

## YOSEMITE BEAR PATROL...

### FARLEY



# YOSEMITE BEAR PATROL... ON THE TRAIL OF URSUS AMERICANUS

BY PHIL FRANK  
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It's early June and I'm one of thousands of visitors staring in awe at the natural wonders of Yosemite Valley. I'm here, however, to do research for a book about bears. An opportunity to go out on bear patrol with Park Service wildlife technician Kate McCurdy has been extended. My curiosity about black bears makes it an opportunity not to be missed.

The staff is meeting at the wildlife office, a small, shingled bungalow that is tucked back against the valley wall behind the maintenance yard. It looks like a hundred other Yosemite cabins except that this one has five steel bear traps on wheels parked in front of it.

Inside, Kate is briefing Tory and Matt, her assistants—college wildlife management students out of Arizona on summer assignment. Introductions are made all around.

Kate briefs her staff about recent bear sightings and incidents. Since March 22nd there have been 127 reported automobile break-ins by valley bears\*. Some of the culprits were known "nuisance" bears. Others were new to the valley and to the team—untagged and unstudied. The

\* October 3 update: 1009 vehicle break-ins, combined with other bear incidents = \$587,277 in damages. 3 bears have been killed.



number of break-ins in search of food is down noticeably in the last week, thanks to the sprouting of valley grasses, a natural food source for the bears, and a massive bear information campaign in Yosemite—an effort that actually seems to be working, for the moment. The news that park visitors can now be ticketed for leaving food or other bear attractants in their cars seems to be helping a situation that inevitably pits people against bears.

The plan is to conduct an evening patrol through the Curry Village tent cabins, scene of numerous recent trashings by black bears. Each of the tents involved was occupied and contained food. The experience had put the fear of the Lord into the campers and had encouraged a sudden increase in the use of the bear-proof food storage containers. In spite of this, the bears were still coming back, looking for an easy meal. They had to be discouraged. If they refused to be discouraged, they'd be darted with a tranquilizer and removed to another part of the park. If they returned and continued to interact aggressively with humans, they'd be killed. As Kate explained it: "It's very easy to train a bear. It's very difficult to untrain a bear."

Kate announces a seven p.m. rendezvous at the Curry Village community of 350 tent cabins. She would be bringing along Logan, her Karelian bear dog.

The crew meets as scheduled and fans out. Logan is popular with the campers and earns numerous pets as campers relate their recent bear sightings. In twenty minutes Kate's radio crackles to life. Matt and Tory have encountered a yearling that had been reported earlier rummaging for food. The cub is a repeat offender and Kate is determined to teach it a not-so-pleasant lesson about getting too close to people. Matt reports the bear is moving westerly in the tree and boulder landscape above the tent city—in our direction. We move up into the terrain. Bill Campbell, a *Time* magazine photographer who is, like me, tagging along tonight, spots the bear twenty yards away. Logan picks up the bear's scent and spots it. He tenses and tugs at the leash. Kate unhooks him. The bear takes off with Logan close behind, barking and nipping at its heels. Within seconds the young bear is thirty feet up a fir tree, staring down at a frantic Logan. The dog's yelps echo through the campground. Catching the excited, tree-circling dog is a three-person job. Once that is accomplished we all move closer to the tent area and settle in to wait for the chastised bear to descend. If it

The "Farley cartoon" on the cover and others throughout the article are reprinted by permission of Phil Frank/ San Francisco Chronicle.



heads up into the boulder field and its natural habitat, it will be left alone. If it makes one move toward the tents, Logan will be released again.

As we wait, curious campers gather to watch the proceedings. An eleven-year-old camper from Bakersfield, Cameron Bayne, who watched the treeing wants to know why I am writing notes by flashlight. Informed that I am working on a story for a newspaper, he insists upon being interviewed. According to Cameron, this is the first bear he has ever seen and he feels that the bear had to be taught a lesson and that Logan did a good job. "I think the people have to be taught a lesson, too," says Cameron. "They need to put their food away. It's not just the bear's fault." He watches closely what I am writing and wants it read back to make sure I am quoting him correctly.

Tory sits on a log holding a fresh loaf of bread that one camper casually left on their cabin steps. A week earlier, Kate, on patrol, drove into a campground parking area to find a large bear sitting in the parking lot with a bottle of molasses tipped back, drinking the contents.

After fifteen minutes, as dusk settles, the scratching of the descending bear's claws on the tree trunk can be heard. Logan tenses, whining and tugging at the leash. A brown blur heading away from the tent camp is all we see of the retreating bear. We head out in separate trucks to begin cruises of the various campground parking lots. Kate and I spot piles of shattered glass from recent window breakings and an occasional miscreant's car with a makeshift "window" of plastic sheeting or garbage bag duct-taped to the door frame.

Kate informs me that a few days earlier the owner of a Range Rover called the Public Affairs officer for the Park Service and demanded a guarantee by the park that if he drove his new car to Yosemite it would not be broken into.

When it comes to bears, there ARE no guarantees. "Frenchie" from Sacramento found that out the night before over at Housekeeping Camp. As we make a walk-through of the large camp area on the banks of the Merced, Frenchie sheepishly reports the car break-in to Kate. Bear activity is common in this camp. The night before, Frenchie came face-to-face with a good-sized black bear. After a momentary face-off, it became apparent the bear was just passing through on its way elsewhere. Ten minutes later two crashes in the dark parking lot made it clear that the bear had found what it had been looking for. The owner of a van had left a large box of raisins inside the vehicle. The window was shattered, the van was entered, the food was eaten. Frenchie's '95 Honda was parked next to the van. There was no food in it but the passenger side window is open two inches—an easy break-in for a 300-pound black bear. Frenchie's car was like an innocent bystander at an urban crime scene—in the wrong place at the wrong time. One more duct-taped, plastic-sheeted window.

The good news is that Housekeeping Camp is remarkably clean. We encounter a camper who is voluntarily going from site to site, telling people to make sure there's no food left in their cars. Kate is heartened after weeks of bad-news-bears stories. She is further pleased by the condition of two piles of bear scat we've spotted in the last



hour. Both are composed entirely of Valley grasses. There's no junk food or paper or plastic packaging material evident in them.

We call it quits at 10 p.m. and agree to meet again at 5:30 in the morning for the dawn patrol.

As the morning light is just breaking over the Valley's rim, we sip strong coffee in the wildlife management pickup truck and review the possibilities. Kate's left a sleepy Logan at home but brought along the telemetry equipment—sort of an electronic Logan—which allows biologists to detect and pinpoint the location of animals wearing radio transmitter collars. Two tagged and collared bears have been active lately in the valley—an adult female with a white number 37 ear tag and an adult male with a blue number 26 ear tag. These bears' *modus operandi* is to work the parking lots early in the morning. There's no telemetry signal for either bear but both have been spotted recently at Sunnyside Camp on the other side of the Valley. Kate has a hunch.

Sunnyside is a walk-in camp behind the Yosemite Lodge, against the valley wall. This is traditionally a mountain climber's camp. Kate describes their campsite cleanliness related to bears as "casual." We drive into the Sunnyside parking area and evidence of car trashings is everywhere. Two climbers from Oregon are hastily trying to cover the missing window of a Ford Aerostar van where a bear entered, ate and then exited the vehicle. Twenty yards away, a white Honda Civic from Utah has had its driver's side window shattered and a huge stash of food has been consumed and spread over the immediate area.

A ripped-open Pringle potato chip container sits on the roof of the vehicle. Applesauce and pudding cups, Ramen noodle bags, cereal packages and power bar wrappers are everywhere. A backpack has been shredded. Debris, food, pawprints, dirt and bear fur make it obvious that a large bear spent a considerable amount of time sitting on the Civic's hood consuming what it took from the inside of the car. As a parting shot, the bear dragged a clothing bag fifty feet from the car, deftly sliced it open and, without disturbing the clothing inside, removed a package of jerky before heading into the woods.

Turning on the telemetry equipment and slowly rotat-

ing the aerial, Kate picks up the signal for the adult female with the white number 37 ear tag. She is a hundred yards off in the woods. We've just missed her.

Kate reads the campsite number from the receipt on the vehicle's dash. We walk to the campsite through a dozen other tent areas that are littered with food containers and coolers. It's frustrating for Kate because steel bear-proof food boxes sit nearby, unused.

Kate shakes the tent and announces her presence and the bad news. Shortly, the car's groggy owner and his climbing partner stare at the destruction.

Kate lets the scene sink in for a minute and then says: "Didn't you get the message about bears in the area and not to leave food in your vehicle?" The owner responds sullenly: "We got the message...we just didn't do it." Kate puts it to him bluntly: "This bear may be dead soon. If it keeps this up we'll have to kill it!"

As we sit in the cab of the truck, Kate fills out the damage report and comments: "They're here on a personal mission. They're not here to protect things."

It's clear that without visitor cooperation and staff



diligence, the bears will take a downhill slide into trouble. Consider the log for bear #2379, a young, hundred-pound female. Between May 15th and May 30th of this year there are nine entries on her log that read like an analogy of an urban teenager headed toward a life of crime.

- 5/15 Eating trash at campsite. Logan trees bear. Allowed to leave.
- 5/16 Eating trash in woods.
- 5/21 Stuck in bathroom at North Pines Campground. Chased from area.
- 5/26 Leaning against cars in Wilderness campground, inspecting for food. ....Broken windows.
- 5/28 Took backpack from hiker on Mist Trail. Present all morning and afternoon.
- 5/28 Same day. Walking through Terrace tent area.
- 5/29 Treed at Pizza Deck, Curry Village, middle of day.
- 5/30 Darted at Curry. Taken to clinic for stitches to open wound and tags. ....Removed to Hetch-Hetchy in trap and released.

From scavenging food to car window breakings, to taking food and belongings directly from visitors, to removal from the area—all in a period of two weeks.

"This is not a bear problem we have here," says Kate. "It's a people problem—people who don't care or don't get the message. Many of the visitors to Yosemite don't speak English well enough to understand the consequences of their actions. How can we stop bears from eating trash when the garbage cans are filled to overflowing on weekend nights and there's no staff to pick it up until morning?"

There are few injury reports related to black bears

because they are less aggressive than their cousins, the grizzly bears, but they do happen—and usually over food. As Steve Thompson, Yosemite wildlife biologist puts it: "Bears are smart. Some bears are very smart. My problems start when the smarter bears and the dumber campers interact."

Take for example two Yosemite campers who, instead of hanging their food from a tree or storing it in bear-proof lockers chose instead to: a) use their food bag as a pillow, b) put their food bag in the bottom of their sleeping bag. Both were lucky to escape their tent without more serious injuries.

At times the experiences and interactions with bears are humorous. At other times they are downright scary. But Yosemite visitors consider the valley bears as important a part of the Yosemite experience as Half Dome and the waterfalls. Balancing the needs and habits of 4.3 million visitors a year with the needs and habits of these wild animals remains a huge challenge. The solution will require visitors and staff to work together. As Russ Galipeau, Chief of Resources Management, puts it: "The visitors have to comply with the rules and the Park staff has to break this current cycle. If that doesn't happen, we'll have to kill the most problematic bears and that may be a lot of bears. Nobody wants that."

*Cartoonist Phil Frank is the creator of the popular cartoon strip "Farley" which appears in the San Francisco Chronicle each day. Frank lives in Sausalito and is the author, along with his wife Susan, of The Yosemite Handbook—An Insider's Guide to the Park, as related by Bruinhilda the bear.*



# REMEMBERING EILEEN BERREY

BY VICKI JO LAWSON

*Author's Note: I am grateful for the opportunity to draft this article about one of my best friends. In trying to reconstruct some of the events of Eileen's life and recall details of some of the memories, I contacted a number of our mutual friends and Eileen's son. In the warmth of these conversations, I felt the hand of Eileen once again. Thanks to Linda Eade, Mallory Smith, Marian Woessner, Marla LaCass, Dean Shenk, and Allen Berrey.*

I've always thought that a place is defined by the people who love it. If that's true, Yosemite's colors are a little more vivid and its softer sounds more audible because Eileen Berrey loved it. Eileen lived and worked in and near Yosemite National Park for over a half century. In December 1997, at age 81, Eileen passed away following the complications of lung disease.

Eileen was born in 1916 and raised in Los Angeles. In the 1940s, she married Henry Berrey. The U.S. Army sent them to Gadsden, Alabama, where the first of their four sons was born. Following service in the army, they returned to California where Henry worked for *Westways Magazine* in the travel/marketing industry. In the late 1940s, Henry took a job with the then family-run, privately held Curry Company in Yosemite.

While Henry worked in marketing and advertising, attempting to draw attention and people to Yosemite, Eileen set to raising four sons in the most beautiful place in the world, Yosemite Valley. Eileen fulfilled her role as a gracious hostess within the Curry Company social community. She reportedly was quite good at it, and enjoyed it. She also hiked Yosemite's backcountry and skied Badger Pass slopes. On a volunteer basis, she began to share her intimacy with and understanding of Yosemite with others by working at an informal art gallery in Curry Village. After 25 years, Eileen thought that she would live happily ever after in Yosemite Valley. She was half-right.

In the late 1960s, control of the family-owned Curry Company shifted. With the change, Henry lost his job. Those of us who have been fortunate enough to work in Yosemite know that a job in Yosemite is not JUST a job, for with it comes a home and a community. The Berreys were forced to leave theirs and move to Mariposa. Henry went to work for a graphic artist in the Bay Area, commuting weekly. Eileen stayed in Mariposa, helping their two younger sons through Mariposa High School.

The change was profound. She was estranged from her community and her Yosemite, and separated from her husband by the commute. After a short time, she began her own commute—back to the park several times a week to work at Best Studios. In her elegant, resilient way, she found another means to indulge and share her love of Yosemite.

In the early 1970s, Henry was offered the job of Business Manager of the Yosemite Natural History Association. He eagerly returned to work in Yosemite, and Eileen was hired by the National Park Service to work in the Pines Campgrounds. They commuted together from Mariposa.

This job marked quite a departure from Eileen's previous life and that of many of her friends. Few women of Eileen's generation worked outside the home, and fewer still began a career after the age of 55! Eileen worked as a fee collector and at the campground kiosk, quite at the mercy of the public and still in love with Yosemite.

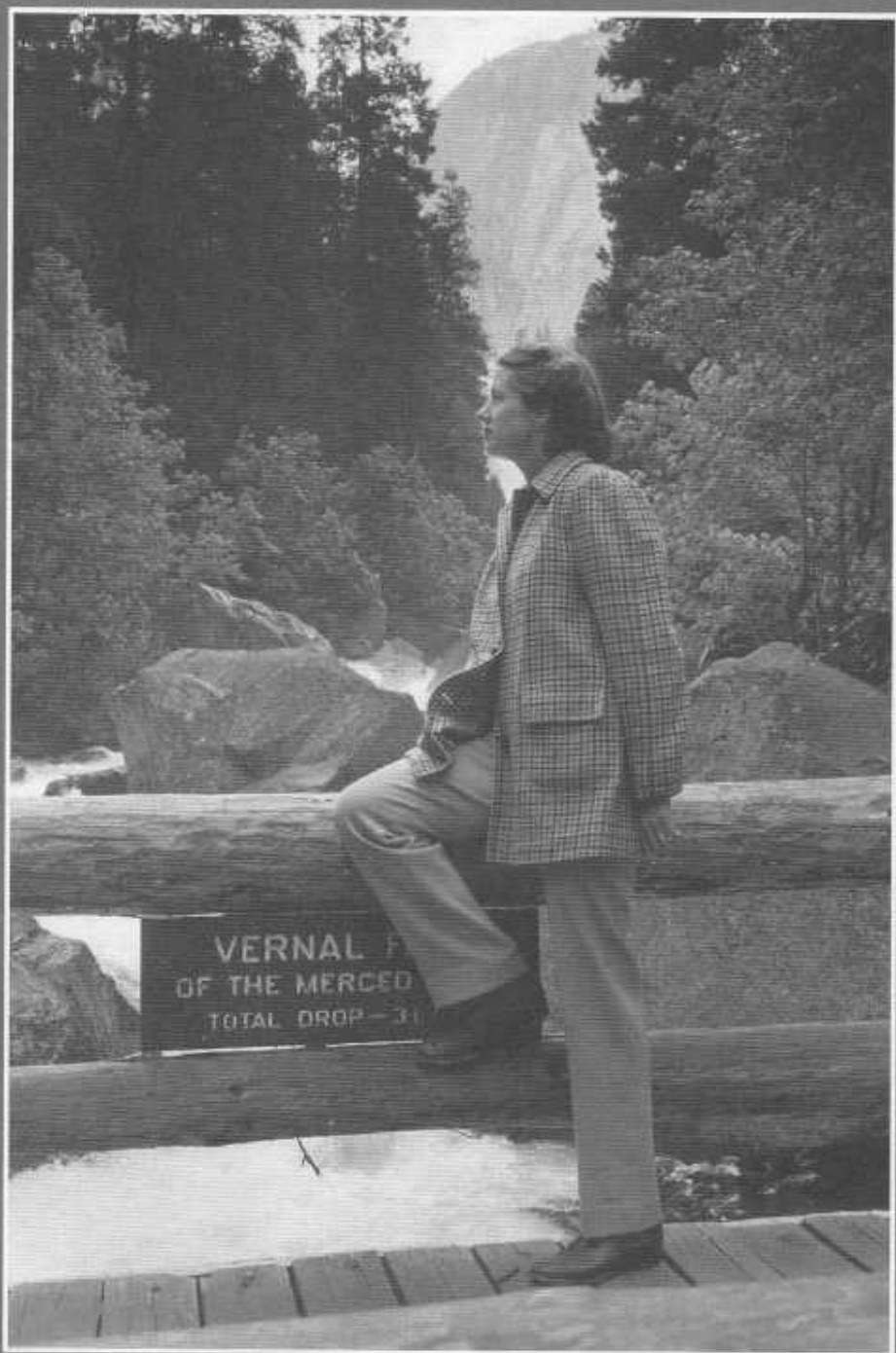
Occasionally, Eileen and Henry would overnight in their room at the Ranger's Club in Yosemite Valley. They were unusual residents, in that most of the Ranger's Club inhabitants are young, single Park Service employees. One evening some of the residents fired up the old Victrola in the living room. Eileen spent the evening coaching the residents on how to dance properly to big band tunes.

Given this long-term love affair with the park, it now seems inevitable that in the late 1970s Eileen would come to manage the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, hiring and training the very people who would greet millions of visitors annually. And she was good at it!

Eileen developed a technique for dealing with even the most bizarre and naive questions which visitors would ask—she would repeat the question back to them before responding. Not disrespectfully, but hoping that they would understand the preposterousness of their question, Eileen would say, "You want to know if there's anything interesting to do in Yosemite?!?!?" Well, they had asked the right person!

Eileen found, as many Visitor Center staff through the years have found, that the traveling public is not always a pleasant public. Eileen was especially effective with folks who were tired, angry, or had cranky children in tow. She sympathized with their concerns, answered their questions, and made them feel incredibly lucky to be in Yosemite. She was not patronizing; she absolutely understood their good fortune in being in Yosemite, and after ten minutes with Eileen, so did they.

In 1981, at age 65, Eileen participated in a staff orien-



*Eileen Berry*  
(1916-1997)



*Eileen raising her young family.*

tation backpack trip along the south rim of Yosemite Valley. Somewhere near Bridalveil Creek, Eileen became separated from the group. Upon discovering this, the group was very concerned. After looking for her for a couple of hours, the group was quite relieved to find her. She was apologetic, but not alarmed. She had been paying attention to the wildflowers, not the fork in the trail—navigating with her heart.

Eileen took great pride in working for the National Park Service. She embraced its mission as something wholly noble. She would cringe when employees would wear red socks, Birkenstocks, or an aqua turtleneck with the Park Service uniform. She would humorously shame them into changing. Once, Eileen outfitted one of her summer seasonals in her very own uniform trousers because the woman hadn't been able to hem her new ones. After all, the employee represented Yosemite.

In the early 1980s, Eileen had a bout with cancer. After a brief period of surgery and some treatment, she continued working in the Visitor Center.

In 1983, Eileen retired from the National Park Service. Her retirement party was attended by over one hundred



*Eileen in later life as a National Park Service employee.*

people. There were fresh flowers, live music, wonderful food, friends from all over the country, roasts, and toasts. The amazing thing was that the party took very little effort to organize. Once folks were notified of the occasion, they offered to help in any way that they could, and they all came through—elegantly—in honor of Eileen.

After retiring, Eileen continued her “service” to Yosemite, first as a founding member of the Superintendent’s Special Committee for the “Return of Light Campaign,” the precursor of the Yosemite Fund. Eileen later became an active member of the Fund’s Council of Directors, then moved to its Advisory Council until her death. She also stayed involved with the Yosemite Association as a “fixture” at board meetings and other events.

On one of her birthdays in the late 1980s, on the Ahwahnee patio over mint juleps—a legacy of those early years living in the South—Eileen told me, “I’ve had a great life,” referring to her husband, sons, friends, and Yosemite.

All of us who loved her know that Eileen’s elegance, optimism, and resilience remain part of Yosemite.



# GRAZING AND YOSEMITE'S MEADOWS: KEEPING THE BALANCE

Crouching on a 10,000-foot ridge above the Gaylor Lakes basin at dawn in September, I coaxed my frozen brush into painting the scene below: a frost-tipped yellow diamond of a meadow caressed a blue, blue alpine lake, and a coyote on the hunt trotted across golden, crusty sedges.

Coming upon a meadow in the Sierra Nevada always gives me a thrill. Such jewels appear suddenly after monotonous acres of lodgepole pines, and they soften the gray granite expanses that make up most of the high country.

Meadows not only provide visual relief for weary hikers, but they serve specific needs for animals and the rest of the ecosystem as well. An acre of meadow can produce up to two tons of forage per year, an excellent food source for wildlife. Meadows act as natural water purifiers, fil-

tering sediment from runoff so nearby streams run clear. Sierra Nevada meadows harbor more than 110 species of plants, and even though such grasslands cover less than 10 percent of the "range of light," they have drawn travelers for centuries, and wandering wildlife for millennia before that.

Deer, bighorn sheep and other wildlife all use meadows as a stopping-and-munching point. Native Americans living in the Sierra hunted near meadows and may have maintained the grassy expanses by burning. Early white settlers in California used meadows for stock grazing, once they discovered the presence of moist summer forage in the mid-19th century, and the meadows have been used for stock feed ever since.

Allowing livestock to graze in meadows creates con-



*Alpine meadows near Gaylor Lakes—one of the sites in the four-year grazing study of the impact of grazing.*

NPS Photo



NPS Photo

*The study monitors the effect of grazing on the health of meadows at varying elevations with different plant species.*

flict for public land managers in the Sierra Nevada. Stock users state firmly that there is plenty of meadow to go around. But backpackers and other wilderness users complain that the animals damage resources and the wilderness experience. Caught in the middle, park managers have lacked hard data to show what levels of grazing cause what levels of impacts.

A study, to be completed this year, will give resource managers at Yosemite and other wilderness areas information on how grazing at different intensities affects meadows, and how to manage that effect.

"There are three important things animals can do to a meadow," said Dr. Jan van Wagtendonk, a Yosemite-based research scientist with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), and one of the study's authors. "They can change the plant species that grow there, they can change the meadow's productivity, and they can increase the amount of bare ground," all of which can affect a meadow's overall condition.

#### **GRAZING HISTORY**

Livestock ranching was California's first major industry, booming along with the Gold Rush. Ranchers ran their cattle and sheep in the fertile Central Valley and Sierra

foothills. But when the lowland grass shriveled in the drought years of the 1860s and 1870s, ranchers brought their animals to alpine meadows to keep them from starving.

John Muir came to California in 1868, and his early experiences in the Sierra were as a shepherd. But after years traversing the highlands, he turned determinedly against using them for livestock forage, referring to sheep as "hoofed locusts," and writing in *The Yosemite* that the park was "all one glorious flower garden before plows and scythes and trampling, biting horses came to make its wide open spaces look like farmers' pasture fields."

In 1890, Yosemite was made a national park, and the U.S. government brought in the cavalry to guard park boundaries, in part to be sure that ranchers weren't poaching grasses. But horses still provided the prime mode of transportation in the mountains, so the cavalry ran its own animals on park meadows, once even seeding the green expanses with introduced grasses to be sure they produced enough feed, according to Jim Snyder, a Park Service historian at Yosemite.

Horses were the most convenient way to travel in Yosemite until 1913, when cars were allowed into the Valley. Massive pack trips for park visitors, run by the

Sierra Club, brought in hundreds of animals at a time. Horses needed feed, and meadows supplied it.

By the mid-20th century, some scientists worried that indiscriminate stock use could damage fragile meadow systems. During the 1930s and 1940s, park scientists and the Sierra Club performed grazing studies to see whether harm was being done. As a result, the Sierra Club cut back on the size of its trips, according to Snyder.

In these studies, and others done in the following decades, resource managers found that grazing was only one of the things that could affect the health of a meadow. Peggy Moore, a USGS ecologist based in Yosemite notes that invasion by lodgepole pines, erosion caused by livestock hooves and hikers' feet, burrowing by mice and pocket gophers, and fire suppression all affect whether and which plants survive. Sierra Nevada meadows also have lost ground to trees over the years, possibly because of grazing, fire suppression, climate and other factors.

Stock use in Yosemite has generally dropped off since its heyday in the first decades of this century. But the southern Sierra—including Sequoia and King's Canyon National Parks—is more heavily used by pack animals than other areas in the Sierra.

Yosemite managers have kept an eye on grazing, closing Wawona Meadow to it in 1972. Wilderness permits, instituted about the same time, and a reduction in the number of head of livestock allowed per pack trip have also provided protection against overgrazing.

The park's 357 meadows "are in pretty good shape," van Wagtenonk said. Still, wilderness managers want to track heavily used meadow areas, such as Upper Lyell Canyon, Benson Lake and Dorothy Lake, where private packstock companies bring trips regularly.

David Dohnel, the owner of Frontier Pack Trains, has run trips in the park for 17 years. "There's a lot of feed in Yosemite, and they regulate it pretty well on us," he said. On backcountry trips, he steers horses and mules away from heavily grazed meadows, both for their sake and that of the park. Dohnel said he tries to teach his clients about low-impact camping and educate other packstock leaders on how to prevent meadow damage. "We're very careful," he said. "We need to take care of the resource. We've tried to take a lead in this because we don't want to have more regulations."

#### MEASURING MEADOW HEALTH

As part of an effort to develop a grazing monitoring plan, the park began a five-year study in 1994, under the direction of four scientists: van Wagtenonk and Moore of Yosemite, Dr. Mitchel McClaran of the University of Arizona and Dr. David Cole of the U.S. Forest Service's (USFS) Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute. Neil McDougald, of the University of California Cooperative

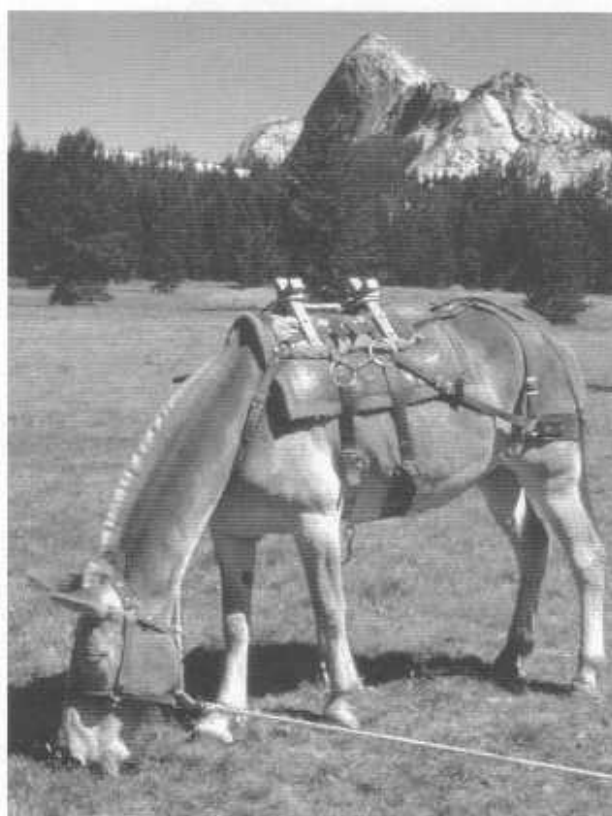
Extension, was also a member of the research team.

By taking measurements over several years, the researchers knew they'd have a broader idea of meadow response than after just one season; they'd also be able to take into account other factors that affect meadow plants, such as snowpack. A heavy snowpack and late melting, for example, can shorten the growing season and reduce plant productivity much more than heavy grazing the previous year.

The scientists chose to study three meadows, each of a different type. To the untrained eye, all meadows may look the same—expanses of grasses surrounded by trees and nestled between ridges.

But look carefully: meadows have many faces. Some are bone dry and golden most of the summer, while others are extremely wet and verdant. Their botanical inhabitants may be tiny, wiry sedges or lush grasses and wildflowers. They also occur at a variety of elevations, on different sites ranging from a couple of acres to 50 or more, and they can be stable or unstable over time. Scientists have used many combinations of these features to group meadows into several categories.

The Yosemite team chose one wet, one intermediate and one dry meadow, at varying elevations and with different characteristic plant species. The dry meadow, at 10,200 feet at Gaylor Lakes, blooms early and turns golden and crisp by mid-summer. A six-inch-tall sedge (*Carex filifolia* var. *erostrata*) dominates the meadow,



Park managers seek to gain information about the impact of pack animals on meadow plant material.



NPS Photo

Researchers methodically clip, dry, and weigh plants in grazed and non-grazed plots.



NPS Photo

The results from plots like this will help park researchers make informed decisions about the future of Yosemite's meadows.

joined by goldenrods and a few inconspicuous wildflowers able to handle the elevation and scarcity of water.

The second meadow, at 8,600 feet, is a middling wet site at Tuolumne Meadows, near Delaney Creek. Meadows like these are clothed in a purple haze created by the fine, long stems of the grass—*Calamagrostis breweri*—that covers the meadow. Bright yellow cinquefoil, deep blue penstemon, and a reddish paintbrush also color these meadows.

The wet meadow, along Harden Lake at 7,600 feet, is lush. Tufted hairgrass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*) grows thigh-high across the site. "As you're walking through red fir, the landscapes just open up to these meadows, with wildflowers like lilies, camas and the tall, wispy grasses," Moore said. "They take your breath away."

During July and August of four consecutive years, research teams braved plentiful mosquitoes and heat to spend days setting up plots in the meadow study, funded by the Yosemite Fund and USFS with support from USGS and the University of Arizona. Half a dozen people did the tedious work of clipping, drying and weighing plants in sections of each plot to determine the meadow's productivity, species composition and amount of bare ground. A second group of workers brought in horses and mules, and carefully watched them until they devoured one-quarter, one-half or three-quarters of the available forage. Some plots received no grazing for comparison.

After the animals finished eating, researchers once again clipped and weighed plants in the plots, and they repeated the process the next season to find out how each meadow responded to the different levels of grazing.

Although they're not yet finished with the final analysis, the scientists have a preliminary idea of how meadows respond to grazing. So far, the results suggest that heavy grazing cuts plant productivity in the meadow sites, increases bare ground at the driest meadow, and appears to shift plant species composition away from grasses and toward some forb (weed) species.

#### MANAGING MEADOW USE

While grazing three-quarters of the plants off a meadow year after year may not seem likely, the study provides a yardstick for wilderness rangers to use in monitoring meadow health. In 14 heavily used meadows around the park, rangers will measure remaining plant material close to the end of each season, and compare that with study findings to decide whether changes in the meadows are likely to occur and what to do about them.

"They can start to make decisions with their eyes wide open about what's going on in the meadows and what it means," Moore said. If monitoring shows the meadows are being grazed so heavily that their productivity drops or their species composition changes, resource managers can choose whether to reduce meadow use, for example. This monitoring plan should allow the park's meadows to remain healthy for years to come.

*Freelance writer Carol Blaney became interested in meadow research on a visit to the park and interviewed those involved. She lives in San Jose, California, where she is awaiting the birth of her first child.*

# LOVEY-DOVEY: AN ANNIVERSARY IN YOSEMITE

My husband Dale and I don't care much for mushy love. We dislike overt, in-your-face demonstrations of love or lust. It's ok seeing couples share a quick kiss, but we don't appreciate being forced to witness a public episode of what I believe is commonly termed "sucking face." It embarrasses us. Call us old-fashioned, but we believe there's a time and a place for that type of snake-like bonding, and it certainly is not in front of us.

It's not just visual over-exposure. When a couple constantly refers to each other as "my lovely bride," "my stud-muffin husband," "sweetie," "honey-bunch"—I could go on and on with examples, but you know what I mean—I usually turn to Dale and whisper in his ear, "Oh, barf!" And we wouldn't be caught dead with matching "I (heart) Dale" and "I (heart) Donna" bumper stickers on our cars. We're just not the romantic candle-light dinner type. Personally, I like to see what I'm eating.

That's not to say that we don't show our love and affection. We hold hands when we walk down the street. If we're sitting and reading, one of us will often stretch out a foot and gently rub the foot of the other. I kiss Dale's bald spot when I walk by. He calls me "Hon" occasionally and touches my arm or shoulder as he passes. Little things. Nothing flashy. But I know he's there and loves me and vice versa.

I do have to admit that there was one time when we went all out. Our five-year wedding anniversary was significant to us. I think it's because we were so surprised we made it that long. As you may know, I'm no piece of cake

to live with. Dale needs a lot of patience to deal with my mood swings. I'm still learning to live with his gentler and quieter emotions, though I think I'm getting better at it. Early in our marriage, we even saw a marriage counselor. She taught us that we spoke totally different languages and helped us build a mutually understandable system of communication. I doubt we'd still be together without that objective help.

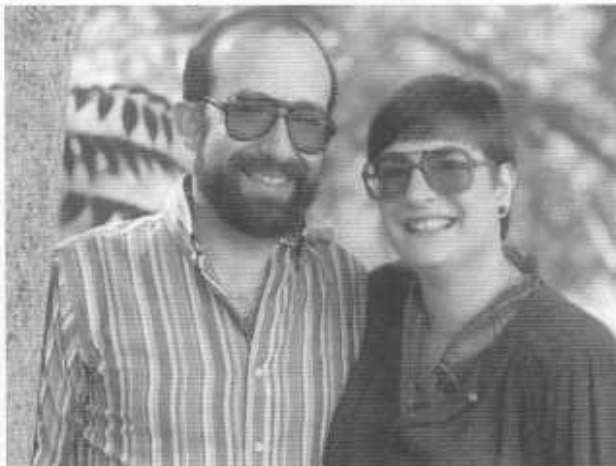
So when our fifth anniversary rolled around, it was a big deal. It came a lot sooner than we expected. It was one of those "I can't believe it's been five years!" epiphanies. The couple without one romantic bone between the two of us decided we should do something different, something up-scale, something that we would have to dress up for.

We went to Yosemite.

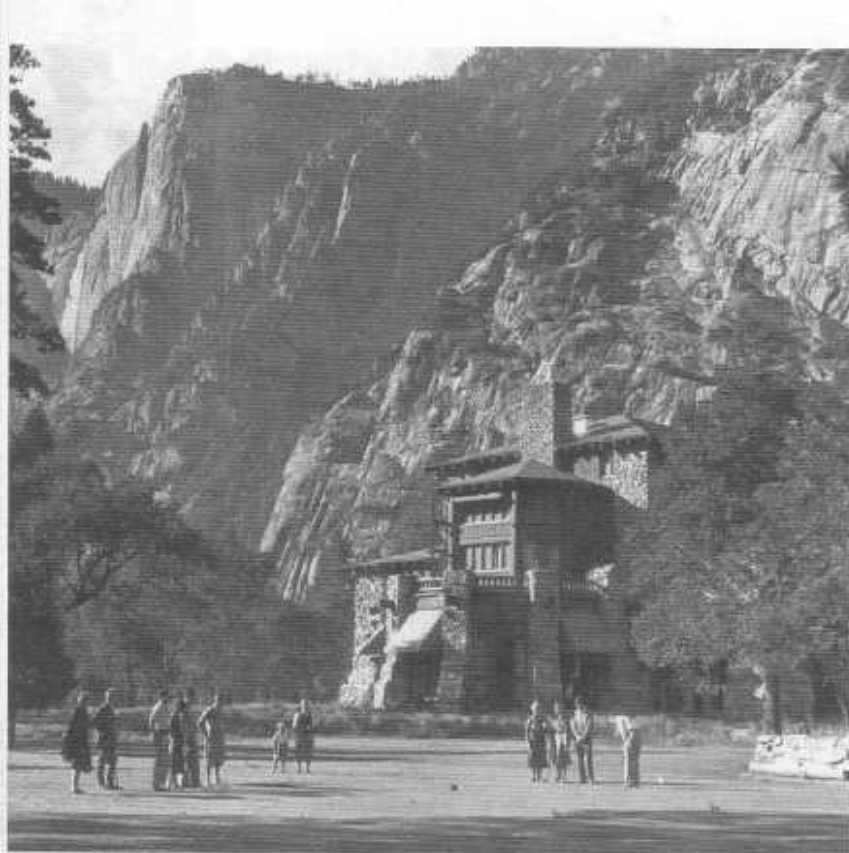
I can see the look on your faces. "Yosemite?" you ask. "Isn't Yosemite the ultimate experience in sneakers, blue jeans, and sweatshirts?" You're right, of course. Most of the time it is. But we splurged. We booked a weekend at the famous Ahwahnee Hotel, whose rates begin at \$215 a night.

According to a brochure I'd read, the Ahwahnee Hotel is a registered National Historic Landmark. The focus of its architecture is to blend the hotel into the spectacular scenery around it, and the architect certainly succeeded. The Ahwahnee has a facade of granite boulders and redwood stained beams, and its interior is decorated with a priceless collection of Indian baskets, paintings, and period photographs. The most famous room is the dining room, which has a 24-foot tall trestle-beamed ceiling and floor-to-ceiling windows looking out into the wilderness. Reservations and dressy attire are required for dinner.

When Dale and I walked around and then into the Ahwahnee, we felt humble. It wasn't just the cost of the weekend, although we'd never spent that much for a hotel before. To us, a hotel is usually nothing more than a place to sleep, and as long as it's clean, we're happy. If it's cheap, we're even happier. But this was the Ahwahnee. And it wasn't just the Ahwahnee, it was the Ahwahnee to a couple who had gone to Chicago for their honeymoon so they could tour Frank Lloyd Wright architecture. The Ahwahnee Hotel is an architectural structure of such symmetry and harmony with its surroundings that we



Dale Arends and Donna Semelmaeker



*Generations have enjoyed the Ahwahnee in its majestic setting. This Ansel Adams image captures the hotel and its backdrop, as well as golfers putting on the lawn.*



*The Ahwahnee dining room—setting for many romantic dinners.*

could barely breathe due to the force of its emotional impact. I felt as if we had to whisper in its halls, that we had to stay quiet to appreciate its home in the valley and the towering mountains and cliffs surrounding us.

It was in this state of awe that Dale and I dressed for our anniversary dinner. I must say, we both cleaned up nicely. For once in my life, I acted like a lady and tucked my arm into Dale's as we were escorted to our table in the dining room. I even let the waiter pull out my chair for me.

Dusk hadn't yet fallen. We looked out the glass wall and saw a deer emerge from the woods and begin grazing out in an open field. Autumn colors glowed in the fading sunlight. After we placed our dinner order, Dale and I sat at peace watching the world outside. Then abruptly, the sun hid behind a mountain, and it was dark. All we could see were our reflections in the windows.

The huge dining room became more intimate, romantic with the glow of the chandeliers. I couldn't see what I ate, but it didn't bother me. I felt a connection with where we were, a togetherness with Dale that felt appropriate to this momentous occasion. After the main course, while we were sharing a sumptuous dessert, I reached across the table for Dale's hand.

"This is beautiful," I began. And I want you to know that I love you. We've had some hard times, and sometimes I didn't think we'd make it, but we did. Thank you for all your patience with me, and for sticking with me when I was so awful to you. Thank you for being you." Somewhere in the back of my mind, I was amazed at myself. How unlike me. How lovey-dovey, how mushy could I get? Dale must have been thinking I was a total idiot. I wanted to turn myself off, but I kept babbling about love and trust and all those other romantic things I hated to talk about.

When I finally shut up, my spouse captured my other hand and stroked it. He gazed soulfully into my eyes. Then my tongue-tied husband uttered the most romantic thing I've heard in my life. "You know," he said, "You're not so great yourself."

*Donna and Dale are long-time YA members who live in Mountain View, California. Although they recently celebrated their fourteenth anniversary, Donna wrote this romantic remembrance of their fifth as a writing class assignment.*



For longtime volunteer and board member Kathie Orr, spending time in Yosemite comes naturally. She made her first visit to the park with her family in 1934 when she was just eight months old, and returned with them each summer to camp in the valley. Her love for the park increased as she grew older, and she realized that she wanted to do more than just visit. So 14 years ago she joined the Association as a Life Member and soon after began volunteering for a month each year for YA.

As a YA volunteer her duties have included answering visitor inquiries and encouraging membership at the YA booth, working as a docent in the Museum Gallery (one of her favorite duties on a hot day!), introducing the Orientation Slide Show to visitors, welcoming YA seminar participants, and even acting as volunteer coordinator. For the past several years, because volunteers are at a premium during July and August, Kathie has extended the time she donates

## KATHIE ORR: FROM VISITOR TO VOLUNTEER

to two months each summer to help cover the shortfall.

When asked why she likes to volunteer in Yosemite, Kathie jokingly responded, "Otherwise I could only stay in the campground for a week!" Her expression became earnest as she admitted how much she enjoys talking to people and meeting visitors from all over the world as well as the feeling she gets from "doing something good for Yosemite."

Her desire to serve Yosemite hasn't stopped with volunteering in the valley. Seven years ago Kathie ran for a seat on the YA Board of Trustees, and last fall was re-elected to a second term. Her enthusiasm for the Association and her love for Yosemite are evident in her involvement in the many activities and meetings she attends.

The commitment she feels to Yosemite goes beyond her responsibilities to the Association. Five years ago she decided that two months a year isn't long enough to devote to the park, so she began volunteering for the National Park Service, too. Her first assignment saw her at Happy Isles getting it ready to open to visitors. Her duties evolved over the years, and she now spends two months of her time busily answering questions in the Visitor Center in addition to the two months she donates to YA.

Even Mother Nature's crises can't deter Kathie from her responsibilities. In

May, 1996, when flooding in the valley necessitated the evacuation of campgrounds and the closure of the park, Kathie blithely reported for duty as usual at the Visitor Center, and was kept busy throughout the day since most of the regular park staff were unable to get to work. When one of California's frequent earthquakes rumbles through the valley, Kathie stands her ground as apprehensive tourists quickly vacate the building.

YA and Yosemite are fortunate to have volunteers as dedicated as Kathie. The services they provide enable millions of visitors each year to better enjoy and understand the park. We are indebted to all our volunteers, past and present, who, like Kathie, have a deep concern for the park and donate their time to help others develop a respect for it.



*Kathie (in the center) in one of her early visits—circa 1936.*

## Leaving a Yosemite Legacy

Since 1920, thousands of individuals and families have helped the Yosemite Association undertake its important educational, scientific, and research programs, with gifts of time, services, and money. Each year we receive critical sup-

port for Yosemite in the form of charitable bequests from wills and estate plans. Such bequests play a vital role in our future funding.

We encourage you to consider including a gift to the Yosemite Association in

your will or estate plan. It's a way to ensure that others will enjoy Yosemite far beyond your lifetime.

For information about leaving a Yosemite legacy, call (209) 379-2317, or write to P.O. Box 230, El Portal, CA 95318.

## ROUTE 140 CONSTRUCTION PROJECT BEGINS

A two-year road construction project on flood-damaged Route 140 between El Portal and Yosemite Valley began October 1. Sections of the highway were severely damaged in 21 locations and weakened in 30 others in January, 1997, forcing closure of the road for several months. Although emergency repairs allowed the road to reopen, the damage created by the "Flood of the Century" was severe enough that more permanent reconstruction is required. One fourth of Yosemite's visitors come in to the park through the Arch Rock entrance station on Route 140.

Improvements in the "all-year highway" are designed to improve safety, facilitate traffic flow, and lessen the probability that flood waters will again close the road. Improvements will include widening of traffic lanes, rebuilding guardwalls to meet Federal Highway standards, adding turnouts, and replacing deteriorated sewer lines buried under the road.

To allow for the two eight-hour work shifts to complete the construction, the highway will be closed to traffic during those work periods. A schedule was developed to permit access to the park

between shifts and during those months when visitation is traditionally at its highest.

The schedule through 1998, outlined below, may be revised as needed throughout the construction period. Visitors are advised to call (209) 372-0200 for current road conditions and access information before traveling to the park.

### Nov. 1–Nov. 24, 1998

6:30 a.m.–8:00 a.m. OPEN with pilot car convoy

8:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m. CLOSED

4:30 p.m.–10:30 p.m. OPEN with pilot car convoy

10:30 p.m.–6:30 a.m. CLOSED

### Nov. 25–29, 1998

6:30 a.m.–10:30 p.m. OPEN

10:30 p.m.–6:30 a.m. CLOSED

### Nov. 30–Dec. 18, 1998

6:30 a.m.–8:00 a.m. OPEN with pilot car convoy

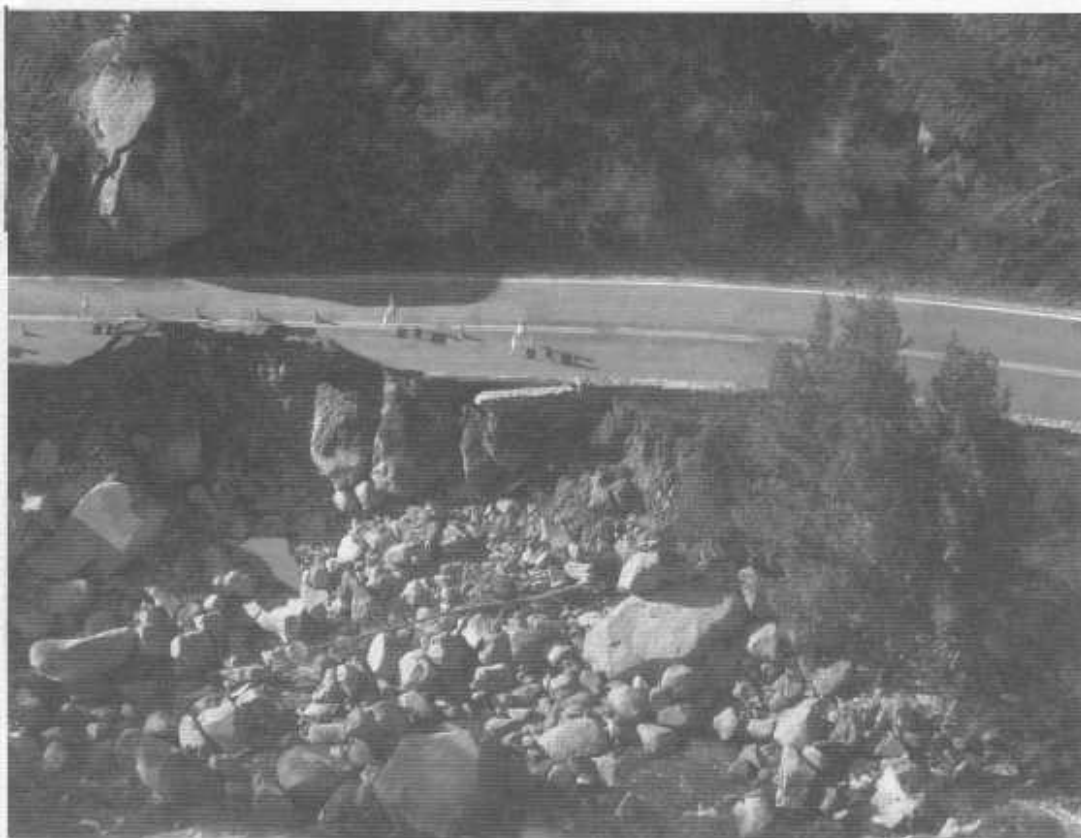
8:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m. CLOSED

4:30 p.m.–10:30 p.m. OPEN with pilot car convoy

10:30 p.m.–6:30 a.m. CLOSED

### Dec. 19, 1998–Jan. 3, 1999

OPEN



*The original flood damage as pictured above was temporarily repaired in spring, 1997. Now Highway 140 from El Portal to Yosemite Valley will undergo permanent reconstruction during a two-year project.*

### Association Dates

March 27, 1999: YA Spring Forum, Yosemite Valley

September 18, 1999: YA Members' Meeting, Tuolumne Meadows

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.





## Yosemite Christmas Greeting Cards

from the Yosemite Museum collection.

Just in time for the coming holidays, the Yosemite Association has reprinted a historic Christmas greeting card from the holdings of the Yosemite Museum. Originally gracing a postcard, the full-color image of El Capitan framed by poinsettia flowers has been reproduced on a sturdy 5" x 7" note card of recycled paper.

The striking image reads "Christmas Greetings," but there is no message on the inside of the card. El Capitan is shown reflecting orange and yellow colors that are balanced by the predominant greens of the trees and river below. The saturated reds of the poinsettias complete the effect of this festive card. It's a great way to remember your friends and Yosemite during the Christmas holidays. Yosemite Association, 1998. Box of eight color cards with white envelopes. \$7.50

## Black Bear Cub Toy and Paperback Book Set

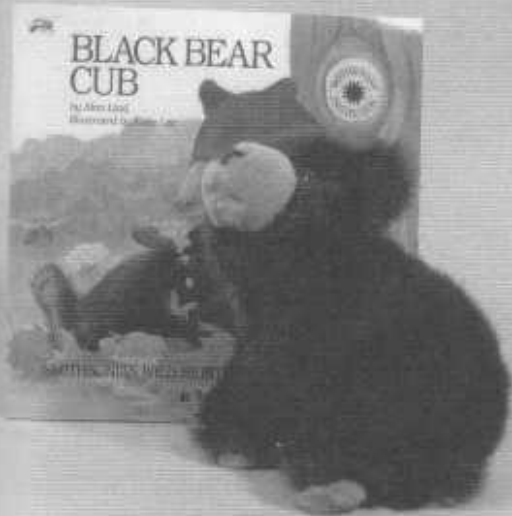
from the Smithsonian Wild Heritage Collection.

This stuffed bear and paperback book combination is from a series developed at the Smithsonian to teach children about the environment and our wildlife heritage. The special format blends fact and fiction to excite kids about reading and learning.

In the *Black Bear Cub* by Alan Lind, the mother bear and her two cubs (one of which is the black bear cub) awake and leave their winter den. The beautifully illustrated story follows the bears as they swim, search for food, raid a bee hive, avoid the danger of a group of coyotes, and prepare for another winter. The book

includes facts about bears, a glossary, and points of interest for discussion.

The stuffed bear is approximately 7 inches high and designed to be as realistic as possible. Children will love holding the soft-sculptured bear cub as they hear about his adventures in the forest with the rest of his family. The book (32 full-color pages) and stuffed bear are packaged together in a cardboard container. Smithsonian Institution, 1994. \$14.95

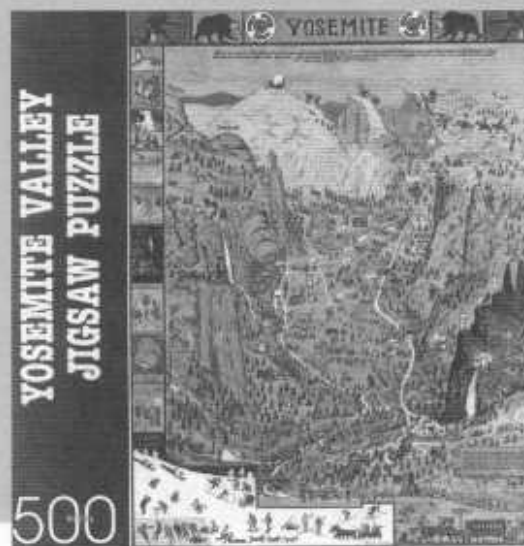


## Yosemite Valley Jigsaw Puzzle

from a painting by Jo Mora.

This colorful, 500-piece jigsaw puzzle version of Jo Mora's cartoon-style map of Yosemite Valley is made from original artwork in the collection of the Yosemite Museum. First copyrighted in 1931, the poster illustrates many historical features of the valley that are no longer to be found.

The puzzle depicts such sites as the Old Village, the "petting zoo" behind the Yosemite Museum, the Firefall, the bear feeding platform, the last Indian Village, the Glacier Point Hotel, and the Yosemite Valley Railroad. Humorous cartoon figures represent place names, and throughout the puzzle, solvers will discover amusing characters and events. This jigsaw is guaranteed to provide hours of fun for all ages. Five hundred piece puzzle in a cardboard box. Yosemite Association, 1998. \$12.95



**The Historic Yosemite Postcard Set—  
Reproductions of Twenty Vintage Views from  
the Yosemite Museum Collection.**

These twenty full-color postcards are exact reproductions of vintage Yosemite views from original cards specially selected from the extensive collection of the Yosemite Museum. They represent a variety of historic locations, activities, and individuals from the park's fascinating past, and are a fun way to correspond with friends and relatives.

Subjects of the cards include the Firefall, Arch Rock, Yosemite Lodge, the Yosemite Valley Railroad, Overhanging Rock, the Mariposa Grove, and Camp Curry. There are also images of Native American residents of Yosemite, as well as several views of waterfalls and major landmarks. Packaged in a colorful, mailable folder, this is a nostalgic set with historical authenticity.

Twenty, full-color, 4" x 6" cards. Yosemite Association, 1998. \$4.95



**Yosemite Postcard Book**

with photographs by Keith S. Walklet and Annette Bottaro-Walklet.

This handsome new collection of postcards, a cooperative effort of the Yosemite Association and the Yosemite Fund, includes fifteen extraordinary views from all regions of the park, reproduced in full color. The dramatic images can be used individually as postcards, or kept together as a souvenir to remember Yosemite at its most beautiful.

Subjects include Yosemite Falls, Cathedral Rocks, Vernal Fall, Tuolumne Meadows, El Capitan, Half Dome, Nevada Fall, the Mariposa Grove, and more. The collection also contains the first published postcard of the Yosemite Falls "moon-bow" - the rare phenomenon that appears in the mist of the falls only on nights of a full moon.

Photographers Keith Walklet and Annette Bottaro-Walklet have lived and worked in Yosemite for many years. Through their company, QuietWorks Photography, they have published their images widely. They have been special friends of the Yosemite Association, and we are proud to be able to publish this selection of their work.

The book is 6 1/4" x 4 3/4" and printed on sturdy stock. The postcards feature a gloss finish that really sets off the images, and are bound so that they can be removed without ripping or cutting. Yosemite Association, 1998. \$4.95

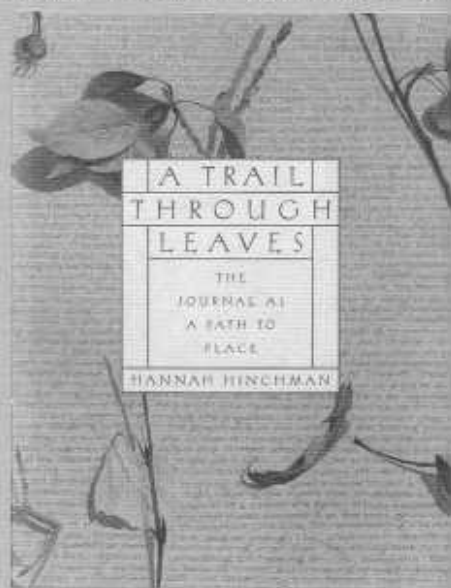
**A Trail Through Leaves—The Journal As a Path to Place**

by Hannah Hinchman.

This new volume about journal-keeping has been characterized as "a luminous treasure-box of ways to write, draw, and be alive in the world." The author, an artist, writer, and naturalist from Wyoming, uses words and images from her own journals to tell how she learned to pay attention to the world around her, and how readers might learn to do the same.

Writing and drawing in a journal, the author proves, is one way to live more fully in the present and to discover what in the world one wants to make one's own. She challenges the reader to sit down, look and see, write and draw. By hand. According to one reviewer, "Anyone who relishes the land, its weathers, and its creatures, should relish

*A Trail Through Leaves.*" The book is lavishly illustrated with both color and black-and-white drawings. 192 pages, W.W. Norton, 1997. Case bound with dust jacket, \$24.95

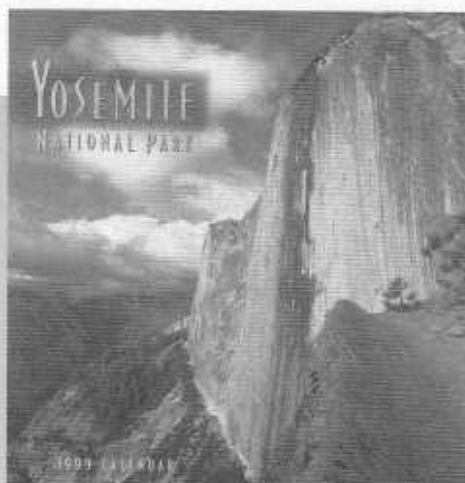


**Pajaro Field Bag**

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 navy blue, forest green or black by Pajaro. (please specify color) \$29.95





### 1999 Yosemite National Park Calendar

by Golden Turtle Press.

The annual Yosemite calendar for 1999 is as colorful and beautiful as its predecessors, with twelve vivid photographs of the park's unparalleled landscape. Featuring the dramatic images of a variety of skilled nature photographers, the new edition illustrates Yosemite in its changing moods over the course of the year. Included is the work of such artists as Jeff Foott, James Randklev, Larry Ulrich, and Dennis Flaherty from locations throughout the park.

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. An added bonus is a single page calendar for both 1999 and 2000 listing the dates of holidays for both years. A great way to keep Yosemite in mind the whole year through! The 12" x 12" full-color calendar unfolds to 12" x 24". Golden Turtle Press, 1998. \$10.95

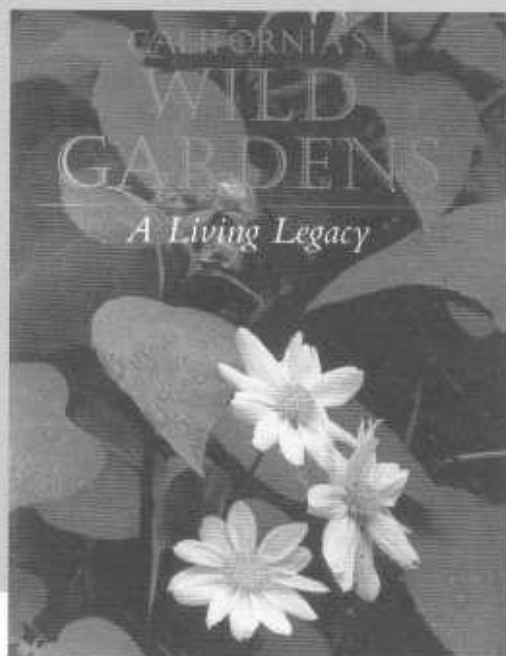
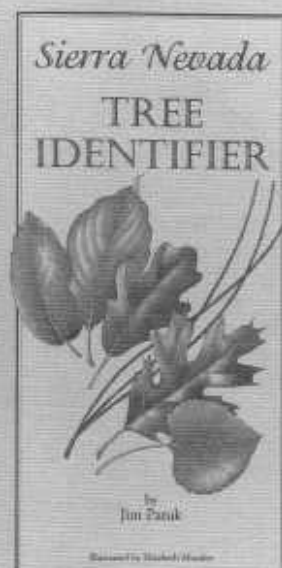
### Sierra Nevada Tree Identifier by Jim Paruk,

illustrated by Elizabeth Morales.

This is a new guide to the trees of California's great mountain range that's both comprehensive and easy to use. With it, users (both experienced and novice) will be able to identify the trees they encounter in the Sierra Nevada. The easy-to-use key quickly narrows the choices, and accurate line drawings help make positive identification a snap.

Both broad-leaved and cone-bearing trees are included, and over 45 different species are treated. For each the author has provided information about size and shape, bark, needles and cones, leaves and fruit, habitat, range, and similar and related species. To make the guide even more useful, there's an appendix with identification tips, references, a list of elevational belts with related trees, and an index.

The work is thoroughly illustrated with detailed, exact, and beautiful line drawings by Elizabeth Morales, a scientific illustrator. She has added sketches of fruits, cones, and any other distinguishing characteristics to make the process of keying out a tree as painless as possible. Jim Paruk is a naturalist and outdoor educator, who spent many years in the Sierra working for the Yosemite Institute. He is now a Ph.D. candidate in behavioral ecology at Idaho State. This latest publication from the Yosemite Association should prove popular with all Yosemite/Sierra Nevada lovers. 126 pages, 1998. Paperback (with a sturdily sewn binding and a washable cover), \$9.95



### California's Wild Gardens: A Living Legacy

published by the California Native Plant Society for the California Department of Fish and Game, in association with the California Academy of Science.

This colorful new book features over one hundred locations in California offering a glimpse at the state's unique botanical legacy. Showcasing the diversity of California's native plants in their natural "garden" settings, the volume divides the state into ecological regions, then highlights localized areas within them.

Because many plant species unique to the state are threatened with extinction, the goal of the book is to provide examples of California's botanical resources so that they might be preserved and protected.

Written like a good travel guide, enticing the reader to visit and observe plants and their habitats, *California's Wild Gardens* was authored by more than 100 botanists from many professional arenas. Complementing the text are hundreds of striking full-color photographs of plants in all colors and hues. This book should go a long way to instill an appreciation for the necessity of preserving our natural heritage for generations to come. 236 pages, California Native Plant Society, 1997. Paper, \$29.95



### 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

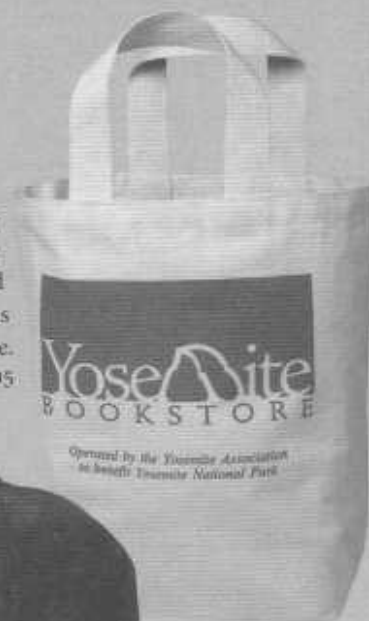
*Illustrated by Elizabeth Morales*

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 Y.A.'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 Y.A. caps are made of corduroy with an adjustable strap at the back so that one size fits all. The cap is adorned with a Y.A. 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

Qty.	Color	Description	Price Each	Total
1				
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			Less 15% Member's Discount:	
			<b>SUBTOTAL A:</b>	
			7.25% Sales Tax (CA customers only):	
			Shipping Charges:	\$4.95
			<b>TOTAL ENCLOSED:</b>	

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City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card No: \_\_\_\_\_ Expires: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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



#### Miwok Clapstick

The wooden clapper rattle (taka'tta), or clapstick, was an integral part of Miwok music-making. Male singers used it in ceremonial dances. The clapstick is made from seasoned elderberry that has been dried and split. The pith is scraped from the inside of the split portion. The unsplit section forms the handle by which the clapstick is held and played. These clapstick reproductions are authentic examples of traditional Miwok musical instruments, and some are used today to accompany modern music. The sticks average about 18 inches in length, and are decorated with paint or burn marks. \$20.00

#### Bear Claw Necklace

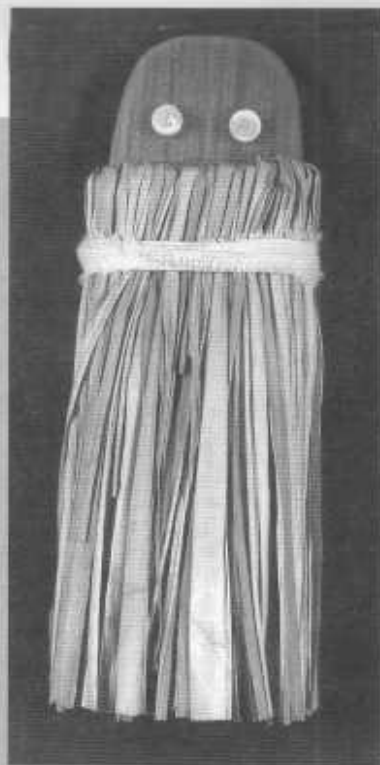
There are those who believe that Yosemite means grizzly bear, and this attractive medallion necklace is designed in a pattern of grizzly claws. Whatever Yosemite means, there is no question



that the great bear held an important, symbolic role in the lives of the Yosemite Miwok. In fact, ceremonies are still held in the valley round house to celebrate both the hibernation and return of the bears each year. The necklace was designed and then rendered in both silver and bronze by Lorenzo Baca, a Native American artist, musician, and actor from Sonora. The bear claw medallion is one inch in diameter. Silver necklace: \$40.00; bronze necklace: \$30.00

#### Pomo Work Basket

Woven of whole, unpeeled willow shoots, these baskets are small replicas of those made for rough usage, such as gathering acorns or mushrooms. Following Indian contact with European Americans, the baskets were replaced by buckets and burlap sacks. Averaging three to five inches across by one to two inches deep in size, these replicas are based on the few surviving examples in Pomo homes and museum collections. They were made by Lucy Parker (Pomo and Coastal Miwok), the daughter of long-time Yosemite resident and weaver Julia Parker, and granddaughter of Lucy Telles, the internationally acclaimed basket maker of Yosemite Valley. \$20.00



#### Pomo Doll

For many years, Pomo children played with these dolls made from shingles, clothed in tule skirts bound with muslin, and decorated with clam shell eyes. When commercial toys became available to the Pomo people, however, production of the dolls ceased. As a result, most of the examples of the craft are preserved in museum collections. Brian Bibby, a consulting ethnographer and curator from Sacramento, now re-creates the dolls for modern children to enjoy. Each doll is packaged with a brief history of the Pomo people. The dolls stand about 9 inches high and are 3 1/2 inches across. \$25.00



# NEW MEMBERS

## Regular Members

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### Participating Life

Helen Deese, James Duff, Mary Jane Johnson, Audrey Hulburd, Roger Kostiuik, Brenda Luenthal, Anita Staubach & Gary Vogt

### International

Christine Adams—England, Akiko Enokido—Japan, Tomohiro Matsuda—Japan, Diana Piloyan—Mexico, Don Poppow—Canada

### Recent Donations

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*In memory of Bernice Compton:* Robert & Doris Arrington, Bridge Media, Inc., Darryl Compton, Alison L. Gibson, Linda Patience

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*In memory of Fred Forgy:* Kathy Langley

*In memory of Kelly Gleason:* James Gleason

*In memory of Jon Kinney:* Herbert & Betsie Kinney

*In memory of William H. MacMath on the occasion of our 50th anniversary:* Evelyn MacMath

*In memory of Dete Oliver:* Marian & Chuck Woessner

*In memory of Bill Peterson:* Nick & Deborah Aracz, Association Of Retired Safeway Employees, Ann & Dave Blasius, Carole Ann Colcord, Fred Fisher, Rick & Ann Gushue, Joe Lattuada, Steve & Bonnie Olson

*In memory of Russ Rogers:* Georgia Stigall, Marlys Weekley

*In memory of Max Woods:* Mr. & Mrs. D. G. Williams

*In the name of Moneera Doss, Mykle Lunetta, Gary Rumpel, and Miriam & Irv Wexler:* Gay Abarbanell

## Change to Yosemite Campground Reservation System

National Park Service Director Robert Stanton announced last week two changes to the National Park Reservation System. Effective January 1, 1999, reservations for camping in Yosemite National Park can be made up to **five months in advance**, instead of the previous three months in advance. The start date for making camping reservations will remain on the 15th of each month. For example:

Camping Arrival Date	First Day To Make Reservations
12/15/98-1/14/99	10/15/98
1/15/99-2/14/99	11/15/98
2/15/99-3/14/99	12/15/98
3/15/99-1/15/99	1/15/99
	<i>(Memorial Day Weekend period)</i>
6/15/99-7/14/99	2/15/99
7/15/99-8/14/99	3/15/99 etc.

Reservations may be made between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Pacific Standard Time by calling (800) 436-PARK. The number for international callers is (301) 722-1257. The toll-free TTY number is (888) 530-9796. Reservations may also be mailed to N.P.R.S., P.O. Box 1600, Cumberland, MD, 21502. Reservations may also be made with MasterCard, Visa, Discover, personal check or money order. Persons may reserve two campsites at one time. Reservations are not available by fax or e-mail.

In Yosemite Valley, Upper Pines, Lower Pines, and North Pines campgrounds require reservations. Sunnyside Walk-In campground is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Outside Yosemite Valley, Crane Flat campground, half of the Tuolumne Meadows campground, and all group camps require reservations. Wawona and Hodgdon Meadow campgrounds require reservations May through September. Bridalveil Creek, Tamarack Flat, White Wolf, Porcupine Flat and Yosemite Creek campgrounds are available on a first-come, first-served basis.



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# Give a Yosemite Association Membership for the Holidays!

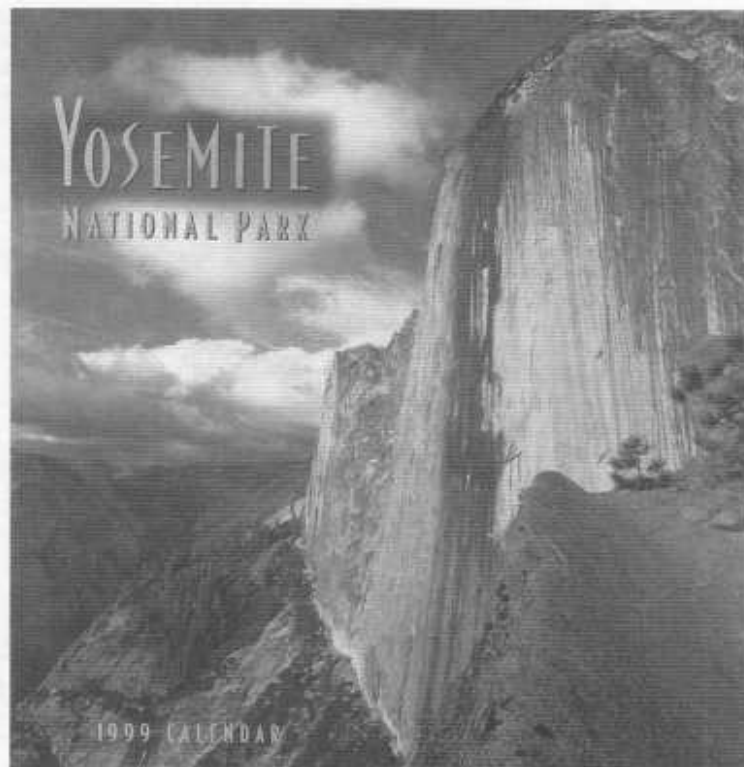
A membership in the Yosemite Association is a thoughtful gift and a year-long reminder of the park and its beauty.

Along with the 1999 membership, we will send this handsome 1999 Yosemite calendar as a free gift.

The calendar features 13 full color 12" by 12" photographs and sells in the bookstore for \$10.95.

(For a description of the calendar, please see page 19.)

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



## Yosemite

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Website: <http://yosemite.org> Cover inset by Rex Butler

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