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STEPHEN T. MATHER, DIRECTOR



# YOSEMITE NATURE NOTES

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"LEARN TO READ THE TRAIL-SIDE"

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK, CALIF. 1928

This is the official publication of the Educational Department of Yosemite National Park. It is published each month by the National Park Service with the co-operation of the Yosemite Natural History Association, and its purpose is to supply dependable information on the natural history and scientific features of Yosemite National Park. The articles published herein are not copyrighted as it is intended that they shall be freely used by the press. Communications should be addressed to C. P. Russell, Park Naturalist, Yosemite National Park, California.

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Acting Superintendent

# YOSEMITE NATURE NOTES

THE PUBLICATION OF  
THE YOSEMITE EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT  
AND THE YOSEMITE NATURAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION

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## EXIT "OLD HORNY"

By George M. Wright

There is one more chapter to tell—just one and the story is done. For Yosemite's "Rhino Buck" is no more.

A recent number of Yosemite Nature Notes (January, 1928,) carried an account of this most curious phenomenon, the buck mule deer with a supernumerary horn growing from its snout.

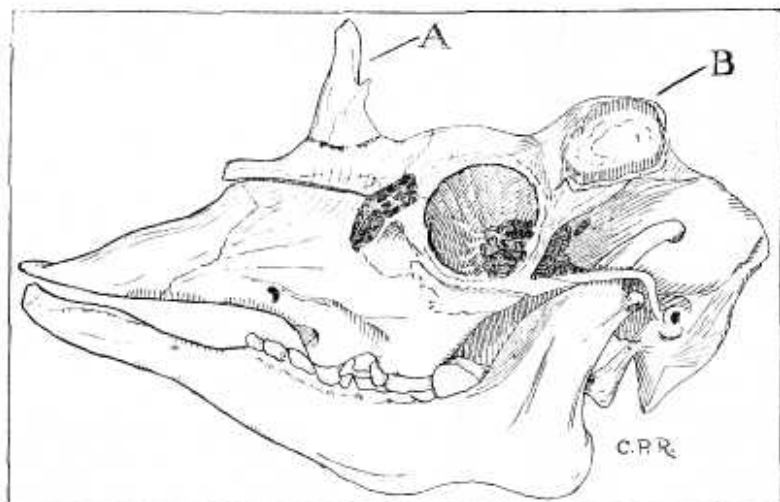
Even though the eventual loss of such a specimen in case the buck perished in some unfrequented spot would have been little short of a calamity from the scientific viewpoint, he was permitted to roam unmolested. Old Horny had countless friends among residents and tourists. The living animal was even more fascinating than his whitened bones ever might be. Besides, whereas the first appearance of the third antler showed it to be a single spike, and last year it grew out with two points or tines, there was great interest to see what increase yet another season might produce.

But Old Horny played out. He was thought to be quite old by reason of his great twisted antlers. Then too, his demeanor was subdued and movements deliberate, not stiff. That he was a venerable

monarch—just how old it is impossible to say—was attested by the condition of the teeth. They were almost worn down to the gums in places. No doubt the increasing inability to masticate properly was partly responsible for its preference for such soft hand-fed foods as buttered bread and candy.

Each winter after the rut Old Horny was so thin and exhausted that local residents thought their pet would surely die. However, he invariably recuperated rapidly, returning to his favorite back door haunts in the succeeding summers, all fattened up and carrying a splendid head of velveted antlers. This year he was so emaciated when the mating season closed the park rangers ran him into the elk corral for protection and observation. While there the two large antlers were shed. The supernumerary horn lingered on and still remains attached to the skull.

Finally he was removed to the government barns where even a private stall with all the care of an attendant could not succeed in restoring him. The immediate cause of death was apparently some infection, the only external evidence of which was a large lump on the



**"OLD HORN'S" SKULL**—(A) is the supernumerary antler which has been produced by the nasal bones. In other instances of three antlers on bucks the extra growth has come from the frontal bones, well back of the position occupied by this remarkable rhinoceros-like horn (B) is the socket from which one large antler has dropped. During the years that "Old Horny" has been under observation he has shed his large antlers normally, and following this discarding process, the third antler has also fallen off. This spring the animal died soon after shedding the two large antlers. The spine on his nose was found to be firmly seated on the nasal bones.

right side of the lower jaw. Later examination of the head showed that the diseased condition had spread far up that side of the head. The exact cause of the malady could not be determined.

Needless to say, there was great curiosity to see the skull after the hide and flesh were removed in order to discover the exact form and manner of attachment of the unicorn spike. Nor was there any occasion for disappointment. As shown in the accompanying drawing by C. P. Russell, the supernumerary horn originates from a point near the center of the nasal bone, whereas the sockets of the two shed antlers are located in a normal position on the frontal bone. This discovery bears remarkable interest, for though instances of three antlered heads are not unknown in the deer tribe, all three antlers are always attached to the frontal bone. This case very definitely shows that the horny growth of an antler may be borne by a skeletal member other than the

frontal bone.

Nor does the supernumerary horn show any indication of being the result of some early injury. The nasal bone at this place, and even the forepart of the frontal bone, are abnormally enlarged and stout as though to support the socket. The latter is symmetrically formed and placed directly on the summit of the snout. The small two-spiked antler grows from it in a normal manner.

Concerning the origin, and possible significance of the "sport" horn, little can be said at the present. Further study of the skull or the discovery of similar deformities in other deer may throw new light on the subject or at least develop some interesting speculations.

In the meantime, Old Horny shall no longer pass into the land of ignominy. Chief Ranger Townsley has elected to mount the antlered head. In the future people will come to look upon the strange creature, to marvel and then go away wondering upon the ways of nature.



# MUSEUM NOTES

## RECENT MUSEUM ACCESSIONS

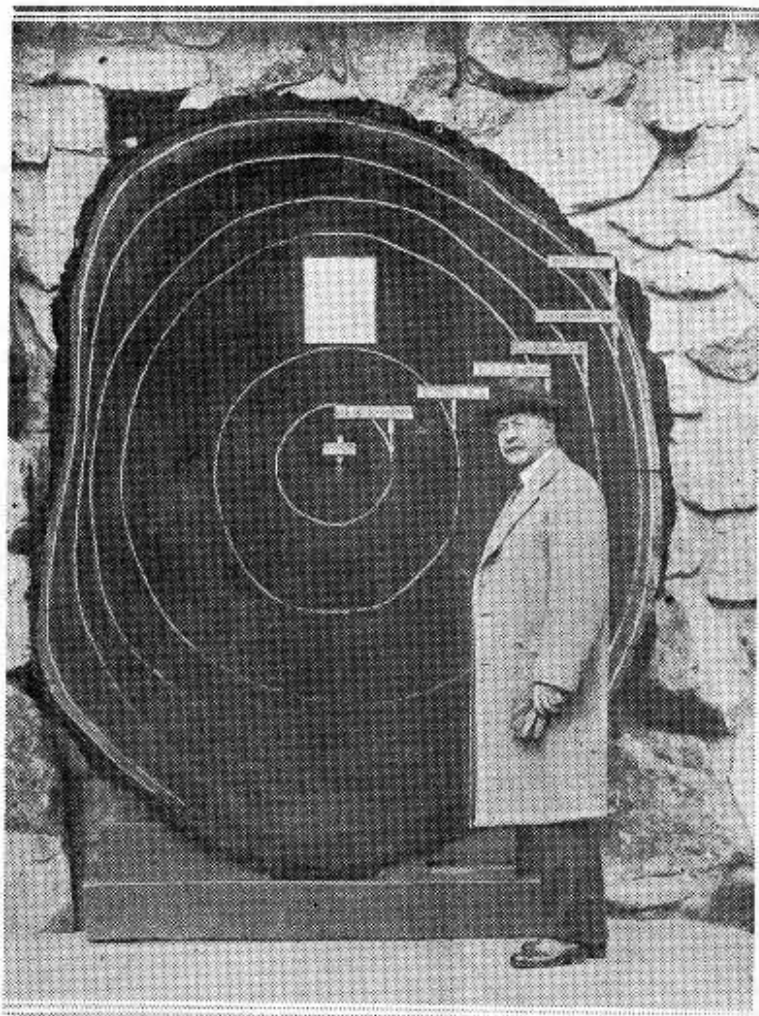
By C. P. Russell

Friends of the Yosemite Museum continue to add to the interest and value of our collections by making gifts of exhibit materials, books and cash. The co-operative spirit that prompts donors to aid in our project is appreciated by museum visitors as well as by those who are responsible for the maintenance of the museum. Expressions to this effect are frequently heard from individuals in our exhibit rooms. Evidence of co-operation begets a desire to co-operate and our list of donors grows encouragingly.

Gifts of cash with which to complete installations have been received from F. C. Walcott, Dr. T. S. Palmer, the 1927 class of field natural history, and the Yosemite Natural History Association. These funds will be expended in constructing a model of a typical Yosemite Indian village, and in purchasing needed books.

More than a hundred books have been added to the museum library. Chief among these are twelve volumes of the Century dictionary from W. H. Martin; "Wild Flowers of the West," by F. E. Clements, was presented by the author; incomplete sets of "Biennial Reports of the Commissioners to Manage Yosemite Valley" were obtained from the California State Library, and the Stanford Univer-

sity libraries; "Birds of the Pacific States" was presented by Dr. Ralph Hoffmann, its author; four bird books and more than 100 pamphlets on birds were received from the National Audubon Society; the exceedingly rare and historically important "Bodie and Esmeralda" was presented by Theodore Hoover; a bound file of Sierra Club Bulletins, Vol. XII, is the gift of the Sierra Club; nineteen rare and useful historical volumes were purchased with funds provided by the Yosemite Natural History Association; Averil Barton gave \$5 with which to purchase Van Dyke's "The Desert" and other books; Mrs. David White presented "Winema," a history of the Modoc War, which is rarely quoted by dealers, and Bancroft's "Literary Industries"; a portion of the January 19, 1850, Saturday Evening Post containing an article on California mines by Bayard Taylor is the gift of Mrs. A. W. Clark; the Automobile Club of Southern California presents a file of its "Touring Topics." Seventeen reports of acting superintendents of Yosemite National Park, director of national parks and secretary of the interior were obtained from Gabriel Sovulewski; Kenney's 1882 edition of "Business Director of Western States" was received from Mrs. Ella M. Cain; five photostatic



**Dr. Hermon C. Bumpus, executive committee chairman of the American Association of Museums, has been identified with the Yosemite Museum project since it was adopted by his association in 1924. He has recently made final inspection of the building and the completed installations.**

## H. C. BUMPUS INSPECTS THE YOSEMITE EDUCATIONAL PROJECT

By C. P. Russell

"To ascertain to what extent the construction of the Yosemite Museum and its substation at Glacier Point has fulfilled expectations; how it is being operated by the National Park Service and how it is being used by the visiting public; to observe the reaction of the 'service' and the public to the efforts at popular education therein and thereabouts, and particularly to test the instructional value of the exhibited material, the plan of installation, the style and content of the labels, and to make suggestions which might have constructive value," were the purposes of a recent visit made by Dr. H. C. Bumpus of the American Association of Museums.

His official report, made to the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Memorial (from which organization funds were obtained with which to build the museum), is gratifying to those who have been engaged in doing the work. He considers each of the exhibit rooms and judges them to be creditable. Comments on the history room are especially significant in the light of probable future museum construction in national parks, and they are here quoted:

The fourth and final exhibition room has to do with the history of Yosemite and the immediate neighborhood. It arrests and holds the attention in a truly startling manner. At least some of those who were originally in-

terested in the establishment of the museum looked with doubt upon the value of the "relics"—"historical junk"—which had automatically accumulated in the old museum. The curator has, however taken particular interest in this material; has arranged it into chronological periods, and installed it in such a way as to give it a most inviting appearance and a high educational value. One is forced to suspect that in any local—or, perhaps better, focal—museum, the history of the neighborhood as a matter of popular interest—and, probably, of educational value—outranks any other subject. If this is really so, no modern museum of science will be complete that does not exhibit material that will serve as a synopsis of local history.

It may be well to mention here that "particular interest" was taken in the history collections because most of the other phases of Yosemite museum work had already received careful study. Dr. F. E. Matthes had studied Yosemite geology for fifteen years and his conclusive findings were available to us. Upon them we based the organization of geology exhibits. Likewise the thorough work done in the field of natural history by Dr. Joseph Grinnell and his staff left nothing to be desired in this department. Our life zone exhibits are based on the field work done

by these naturalists from the California Museum of Vertebrate Zoology. While the Yosemite Indians, strictly speaking, have not received careful consideration as a unit, yet enough work has been done in the Yosemite region by such ethnologists as Dr. A. L. Kroeber and Dr. C. Hart Merriam and by Chief Naturalist A. F. Hall to form a basis upon which to build. New notes and exhibits are coming into use as they are developed by study.

**Organizing the Story of the White Man's Affairs**

On the other hand, the story of the affairs of the white man within the Yosemite region had never been organized. Hundreds of fragments of Yosemite history exist in printed form but they had never been collected and built into a comprehensive story. It was then this necessity for research that developed "particular interest" in Yosemite history exhibits. Through the co-operation of some one hundred individuals, rare and pertinent volumes, letters and manuscripts have come into our hands. The "historical junk" has been greatly increased through the help of the same individuals mentioned above and the history room now contains some representation of every individual who has played a part in the Yosemite story. Articles on the various chapters of these human events have been and are being published in Yosemite Nature Notes, the California Historical Society Quarterly and the Sierra Club Bulletin. Within the year it is hoped to produce them in book form.

Dr. Bumpus has not failed to give thought to the organization which renders service in the maintenance of the museum and its attendant

nature guide work. "On the second floor are the headquarters of the Yosemite Natural History Association, an organization of one or two hundred members—many of these are naturalists of high standing—and all are devoted to promoting the scientific and educational work of the National Park Service. It is instrumental in maintaining, with the co-operation of the 'service,' a most creditable little publication, 'Yosemite Nature Notes,' and has frequently and liberally provided funds when occasions of necessity have arisen. Its contribution made the substation at Glacier Point—the first trailside museum—a reality. Yosemite Nature Notes is a delightful little amateurish monthly. It bears all the signs of being issued under the combined forces of determination and hardship, but the articles, full of the atmosphere of the Sierra, are cleverly adapted to the average reader, while not infrequently embodying observations of real scientific value. It is just right as it is—may it never be destroyed through an effort at typographic improvement."

Sometimes when we have labored before our little job press grinding off a particularly refractory page, we have recognized the "hardship." Yet the contacts we can make and maintain through Yosemite Nature Notes are of sufficient importance to justify the publication. Furthermore, our printing plant enables us to do museum printing jobs which could not otherwise be accomplished, for there are no government funds available with which to have them done professionally. We shall be glad to improve the typography of Yosemite Nature Notes if opportunity presents itself.

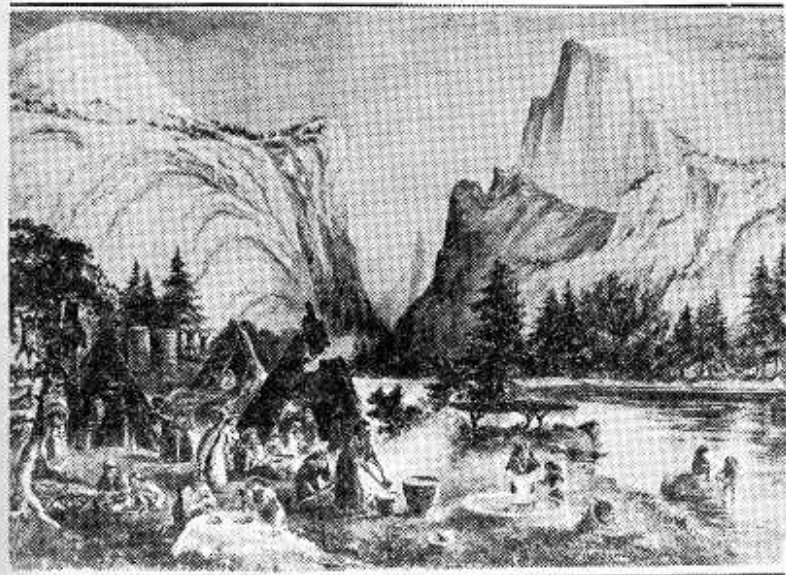
In concluding his report Dr.



Bumpus states, "Our expectations have certainly been fulfilled, and we know no more practical, effective or satisfying method of adult education." He further expressed his conviction "that the educational work made possible by the original grant of the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Memorial has yielded not local results alone, but has called general attention to a method of imparting information—to a plan of promoting adult education—at a

place and at a time when it is urgently desired."

The sympathy and genuine interest which Dr. Bumpus has always displayed in supervising the Yosemite Museum construction and installation has endeared him to National Park Service officials. We anticipate the pleasant association which other park naturalists will experience when more national park museums are built by the American Association of Museums.



### Gifts to the Yosemite Museum

Yosemite Indian Village Life—This painting was made by Lady C. F. Gordon Cumming, a British woman, who visited Yosemite in 1878. While in the valley she made numerous watercolor paintings and gathered notes from which she wrote a book, "Granite Crags." This picture, with others, was taken back to the British Isles, where they recently came to light. The Yosemite Park and Curry Company purchased several of them and presented them to the Yosemite Museum, where they may now be viewed. This one is particularly interesting, for it shows all of the stages in the preparation of the acorn food, which was a staple food substance of the Yosemite Indians.

## RECENT MUSEUM ACCESSIONS

(Continued from page 19)

copies of Galen Clark letters published in *The California Farmer* of the 70's were obtained through Dr. G. T. Clark; twelve volumes on phases of nature study were secured by exchange for duplicate books received from the United States Veterans' Bureau; Mr. and Mrs. James Schwabacher presented the following useful books: Thompson, "The New Natural History," three volumes; Lutz, "Field Book of Insects"; Sheiford, "Naturalist's Guide to the Americas"; Mills, "The Grizzly," and Muir, "Stickeen." Pack and Palmer's "Nature Almanac" was obtained from the American Nature Association; Dr. H. C. Bryant gave a copy of "The Ghost Town Lundy"; forty-six volumes of Annual Reports, Bureau of Ethnology, were secured by Chief Naturalist Hall; and thirteen reports of the Director of National Parks and Acting Superintendents Reports, Yosemite, were obtained from the superintendent's office, Yosemite National Park. Numerous pamphlets and reprints which were cataloged and filed in the museum offices were received from a number of individuals and institutions. G. E. Reynolds added the 1927 series of "The Out-o'-Door Section" of the Stockton Record to the splendid file of bound numbers of this paper already possessed by the museum.

Among the recent accessions which have been placed on exhibit are 100 specimens of Yosemite fungi, prepared and labeled by Miss E. E. Morse; sample of steel post and cable used in constructing cable way to summit of Half Dome, gift of M. Hall McAllister;

four Audubon bird charts were purchased by Dr. Walter B. Scaife; seven photos of Galen Clark were obtained from his nephew, L. L. McCoy; Director Stephen T. Mather gave fourteen large Muybridge Yosemite views, and two original paintings by Thomas Hill; a genuine express "treasure box" for use on the museum stage coach was obtained from C. R. Graham of the American Express Company; numerous valued relics and photos from Bodie, old time mining camp, were presented by J. S. Cain and family; a mounted head of mule deer buck was prepared and presented by Gus Nordquist; numerous Bodie and Aurora photos were given by Burton Frasher. Joseph Dixon presented eight splendid wild life photos which have been framed and hung on the walls of the museum offices; a cane of Sequoia, made from wood taken from the Wawona tree tunnel in 1882 was presented by Dr. Walter B. Scaife; and the Sierra Club presented historic records of first ascents of Yosemite peaks, made by Lieutenant Macomb of the Government expeditions of 1878.

An accession of little exhibit value, but of practical use to museum staff members, is a pair of snow shoes from Roland Case Ross. Office facilities have been improved by the purchase of filing equipment. The National Park Service has provided cabinets and reprint boxes in which the growing collection of pamphlets and reprints may be cared for. Sequoia book cases have been installed in the Mather library and eventually heavy Sequoia tables will be built for the reading room.

# YOSEMITE NATURAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK  
CALIFORNIA

YOSEMITE MUSEUM

Dear Friend:

Here are three good reasons why you should become a member of the Yosemite Natural History Association:

1. It will keep you in touch with Yosemite through "Yosemite Nature Notes".
2. It offers you opportunity to secure NATURE MAGAZINE, AMERICAN FORESTS AND FOREST LIFE, or both, at an unprecedented low price.
3. You materially aid a non-profitting Government educational activity (The Yosemite Museum and its attendant nature guide service) when you remit your membership fee.

Please read a sample of "Yosemite Nature Notes", consider our purposes, and don't overlook the benefits of the combination offers with the American Nature Association and the American Forestry Association. Remit by check or money order.

Cordially yours,

C. P. Russell  
Park Naturalist



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Dan Anderson