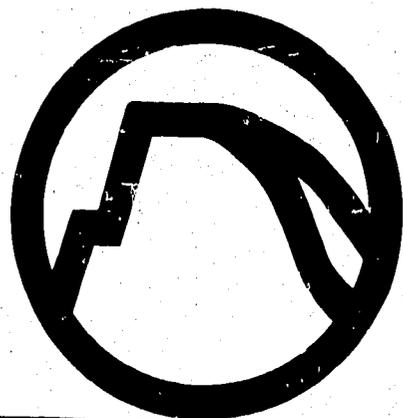


YOSEMITE



SENTINEL

November 1975

Yosemite National Park

Y P & C CO. HONORS 295 YEARS OF SERVICE

Ahwahnee Hotel-The Main Dining room was the setting last night as Yosemite Park and Curry Co. held its Sixth Annual Service Awards Banquet.

A crowd of around 200 employees filled the dining room as Chief Operating Officer, Ed Hardy, with an assist from long time employee Dana Morgenson, handed out 30 awards representing 295 years of service to the Company. In paying tribute to employees Mr. Hardy noted:

"I am proud to have an opportunity to be part of an organization that has as its foundation such a solid line of longevity because it provides the continuity necessary for the Yosemite Park and Curry Co. to continue to serve the visiting public in one of nature's most beautiful places."

It was fitting that Dana Morgenson who received a 30 year award at the banquet assisted in honoring other long term employees. Our thanks to Dana and his wife Ester, who flew in especially for the event from their winter home in Arizona.

A special word of thanks to George Spach and his staff at The Ahwahnee for helping to make the Awards Banquet such an enjoyable occasion.

Others receiving awards were: →

Five Years of Service

Arvola, Sue
Benton, James
Billington, Barbara
Crum, Robert
Fletcher, David
Germany, Bill
Graham, Ross
Heter, William
Hoffman, Rowena
Hollar, Melvin
Lauenroth, Catheryn
Murphy, Ervin
Sanders, Thomas
Slater, Sheila
Smith, G. L. J.
Vanderwater, Ruth
Westmoreland, Marvene
Young, James

Secretary October 28, 1969
Accounting May 19, 1969
Y. L. Transportation July 6, 1969
Garage June 10, 1969
Ahwahnee Bellman March 24, 1969
Curry Village Manager June 5, 1969
Mechanic May 5, 1969
Y. T. S. September 6, 1969
Ahwahnee June 9, 1969
Ahwahnee September 3, 1969
Accounting July 21, 1969
Yosemite Lodge August 16, 1969
Yosemite Lodge September 4, 1969
Personnel October 18, 1969
Yosemite Lodge October 22, 1969
Reservations September 3, 1969
Village Store June 29, 1969
Yosemite Lodge May 24, 1969

Ten Years of Service

Bonaventura, Frank
Corbin, James
Garcia, Frank
Haupt, Norman
Keller, Gene

Y.T.S. June 28, 1964
Maintenance August 14, 1964
Warehouse May 20, 1964
Yosemite Lodge June 5, 1964
Yosemite Lodge August 12, 1964

Fifteen Years of Service

Edeal, James
Paquette, Claude
Paquette, Joe

General Office July 29, 1959
Village Store May 15, 1959
Accounting March 27, 1959

Twenty Five Years of Service

Whitfield, Eldridge

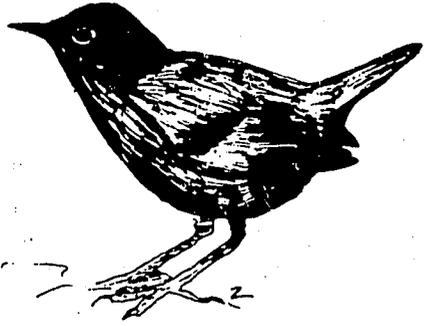
Warehouse May 16, 1949

Thirty Years of Service

Barnett, Robert
Harders, Ade
Morgenson, Dana

Stables Manager May 2, 1944
Stables September 20, 1944
Guest Services December 19, 1944

HAPPY
THANKSGIVING
from the
SENTINEL



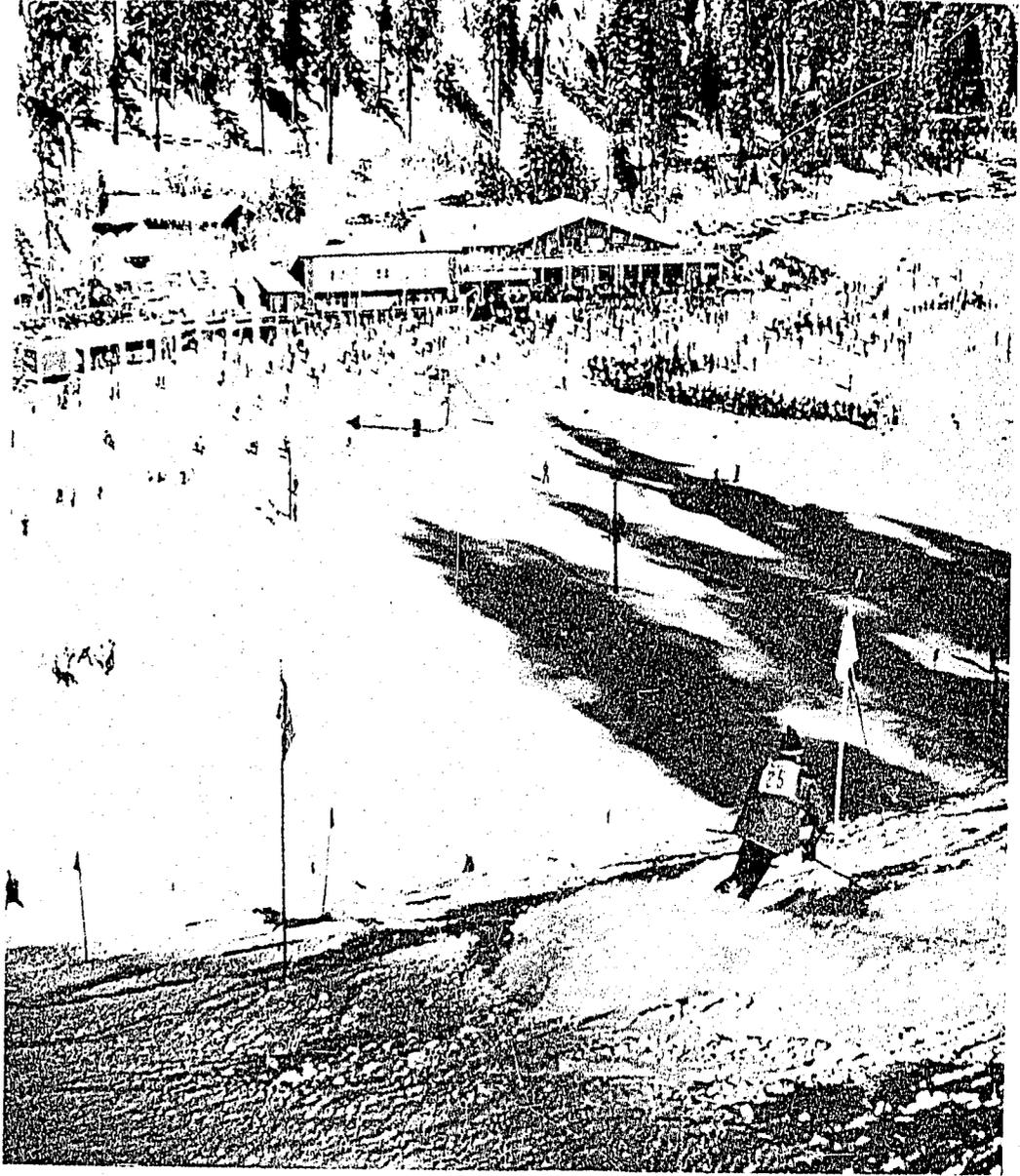
Animal of The Month

The water ouzel, a year-round resident of Yosemite, is more striking now that many of the other birds have left for the south. A robin-sized slate gray bird, tinged brown on the head and shoulders, the ouzel makes up for its plain appearance with spectacular behavior. It's a creature of the rushing mountain streams where it obtains its food by diving to the bottom and walking along underwater, aided by its wings, picking up insects and other animal life along the bottom. It also feeds along the edge of the stream. The ouzel is sometimes called the dipper because when perched on the bank or a rock it bobs up and down almost constantly.

The ouzel is so attached to streams that it rarely leaves them. It flies over the stream, tracing all the zigs and zags, seldom cutting a bend, no matter how abrupt. When the high mountain streams are frozen over the ouzel moves down to lower elevations where the streams are still flowing. In the spring it nests along streams placing its nest on rocks, attached under a bridge, or even behind a waterfall so that it has to fly through the water to get to the nest. The nest is a green dome made of mosses and sometimes the water's spray feeds the mosses so they continue to grow.

These little birds are very tame and relatively approachable. In the past week we've seen them many times near the Pohono Bridge, and near the Wawona campground. John Muir gave this description of what happens when you get too close: "If disturbed while dipping about in the margin shallows, he either sets off with a rapid whir to some other feeding ground up or down stream, or alights on some half submerged rock or snag out in the current, and immediately begins to nod and curtsy like a wren, turning his head from side to side with many other odd dainty movements that never fail to fix the attention of the observer."

The ouzel has a pretty song that some people compare to a mockingbird. If you get close enough to hear it, you may be able to see the ouzel's white eyelid flash in the sun as it blinks. A typical Sierra bird, the ouzel occurs along streams from the high mountains to the foothills. It's found all along the mountain ranges of the Pacific Coast from Alaska south to South America.



Winter Sports Open For Season

BADGER PASS - The oldest organized ski area in California. Bus service daily from the Yosemite Lodge and The Ahwahnee. Lifts run daily from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Three chairlifts and two T-Bars service the nine runs. Lift fee for employees with privilege cards is \$3.75 for all day, all lifts. Ski packages (fiberglass skis, boots and poles) may be rented at Badger for \$3.50 per day again with employee card. Three areas of food service are available: The Quick Lift hamburger stand, the Deli Bar, and full, hot meal upstairs in the Snowflake Room. Traditional apres ski drinks are served upstairs in the afternoon. Skiing lessons are offered at half price to employees by the Yosemite Ski School. Seasons passes are available. Call 372-4691.

YOSEMITE MOUNTAINEERING SCHOOL - Received the Far West Ski Association's "Ski Area of the Year" Award for 1972-73. Under the direction

of Ned Gillette, former U.S. Olympic Ski Team member, the school offers beginning, intermediate and advanced lessons in ski touring. Instruction begins, on weekends only until mid-December, at 8:30 a.m. at the Curry Village Mountain Shop. Cross-country skis, boots and poles may be rented at the shop for \$2.75 per day. Bring your car, if you have one, for the short drive to the class location. For further information call 372-4611, ext. 244.

CURRY ICE RINK - Open Monday through Friday 10 a.m. to noon, 2 to 4 p.m., and 7:30 to 10 p.m.; on Saturday, Sunday and holidays the rink will be open from 8 to 10 a.m., 10:30 to 12:30 p.m., 1 to 3 p.m., 3:30 to 5:30 p.m., 6 to 8 p.m. and 8:30 to 10:30 p.m. Admission is 75 cents for employees with privilege cards, while skate rentals are 75 cents. A small snack bar operates at the ice rink. Season passes are available.

THE GOOD OLD DAYS

The Yosemite Ski School opened in 1928 under the direction of Ernest Des Bailleys as the first ski school in the West. There were four ski instructors who doubled as skating instructors.

The first ski hill was the moraine across the road from the Yosemite Stables which offered a downhill run of a few hundred feet and a jump hill of possibly 60 feet. Two instructors would give jumping exhibitions every Friday afternoon.

Locals were so eager for a ski lodge that the Curry Co. built one for them. The Snow Creek ski cabin was completed in the fall of 1930 on the slopes of Mt. Watkins, some 2500 feet above Mirror Lake. Mary Curry Tressider envisioned Snow Creek to be a prototype for ski lodges to be located throughout the Sierras. But this failed because the skiers were not experienced or imaginative enough to make it work.

Snow Creek offered marvelous opportunities for ski touring. The Yosemite Ski School taught the mysteries of waxing and snow conditions to local skiers.

In 1933, after the completion of the Wawona Tunnel, the Wawona Road was kept open throughout the winter. Then the Chinquapin slopes became the principal scene of skiing activities. When the new Glacier Point Road was finished in 1934 as far as Old Badger Pass, skiers found they could hike into Badger Meadow (the site of the present Lodge) and climb the slopes surrounding it.

An experimental Upski was installed in this area in February of 1935. It took six people up a rise of 280 feet by means of two sleds on cables. The two lines were known as the Queen Mary. The T-Bar built in 1948 replaced the Queen Mary Upski sleds.

With the growing interest in skiing, the Tressider's and the Curry Co. saw Badger as becoming the "Switzerland of the West." In the fall of 1935 they built the Badger Pass Ski Lodge and invited Hannes Schroll, a top Austrian skier, to head the Yosemite Ski School. In 1936 Sigi Engl, now the head of the Sun Valley Ski School, was added to the staff.

As a fringe benefit of this skiing boom, Lewis Memorial Hospital also boomed. As a result, Dr Avery Sturm, a resident physician, gained international recognition as a bone specialist. Like everything else, the hospital was suffering from the effects of the Depression.

Broken bones were a financial boon. "A broken leg was worth \$100 to the hospital," Sturm said in retrospect. The X-ray, setting, cast and an overnight stay cost \$100 in those days. "Besides that," Ave added, "I became a skier, loved every moment of it and only ended up in plaster once."

Charles Proctor came from New England in the fall of 1938 to take over as director of Yosemite's winter activities. Proctor was a Dartmouth graduate and one of the first Americans to compete in the winter Olympic Games as a jumper. He and his wife were both champion skiers. Proctor brought in Luggi Foeger, who had been

Hannes Schneider's top assistant at St. Anton, Austria, to head the Ski School.

A few Yosemite residents took to skis like ducks to water and brought recognition to Yosemite. Among them were Gabe Sovulewski Goldsworthy and young Leroy "Rusty" Rust, our current Postmaster. Don Tressider was himself an excellent skier.

In the winter of 1948, Luggi Foeger brought to Yosemite a corp of instructors from Canada. They were Jim McConkey, Ron Moore and our own Nic Fiore, present director of the Yosemite Ski School.

New Community Members

DON FOX - Landscape Architect for NPS - received his B.S. Degree from Michigan State University. Did graduate work in Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Colorado. For the past four years he participated as a member of the Services' Professional Planning and Design Team, working primarily with Bicentennial Parks. Don is an Associate Member of the American Society of Landscape Architects, a U.S. Army veteran, and interested in biking, skiing and photography.

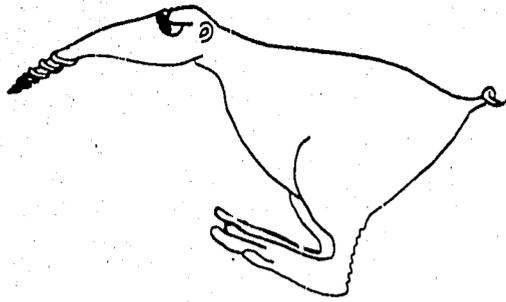
FRED GUIBARA - Director of Purchasing for Y.P. & C. Co. - studied Hotel and Restaurant Management at San Francisco City College. Director of Purchasing for Monarch Institutional Foods for seven years, and for the last three served as Director of Purchasing and Director of Information Systems for Golden States Food Corporation. He plays the piano and organ, golfs, and was a member of Sierra Madre Volunteer Fire Department for four years. Fred married Barbara Jean Todd of San Gabriel in the Yosemite Chapel last Saturday.

JOHN "JACK" LANDSDALE - Realty Specialist for NPS - worked on land acquisition for the C & O Canal Project for the last three years. He was in the private practice of real estate for 24 years before joining the National Park Service in 1971. Jack and his wife, Louise, are natives of Washington, D.C. and have five grown children.

JIM MC ILVEEN - Director of Food and Beverage for Y.P. & C. Co. - attended Texas Southern University where he majored in Physical Educational and minored in Biology. He served as Director of Food Services for Saga Food Services in Menlo Park, and the Area Manager for the Continental Hotel at Walt Disney World in Florida. In his spare time he scuba dives, water skis and plays table tennis.

PHIL PARKER - Concessions Specialist for NPS - he majored in Science and Business at the University of Wisconsin and received a Masters in Institutional Management at Oregon State. Phil worked in Public Health in Wisconsin and both Public Health and Food Service in Oregon. He also taught Home Economics and Teaching at Oregon State. Phil has a wife, Linda, and two children, Jim and Lisa. He enjoys competitive sports and hopes to be a skier.

BILL THOMPSEN - Manager of the Yosemite Lodge for Y.P. & C. Co. - went to L.A. State College and graduated from U.C.L.A. with a degree in Special Education. Taught school in Laguna Beach. Skied professionally part time for several years. Worked at Mammoth for five years as a ski instructor and patrolman. Was General Manager of Brian Head in charge of overall operations and development of the ski area. Member of the Board of Directors of the Utah Ski Association for five years. His wife, Gail, and two children, Chris and Heidi, will be out to join him in January.



Rumor Rooter

Do you have rumors clogging your mind? Then you need the "Rumor Rooter".

This weeks rumor: That employees would have to pay to ride the ski bus to Badger this season.

This weeks facts: There has been no change in policy from last ski season. Employees may ride the Badger Bus free on a space available basis the same as last winter.



LEARN TO SKI!!

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Christmas Mailing

To ensure the early arrival of your Christmas mail, Rusty Rust at the Valley Post Office offers the following schedule for mailing:

- Dec. 2 — Air Mail and letters to Armed Forces
- Dec. 10 — Surface parcels within the U.S., Canada and Mexico
- Dec. 15 — Surface greeting cards within the U.S., including Alaska and Hawaii
- Dec. 16 — International Air Greeting Cards to Europe
- Dec. 21 — Air Mail parcels and letters within the U.S.

Two new Christmas stamps are being offered this year. The Currier and Ives Stamp is an old-fashioned reproduction of a couple in a horse-drawn sleigh. "Altar Piece", the stamp with the religious motif, is a copy of the painting in the New York Metropolitan Museum of a red angel.

Postage for an average Christmas card or letter is 10¢, while Air Mail is 13¢. As of November 17, all mail without postage or with incorrect postage will be returned to the sender. If there is no return address, the mail will be sent to the Dead Letter Office where an effort will be made to determine the sender. If the sender can be determined, the letter will be returned at a 20¢ postage due charge.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27

Cartoons and Comedies
Macrame and Leather Class

Yosemite Sam's—5 p.m.
Y.P.&C. Co. Employee Rec. Office—7 p.m.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28

Thanksgiving Services
MOVIE "Ichabod & Mr. Toad"
Talent Night

Chapel—9:30 a.m.
Yosemite Sam's — 7 p.m.
Yosemite Sam's — 8:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29

DANCE "Antique Shoppe"
DANCE "Awesome Light"

Badger Pass Lodge — 5 p.m.
Yosemite Sam's — 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30

DANCE "Antique Shoppe"
DANCE "Awesome Light"

Badger Pass Lodge — 5 p.m.
Yosemite Sam's — 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1

Football Special
Balkan Folk Dancing

Yosemite Sam's—Noon
Y.P.&C. Co Employee Rec. Office—7 P.M.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 2

Monday Night Football
MOVIE "The Fly & The Day The Earth Stood Still"

Yosemite Sam's — 8 p.m.
East Auditorium — 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4

Women's Club Lunch & Crafts Bazaar
Cartoons and Comedies
Macrame and Leather Class

Curry Lounge—11 a.m.
Yosemite Sam's — 5 p.m.
Y.P.&C. Co. Employee Rec. Office — 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5

Lions Club Luncheon
Macrame and Leather Class
Talent Night

Ahwahnee—Noon
Y.P.&C. Co. Employee Rec. Office—7 p.m.
Yosemite Sam's—8 p.m.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6

Ski Swap & Dime-A-Dip Dinner
DANCE "Rock Slide"

Elementary School — 4 p.m.
Yosemite Sam's — 8 p.m.

If you have an event that is happening in the Valley, El Portal, Wawona or any area that may affect or be of interest to Yosemite residents, please call the Yosemite Sentinel at 372-4611 ext. 257. We'll be happy to list your events!

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS CORNER

By: Jim Edeal

Over the years Yosemite Park and Curry Co. has developed an employee benefits program which is uniquely suited to the employees of Yosemite Park and Curry Co.

IMMEDIATE BENEFITS

Starting with your first day of employment you can learn to ski, climb, skate and ride a bike or a horse at a special discount of 50% off the retail rate. Our swimming pools at Yosemite Lodge and Curry Village are free to you as an employee. You are invited and encouraged to take the Valley Tour free so that you can familiarize yourself with your new home. A space-available discount of 50% is provided to you for all Yosemite Transportation services. There are discounts in our grocery and retail stores in the amount of 10% off the retail prices. You are entitled to a 20% discount in the Yosemite Lodge and Curry Village cafeterias and the Four Seasons Restaurant. The Lewis Memorial Hospital Plan is paid for through a very small payroll deduction and provides excellent medical care at remarkably low rates--often as little as 1/15th of the cost for the same services elsewhere. Full time employees have the following holidays (or a compensating day off if scheduling does not permit absence on the actual holiday):

New Year's Day
Washington's Birthday
Veteran's Day
Thanksgiving Day
Day after Thanksgiving
Christmas

Naturally, you are permitted and encouraged to participate in local, State and National elections. When you are selected for jury duty, you will receive your regular straight time pay less fees paid by the court.

ONE YEAR

After a year of continuous full time employment, the list of benefits begins to grow.

1. Two weeks paid vacation.
2. A leave of absence for up to three months without loss of accrued benefits subject to your supervisor's approval.
3. You have earned 96 hours of sick leave, and you can earn up to 360 hours of credit. The latter amount when coordinated with State Disability can provide you with full salary for up to 5 months if you become disabled.

4. Group insurance is available to you. This includes major medical coverage for you and your dependents, term life insurance, long term disability insurance, an accident policy which can provide up to \$100,000.00 in benefits. There is no cost to you for the group medical insurance, and the Company shares with you the cost of the group life insurance program.

5. You are now an active participant in the Yosemite Park and Curry Co. pension plan.

6. Bereavement leave for up to three days.

TWO TO FIVE YEARS

1. You continue to earn two weeks paid vacation. Plus after 24 months of full time employment if you leave your job for any reason, you will be paid a pro-rata vacation pay based on vacation accrued since your last earned vacation.

2. Sick Leave. You continue to earn sick leave credit at a rate of 8 hours per month until you attain a maximum credit of 360 hours.

FIVE YEARS

1. You are included at the Annual Service Awards Banquet and receive a five year award.

2. You can use the Badger Pass ski lifts and Wawona Golf Course without charge. This privilege includes your immediate family, spouse and dependent children.

SIX TO TEN YEARS

1. Three weeks annual vacation.

TEN YEARS

1. You are recognized with a 10-year service award at the annual banquet.

2. You are eligible for an annual pass on the Yosemite Transportation on a space-available basis.

3. You may have a personal charge account with the company.

4. Your retail discount is increased to 20% off of retail prices. Your discount in the grocery store continues to remain at 10%.

ELEVEN YEARS

1. Four weeks annual vacation.

FIFTEEN YEARS

1. Yosemite Transportation System annual pass is no longer subject to space availability restrictions.

2. You are presented with a 15 year award at the annual awards banquet.

3. Your retail discount is increased to 25%. Grocery store discount continues at 10%.

4. Pension. Your pension is fully vested after 15 years of service, the amount of that pension will be based on the 10 highest consecutive years of earnings which normally will be your last 10 years of service.

TWENTY YEARS AND OVER

1. You receive a 20-year award and continue to receive such awards at five year intervals for the duration of your employment.

RETIREMENT

Yosemite Park and Curry Co. has a pension plan which is fully paid for by the Company. No deductions are made from your pay to fund this program. For detailed information about the pension plan, please ask at the Insurance Office for the booklet, "Retirement Plan in Yosemite."

Luncheon and Crafts Bazaar

The Yosemite Women's Club will be having their December luncheon and Christmas Crafts Bazaar at the Curry Village Lounge on December 4 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The luncheon and bazaar are open to all the women in the Park and non-members are encouraged to join in.

The menu for the luncheon is soup and french bread and the admission is free. You're only asked to bring your own mug and a batch of your favorite cookies and the recipe for them. If you don't have time to make the cookies, just bring the recipe and come and taste everyone else's specialty.

Also at this luncheon craftsmen from throughout the Valley will display their wares as possible Christmas gift ideas.

WINTER CLUB

Dear Yosemite Residents:

As Chief Operating Officer of Yosemite Park and Curry Co. it gives me great pleasure to see the rebirth of the YOSEMITE SENTINEL. This fine community publication served Yosemite residents for over 30 years before it went out of print in 1969. The void created by the demise of the Sentinel has never been fully filled.

This is the first issue of the "reborn" YOSEMITE SENTINEL, which usually will be published once a week depending on the amount of material submitted.

I hope each of you will take great interest in this community newspaper and will make literary contributions. The SENTINEL is being reinstated as a Yosemite Community newsletter. Your literary contributions are vital to the success and continuation of your SENTINEL.

As we approach the end of 1974 and look forward to many years ahead in Yosemite we hope that the SENTINEL will serve to develop a stronger sense of community. A community where we each, in our various jobs and activities, carry out the very special job of providing for the protection and enjoyment of Yosemite National Park and passing it on, unimpaired, for future generations.

The Hardy family gives thanks that we are here and wish all of you a Happy Thanksgiving.

Edward C. Hardy
Chief Operating Officer
YPCCo.

RECYCLING

Everyone recognizes recycling as a positive way to reduce environmental pollution and the waste of resources. Yet most reuseable trash still goes to the dump. Here in Yosemite various groups have tried to operate recycling projects to reduce the amounts of resources sent to the Mariposa dump. In future weeks this column would like to print the experiences of individuals and groups that have run recycling programs in the past, are doing it now, or have ideas for future programs. Send in your experiences and share your ideas with the community. What sort of programs work, which don't work, what can be done to make them better.

Write to the YOSEMITE SENTINEL,
Yosemite Park and Curry Co.

The Yosemite Winter Club is on the active list again this year. With a push from Club President Don Rees and members Rusty Rust, Tom Williams, John Crofut and Art Goertzen the Club held a membership drive dinner in early September and the response was overwhelming. The Winter Club is 140 members strong this year and will continue to solicit membership right on through the year.

This season marks the 46th year of the Yosemite Winter Club making it one of the oldest winter sports organizations in the Sierra.

The Club has a host of activities planned for the season including a fondue and music session at Badger Pass in mid-December after a day of skiing.

A Hans-Brinker family night at the Curry Village Ice Rink and later in the Winter the very popular "Ancient Jocks Race". Winter Club member John Crofut is working hard to get Lowell Thomas here for the event to recreate the broadcast he did from The Ahwahnee in 1948. The noted commentator is an avid skier and has skied Badger Pass many times. His presence would be a great addition to the "Ancient Jocks Race" scheduled for March 8, 1975.

For membership application and more information on Winter Club activities write Yosemite Winter Club, P.O. Box 3, Yosemite National Park, Ca. 95389.

LUNCHBREAK

Yosemite Sam's is open for lunch Monday through Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Sam's offers burgers, cheeseburgers, Rueben sandwiches, French Dip, Grilled Cheese, French Fries, Chili, Soup and beverages. The prices range from 50 cents to \$1.25.

Lunch service is also available at the Ahwahnee Hotel Dining Room from noon to 1:30 p.m. The price range is from \$2 to \$4 for sandwiches or full meals. The cafeteria at the Yosemite Lodge serves lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. with hot entrees beginning at about \$1.25. Salads, desserts and other small items are also available.

Hot deli sandwiches may also be purchased at the Great Yosemite Food and Beverage Company grocery/deli starting at \$1.29.

THE BIRTH OF THE SENTINEL

The first issue of the Lost Arrow, a four page mimeographed newsletter put out by a group of employees called the Yosemite Club, came out on October 31, 1941. The paper was sponsored and backed by the Curry Co.

The lead article of this first issue was about Mother Curry celebrating her 80th birthday with a reception at The Ahwahnee. She was presented with a scroll with 600 signatures on it.

By the time the second issue was released the name had been changed to the Yosemite Sentinel. This issue announced the forming of the Yosemite Club. It also told of a gale that downed 70 trees over the ski runs at Badger Pass. Jesse Rust, Leroy's father, who was then in charge of the old ice rink, was mentioned in this issue. They said "he had made more ice than all the Frigidaires in Iceland."

The paper went through many transformations and in 1960 became a glossy 8 1/2" x 11" four-page piece.

Andy Koller, the butcher, was the top humor columnist for the Sentinel. Hill Oehlmann, the third president of the Curry Co., also contributed. Mary Curry Tressider wrote historical and nature articles for the paper, which were often picked up by local newspapers.

Among the past editors of the Yosemite Sentinel were Esther Morgenson, whose husband Dana leads the Camera Walks, and Henry Berry, now the editor of the Yosemite Guide.

The last issue of the Sentinel came out on October 17, 1969.

The Yosemite Sentinel was not only eagerly looked forward to by Park employees, but past issues are still treasured today by Yosemite historians.

Yosemite Sentinel

Published by
Yosemite Park and Curry Co.
for the information of
residents of
Yosemite National Park

John C. Crofut Editor
Elizabeth C. Shepard ..

.. Associate Editor
Contributing Editors . Garrett De Bell
(this issue) Jim Edeal
Ned Gillette
Paul Peters
Shirley Sargent
Dan Slusser

CHOOSEING A CROSS COUNTY SKI

By Ned Gillette

Wood skis are still the best bet for cross-country. Manufacturers have been working with wood long enough to insure nearly perfect ski quality and performance. Wood skis are truly time-tested.

It is possible to buy a synthetic or a combination wood and synthetic ski. I don't think the flex pattern, bonding technique, or "fell" are quite right yet. But be on the lookout for excellent synthetic skis in the near future. Remember: the Kneissel glass ski won gold medals in the 1974 World Championships.

Use this check list to choose a good pair of wood skis:

1. **TYPE:** General touring if you need a wide, stable platform to ski on; or if you need a really strong ski for extended tours. Light touring if you want better performance (a ski that will follow terrain variations more precisely) while still having quite good strength.

2. **LENGTH:** To the break in your wrist when your arm is raised straight over your head.

3. **BOTTOM:** A hickory sole with ligno-stone edges will give you the two qualities that you want - running wax adhesion and durability in harsh snow conditions.

If you ski only occasionally, seriously consider a waxless (fish-scale or mohair) bottom. These are especially good at 32° F. However, you will almost never get as good ski performance as you will from a

correctly waxed regular ski. The important thing is that you are outdoors, not what ski you use!

4. **FLEX:** Here is where an expert that has a feel for skis can help you out. Choosing a ski with the correct flex for your weight is so important for ski performance and even wax wear. A little softer ski is better for light snow; a little stiffer ski is better for icy conditions.

It is essential to choose a pair in which both skis have the same flex. By putting the bottoms together, squeezing, and sighting down the "slot" you can tell where "hard" spots lie in each ski. A good pair of skis will come together evenly.

5. **SOFT TIP:** If you are looking for top performance, a ski with a nice soft tip will follow terrain variations much better than one with a stiff tip. Avoid skiing on a "2 x 4".

6. **NO WARP:** Check your skis for any sign of warping. Make sure the shovels of each ski (the section just below the curve in the tip), when placed bottom to bottom, lie flat against each other. Another test is to again place the skis bottom to bottom and lift them lightly at the shovel. The tails should hang flat against each other.

7. **QUALITY:** Generally check each ski for top workmanship.

8. **COST:** In a wood x-c ski, you get what you pay for. It is false economy to buy a cheap ski - it will not perform well or last very long.

ANNUAL SKI SWAP

The Annual Ski Swap and Dime-A-Dip Dinner will take place on December 6 at the Elementary School beginning at 4 p.m.

Anyone wishing to sell or trade their cross-country or downhill skis, boots or poles, ice skates, or any winter apparel may bring them to this swap.

Then stay for the Dime-A-Dip Dinner that follows. One scoop of each item that you choose will cost you 10 cents, such as hot entree, salad, bread, dessert.

The Yosemite Elementary School will sponsor a Bake Sale at the Swap, with the proceeds going to the children's ski program. Buy the baked goods to eat now or freeze for the holidays.

Employees' Housing Corner

By: Paul Peters

'Employee housing seems to be the most controversial issue facing employees who live and work in Yosemite Valley. Though the process is a slow one, steps are being taken to make living conditions here more pleasant for everyone.

One of the first priorities as the warm summer months changed to the chill of fall was to move those employees living in tents into winterized housing. This has meant a great deal of change for many people as it became necessary to change some dormitories from male to female, from single to married, and from one geographic location to another within the Park. However, due to the patience and understanding of those involved in these moves, the work has gone smoothly.

One very positive sign in the housing area has been our recent purchase of a modular type unit which is presently located in Camp 6. This complex contains three individual bachelor apartments with a range, sink, refrigerator, garbage disposal and an individual bath in each apartment. We are very excited about this type of unit and will be evaluating their adaptability within the next few weeks, and continually discussing the feasibility of getting more of these units.

Should you have any problems with housing, or any suggestions on improving conditions, please come by the employee housing office located in the general offices, or call us on ext. 451.



NED GILLETE FINISHING FIRST IN THE NORDIC HOLIDAY RACE.

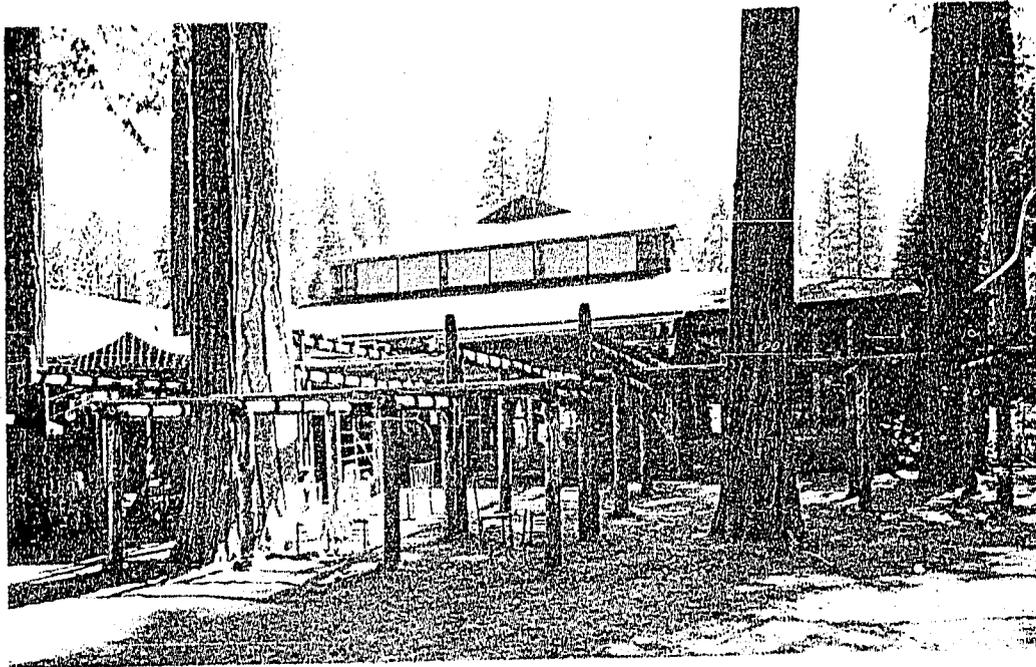


Photo 1

Those of you who were here on Easter Sunday, 1973 will probably remember the shrill sound of the fire siren piercing the early evening air, marking the end of what was then a Yosemite landmark, the Curry Village Cafeteria. (Pictured #1)

Flames, some say started by an arsonist, the official cause has never been determined, raced through the old wooden structure and before they could be put out gutted the building making it a total loss. (Pictured at #2)

The loss of the Curry Cafeteria placed a heavy burden on the other eating facilities in Yosemite Valley this past year. However, with National Park Service approval, a new cafeteria is being built on the site of the old facility and as



Photo 2

you can see (Picture #3) in the same style as the old cafeteria. Appropriately, the new cafeteria is to be opened to the public at Easter 1975. Curry Village Manager, Bill Germany, reports that the new facility will incorporate what is known as the "scramble system" which equates to quick service and elimination of long waiting lines.

The new cafeteria will give Curry Village a modern up-to-date eating facility and will be a fine addition to Yosemite's food services offered to the visiting public.

If you haven't already done so, you should stop by and have a look at the new building. You will be surprised at how much it resembles the old cafeteria.



Photo 3

YOSEMITE



SENTINEL

Vol. II - December 6, 1974

Yosemite National Park, CA

FEASTING WITH THE SQUIRE

The Ahwahnee is closed to the public at this writing but there certainly is no lack of activity at the hotel as George Spach and his staff make ready for the coming holiday season and the arrival of Squire Bracebridge on Christmas Day.

This marks the 47th year the event, as depicted in Washington Irving's Sketch Book account of Christmas at Bracebridge Hall, will be staged at The Ahwahnee. While the dinner itself is familiar to most, those who work behind the scenes to make it the success that it is don't always get the recognition they deserve. One such individual is Carl Stevens who plays a key role in the event planning and executing all the decorations.

Carl is currently busy refurbishing the six "presentations." The "Great Fish," the "Peacock Pie," the "Boar's Head," the "Baron of Beef," the "Plum Pudding," and the "Wassail Bowl". These generally lose a scale, an ear or a feather during their year of storage. The final trimming of the litters, with fresh fruit and vegetables, is done just before they are carried to the Squire.

Carl also builds the half dozen six foot wreaths that hang in Bracebridge Hall. Among the biggest tasks are decorating with hundreds of ornaments, the 22' Christmas Tree in the Great Lounge and gathering a hundred or more small trees for guests to enjoy in their rooms.

The final moment of preparation comes with the decoration of the Squires' table. Again all the fruit and vegetables are fresh and the hares and pheasants are rushed from the refrigerator, at about the time the notes of the English horn summon the guests to Bracebridge Hall.

Feasting with the Squire has become an Ahwahnee tradition and part of that tradition is Carl Stevens. Our thanks to him for his important contribution to the Bracebridge Dinner.

HERB EWING YOSEMITE'S SNOWMAN

Herb Ewing has spent most of his 55 years in Yosemite National Park and all of his working life in the National Park Service.

Officially he is the Mather District Ranger in charge of Ranger operations in the northern part of the park. Unofficially, he is a favorite historian, guide and friend among park visitors and employees.

Herb Ewing is Yosemite's Snowman. He has been a member of the Cooperative National Park Service/California Department of Water Resources snow survey team since the early 30's. Few men know the Yosemite backcountry as well as Herb Ewing. Four times each winter, vowing that each trip will be his last, Herb treks into the backcountry to measure snow depths and density in planning for spring flood control and irrigation.

The son of a Yosemite pioneer, a big rugged man. Ewing himself recalls the

SAFETY SEMINAR FOR WOMEN

The National Park Service is sponsoring a morning seminar for all the women in the Park on Monday, December 9 at 9:30 a.m. in the east auditorium.

The topic under discussion will be "Personal Safety on the Streets" and attendance is restricted to women only. Vera Poston, safety officer for NPS western region in San Francisco, will show a film and discuss means that a woman can use to ward off purse snatchers and attackers.

Yosemite pioneer spirit as he muses over past snow surveys. Men skiing into storms and having to spend sub-zero nights outdoors. He remembers the days when surveys took three weeks instead of the current three days, and when survey members measured the snow course between Yosemite Valley and Tioga Pass traveling by Cross Country Skis. "The trips were grueling," recalls Herb. Party members made their way by tying knots of rope around heavy, old fashioned skis so they wouldn't slide down the hill. "Skins were too expensive in those days, and waxes hadn't yet been heard of."

Herb is the stuff of which the Sierra is made, and he is at his best in a little snow covered cabin in Tuolumne Meadows. "The Sierra just hasn't been working these past few years, but one of these winters the Sierra will start working again, and confound new fangled gadgets like helicopters and radio transmitters that measure snow depth." His friends in the park know this, and hope that Herb Ewing keeps putting off that "last trip" for seasons to come.

DON'T MISS THE VILLAGE STORE CHRISTMAS PARTY

See Page 2

MOTOR TOURING TO YOSEMITE

From time to time the Sentinel will print articles which have appeared in print elsewhere. The article below was published in the January 1965 issue of Sunset Magazine:

"There can be no description by words or pen of the pleasures of motoring to Yosemite. The canvases of a Hill have accomplished much but the motorist must guide his car up the heights, along the levels and under the spreading boughs of the sheltering trees ere he can realize what God and Nature have given him in the glories of the Yosemite.

In taking the Yosemite trip great care should be observed in the preliminary inspection of the working parts of your car, greater in fact than any other touring possibility would exact, for the grades are heavy and the strain practically unequalled. Then again see that your gasoline shipments have gone on ahead for the high altitudes demand more fuel than the sea-level stretches. You can obtain water all along the route but your telephone communication ceases between the valley and Groveland, situated between Priest and Hamilton.

From San Francisco to Oakland by road, you commence the auto trip. Through the leafy quietude of the Niles canyon to the commodious hotel at Byron Springs, you make your first day's pilgrimage over roads without equal in this country and enjoy your night's rest with all the comforts of your home. You have been through the passes of the grain-covered Coast range over grades that cause no trouble and the morning finds you on your way to Stockton. Then on to Knights Ferry and you end your day's exertions at Chinese Camp, the scene of wide-awake mining operations. The road, ranging along by the Eagle Shawmut mine takes you to the base of Priest hill where the grade is steady, steep and heavy, but, if your car be of adequate power, you ascend with low speed gears grinding out their protest at the surmounting of an obstacle which would tire the best of Kentucky's blue-grass stock and which displays to best advantage the reliability of the twentieth century auto car.

The hotel at the summit proves a godsend for the tired driver and his party, while the next morning with its invigorating mountain ozone seems to welcome the final effort to reach Nature's paradise, the Yosemite. You have your first impression of the sierra giant redwood, which you encounter between the summit and Crocker's. The grades are

most exacting but surmountable with your twelve-horse-power car. Down the gradient you spin for fourteen miles when the floor of the great valley meets you with its level stretch of sandy roadway. You have reached your goal and tomorrow promises a festival of scenery unsurpassed the world over. The chuff-chuff of your car places you at the base of the falls of the Yosemite where the roar of the vast falling waters makes conversation a trial. Slowly moving down the floor of the valley, you reach the mirroring surface of the lakes at the northern end and have passed by the glistening falls of Nevada and Vernal. You have labored to place your car where it is, but that is all forgotten in the vista of attractiveness that daily opens to your amazed eyes."

CHRISTMAS PARTY & OPEN HOUSE

The Village Store will hold its 3rd Annual Christmas Party and Open House on Tuesday, December 10 at the store. The party is open to all Park employees with a privilege card and begins at 7:30 p.m.

Door prizes, refreshments and special discounts of 15% on all grocery items and 20% on all other items are offered during this two hour party.

Employee Housing Corner

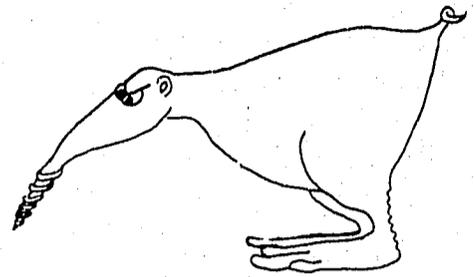
By Paul Peters

Many of you are required to live in double occupancy rooms in our dormitories and subsequently required to share common facilities. For this reason we have an established set of housing guidelines. The purpose of these guidelines is to protect and preserve the privacy of all concerned. If you have not seen a copy of these guidelines, please come in to the employee housing office and get one.

We have, over the past few weeks, attempted to make it possible for individuals to room with roommates of their choice (of the same sex). Should you desire to make a change in your dormitory or your present room, please contact the employee housing office. If it is at all possible, we will make every effort to effect such a change.

Should you have any suggestions or comments on housing, please stop by the employee housing office, or call us on ext. 451.

Yosemite Sentinel



RUMOR ROOTER:

This weeks rumor: That certain dormitories will be tripled up this winter.

This weeks facts: It is anticipated that it will not be necessary to triple up dormitory rooms as a normal condition. However, it may be necessary to do so at peak weekend periods. If so this will be kept to a minimum.

New Community Members

MARK MEIGGS - Buyer of Sports and Apparel for YPCCo. - attended University of Denver. Was Vice-President of Marketing for Mountain Equipment, Inc., a backpacking equipment company, and served as a manufacturer's representative for the Dynamic Ski Company in Vermont and New Hampshire, selling cross-country, backpacking and hiking equipment.

LEONARD MC KENZIE - Chief Park Interpreter for NPS - began as a student trainee in Yosemite in 1960; became permanent in 1962. Was the Park Naturalist at Lassen Volcanic National Park in 1964, and has served as District Naturalist at Everglades National Park and Interpretive Specialist at Assateague, Ireland National Seashore. He has a wife, Linda, and two children, Stacy and Jim.

Yosemite Sentinel

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John C. Crofut Editor

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.. Associate Editor

Contributing Editors . Garrett De Bell (this issue)

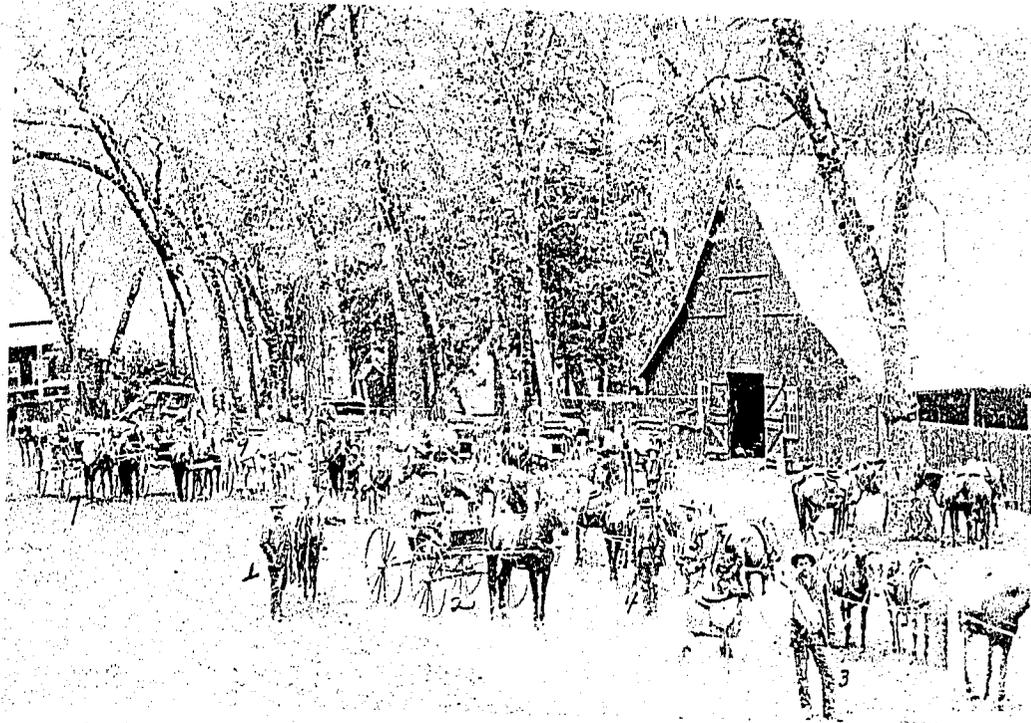
Jim Edeal

Paul Peters

Shirley Sargent

Aubrey Wallace

THE GOOD OLD DAYS



Prior to the construction of The Ahwahnee, its grounds were the site of and focal point for all visitor transportation by horse, mule or stage.

The site began as the first public campground in the Valley and was run by Arron Harris.

In 1888 when George Washington Kenney and partner William Coffman found that their stables at the base of the Four-Mile Trail were doing poorly they looked for a new location. They chose the site of Arron Harris' abandoned campground to set up the Coffman and Kenney Stables. Soon houses, barns, corrals and shops sprung up around them and the place became known as Kenneyville. Kenneyville was a hub of daily activity for the tourist with mules, horses and ponies in abundance.

In 1916 the last stage came into Yosemite and automobiles were on their way to becoming the main mode of transportation. By 1920 they were looking for a site for the planned Ahwahnee Hotel and it became obvious that they didn't need so many barns and structures. So the stables were moved to the location that they occupy today.

When The Ahwahnee was built it was assumed that they would have bountiful gardens with plants leaping sky high in no time. However, there was so much nitrogen in the soil from the horse manure that they actually had to bring in soil from outside the grounds for the gardens.

Book Discussion Group Meets

The Book Discussion Group will meet at Anne Anderson's house over in the Government housing area at 8 p.m. on December 11. Rick Smith, the Badger Pass Ranger and former High School and College English professor, will moderate the discussion of the group's first selection, T.S. Eliot's "The Wayfarer." The book should be read before the meeting and copies are available from bookstores in Merced and Fresno. Or possibly you could borrow from a friend.

CLASSES OFFERED

A class in batiking will be offered to all Park employees on Tuesday nights from 7 to 10 p.m. in the YPCCo. Employee Recreation Offices. Materials may be purchased at the class or you may bring your own.

The macrame and leather classes are still being offered on Wednesday and Thursday evenings at 7 p.m. in the Employee Rec. Offices. Again, materials may be purchased at the class.

EMPLOYEE

BENEFIT

CORNER

BY: JIM EDGAL

--THINK SNOW--

The skiing season is here. You are eligible for a 50% discount on most of your skiing services: lift tickets, equipment rental (both downhill and cross country) and ski lessons (also, both downhill and cross country). The Mountain Shop at Curry Village is the cross country skiing headquarters, arranging trips to Crane Flat, Big Trees, Ostrander Ski Hut, etc. Transportation to Badger Pass is available at no cost, space permitting. Buses leave each morning and return in the afternoon. Your 10% discount is available at the Badger Pass Ski Shop and the Mountain Shop on all your skiing needs.

A reminder to all employees with five years of service: In order to be identified at Badger Pass for free lift ticket, your privilege card must be imprinted with "5 years service". Bring your card to Personnel to have this information imprinted.

Future columns under this by-line will explain your benefits. If there are any special areas of interest or specific questions, please let me know. It is possible to include a question and answer segment, if there is enough response.

The Yosemite Lions Club!

Do you know who:

- brings Christmas trees to Yosemite? (besides Santa Claus)
- sponsors a blood drive when needed? (not Dracula)
- supports activities of our boys and girls, from scouts to sports? (athletic sports, that is)
- is especially interested in preserving your eyesight? (to preserve your view of The View)
- brings to you, the annual "Rummage Sale" and "Mosquito Festival"? (to recycle your waste and blood)
- brings the Yosemite men together in fellowship and community service?

Continued on Page 4

**WINTER CLUB FONDUE PARTY - DEC. 21
4 P.M. AT BADGER PASS. DANCING TOO!**

Animal of the Week



CHICKAREE

Right now is a good time to look for the little tree squirrels called the chickaree while they are finishing their fall harvest of cones. Only about one third the size of the California gray squirrel, the chickaree is much darker on the back, and has a distinctive black line along the sides that marks off the white or buffy underparts.

The chickaree is a great climber, and stays in the trees even more than the gray squirrel. It travels by leaping from tree to tree. It can jump three to four feet at a leap and only comes to the ground when forced to cross open spaces between widely separated trees, to drink water, or when it's harvesting.

The harvest begins in late summer, and continues through the fall. The chickaree works through the tree cutting down whole cones. It can work so quickly at this that sometimes it seems to be hailing pine cones. When the chickaree has a large number of cones on the ground it comes down from the tree to stash its harvest for the winter, usually putting them behind a log or in some nook or crannie.

Although they don't hibernate, they usually have a nest for protection from the winter storms. This might be a hollow tree, the abandoned hole of a large woodpecker, or in thick clumps of foliage or mistletoe. They line the nest with grass, leaves, twigs, fur, feathers, shredded bark, and pine cone scales. After the storm the chickarees will come back out to climb through the trees and forage for food. If they can't find enough fresh food, they dig up their stored cones. These cones supplement their foraging through early spring when other food is scarce. Later chickarees might eat young twig tips, flower buds, and the tender needle buds of coniferous trees.

The chickaree is very talkative, and when it's not harvesting this is how you'll most likely notice it. It has a short explosive cry that sounds like "quer-o" or a series of "chee, chee, che-e-e!"

Chickarees are found from 4,000 to 11,000 feet, all along the Pacific Coast from British Columbia to northern Lower California.

BROOM HOCKEY LEAGUE

Broom Hockey will be starting on Wednesday, December 11 for all Park employees who are interested in having some exciting fun.

The games will consist of playing with brooms and a volleyball. The players will wear tennis shoes. Co-ed teams will be chosen from those who show up at each week's game with each team consisting of six players, three boys and three girls. All those who wish to participate, come to the Curry Ice Rink on Wednesday from 6 to 7 p.m.

Yosemite Lions Club

Continued from Page 3

We select our members on the basis of their potential to work for the common good and for those suffering hardship. If you're that kind of a man, tell a member that you'd like to be considered for membership. We meet at The Ahwahnee on the first and third Thursdays of each month at 12:15 p.m. During December, we'll meet at the Yosemite Lodge instead.

John J. Krisko II
President, Yosemite Lions

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

FRIDAY, DEC. 6

Beginners Weekend Workshop
DANCE "Rock Slide"

Ansel Adams Gallery — 7:30 p.m.
Yosemite Sam's — 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, DEC. 7

DANCE "Rock Slide"

Yosemite Sam's — 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, DEC. 8

Sunday Worship Service
Football Happy Hour

Chapel — 9:30 a.m.
Yosemite Sam's — Noon

MONDAY, DEC. 9

Monday Night Football
MOVIE "Kid Blue"

Yosemite Sam's — 8 p.m.
East Auditorium — 8 p.m.

TUESDAY, DEC. 10

Record Jam Night
Batik Class
Village Store Christmas Party
Christian Gathering

Yosemite Sam's — 5 p.m.
Employee Rec. Office — 7 p.m.
Village Store — 7:30 p.m.
Chapel — 7:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, DEC 11

Horror Movies
Broom Hockey
Macrame and Leather Class
Book Discussion Group

Yosemite Sam's — 5 p.m.
Curry Ice Rink — 6 p.m.
YPCCo. Employee Rec. Office — 7 p.m.
Anne Anderson's house — 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, DEC 12

Talent Night
Macrame and Leather Class

Yosemite Sam's — 5 p.m.
YPCCo. Employee Rec. Office — 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, DEC. 13

DANCE "Onyx"

Yosemite Sam's — 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, DEC 14

DANCE "Onyx"

Yosemite Sam's — 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, DEC. 15

Football Happy Hour

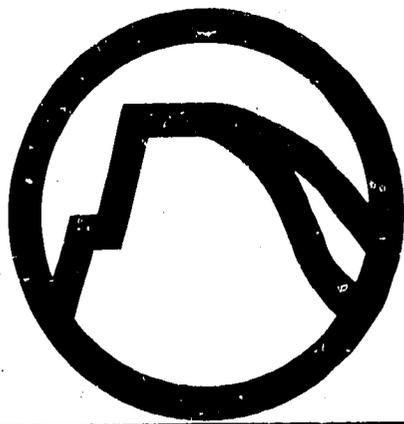
Yosemite Sam's — Noon

MONDAY, DEC.16

MOVIE "Serpico"

East Auditorium — 8 p.m.

YOSEMITE



SENTINEL

Vol. III - December 13, 1974

Yosemite National Park, CA

**Employee Extinguishes
Blaze**

YPCCo. employee Leo Mayne is to be commended for his alertness and quick actions in putting out a fire in a cabin at the Yosemite Lodge annex on November 11.

Neal McDonald, head of Security, Fire and Safety for the company says Mayne spotted the fire, broke out a window to gain entry to the cabin, cutting his hand quite seriously in the process. He then entered the structure and extinguished the blaze.

McDonald reported that if the fire would have burned a few minutes more the entire building would have been lost.

The Sentinel salutes Leo Mayne for his actions in putting out what could have become a major fire at the Yosemite Lodge.

WINTER CLUB GEARS UP - - - -

The Yosemite Winter Club is gearing up to move full speed ahead now that the snow has fallen and the ski season is underway. Winter Club members gathered at the Ahwahnee recently to talk about the coming winter activities.

Winter Club President, Don Rees, tells us he has had many inquiries about benefits enjoyed by members, so if you are thinking of joining but haven't as yet, here is what you get:

1. Two (2) free skating sessions at Curry Village Ice Rink (Good Mon. thru Fri.)
2. Half day free Alpine Ski equipment rental (skis, boots, poles) from Badger Pass Rental Shop. (Mon. thru Thurs.)
3. 40% discount on (1) Nordic Ski lesson, basic or intermediate class. (Reservations

required one week in advance) (Good Mon. thru Thurs. only)

4. 25% discount on Nordic equipment (full day) (Good Mon. thru Fri.)
5. Half day Alpine Ski lesson (group) at Badger Pass. (Good Mon. thru Thurs.)
6. Two (2) free beers or glasses of wine at Badger Pass. Over 21 only.
7. One complimentary lift ticket, valid on all lifts all day. (Good Mon. thru Fri.)

Total Value \$25.

Plus admission to all Winter Club activities. Single membership in the club is \$7.00, family \$10.00.

Winter Club, P. O. Box 3, Yosemite National Park, California 95389.



EMPLOYEE BENEFIT CORNER

BY: JIM EDEAL

S. D. I.

State Disability Insurance provides compensation and hospitalization for illness or personal injury not covered by your job. The cost is paid by the employee through his paycheck. The rate is 1% of your wage up to \$9,000.00 each calendar year.

The compensation benefits begin the 8th day you are disabled and unable to work or immediately if you are hospitalized. The amount of your benefit depends upon the wages paid to you during a 12-month base period. Your wages must be at least \$300.00 during this base period to be eligible for benefits.

Claims beginning in February, March or April are computed on the base period of 12-months which ended the preceeding September 30th. Claims beginning in May, June or July are computed on the base period of 12-months which ended the preceeding December 31st. Claims beginning in August, September or October are computed on the base period of 12-months which ended the preceeding March 31st. Claims beginning in November, December or January are computed on the base period of 12-months which ended the preceeding June 30th.

The maximum payable under S.D.I. is 26 times the weekly benefit amount or one-half your total base period wages, whichever is less. The weekly benefit is based on your highest quarter of the base period. Employees with eligible Sick Leave Credit can receive payment above the S.D.I. compensation to equal their cash salary usually for the length of the disability. A chart showing the full range of weekly benefits is available in the insurance office.

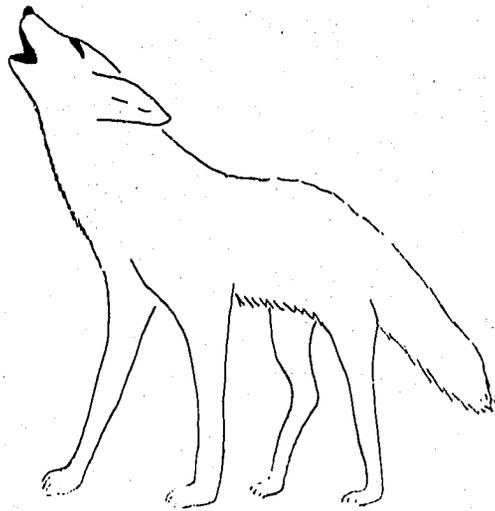
The State of California provides a hospital benefit of 20 days at \$12.00 per day.

State of California Department of Human Resources Development, Hospitals or our Insurance office.

50 YEARS OLD

The Valley Post Office building is 50 years old this month. Everyone is invited to Open House for coffee and donuts on Wed., Dec. 18, at 10 a.m. to help celebrate.

Animal of the Week



COYOTE

Almost everyone knows what a coyote looks like---about the size and shape of a large collie. The variety found in Yosemite, the mountain coyote, has a heavy wooly gray coat, and is larger than most coyotes. It could be mistaken for a wolf, but wolves have been extinct in this area since before 1922.

The coyote may be best known for its chorus heard early in the morning, late in the evening, and sometimes during the night, especially if there's moonlight. The sounds are usually the product of only one coyote but it can give the effect of two or more voices heard simultaneously. The sound usually starts as a long high cry, then becomes frenzied yapping sometimes followed by barks and shrill whines. If there are other coyotes in the vicinity they may answer the first. But coyotes don't travel in packs, as is sometimes thought. You may very rarely see two together, but generally they prefer to live alone.

Coyotes become more apparent at this time of year. We see them regularly along the Wawona Road in the morning. The small mammals like squirrels and mice that are a coyote's favorite food are beginning to hibernate at the high elevations, and so the coyote must work harder than during the summer. This may be the reason for a tendency to migrate downslope during the winter. These high zone animals rarely go lower than is necessary to find adequate food, but during the winter they're common between 3,500 and 7,000 feet. In the summer mountain coyotes regularly range upward to above timberline.

Like all coyotes, the mountain coyote is extremely adaptable and lives on a diversified diet. Small rodents and rabbits make up about half its diet, and another fourth is carrion. They fill out the remainder with whatever they can

Winter Driving in Yosemite

Rain, sleet, snow and freezing temperatures make driving in the mountains especially hazardous. Speeds should be reduced due to a loss of friction on slippery roads and the distance between cars should be increased. Starts should be slow and with a smooth acceleration. Excessive power will cause the drive wheels to spin, lose traction and will result in a loss of control.

Stopping on icy roads should be gradual. Gentle pressure on the brake pedal will stop your vehicle without losing traction on ice and snow. Never lock your brakes. Locked brakes will cause you to loss control on your car.

Continued on Page 3

get-fish stranded by dried up streams, frogs, small birds, snakes, cherries, apples, or manzanita berries. Most large animals that coyotes are reported to eat, like cows, bears, or horses, were dead when the coyote got them. They do occasionally kill a weak deer but usually only when the deer population is too large, so the result may be beneficial for the surviving deer and for the forest they browse.

Coyotes hole up somewhere during the worst winter storms, then come back out to forage over the snow. The coyote's foot structure gives it an advantage in walking over snow. The toes are somewhat spread, which gives it an expanded area of support. So the coyote can run over relatively soft and deep snow. This is how it sometimes catches deer. A deer surprised by a snow storm will stumble through the snow and be easy prey.

If you see a coyote this month you may notice its coat looks unusually lovely. This is because coyotes molt between September and December.

The mountain coyote is common from about 5,000 feet up to 13,500 feet or rarely 14,000 feet throughout the Sierra.

Yosemite Sentinel

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John C. Crofut Editor

Elizabeth C. Shepard ..

.. Associate Editor

Contributing Editors .

(this issue)

Leslie Hart

Jim Edeal

Paul Peters

Dan Slusser

Aubrey Wallace

Employee Relations

There is much more to employee relations than the necessary day to day administrative duties involving people. Applying scientific, or at least systematic procedures to the area of human relations calls for a different understanding from that used in the materialistic realm. Here we are dealing with human values, blood-bought souls, divinely created and eternally destined beings.

If man were a machine it would be efficient to use him, depreciate him and discard him; but man is a human being. When we think of the human element in our business we must think in terms and values that are different from those we apply to the technical side of our job.

For these reasons Employee Relations is the foundation of any sound organization. It is not a written policy, an employee handbook or well chosen words engraved in the corner stone of an old building. It is an attitude that starts at the top of an organization and is transmitted downward through all levels of management until it reaches the most important ingredient of any successful operation, our employees.

This attitude has as its foundation a mutual understanding and respect for a common goal.

Here in Yosemite, managers and employees alike have this common goal, one that can best be expressed as "concern for the Yosemite visitor." With this foremost in our minds we can work together to establish a pride in ourselves and our organization. A pride and self confidence that will build one of the strongest foundations for a solid employee relations attitude that can exist anywhere.

To make this work we must all extend that second effort to demonstrate our concern for the Yosemite visitor.

Winter Driving

Continued from Page 2

Passing in the winter can be a very dangerous thing. Passing should be attempted only where sufficient distance is available to accelerate slowly and pass safely with regard to roadway conditions and visibility.

Certain areas in the Valley are notorious for their almost constant ice cover during the winter months. Be especially cautious around the Fern Springs area, at Bridalveil Falls junction, on and near Sentinel Bridge and on the curve by the Le Conte Memorial.

Above all, when driving in winter, be alert at all times.

Annual Bird Count

The 19th Christmas Bird Count in Yosemite is scheduled for Sunday, December 22. A precount briefing on bird identification and procedures will be held Saturday afternoon, December 21, between 2 and 5 p.m. in the East Auditorium of the Visitor's Center. Your attendance at the precount briefing is encouraged but not required to participate in the count. If you would like to participate in the 1974 Christmas Bird Count please notify Bill Dengler, P.O. Box 117, Wawona Station, Yosemite National Park, CA. 95389, or phone 375-6321 or 375-6320.

For the past 74 years, the National Audobon Society has coordinated bird counts during the latter part of December. Last year 1,043 counts were conducted in the United States, Canada, Middle America and the West Indies. These Christmas Bird Counts are organized locally and conducted by local people and visiting participants. The results are compiled and printed in the April issue of the Society's journal, *American Birds*. You do not have to be an expert birdwatcher to participate. Your interest in birds is the important thing, coupled with the desire to spend a day in the field and learn what is flying around out there. Hope you will join us!

THE GOOD OLD DAYS

"You are going to Yosemite! Of course you are. What else did you come to California for?....Then how shall you go? If you are fresh and strong with the nerve and muscle of a young and enthusiastic college pedestrian you can do it on foot,...it's the most independent and enjoyable way of all if you have the time and disposition, and no ladies in your party."

Bancrofts Tourist's Guide to Yosemite, 1871.

Care to run those last few words by again? "No ladies in your party"...!?!

For the traveling women of the 1860's and early 70's, sheltered, pampered, dressed from neck to toes in yards of hot material, the trip to the Yosemite was more an ordeal to be endured than part of a great adventure. After a 36-hour stage ride at a maximum speed of two miles per hour from Stockton to Tamarack Flat the stagecoach road ended and the precipitous horse trail to the Valley floor began. And, of course, the women were expected to ride sidesaddle! No proper lady would ride astride if she cared about her reputation.

Job Opportunities

The positions listed below are vacant as of this writing and need to be filled. It is the desire of your company to promote from within the organization whenever possible. If you have the necessary qualifications for any of these positions you are invited to apply through your unit manger or immediate supervisor. Men and women will be considered equally for all positions.

SECRETARY - Prior experience required. Type 80 wpm. Shorthand 100 wpm.

PAINTERS (4) - Must be journeyman painter with extensive brush and roller experience.

CARPENTERS (4) - Must be journeyman carpenter. Heavy lifting required. Should have own hand tools.

PLUMBER (1) - Must be journeyman plumber with knowledge of sanitary regulations for State and National Parks. Should have own hand tools, and ability to lift 100 lbs.

MECHANIC - Must be journeyman mechanic, skilled at using gas and arc welders. Heavy lifting involved.

NIGHT CLEANER - Heavy duty cleaning job. Should have knowledge of floor cleaning materials and waxes.

Anna Dickinson, one of the first exponents of women's rights, deciding against fashion and in favor of comfort and safety was the first to swing her leg over the saddle. Eyebrows were raised. Shocked gasps were uttered. "Well, I suppose that gives her the right to bear arms, drink cocktails and dig ditches," one man wrote.

However, after all the loud protestations had died down, it was decided that for safety and comfort of both the women and their animals that riding astride could be acceptable...under certain conditions.

When the stages stopped at Gentry's at the top of the Big Oak Flat grade, the ladies were rushed inside where they could change into voluminous culottes. Then, while the men in the party turned their heads, the ladies were discreetly helped up onto their animals. As the long steep climb ended at the Valley floor, an emissary from the Hutchings Hotel would greet the party. Once again, while heads were turned, the ladies were rushed off, this time to a large clump of bushes, and were allowed to change into their "proper" skirts for the remainder of the trip to the Hotel...sidesaddle, of course.

Employee

Housing

Corner

By Paul Peters

In the past week a number of employees have asked questions regarding over-night guests in employee housing. In order to more fully understand our existing guidelines it is important that we realize that living in a dormitory environment presents some unique problems. Since there are many individuals housed in one area, using common facilities, it is extremely important that each of us respect the rights, privileges and privacy of others. Your understanding and cooperation will insure the comfort and safety of all concerned.

Over-night guests are permitted, providing you have the consent of your roommate. However, for space reasons, the number is limited to one guest per employee or two guests per room. The length of stay is five days per guest, not to exceed three visits per guest. Guests are required to register with the housekeeper and there is a small registration fee of \$1.00 per guest for the period of their visit. As you will recall, the prior registration fee was \$2.00 per night, the above fee was reduced upon a request by the Employee Advisory Council. Also, it is important to note that terminated employees who have been discharged for cause by the YP&C Co. or NPS are not permitted as guests in employee housing.

In order to make our living and working experience an enjoyable one we must at all times demonstrate our mutual respect for each other's property and comfort and this can be done by asking yourself "Is it fair to my roommate or others in my dorm?"

If you have any questions or suggestions please call Ext. 451 or stop by the Employee Housing Office. Thank you.

Holiday Dance At El Portal

All employees are invited to attend the Christmas Dance at the El Portal Community Hall, next to the Post Office on Friday, December 20. The Mariposa Ramblers will be featured with door prizes for the lucky ones. Dance time is from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m., and refreshments will be available. Tickets may be purchased at the door.

Open House at Mountain Shop

The Curry Village Mountain Shop is sponsoring a special open house for all Park employees on Thursday, December 19th from 7 to 10 p.m. Representatives from North Face, Sierra Design, Kelty, Lowa, Mountain Products and Vasque will be on hand to answer any questions you may have about their products.

Ned Gillette and the staff from the Yosemite Mountaineering School will be there to discuss techniques and the equipment involved in cross-country skiing.

A 20% discount will be offered on all Mountain Shop merchandise this one night only. Refreshments will be served. Curry Co. and Park Service employees must present their privilege cards at the door.

FOR SALE

T500 SUZUKI - 13,000 miles and in excellent condition...like new! New tires, new chain, new sprockets, rebuilt engine. Call Len Singer after 5 p.m. at 372-4284.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

FRIDAY, DEC 13

7th & 8th Grade Dance
DANCE El Portal Elementary School — 7:30 p.m.
Yosemite Sam's — 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, DEC. 14

DANCE Yosemite Sam's — 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, DEC. 15

Sunday Worship Service
Football Happy Hour Chapel — 9:30 a.m.
Yosemite Sam's — Noon

MONDAY, DEC. 16

Monday Night Football
Volunteer Fire Dept. Meeting
Fly Tying Class
MOVIE "Serpico" Yosemite Sam's — 5 p.m.
YPCCo. Fire House — 7 p.m.
YPCCo. Employee Rec. Office — 7 p.m.
East Auditorium — 8 p.m.

TUESDAY, DEC. 17

Happy Hour
Football Awards Banquet (by invitation)
School Christmas Program & PTA
Batiking Class
Christian Gathering Yosemite Sam's — 5 p.m.
Yosemite Sam's — 7 p.m.
Yosemite Elementary School — 7 p.m.
YPCCo. Employee Rec. Office — 7 p.m.
Chapel — 7:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 18

7th & 8th Grade Field Trip
Broom Hockey
Macrame and Leather Class
Comedies Yosemite Elementary School — 8 a.m.
Curry Ice Rink — 5:15 p.m.
YPCCo. Employee Rec. Office — 7 p.m.
Yosemite Sam's — 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, DEC. 19

Employee Open House
Macrame and Leather Class
Talent Night Curry Village Mountain Shop — 7 p.m.
YPCCo. Employee Rec. Office — 7 p.m.
Yosemite Sam's — 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, DEC. 20

DANCE
Christmas Dance Yosemite Sam's — 8 p.m.
El Portal Community Center — 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, DEC. 21

DANCE Yosemite Sam's — 8 p.m.

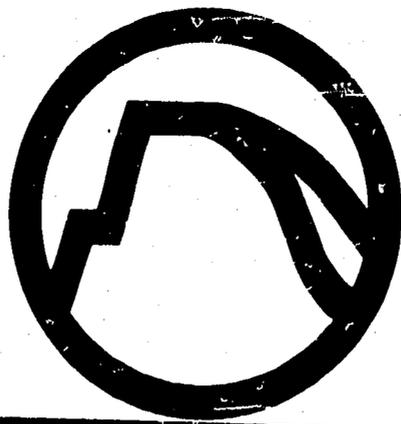
SUNDAY, DEC. 22

Sunday Worship Service
Football Happy Hour
Children's Christmas Program Chapel — 9:30 a.m.
Yosemite Sam's — Noon
Chapel — 7:30 p.m.

MONDAY, DEC. 23

MOVIE "Jonathan Livingston Seagull" East Auditorium — 8 p.m.

YOSEMITE



SENTINEL



Vol. IV - December 20, 1974

Yosemite National Park, CA

EL PORTAL SEWER LINE PROJECT

After years of planning, the long-awaited Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant and accompanying sewer line will be built in El Portal. This means the 41 year old plant near Bridalveil Fall will be phased out and put to rest. The contracts call for the construction of a Treatment Plant at El Portal and about 12 miles of sewer line to hook the sewer plant with the Valley main wastewater line.

All efforts will be made to minimize employee and visitor inconvenience during major construction on the Arch Rock Road. Work will proceed the first of the year until May 15, 1975. The road closure hours will be from 8 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Arrangements are being made to permit school buses, mail trucks and emergency vehicles access without delay. Also, the road will be open to one-way controlled traffic before 8 a.m., between noon and 1

p.m., and after 5 p.m. In the event that a night shift is approved between 10:30 p.m. and 6:30 a.m., the public will be informed of special arrangements for access during that work shift.

This project is a major interruption into our freedom of access to and from the Park and will result in some changes in our daily traveling habits. The National Park Service stresses that they are concerned for the welfare and convenience of all travelers and will do their utmost to make the period of construction as compatible as possible.

Community meetings have been held and future ones can be planned as needs arise. In addition, the "Yosemite News" and the "Yosemite Sentinel" will carry timely information.

If you have any questions, please jot them on a piece of paper and send them to Superintendent Leslie Arnberger.

Big New Year's Eve Party

Everyone is invited to attend the New Year's Eve party to be held at the Visitor Center beginning at 9 p.m. on Tuesday, December 31.

This community sponsored event will feature dancing to the music of "Rock Slide" from Fresno. There will be a full bar and refreshments as well as party hats, horns and door prizes.

Everyone is asked to dress up for this dance. Tickets must be purchased in advance for \$2 per person from one of the following people.

Ken Ashburner YPCCo. General Offices
Lynn Williams Women's Club
Ken Gable NPS
Arvin Abbott Village Store
Chris Hansen Yosemite Sam's

YOSEMITE NATURAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION IS —

Are you interested in examining red snow under the summer sun with one of California's top alpine botanist? Or working out of a base camp examining Yosemite's glaciers...peering into the blue darkness of a great crevasse? If your style isn't so alpine you can practice bird-banding with a Stanford ornithologist or study the biology and ecology of Yosemite's giant sequoias. Exotic as these subjects may seem, they're available on the summer seminars sponsored by the Yosemite Natural History Association.

Seminars are but one of the activities that the YNHA sponsors in its aim to assist the National Park Service Interpretive Division in its role of making the visitors' and residents' presence more satisfying and understandable.

YNHA also provides funds for various projects that don't seem to fit the official requisition-in-triplicate method. For instance, it donated the money for new harnesses for the stagecoach horses at the Pioneer History Center, the guide book to the Indian Village, special racks in the museum vault to accommodate the fine collection of Yosemite art. But it did turn down the ranger's request for money to purchase "kitty-litter" for the comfort of a lost cat.

Tree books, bird books, history books... the world is full of all kinds but the

Yosemite Natural History Association publishes books just about Yosemite's birds, trees, Indians, amphibians and

other delightful things that are uniquely Yosemite's.

The YNHA's roots go back to 1920 when it was founded as the Yosemite Museum Society. It's people have never stopped loving Yosemite and wanting to know more about it and sharing it with visitors and other park people.

YNHA is a member organization and counts among its 1000 members an ecologist in Germany, a wheat-broker who lives on the 87th floor of a Chicago apartment, the Los Angeles public library and Yosemite devotees from Crescent City to Camp Four. Why don't you look into joining? It's located behind the Valley District Building which is the one just west of the Visitor Center. Be glad to see you.

Merry Christmas

Christmas Holidays & Hospitality

Winter Club News

Holidays and hospitality go hand in hand for our company. The members of Yosemite Park and Curry Co's hospitality team are enthusiastically involved in the busy Christmas holiday season. As Yosemite's guests arrive to enjoy Mother Nature's winter wonderland, our employees and facilities are ready.

The Ahwahnee is freshly reopened following two weeks of renovation. The great hotel under the capable tutelage of George Spach has been scrubbed and polished until it shines ready for the pageantry of the Bracebridge festival which has been a tradition since 1927.

The ice rink with Dean Conway and crew is experiencing its greatest popularity and fun activities ever. Broom hockey, figure skating clinics, ice hockey, and recreational skating top the list of "ice is nice" activities.

The agile Ned Gillette is leading a very progressive team of nordic ski instructors offering quality experiences for cross-country skiers. The Curry Village cross-country center boasts a new rental shop with ever-pleasant Patti MacKay providing warm hospitality. A new interpretive area for educational waxing clinics, technique sessions, and trail selection classes has been completed.

Badger Pass Manager, Tom Williams, has inspired a pleasant hospitality team who appear to be delighted to be working at California's oldest ski facility which has received a refreshing face-lift accented by a fresh coat of paint featuring "pine cone" exterior with white and autumn gold trim.

The always physically fit Nic Fiore continues to charm the downhill ski school students as he leads a fine team of downhill ski instructors. Nic's personal touch continues as he visits each group offering positive encouragement.

These brief musings of a few of our successful winter highlights are accented by Yosemite Park and Curry Co's entire hospitality team cooperating with the National Park Service and everyone in Yosemite's community.

To all of you who so pleasantly and willingly participate in making Yosemite a wonderful place to live and work, we extend our happiest holiday greeting and express our gratitude for your loyalty and devotion to our company while providing hospitality for Yosemite's guests.

The Hardy family wishes all of you a very Merry Christmas.

Edward C. Hardy
Chief Operating Officer

Members of the Yosemite Winter Club gathered at The Ahwahnee in late November to celebrate the opening of the ski season and to do a snow dance because there wasn't enough snow to ski on at that point.

Apparently it worked, because the Sierras were hit with some pretty good storms in early December and, as those who ski know, the skiing at Badger has been great.

This should be a banner year for the Winter Club which is now 285 members strong, one of the largest memberships the Club has had since 1930 when Club members numbered 500!

Club member Rusty Rust was finally put in his proper place last month...a museum! Rusty visited the Ski Sport Museum at Boreal Ridge and museum director Bill Berry wanted to hang Rusty on the wall as the only living example of skiing in the 1800's. Mr. Berry was talked out of that idea and has agreed to give the Yosemite Winter Club a large area at the museum for a display of early day winter sports activities in Yosemite.

If anyone has memorabilia he feels would be appropriate for such a display, please contact John Crofut at 372-4611, ext. 227.

Don't miss the Fondue Dinner in the El Dorado Diggins at The Ahwahnee on December 21 at 5:30 p.m. This dinner is planned to equal the last in enjoyment for everyone.

Meanwhile, winter has arrived. Thank you, Harry Geis!

EMPLOYEE BENEFIT CORNER

BY: JIM EDEAL

NO WAIT - NO FUSS

If you do not like to wait in lines, or would rather spend your lunch hour doing other fun things consider this opportunity offered by the local Wells Fargo Bank.

Your payroll check can be deposited directly by our payroll office to your checking account at the bank. You will receive your earnings stub and confirmation of deposit in the mail, in most cases the next day, from the bank.

If your time schedule or job location is such to make it inconvenient for you to conduct most of your banking needs during banking hours this available system would be most advantageous and convenient. If you are interested, check with the bank to complete the proper form.

The bank can also assist you in planned savings. A predetermined amount, on a

regular basis, can be transferred automatically from your checking account to your savings or Christmas Club.

Congratulations to the following employees who have recently completed one year continuous service. Please come to the insurance office to discuss your benefits and the various available insurance plans.

Karen Neill
Robert Lazeres
Leo Mayne
Noel Cooley
George Leighton
Stephen Thompson
Billie Vickers
Walter Mosakiewicz
John Belford
Mary Lapham

Marcus Grear
Ronald Konklin
Marco Milono
Richard Nancarrow
William Wyly
Claudett Frost
Jerry Brunson
Toni Colondres
Derik Cotchett
Gary Ellis

There are others who have been sent notices but have not come in to discuss their benefits. Please do this as soon as possible.

FOR SALE

Turquoise & silver bracelet worn 3 times \$80 or best offer. Call Judy 379-2614

Yosemite Sentinel

Published by
Yosemite Park and Curry Co.
for the information of
residents of
Yosemite National Park

John C. Crofut Editor

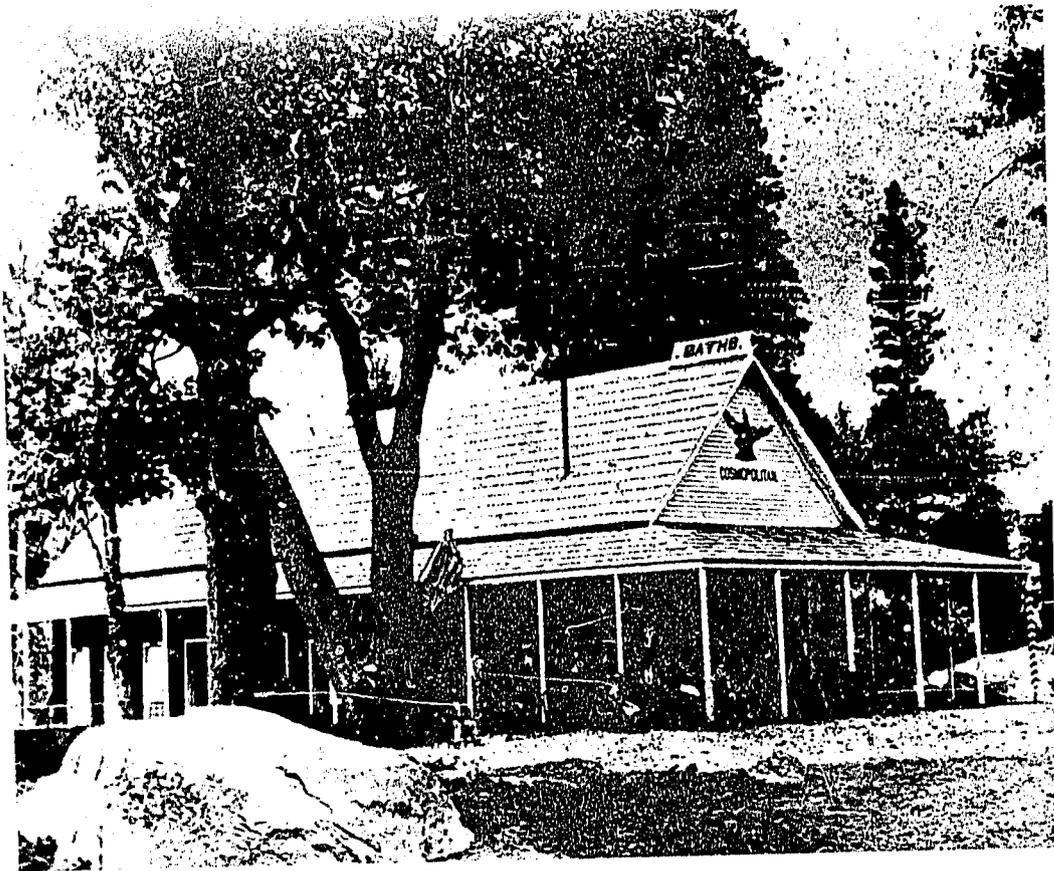
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. . Associate Editor

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(this issue)

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Jim Edeal
Paul Peters
Dan Slusser
Aubrey Wallace

THE GOOD OLD DAYS



The Cosmopolitan Bath House and Saloon was one of the wonders of early Yosemite history. Built in 1872 by E.C. Smith, the Cosmopolitan contained a saloon, billiard hall, bathing rooms and a barber shop. The decor was sumptuous with elaborate full-length mirrors, pyramids of expensive glassware, costly service, the finest of cues and tables, reading-rooms handsomely furnished and supplied with latest from Eastern cities, and baths with unexceptionable surroundings.

But what made the Cosmopolitan a wonder was that all of the building materials and all of the interior finery were transported to the Valley twenty miles over mountain trails by mule. At that time the Big Oak Flat and the Coulterville Roads had not yet been completed. The end of the wagon-road was twenty miles away when the enterprise began, and yet such skill was used in mule-packing that not an article was broken.

Smith's baths, his drinks, and the various unexpected comforts provided by his Cosmopolitan left lasting impressions that vied with El Capitan when it came to securing space in books written by visitors. The ladies exclaimed over the cleanliness of the bath tubs; a profusion of towels, fine and coarse; delicate toilet soaps, bay rum, Florida water, arnica, court plaster; needles, thread, and buttons; and late copies of *Atlas* and

Bulletins. The men found joy in "a running accompaniment of 'brandy-cocktails,' 'gin-slings,' 'barber's poles,' 'eye-openers,' 'mint-julep,' 'Sampson with hair on,' 'corpse-revivers,' 'rattlesnakes,' and other potent combinations."

Smith ran the saloon for seven years and then sold out to Ben Hayes and started a saloon in Merced. Captain E.S. Utter had the Cosmopolitan after Hayes. Utter married Bill Coffman's daughter, Lizzie. Utter's title of Captain came from his days as a captain of river boats on the Mississippi.

The lease expired on the Cosmopolitan Saloon around 1884. The land belonged to the State at that time and they felt that the saloon, unless run necessarily in connection with the adjacent Sentinel Hotel, was not a good thing to keep in the Valley, what with the gambling and all that went on there; so Dennison, the Guardian of Yosemite during that period, took possession of the saloon for a residence and office. All of the interior fittings were claimed as the private property of Mr. Coffman.

The Cosmopolitan Bath House and Saloon building served many purposes after 1899 when the Guardian moved out, until it finally became offices for the Yosemite Park and Curry Co. It remained such until it burned down in December of 1932.

Animal of the Week



White-Footed Mouse

The common white-footed mice are the most abundant mammals in Yosemite. It has been estimated that the total population of white-footed mice equals that of all the other mammals in the park together. There are several species, but the most common is the deer mouse. It is the smallest of the white-footed mice and has the shortest tail. Like all the others it has a brown back and a sharply set off pure white underside, including the feet. The tail is hairy rather than scaly and has a dark stripe. They might be called the deer mouse because they are so delicate in appearance and manner.

At this time of year you may find one building a nest under the hood of your car. They think its a warm protected place, but such nests have been known to cause fires. If you find one, just brush the nesting materials away. You may have to do this repeatedly, because the mouse will start to build again. But after a few times, it will seek a more suitable spot. It may nest in your house too, but it remains a wild shy creature, that runs around almost exclusively at night and seldom rummages in drawers or pantries.

Except for the fact that it hunts for food on or close to the ground, there is almost no limitation to the range of the deer mouse. It's unspecialized in its habits, and you'll find it at sea level or at timberline. It makes a home in rock-slides, grass clumps, meadows, along streams, or in forests. It climbs trees, but not as readily as a squirrel. We even saw one run through the executive offices of YPCCo.

The deer mice remain active through the winter, underneath and above the snow. They store up seeds, nuts, berries, tender young bark, and insects. They'll eat carrion when they find it.

Deer mice become especially common in the spring when melting snows cause the Merced to flood the meadows. Then the mice move upslope, sometimes invading houses. They generally leave as soon as they can.

The deer mouse is found all across the Sierra from the Central Valley to the Great Basin, up to timberline.

Ansel Adams Workshop For Students

The Ansel Adams Gallery will be offering a beginning photography course for high school students during the week of December 26 through January 2. This will be an intensive week of darkroom techniques, field sessions, critiques on past work, history lectures, and informal seminars. The teacher for this session will be Dan Vandevier, who currently teaches photography at El Rancho High School in Los Angeles where he has helped to develop one of the largest high school photography departments in the country. Also instructing for this workshop will be Norman Locks, workshop director for the Gallery.

The entire one week session will cost \$121.50 for residents. The Gallery will supply all darkroom equipment and supplies, but the student must bring his own camera and film.

This black-and-white workshop will begin with the basic principles and techniques involved in photography, followed by demonstrations dealing with various exploratory processes possible within the photography medium. Students will have an opportunity to use the darkroom for developing and printing his or her own negatives.

The workshops will run from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. with lunch and dinner breaks, and is open to anyone interested in photography whether they have had any prior experience or not.

For further information, or to register, call 372-4579.

Employee

Housing

By Paul Peters

Corner

Each week we hear of employees that tell someone of a problem they have encountered in their housing area. However, when we attempt to look into the matter, it is either unclear or no longer an issue.

If we are going to be able to help individuals with their particular concerns or problems, it will be necessary that each of you contact the Housekeeper in your area when you become aware of a difficulty or are unsure as to what should be done. If he or she is unavailable, please contact the employee housing office directly.

If we follow this approach, it seems likely that a number of the items that concerns us can be eliminated.

YPCCo. Football Awards Banquet

YPCCo. held their second annual Football Awards Banquet Tuesday evening, December 17 at Yosemite Sam's.

The Ahwahnee's football team were the guests of honor having won the Yosemite Super Bowl by the overwhelming score of 24 to 12.

The Master of Ceremonies was the honorable J.C. Crofut himself. Mr. Ed Hardy awarded the defending champions the Yosemite Employee's Football Championship Trophy for the second year in a row.

In addition, awards were presented to Tom Bumgarner for Coach of the Year, Ray Willis for the most touchdowns in the season, Doug Martin for the Most Improved Player, Lawrence Quinley for Outstanding Lineman, Derry Kirschman for the Football Official of the Year, and last but not least, James Peggins was awarded Football's Biggest Crybaby.

The delicious spaghetti dinner was prepared by Sally Byrne of Yosemite Sam's kitchen staff.

Congratulations again, Ahwahnee football team, for your fine effort again this year.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

FRIDAY, DEC. 20

DANCE "Joint Effort" Yosemite Sam's — 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, DEC. 21

DANCE "Joint Effort" Yosemite Sam's — 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, DEC. 22

Sunday Worship Service Chapel — 9:30 a.m.
Football Happy Hour Yosemite Sam's — Noon
Children's Christmas Play Chapel — 7:30 p.m.

MONDAY, DEC. 23

Fly Tying Class YPCCo. Employee Rec. Office — 7 p.m.
MOVIE "Jonathan Livingston Seagull" East Auditorium — 8 p.m.
"Messiah" Yosemite Lodge — 8 p.m.

TUESDAY, DEC. 24

Luminaria Rancho Ria Housing Area, El Portal — 6 p.m.
Christian Gathering Chapel — 7:30 p.m.
Christmas Eve Party Yosemite Sam's — 8 p.m.
Candle Light Communion Service Chapel — 11:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 25

Luminaria Rancho Ria Housing Area, El Portal — 6 p.m.
MOVIE "The Point" Yosemite Sam's — 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, DEC. 26

MOVIE "Oliver" Yosemite Sam's — 8 p.m.
"Messiah" El Portal Community Hall — 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, DEC. 27

DANCE "Green Trees" Yosemite Sam's — 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, DEC. 28

DANCE "Green Trees" Yosemite Sam's — 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, DEC. 29

Sunday Worship Service Chapel — 9:30 a.m.
Football Happy Hour Yosemite Sam's — Noon
"Messiah" Yosemite Lodge — 8 p.m.

MONDAY, DEC. 30

MOVIE "Last American Hero" East Auditorium — 8 p.m.

YOSEMITE



SENTINEL

Vol. V - December 27, 1974

Yosemite National Park, CA

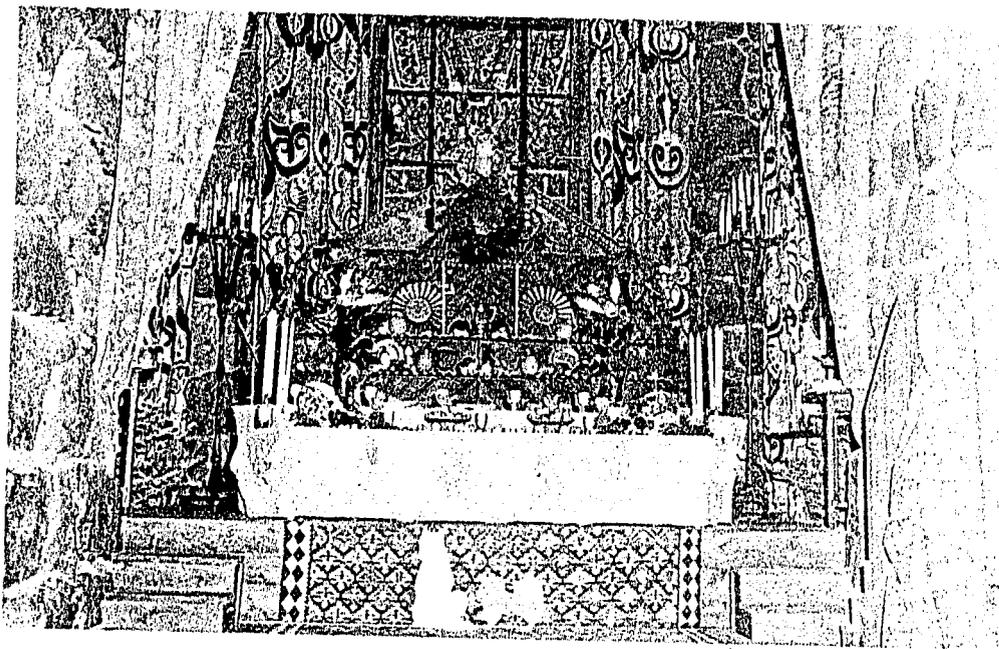
BRACEBRIDGE AT THE AHWAHNEE

One of the oldest Christmas parties in the West began at 5 p.m. last Wednesday when a single trumpet heralded the guests into the baronial splendor of The Ahwahnee's main dining room for the Bracebridge Dinner.

The dinner has been a tradition at The Ahwahnee since the hotel opened its doors in 1927 except for the few years when the U.S. Navy took over the premises for a hospital during World War II.

The format is straight from Washington Irving's "Sketch Book" account of Christmas as it was observed by the Squire of Bracebridge Hall, the genial host of his kinfolk and friends at a robust feast beneath the lofty arches of a cathedral-like great dining hall.

The guests are all seated when the pageantry begins. The candles are lit by the housekeeper and the chorus as the Coventry Carol is sung. Then the Squire and his family enter and are seated while the parson addresses the gathering of merrymakers.



Serving Lackey's in full regalia bear in the Fish, the first of four courses, on a large wooden plank. As the course is finished the villagers present themselves to the Squire to join in his festivities.

The second presentation is that of the Peacock Pie. This is followed by the third which is the Boar's Head and the Baron of Beef...the latter, with a knife tendered the Squire, is knighted, Sir Loin of Beef, while the villagers toast the Squire with "Drink to Me Only With Thine Eyes." They are then escorted from the hall to the strains of "Joy To The World". The final presentation brings on the Wassail Bowl and the flaming Plum Pudding.

The dinner comes to an end on a triumphant note as the Squire and his family begin their departure, and the guests arise to bid their hosts adieu.

Each course is called a presentation. As you eat and quaff from the Wassail Bowl, the Squire diverts you with his pageant. The music is pre-Elizabethan, almost Druidic.

A cast of about 60 will be involved, with the key roles being played by professionals from San Francisco.

Local resident featured in the Bracebridge Dinner this year are:

VISITING SQUIRE - Jack Hicks

PARSON'S LADY - Mary Lou Hicks

TRUMPETER - Roy Harlan

BEAR - Gretchen Foster

CHIEF WAITE - Dudley Kendall

CHEESEGIRLS - Robin & Cindy Fiore

CHEESEWOMAN - Ginger Springer

WASSAIL BOWL CARRIER - Carl Stevens

LITTER BEARERS - Bob Howard, Rick Stockwell, Paul Peters, J.T. Reynolds

SERVITOR - Mark Meiggs

LACKEYS - Dan Sholoy, Roger Johnston, Jerry Branson, Bob Reese, Bruce Fincham

VILLAGERS - Judy, Leslie, Alyson & Jay Sansum; Becky & Danny Wilson, Carol Fincham, Judy Sholoy, Jeanette Olson, Ridgley Reese, Vic Henderson, Andrew Alden, Laura & Polly Hardy

DOORMAN - Steve MacLean

HEAD TABLE WAITRESS - Debbie Neubauer

HOSTESSES - Rebekah Schade, Elizabeth Shepard, Sandy Nulman, Kathy Wrahtz

CAPTAINS - Tom Flippin, George Spach, Nic Fiore, Bob Forbes, Lee Green

CHEF - Roger Cortello

EMPLOYEE BENEFIT CORNER

BY Jim Edeal

VACATION

Yosemite Park and Curry Co.'s Policy for eligible length of service is based on twelve-months employment out of any fifteen-month period provided the lapse of service is caused by illness, disability or layoff but not resignation or discharge.

Therefore, upon completion of one-year's service, you have earned two weeks paid vacation (10 working days), and continue to earn two weeks each year through your fifth-year of employment. From six to ten years of service you earn three weeks of vacation (15 working days) each year. Upon completion of your eleventh and subsequent years of continuous employment you earn four weeks vacation each year (20 working days).

After you have completed two-years of continuous employment you are paid on a pro-rated basis for vacation earned upon termination provided that any lapse of service within that period of time was caused by illness, disability or lay off, and not resignation or discharge. The pro-rating is based on full calendar months worked.

Employees receiving meals as part of their compensation are given the cash equivalent with their vacation pay provided their vacations are taken apart from Yosemite. There is no cash equivalent given for lodging if it is part of your compensation. If an approved holiday occurs during your vacation you have the option to receive an extra days vacation or a paid holiday per the Holiday Policy. Vacations must be taken within one year following the anniversary date they are earned. Your supervisor must initiate your vacation order and submit it to personnel at least 10 days before your vacation begins.

Vacations may not be taken when you are receiving benefits from the Company's sick leave program, Workmen's Compensation, State Disability or Long Term Disability.

Due to the seasonal nature of our business normally vacations are not taken during the Christmas Holidays or the summer season from May to September.

SPEND NEW YEAR'S EVE AT THE VISITOR CENTER PARTY. TICKETS SOLD IN ADVANCE FOR \$2 AT YOSEMITE SAM'S.

Management Trainee Program

BY Dan Slusser

As most of you are aware, on November 1, 1974 we distributed a bulletin to all of our employees attaching a copy of the Yosemite Park and Curry Co.'s management trainee program, a program that we designed to provide the Yosemite Park and Curry Co. with a continuing source of trained management personnel, to develop its present middle management employees for opportunities that lie before them, to encourage upward mobility from within our ranks, giving opportunities to employees who possess demonstrated capabilities, educational background, positive attitudes and a strong desire to become a part of a progressive management team.

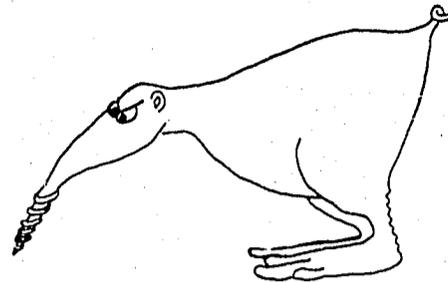
It is gratifying to report that there has been an overwhelming response. To date we have received applications from some 54 candidates. The Management Training Committee has screened all of the applications. In the initial screening we selected approximately fifteen individuals. The majority of these individuals have participated in personal interviews with the Committee. It is our hope within the next few days that we will be in a position of accomplishing a very difficult task which is to select from this very impressive group six initial candidates.

Once this has been accomplished we will introduce those individuals into the first phase of our program. A short time after our program gets under way we will again be soliciting applicants for future programs. If you have made application and have not yet been contacted it does not mean that you have been excluded from participation, it simply means that you will not participate in the initial phase of the program. We will, at a later date, be interviewing more candidates and hopefully making additional determinations, however, if you have not applied and are interested I urge you to contact your supervisor and request an opportunity to complete an application form. We will keep you up to date as we progress in this area. Each of us would like to take this opportunity to thank each of you for your interest in the program.

Part-Time Job

If you are interested in weekend and/or holiday employment, and are 14 years of age or older, contact the Personnel Dept. of Yosemite Park and Curry Co. Come in after school or call 372-4611, ext. 236. After 5:00 p.m., call Roy Manson at 372-4847.

Yosemite Sentinel



RUMOR ROOTER

Are rumors clogging your mind? Call the Rumor Rooter!

RUMOR: If I am found with things in my room, such as company property or another person's belongings, it will cause me to lose my job, even if they were given to me by someone else.

FACT: In most cases, yes. The possession of stolen property is as serious as the act of stealing it yourself. You may think someone is doing you a favor by giving you something that belongs to a fellow employee or was taken from the company. There is no favor involved. In fact, you are worse off than the person that took it, because in most cases he's gone and you're left "holding the bag". Which simply means you are in possession of stolen property. In most cases, ignorance of the law is very little protection. Do yourself a favor, if it's not yours, leave it alone or return it to the proper people.

Yoga Group Begins

Yoga classes will begin Sunday, January 5 at the YPCCo. Employee Recreation Office from 7 to 9 p.m. Basic techniques in Hatha yoga (muscle stretching), Kundalini (tension release), and Tantra yoga (mental relaxing and meditation) will be offered.

The goal of these sessions is information and motivation. The energy generated in group yoga is extremely fulfilling to the body and spirit. It is an easy and fun way to exercise, relax and loosen up your body.

Yosemite Sentinel

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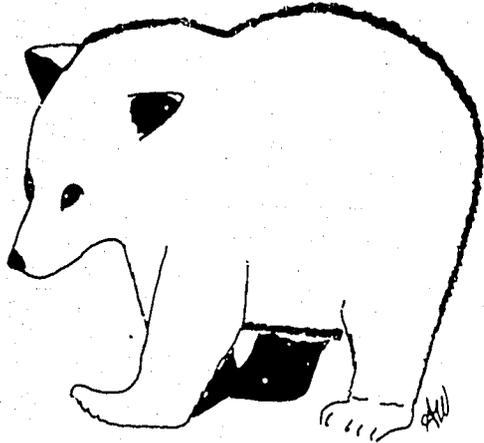
Jim Edeal

Dan Slusser

Aubrey Wallace

Maggie Wehring

Animal of the Week



BLACK BEAR

The California black bear may be black, brown or cinnamon color. The males average three feet high at the shoulder and five feet long, and usually weigh between 200 and 300 pounds. This makes them the largest Sierran carnivore. The grizzly bear, emblem of California, is larger than the black bear, but it isn't seen too much any more because it has been extinct in California since before 1930.

This is the time of year when most black bears go into hibernation. It isn't the cold weather that sends them off, it's the scarcity of food. If a good food supply is available, as it is in southern areas, the black bear will stay active all winter. But in normal winters in this region the bears hibernate about the first of the year, and remain in their dens until early spring. Just about anything will do for a bear den: caves, granite boulder piles, or hollow logs.

Black bears don't fall into a really deep sleep like some animals, for instance the ground squirrels. Instead the bears just sort of doze. In fact, it's during late winter that the cubs are born, usually two to a litter. At birth the bear cub is about the size of a rat, and blind. By the time the mother leaves the den in the spring the cubs are about the size of house cats and very frisky but still obtaining their nourishment from mother's milk. The cubs usually stay with their mother the first summer and den up with her the next winter.

Black bears eat just about anything they can get their paws on. In a wild state they eat honey, bees, wasps, ants, manzanita berries, pine nuts, poison oak berries, wild cherries, clover, grass, nuts, fish, or carrion. In Yosemite the apples and pears in the old apple orchard have become a seasonal favorite. When the acorn crop is good, as it was this year, it forms a large part of the bear's fall diet.

A major effort is being exerted to get bears back to eating natural foods. Bear-proofing garbage containers, and educating visitors and residents to the necessity of keeping artificial food sources

THE GOOD OLD DAYS



(excerpt from Sunset Magazine, February 1919)

"When our stage driver said that Yosemite National Park had a woman ranger, my fancy pictured an Amazonian of the hard-riding, cow-girl type, indifferent to grammar. Some hours later this same too-forehanded fancy was silently begging the pardon of a dainty, sweet-faced, khaki-clad maid who sprinkled her perfect English with the usual drawing-room phrases. Clare Marie Hodges, five feet three or four, president of the literary society of the San Jose Normal School, her alma mater, and author of "Songs of the Trail" and former teacher

ces away from bears is the crucial part of the project. This will improve the health of the bears who miss many dietary elements when living on garbage. Hopefully it will mean the bears will return to a wild state. That would result in visitors and residents seeing fewer bears, because a wild bear avoids human beings. But the bears we do see will be healthy and alert rather than the sluggish semieomesticated ones we now see wandering through camps and climbing into garbage cans.

Black bears live in nearly all forested parts of North America from Alaska to Mexico. They have been exterminated by humans in some areas of the eastern states. They live mostly in the yellow pine and lodgepole fir belts from 1200 to 8500 feet, especially on the western slope.

of the Yosemite National Park school, is filling the ranger's job gracefully and capably."

Clare Marie Hodges is believed to be the first woman ranger in the National Park Service, and certainly the first and only one in Yosemite to ride horseback patrols.

She made her first horseback trip to Yosemite with her parents in 1904 when she was 13 years old. She learned to love the mountains and in 1913 made her first trip to Tuolumne Meadows. In 1916 she became the teacher at the Yosemite School where her charges were the children of rangers and other government employees, with a number of Indian children. While she taught the Indian children the ways of the white man, they in turn taught her the crafts of their people. In her free hours she would wander the trails of Yosemite until the Park became like an open book to her.

It was W.B. Lewis, first superintendent under the National Park Service, who appointed Miss Hodges a ranger. It was during the first World War and the Park Service was having difficulty filling posts left vacant by young men drafted into the army. Hearing of this need, Clare presented herself to Lewis and suggested that since she had training in the area and lore of Yosemite through her hikes and her studies, that she would be a likely candidate for one of those vacant positions. Lewis agreed, and in May of 1918 Clare Marie Hodges became the first woman ranger.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

The positions listed below are now vacant and need to be filled. It is the desire of your company to promote from within the organization whenever possible. If you have the necessary qualifications for any of these positions, you are invited to apply through your unit manager. Appointments with the Personnel Office can be made through your unit manager or immediate supervisor. Men and women will be considered equally for all positions.

MAID — Must be quick and thorough worker with neat appearance. Heavy work is involved.

PAINTER — Must be a journeyman painter with extensive brush and roller experience. Must be experienced in working with various surfaces and their preparation. Should have some familiarity with paint composition and color matching, and some background with airless spray.

CARPENTER — Journeyman carpenter needed to do carpentry work ranging from rough form building to cabinet

making. Some wood finishing knowledge and heavy-lifting is required. Should have own hand tools.

PLUMBER — Need journeyman plumber with knowledge of sanitary regulations for the State and National Parks. Also, knowledge of laundry equipment and bathroom fixtures. Should have own hand tools and ability to lift heavy fixtures.

MECHANIC — Must be journeyman mechanic, skilled at using gas and arc welders. Ability to determine most economical and efficient way to make repairs is also necessary. Heavy lifting is also involved.

AUTO MECHANIC — Must have at least 3 years experience as a mechanic, ability to repair and adjust carburetors and electrical systems and overhaul engines. Must have prior experience in diesel engines and have a complete set of hand tools.

Employee Housing

BY Paul Peters

Many employees have asked, "Why can't I have hot plates and such in my room so that I can cook?" The answer is a simple one: "It's for your safety."

If the room you are living in does not have cooking facilities, it is for a reason. In most cases, the electrical supply does not provide adequate power for such utilities. Make-shift arrangements will cause an overload of the circuits or possible fires.

Rules and regulations are in existence for a reason. In the above example, we have such a rule to protect our employees.

Do not use hot plates, toasters, ovens or such in your rooms. It is a violation of housing rules and can be dangerous.

ANSEL ADAMS WORKSHOP FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS - Dec. 26 through Jan. 2

Getting Around

The staff at the Village Store wants to thank everyone who came to the 3rd Annual Christmas Party for helping them to celebrate the holiday season. Refreshments were served and many door prizes were given away.

Many vacations have been in progress in the Accounting Office, the most spectacular of which was Donna Zinzer's trip to New York with none other than one of our favorite former employees, Irene Lamont. After a whirlwind trip to the Metropolitan Opera, the two travelers explored the city and stopped at the U.N. to set the world straight (it took only six days).

Anyone having trouble finding Larry Carlisle these days will notice that he is now in L.L. Branscum's old office. You'll find him somewhere under his new mustache which was his personally home-grown Christmas present to his wife.

The Accounting Office has been steadily acquiring people from other areas: Bill Potts came in from the cold at Curry Village, Harriet Gordon escaped from the Central Warehouse, Chris Montgomery was at the Village Store, and Christy Maltzberger and Brenda Prichard are fugitives from the Reservations Department. The latest attractive addition is Katy Manson, the wife of famous Roy Manson.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27 —

DANCE "Green Trees" Yosemite Sam's — 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28 —

DANCE "Green Trees" Yosemite Sam's — 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29 —

Sunday Worship Service Chapel — 9:30 a.m.

Championship Football Games Yosemite Sam's — 10 a.m.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 30 —

Fly Tying Class YPCCo. Employee Rec. Office — 7 p.m.

MOVIE "Last American Hero" East Auditorium — 8 p.m.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31 —

Christian Gathering Chapel — 7:30 p.m.

New Year's Eve Party Visitor Center — 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1 —

Macrame Class YPCCo. Employee Rec. Office — 7 p.m.

Comedies Yosemite Sam's — 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 2 —

Leather Class YPCCo. Employee Rec. Office — 7 p.m.

Talent Night Yosemite Sam's — 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 3 —

DANCE "Sneakers" Yosemite Sam's — 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 4 —

DANCE "Sneakers" Yosemite Sam's — 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 5 —

Sunday Worship Service Chapel — 9:30 a.m.

Yoga Class YPCCo. Employee Rec. Office — 7 p.m.

MONDAY, JANUARY 6 —

MOVIE "Bang the Drum Slowly" East Auditorium — 8 p.m.