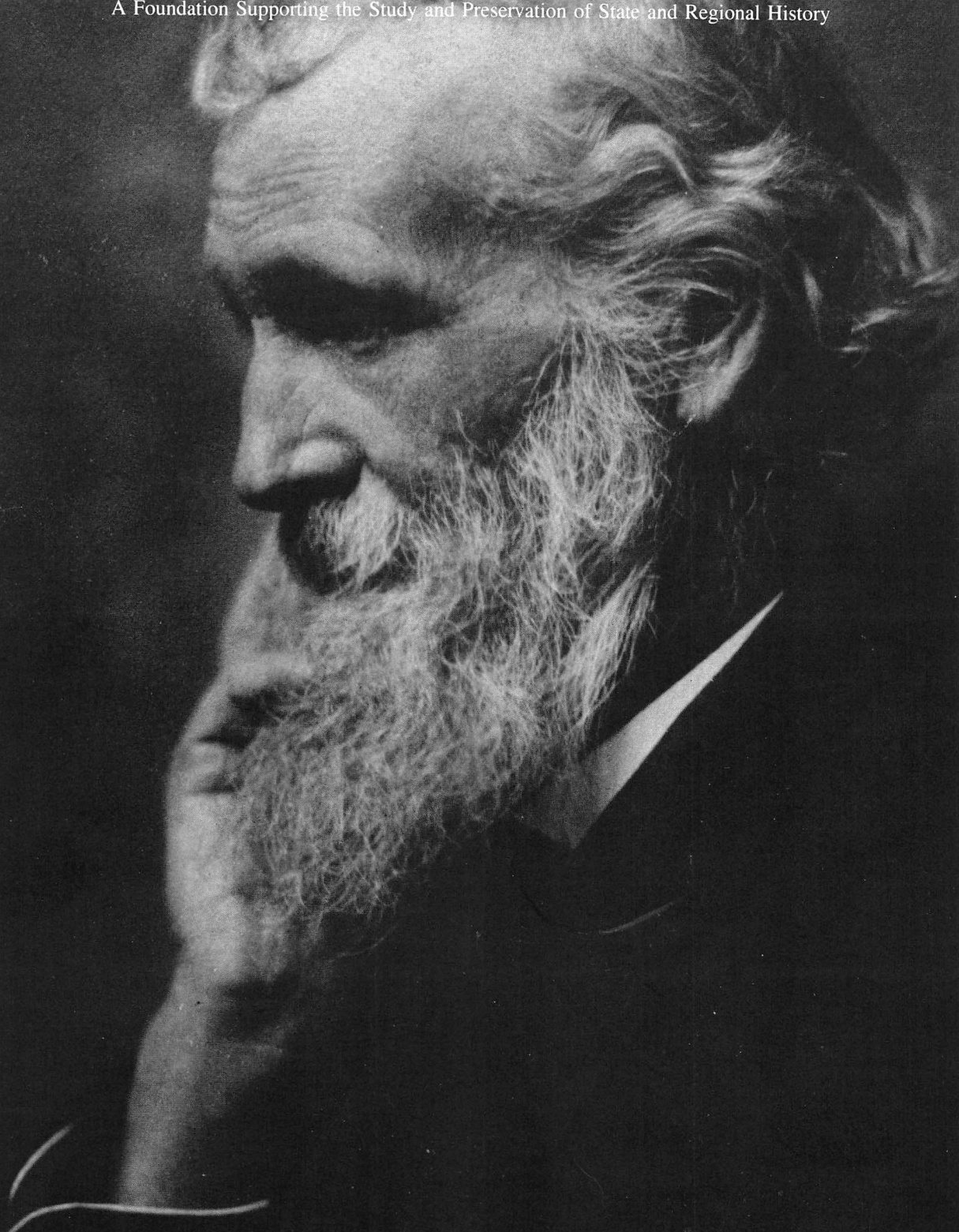


Volume 13 Number 2

December 1991

CALIFORNIA THE FORNIAN

Magazine of the California History Center Foundation/De Anza College
A Foundation Supporting the Study and Preservation of State and Regional History



Feature:
John Muir, Prophet of Conservation

A Change of Pace

Doing history is what historians love best. Spending hours in archives searching through pages of old documents and periodicals, roaming the stacks of university research libraries, talking to old-timers, visiting sites others have not yet thought to claim are historic, thrilling over tiny discoveries — oh, how we love it! Searching out and then telling the stories of our past is the lifeblood of a historian.

Since I arrived at the California History Center in 1985, doing history seems to have taken a back seat to other activities. There have been some wonderful opportunities to develop history exhibits and a moment or two snatched to research and write an occasional paper, but the sustained sort of time one needs to finish a big piece of research and writing has not been available. At least not until now.

Starting this January, I'll be following my wife, Mary Sylvain, who'll be studying Spanish in far off places — perhaps Guanajuato, Mexico; perhaps Bogota, Colombia. We still can't make up our minds. No matter where, however, I'll be toting a notebook computer on my shoulder and dragging along a couple of boxes of files and books, and while Mary continues to master the language, I'll have just about six glorious months in which to finish a long overdue book, *Energy and the Making of Modern California*.

Our little trip promises to be a treasure of a lifetime. We start in Mexico City at the Latin American Conference for the

History of Science and Technology, where I'll be giving a presentation on early hydroelectricity in California. Then it's off to find a university for Mary and a nice little hide-away for me to settle down and write. And, if we can survive the months of idle Latin life, we'll end our travels in August with a trip to an international conference in Uppsala, Sweden, where I'll present for the first time a synopsis of my final work.

Of course, the California History Center will move ahead, for no one person is indispensable. With the agreement of the CHC Board of Trustees and De Anza College, Kathi Peregrin will be acting director in my absence. Under her capable leadership and with the strong support of Janet Brynjolfsson, Lisa Christiansen, and Helen Kikoshima, I know that exciting things will be happening.

Kathi's already begun work with me on a restructuring of our academic program, has planned a wonderful children's exhibit for the Spring which will focus on California's multicultural experience, and has scheduled various special events at the Trianon. In addition, she'll see to it that the newest in our local history studies book series is published before June.

So, as Mary and I begin packing our rucksacks, please accept our wishes to you for a wonderful holiday season and for a wonderful 1992. We'll look forward to seeing you at the Trianon again in a few months.

James Williams

Director



Front cover:

John Muir understood and preached incessantly the unchanging interrelationship of all living things in nature. Photo courtesy William E. Colby Memorial Library, Sierra Club.

Alan Hess, architectural critic for the San Jose Mercury News, was the featured speaker at the October 20th opening of the center's exhibit which showcases Santa Clara County's Historic American Buildings Survey. The exhibit will be on display through March 7. Photo by Walter Matt.

CALENDAR

1/6 De Anza College winter classes begin

1/20 Martin Luther King's birthday observed;
CHC closed; De Anza classes do not meet

1/25 "Architectural Treasures of Historic Santa Clara"

Hunt for architectural features of historic buildings on the Harrison Street block of Santa Clara; the participant who identifies the greatest number of items on our treasure map will be given a special prize! After the hunt, join Lorie Garcia, chairperson for Santa Clara's Historical Landmarks Commission, on a guided walking tour of the area. Bring a bag lunch and wear comfortable shoes. The group will meet at a designated location in Santa Clara at 9 a.m.; the tour will be finished by 1 p.m. Cost: \$12 for CHCF members; \$18 non-members. Reservation and payment due 1/10.

2/9 "Living the Country Life: Early Cupertino"

Spend the morning touring "Woodhills", the historic former estate of early Cupertino residents Fremont and Cora Baggerly Older. Afterwards, we'll visit the Sunrise Winery for a tasting and tour of the historic Picchetti Ranch. Transportation to both sites is on your own; a map will be provided. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Cost: \$5 for CHCF members; \$8 non-members. Reservation and payment due 1/27.

2/14, 17 Lincoln and Washington's birthday observed;
CHC closed; De Anza classes do not meet

3/7 Last day to view the exhibit "Building a History: The Historic American Buildings Survey in Santa Clara Valley" at the Trianon Building



3/15 "Celebrating California's Cultures Series: The Spirit of Scotland"

Join us as we celebrate the influence of California's Scottish immigrants with traditional music and dance. Call the center for more information.

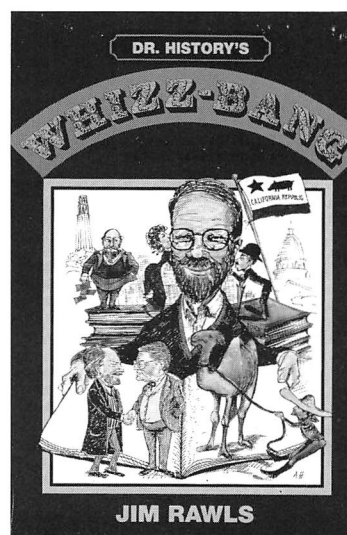
3/21 "A Land in Transition: Pinnacles National Monument"

De Anza instructor Lee Van Fossen conducts this walking tour of the natural history of the Pinnacles with a stop in historic San Juan Bautista on the return trip. Bring a bag lunch. The bus departs from De Anza at 8 a.m. and returns at 5:30 p.m. Cost: \$32 for CHC members; \$39 non-members. Reservation and payment due 3/6.

3/27 Last day of classes

Of Interest to Members

A magical history tour of the golden state is waiting for readers in Jim Rawls' book *Dr. History's Whizz-Bang: Favorite Stories of California's Past*. Find out what a "whizz-bang" is, then follow Dr. History (Rawls' persona on radio station KNBR) through 50 intriguing and delightfully illustrated vignettes such as "A Presidio Love Story" and "Oakland is Where Where?" At the conclusion of each story "Something More" tells us how to visit where the action was and lists books and articles to lure the reader further into the history's web. Published by Tioga Publishing Company and available for \$9.95 at local book stores. Reviewed by CHC Librarian Lisa Christiansen.



EDUCATION

State and Regional History

As a benefit of membership in the California History Center Foundation, the center provides registration assistance to members who are taking only history center classes. All other students wishing to take history center classes — or members taking classes in other departments — must register through the De Anza College Admissions and Records Office. CHCF members who would like registration assistance must come to the center to register. The center will register members 8 a.m.-noon and 1-4 p.m., Monday through Friday beginning Monday, November 18.

For complete course details, including times, dates and fees, please see the De Anza College winter schedule of classes.

History of Moffett Field/NASA-Ames: *Chatham Forbes*

History of Moffett Field and NASA-Ames began more than sixty years ago when one woman with a consuming vision initiated a campaign that eventually pulled the entire Bay Area around the successful negotiations that brought Moffett Field Naval Air Station to Santa Clara County. The later addition of NASA's Ames Research Laboratory contributed significantly to the foundation of our local aerospace industry. A study of the career of the base, from its dirigible days to the present patrol plane era, is timely as its closure was recently mandated by Washington. Two Saturday field trips included.

The Golden Gate: *Chatham Forbes*

The Golden Gate has played a major, sometimes pivotal, role in California history. Although less than a mile wide, innumerable ships of exploration, commerce evangelism, and war have entered and departed California for over two centuries. The Spaniards sailed through in 1775, followed over time by vessels of every seafaring nation. The flags of Spain, Great Britain, Russia, Mexico and the United States have been planted on the adjoining shores. It was the water highway to the gold fields of '49, and has been the seagate for American commerce, diplomacy and war within the entire Pacific hemisphere. Students will trace this history and take two Saturday field trips to points of interest.

Film and Fiction in San Francisco: *Betty Hirsch*

Film and Fiction in San Francisco looks at a city which has been the locale of numerous movies and novels. Students will explore such works as "The Maltese Falcon," "Vertigo," "Dirty Harry," "Bullitt," "On the Beach," and others through multi-media class discussions and a field study covering areas from the Civic Center to Russian Hill.

California in the 40s: *Ken Bruce*

California in the 1940s looks at a decade that started California's transformation from a rural community to a modern-day, bustling, high tech, fast-living society. This is the story of the decade which began to change the face of this pastoral golden state to one of the most populous states in the union. The 1939 World's Fair on Treasure Island had come to a close and in Europe, World War II had started. However on December 7, 1941, a day that would live in infamy took place and put California on a path of incredible change. Join the inimitable Ken Bruce as he explores how California worked its way through World War II and post war years, into a decade of uncontrolled growth, urban sprawl and suburbia.

California Legislature: *Julia Silverman*

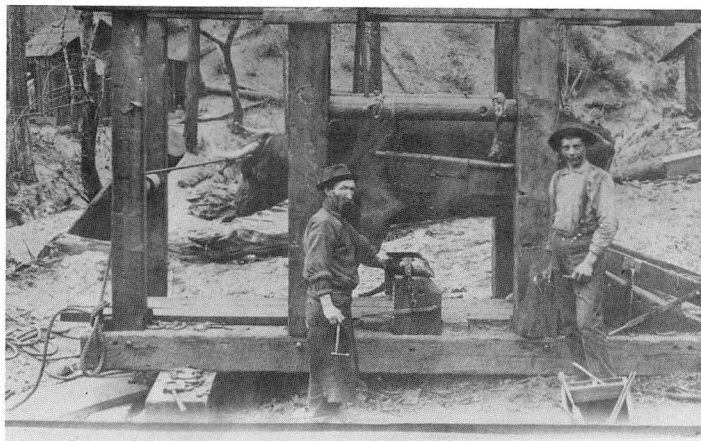
The California Legislature provides a nuts and bolts overview of how the state's law making body works. Budding political activists and political science students will learn how to influence and participate in the legislative process. Students will have the opportunity to attend a legislative hearing and possibly meet with some local legislators. Topics covered in class will include the evolution of the legislative process, major issues shaping policymaking, and what variables influence the passage and outcome of a bill. Instructor Silverman has a degree in politics from UC Santa Cruz and an M.A. in Administration and Policy Analysis from Stanford. Most recently she served on the State Assembly Subcommittee on Higher Education. One weekday field trip to Sacramento is planned.

Historic Bldgs. in Santa Clara County: *Hirsch/Norfolk*

Historic American Buildings in Santa Clara County utilizes the history center's current exhibit "Building a History: The Historic American Buildings Survey in Santa Clara Valley," to focus on the various uses of public buildings in the arenas of government, religion, education and industry from Gilroy to Palo Alto. The survey, completed during the 1970s documents the historic architecture of the county. By observing the structures of use, be they for residential, commercial or recreational purposes, one can construct, or reconstruct the area's rich history. Two Saturday field trips included.

North Coast Wine: *Charles Sullivan*

North Coast Wine, 1825-1992 studies the region which includes Napa, Sonoma, and parts of Marin, Mendocino, Lake and Solano counties. This course deals with all aspects of winegrowing in the region from the earliest days to the present, with special emphasis on recent developments. The addition of the Sierra Foothills winegrowing region has broadened the scope of the curriculum. Field trips take students into the historic districts themselves. Several evaluations of wine produced in this area are included.



Indoors and Out

Three more unidentified photographs from the Stockmeir Library collection show local men involved in outdoor and indoor activities. Do any of our members have a clue on the identity of the men or the locations the photos might have been taken? Call the history center at 864-8712 if you can provide any information.



John Muir, Prophet of Conservation

by John V. Young

One sure measure of the stature of any folk hero is the endurance of the legends about him. John Muir's fame and respect of his legion of admirers increase with the years even though well over a century has passed since he, at the age of 30, first appeared on the far western scene.

The summer of 1991 marked the 122nd anniversary of Muir's first summer in California's Sierra Nevada range, where began the real inspiration for his monumental efforts in wilderness preservation.

One of the founders and first President of the Sierra Club, he is rightfully regarded as the father of our National Park system, unequalled in the world.

Without formal scientific training, he was a well-read and largely self-taught naturalist. Muir was at the same time a mountain man without a rifle, a mountaineer without peer, an inventor of note, a successful agriculturist, a fluent and persuasive writer whose impassioned and eloquent works are still being reprinted.

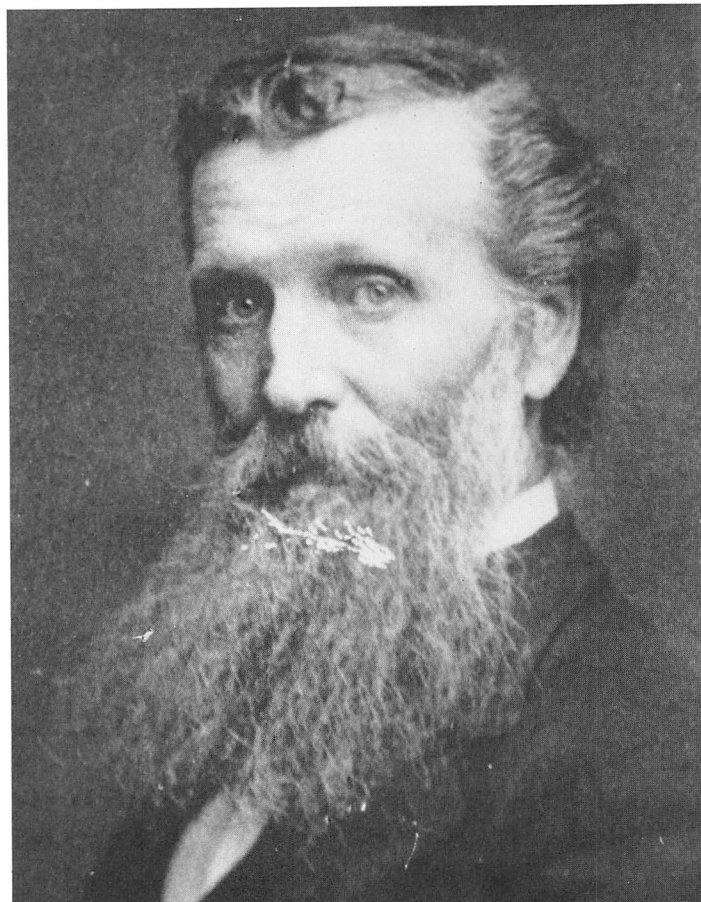
His time was in the days of the robber barons, when the word "exploitation" was used as a compliment and not an epithet when it was applied to natural resources, passenger pigeons, or people.

Scenery and wildlife were, in the minds of most people, of value only when they could be converted into instant cash as logs, minerals, meat, or water supplies.

Few men of Muir's day realized as he did that "when we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the universe."

He understood and preached incessantly the unchanging interrelationship of all living things in nature; and the peril of man's blind and greedy tampering with the relationship. No mere dreamer predicting impending doom from a hermit's cave, he was an eminently practical man possessed of boundless enthusiasm and zest for life in the wilds. He displayed almost superhuman endurance, with disregard for his own comfort.

Muir not only walked and climbed most of the High Sierra snow peaks in all seasons of the year, but also the mountains and glaciers of Alaska, Canada, South America, Asia and Africa. He was employed by several foreign governments as a consultant in matters of conservation.



John Muir, circa 1880. Photo courtesy National Park Service.

One of the most widely traveled men of his time, he also was the least ostentatious. He cared nothing at all for publicity unless it was in the cause of conservation.

He carried on his ramblings, as a rule, with no food other than a sack of dry bread and some tea, sometimes a can or two of stew or a chunk of dried beef. He took along a small hatchet for chopping firewood, or to make steps in a glacier. He carried some matches, a sketch pad, and a barometer.

He never owned a sleeping bag, usually did not bother with blankets. He wore ordinary street clothes with or without an overcoat. He employed none of the modern appurtenances of mountaineering, no cleated boots, no crampons, no ropes or pitons, no lightweight tent, no rucksack or packframe, no primus stove or dehydrated food.

The tin cup he carried hooked on his belt has since become a Sierra Club hallmark.

Muir's customary shelter in the woods was a low-growing evergreen under whose spreading branches he made what he called a nest, a small fire at his feet. He said he "basked in the warmth of the summer sunshine trapped in the firewood."

If that did not keep him from freezing he was known to "dance around all night to keep warm." He lived like that winter and summer, above and below the timberline. He did not behave like this to prove anything. He simply liked to travel light and fast and was impatient with the delays that came with the use of elaborate gear or pack animals.

Even in his later years few men could keep up with him, or survive on what he considered to be adequate rations.

He tells of preparing his supper by kicking a sack of dry bread down a slope ahead of him so the contents would be broken up enough to produce a double handful of crumbs to dissolve in his tea. It is a mystery what he did for proteins and minerals and other so-called necessities of diet unless he supplemented his bread and tea with wild nuts and berries. He was no vegetarian but would not think of killing anything for meat.

Although grizzly bears still were abundant in the Sierras in his day — and other ferocious predators were to be found elsewhere in his worldwide wanderings — Muir never carried a gun. His personal philosophy, like that of Albert Schweitzer, was one of reverence for life in all its forms. He refused to take severe measures against even the packrats and porcupines that stole his spectacles and chewed up his hatchet handle. He felt that he was the intruder, not the wild things in their native habitat.

He never shaved in his life, and but rarely trimmed his beard. He was a free spirit who also managed to live a fairly conventional, upper middle-class existence between his jaunts in the wilderness. He acquired not only a broad education but also considerable wealth, more than enough to keep his wife and children in comfort while he continued his wanderings and his studies.

He seems to have been one of those exasperating people who can do almost everything better than other people, without fanfare or sweat, and with genuine humility.

If he was a rebel, it was against the destroyers of nature's wonders — stockmen, loggers, miners, big dam builders, and the politicians who contrived with them in the rape of the nation's resources. His only weapons were words, which he used with eloquent skill.

His writings and lectures are generally credited with the establishment of the system of National Forest Reserve out of which grew both the National Park Service and the United States Forest Service.

He was to a large extent responsible for the creation of Yosemite, Sequoia, and Mt. Ranier National Parks and for several National Monuments, two of which — North Rim of the Grand Canyon and the Petrified Forest — later became National Parks.

Muir Woods National Monument in Marin County, 1,485-acre cluster of virgin redwoods set aside in 1908, was named for him. So are dozens of other geographical places in California: mountains, lakes, passes, a gorge, a highway, a beach, a railroad station, many schools, and the John Muir hiking trail along the 12,000-foot crest of the Sierras.

Muir Glacier in Alaska's Glacier Bay National Monument, which he explored, now bears his name.

Born in Scotland April 21, 1838, he was the oldest son in a farming family that immigrated to Wisconsin when he was 11. In his autobiography, *The Story of My Boyhood and Youth*, published in 1912, he says little about his family, but gives the impression of a life of harsh discipline and grinding labor. A strict Calvinist, his father was a part-time teacher.

Muir did manage to escape now and then to the adjacent woods and marshes, and very early started his lifelong habit of closely observing wildlife. He read avidly anything he could find. When his father forbade his "wasting" daylight hours or lamp oil on such idle pursuits, he got up before dawn to read by the light of homemade candles.

He also started inventing things — weird and wonderful contrivances of wood, wire, and scraps of metal — labor saving devices his father refused to use. These included a self-setting sawmill; a combination thermometer, hygrometer, barometer, and pyrometer and a star clock. He fashioned a huge outdoor thermometer which he put up on the side of the barn, which could be read from a half a mile away. It was so sensitive it would react visibly to the heat of a person coming within several feet of it.

Some of his creations finally impressed his father to such an extent that he grudgingly allowed the young inventor to take them to the Wisconsin State Fair. Having no money at all — his father never gave him any — he hitch-hiked with his bundle of gear. At the fair he won \$15 in prizes, and was told by mechanics that he could get a job in any machine shop in the country.

But Muir had other plans for his life. He was 22 years old, and free to leave home. To find his future, he decided to seek an education. He had attended school only sporadically, when his father would spare him from the chores.

A student who saw his work at the State Fair persuaded him to apply for admission to the University of Wisconsin in Madison. To his great surprise and delight, he was accepted despite his lack of formal education. "Hungry for knowledge and willing to do anything to get it," as he once wrote, he took many odd jobs to support himself in college.

His principal interest was in the natural sciences, but he continued to invent things . . . such as a bed that would tip him out on the floor at a predetermined hour, then turn on the light and start the coffee. Another gadget was an automatic desk that timed his reading and delivered books opened to the desired page.

His friends and professors told him he could make a fortune in applied mechanics, but his ambitions still lay elsewhere.

After two and a half years at the University, he decided it was time to move on. He knew he was not going to earn a degree since he persisted in taking courses of greatest interest to him rather than the curriculum. Having taken courses in both botany and geology, he made solitary natural history jaunts all over the Middle West and up into Canada, working on farms or in shops to earn enough to keep him going. But always moving, new sights to see.

An eye injury in a wagon factory in 1867 decided him to abandon forever "the inventions of man in favor of the inventions of God." For a while he was afraid he was going to lose his sight, but he recovered after a few months and started on another long trek.

He walked all the way from Indiana to Florida, covering as much as 25 miles a day. He kept a journal which he later published under the title of *A Thousand Mile Walk to the Gulf*.

Muir was enthralled by the riotous profusion of flora and fauna in Florida, but he contracted a fever, (probably malaria) and had to leave to regain his health. He tried Cuba but that did him no good, so he took passage on a sailing schooner bearing a cargo of oranges to New York, the most direct route he could find to California and Yosemite. (Having received wide acclaim after its discovery in 1851, Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove had been donated to California in 1864 as a State Park. Yosemite National Park was established in 1890 and in 1906 the State Park was incorporated into it.)

The sea voyage restored Muir to good health and he immediately shipped out for California by way of the Isthmus of Panama. He arrived in San Francisco on April 20, 1868, the day before his 30th birthday. He stayed there but a day before starting to walk to Yosemite.

His route took him down the Santa Clara Valley and over Pacheco Pass east of Gilroy. He went into raptures over the endless expanse of wildflowers that lay before him that spring morning. In his book, *The Mountains of California*, published in 1894, he wrote:

"When I first enjoyed this superb view . . . the Central Valley, but little trampled or plowed as yet, was one furred, rich sheet of golden composite, and the luminous wall of the mountains shown in all its glory. Then it seemed to me that the Sierra should be called not the Nevada, or Snowy Range, but the Range of Light.

"And after ten years spent in the heart of it, rejoicing and wondering, bathing in its glorious floods of light, seeing the sunbursts of morning among the icy peaks, the noon-day radiance on the trees, the flush of the alpenglow, and a thousand dashing waterfalls with the marvelous abundance of irised spray, it still seems to me above all others the Range of Light, the most divinely beautiful of all the mountain chains I have ever seen."

Out of money again, he was able only to stay a couple of weeks before he returned to the San Joaquin Valley to work on a ranch north of the Merced. In the spring of 1869 he contracted to herd sheep into the high mountains as a means of getting there with some cash to sustain him. He detested the creatures, calling them "hoofed locusts" for the damage they did to the terrain.

Except for a brief return to the ranch in September, he spent six solid years in the high country, the first of many such sojourns.

In Yosemite, he built a cabin of rough pine boards opposite Yosemite Falls, with Yosemite Creek running through his cabin to provide "both music and refreshment," as he put it. He trained native ferns growing along the creek to frame his window.

He earned his keep running a small sawmill and by guiding tourists through the valley, but managed to spend much of his time wandering alone in the mountains.

In 1872 he moved to the south bank of the Merced River, opposite Sentinel Rock. There he came to be known as "John of the Mountains," a genial, bewhiskered bit of local color that few people could have guessed was to become the savior of Yosemite, one of the great men of this time.



John Muir and family in front of old family home at Martinez. From left to right: Wanda Muir, Helen Muir, Mrs. Muir, John Muir. Photo courtesy National Park Service.

During this period in Yosemite he evolved his revolutionary theory on the origin of the valley, finding clear evidence that it was formed by glacial action rather than by cataclysm.

This theory was in direct contradiction to the published opinion of Josiah D. Whitney, state geologist, who advocated the upheaval theory. Muir's articles to the contrary, published in newspapers and magazines, aroused a storm of controversy, and increased his interest in writing. Conservation soon became his chief topic. (It was not until 1930, 16 years after his death, that the U.S. finally adopted his idea on how Yosemite was created.)

According to one of his biographers, Lynn Marsh Wolfe, he loved most aspects of nature's violence. Regarding an earthquake in 1872, Wolfe wrote, "disregarding the hard fist of fear in his stomach, he ran out into the moonlit meadow when the earthquake struck. Eagle Rock, high on the south wall of the valley was toppling.

"All fear forgotten, he bounded toward the descending mass, shouting exuberantly in the shower of dust and falling fragments, leaping among the new boulders before they had finished settling on the valley floor."

Muir's abiding interest in glaciers took him in 1879, and again in 1880, to Alaska where he explored mountains, glaciers, and bays on foot, by dog-sled, and by canoe.

The largest of Alaska's tidewater glaciers now bears his name.

Of these and the high Sierra glaciers he wrote: "The grandeur of these forces and their glorious results overpower me and inhabit my whole being. Walking or sleeping, I have no rest. In dreams I read blurred sheets of glacial writing, or follow lines of cleavage, or struggle with the difficulties of some extraordinary rock form."

The story of his Alaskan adventures is told in his book, *Travels in Alaska*, but he did not complete it before he died in 1914.

When Muir first saw Yosemite it was called a State Park but had no actual protection from loggers and sheep raisers. Muir's writing stirred the first strong public reaction against depredations. In 1889 he persuaded Robert Underwood Johnson, editor of *Century Magazine*, to accompany him on a long trip into the high mountain meadows to see first-hand the result of overgrazing by sheep.

Johnson published a series of Muir's articles which stirred such a clamor that Congress was moved to establish both Yosemite and Sequoia National Parks in 1890. The following year a bill empowering the President to establish the National Forests was passed; before the foes knew what was happening, President Benjamin Harrison withdrew more than 13 million acres of public land from further entry.

The outcry from loggers, miners, and stockmen reverberated through Washington, and wholesale timber thefts and invasions by livestock began anew.

Muir's book, *The Mountains of California* appeared at the height of the battle; it probably was the turning point in favor of conservation. When President Theodore Roosevelt visited Yosemite in 1903, Muir took him on a non-scheduled, private, three-day tour of the high country — much to the consternation of the Secret Service men who were left behind.

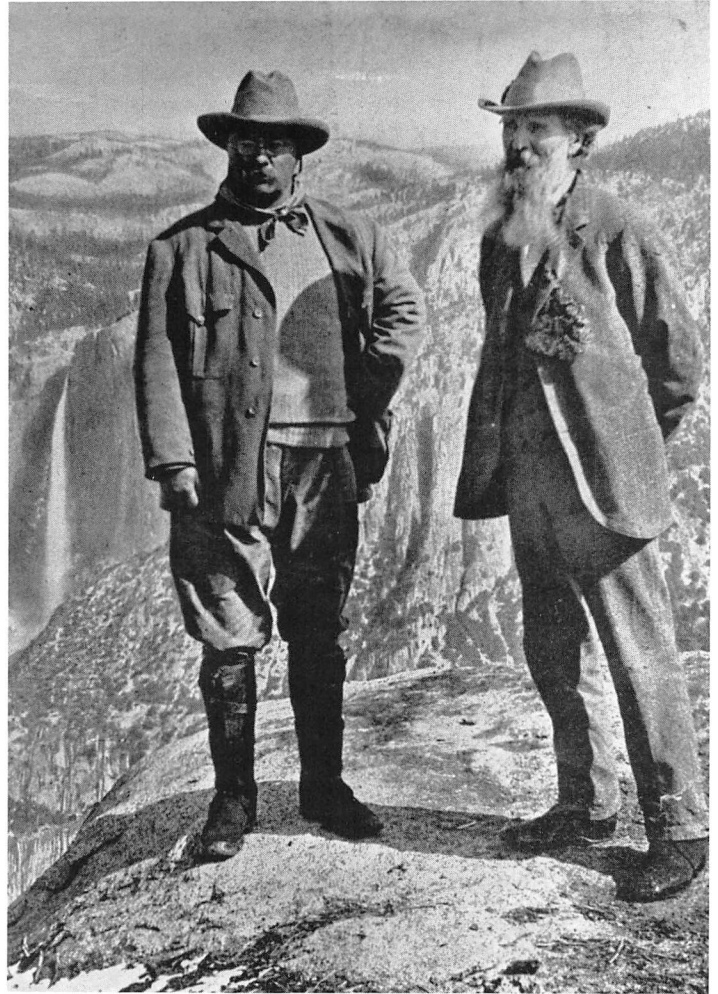
Roosevelt was a kindred spirit and during the remainder of his term set aside more than 148 million acres of National Forests and established 23 National Monuments and five National Parks. Muir deserves credit for much of this. Unlike the reclusive Henry Thoreau, with whom he has been compared, Muir was just as much at home in talking to presidents as he was to shepherders; and did not hesitate to accept when invited to Washington to testify in behalf of one of his pet projects.

Meanwhile, Muir had found time to marry and raise a family. In 1880, when he was 42, he married Louisiana Strenzel. (He always called her Louie.) She was the daughter of John and Louisiana Strenzel, emigrants from Poland. A physician turned horticulturist, Strenzel settled just outside Martinez in the fertile Alhambra Valley.

Muir helped his father-in-law with the fruit ranch between his wilderness jaunts, and when Strenzel died in 1890, took over the operation. During the next decade, he made a small fortune out of fruit raising.

Added to his already substantial income from his writing and his inventions, it was more than enough to provide handsomely for his family as well as for his continued travels and studies. The ranch remained his headquarters until his death from pneumonia in a Los Angeles hospital December 24, 1914.

His remains were brought back to Martinez and he was buried in the family plot in the Alhambra Valley about a mile and a half from his home.



Theodore Roosevelt and Muir at Yosemite, 1903. Photo courtesy William E. Colby Memorial Library, Sierra Club.

Few men have had such a constructive impact on their times as John Muir, the prophet of conservation. And because of this prophet's influence in his lifetime, he enriched the lives of every successive generation.

Former San Jose Mercury News journalist of the 1930s, John Young is a freelance photographer and western history writer living in Los Alamos, New Mexico. This article is reprinted with the permission of the author and The National Tombstone Epitaph.

CULTURAL PRESERVATION

Sierra Club Prepares for a Milestone Birthday

by Wallace Clayton

On a Saturday late in May, 99 years ago, a few men met in the office of a San Francisco attorney. Their purpose: formation of an organization “to explore, enjoy and preserve” the high Sierra Nevada mountain range which stretched for some 400 miles along the eastern border of California.

The name decided upon as most appropriate — The Sierra Club.

The lawyer, Warren Olney, prepared the Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation, which expanded the club’s interest to include “the mountain regions of the Pacific Coast.”

A week later, the group met again to sign the articles and bylaws and elect long-bearded John Muir president.

Thus the formal founding, with 182 charter members, of an organization credited with being instrumental — although not solely responsible — for creation of the National Parks Service, the National Forest Service, the National Wilderness Preservation System and the Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

Formation of the Sierra Club was an idea whose time had come; there had been discussion of such an organization for several years among those concerned about depletion of natural resources and destruction of nature’s splendor in the many wilderness expanses.

In 1889 Muir and Robert U. Johnson, associate editor of the then-influential *Century Magazine*, launched a campaign to create the Yosemite National Park — the talented Muir writing articles for the magazine stressing the need for protective legislation for the area. Johnson skillfully lobbying with his many Congressional contacts.

The park was created the following year, but immediately the stockmen who had grazed their flocks and herds on the land now forbidden to them angrily campaigned to have the park abolished or greatly reduced in area. They were joined by lumbermen and miners now denied access to the new park’s resources.

Johnson wrote Muir suggesting that he form an association in California to counter these attacks. Coincidentally, a University of California professor, J. Henry Stenger, had for some time been advocating an organization of people who loved nature — and particularly enjoyed mountain hiking.

The two men corresponded, with Muir writing, “The time has come when such a club should be organized.” It was Stenger who interested attorney Olney in the project, and who contacted the founding members.

And the Sierra Club almost immediately began its conservation activities. Soon after its formation, the opponents of the Yosemite Park persuaded a member of Congress to introduce a bill which would greatly reduce the size of it.

The club’s Board of Directors sent a strong protest to Congress, complained to individual members. For whatever reason, the bill died in committee.

A Sierra Club tradition began in 1901 . . . a tramping and camping tour through the Yosemite Valley called the High Trip. Nearly a hundred men and women joined this club-sponsored outing — the first of thousands of High Trip adventures held since then. These trips were and are educational, with qualified people telling the hikers all about the areas they are exploring — and the High Trips have been a good means of recruitment, since only club members and their families may participate.

In 1905, club bylaws were amended to allow formation of chapters so members could organize to lead conservation/preservation activities on matters of local importance. It was not until 1950, however, that a chapter was organized outside of California — and that encompassed six eastern states and the District of Columbia.

In that same year, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation recommended the building of two dams in the Dinosaur National Monument on the Colorado-Utah border — a plan which would involve the club in its most ambitious (until then) crusade, and would bring it to national attention.

The club’s board felt that if the Dinosaur project became reality, then a precedent would be set which could put all national parks and monuments in danger of alteration.

Arguments against the proposal were presented in the club’s *Bulletin*, with copies widely distributed. “High Trips” — now at water level — were held on the Green and Yampa rivers, so the rafting club members could see the scenic values of the Dinosaur canyons which would be destroyed . . . and go home and write protest letters.

The club produced and distributed a motion picture, and assisted in the production of a book about the monument. It was a five-year campaign, but the work of the Sierra Club and other conservation groups strongly involved was rewarded when Congress passed legislation specifying that no dam or reservoir could be built in the national park system.

Original Sierra Club seal (1892-1894).



Sierra Club seal as adapted for publication.



Sierra club seal of today.



Sierra Club Centennial Seal.



When the Dinosaur crusade ended, the club had 10,000 members — but as concern for conservation grew — and the club had more funds to conduct public information programs greater in scope — membership rapidly increased to 325,000 in 1982.

And in the nine years since then, has doubled.

Today, with 57 chapters and 345 smaller designated groups in the United States and Canada — and members world-wide — the Sierra Club is involved in hundreds of conservation issues on the local level, regionally, nationally and internationally. To support its efforts on every strata it produces and distributes slide shows, video tapes, books and booklets, films, posters and film strips.

There are some half dozen major national conservation organizations with which the Sierra Club has cooperated in programs in the public interest. But none are more articulate, influential or respected as the association John Muir and like-minded friends put together in a San Francisco lawyer's office.

May 28, 1992 will be the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Sierra Club. But to strongly focus national attention on the importance of conservation and a healthful environment the club began a lengthy celebration at last May's annual dinner, and has scheduled events through December, 1992.

Author Clayton is a resident of Tucson, Arizona and is editor and publisher of The National Tombstone Epitaph, published monthly in Tombstone, Arizona. This article is reprinted with permission of the author and The Tombstone Epitaph.

FOUNDATION NOTES

Board News



Mary Jane Givens



Marion Grimm

September saw the seating of two new members on the foundation's Board of Trustees, Saratoga resident Mary Jane Givens and Los Altos resident Marion Grimm.

Mary Jane Givens joins the board after many years as a history center member and docent/volunteer coordinator. She has been involved with the center since 1974 when she began taking classes with the center's founding director, Walt Warren.

Raised in Kokomo, Indiana, Mary Jane worked with her father in the family business, locksmithing and small mechanical/electrical repair. At the age of 19, when her father died suddenly, she took over the business and was the only registered female locksmith in the United States from 1935 to 1943.

Marriage to military man Ken Givens made for a life of travel, from Virginia to Hawaii, for Mary Jane and their three daughters. They came to California in 1967, settling in the Santa Clara Valley in 1970. Mary Jane was involved in her community wherever she lived, active with PTA and Girl Scouts, performing with community theater and singing groups and serving with various service wives clubs.

Mary Jane has been an invaluable member and volunteer with the history center over the years and we welcome her to the board.

Marion Grimm, born in Columbus, Ohio, is a 29-year resident of Los Altos and a 43-year resident of the mid-Peninsula. A graduate of Ohio State University, Marion has been a college instructor, high school Social Studies teacher, and school psychologist. She engaged in a second career for ten years as a travel agent.

A long-time involvement in the community has included serving on the board of the Red Cross, both at the local and national levels, member and supporter of the Los Altos-Mountain View A.A.U.W. and League of Women Voters. She is on the Arts Committee of the City of Los Altos and the board of the Los Altos Conservatory Theater.

Historic preservation has been a particular interest for Marion. She has been on the boards of the Los Altos History House Museum Association, Los Altos Historical Commission and Heritage Council of Santa Clara County. She is assisting in the efforts of the Mid-peninsula History Consortium and the Committee to Save the Griffin House on the Foothill College campus.

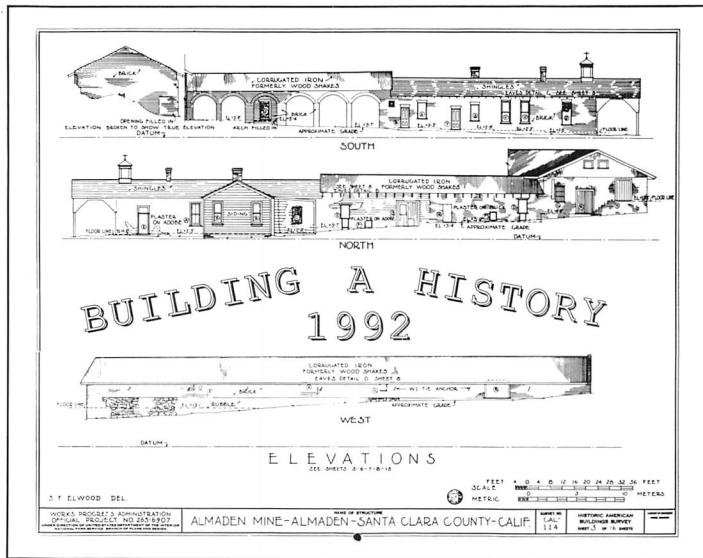
Marion and husband Bob have four children and three grandchildren. We look forward to working with her on our Board of Trustees.



San Jose Symphony Maestro George Cleve, left, and flutist Maria Tamburrino Cleve, center, were the honored guests at a special reception held after an afternoon Flint Center performance of Mozart works on October 27. The San Jose Symphony donated 300 tickets to De Anza's Regional Cultural Center (which includes the California History Center, Euphrat Gallery, and Flint Center) to sell for a fund raiser. People who purchased tickets, such as longtime CHC member Terry Whittier, right, were invited to the reception at the history center afterwards. Photo by Roy Grothe.

Give the Gift of History

HABS Calendar



This unique 12-month calendar features a selection of Historic American Buildings Survey drawings documenting Santa Clara County's historic buildings, and includes events listings of 13 local historical organizations and museums.

These make great gifts and are a wonderful way to introduce the history center to your friends!

Available at the CHC for \$4.50

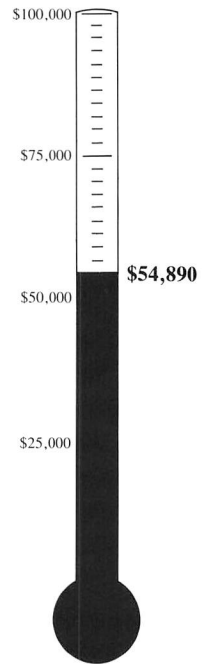
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Endowment Fund

The generous contributions of California History Center Foundation members represent a significant measure of support to the development and sustenance of our programs and activities. In addition to donating your financial support through annual membership contributions, the CHCF Endowment Program is another method by which you can help provide for the future of the history center.

Money donated to the endowment is never spent, only the income it generates (i.e., interest) is utilized. Donation to the endowment fund is a wonderful way to remember a loved one or just to have the satisfaction of knowing your donated dollar is used over and over again to support history center activities.



Mr. Santa Clara County himself, Clyde Arbuckle, left, attended the opening of the center's Historic American Buildings Survey exhibit, and had an opportunity to chat with CHC Foundation President Ward Winslow. The exhibit will be on display through March 7. Photo by Walter Matt.

Historical Landmark #1,000

New Members



The "Fairchild Eight." Photo by Ward Winslow.

A rather nondescript glorified tilt-up warehouse in Palo Alto is the site of California Registered Historical Landmark No. 1000. It commemorates Robert Noyce's invention of the "first commercially practicable integrated circuit" — the basic building block of the Second Industrial Revolution.

The landmark plaque at the building at 844 E. Charleston Road was dedicated Aug. 9, 1991, by the State Department of Parks and Recreation in cooperation with Intel Corporation. In part, it reads:

"At this site in 1959, Dr. Robert Noyce of Fairchild Semiconductor Corporation invented the first integrated circuit that could be produced commercially, based on 'planar' technology, an earlier Fairchild breakthrough. Noyce's invention consisted of a complete electronic circuit inside a small silicon chip. His innovation helped revolutionize 'Silicon Valley's' semiconductor electronics industry, and brought profound change to the lives of people everywhere."

Noyce was the coordinator of the "Fairchild Eight" — a group of young scientists who quit Shockley Semiconductor Laboratory in dissatisfaction with Nobel laureate William Shockley's management style to form the Fairchild company. After leading Fairchild for more than a decade, Noyce and Gordon Moore broke away to form their own company — Intel. Noyce died of a heart attack on June 3, 1990. Moore, Intel's chairman, presided at the Aug. 9 dedication.

By Ward Winslow

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Commemorative Medal

Dedicated to the 250th Anniversary
of the Discovery of Alaska (1741-1991)

The famous expedition by Vitus Bering and Alexis Chirikov in the exploration of Alaska is almost forgotten history. This commemorative medal of the 250-year anniversary is a reminder of the time when "The history of Russia and the history of America were part of each other." The history of Alaska is inextricably connected to Russia and its maps will always reflect that fact. The geographic term 'A Russian America' appeared after the naval expedition of Bering and Chirikov in 1741, and was named after the Russian possession of Alaska, the Aleutian Islands, and the Northwest Coast of North America up to 54° 40' N. The names on the map of Alaska have immortalized the Russians who came to America.

MEDALS: Gold Plate on Bronze; Size: 2.5 inches; Number Struck: 150. For purchase information call Nicholas Rokitiansky at 415/941-6765.

Designed by: Nicholas I. Rokitiansky and issued under the auspices of the California History Center, De Anza College, Cupertino, California in 1991.



Obverse Side:

Script in Russian and English languages denotes 250-year anniversary of the discovery of Alaska (1741-1991) with pictures of Vitus Bering.



Reverse Side:

Map of North Eastern part of Pacific Ocean. Two ships, St. Peter and St. Paul commanded by two mariners Vitus Bering and Alexis Chirikov, discovered Alaska in 1741.



California History Center & Foundation
A Center for the Study of State and Regional History
De Anza College

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CALIFORNIAN

is published tri-annually by the California History Center & Foundation. The Magazine is mailed to members as a benefit of annual membership in the CHC Foundation. Membership categories: \$25 Individual; \$35 Family; \$45 Supporter; \$100 Sponsor; \$500 Patron; \$1,000 Colleague.

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ISSN: 0742-5465

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