitman
Edgar Allan Poe
James F. Robinson
J. D. Hartwick
Blair Underhill
Richard Henry Dana, Jr.
Anna Seward
Hess Verbeke
Robert Frost
Ben Kane
Joseph Miller
Candace Miller
John Muir
Frank Stockton
Cassidy Price Smith
Mark Twain
William T. Sherman
Howe Wicks
Carmel Smith
Samuel Taylor
John Deuel Thomas
Mark Twain
Michael S. Kelly

Edited by Michael Kowalewski

Gold Rush - A Literary Exploration

edited by Michael Kowalewski.

This collection of more than one hundred different excerpts from the literature of the California gold rush was prepared as part of the California Sesquicentennial Celebration. It is also a companion book to the PBS television special, "The Gold Rush," narrated by John Lithgow.

It features the writings of a wide range of authors, from early to contemporary, including Mary Austin, Richard Henry Dana, Robert Frost, Bret Harte, Joaquin Miller, John Muir, Frank Norris, Gary Snyder, Henry David Thoreau, Mark Twain, and many, many others. These multiple voices evoke the greed, excitement, courage, curiosity, and despair that characterized the gold rush period.

This anthology makes clear that the gold rush was indeed a stimulus to much fine writing. The material here is boisterous, diverse, and thought-provoking, and brings fresh life to this legendary era.

477 pages, Heyday Books, 1997. Paperback, \$18.48

Bret Harte's Gold Rush

introduced by Reuben H. Margolin.

This volume collects fifteen stories by Bret Harte from the California gold rush. His colorful characters, from rough-clad miners to gun-carrying preachers to strong-willed women, populate Harte's authentic depictions of the generally lawless life in the gold camps and fields.

Harte is a master storyteller, and the collection includes some of his best work. Stories like "Outcasts of Poker Flat," "The Luck of Roaring Camp," and "Tennessee's Partner" are still as entertaining as ever. In fact, it was some of this writing that helped shape the world's perception of the old west. With the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the discovery of gold in California, this is a timely new publication.

178 pages, Heyday Books, 1997. Paperback, \$10.95

BRET HARTE'S GOLD RUSH



"OUTCASTS OF POKER FLAT,"
"THE LUCK OF ROARING CAMP,"
"TENNESSEE'S PARTNER"
AND OTHER FAVORITES

Introduction by Reuben H. Margolin



Nine for California

by Sonia Levitin, illustrated by Cat Bowman Smith.

Here is a charming children's illustrated picture book that tells the story of a family's trip by stagecoach from Missouri to California in the 1850s. Amanda, her mother, and her brothers and sisters join the banker, the teacher, and a cowboy for the twenty-one-day adventure to join her father in the gold fields.

Based upon actual incidents recorded in letters and diaries of real travelers, the narrative details one incident after another that turned the trip into an exciting and eventful experience. Whether it's Indians, outlaws, or stampeding buffalo, there's rarely a dull moment for these intrepid travelers. The book is nicely illustrated with paintings true to life and full of detail.

30 pages, Orchard Books, 1996. Hard cover, \$15.95

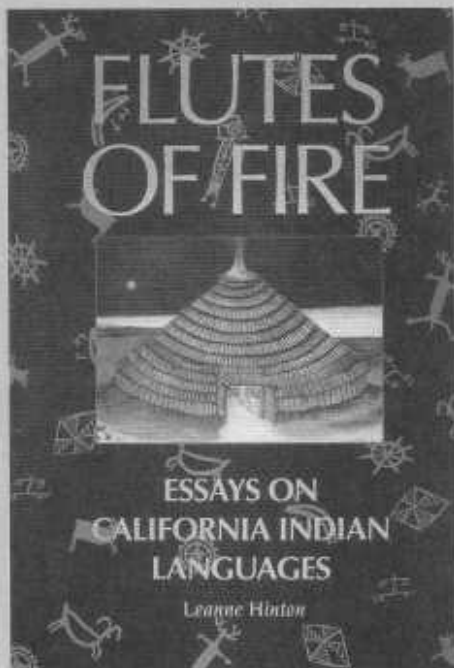
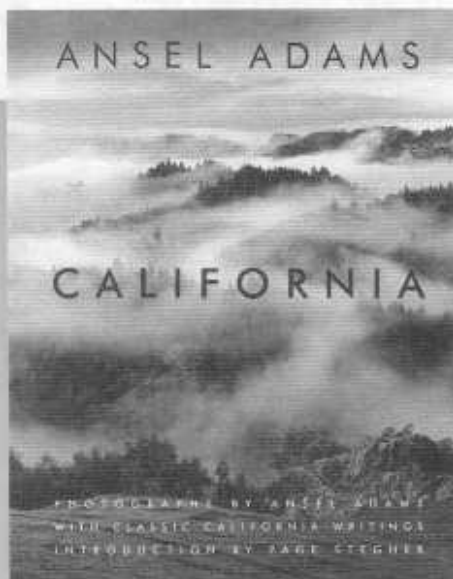
Ansel Adams California

*photographs by Ansel Adams with classic California writings,
introduction by Page Stegner.*

A celebration of California by its most renowned photographer, this handsome volume features many rarely seen images and an intriguing selection of writings about the state by classic and modern writers. Adams photographed California between the 1920s and the 1980s, and here are reproduced sixty-five of his finest black and white works.

Representative images portray San Francisco, the Golden Gate, Point Reyes, redwood forests, Mount Lassen, Lake Tahoe, the gold country, and many other locales. They are paired with evocative poems, essays, and passages about California by a wide range of notable writers, including Robert Louis Stevenson, Robinson Jeffers, John Steinbeck, John McPhee, Wallace Stegner, and Joan Didion. The result is a luminous study full of wondrous landscapes, architectural impressions, and revealing portraits.

112 pages, Little, Brown and Company, 1997. Hard cover, \$50.00



Flutes of Fire—Essays on California Indian Languages

by Leanne Hinton.

Before outsiders arrived, about one hundred distinct Indian languages were spoken in California, many of them still spoken today. Each of these languages represents a unique way of understanding the world and expressing that understanding. This book captures the range, beauty, and delight of this heritage.

The essays touch on such subjects as languages in which men and women have markedly different ways of speaking, the amazing variety of counting systems, even within one language, and the ways in which languages are being kept alive today. A professor of linguistics at U.C. Berkeley, the author has written an authoritative and significant work on California native languages.

270 pages, Heyday Books, 1994. Paperback, \$18.00

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 Navy Blue, forest green or black by Pajaro. (please specify color)

\$29.95

Pajaro Field Bag





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, or maroon.
\$3.00 (please specify color)



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

Yosemite Association Mug

This distinctive and functional heavy ceramic mug feels good with your hand wrapped around it. Available in two colors (green or 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)



Sierra Nevada Field Card Set

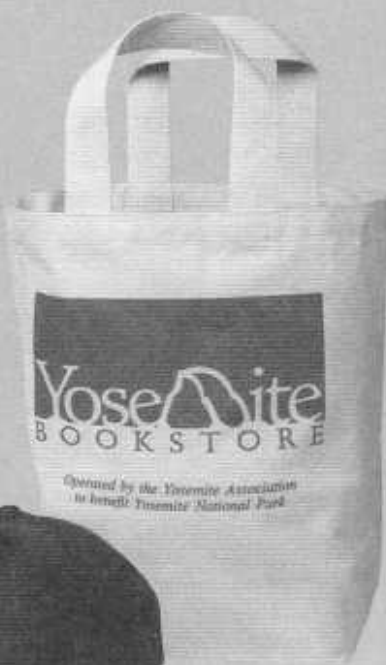
Illustrated by Elizabeth Morales

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



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



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 or maroon. The cap is stylish and comfortable, and wearing it is a good way to demonstrate your support for Yosemite. \$9.95 (please specify color)



Order Form

Credit card orders call: (209) 379-2648 Monday-Friday, 8:30am-4:30pm
We Accept VISA, Mastercard, American Express, and Discover

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Less 15% Member's Discount:

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7.25% Sales Tax (CA customers only):

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\$4.95

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Yosemite Association, P.O. Box 230, El Portal, CA 95318

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

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