

# Yosemite

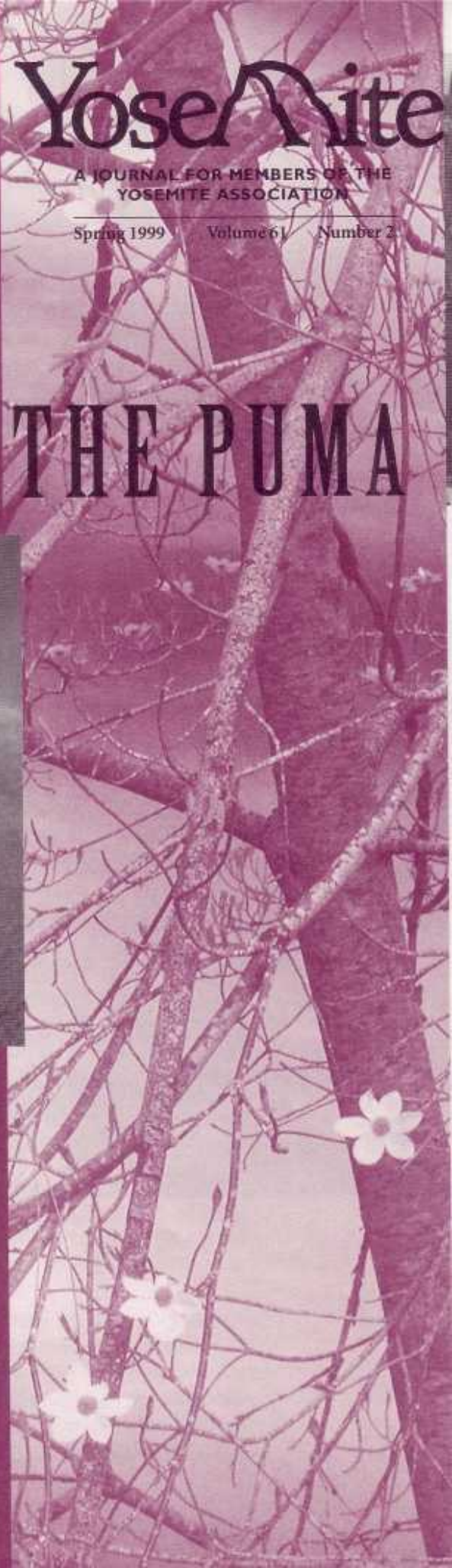
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## ON THE PATH OF THE PUMA



# ON THE PATH OF THE PUMA:

BY JEFF LAHR

## A Day in Search of Yosemite's Mountain Lions

The mountain lion has proven to be an elusive cat both in nature and in name. Although it roams throughout most of the western United States, its solitary nature has caused its habits to remain somewhat of a mystery. Several aliases - puma, cougar, panther, and catamount - have even further clouded its true identity, but despite its elusiveness, most people possess strong opinions of this cat and its reputation as one of nature's most efficient predators. Since very few people have ever witnessed the beast in the wild, it seems ironic that this cat, North America's only lion, provokes such strong reactions among environmentalists, wildlife managers, politicians and even the general public. Most often, the soft imprint of its paw in the dusty shoulder of the road provides the only clue that a mountain lion, or cougar, is on the prowl.

The cougar's evasive manner has made it difficult to study. The nature of mountain lions has eluded biologists in the past and little can be predicted with certainty about mountain lions' behaviors and habits. Evidence strongly suggests that during the past decade, the number of mountain lions in California and across the West has

spearheading a four-year study of the puma in the Yosemite region, with the dual goals of gaining information regarding the mountain lion's role and niche in its natural environment and using this information to minimize threats to human safety.

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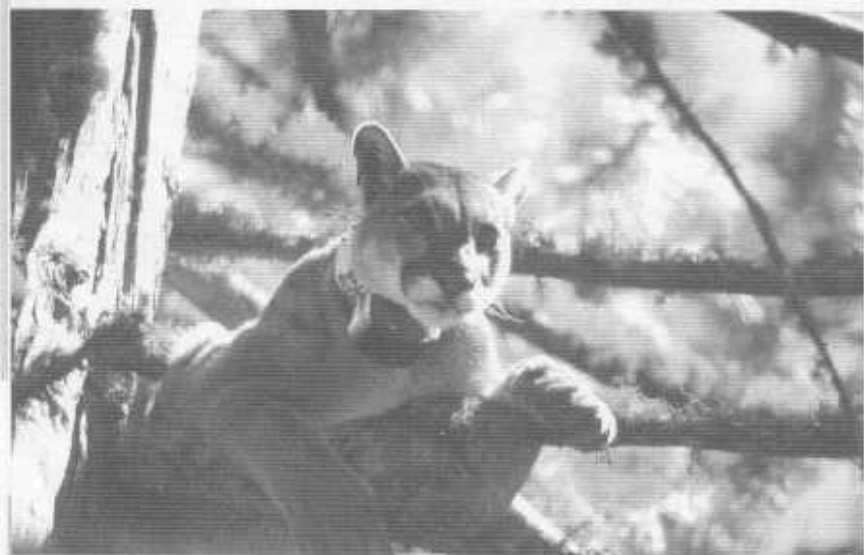
During the course of the study, biologists and professional cougar trackers comb the mountains around the park searching for mountain lions. With the assistance of hounds, the team will capture several cats and collar each one with a radio transmitter that allows scientists to determine the cat's movements, range and activities in areas of human activity. At the end of the study the team will recapture the animals and remove the collars before releasing the animals back into the wild.

### CALIFORNIANS & COUGARS

California has a love/hate relationship with the cougar, both admiring and fearing its wildness. Depending on the context, the mountain lion is alternately portrayed as a cuddly kitten or a cold-blooded killer, but in reality it is simply an effective predator occupying a secure spot at the top of the food chain.

In the past several decades, the lion has garnered greater respect from the public. In an increasingly urban state, the lion symbolizes what remains of California's wild and untamed heritage. Accompanying this respect has been a gain in political clout as evidenced in an excerpt from a publication of the California Department of Fish and Game, *Living with Mountain Lions*:

"The status of the mountain lion in California evolved from that of 'bountied predator' between 1907 and 1963,



William Campbell

A Yosemite lion wears a radio transmitter collar as part of the on-going study.

increased, along with the number of human/mountain lion encounters. These two facts motivated Yosemite's resource managers to become more familiar with the behavior of *puma concolor*, or mountain lion.

Les Chow, research biologist with the Yosemite Field Station of the USGS (United States Geological Survey), is

Cover photo  
by William Campbell

meaning monetary incentives were offered for every mountain lion killed, to 'game animal' in 1969, to 'special protected mammal' in 1990. The change in legal status reflected growing public appreciation and concern for mountain lions."

Public appreciation, however, turned into public alarm and, in some cases, hysteria in 1994. In that year, sightings of mountain lions around the state increased significantly. In separate incidents, two women were killed by mountain lions in California and officials in Yosemite Valley reported over fifty-five sightings of lions. People began to wonder about the wisdom of conferring upon California's largest pure carnivore/predator the title "specially protected mammal" (the only animal with such a designation). A growing contingent of people urged for political action to strip the lion of its special status while others argued that greater scientific research efforts should be undertaken to better understand the cougar and its interaction with humans. Chow's pursuits, along with those of other biologists, will contribute to the ongoing efforts to allow humans and pumas to better coexist in the Golden State.

#### A COUGAR'S DOMAIN

A key component of the study is to investigate the range of the mountain lion and its behavior within its territorial boundaries in relation to other cats, prey and people. Research indicates that the California male lion possesses a territory of approximately 100 square miles; a female cat sixty square miles. Typically, the male lion's territory encompasses four to six females' territories. About half of California's acreage is considered potential mountain lion habitat and evidence suggests the territory used by lions may actually be expanding.

Biologists believe the competition is keen for prime territory. When young males are forced to move into marginal territory, an area with limited food sources, the chances of interaction with humans increases. These young transients can be quite literally running for their lives when they seek out new territory where an established male won't bother them. They are considered prime candidates for causing trouble. The younger cats also have less experience at avoiding people and less familiarity in killing native prey. When one of them enters an area inhabited by humans, it might see a pet as a tempting morsel of food.

Furthermore, as the displaced lions move out of established territories, they can expand the overall range of mountain lions as they claim areas closer to human development. Are these young males more of a threat to people or livestock than a mother cougar with cubs to feed? It is hoped Chow's research will provide insight to the question of territorial domain among the big cats.



William Campbell

*Suzy rides on the hood watching for lion tracks before the car tires cover them.*

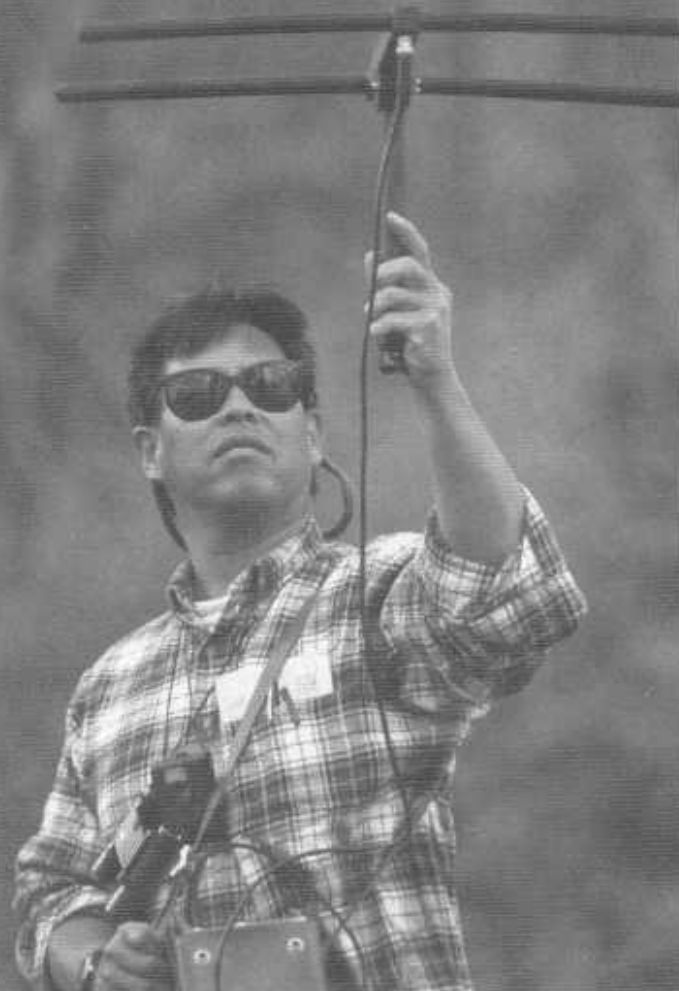
The collared cats will help researchers better define the territorial habits of the puma. At the time of this writing, four cougars are being monitored. At least once a week the research team locates the cats by the radio transmitters they wear and documents their movements and activities. A Cessna aircraft equipped with on-board monitoring equipment can locate the subjects of this study - most of the time. The range on the collars varies between a quarter of a mile and ten to fifteen miles depending on the terrain.

#### HOT ON THE TRAIL

As the summer of 1998 reaches its zenith, I join Chow and two associates, Jenny Ellingson and Suzanne Pettit, in search of a cougar. Being new to such an excursion, I begin the day with a mind filled with images of breaking through thorny brush, following the bay of the hounds as they tree a mountain lion, and watching the dogs, with teeth bared and eyes laid back, circle the tree. I even imagine the angry snarl of a cornered cat. Only the impending events of the day will confirm or deny the product of my fertile imagination.

Mountain lion trackers begin work early, ahead of the sun's appearance. In the stillness of dawn, the researchers meet at the parking lot of the Wawona store, near the south entrance of the park.

The morning begins cool but the day promises to be one of the hottest of the season - the last few days have been over one hundred degrees in Wawona. Unfortunately, heat is not conducive for tracking since the scent dissipates more quickly on a hot day. We're engaged in an unspoken race against the thermometer. An early morn-



William Gimrecol

*Les Chow uses a telemeter to track the movements of collared lions.*

ing start gives the biologists a few extra hours of tracking before the scent fades for the day. Scent tracks last about eight to twelve hours and disappear faster in hotter weather, lasting only six hours or less.

The search begins on the Chowchilla Mountain Road, a road that leaves the park and enters National Forest. With a range as large as one hundred square miles, the mountain lion doesn't heed park boundaries.

As we progress up the road, Chow uses the radio to check in with the two professional trackers already in the field searching for mountain lion sign. Suddenly, the car comes to a halt. I vainly hope we've found a track already, but it's soon evident that stop-and-go becomes a regular routine for this team of biologists. Jenny remains behind the wheel searching for a radio station with today's weather forecast. Suzy slips on a sweatshirt, mittens and ski cap - strange attire for a day that promises to be a scorcher. She does not climb into the car, but perches

onto the hood instead. As the car bumps along the rutted road, Suzy will carefully watch in front of the vehicle for any lion prints before the vehicle's own tire track destroys them. A folded blanket provides the only insulation and padding between her and the heat of the car's engine, which by noon will give new meaning to the idea of a car's grille. Sitting on the hood of the Cherokee, Suzy resembles a cross-legged hood ornament in a flannel shirt and her change of clothes now makes sense - at least until the sun rises.

Once the team spots a set of tracks along the road, they follow the trail until it leaves the hard packed roadbed. The hounds can't follow a scent on a road because nothing on the dense dirt holds the scent. Once the tracks leave the road, the brush and undergrowth capture a scent and the dogs can pursue their quarry.

Cougars, with soft pads on their paws, will often walk along the road for miles. A few days earlier, the trackers spent four hours following a track along the road. Finally the tracks went cross-country and the dogs were released, but the hounds lost the scent. Time and the summer's heat gave the cat the advantage it needed to avoid capture.

#### CATS & DOGS

"It's already hot out there," says Les. It's 6:54 a.m. Although he expresses no sense of urgency, it is obvious that we are trying to beat the heat.

At about 9:00, we pull to the juncture in the road to wait for Blue Milsap, a professional cat hunter, who is searching a nearby road. In a few minutes, Blue's big pickup truck pulls into the gravel intersection. His wife Roney waves from inside the cab. Four secure boxes with holes drilled in them sit in the back of the truck holding a platform for the dogs to stand on as the hunt progresses. Right now, the dogs lie unseen and silent within their boxes. I wonder about these hounds with highly honed noses.

Dog trucks smell funny. No, they don't smell like dogs in particular - just pungent. I wonder if I'm going to be able to see those hounds in action or if I'm going to have to settle for simply smelling them.

"Might be a little cooler today," Blue says as a greeting.

"A heat wave the last few days. Radio said it was 109 degrees in Stockton," Roney adds. "We came through the valley. It was hot! We'd have to stop every so often to buy ice and throw chunks of it in the dogs' cages."

The dogs constitute a critical part of the study. Some sophisticated tracking instruments such as infrared trail monitors have been used in the research, but dogs still prove to be the most effective way of finding and cornering a cat. Trailing hounds work as a team, finding the lion's scent, tracking and finally treeing the lion. Not just any dog can perform - hounds have been bred for generations to track and follow cats. Blue's dogs are Walker



William Campbell

*Traker Blue Milsap and his specially bred dogs prepare to search for a lion.*

hounds, first bred in England and later brought to Texas. But it takes more than breeding to develop tracking skills; a good deal of training is involved as well. The dogs not only have to track lions, but also have to behave themselves in the process. Livestock, deer or other animals can't distract them, and infighting among the dogs during the chase can't be tolerated. A good team of dogs, working together, will complement each other.

Suzy, now exchanging her winter clothes for shorts and sandals, explains that once a good track is found, they send out two experienced dogs. If they pick up the scent and "let up a bark", the younger dogs join the chase. A younger dog's speed and endurance compensates for its lack of training experience. These dogs are true professionals, worth thousands of dollars and they wear a radio collar to help locate them as they leave the slow-footed humans in the dust.

We follow the dirt roads near Wawona for several hours. We successfully find some great oldies stations on the car radio, but no sign of a cougar. Finally we meet up again with Blue as we return to Wawona on the "four-mile road," a dirt road behind a locked gate.

After parking the vehicles, we exchange the usual, "it's hot as blazes" greeting. This time Blue adds, "I think we're done for the day." Everyone sits down to eat lunch and considers the situation.

"You know, this seems like a promising road," Blue

observes. "Maybe we should take the road rake and dust the road this afternoon."

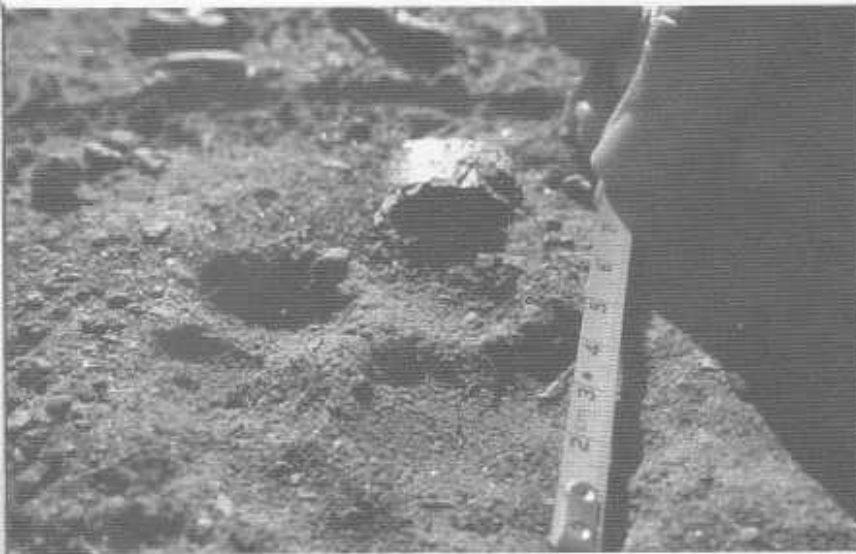
The rake resembles a farmer's disc or plow. In this case it smoothes out the dirt in the roadbed rather than the farmer's field. Tomorrow, with luck, the smoothed road might yield fresh tracks. After a few more minutes discussing future plans to extend the study into Redwood National Park, we return to the Cherokee. A dog yelps quietly in a box on Blue's truck.

#### **PERSISTENCE AND PATIENCE**

Les apologizes as we say goodbye that hot August afternoon. "I'm afraid that's typical. About half the time, we don't find anything at all."

No collared lion today. No hunt with the hounds. Not even a promising cat track. My camera gear remains secure in my backpack. The day was spent sitting in the back seat of the Cherokee, cruising the mountain back roads. But tracking large animals requires patience. Tomorrow is another day, and this is a four-year project.

The team will continue its efforts in finding lions to collar and tracking those they've already tagged. It takes a commitment of resources and finances to investigate the secret lives of North America's only lion. The study is financially supported by the Yosemite Fund, a non-profit corporation created to support projects in the park. A high priority of the Fund is to support efforts to manage



William Campbell

Researchers can distinguish individual mountain lions based on the size of their prints.

the park and its resources with a greater scientific perspective. The study is a cooperative effort among several government agencies.

People and pumas will never share the same territory in complete harmony—both are reluctant to relinquish territorial claims. But with further study and understanding, perhaps we will conclude that it is possible to co-exist. This path to understanding, however, may prove more elusive than the tracks of the cougar on a hot summer day.

#### EPILOGUE

The next day as I return to my usual duties as a park naturalist, I hear Blue's calm voice on the radio. The dogs are out and on the track of the lion. It's almost noon and it's another hot day. I wonder to myself if the cougar will once again successfully elude the teams of dogs and humans. This time the lion is caught. A two or three-year old female that frequents the areas around the community of Fish Camp is collared. As she returns to her regular routine, she will make her contributions to our understanding of the *puma concolor's* world.

*Jeff Lahr, Wawona ranger-naturalist in summer, teaches social studies at the junior high level in Santa Maria. He is a frequent contributor to this journal.*



#### STUDY UPDATE/APRIL 1999

by Les Chow

To date, the Yosemite Mountain Lion Study has caught and equipped seven lions with radio telemetry collars. We are currently monitoring three of the radio-collared animals. Two others have disappeared and two have died. One of the lions died of natural causes, while the other died of starvation after breaking her leg.

During the past three years, we have observed a gradual increase in the number of reported lion sightings. We do not know if this represents an increase in the number of lions or improved reporting. However, we have also determined that there are at least nine additional lions in the park that we have not captured.

During our final field season, we will concentrate on monitoring the movements and activities of the three remaining radio-collared lions and capture additional lions as the opportunity arises. We will attempt to document the degree to which lions are using developed areas and what they are doing there.

# THE SINGULAR SIERRA NEVADA

The Sierra Nevada is defined by the U.S. Board on Geographical Names as “limited on the north by the gap south of Lassen Peak, and on the south by Tehachapi Pass.” The range is about four hundred miles long and varies in breadth from forty to eighty miles. Save for a small angle of the state of Nevada that penetrates Lake Tahoe, it lies entirely within California. A dozen of its peaks tower more than 14,000 feet above sea level; fully five hundred exceed 12,000 feet. Noted geologist François Matthes called the Sierra “the longest, the highest, and the grandest single mountain range in the United States.” John Muir described it even more eloquently as “the most divinely beautiful of all the mountain chains.”

So far as we know, a Spanish expedition under the command of Captain Pedro Fages attained the first non-Indian sighting of the Sierra Nevada in 1772 from a point near the confluence of the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers. Included in the group was a padre, Fray Juan Crespi, who wrote a brief description of the panoramic scene in his diary: “We made out that these three arms or three large rivers were formed by a very large river, a league in width at least, which descended from some high mountains to the southeast, very far distant.”

Four years later, Fray Pedro Font, a member of the Anza party that traveled overland from Mexico in 1775-76 to found a settlement on San Francisco Bay, saw the Sierra from a hill near the mouth of the Sacramento River. “Looking to the northeast,” he wrote in his journal of April 2, 1776, “we saw an immense treeless plain into which the water spreads widely, forming several low islets; at the opposite end of this extensive plain, about forty leagues off, we saw a great snow-covered range, which seemed to me to run from south-southeast to north-northwest.” Font not only provided a permanent definition to the range, but placed it specifically on a map for the first time.

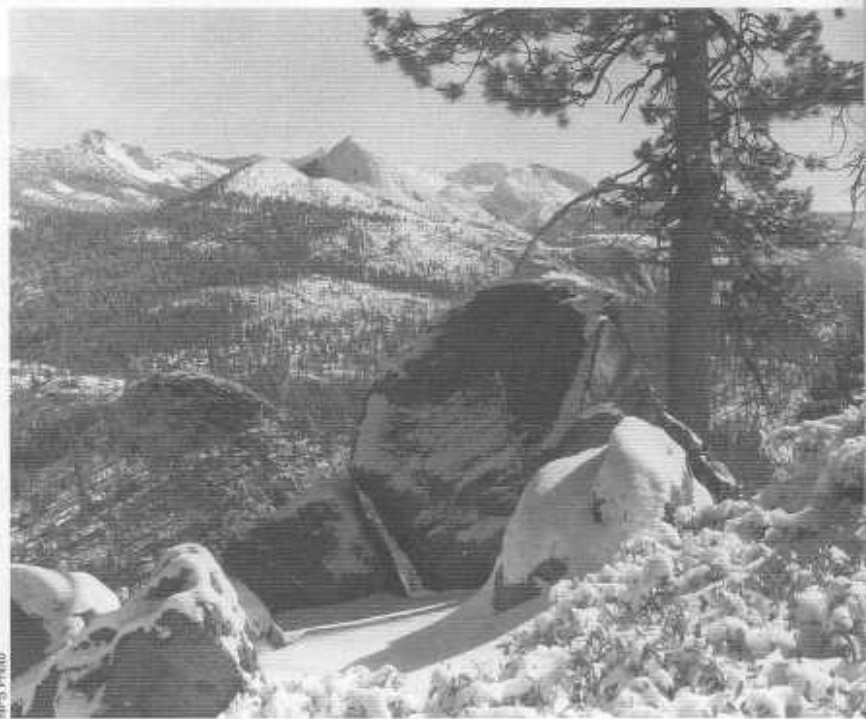
The Spanish word *sierra* literally means “saw” and was commonly applied by early Spanish explorers to serrate mountain ranges because the row of distant jagged peaks resembled the teeth of a giant saw. The term was usually combined with other words, such as Sierra Blanca (white range), Sierra Madre (mother range), and Sierra Nevada (snowy range).

The Sierra Nevada is distinctly a unit, both geologically and topographically, and is well described as *una*

*sierra nevada*. Strictly speaking, one should never say “Sierras,” “High Sierras,” or “Sierra Nevadas” in referring to it, although these forms have been widely used colloquially over the years. The eminent California historian Francis Farquhar took particular exception to the redundant designation of “Sierra Nevada Mountains.”

“After all,” Farquhar wrote in the *Sierra Club Bulletin* in 1928, “surely we do not say ‘Loch Katrine Lake,’ ‘Rio Grande River,’ or ‘Saint San Francisco.’”

Unquestionably, the unity of the great range is most properly defined by calling it simply “The Sierra,” or “The Sierra Nevada.” John Muir preferred a more felicitous name: “Then it seemed to me,” he said in 1890, “the Sierra should be called, not the Nevada or Snowy Range, but the Range of Light.”



MPS Photo

*Hank Johnston is author of fifteen books on California history. His most recent, The Yosemite Grant, 1864-1906: A Pictorial History, was published by the Yosemite Association in 1995.*

# TWENTY-FIVE LETTERS FROM NORMAN CLYDE 1923-1964

## BOOK REVIEW

Annotations and biography  
by Dennis Kruska,  
Dawson's Book Shop, 1998, \$60

BY BETH PRATT

Certain names have become synonymous with the exploration of the High Sierra; John Muir and Clarence King are prominent in the mountaineering annals of the Sierra Nevada, their exploits inextricably linked in the public mind with Yosemite and the Range of Light. A name not as widely recognized, but associated with achievements no less remarkable, is Norman Clyde. He climbed nearly 1,000 Sierra peaks between 1920 and 1940, almost a hundred of them first ascents.

With the publication of *Twenty-Five Letters from Norman Clyde*, perhaps a little more light will be shed on the complex man whose mountaineering accomplishments have grown legendary with the passing of the years. The unedited letters, sent to Jules Eichorn, Glen Dawson, Chester Versteeg, and Patricia Ingram, were written over a forty-one-year span. The volume also includes a brief biography by the editor, rare photographs taken by Clyde himself, a list of his first ascents, and a partial bibliography. The letters themselves disclose, albeit briefly, shards of Clyde's personality and small gems of Sierra Nevada history; his sparse prose mirrors his character in its brief and matter-of-fact nature.

An accomplished mountaineer who read Homer in the original Greek, Clyde's rakish nature and stubborn intellect earned him the nickname "Old Gaffer" in later years. He roamed the Sierra for over sixty years, decked out in his climbing outfit of a stiff brimmed Stetson, self-styled knickers, and tricouni nailed boots. Despite his fabled climbing record (established with such notable figures as Jules Eichorn and Glen Dawson), he remained an intensely private person who shunned the trappings of modern society and assumed a fairly transient lifestyle in the Sierra.

Clyde, a formidable man with a solid stature of granite, resembled the mountains he loved. Born in 1885 in Pennsylvania, the eldest of nine children of Scotch-Irish heritage, he earned his degree in classical literature. Teaching at small rural schools across the country, he made

his way to California. He entered the Classics Program at Berkeley to earn his graduate degree, but refused, in what was to become his characteristic rebellion against the system, to complete the required thesis.

During this time, he discovered the writings of John Muir, which inspired him to make his own "Sierra tour" in 1914. The following year he married Winifred May Bolster, a nurse from Oakland, but their union ended tragically when Winifred died of pulmonary tuberculosis on Valentine's Day, 1919. Although her death had an effect on Clyde that lasted for the remainder of his life, he never wrote of their relationship.

In 1926, after a teaching stint in Arizona, he accepted the post of principal at the high school in Independence, California, a small town in the Owens Valley on the eastern side of the Sierra. Not surprisingly, his solitary manner and frequent jaunts into the mountains (which often caused him to miss work) earned him a reputation for eccentricity.

His employment abruptly ended in 1925 when he was forced to resign after firing warning shots at some teenage pranksters intent on doing damage to the school on Halloween night. He defended his actions by claiming that he intended to miss his targets, but his forced resignation marked the end of his

teaching career and the beginning of a long-standing feud with the residents of Owens Valley.

With no full-time job to distract him, Clyde devoted himself to exploring his beloved Sierra. His exploits have inspired hyperbole and awe, though he quietly pursued his endeavors without fanfare or wide recognition. He made over fifty climbs a year in his prime and logged in nearly a hundred first ascents including Mt. Russell, Mt. Agassiz, and Mt. Huxley.

In 1931, with Jules Eichorn, Glen Dawson, and Robert Underhill, Clyde successfully tackled the previously unclimbed east face of Mount Whitney. He also used his skills as a mountaineer to locate several lost and missing



Rakish Norman Clyde at age 44.

From collection of Dennis Kruska



climbers, even after all other search pursuits had been abandoned. One letter describes his finding the body of Howard Lamel, a young climber, on Mount Whitney.

One of Clyde's most interesting traits, displayed in his letters and other writings, was his tendency to downplay the risks of his adventures and the merits of his heroic deeds. Unlike the embellished tales of Clarence King in *Mountaineering in the Sierra Nevada* or John Muir's worshipful, dramatic writings, Clyde's accounts of his experiences are presented impassively, without elaborate, descriptive prose or any hint of fear or danger. He recognizes this in a letter to Chester Versteeg: "I seem to write well but do not get enough of the dramatic and human interest 'stuff.' This may be partly because I am very afraid of exaggeration and am primarily interested in the mountains themselves."

While climbing some of the most treacherous routes in the Sierra without the use of modern climbing equipment and in all four seasons, Clyde displayed a steady calmness; his fearlessness evolved not from a reckless pride but from an innate respect for the mountains. "In such a life there is, of course, a good deal of adventure, some measure of romance, and a certain amount of hardship. The more one learns to take care of himself in the mountains, the less there is of the latter," he wrote.

Not surprisingly, he also expressed disdain for those who failed to show the proper reverence for the mountains. When one of his guide clients, who had ignored the basic principles of climbing, died during an excursion, he displayed scant sympathy: "Had I put myself in the same position...by violating the most elementary and at the same time the most vital of mountaineering regulations, that of following the leader, I would say that I deserved whatever fate might befall me."

This attitude did not improve his already strained relations with the Owens Valley folk, but Clyde wouldn't tolerate disparagement especially by non-mountaineers - "scarcely one of them would have lasted fifteen minutes in such a raging blizzard" - and vowed to "fight the whole valley rather than tolerate such miserable stuff."

With his education in classical literature, Clyde was disgusted by what he characterized as "junk writing," expressing in several letters his frustration at his failure to get his work placed. "Most letters editors don't seem to have done anything but look out over city roofs. Judging from the junk that some of them published as written material it looks as if one's chance of having them accept any of his work is in inverse ratio to his knowledge of what he is writing about." He characterized one rejecting publication, *The Los Angeles Times*, as a newspaper that "simply publishes junk as provender to reach morons and imbeciles."

His high standards for the English language extended into his expectations for the nomenclature of the Sierra

as well. Clyde reveals a bit of his "Old Gaffer" personality in his disdain for a series of informal names assigned to Sierra landmarks. "Recently the Schober outfit...has been taking upon themselves the suggestion of such names as people of their caliber - would think appropriate - such delightful ones, for example, as Hungry Packer Lake, Fried Egg and even Baboon Lake. Fortunately the High Sierra is comparatively free from such names as cattleman and sheepman are in this habit of bestowing."

For those who fancy that mountains are named in a blaze of glory, being christened by their first climbers as they complete their ascents, Clyde's letters provide very little confirmation or insight. His correspondence with his friend Chester Versteeg, a member of the Sierra Club Committee on Nomenclature, does touch on the naming of landmarks. Clyde recommended the names for (among others) Mount Mary Austin, finally approved by the U.S. Board of Geographic Names in 1966.

Until his death in 1972, Clyde held various odd jobs (one as a caretaker at Glacier Point in Yosemite), led Sierra Club climbing outings, and penned articles about his endeavors to supplement his meager income. But he spent most of his time "gypsying" in the mountains, scaling sheer rock faces or strolling through alpine meadows. As Jules Eichorn observed, "There can never be another human being so completely in tune with his chosen environment - the mountains - as Norman Clyde."

Robert Underhill, one of Clyde's climbing companions commented in 1936, "On a basis of actual achievement, Norman Clyde is certainly the foremost all-round alpinist of California; moreover, it is very doubtful whether anyone on our continent has a more enviable general mountaineering record."

Norman Clyde will long be memorialized in the Sierra Nevada through the landmarks that bear his name: Clyde's Minaret, Clyde's Spires, Clyde's Ledge, North and East Clyde Glacier, Clyde Meadow, and Clyde Peak. The correspondence gathered in this new book also will serve as a testament to this intrepid explorer of the Sierra Nevada and his significant contributions to the field of mountaineering.

*Twenty-Five Letters From Norman Clyde 1923-1964* was designed by Castle Press in Pasadena and published in a limited edition of 500 copies. The 7½-by-11-inch volume, bound in red cloth with black stamping on the spine, is 96 pages long and includes 17 illustrations. It is available from the Yosemite Association by calling (209) 379-2648 or by using the order form in the catalog section of this issue.

**Beth Pratt, Y.A.'s new Vice President of Operations, is also a writer, at work on her second novel.**

# ANNUAL REPORT 1998

It was a disaster-free year for a change, though soggy memories of the record 1997 flood were haunting reminders of the fine line between normal operations and none at all. Our visitor-driven sales program returned to more typical revenue levels, but did not reach pre-flood standards. Partly to blame was unsettled early-year weather that limited park visitation (and forced the cancellation of a number of seminar courses).

New initiatives for Y.A. included a bear resistant food canister rental program that was successfully piloted in the Hetch Hetchy region. Some 98% of the area backpackers made use of the canisters. Our members supported the program with donations totaling over \$8,000 for purchases of the devices. Another development was the installation of a live camera on the edge of Yosemite Valley, images from which were posted to our web site (yosemite.org). Average daily visits grew from 900 to 2,800, and we aggregated a total of nearly one million hits for the year.

At its December meeting, the board agreed to enter into cooperative agreements with two new government agencies. Y.A. will be opening sales facilities in visitor centers operated by the U.S. Forest Service (Groveland Ranger Station) and the Bureau of Reclamation (New Melones Dam).



To benefit the seminar program, a new t-shirt bearing a Chiura Obata woodblock print was developed for sale to participants. Members enjoyed a talk by N.P.S. historian Richard Sellars at our annual meeting, and took part in a variety of volunteer projects, including four "work weeks" in the park.

New publications included *The Sierra Nevada Tree Identifier*, a series of note and post cards, a post-card book, and a jigsaw puzzle. Our most recent children's book, *Two Bear Cubs*, was honored with two awards: Children's Book of the Year from the Northern California Independent Booksellers and finalist in the children's category of the Small Press Book Awards.

Our more prosperous year allowed us to be more generous in our support of the National Park Service. Total aid was nearly \$370,000, with major expenditures for the park newspaper and the student intern program. With this addition, the Yosemite Association has now contributed more than \$3.25 million dollars to the N.P.S. in the 1990s, a notable measure of our ongoing commitment to education and interpretation at Yosemite National Park.



#### BOARD AND STAFF

There were a number of changes to the Board of Trustees in 1998, beginning in February, when Chris Gallery resigned. Elected in 1994, when he was practicing medicine at the Yosemite Medical Clinic, Chris was a loyal and thoughtful trustee who brought a local perspective to the group.

Another loss was Allen Berrey's decision not to run for a second term. During 1998, Allen and his family moved from Merced to Bishop on the eastside of the Sierra. That geographical base imposes a long journey for meetings during most of the year, and he decided to step down. The board will miss his valuable additions to discussions, his wry sense of humor, and the active involvement of the Berrey family in our activities. Allen's father, Henry, served as Managing Editor from 1971 to 1984. His mother, Eileen, who died in 1997, was a treasured friend of the Association and Yosemite.

The Board appointed Barbara Boucke to complete Chris Gallery's term. Barbara is Deputy Director and Director of Development for the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco. In her museum position, she has direct responsibility for the maintenance and development of the membership program. During her short tenure on the board, she has been enormously helpful to the staff, offering both suggestions and support.

New Board member Gerald Barton was elected in the fall to the seat vacated by Allen Berrey. Gerry comes to the Y.A. Board from a diverse background that includes ranching, business, and volunteer work. Not only has he run his very successful family ranching business, but he has also served for five years as president of the Diamond Walnut Growers, Inc. We welcome Gerry to the Board where we know his wide business experience and expertise will be of great benefit to us.

In staff changes, longtime and valued employee Ann Gushue departed from her Sales Assistant position in the Y.A. office to accompany her Park Service husband to Santa Fe. April Rose, who was already quite familiar with the sales operations from her previous job overseeing the warehouse, moved into the office position left vacant.

#### SALES AND PUBLICATIONS

Y.A.'s publication and sales program made a strong recovery from the flood induced difficulties in 1997. Despite a sub-par year for visitation and late season openings, our overall sales for the year increased by 3% in 1998.

Our publishing operations boasted several new exciting projects, including *The Sierra Nevada Tree Identifier*, *The Yosemite Postcard Book* (published in conjunction with the Yosemite Fund) along with a set of historic postcards. One of the best sellers for the year was the jigsaw puzzle produced from Jo Mora's poster depicting Yosemite Valley - 870 units sold in the first three months of its release.

*Two Bear Cubs* continued its solid sales trend (9,330 copies in 1998) and earned two awards: Children's Book of the Year from the Northern California Booksellers Association and finalist in the Children's Category of the Small Press Book Awards. Other reprints, *Map and Guide for Yosemite Valley* and *The Wild Muir*, were also steady performers. Overall wholesale business increased by 4%, a very positive sign for our publishing endeavors.

In expanding the reach of our operations, we will be entering into new cooperating agreements with the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Reclamation. Sales facilities located in the visitor centers at the Groveland Ranger Station and New Melones Dam will open in 1999 under our management.

The overall performance of Y.A.'s sales stations improved by 3% from 1997 but still did not attain pre-flood levels. The Valley Visitor Center gained 6% in sales from last year to \$695,467 and the Valley Museum Store's sales increased an impressive 26% to \$154,037. Happy Isles, finally open for an entire season, enjoyed a substantial increase in revenues of 76% to \$25,752. The increased sales in these strongest outlets compensated for the late openings at other locations that hindered sales: Tuolumne was down 2% and Mariposa Grove Museum down 8%. The total of sales for 1998 at all of our retail facilities was \$1,199,585. Gross sales for Y.A. (including wholesale receipts) was \$1,567,984.



## MEMBERSHIP

The Y.A. membership program had a very good year in 1998: the membership rolls topped 8,000, there were two successful member events in the park, and Y.A. volunteers donated thousands of hours to park projects.

The Spring Forum, which took place in March, was well attended with 450 members joining us in Yosemite Valley for a day of talks and walks on all aspects of park history, natural history and management. Each year the number of presentations grows, so that people have an excellent array of choices in front of them: programs on mountain lions and bats (with live bats), the old Big Oak Flat Road, geology, climbing history, plus fifteen other offerings. At the 23rd Annual Members' Meeting in September, NPS historian Richard Sellars, author of *Preserving Nature in the National Parks*, was the featured speaker. His talk to members was the highlight of pleasant autumn weekend in Wawona that included naturalist walks, tours of the Pioneer Yosemite History Center, and a barn dance.

There were four work trips in 1998: one in the El Portal/Yosemite Valley area that worked on eradicating star thistle, another in Wawona that worked in that area and Glacier Point, a backcountry trip at the top of Yosemite Falls, and the last at Tuolumne Meadows that worked on projects at May Lake and Glen Aulin. All were quite successful in that the groups had a good time and NPS Resources Management benefited from their hard work. These trips are cooperatively sponsored by four park entities. The Resource Division of the National Park Service plans and oversees the work, Yosemite Institute provides meals and leadership, Yosemite Concession Services contributes toward the program's funding, and Y.A. supplies the enthusiastic crews. As the years and trips roll by, the Y.A. crews have accomplished an impressive amount of work throughout the park.

Forty Y.A. members served last summer in month-

long volunteer positions in both the Valley and Tuolumne Meadows. They introduced the Orientation Slide Show for the National Park Service to 36,000 park visitors, hosted over 65,000 people in the Museum Gallery, and greeted close to 6,000 people at Parson's Lodge. They also answered thousands of visitor questions and signed up over 500 new members at the membership/information booths. Y.A. is most appreciative of all their fine work on our and the park's behalf.

## SEMINARS

The 1998 catalog was mailed in January and showcased a new, shortened format that was easier to read and less expensive to print. The new design was well accepted, and enrollments were fairly steady in spite of heavy rains and snow. In March our numbers took a downturn as storms continued to pelt the Sierra Nevada. Due to more uncooperative weather, summer seminars remained unfilled, and the program experienced considerable uncertainty.

Some of the new courses for 1998 included: Winter Ecology Ski and Snowshoe Trek, Botany Basics, The Ancient Bristlecones and White Mountain Alpine Flora, Raptors: Yosemite's Aerial Predators, Hawks in Flight - Fall Migration, Wilderness Ethics, Easy Bike and Photo Workshop, Nature Photography for Beginner and Intermediate Students, Hiking and Drawing in the High Country, Colors of Yosemite - A Painting Workshop, and An Adventure-A-Day: Family Day Hikes.





The weather notwithstanding, seminar instructors observed it was an exciting year to teach in Yosemite with the large, late snowpack that brought incredible stands of wildflowers. However, streams and rivers ran very high and often proved difficult to cross. Extra care and additional re-routing was needed for the safety of each group.

The year-end enrollment results were less than all previous years - a total of 700 individuals attended sixty-one Yosemite Field Seminars. Despite the challenges of Mother Nature for yet another year in Yosemite, our excellent teaching staff offered programs that were thoroughly pleasurable as well as educational.

In 1998, Y.A. decided to develop a seminar T-shirt to sell through the catalog to financially benefit the program; the t-shirt, featuring the painting of Yosemite Falls by Chiura Obata, became available in 1999.

#### OSTRANDER SKI HUT

The Ostrander Ski Hut was open from late December 1997 to early April 1998. Y.A. operates the hut at the request of the National Park Service. Located ten miles into the backcountry, the hut is a popular destination for nordic skiers. Y.A. pays for hutkeepers, firewood, and other necessities, and handles reservations for the hut through the Wilderness Center.

#### WILDERNESS RESERVATION SYSTEM

Backpackers are able to reserve wilderness permits for a

fee of \$3 per person per permit through the Wilderness Reservation System. Operated by Y.A. at the request of the National Park Service, the system not only enables people to make reservations up to 24 weeks in advance of their trips, but also allows them to have their questions answered by knowledgeable Y.A. staff. Funds from the program assist the National Park Service in the protection of wilderness areas.

#### YOSEMITE THEATER

The award-winning Yosemite Theater completed its 15th season offering educational and entertaining evening programs presented by talented performers. Lee Stetson delighted audiences with his portrayal of John Muir in several popular one-man presentations. In a program that describes the experience of a forty-niner who lives for a period with the Yosemite Miwok, Van Gordon portrayed a unique and illuminating aspect of early California history. Gail Lynne Dreifus and the Recycled String Band entertained visitors young and old with original, Yosemite-based songs and stories.

#### ART ACTIVITY CENTER

After being closed in 1997 due to Yosemite's flood-related housing shortage, the Art Activity Center reopened for its 17th season in 1998. Fifteen returning instructors were joined by nine new artists who taught pen, pencil and color drawing, watercolor, pastels, sketching, and watercolor on Gesso. Free classes were conducted seven days a week from May to October and during the Thanksgiving holiday week.

#### SPECIAL TRIPS

The Yosemite Association arranged ten special guided hikes for groups in 1998. Visitors from London and Japan, students and family groups enjoyed personalized tours in Yosemite Valley.

The cartoons accompanying this report are taken from *Fur and Loafing in Yosemite—A Collection of Farley Cartoons Set in Yosemite National Park*. See page 19.



## Highlights of 1998

### JANUARY

The National Park Service announced that it had chosen Biospherics, Inc. to operate the new National Reservation Center. It began accepting reservations for Yosemite campgrounds on March 15, after a suspension of reservations for several months.

### FEBRUARY

The formal review and comment period for the Draft Yosemite Valley Implementation Plan closed on February 23, with the assurance that it would re-open with the release of the next version of the document.

Almost nineteen inches of rain fell in Yosemite Valley during the month of February setting a record for the past twelve years and affecting visitation.

### MAY

As Memorial Day and summer approached, the National Park Service issued a plea for the public's help in saving bears' lives: to use storage lockers in campgrounds and parking lots and not store any food in cars. Also, it urged backpackers to use bear canisters in wilderness areas instead of hanging food, which is no longer effective.

### JUNE

The contract for repairing flood damage to the El Portal Road was awarded on June 1 to a Bay Area firm. The construction will take place over a two-year period to be completed by October 2000.

June 9—the cables on Half Dome were installed, marking the official opening of the Half Dome Trail for the season.

Thirty campsites were evacuated June 15 in North Pines and Lower Pines campgrounds when the Merced River flooded the area with six inches of water.

On June 16, heavy spring run-off from the Merced River damaged and undercut a 100-foot section of roadway closing Highways 120 and 140. Access to Yosemite Valley was limited to Highway 41 for two days while temporary repairs were made.

### JULY

The Tioga Road opened on July 1 to vehicle and bus travel, but only limited visitor services were offered. This date, delayed by avalanche danger, marked the latest opening of the road in recent history. Lodging and campgrounds were not available until the end of July.

The Glacier Point Road opened July 3.

### SEPTEMBER

Construction began on the El Portal Road to repair flood-related damage, along with widening narrow lanes and replacing deteriorating infrastructure. During the two-year construction period, there would be periods of restricted access and traffic delays.

### OCTOBER

The National Park Service announced that effective January 1, 1999 reservations for camping in Yosemite could be made five months in advance, instead of the previous three. The start date will remain on the 15th of each month.

Bear-human contacts reached records levels for the past summer. Property damage caused by bears (including over 1025 vehicle break-ins) exceeded \$595,000 this calendar year. Three bears were euthanized during the season after all other courses of action had been exhausted.

The cables on Half Dome were taken down on October 13.

### NOVEMBER

The Tioga Road and the Glacier Point Road officially closed for the season on November 12.

A rockslide occurred in Yosemite Valley on November 17. At 5:05 p.m., slabs of rock fell from the Glacier Point apron. Approximately 500 visitors and employees were evacuated from the Curry Village area, which remained closed for 48 hours.

### DECEMBER

Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt announced on December 7 that the National Park Service would be consolidating its current planning activities into one comprehensive draft plan. The new Yosemite Valley Plan will integrate the draft Valley Implementation Plan, the draft Housing Plan, the Yosemite Lodge project, and the Lower Yosemite Falls project. The new plan is to be released in May 1999.

## Statement of Financial Position

FOR YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1998

### ASSETS

Cash and Cash equivalents	\$390,136
Accounts receivable	47,032
Prepaid Expenses	22,361
Inventory	780,885
Property and equipment	90,346
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$1,330,760</b>

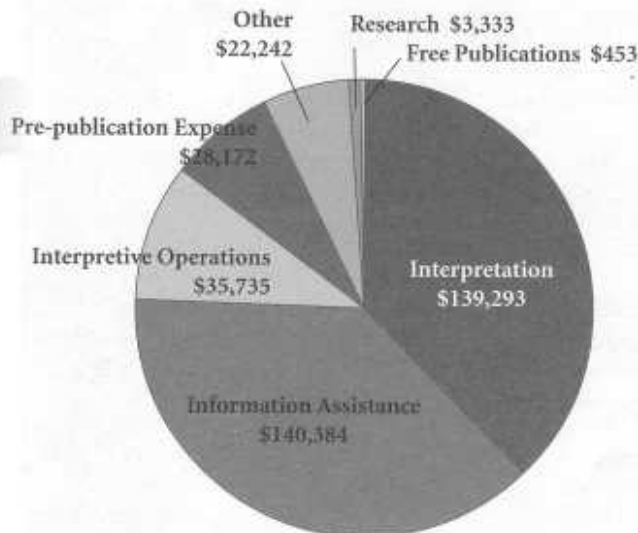
### LIABILITIES

Trade Accounts payable	\$33,441
Royalties payable	18,926
Sales tax payable	2,923
Vacation payable	19,231
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>74,521</b>

### NET ASSETS

Unrestricted:	
Designated for Programs	39,677
Undesignated	950,782
Temporarily restricted	165,780
Contingency reserve	100,000

<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>1,256,239</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$1,330,760</b>



**1998 Aid-to-NPS  
Total \$369,612**

## Statement of Activities, 1998

### UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS

#### REVENUE:

Publication sales	\$1,563,936
Seminars	116,214
Memberships	300,008
Investment Income	12,515
Theater	48,609
Wilderness Center	55,114
900 Information	8,057
Auxiliary activities	55,486
Designated programs	6,031

**2,165,970**

Net assets from restrictions **90,455**

**2,256,425**

#### EXPENSES

Cost of Sales:	
Publication costs	1,129,682
Auxiliary activities:	
Seminars	135,171
Theater	49,696
Wilderness Center	32,088
900 information services	12,901
Supporting services	
Management and general	235,151
Membership	172,606

**1,767,295**

Aid to National Park Service **435,409**

**2,202,704**

#### INCREASE IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS

**53,721**

#### TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS

Contributions	4,236
Auxiliary Activities	75,389
Net assets released from restrictions	
Restrictions satisfied by payments	(90,455)

#### DECREASE IN TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS

**(10,830)**

#### INCREASE IN NET ASSETS

**42,891**

NET ASSETS, AT BEGINNING OF YEAR **1,213,348**

NET ASSETS, AT END OF YEAR **\$1,256,239**

## Friends of the Association, 1998

*The following fine people and companies made generous contributions of their time, money, or energy during 1998. We extend heartfelt thanks to them and to the many other wonderful people both inside and outside the park who help us in countless ways.*

Aceware Systems, Marty Acree, Ansel Adams Gallery, Jeanne & Michael Adams, Stanley Albright, Ragina Anderson, Bob Andrew, Art Supplies Etcetra, Bob Aufuldish, John Bailey, Dave Balogh, Bob Bandy, Don & Rita Banta, Maxine Barbieri, Annie Barrett, Craig Bates, Ted Beedy, Sandy Bell, Mark Bergtholdt, Barbara Beroza, Tina Besa, Otto Best, Scott Bird, Carol Bjorgum, Carol Blaney, Tom Bopp, Booktrackers, Tom Borchart, Annette Bottaro-Walklet, Steve Botti, Cindy Bower, Ann Bowns, Laurel Boyers, Sue Branch, Ed Brands, Mike Brocchini, Ginger Burley, Donald Burns, George Burns, Jim Burns, Rex Butler, Barbara Cady, California Data Marketing, Hugh Carter, Annette Catamec, Les Chow, Darlece Cleveland, Sandra Clift, Ken Coburn, Gary Colliver, Arnold & Carole Compolongo, Joan Conlan, Copernicus Software, Mike Corbett, Jim Corless, Couloir, Norma Craig, Anna May Cronin, Kevin Cronin, Crown Printing, Kimberly Cunningham-Summerfield, Dave Dahler, Susan D'Alcamo, Lisa Dapprich, Tom Darcy, Leigh Davenport, Eston & Ethel Davis, Pat Davis, Tracy Deitchman, Thomas DeForest, Tony DeMaio, Chris DeMott, Pete Devine, Mike Diggles, Melanie Doherty, Moira Donohoe, Gail Lynne Dreifus, Robin Drury, James Duff, Dumont Printing, Robert Dvorak, Linda Eade, Larry & Susan Early, Chris Edison, Marion & Bill Eggers, El Portal Garden Club, El Portal Market, Helen Emshoff, Rick Erlie, Judy Ernest, Kim Esquivel, Dick Ewart, Marcia Faulkner, Don Fay, Virginia Ferguson, Jerry Fischer, Fred Fisher, Judy & Marshall Fisher, Patrick Fitzsimmons, Janis Fogt, C. J. Flores, Roger Folk, Al Fong, Tom Fong, Dave Forgang, Gary Fraker, Phil Frank, Ed Franzen, Brigid Freeman, Fresno Bee, Friends of Ostrander, Sue Fritzke, Robert Fry, Michael Frye, Paul Gallez, Garcia

Machine, Ilo Gassoway, Catherine Gockley, Victor Goldman, Alex Gonzales, Mary Lynne Gonzalez, Dory Grade, Lyn Gray, Brian Grogan, Mark Grossi, Melissa Guerrero, Susan Guhm, Jack & Jane Gyer, Margaret Hampton, Sharon Hampton, Mariella Haney, Bob Hansen, Keith Hansen, Kevin Hansen, Tim Hansen, Ann Hardeman, Kay & Dick Hargreaves, John Harris, Bruce & Scottie Hart, Gerald Haslam, Robert & Patricia Hauk, John Hawksworth, Georgia Hays, Don Hedgepeth, Lynette Heil, Lorraine Heitchue, Kimi Kodani Hill, Kathy Hocker, N. King Huber, Eric Huffman, Kristine Hutchinson, Stan Hutchinson, Impact, Ingram Books, Internet Outfitters, Glenn Iwamura, Tom Jackson, Les James, Richard James, Jeffrey/Scott Advertising, Chip Jenkins, Judy Johnson, Mary Jane Johnson, Susan Johnson, Hank Johnston, Pat Jordan, Richard Glenn Keator, Kevin Kelly, Maymie Kimes, Mary Kline, Jim Klostergaard, Mona Knight, Joyce Koller, Vance Kozik, Bill Krause, Dennis Kruska, Ben Kudo, Jeff Lahr, Hal Lambert, John & Joanne Landers, Kathy Langley, Louis Lanzer, Eric Larson, Joe Lattuada, Vicki Jo Lawson, Ann Lee, Martha J. Lee, Mike Lee, Max Lewis, Little, Brown & Company, Anne Longman, Donald Lopez, Victoria Lorenz, Denise Ludington, David Lukas, Marlene Luna, Anne & Charles Macquarie, Ed Magee, Burl Maier, Maggie Martin, Mary Martinez, Jeff Maurer, Kate Mawdsley, Pam McAdoo, John McCaffrey, John McClary, Noreen McClintock, Kate McCurdy, Ken & Patsy McKay, Ray & Marilyn McKeever, Jerry & Dianne McMahan, Stacy McNight, Marvin Meachum, Joe Medeiros, Julie Miller, Martha Miller, Jerry Mitchell, Mono Lake Committee, Tim Montgomery, Peggy Moore, Elizabeth Morales, Russell Morimoto, Morrison & Foerster, Paul Mullins, Jim Murray, Karen Najarian, Naturals from the Earth, Wanda Naylor, Marilyn Neal, Bill & Sadhna Neill, Jim Nett, Neumiller & Beardslee, Jeff Nicholas, Chris Niemer, Jeff Nixon, Carl Nolte, Ralph Occhipinti, Sheri Ogdon, Mitch Okui, Elizabeth O'Neill, J. Carroll O'Neill, Ken Olivier, Orange Tree Productions, Ron Oriti, Kathleen Orr, Michael Osborne, Michael Osborne Design, John

Ostlund, Linda Patterson, Penny Otwell, Greg Owens, Chris Paine, Peter Palmquist, Julia Parker, Lucy Parker, Peter Parsons, Jim Paruk, Robert Pavlik, Kolan Peterson, Wayne & Donna Petersen, Deanna Petree, Jack Phinney, Jeff Pietrowski, Edward Polainer, Tammie Power, Sarah Rabkin, Bridget Burns Rabon, Real Music, Recycled String Band, Redwoods Guest Cottages, Patti Reilly, Jack & Gay Reineck, Laurel Rematore, Anne Reynolds, Mike Rigney, David Robertson, Adrianna Rodrigues, Jerry Rodriguez, Roberta Rogers, Bob Roney, Cathy Rose, Gene Rose, Polly Rosen, Michael Ross, Karen Rust, Kristina Rylands, Maren Sampson, San Francisco Chronicle & Examiner, Bob San Souci, Dan San Souci, Shirley Sargent, Jonathan Schechter, Bob Schlichting, Julie Schuller, Scope Enterprises, Susan & Rich Seiling, Richard Sellars, Donna Sememaker, Margareta Sequin, Beverley Sessa, Glenn Shellcross, Dean and Marla Shenk, Mary Beth Shenton, Sierra Press, Doris Sloan, Mark Smith, Rick Smith, Jim Snyder, Toni Souza, Rick Stalder, Star Dot Technologies, David Starkweather, Max Stauffer, Harry Steed, Julie Stewart, Georgia Stigall, Bill & Mary Kay Stoehr, Leslie Stone, Ruth & Roger Strange, Lisa Strong-Aufhauser, Jackie Stroud, Rod Supple, Suzanne Swedo, Dean Swickard, Jim Taggart, Gail Takakjian-Gilbert, Tenaya Lodge, Carole Thickstun, Anne Thiermann, Steve Thompson, Mike Thornton, Dwight Tracy, Elwynn Trepel, Noreen Trombley, Cary & Wendy Trout, Elvia Trujillo, Val-Print, Linda Vanderwater, George Vega, Chris VanWinkle, John Van Winkle, Jan van Wagendonk, Keith Walklet/Quietworks, Patricia Walls, Kathy Warinner, Howard Weamer, Marlys Weekley, Robin Weiss, Claudia Welsh, Marnie Whelan-DeVos, Wilderness Press, Frankie Williams, Jim & Lynn Wilson, Patricia Winters, Fern Wollrich, Dave Wyman, Linda Yamane, Steve Ybarra, Yosemite Concession Services, Yosemite Fund, Yosemite Institute, Yosemite Motels, Yosemite Mountain Sugarpine Railroad, Yosemite Winter Club, Kathy Young, Bob Yutzy, Karen Zaller, Zellag the Degenerate, Pat Zuccaro.



# SPRING AND SUMMER SEMINARS

Take one of these terrific opportunities to be in Yosemite's vast outdoor classroom with a small group and an engaging instructor. Space in these popular courses is limited—sign up today!

## **Photographing Yosemite's Waterworks**

May 14–16

Dave Wyman

## **Writing Among Wawona's Wonders**

May 21–23

Robin Drury

## **Wildflower Wisdom - Wawona**

June 4–6

Suzanne Swedo

## **Creative Photography for Beginners**

June 11–13

Catherine Gockley

## **Pastel Painting in Yosemite—Wawona**

June 12–13

Moira Donohoe

## **An Adventure-A-Day: Family Day Hikes**

June 25–27

Kristina Rylands

## **Poisons, Pigments & Perfumes: Plant Chemistry**

July 8 (eve)–11

Drs. Glenn Keator & Margarita Sequin

## **High Country Wildflowers**

July 8 (eve)–11

Michael Ross

## **High Country Explorations**

July 15 (eve)–18

Jim Nett

## **Yosemite Creek Introductory Backpack**

July 22(eve)–25

Jim Nett

## **Ten Lakes Introductory Backpack**

July 29(eve)–August 1

Kristina Rylands

## **Grand Hikes in the High Country**

July 29(eve)–August 1

Noreen McClintock

## **Eastern Sierra Biodiversity**

August 9–13

Dr. John Harris

## **Wildflower Wisdom—Tuolumne**

August 13–15

Suzanne Swedo

## **Bird Close-Ups — Bird Banding**

August 13–15

Mike Rigney

## **The Living Forests**

August 23–27

Michael Ross

## **Grand Hikes in the High Country**

August 26 (eve)–29

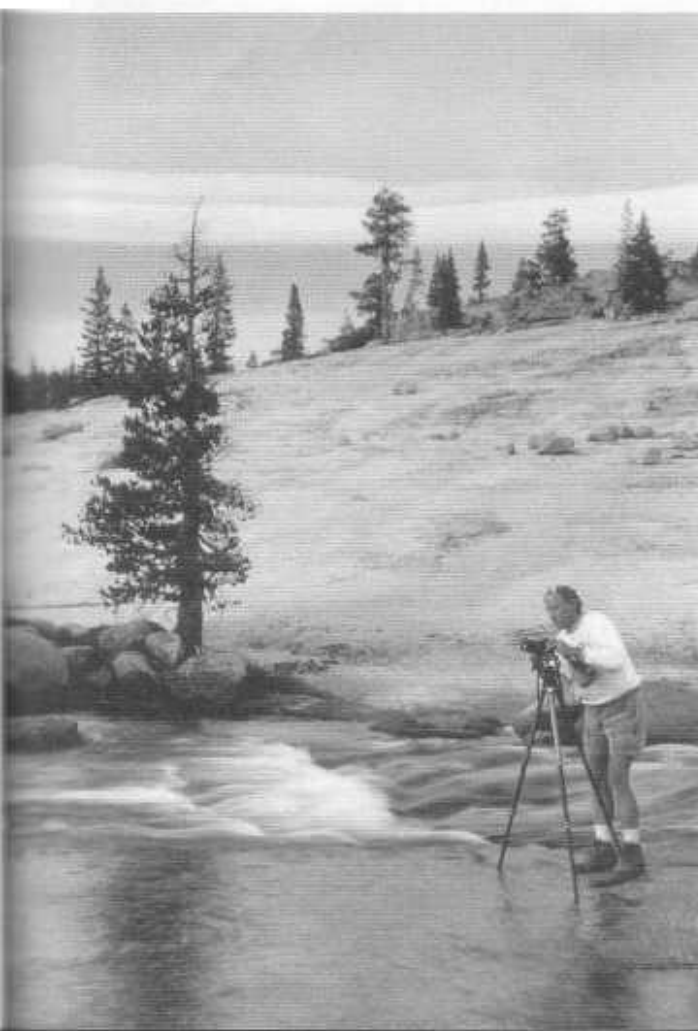
Noreen McClintock

## **The Giant Sequoias — Past & Present**

August 27–29

Stan Hutchinson

Sign up for one of these classes by calling Penny or Lou in the Yosemite Field Seminar office at 209/379-2321.



## Yosemite Association Welcomes New Vice President

In formulating the association's strategic plan over the last two years, the Y.A. Board of Trustees and staff identified the need for a new position: a Vice President of Operations who would provide a variety of management contributions to the organization, including fiscal and accounting oversight, project management, commercial development and human resource supervision. It wasn't easy finding a person with such diverse experience accompanied with a willingness to live in a remote area that lacks even the standard amenities like gourmet coffee. After many months of recruitment efforts, we're pleased to welcome Beth Pratt into this role at the Yosemite Association.

Beth (who doesn't drink coffee) comes to us from Working Assets, a progressive telecommunications company in San Francisco, where she worked on financial analysis and technical writing projects. Originally from Plymouth, Mass, after graduating Magna Cum Laude from the University of Massachusetts at Boston,



she hopped in her "caah," headed for California and soon thereafter accepted a position as the Environmental Manager for Dopaco, Inc., a manufacturing facility in Stockton. Her previous experience also includes managing The Blue Coyote, a café/bookstore in Arnold, near Calaveras Big Trees State Park.

Along with her management and accounting background, Beth also brings her talents as a writer to the association. She's published several short stories and articles on natural history and environmental issues, writes book reviews for the

Sierra Club and is currently working on her second novel.

Her interest in National Parks is not cursory, "As a child I gazed at picture books with titles like *America's National Parks* and vowed to visit every park." An avid backpacker, she has hiked portions of the Appalachian Trail, completed the John Muir Trail, climbed Mt. Whitney and explored the backcountry of numerous National Parks: Rocky Mountain, Mt. Rainier, Yellowstone, Glacier, Kings Canyon/Sequoia, and, of course, Yosemite.

YA welcomed Beth in February and she's already immersed in several projects, most notably cultivating sponsors for the *Yosemite Guide* and developing a new Junior Ranger program for the park. With her combined business acumen, natural history background and love for the outdoors, we know Beth will be an immense asset to the organization. "Yosemite has been my 'wilderness church' since I arrived in California nine years ago and I feel extremely fortunate to be a part of the Yosemite Association and working to promote the well-being of the park."

## 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 support 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

## Association Dates

**June 6-12**  
Work Trip, Yosemite Valley

**June 20-26**  
Work Trip, Yosemite Valley

**July 11-17**  
Work Trip, Wawona

**July 25-31**  
Work Trip, Tuolumne Meadows

**August 8-14**  
Backcountry Work Trip

**September 18**  
Annual Meeting, Tuolumne Meadows

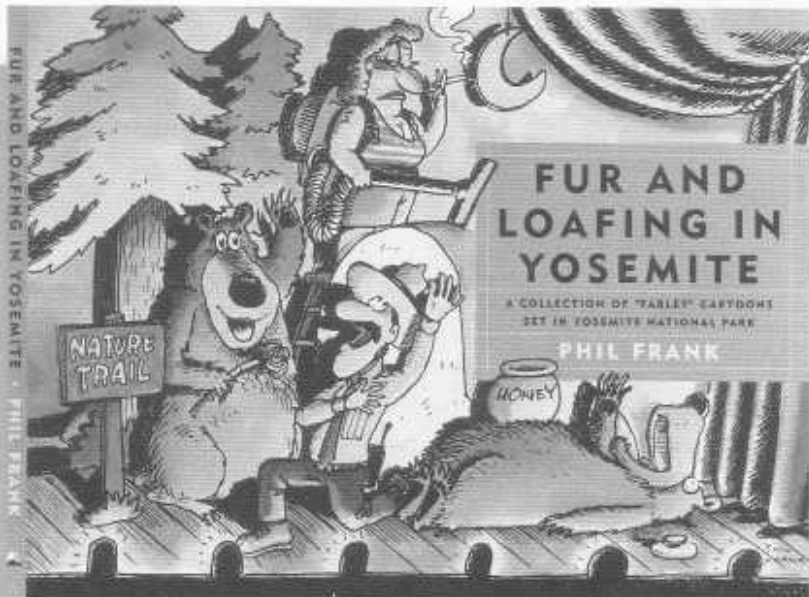
**October 24-30**  
Work Trip, Yosemite Valley

**April 1, 2000**  
Spring Forum, Yosemite Valley

**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 CATALOG



*Available in June!*

## **Fur and Loafing in Yosemite — A Collection of "Farley" Cartoons Set in Yosemite National Park**

*by Phil Frank*

The newest book from the Yosemite Association gathers 200 hilarious Yosemite-based cartoon strips, featuring do-good ranger Farley and a remarkably aberrant cast. Covering over ten years of recent Yosemite history, the cartoons chronicle the day-to-day activities, politics, and management complexities at the park with amazing insight and loads of humor.

The exceptional, curious, and eccentric characters include Farley, journalist and

seasonal park ranger, four urbanized black bears (Bruinhilda, Alphonse, Franklin, and Floyd), Chief Ranger Horace Malone, Velma Melmac (the camper who abhors dirt), and Stern Grove (a no-nonsense law enforcement specialist). As a group, this band of Yosemite-philes offers an amusing and entertaining view of life in California's most famous national park.

Cartoonist Phil Frank created the "Farley" cartoon strip, which for years was nationally syndicated. It now runs daily in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, giving Phil the opportunity to respond quickly to current events in the greater Bay Area (including Yosemite). He lives in Sausalito with his wife Susan, and maintains studios on a houseboat and in the *San Francisco Chronicle* clock tower.

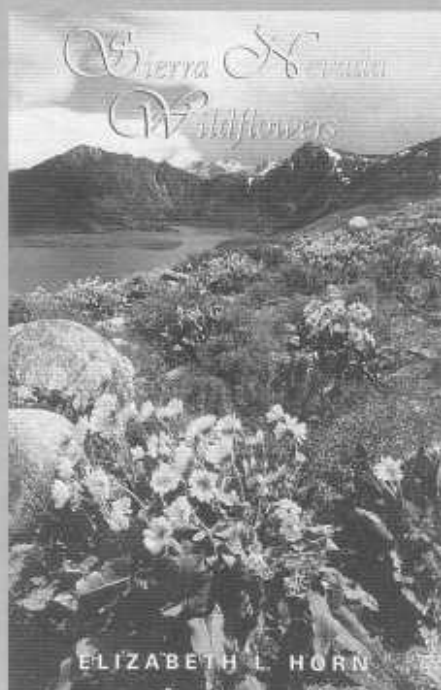
The cartoon collection includes a cast description, a "Bear's Eye View Map of Yosemite Valley," biographies of all the characters, and notes about the origins of a number of topical strips. The book is 9 inches high and 12 inches wide, and features two strips per page. 128 pages, Yosemite Association, 1999. Paperback, \$12.95

## **Sierra Nevada Wildflowers**

*by Elizabeth L. Horn*

From the grassy western foothills, through the mixed conifer forests, into the windy high country, and over to the arid east side, the Sierra Nevada supports an immense diversity of wildflowers. This updated volume, organized alphabetically by common family name, tells you what you need to know to identify more than 300 species of flowering plants - and where to look for them. Multiple color photographs face the text, allowing users to easily compare the flowers they encounter.

The edition is a complete update of the book, first published in 1976. It has had some twenty-five new species added, and the description of plant families has been expanded. Nomenclature reflects the changes made in the new Jepson Manual. Information on plant lore, an illustrated glossary, and a bonus section on identifying Sierra Nevada conifers make this book a valuable botanical resource. Because the book's not too large (5" x 8½" and 216 pages), it's easy to carry and relatively light. Mountain Press, 1998. Paperback, \$16.00



## Wildflower Walks and Roads of the Sierra Gold Country



by TONI FAUVER

Illustrations by Martha Kemp  
Historical Notes by Helen Breck



### Wildflower Walks and Roads of the Sierra Gold Country

by Toni Fauver. With illustrations by Martha Kemp and historical notes by Helen Breck.

Here is a guide to locating and identifying the hundreds of native plants that grow and thrive in California's Gold Country. The author has divided the area she covers into eight mini-regions, moving from south to north. Each mini-region chapter provides information about trails, parks, and the likely places for finding each flower and plant in its native habitat. The bulk of the rest of the book comprises illustrated plant descriptions arranged by flower color and family.

Other features of the volume are a list of plant families, illustrations of plant parts, a glossary, a bibliography, maps, and indexes. All illustrations (over 200 total) are black-and-white line drawings. 348 pages, Comstock Bonanza Press, 1998. Paperback, \$16.95

### Discover California Wildflowers

by MaryRuth Casebeer; illustrated by Peggy Edwards-Carkeet.

Believing that there is a dearth of information about California native plants available to youth in the public schools, the author developed this book for a primary audience of science teachers and their students. But because it includes a combination of facts about the plants included available no where else, it's a work that should appeal to general readers as well.

Each entry includes the plant's geographic distribution and favored habitat, accurate description and illustration, pollinator-flower relationships, name origins, folklore and historical data, and native uses. Limited to fairly common herbaceous plants that should appeal to young people, the flower list numbers slightly more than thirty, allowing in-depth treatment. There's also illustrated plant parts, a glossary, bibliography, and index. Text illustrations are black-and-white, while the cover (inside and outside) features nearly 40 color drawings. 78 pages, Hooker Press, 1999. Paperback, \$14.95

With Eyes of Wonder Series 1

## DISCOVER CALIFORNIA WILDFLOWERS



MaryRuth Casebeer

Illustrated by Peggy Edwards-Carkeet

### 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



**First Along the River -  
A Brief History of the U.S. Environmental Movement**

*by Benjamin Kline.*

This is a concise, historical overview of the environmental movement in the United States, from the colonial period to the present day. It's a thought-provoking look at the changing relationship between the American people and their environment. Included are the philosophical foundations that shaped our relationship to nature, along with the original voices of pioneer environmentalists, such as Thoreau, Pinchot, Carson, Commoner, and others.

The book also traces the origin and development of government regulations that impact how we use our natural resources, while detailing the birth and growth of environmental groups, discussing their original purposes and the ways they have changed over time. The chapters are divided by time periods, and the work is well researched and thoroughly documented.

The author is a professor of environmental history at San Jose State University. 166 pages, Acada Books, 1997. Paperback, \$16.95

**FIRST ALONG THE RIVER**

*a brief history of the  
u.s. environmental movement*



*benjamin kline*



**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

**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





### 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

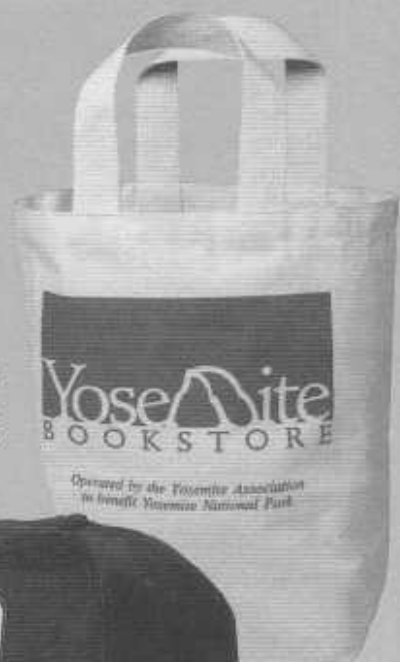
*Illustrated by Elizabeth Morales*

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)



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## Letter to the Editor

Subject: cool cam

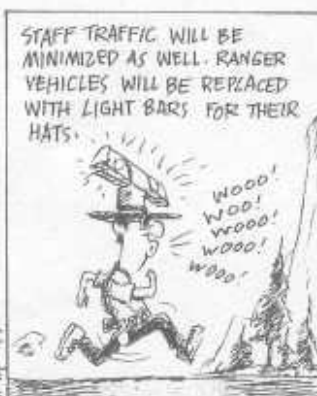
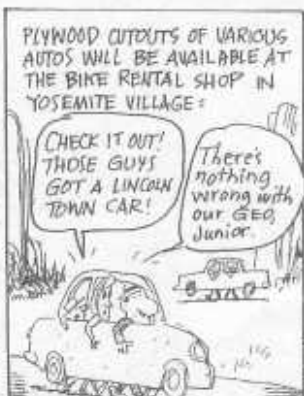
I am really excited about the Yosemite Association's cam-live shot of Yosemite.

My husband and I had to relocate from San Jose, California to New York for his doctorate program. When we lived in San Jose, we made several trips to Yosemite, and now we live too far away for a quick trip. It's been two years since I have visited Yosemite, so I was searching the web for sentimental Yosemite stuff, when I stumbled across this website and was so happy to be able to view my beloved park live in seconds. It is a very cool idea and extremely interesting to view the valley in different light and weather. Will there be more live cams set up in the park in the future?

This cam thing is why I choose to become a Yosemite Association member!

Thanks,  
nicolet sullins

The camera address is:  
<http://yosemite.org/vryos/index.html>





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## Join the Yosemite Association

You can help support the work of the Yosemite Association by becoming a member. Revenues generated by the Association's activities are used to fund a variety of National Park Service programs in Yosemite. Not only does the Yosemite Association publish and sell literature and maps, it sponsors field seminars, the park's Art Activity Center, the Wilderness Center, and the Ostrander Lake Ski Hut.

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?

### MOVING?

If you are moving or have recently moved, don't forget to notify us. You are a valued member of the Association, and we'd like to keep in touch with you.

### MEMBER BENEFITS

As a member of the Yosemite Association, you will enjoy the following benefits:

- \* *Yosemite*, the Association journal, published on a quarterly basis;
- \* A 15% discount on all books, maps, posters, calendars, publications stocked for sale by the Association;
- \* A 10% discount on most of the field seminars conducted by the Association in Yosemite National Park;
- \* The opportunity to participate in members' meetings and volunteer activities held throughout the year;
- \* A Yosemite Association decal.

**When you join at one of the following levels, you will receive a special membership gift:**

*Supporting:* the award-winning video, "Yosemite: The Fate of Heaven."

*Contributing:* *Yosemite—The Promise of Wildness*, an elegant book of essays and photographs.

*Sustaining:* *Tradition and Innovation, A Basket History of the Indians of the Yosemite/Mono Lake Area*, a beautifully illustrated, finely printed book.

*Patron:* a matted color photograph by Howard Weamer, "Half Dome—Storm Light."

*Benefactor or Dual Benefactor:* an Ansel Adams Special Edition print, "Yosemite Valley—Thunderstorm."

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# Yosemite

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