McCauley’s Glacier Point Mountain House
James McCauley (1840–1911), a roughhewn, Irish-born sailor, came to America at the age of seventeen as a stowaway on a British ship. After a brief stay in New York City, he stowed away again, this time on a vessel bound for South America. Disembarking at Panama, he journeyed overland to the Pacific Ocean and eventually found his way to Portland, Oregon. He spent a half-dozen years mining in Washington state and Montana before being lured to Hite's Cove in Mariposa County in 1865 by a fellow miner's exuberant tales of golden riches.

In the spring of 1870, McCauley left his job at the Pine Tree Mine near Bear Valley and obtained employment in Yosemite Valley at James Hutchings' water-powered sawmill, working with John Muir. When Hutchings packed in his two-horse stage in August, 1871, used to transport tourists from the foot of the Coulterville Trail to El Capitan to Hutchings Hotel, McCauley became the driver. Later the same year, he entered into a ten-year contract with the Yosemite Board of Commissioners to build and operate a toll trail from the Valley floor near Leidig's Hotel up to Glacier Point. It was reported that hotel owners and other businessmen within the Yosemite Grant had encouraged the commissioners to authorize the venture.

McCauley hired John Conway, builder of many roads and trails in and around Yosemite, to survey the route. Beginning in the late fall of 1871, McCauley, working alone, completed about a half mile of trail before the first big snowstorm of the season halted his efforts. In the process he exhausted his capital of seven hundred dollars. During the winter of 1871–72, McCauley occupied himself obtaining loans totaling three thousand dollars from various friends as far away as Hite's Cove. The following spring he hired a crew of nine men and resumed work on the challenging project in earnest.

When a scenic outlook named Union Point, two miles from the summit, was attained in early summer, McCauley received permission from the commissioners to begin charging tourists who wished to visit the new viewpoint. Conway was injured about this time in an accident. Because he had already finished the survey to Glacier Point, trail work went on to completion without him in mid-1872.

McCauley then built a small combination tollhouse and residence at the foot of the trail and set about satisfying his many debts. Fred McCauley, one of James' sons, said many years later that his father paid off his thirty-five hundred dollar investment and began showing a profit in less than two years.

Noted writer Helen Hunt Jackson described her journey up and down the Four-Mile Trail, as it soon became known, shortly after its completion: "It is a marvel of work. It is broad, smooth, and well-protected on the outer edge, in all dangerous places, by large rocks; so that, although it is by far the steepest out of the valley, zigzagging back and forth on a sheer granite wall, one rides up it with little alarm or giddiness, and with such a sense of gratitude to the builder that the dollar's toll seems too small."

In the spring of 1872, with the new trail to Glacier Point about to become a reality, Charles Peregoy, proprietor of Peregoy's Mountain View House, a rustic stopping place,
place on the old trail between Clark’s Station at Wawona and Yosemite Valley, decided to erect a small building at the renowned overlook. John Muir, in a letter to a friend in June, 1872, wrote: “I hear Peregoy intends building a hotel at Glacier Point.” Peregoy’s great-granddaughter Beatrice said that construction of a rough, one-story building “perched like an eagle’s nest on a very commanding crag” began that summer. The shack-like structure was apparently completed in 1873, but never furnished or utilized.

After the State of California took over possession of all Yosemite claims in the fall of 1874, the commissioners leased Peregoy’s Glacier Point shanty to James McCauley for ten years on condition that he build a suitable hotel on the site. McCauley devoted the summers of 1875 and 1876 to the construction of a greatly enlarged, two-story building. “Peregoy’s shack was in tumbledown condition,” McCauley said a few years later. “I practically rebuilt the structure, spending $2,000 to do so.”

All wood used in the hotel came from trees felled in the nearby forest. Timbers were hewed on the ground with a broadax. Boards for flooring, doors, and window casings were cut by a three-man crew using a primitive pit-saw. It required a long day of arduous labor to produce seventy-five to a hundred board feet of usable lumber. Everything else for the remote project was carried up the Four-Mile Trail from the Valley on the backs of mules.

McCauley completed his hotel after eleven months of strenuous work and immediately offered it for sale or lease to any interested party. It seems likely that McCauley, an uneducated, unmarried man, felt incapable of operating the business himself, but had undertaken the venture to boost travel over his Glacier Point trail. On August 5, 1876, the Mariposa Gazette carried an advertisement listing McCauley’s hotel “for sale or lease” (reproduced on these pages).

In the spring of 1877, McCauley leased his new hotel, which was not nearly so grand as his advertisement implied, to Thomas and Elizabeth Glynn, a Massachusetts couple who had only recently come to Yosemite because of Mrs. Glynn’s asthma (“I can’t breathe in any other place,” she often said). Mrs. Glynn, an industrious, somewhat eccentric woman, was an excellent purveyor of plain but appetizing food, which she served on her own edgedown china. This ability served the couple well because most of their income derived from meals supplied to travelers who rode up the Four-Mile or the Panorama Trail to see the spectacular view.

During the Glynn’s three seasons of management (1877-79), few tourists elected to remain overnight in McCauley’s spartan building, which had no bathing facilities and whose interior partitions and ceilings consisted of cloth and paper. Thomas Glynn transported all water used at the hotel in two ten-gallon kegs by wheelbarrow from a spring a quarter of a mile away. A few years later, McCauley piped water directly to the premises from a better spring a half-mile distant. Naturally, all the heavy iron pipe required for the undertaking had to be packed up the steep trail on mules.

On November 18, 1879, James McCauley, age thirty-nine, married Barbara Wenger, a thirty-seven-year-old German woman who was employed at Leidig’s Hotel. The new Mrs. McCauley had a four-year-old son named Jules, whom McCauley adopted. The following summer the couple took over the operation of the Glacier Point hotel themselves and remained in place for eighteen seasons (1880-1897). Barbara, who was universally praised for her culinary skills, prepared all the meals and did the housekeeping, assisted by a hired girl. James waited table, tended bar, handled the chores, and entertained the guests.

Twin boys were born to the McCauleys on November 4, 1880, in their winter residence at the foot of the Four-Mile Trail. In 1883, a year after the state purchased his toll trail for twenty-five hundred dollars, McCauley bought the ranch of John Hamilton, a deceased Yosemite guide. The property lay on a flank above the Merced River just west of present Foresta. He later homesteaded the surrounding 160 acres.

McCauley ran cattle in the El Portal area during the winter. Early each summer he drove his animals up the Four-Mile Trail to Glacier Point and turned them out to

McCauley advertised his new hotel “for sale or lease” in the Mariposa Gazette on August 5, 1876.
Luncheon of the trail-building party in 1872. J. J. Reilly took this photograph of McCauley (at right) and his nine-man crew part way up the Four-Mile Trail. John Conway, who surveyed the route for McCauley, is seated at the left, across from McCauley.

pasture in several pleasant meadows nearby. The arrangement provided good forage for the stock as well as a plentiful supply of meat and fresh milk for the hotel table.

In 1882 the Yosemite Stage & Turnpike Company completed a toll road to Glacier Point. Built by John Conway at a cost of eight thousand dollars, the scenic, fourteen-mile spur joined the existing road between Wawona and Yosemite Valley at Chinquapin Flat. Patronage at the Glacier Point Mountain House was considerably increased by the coming of tourists who could not walk or ride a horse up the steep trails.

McCauley received three hundred dollars annually from the state for keeping the Four-Mile Trail in good repair. From this, one hundred dollars was deducted as rent for the Glacier Point property. The agreement was contingent on McCauley's making certain improvements at the commissioners' request. Over the years these included digging a basement under the building, completing the unfinished bedrooms, adding roofed porches, and replacing the flooring. McCauley accomplished the last-named item by clandestinely removing the floor boards from his former toll house, then under state ownership, and installing them in the Mountain House.

Walter Dennison, the Yosemite Guardian at the time, complained vociferously to the commissioners without success.

McCauley, a gregarious, fun-loving fellow, is generally credited with inadvertently originating the famous Firefall, which became a Yosemite institution in later years. "Father started the Firefall in 1872," son Fred McCauley said, "when he pushed his campfire over the Glacier Point cliff. He experimented with gunny sacks soaked in kerosene, fireworks, and even dynamite bombs for spectacular effects. In time, the Firefall became almost a nightly event in the summer."

All through the 1880s and beyond, the unsurpassed views from its porches and the cheerful hospitality of the proprietors more than made up for the lack of amenities at the little Glacier Point hotel. During their lengthy tenure there, James and Barbara McCauley raised cattle, three sons, and the spirits of those fortunate sightseers who came to visit the highest stopping place in Yosemite.

In 1895 the state spent fifteen hundred dollars making "extensive repairs" to the Mountain House, which the commissioners deemed "almost uninhabitable." They reported that they had received a number of complaints about McCauley's maintenance of the premises, "including bedbugs." On October 23, 1897, McCauley, who had a year-to-year lease at Glacier Point, closed his hotel and returned to his ranch near present Foresta for the winter.

Ten days later, the commissioners awarded the lease of the property to an employee of Henry Washburn, who owned the Hotel Wawona and the Yosemite Stage & Turnpike Company, on condition that Washburn "put in two bathtubs and water closets at his own expense. Guardian Miles Wallace then sent in a small group of state employees to break into the hotel and throw out all of McCauley's things, which they did. During the next few days, Washburn sent in wagons carrying beds, bedding, and other appurtenances to replace McCauley's household goods.

When McCauley heard the news, he and eldest son Jules immediately rode up the Four-Mile Trail to Glacier Point. There they found his things strewn under the trees, Washburn's furnishings in the hotel, and the building secured with new locks. Furious, McCauley promptly broke into the hotel, threw out Washburn's things, and put his own back inside. Lacking money for a long legal battle, McCauley moved his family to the hotel to wait until the first big snowstorm would prevent further action by the commissioners that winter. According to son Fred, his father awoke one morning, took out his rifle, saddled his horse, and declared that he was going to Wawona to murder Henry Washburn and his two brothers, John and Edward.
Fortunately, McCauley’s family was able to persuade the irate innkeeper to abandon his vendetta. Soon after, the Mariposa County sheriff arrived and took legal possession of the premises for the state. Friends said that McCauley left his beloved Glacier Point property a broken man and never fully recovered from the humiliating experience.

In 1916-17, the Desmond Park Service Company built the three-story, eighty-room Glacier Point Hotel adjoining the old Mountain House on the south rim of Yosemite Valley. In later years, the Mountain House was used mainly for employee housing and as a public cafeteria. Both buildings burned to the ground on August 9, 1969, in one of the worst structural fires in Yosemite history.

After the army took over administration of Yosemite Valley in 1906, following the re-cession of the original Yosemite Grant by California to the federal government, James McCauley obtained a contract to supply fresh meat to Valley outlets. On June 24, 1911, while he was traveling from his ranch down the steepest section of the old Coulterville Road between Big Meadow and the Merced River with two freshly killed cows, McCauley’s team apparently bolted, upsetting his wagon, and throwing him hard to the ground. A few hours later, a passerby found McCauley lying dead beside his upturned wagon.

Hank Johnston is the author of sixteen books and numerous articles about California history. His newest book, Ho! For Yosemite, a collection of first-person accounts of early travel to the Valley, was recently published by the Yosemite Association. For an in-depth look at early Yosemite history, see Johnston’s book The Yosemite Grant, 1864—1906: A Pictorial History, also published by the Yosemite Association. All photographs are from the author’s collection.
William James hoped to travel to California and the west coast for many years, but did not hit on a plan to free himself from his Harvard University and family obligations until January 14, 1897, when he wrote to Professor George H. Howison in the Department of Philosophy, University of California, in Berkeley. James proposed that he deliver a series of lectures for teachers, in exchange for a stipend enough to pay for his expenses round-trip from Boston. After further correspondence with Howison about details (July 2, 1897; April 5, 1897), James made final plans to leave Cambridge, Massachusetts, on or about August 1, 1898.

James' health suffered serious degradation (a heart problem) just prior to his departure for California. From the family home in Chocorua, New Hampshire, he went to a favorite mountain haunt in the Adirondacks: Keene Valley, New York. James meant to spend some time resting from the academic year's trials. Hiking alone after a sleepless night, he ascended Mt. Marcy (elevation 5,344 feet) not far from Lake Placid, returned to Keene Valley, and joined a party of young people (approximately 30 years his junior).

The very next day, James again ascended Mt. Marcy, this time with the group of young friends, then climbed up and down two other prominences the same day. This excessively strenuous hiking left him with a heart valve weakness, a chronically painful angina, and a troubling realization that, at 56 years, he needed to pace himself carefully. (Some uncertainty in the literature exists about his Mt. Marcy exploits, because his 1898 and 1899 climbs have been confused.)

James was an "outdoorsman," as one would be called in the nineteenth century, but far from a mountaineer or climber. In fact, by his own frequent admission, he suffered from a real, incapacitating fear of being on heights, despite repeated efforts to recondition himself to them. Acrophobia (fear of being at a great height, such as in an airplane) is a commonly debilitating, emotional state. James never tried to hide the fact, despite his great annoyance with the fear and its affect on him. His acrophobia would influence choices for his coming trip through Yosemite.

How did James come to his strong desire to experience Yosemite? In 1898, the entire world was aware of the California lures—gold, excitement, Paul Bunyan forests, the Sierra Nevada range. Several close relations, faculty colleagues, and students doubtless urged him to see California in general and Yosemite in particular. His wife, Alice Howe Gibbens James, was a resident of California when she was growing up in Santa Clara, and her mother was familiar with Santa Barbara and other parts of California.

Professor Josiah Royce of Harvard, a member of the Department of Philosophy and a close neighbor of James, was born and raised in Grass Valley, California, and taught English literature for a time at the University of California prior to being "called" to Harvard. Charles Bakewell, a former philosophy student of James, seems to have had a strong influence on James' decision to make the extensive trip across the continent to see Yosemite and California. These were some of the factors bearing on James' determination to become "more familiar with his native land."

There is also a possibility that James was on a mission from President Charles W. Eliot of Harvard to accomplish two tasks during his trip. One was to form a liaison between President David Starr Jordan, of Stanford University, and Harvard. The other was to visit with Phoebe Apperson Hearst, whose wealth would have held keen interest for President Eliot regarding Harvard's endowment funds.

These two (speculative) possibilities, if real, were not made public, and James' correspondence gives only broad hints of the missions. James did become well connected with Stanford and David Starr Jordan, to the point that James returned to Stanford to lecture (and teach) in 1906 in time to enjoy the earthquake. James also had a long audience with Phoebe Apperson Hearst on September 4, 1898, about the time she donated a fortune for the development of the University of California campus, including the Hearst Mining Building, the Greek Theater, and the Hearst Gymnasium.

To James' obvious annoyance (in his letters), his hosts, George Howison and David Starr Jordan especially, made sure James was given every opportunity to appear socially, in addition to his scheduled and unscheduled lectures.

James' letters from July 29 to September 16, 1898, make it clear that James and Bakewell took their ambitious and strenuous trip around Yosemite before James delivered any lectures at the university. At least one important account has the order reversed, showing James giving his series of lectures before he goes to Yosemite.
this is in error. All of his lectures were delivered following his trip into Yosemite.

On August 13, at five o'clock in the afternoon, James and Charles Bakewell arrived at the Wawona Hotel after a scenic and exciting stage ride from Raymond, along the foothill route to Cold Spring, up Chowchilla Mountain and over the pass near the shoulder of Signal Peak (and Devil's Peak), then down the grade along Big Creek, emerging from the forest into the meadow (now the golf course) to the hotel grounds. (As with the other sketches of James' route that follow, I provide the most likely details, for James fails to provide them.)

The next day, August 14, at the Wawona Hotel, they hiked the eight miles to the Mariposa Grove of Big Trees, returning on the hotel stage, which appeared propitiously, James' letter to his wife, Alice, says in part,

"Yesterday among the big trees was another unique and delightful experience. They lie on the hillside a couple of thousand feet above the hotel, eight miles off—Bakewell and I sauntered thither after breakfast. Through the noble, refined, and park like forest, the slope being gentle, the spaces wide and the ground free of underbrush and covered mainly with an aromatic "bear-clover" that smells like hamamelis, and keeps the vistas green. The magnificent pines and cedars have their bare boughs and parts of their sides clad with a dry but intensely green moss that adds color to the scene. At last we came upon a couple of the cinnamon-red and velvety-looking shafts of the monsters, and then some three miles of walking through the whole 600-odd. They are beauties—entirely different from what the descriptions and pictures had led me to represent—something enormous in breadth namely—or their magnificent straightness and height, their refinement of surface-texture, the deep green vitality of their wholly undecaying tops and the tactile values (as Berenson would say) suggested by their true rotundity, make them beautiful in the extreme, with no impression but that of magnificent strength and symmetry."

(p. 410)

On August 15, the two men were up and ready for a mountain hike. From James' description, it appears that they walked back across the meadow, retracing their stage ride route up Big Creek (for four miles) to acclimate themselves further to the elevation and to forest hiking. James says this (letter to Alice, August 13) concerning their arrival in Yosemite:

"This is the close of a day of which every minute has been delightful. The dust, of which we had heard such terrifying stories, proved quite insignificant, and rather nutritious and health-giving than otherwise. The temperature had dropped from 114 yesterday to 102 this P.M. (92 at 6 A.M. — 98 at 12) and owing to the extreme dryness and evaporation, for we reached a height of 6000 feet by five o'clock, was really not a bit uncomfortable, and the scenery the whole way, every foot of the 44 miles was entirely novel and picturesque in the complete sense of the term. I wouldn't have missed it for anything, even were there no Yosemite ahead. For the last dozen miles we have got into a cooler regular park, the well-graded road winding around the sides of smooth hills on which grow well spaced apart, so that the whole thing is park-like, the noblest timber I ever saw, great shafts of absolute straightness, from 4 to 8 feet in diameter & from 200 to 300 feet high—pines with massive green heads—a noble and inspiring sight."

(pp. 409-410)

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Disappointed by the smoke-filled Yosemite Valley, James and party spent five days in Tuolumne Meadows.

At 7 a.m., August 16, they left Wawona by stage, traveling to Yosemite Valley, arriving at noon, the Valley shrouded in a thick, smoky haze, creating a view they both found totally unappealing. The atmospheric effect on them was one of uninspiring desolation—dry, dusty, with no water in the celebrated falls. They decided to leave the Valley as soon as possible—to get out of the choking smokiness from forest fires. On August 16 and 17, they stayed in the famous Sentinel Hotel.

An August 17th letter to Susan Goldmark summarizes his trip to date, adding, “I saw grand scenery on the Canadian Pacific, spent two strange days on a sun-baked ranch in the northern part of the state [in Siskiyou County], enjoyed immensely the bay of San Francisco—the most metaphysically impressive thing I’ve seen being the sea-lions in a state of nature on the rocks off the cliff house [Cliff House] whose ardent and tremendous life, makes me feel somehow how accidental the human type is among all the other types of God’s creatures—and on the 26th, I am to be back in S.F. to perpetrate those awful lectures.”  

On August 17, James and Bakewell took a two-and-one-half-hour horseback ride to Vernal Fall and back, a wise move to prepare them for their extensive mule-back and horseback five-day trip to begin on August 18. James summarizes in a letter to Alice, August 17 (noon):

“We had a fine drive of 24 miles from Wawona yesterday forenoon, though the woods were on fire for a portion of the way and the stage returning had a hard time getting in, as I just learn. The descent into the Valley is sublime enough, and beautiful in its faint smoke-opalescent ghostly lineaments. But when we got down the smoke hid every distant point, all the water falls were extinct, everything heavy with dust, and the sheer precipices on every hand, suggesting nothing to the mind but death, gave one a grievous disappointment. The whole fun is in the journey hither. This a.m. it is cooler (only 90 degrees) and we have had a very pleasant horseback ride of 2½ hours to Vernal falls which supply the river that runs through the valley and are the only fall not entirely “turned-off” by the drought. [sic. James lumps Vernal and Nevada falls together—a common mistake with new park visitors.] We have decided to quit the unre-munerative place, and ascend to morrow up one of the trails on mule-back for a camping excursion of five days to Mount Conness in the High Sierras, with a guide [John Sax]. It is said to be very beautiful scenery, and I hope we shall get away from all this smoke. We shall “sleep” (?) on the bare ground beneath the stars and return to glacier point above the middle of this Valley in time to be back at “Frisco” by Friday the 26th.” (p. 419)

They left Yosemite Valley on August 18th “without regrets” for their five-day trip to Tuolumne Meadows. John Sax arranged for them to have one mule apiece with one mule for packing gear, some of which they had to buy just for the trip. Not until August 23rd did James write a letter to Alice sketching their adventure, day by day. Unfortunately, insufficient details are given to be sure of the route taken to Tenaya Lake on the first day out. (James calls it “Tenago lake.”)

His estimate of eighteen miles, “3 hours on foot, 5 on muleback,” fits two routes. The party may have ascended by way of what was then called “Soda Springs Trail,” now “May Lake Trail,” with a junction to “Tenaya Lake Trail.” The steep, formidable, notorious “Zig-Zags” out of the Valley above Mirror Lake suggest that the two “tender-feet” probably opted for the alternative route up to Nevada Fall, Little Yosemite, lower Cloud’s Rest Trail, and then the Forsythe Trail over Forsythe Pass down to Tenaya Lake—a more gradual, but still challenging trip for this first day out.

“We went 18 miles the first day to a certain Lake Tenago—3 hours on foot & 5 on muleback. We slept as warm as toast, but my heart palpilated so during the night from the altitude (8300 feet) [actually 8141] that we decided to give up Mount Conness which is over 12,000, and keep lower. (After that first night I had no trouble.)” (p. 415)

James’ account of their five-day trip is uncharacteristically laconic.

“The second day we lunched at a ‘soda spring’ near ‘Tuolumne Meadows,’ and in the afternoon rode over a wonderful pass to another little nameless lake—in all 24 miles, in the saddle, having swapped my mule for a horse which we got from the proprietor of
the whole outfit whom we found camping with his family at Lake Tenago." (p. 415)

The second day's "24 mile ride" to Soda Spring in Tuolumne Meadows and their ride to Tioga Pass to Tioga Lake, then returning to Tenaya Lake (he says it is nameless, and it probably was in 1898) were an ambitious continuation of their adventure in the high country.

"3rd day, only eight miles to a pasture ground in the woods under Clouds Rest mountain, where we stayed loafing and reading." (p. 415)

On the third day, they traveled up the Sunrise-Forsythe trail to a camping spot near Clouds Rest on the Clouds Rest trail which runs along the back of the mountain above the Forsythe Trail.

On the fourth day, Bakewell and Sax, leaving James below the summit, ascended to the spectacular summit of Clouds Rest. James' acrophobia prevented his joining the two men, to his obvious chagrin and annoyance.

"4th day, up Clouds Rest (I flunking the last few feet of the summit by reason of my ridiculous fear on heights), in the morning, loafing the rest of the day." (p. 415)

By the fifth day, James was ready to admit the nobility and grandeur of the landscapes he had been absorbing – from the comfort of the Wawona Hotel. In a peroration on the grand and noble scenes, James wrote,

"5th day hither by the rim of the Valley, Nevada Falls & Glacier point, 12 miles riding, 10 walking, and 10 staging. The whole thing very grand and simple. Seen from afar, from the lofty viewpoints, these Sierras form an awful wilderness of desolation of whitish granite mounds and peaks and precipices. But the ghastly gray surface is laced all over by thin lines of green following its crevices declivities and hollows, and inside these lines, when you get at them there is every sort of soft sylvan beauty, and through them innumerable lines of travel are made possible from one part of the scene to another. Immense pines, lakelets, brooks, springs, meadows, rock-ledges, all sorts of beauties, a perfect feast for the artist at every turn. And almost everywhere the strange nobility that comes from smooth and simple lines, majestic size of elements, and vacant space between them. At every turn a kodak or water-colour subject, so that one could cry almost at not being an artist, and I do cry for not having "storage" for it all in the way of visual memory, only abstract ideas of what it was—so different from all that you find in the white mountains or the Adirondacks, where an artist can hardly find a subject. Some of the granite mountains and precipices by which we passed were perfectly stupendous for their energy of character." (pp. 415-416)

On August 25, James returned to Berkeley, and on August 26, he delivered one of his more influential lectures to the Philosophical Union at the University of California: "Philosophical Conceptions and Practical Results," later published in Pragmatism as "What Pragmatism Means."

His California trip was not over, however. Between August 27 and September 16 he spent time with George H. H. Howison, and with the Joseph Le Contes, visited San Francisco again, and in Santa Cruz, worked on his lectures for teachers in the Hotel Del Monte in Monterey. He became well acquainted with President David Starr Jordan and visited at length with Phoebe Apperson Hearst, though the outcomes of both contacts were left unreported in his correspondence.

Before leaving California, James sent a letter to his close friend, Rosina Hubley Emmet, from the Hotel Del Monte, Monterey, on September 9, 1898, and exulted about his California experience: "I have seen your native state...I've been to Yosemite, and camped for five days in the high Sierras." (p. 431) In completing his earlier travel account he wrote: "The good that this trip is doing me is of a queer sort—it makes me see the world in such simple lines—the endless physical courage and energy of the common man, at the basis of it, guided in certain channels of leading minds. All history simplifies itself." (p. 416)
When Europeans arrived on the North American continent, there were an estimated fifteen to eighteen million native peoples across the land, from the present-day boundary with Mexico north to Canada and Alaska. Today, there are about two million Indians, Aleuts, and Inuits, comprising less than one per cent of the total United States population. One-third of those live on reservation lands, and fifty percent of all Native Americans live in urban areas such as Seattle, Los Angeles, and Phoenix.

It's quite a contrast to think about a time just a few hundred years ago when the North American landscape held vast amounts of forest, prairie, desert, and riverine woodlands that also accommodated a diverse and thriving fauna, as well as many unique and distinct nations. What was once characterized as "wilderness" (literally, the place of wild beasts) was rapidly transformed to farm fields, cities, and towns, and rivers to routes for transportation and commerce. As the wilderness was tamed, so the native people were driven from their ancestral homes and their societies and cultures forever altered. As the last remaining wild places were set aside and declared national parks, the original inhabitants were once again displaced.

The reasons for their removal from national parks are many and complex, as well as contradictory, and elucidated in these two volumes. Fortunately for the interested reader they cover different parks and have...
times, varying viewpoints, but the underlying message is the same: the rights of Native Americans were abridged, trampled on, by the federal government when it came to developing policies concerning the national parks. While this may not come as any surprise to some, the nature, extent, and duration of the mistreatment is still dramatic and unsettling.

Both volumes detail the history of Indian/white relations as they pertain to the creation and management of national parks. The fledgling National Park Service had a difficult time sorting out its relationship with Native Americans who had occupied these lands for millennia, and whose lifestyles, relationships, and utilization of native plants and animals conflicted with the policies and practices of the new federal agency. At the same time, the Park Service sought to exploit the Indians' presence within the national parks, by using them for cheap labor that could be dismissed at the end of the season or a moment's notice without the usual benefits that accrue to other workers.

Native American material culture proved to be particularly popular with the public and the park service (not to mention private businesses and concessionaires), and their handicrafts were highly prized by tourists. In addition, Native American designs and crafts were incorporated into the large lodges that were built in the parks to house visitors, and these motifs can still be seen in the Ahwahnee Hotel, Bright Angel Lodge, and visitor centers throughout the southwest. Indian Days was a popular event held in Yosemite every year, promoting the practices of the native Miwoks while enticing visitors back to the park for the special event. A fondness for art does not translate to a tolerance for or acceptance of a native people's way of life, however, and Indians were constantly relegated to second class citizen status by the powerful ruling class that oversaw the management of the parks.

In some instances the National Park Service argued that, despite George Catlin's call for a "nation's park" that would have included "man and beast, in all the wild and freshness of their nature's beauty," the idea of parks and wilderness cried out for a landscape devoid of any human presence, most notably that of the Indian, who was perceived as an interloper and despoiler of the pristine condition of wilderness that the park service was charged to protect. The conflicts have grown as Native Americans sought to have their hunting and fishing rights (many agreed to by treaty) restored and respected, regardless of the land managing agency that is now in charge of their native hunting, fishing, and gathering grounds.

American Indians and the National Parks covers a wide area of history and public policy, tackling difficult contemporary issues facing Native peoples and the park service alike. The authors begin with a historical study of Yosemite and Yellowstone to establish a pattern that extends into the present day. Their book looks at Havasupai land claims in the Grand Canyon, interpretation at Mesa Verde, and hunting and fishing rights in Olympic, Glacier, and the Everglades. Dispossessing the Wilderness is a more tightly focused study of three national parks: Yosemite, Yellowstone, and Glacier, and each park's individual history as it pertains to Indian/white relations and the European concept of "wilderness."

These books are the first works that deal with this fascinating and complicated subject. They expand on previous studies, such as Roderick Nash's Wilderness and the American Mind and Alfred Runte's National Parks: The American Experience, and break new ground in the fields of national park history as well as Native American and environmental studies. These studies will prove invaluable to anyone wishing to better understand the history of our national parks, and the evolving role of Native Americans in their management.

Robert Pavlik is an Associate Environmental Planner for the Department of Transportation for the State of California. A resident of Paso Robles, he is a regular contributor to this journal.

YA Receives Packard Grant for Bird Book

The David and Lucile Packard Foundation recently announced that it had approved a grant in the sum of $125,000 to support the preparation of artwork for the Yosemite Association's work in progress entitled Field Guide to the Birds of the Sierra Nevada. A portion of the grant will be used to develop a web site to bring attention to the status of birds in the Sierra.

The new field guide, being written by Ted Beedy and David Lukas with help from Steve Granholm, will feature the drawings of Keith Hansen, an accomplished bird illustrator. He is in the process of undertaking some 1,500 different drawings covering 320 species in different plumages (adult, immature, male, female) and postures (perched and flying).

The grant supplements an earlier gift from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation in support of the field guide project. The board and staff of YA extend thanks and appreciation to everyone at the foundation for their continuing commitment to education and conservation issues in Yosemite and the Sierra Nevada.
For years, advocates for and employees of the National Park Service have complained that Congress, and through Congress the American people, created a contradictory mandate for the national parks. The contradiction comes, they claim, from requiring the Park Service to balance two incompatible missions: to preserve the resources placed in its charge and to provide public access—and by extension, opportunities for outdoor recreation—throughout the National Park System.

Almost always, friends and critics of the Park Service point to the Organic Act of 1916 as the source of the contradictory mandate. This argument is false on three grounds. The act of 1916 did not provide for two opposing goals; it is not the only legislation by which the goals of the Park Service were defined; and it did not refer to public outdoor recreation as a goal of the National Park System.

The Organic Act established the nation’s first professional park service to promote and regulate the use of federal areas known as “national parks, monuments, and reservations.” The service was to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife within these units and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.

Though the mandate contains no reference to recreation, those who favor large-scale access to the national parks and who wish to promote outdoor recreational agendas invariably argue that the second charge in some manner overrides the first. To test whether this was the intent of Congress, in the act of 1916 or in subsequent generic acts, requires a legislative history. Such a history attempts to understand the intent of Congress by examining the act in question, all previous bills (including drafts where obtainable), all House and Senate debate, all committee hearings, and any other printed records of the US. Congress by which the act became law. One must also understand the intent of the legislators who served on the committees, and thus one must obtain access to and examine the private papers of those committee members.

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The first substantive discussion of the purposes of the National Park Service took place in the House of Representatives during hearings in April 1912. Representatives discussed how national parks would differ from national forests, whether all 12 existing national parks were truly of national significance, and whether duplication of “scientific exhibits” was permissible or desirable in a genuinely systemic park system. Throughout testimony, members of Congress demonstrated a desire to see lands administered by a park service as unique, nationally significant, and forming a coherent whole rather than a mere accumulation of more-or-less desirable land forms. Representatives also discussed the “automobile question,” and the park point of view was to manage so as “not to destroy the scenic effect.”

Although the bill introduced in 1912 never made it out of committee, Congress would consider legislation to establish a park service in each of the next four years.

During the 1914 discussion, representatives suggested the purpose of the parks was to protect scenery. They discussed what constitutes “scenery,” drawing clearly on the accepted definitions of the word as used in the Century Dictionary and Cyclopaedia, the favored reference of Congress at the time. This discussion put considerable distance between the goals of the U.S. Forest Service and the proposed Park Service. Even Chief Forester Henry S. Graves testified that national parks should be held to higher standards of protection and scenic values than other public lands. He also testified that they must be of clear national significance and that areas of “a special scenic character” might begin as national monuments.
within the Department of Agriculture and then, upon further study, become parks. The intent quite clearly was to provide a far more stringent form of protection to any area that would be administered by a park service.

During the 1916 hearings, the phrase “national park system” was used for the first time, evoking the image of a systematic inventory of the nation’s grandest scenic landscapes and natural and scientific curiosities. For the first time, the notion of the parks as great educational enterprises, places to which the public could come to learn about nature, geology, fossils, and sedimentation, was also discussed. In the end, this bill prevailed. It contained a preamble framed by Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. Olmsted’s draft language was unequivocal: “The fundamental object of these aforesaid parks, monuments, and reservations is to conserve scenery and the natural and historical objects therein and to provide for the enjoyment of said scenery and objects by the public in any manner and by such means that will leave them unimpaired (italics added) for the enjoyment of future generations.” During hearings on this bill, many references were made to access, good roads, “national playgrounds,” and recreation, but none of these references is in the bill, and all are contradicted by the actual language of the act.

Congressman William Kent of California had introduced the Organic Act, and his understanding of the purposes of national parks is quite clear from his private papers, his diaries, his manuscript autobiography, and his many public statements. In 1915, in speaking in the House in favor of Rocky Mountain National Park, and in 1913, when proposing a Redwood National Park, he declared the preservation of scenery to be a “most valuable purpose,” drawing a distinction among national forests, national monuments, and national parks, asserting that the last must be held “in a state of nature” where animal life must be “forever free from molestation.” Had Kent intended recreational purposes for the parks, he surely would have said so, for he was a vice president of the Playground and Recreation Association of America.

In 1922 Kent commended the statement that national parks must be maintained in a natural state “and not be marred by artificiality of any avoidable kind.” The act of 1916 was debated fully in the House, only briefly in the Senate, and an abundance of evidence exists that Congress understood, in its endorsement of the “governing sentence,” that it was listing priorities for management in the order of their importance, with no contradictory intent.

To be sure, the act of 1916 does list two duties. The Park Service has allowed them to become contradictory practice, Congress has confused itself and the public as to the purpose of the national parks, and both Congress and the service appear to have forgotten the original intent, so that units that do not attain genuine national significance have been created to help with tourist development or to offer recreational opportunities. But these are mistaken management decisions not in keeping with the intent of the act. Directors of the Park Service have interpreted the act from time to time, and Congress has amended its intent, as expressed in 1916, in other omnibus bills involving the park system, most especially in 1970, 1976, and 1980. The act of 1970 remarked upon the “increased national dignity” both “individually and collectively” that the national parks enjoyed, so that an infringement upon one was an infringement upon all. Congress may have muddied the waters somewhat, but the intent of the original act remains quite clear.

The act of 1916 is explicit that protection overrides all else. Where access may be provided, where an enriched interpretation may be offered, without damage to the resource, it may—indeed, perhaps should—be provided: but never at the cost of risk to the resource for which a national park unit was created.

Robin W. Winks is professor of history and chairman of studies in the environment at Yale University, and a member of the board of the National Parks Conservation Association. Reprinted with permission from National Parks magazine, copyright 1996 by National Parks Conservation Association.
Speaker for 26th Annual Meeting is Francisco Alarcón

The noted Chicano poet and educator Francisco X. Alarcón will speak at the Yosemite Association's 26th Annual Members' Meeting, to be held at Tuolumne Meadows on Saturday, September 15, 2001. Author of a number of books of poetry for both adults and children, and director of the Spanish for Native Speakers Program at UC Davis, Alarcón has received multiple awards for his work, including those from the American Library Association, the Before Columbus Foundation, and UC Irvine.

His newest book for children, written in both English and Spanish, is entitled Iguanas in the Snow and Other Winter Poems. Its title poem deals with the poet's joy at seeing snow for the first time as a child during a family visit to Yosemite National Park. Alarcón will read from it and several more of his works for YA members, and also will demonstrate the invocatory nature of poetry by calling the four directions according to an ancient Mesoamerican ritual recorded in 1629 by a Mexican man who may have been his ancestor.

At the first annual Yosemite Winter Literary Conference in February, Mr. Alarcón proved himself to be a lively and entertaining speaker. Members are guaranteed a talk unlike any they have heard at previous Members' Meetings, and are definitely in store for a delightful, amusing afternoon.

Members were sent details for the meeting and about the room lottery for Tuolumne Lodge in July. Besides the keynote address outlined above, the day will include naturalist walks in the morning, lunch outside the lodge, wine and refreshments after the meeting, and a raffle and silent auction. Francisco Alarcón and other authors of several new YA books will be available to talk with members and sign copies of their publications. On Saturday night, a performance of the Recycled String Band is scheduled.

As in past years, there is a greater demand for the tents at the Tuolumne Lodge than there are tents available. Other lodging is available inside and outside the park. For alternate rooming suggestions and other questions, please call Laurel or Connie at (209) 379-2317.

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.

YA Benefits from Your Online Shopping

Help the Yosemite Association when you shop online. Access your favorite merchants, like Amazon and JC Penney, through www.yosemite.greatergood.com and 5% of your purchase will go directly to YA at no extra cost to you.

GreaterGood.com

Yosemite Lecture in Washington, DC

An Illustrated Flora of Yosemite National Park
by Stephen J. Bott; illustrated by Walter Sydorak.
This landmark volume, nearly twenty years in the making, offers comprehensive treatment of every vascular plant species known to occur in Yosemite. It is beautifully illustrated with over 1,100 watercolor paintings of flowering species, and pen and ink drawings for nearly 300 grass, rush, and sedge species. The book includes detailed descriptions, plant habitats and locations, a dichotomous key, an illustrated glossary, and place name and general indices.

This is an important new resource for scientists, botanists, ecologists, and others studying the health and diversity of Sierra Nevada ecosystems. It provides a complete record of species abundance and distribution, and establishes a baseline against which future changes can be measured.

Further, the flora becomes the new "bible" of Yosemite plant identification for lay people, park visitors, amateur botanists, and other interested persons with uses throughout the Sierra Nevada. The book's foreword is by Peter H. Raven, its line drawings are by Lesley Randall and Katherine Hocker, and the technical editing was handled by Linda Ann Vorobik.

The first edition is limited to 3,000 copies, is finely printed on archival, art-quality paper in a 13 inch by 12 inch size, and is case-bound with a dust jacket. The book is 516 pages long and weighs 8.5 pounds. Yosemite Association, 2001. $125

Antelope, Bison, Cougar: A National Park Wildlife Alphabet Book
by Steven P. Medley; illustrated by Daniel San Souci.
This colorful new alphabet book from the Yosemite Association spotlights the wildlife to be found in America's national parks. Featuring wonderful watercolor paintings and pencil drawings of various animals and parks by award-winning illustrator Dan San Souci, the volume is full of fascinating facts and other information for readers of all ages.

The book associates each letter with a different wildlife species, making it great for introducing the alphabet to the very young. Older children will find the text a remarkable resource for learning about the birds, mammals, and other creatures that populate the national parks. Adding to the book's usefulness is extensive information about each included national park and its importance to our country. There's also a map, park contact information, and resources for learning about wildlife and parks generally.

With its paintings and drawings that are colorful, precise, and charming, as well as its informative text, this alphabet book should stimulate in readers of all ages an interest in, a love for, and a desire to protect and learn more about America's wild animals and the national parks where they make their homes.

64 pages, illustrated in full color, 11" x 9.5", case bound with dust jacket. Yosemite Association, 2001. $14.95

National Park Wildlife Notecards
from paintings by Daniel San Souci.
This new set of twenty notecards features the watercolor paintings of ten different wildlife species set in different national parks. Reproduced from the illustrator's new alphabet book (see above), the cards are colorful, true-to-life, and awe-inspiring.

Included images are the pronghorn antelope in Grand Teton NP, the bison at Theodore Roosevelt NP, the cougar at Bryce Canyon NP, the mule deer at Sequoia NP, the peregrine falcon at Yosemite NP, the grizzly bear at Glacier NP, the moose at Denali NP, the elf owl at Saguaro NP, the turkey vulture at Grand Canyon NP, and the gray wolf at Yellowstone NP.

The cards are printed in full color in a 5 x 7 inch size. The sturdy box holds twenty cards (two of each image) and twenty quality white envelopes. Yosemite Association, 2001. $12.95
To see an expanded list of the Yosemite-related books, maps, and products we offer for sale, visit the full-featured, secure Yosemite Store on the internet at: http://yosemitestore.com

Yosemite—An Enduring Treasure
with text and photographs by Keith Walklet.

This is a brand new moving celebration of Yosemite National Park in lucid text and stunning photographs. From its thundering waterfalls and vertical granite crags to its awe-inspiring big trees and fascinating wildlife, all aspects of the park are beautifully portrayed.

The book, published by the Yosemite Association, has multiple features including over 75 full-color images; historic narrative and photographs; Yosemite’s scenic gems; the four seasons at the park; wildlife and natural history information; and Yosemite geology and waterfalls. Walklet gives special treatment to such landmarks as Half Dome, the giant sequoias, El Capitan, Yosemite Falls, and Tuolumne Meadows, which are breathtakingly presented in gorgeous photographs.

The author/photographer lived in Yosemite Valley for 14 years, and during that time made thousands of images of the park. They have been published in a variety of magazines, books, and other publications.

This is the perfect souvenir for those wanting to remember their Yosemite visit, a great introduction to the park for newcomers, and an elegant reminder of Yosemite’s value and its need to be protected for the future. 56 pages, illustrated in full color with over 75 photographs, 9" x 10", soft bound with cover flaps, Yosemite Association, 2001. $6.95

The Photographer's Guide to Yosemite
with text and photographs by Michael Frye.

This comprehensive new handbook from the Yosemite Association is designed for all photographers, from beginners to experts. The author, an extensively-published professional, provides everything that a visitor to the park would need to capture the grandeur of Yosemite on film. His tips and directions are illustrated with examples of his own work, reproduced in full color.

Every aspect of photographing Yosemite is covered, including in-depth descriptions of nearly 40 outstanding locations; best months and times of day; detailed maps indicating viewpoints; tips on technique and equipment; and 100 stunning, full-color photographs. Adding additional value to the guide are a number of sidebars covering photographic techniques, from choosing film and depth of field, to photographing rainbows and night photography.

There is also a section on seasonal highlights in different locations throughout the year. The appendices include tables for phases of the moon and sunrise and sunset times, plus a list of resources for photographers in the park. This is an indispensable and handy resource for anyone who wants to take better pictures in Yosemite and elsewhere. 5 inches x 7 inches, illustrated in full color. 130 pages, Yosemite Association, 2000. Sturdy paperback, $7.95

Pajaro Field Bag

This 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
**Ho! For Yo-Semite!—By Foot, Horseback, Horse-Stage, Horseless Carriage, Bicycle, & Steam Locomotive: Eleven Original Accounts of Early Day Travel to Yosemite Valley**

introduced and annotated by Hank Johnston.

This new collection of articles from the Yosemite Association chronicles a variety of visits to Yosemite before the advent of modern transportation. The authors describe their adventures in getting to the park on foot, on horseback, by horse stage, by bicycle, in the first horseless carriages, and by other forms of conveyance.

Extracted from the historic record, the accounts are informative, humorous, and oftentimes remarkable. Among the included articles are those detailing an overland foot trek in 1855; a cavalry expedition from the San Francisco Presidio; the first automobile visit in 1900; a harrowing bicycle ride down the Priest Grade; and a trip on the new Yosemite Valley Railroad.

The book is 8.5 inches wide and 11 inches high, and illustrated with black-and-white photos. 148 pages, Yosemite Association, 2000. Paperback, $12.95

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**A Guide to the Sequoia Groves of California**

by Dwight Willard.

This comprehensive guide from the Yosemite Association is the first to focus on all sixty-seven different giant sequoia groves in the state, not just those that are well-known. Organized into five different geographic areas from north of the Kings River to south of the Tule River watershed, the guide provides extensive information for each grove.

Extensive information is provided for each grove including: general description and managing agency; historical facts; size, condition, and overall quality; access; and notable trees.

In addition, there are special sections on subjects such as sequoia natural history, management, and logging, and appendices with map references, managing agency data, an access guide, and a selected bibliography. The guide is illustrated with numerous color and black-and-white photographs, both historic and contemporary, and location maps are included for each section.

The volume includes coverage of the sequoia groves included in the new Giant Sequoia National Monument. This is an authoritative guide to California’s giant sequoias and an important reference work for anyone interested in these remarkable, ancient trees. 7.5 x 10.5 inches, 148 pages, illustrated in color and black-and-white, paperback, Yosemite Association, 2000. $17.95

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**Yosemite Association T-Shirts**

by Artform.

Here is a colorful way to show off your affiliation with the Yosemite Association. These 100% cotton t-shirts have been silk-screened with an eye-catching representation of Yosemite Valley from Tunnel View, in shades of purple, green, and teal. Available in four colors—stone (tan), lilac, steel (gray) and brook (green)—the shirts also bear the name of the Yosemite Association.

A color image of the new shirts can be viewed on the Yosemite Association web site (www.yosemitestore.com). The Yosemite Association t-shirts are offered in M, L, and XL sizes (XXL in brook and stone only). Please indicate color and size when you order. $16 (XXL—$19)
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, greys, and greens. A real treasure for collectors.
Approximately 1 inch in diameter, $4.00

Yosemite Association Water Bottle by Nalgene.
This highly functional wide-mouth Nalgene bottle is made of super-tough, smoke-gray lexan polycarbonate. You'll never lose its easy-to-open, attached, screw-top cap.
The bottle is virtually leak-proof, won't conduct heat or cold (you can pour boiling liquids directly into it), and doesn't affect the taste of water or other liquids. Besides the Yosemite Association graphic with a deer grazing in front of Half Dome, the bottle features permanent gradation marks to make measuring powdered foods and drinks easy.
As well, the bottle screws directly into MSR water filters, dromedary bags, and hydration systems to make the transfer of water smooth and spill-free. Weight 5.3 ounces including attached cap; from Nalgene. $7.95

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)

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 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

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Join the Yosemite Association
The Yosemite Association initiates and supports interpretive, educational, research, scientific, and environmental programs in Yosemite National Park, in cooperation with the National Park Service. Authorized by Congress, the Association provides services and direct financial support in order to promote park stewardship and enrich the visitor experience.

Besides publishing and selling books, maps, and other materials, YA operates a field seminar program, the Art Activity Center, the bear canister rental program, and the Wilderness Permit Reservation system. Revenues generated by these activities fund a variety of National Park Service programs in Yosemite.

You can help us be successful by becoming a member. Individuals, families, and businesses throughout the country have long supported the Yosemite Association with their dues and participation in our programs.

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 and more:

* 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;
* A 10% discount at the Valley Ansel Adams Gallery (except on sale items and original photography);
* The opportunity to participate in members' meetings and volunteer activities held throughout the year;

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.


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

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

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___ $100 Contributing Member
___ $250 Sustaining Member
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