

YOSEMITE NATURE NOTES



The Yosemite Museum

Volume VIII
JULY, 1920
Number 7

Department of the Interior
Ray Lyman Wilbur, Secretary
National Park Service
Horace M. Albright, Director

YOSEMITE NATURE NOTES

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

Published monthly

Volume VIII

July 1929

Number 7

Last of Yosemite Indians Visits Valley After a 75-Year Absence

By C. P. RUSSELL

YOSEMITE VALLEY, July 13.—In June, 1928, Yosemite Nature Notes, the writer described a visit with Maria Lebrado, the last of the Yosemite Indians who were in the famous valley when it was discovered by white men in 1851. Since being dispossessed of her Yosemite valley home, this ancient squaw has resided on a small ranch which was homesteaded by her Mexican husband. For some 75 years she has steadfastly refused to return to the beautiful haunts of her childhood. In June of 1929 she was prevailed upon by one of her grandsons to travel in an automobile from her ranch in the Mariposa region to the Yosemite valley. A good personal friend among the local Indians informed the writer of her presence in the valley and he took opportunity to again spend three hours with the amazing old lady.

Maria talks Spanish and Indian. Her daughter served as interpreter. In this last conversation with her many friends new facts were revealed, but it was gratifying to discover that she held to her story of 1928. It is significant to note that her description of the killing of old Chief Tenaya checks with what she had said in 1928. She maintains that the Yosemite chief and four of his followers were killed at Mono Lake by Piutes during a brawl that developed in a gambling game. Maria declares that Tom "Hutchings," the Yosemite Indian befriended by J. M. Hutchings, attended to the burning of the bodies and packed the charred remains upon his own back from Mono Lake to Hites Cove. There a great "cry" was held for two weeks, the remaining Yosemite Indians and all of their friends bewailed the loss of Chief Tenaya and the four tribesmen. Maria did not disclose the exact

spot where the charred bones were buried.

A real attempt was made to learn something of Major J. D. Savage. Maria described the killing of Tenaya's son in Yosemite valley, of which account she was an eye witness, and attempted to picture Savage, the commander of the invading forces of white men. As in the previous interview, she maintained that his clothes were red. She described his hair as falling about his shoulders and his beard as coming half way to his waist. She again refused to acknowledge any love on the part of the Yosemite Indians for this leader of the tribes that inhabited the hills west of Yosemite. She did admit that he was held in high regard by the Indians of the Fresno, but described her idea of him as "no good."

She spoke of Galen Clark and expressed appreciation for the helpful friendliness which this Yosemite pioneer always displayed for the Indians of the region.

She knew nothing of Dr. Bunnell, member of the Mariposa battalion, who wrote the one and only account of the discovery party. She did, however, describe a man who escorted Chief Tenaya from Tenaya Lake to Yosemite valley at the point of a gun. This man, according to Bunnell's account, was Bunnell himself.

It is hoped that Maria can be induced to visit the Yosemite museum and supply much needed information on the use and preparation of

the wealth of local ethnological materials exhibited in our Indian room. She is very reluctant, however, to mingle with white people, and should her visit materialize it will be because her intelligent descendants prevail upon her to make this information available to the generations of white men and Indians who will follow.

By way of describing her philosophy of life and her attitude toward the white man she explained that as she sat in her daughter's camp a few days ago four white ladies approached her. Maria was practicing the ancient custom of preparing acorn food. She was cracking the acorns and grinding their meats. The white ladies expressed a desire to buy some acorns. They purchased five each and paid Maria at the rate of 1c per acorn. Maria explained that after experiencing their loss of stored food in 1851 and the very great loss of domain in their removal from Yosemite valley that she would gladly accept \$5 each for all acorns which she might gather and dispose of to the white men in her remaining years of life.

In Maria we have indeed a last link of the past and it behooves those of us who are interested in preserving the story of past events in Yosemite to obtain from her all that she may have to tell. In return we might very well attempt to supply her with the necessary worldly goods which will make for her comfort during the few years that she has to live.



ANOTHER RARE ACCESSION FOR THE YOSEMITE MUSEUM

By Mrs. H. J. Taylor

"Mountain View House—Chas. E. Peregoy" is the inscription on the cover of an old register that was given to the Yosemite Museum in June, 1929, by Mrs. Lucy Peregoy Milburn. It is a rare and much-prized gift; an interesting and valuable book. Hotel registers interesting? Yes, very. In recording their names the many authors write history.

Mountain View House register has entries from September 10, 1869, when five guests registered, to October 24, 1874. There are no further entries until June 5 and 7, 1878, when a small party is cared for by Mr. and Mrs. Peregoy. In a letter dated at the Sentinel Hotel, Yosemite, April 23, 1872, John Muir advises his friend, Mrs. Carr, after leaving Clark's, to stop "at Peregoy's, five or six miles south of the Valley at the Westfall Meadows." This was the starting place for the Valley via Glacier. Snow's Casa de Nevada at the head of Nevada Falls, thence into the Valley.

In 1870, between May 16 and October 26, 514 guests registered. Among these names we find on July 6, 1870, Terese Yelverton, Viscountess Avonmore, England, who wrote "Zanita, a Tale of the Yosemite." Zanita is Florence Hutchings, the first white child born in Yosemite Valley. Kenmuir is John Muir. Other characters also represent pioneers of Yosemite. October 5, 1870, J. M. Hutchings and Miss Florence Hutchings register from Yosemite Valley. On October

2 we find the name of Galen Clark. Fred Leidig registered in July. All of these are prominent names in the early history of this valley.

In July we find registered G. Garibaldi, E. Ardizzi, Nestor Randseype and A. Vohl of Mariposa. The writing of each name is labored, yet it reveals character. Are these men from the unknown throng, who through their labors make easy the road for others to travel? If so, we rejoice that the love of beauty and grandeur remained in their hearts and led them to the Valley to satisfy their hunger.

There is an unspeakable thrill as we read in the old register: "July 27, 1870, Mark Hopkins and wife, Williamstown, Mass." Literally we did not "sit on one end of a log with Mark Hopkins on the other" to get our education, but in reality thousands have sat at the feet of his spirit and learned of him. He was in this Yosemite and has left here something of his spirit as an educator and author. His book, "The Law of Love and Love as Law," stands the test of years.

Peregoy's Mountain View House was known far and wide for the unusual hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Peregoy, their excellent beds and wonderful food. Often the guests pay tribute in the register to their host and hostess on leaving the hotel. The guides are also the subject of most favorable comment. Leidig's Hotel was also highly recommended. On July 25, 1870, a guest, on returning from the Val-

ley, records: "We remained in the Valley nine days, stopped at Leidig's Hotel, which we take pleasure to recommend as a first-class hotel."

From May 8, 1871, to October 4, 1871, over 1300 guests registered. In 1872 about the same number; in 1873, 900 guests; 1874, 700 guests. This closed the register, except for June 4 and 5, 1878, when a party of 22 from New York and Oakland registered.

June 4, 1871, we find the following entry: "For the first time a religious service was held under Chapel tree on Glacier Point, Sunday, June 4, 1871. A sermon was preached by Rev. Lewis Frances from the text, Psalm 100:2, 'Serve the Lord with gladness.' There were present the persons whose names are inclosed within brackets upon the opposite page, with the guides, James A. Ridgeway, Eli Stump and Thomas Treamer." Besides the guides there were 18 guests.

Among the guides that seemed the most popular we find these comments on the register:

"Joseph Ridgeway—and a No. 1 Guide."

"Eli Stump—an A No. 1 Guide."

"Garvey and Ridgeway—the Lord's Guide."

"We were guided by E. Stump."

And we voted him a trump."

"Eli Stump, best Guide in America."

"E. Stump best Guide in the world."

On June 20, 1871, a party records: "The views from Glacier Point and Sentinel Dome are grand and beyond description. The whole Yosemite valley in all its beauty and sublimity can be seen from these two points and nobody should fail to make the trip." On June 29,

1871, D. H. Temple, Bloomfield, N. J., writes: "Returning from the valley. The first tourist through by the new trail from the Nevada Falls through the Little Yosemite. Left Snow's at 6¼ a. m. Eli Stump, Guide."

The words of praise for Perego's were very generous. July 7, 1871, a party says: "Our first party here was delightful and we were more than glad to return because of the general neatness and generousness of the fare. God help the host and hostess."

July 15, 1871, T. DeWitt Talmage, Brooklyn, N. Y., appears on the register and awakens memories of early Chautauqua days and his popularity as a preacher. Talmage's Brooklyn tabernacle, three times consumed by fire, was widely known.

July 17, 1871, a party records:

"We went into the Valley

By the Point of Inspiration

And returned from there today

By the 'Road of Desperation,'

And have only time to say

That it met with Expectation."

August 9, 1872, we find written in beautiful penmanship:

"Not Peregoric but Perego!

A name of comfort and of joy!

Here the tired traveler racked with pains,

A little of his strength regains

Here, too, forgetting all his woes

Fresh courage takes and Clark-wise goes!"

Eighteen hundred and seventy-two has some very interesting entries. "May 24, 1872, A. Bierstadt, N. Y.," is on the register. This name has special interest. A few months ago "Domes of Yosemite," painted by this German-American artist in 1864, was presented to the Yosemite Museum. It came through

Sophie F. Boyler, Santa Barbara, Calif., from the estate of Charlotte Bowditch. He made many sketches of mountains on his tour to the west. Much of his work was destroyed when his studio in New York was burned.

June 4, 1872, J. A. Kasson, Iowa." Kasson is a name honored and beloved not only in Iowa but throughout our country.

June 4, 1872, ap arty writes: "56 tourists caught here in a pitiful snowstorm and harbored here for shelter 18 hours; all found as well as could be expected with accommodations for 16."

"June 12, 1872, Joaquin Miller, Oregon," arrests the eye. We do not associate him with Oregon but with California and his home near Oakland. On his 70 acres this pioneer of the West, this poet of the Sierra, expressed his life in a most unusual yet most significant way. He planted trees in the form of a cross on the hills slope—to all mankind. He erected a pyramid of rock to Moses, the La 'ver; a tower to Browning, the poet of the soul; another to J. C. Fremont, pioneer. Recently Oakland made Joaquin Miller's home and grounds a park.

June 18, 1872, a guest records: "A good rectangular repast and guter wein."

"July 12, 1872, J. C. Lamon, Yosemite," again registers. Lamon had the first house in Yosemite, built in 1859. John Muir speaks of him as kindly and hospita: to any one who came to his door.

"July 15, 1872, Prof. A. Gray and wife, Cambridge, Mass.," almost startles us. Asa Gray! The foremost name in botany of his time. To countless thousands he has been a help and guide. Through Gray's

Herbarium, one of Harvard's priceless treasures, he will continue to guide and inspire.

"August 14, 1872, Horace Greeley, New York." Hated and beloved in his time. Hate dies, love survives and Greeley's name is great in history. Every school child joined the chorus of "Hurrah for Greeley! Grant's elected."

June 1, 1873, a party writes in the register: "To their kind host and hostess Mr. and Mrs. Peregoy for their more than courteous hospitality. Tourists passing this way will do well to avail themselves of the comfortable beds and luxuriant table of the Hotel Peregoy."

June 1, 1873, anothe: writes: "The best house we have found west of the Rocky mountains."

June 2, still another writes: "Valley of Yosemite, fare thee well, thy tranquil river, thy beautiful cascades, thy towering cliffs. We may never again look into thy bosom, but we take with us photographed in our memory thy every wonder and thy every charm, a lingering, long farewell."

"June 16, 1873, John Muir, Yosemite valley," is recorded. A name beloved. The beauty and grandeur of nature's book he has taught us to read and his spirit will continue to teach throughout the years. The boulder, with bronze tablet on Lost Arrow Trail marks the side of the little cabin that was Muir's home for two or three years.

"July 17, 1873, Bret Harte, N. Y." The "Luck of Roaring Camp" is before us and other wonderful tales that only Bret Harte could write.

The last days of July are full of tributes to the splendid host and hostess of Mountain View House: "The best host and hostess I have found in California."

"We recommend this locality as it beats the best hotels in the city."

"This hotel is the best in California."

In the brief period of four summers, Mountain View House did splendid service to practically 5000 people, who came to look into the heart of what since 1890 is Yosemite National Park. These guests came from every state then in the union and from the territories of Wyoming and New Mexico. They came from twenty-two foreign countries and from the Hawaiian, Philippines and West Indies Islands.

The old register is full of interest and full of history. It is a treasure. Not only does it provide an original source of historical material but it serves as a priceless reminder of many of these pioneer nature lovers who have done much for Yosemite and the Nation. We are grateful to Mrs. Lucy Peregoy Milburn for this gift. It was prized by the giver and parting with it was a joy through pain. She realized its value to all who are and who are yet to become interested in the early life and history of Yosemite and gave it to all these.

YOSEMITE SCHOOL OF FIELD NATURAL HISTORY

By C. A. Harwell

The Yosemite School of Field Natural History opened for its fifth annual session July 1. This school is unique in a number of ways. It is operated by the National Park Service and is the first and only school of its kind in our national parks. The museum, especially designed to provide class room, library and work room facilities, is headquarters for the school, but the most important work of the student group is done in the field, where the 1125 square miles of the park, and especially the floor of the valley, furnish abundant material for first-hand observation and study of the living thing or formation in its natural setting.

The group is limited to twenty

each year, and the popularity and worthwhileness of the undertaking is proved by the large waiting list of applicants.

Ranger-naturalists and visiting scientists constitute the faculty of the school under the immediate direction of Dr. Harold C. Bryant.

Students enrolled for the present session include Marion Avery, Dorothy Burgess, Joseph Burgess, Guard C. Darrah, Alice G. Atwood, Lois M. Ballou, H. Wraith, Mrs. Guard C. Darrah, Sumner L. Evans, Maurice Greenly, Myra Jones, Walter M. Powell, Clifford Presnall, R. W. Richardson, M. L. Russell and George Unnewehr, from California; Dorothy P. Barrus, from Minnesota, and Dorothy Negowen and Virginia Weigel, from Illinois.

A RELIC OF RARE HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

By C. P. Russell

One of the pleasures of Yosemite Museum work is the making of contacts with individuals who have had personal relationships with phases of the human history story told by Museum exhibits. Frequently, throughout the year, museum visitors call upon the park naturalist, who is the director of the museum, to tell him of the thrills they have experienced in discovering mementos that pertain to their immediate family. Through such contacts the Yosemite Museum has acquired a mass of material bearing upon pioneer affairs in the present park region. Many of the museum possessions have considerable value from the standpoint of the collector of California and a few items are priceless treasures, unique and unreplaceable.

One such valuable relic came into our possession a few days ago through the thoughtfulness of a San Franciscan, Arthur C. Rosenblatt. It is a print made from the very first photographic negative to be exposed in Yosemite valley. Students of Yosemite history have long known that the pioneer, J. M. Hutchings, had credited one C. L. Weed with taking the first Yosemite picture. In Hutchings' book "In the Heart of the Sierras," he makes mention of his presence in the oldest of Yosemite hotels soon after its formal opening in 1859. Hutchings states that at that time he witnessed Mr. Weed take a picture of this hotel. He has reproduced a drawing made from this picture.

In spite of serious attempts to procure more information on this photographer of 1859 nothing has come to light. It was then a real thrill to find ourselves in possession of an original print made from

this very early negative. That the print is genuine seems to be a fact. Its donor, Mr. Rosenblatt, as a small boy resided within a few blocks of the Hutchings San Francisco home on Pine street. Mr. Rosenblatt and his brothers played with the Hutchings children. In 1880 the Hutchings home was destroyed by fire. The small boys of the neighborhood searched the debris for objects worth saving, and Irving and Wallace Rosenblatt salvaged a pack of large water-stained photographs. Arthur Rosenblatt with forethought mounted these pictures in an old scrap book. He has cherished them through the years that have passed. In June of 1929 he visited the Yosemite Museum and was interested in the historical exhibits. In his study of the displayed materials he came upon a photographic copy of the old drawing of the "Hutchings house" which had been taken from "In the Heart of the Sierras." He recognized it as identical with one of the old photographs which he had preserved since 1880. He made his find known to the park naturalist, and immediately phoned to his San Francisco home and requested that the old scrap book be mailed at once to the Yosemite Museum. Upon its receipt the old hotel photograph was segregated from the others and comparisons were made with the drawing in the old Hutchings book and with the building itself which still stands. There is no doubt that the print is from the original Weed negative.

In acquiring it, the Yosemite Museum is possessed of a relic of first importance. Presumably it is the one and only print of this first Yosemite photograph in existence.

OCCURRENCES OF GALLS ON OAKS

That the inter-relation of plants and animals hold an important place in nature's scheme of life, no one familiar with her ways can doubt. In many instances the relation is mutually beneficial but in others one member alone, more often the animal, profits by the association. An interesting example is to be noted in the gall flies (cynipidae) and their plant hosts.

Visitors to Yosemite occasionally inquire of the ranger-naturalist concerning certain unexpected growth on the trees, particularly the oaks about the park. The branches of many of the huckleberry oaks (*Quercus vacinifolia* Kell) along the trail to Nevada Falls present a surprising knobby and warty appearance. On the scrub oak (*Quercus dumosa* Nutt) of the lower reaches are to be observed the "oak apples" (*Andricus Californicus*), globular, fruit-like growths, green at first and perhaps ruddy-sided, but turning brown with age. The twigs of the golden cup oaks (*Quercus chrysolepis*) near the Yosemite museum and other parts of the valley floor support attractive flower-like puffs of pink and white. Although visitors usually recognize these as galls they sometimes desire an explanation of them, but the ranger-naturalist is of necessity conservative in his replies, for the best entomologists agree that the subject is one requiring further research.

It is known that the original cause of the gall is usually a minute fly, relative of the ants and wasps, equipped with an ovipositor adapted to puncture the tender young tissue of buds, leaves, stems or roots. The eggs are deposited singly or severally. Each species causes a characteristic gall, always in a similar location on the plant. By a process not fully understood but possibly due to a salivary excretion and the physical irritation of the growing larvae the galls develop, providing food and housing during the larval and pupal stages. With the return of spring the fully developed fly gnaws its way out and the life cycle is repeated, except in those instances where there is an alteration of generations.

Not all galls are harmful. Some are useful and others beautiful. The gouty oak gall (*Andricus punctatis*) where it occurs in masses, as on the trees of the Nevada Falls trail, may interfere with the circulation of the sap. Of the "oak apples" it may be said that its host "entertains unawares" for it cannot be regarded as detrimental to the life of the tree and in European countries has been useful as a source of tannin, ink and dye. The pink and white ball of the wool sower (*Andricus seminatis*) on the golden cup oak is a delicate creature and gives an aesthetic pleasure by its attractive appearance.—J. S. Smith.

SPARROW HAWK PESTERS GOLDEN EAGLE

Distant views of a golden eagle soaring above the towering cliffs of Yosemite are not unusual. To have one within a hundred yards, however, furnishes a thrill. The special field trip for bird students on Wednesday, July 10, viewed a golden eagle at a distance of 100 yards. The bird was soaring below the tree tops along the south wall of the valley below the old village. The party watched the larger bird soar higher and higher. It was then noted that a smaller bird was darting at it as it flew. The smaller bird proved to be a sparrow hawk

and kept in close pursuit of the eagle as it towered higher and higher along the cliff. Finally the eagle alighted on a small tree a thousand feet or so above the floor of the valley. The sparrow hawk persisted in diving at the perched eagle until it finally drove it from the perch. As the eagle disappeared around a point it was still being pestered by the smaller hawk. The greater speed of the sparrow hawk appeared to enable it to attack the much larger bird. This habit of the sparrow hawk in attacking larger birds of prey is a well known one.—H. C. Bryant.



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Dan Anderson