

TRAVELS NOW AND THEN

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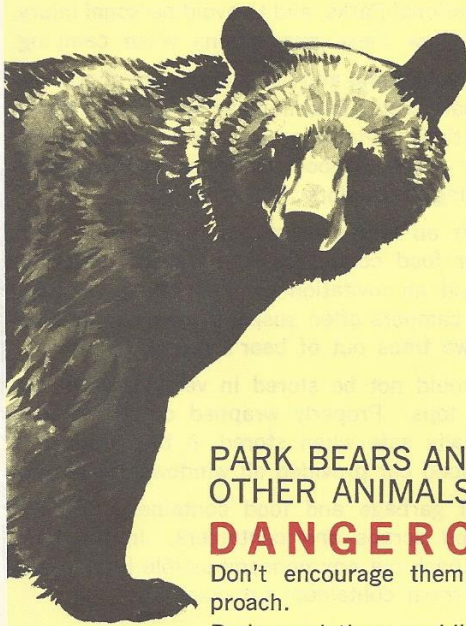
SEQUOIA 1973

SUNDAY AUGUST 19, 1973

Having packed our "new car" - Plymouth Sport Suburban 68 - a large station wagon - the night before, I, Dana and Kathy set off early at 8:40 AM and drove north on the Golden State Freeway - over the mountain easily - and into Bakersfield. The car which was fine over the Tejon Pass began to overheat momentarily and we had to stop to install a new thermostat just after Bakersfield. - Soon on our way again we left the freeway at Visalia and entered Kings Canyon National Park at Grant Grove at ~~about~~ 6,600 ft. Then down again along the park road leading to Kings Canyon itself. Arrived at Cedar Grove campgrounds - touring through the first of the four campgrounds by the river we found a very nice campsite (Sheep's Creek campground) and immediately made camp - unloaded our bicycles and made a late lunch. Having noticed on our way the pretty swimming beach just by the campground we immediately ~~also~~ went swimming - very cold but refreshing - the kids took the air mattresses. Then we made dinner - I felt much better having been tired by the drive. Finally thought we might ride our bicycles over to the campfire in the second campground - "Sentinel" - but having gone some way realized it was further than ~~the~~ we thought - so came back and went by car. First did a little shopping in the store then called Mum and went to the campfire program on Water and Rivers - especially the Kings River. Then back to bed. Bears around all night but none near our site.



ENJOY THEM AT A DISTANCE



PARK BEARS AND OTHER ANIMALS ARE **DANGEROUS**

Don't encourage them to approach.

Park regulations prohibit feeding or molesting animals.

Stop cars in pullouts **ONLY** — not on roadway.

THIS WARNING

Sequoia and Kings Canyon

NATIONAL PARKS • CALIFORNIA

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REVISED 1973

Wildlife. Do not get near wild animals even though they may appear tame. Some have become accustomed to humans, but they are still wild and may seriously injure you if you approach them. Regulations that prohibit feeding, teasing, touching, or molesting wildlife are enforced for your own safety.

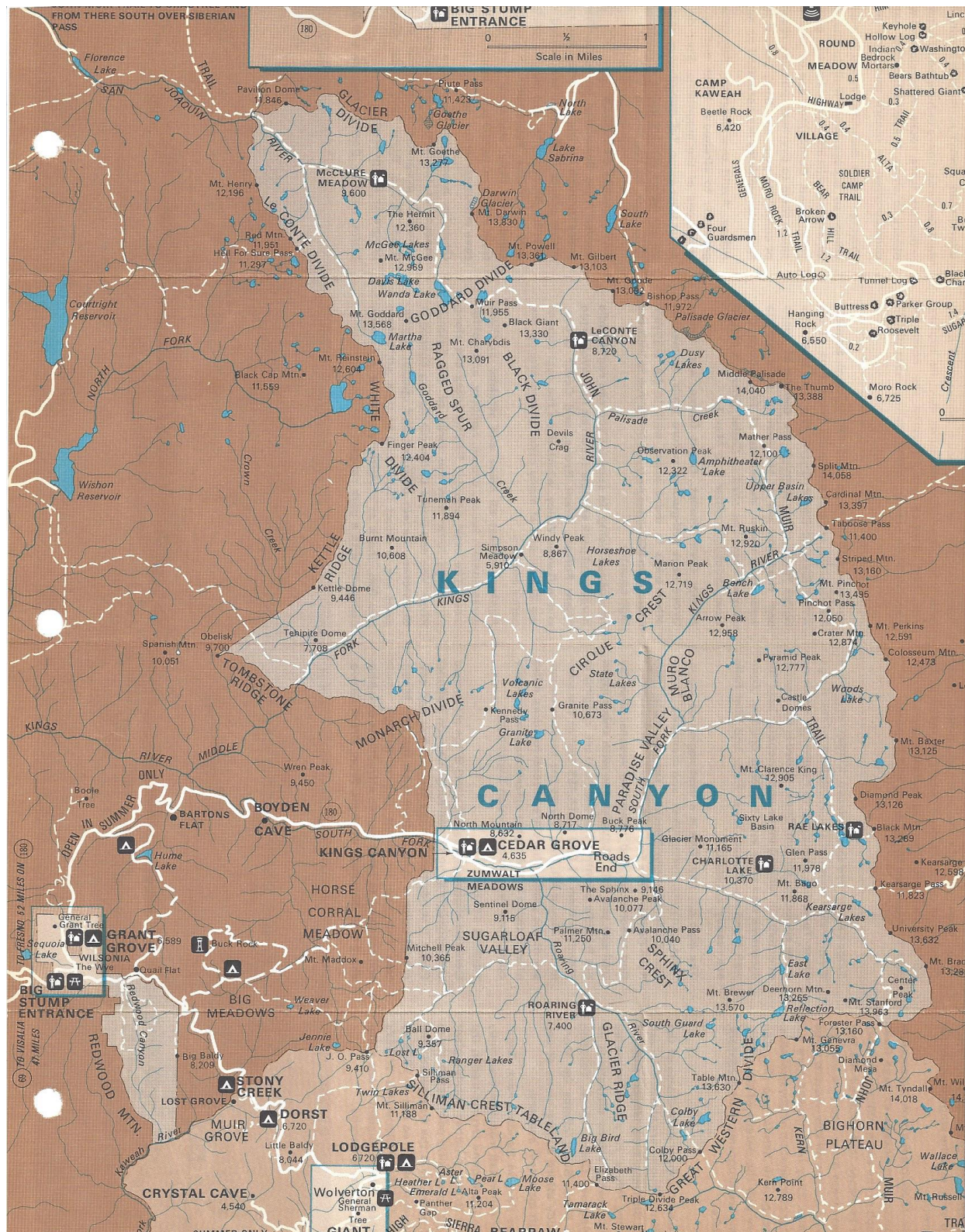
ADMINISTRATION

SHORT-TERM ENTRANCE FEE SCHEDULE SEQUOIA AND KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS

<u>Code</u>		<u>Rate</u>
C	Purchaser and all who accompany him in a private vehicle, per day	\$2.00
	or	
	Purchaser only (entry by means other than private vehicle), per day	.50

Where overnight use is involved, this permit will be honored until noon following the date for which purchased.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR



MONDAY. AUGUST 20, 1973.

Woke to sunshine after a good night and after breakfast went to explore by the river - very attractive with a fair amount of white water - all wooded. Eventually, of course, Kathy fell in and the kids then had great fun romping in the rocks + water fully clothed. Eventually back to the campfire and went swimming at the beach. Dana + Kathy had fun going down some small rapids on a secondary part of the river by the swimming area. Took some movies and then back to eat a large lunch. Kathy having eaten a stack of beans + sausages also demanded a hot dog - Dana bet her she could finish it - the amount mentioned being 25c. tho' \$2.00 was also jokingly mentioned. Kathy with considerable effort did finish the hot dog and then demanded \$2 from Dana. An argument followed - it was hard to determine whether Kathy was serious ~~was~~ or just trying to put one over. Needless to say she ended up with 25c. After lunch decided to explore the Canyon. First ~~the~~ drove up to Raging River Falls - pretty. Then on to Summit Meadow where we walked about 2 miles around the attractive meadow - Kathy got tired and we all got stung by mosquitoes. But had fun when Kathy carried a large fir cone back to the footbridge over the river - dropping it in we watched it travel a long way downstream. Indian campfires near the river (from long ago) showed deep holes ground in the rocks from grinding corn. Then back to the beach for a swim and rode our bicycles along the trails. After dinner we went (via a phone-call to Mum) to the campfire - a nature movie. ~~The~~ Guitas, bed and beans.



ZUMWALT MEADOW TRAIL

KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARK



Welcome! For the next 1½ - 2 hours forget your cares as you leisurely walk around Zumwalt Meadow. The loop trail is about 1½ miles long and almost level. Follow the numbered markers which are keyed to the numbered paragraphs in this leaflet for a better understanding of this meadow environment.

TUESDAY AUGUST 21, 1973.

After breakfast we drove first to the store to buy some mementos and food and then to the Pack Station to arrange a horse ride. Then went swimming and I first rafted down the big river on an air mattress. Dana and Kathy then did the same. With Kathy I took the precaution of stationing myself to catch her after her ride - she however got caught in an eddy and had to be helped along by a young ~~boy~~ boy before she made it to me. Then after a hurried lunch we made it to the Pack Station by 1 P.M. in time for our 1 hour guided horseback ride. This was most enjoyable riding along by the river with no sight or sound of other humanity. We were accompanied by a most friendly old cowboy. I began stopping my horse (riding last) to film Dana + Kathy + our guide ahead of me. My horse would then trot to catch up. Dana then enjoyed doing the same. Later in the ride Dana got rather upset at not being able to control her horse who wanted to ~~each~~ eat the flowers. I don't think she realizes what onery creatures horses can be. After the ride which everyone enjoyed we went swimming and rafting yet again - the kids caught little fish in a bucket but let them go when we went for dinner. The campfire, after our call to Mum, was a talk entitled Fur, Fang + Claw (with slides) by a ranger naturalist - it was the best one we had been to. Then bed with bears around again.

areas. Before you arrive at Sheep Creek, named by early sheepherders, look back to the north at the 11,000 foot Monarch Divide. This ridge separates drainage areas for the Middle Fork and the South Fork of the Kings River. At the bridge crossing Sheep Creek, relax and enjoy the coolness of this small canyon. Lookout Peak, 5 miles ahead, offers the best views of the Cedar Grove area and the Sierra Crest. The area west of the peak (Sequoia National Forest) has been logged in recent years and is criss-crossed with logging roads. A few hundred yards from Lookout Peak, Summit Meadow, just outside the park boundary, presents a fine wildflower display during the summer.

4 RIVER TRAIL — Roaring River Falls, Zumwalt Meadow

Distance: (one way) Falls, .5 mile; Zumwalt Meadow, 1.6 miles
Time: (one way) Falls, 15 minutes; Zumwalt Meadow, 1-1.5 hours
Climb: Falls, 40'; Zumwalt Meadow, 50'; **Type of Walk:** easy
Trail Characteristics: open forest, shady, close to river
Starting Point: Roaring River Falls parking area

The short hike to the falls is one of the most attractive in the valley. From the view point, only the lower third of the falls, less than a height of 80 feet is visible. During years of heavy runoff the river comes through the gorge and over the falls with a tremendous roar. Even during dry years the falls are impressive.

DANGER — THE ONLY WAY THROUGH THE GORGE ABOVE IS IN THE TURBULENT RIVER BED, UNLESS A PERSON IS A TECHNICAL CLIMBER WITH SPECIAL EQUIPMENT AND TRAINED COMPANIONS.

The river trail to Zumwalt Meadow leads off to your left just before reaching the falls view point. Early travelers used this trail to reach the upper end of the valley. Along it you will find a wide variety of trees and shrubs including oak, willow, cottonwood, alder, pine, fir, cedar, mountain misery, manzanita and a few dry area flowering plants. If you have not arranged to have someone meet you at Zumwalt Meadow parking area, retrace your steps for considerably different views.

5 ZUMWALT MEADOW TRAIL — Roads End

Distance: (one way) Meadow, .75 mile; Roads End, 1.1 miles
Time: (one way) Meadow, .5-1 hour; Roads End, 1-1.5 hours
Climb: Meadow, 50 feet; Roads End, 130 feet; **Type of Walk:** easy
Trail Characteristics: open forest, scenic
Starting Point: Zumwalt Meadow parking area

From the parking lot it is only a short distance downstream to the riverbank where you first glimpse Zumwalt Meadow. D. K. Zumwalt, a Southern Pacific Railway Company attorney, was instrumental in having this land set aside as a forest reserve in the early 1900's. After an easy walk along the river you soon reach the picturesque swinging bridge built in the late 1920's by the U. S. Forest Service. Up canyon, beyond the river and meadow, Glacier Monument rises to a height of 11,165 feet. Cross the bridge and turn left. Soon the forest will be left behind as the trail climbs onto the talus slope above the meadow. The rocky trail, similar to many high Sierra trails, rises high enough for good views of meadow, river and cliffs.

Below you, along the meadow margin big-leaf maple, cattails and creek dogwood can be found. A return trail loops around the meadow, skirting the river back to the swinging bridge. The main trail continues up the canyon for 1 mile to the Roads End parking area.

6 COPPER CREEK TRAIL — Lower Tent Meadow

Distance: (round trip) 7 miles; **Time:** (one way) 3-4 hours
Climb: 2,800 feet; **Type of Walk:** strenuous and steep
Trail Characteristics: hot and dry; carry water
Starting Point: Roads End, long term parking area

This trail, one of the most strenuous in the Cedar Grove area, leads to the northern portions of the Kings Canyon back country. By a series of switchbacks, it climbs steeply up a dry south-facing slope, covered with manzanita and mountain mahogany. Good views of the glaciated Kings Canyon, Bubbs Creek Canyon and Zumwalt Meadow may be seen after hiking .5 to 1 mile. Just below Tent Meadow a drift fence keeps horses and mules of back country travelers from returning to Cedar Grove. Please close the fence gate as you pass on to the meadow and Copper Creek. Many good campsites are available here for the hiker heading into the high country north of the meadow.

7 PARADISE VALLEY TRAIL — Mist Falls

Distance: (round trip) Mist Falls, 8 miles; Paradise Valley, 14 mi.
Time: (one way) Mist Falls, 4-5 hours; Paradise Valley, 7-8 hours
Climb: Falls, 600 feet; lower Paradise Valley, 1,500 feet
Type of Walk: moderately strenuous

Trail Characteristics: hot and dry first two miles; switchbacks above Mist Falls to valley

Starting Point: Roads End, short term parking area

The Mist Falls—Paradise Valley trail is one of the most popular in Kings Canyon National Park. Each summer thousands of backpackers travel this route to reach the high country. For the first two miles, or until you reach the Bubbs Creek bridge, the trail is hot and dry, especially during late morning and throughout the afternoon. At the bridge, the trail forks. The right hand path goes up a series of switchbacks 2 miles to Sphinx Creek and on into the back country. Our trail continues straight ahead for Mist Falls and Paradise Valley. As it begins to climb, look for the many small cascades and waterfalls on Glacier and Gardiner Creeks across the canyon. In 2 miles, Mist Falls is reached. **CAUTION — Slippery rocks —** While the flow of water over the Falls is at its peak in July, wet, slippery rocks are common all summer. Beyond the falls the trail continues up some switchbacks another 3 miles to Paradise Valley. The trail, now in an easier grade, meanders through the valley for 3 miles, eventually linking up with the John Muir Trail at Upper Woods Creek.



SEQUOIA
 Natural History Association
 in cooperation with the
 National Park Service



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Kings Canyon National Park



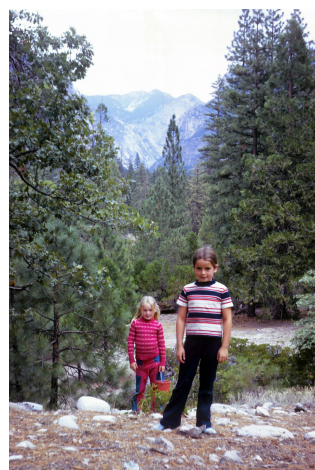
Kings Canyon National Park



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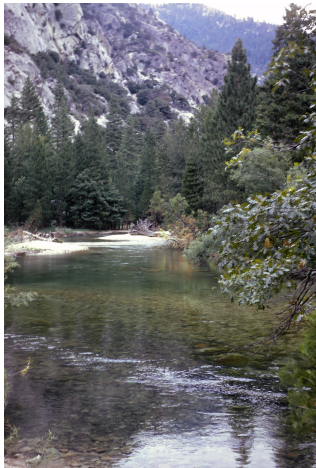


Kings Canyon National Park





Kings Canyon National Park



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Kings Canyon National Park

WEDNESDAY. AUGUST 22, 1973.

After breakfast we all decided to move on somewhere else even though it was rather late in the morning. Packed quickly and left Kings Canyon driving up the mountain to Grant Grove - where we had been some 4 years earlier. Stopped at the store and restaurant where we had lunch - the waitress was new + very slow - Dana got her hamburger long after Kath + I had finished. Then into the souvenir shop where we were able to buy some things on MasterCard and save our low reserves of cash. Finally toured the Visitor Center exhibit on the Giant Sequoias. Decided to go to Sequia National Park so set off stopping along the road at Lost Grove. On the way again saw the magnificent sight of a mule deer springing along by the road over rocky terrain. On arrival at Lodgepole campground we were ~~shaken~~ shaken by the sign saying campground full. But went in and found a very nice ~~sight~~ site by the river - the Kaweah river. Set up camp and then drove off to see some of the attractions. Driving up to the Wolston Ski Area we could not distinguish where the skiing took place - nor could we make out any ski lifts. Then on to see the huge General Sherman Giant Sequoia and walked a little way around the Congress Trail - especially to see the weird Telescope Tree. Finally back to dinner and then to the campfire program on flowers. Back at camp Dana + I sat by the fire for a while before she retired. After I had extinguished the lantern and was preparing to enter the tent I heard a rumbling at the trash can only 6 or 7 yards away - flashing my torch a large black bear stood there with

raising his head from the trash can. He then trotted away before Dana could see him. They came around in a procession all night but I paid little attention having become used to them. Cold Night - all fully clothed in our sleeping bags.

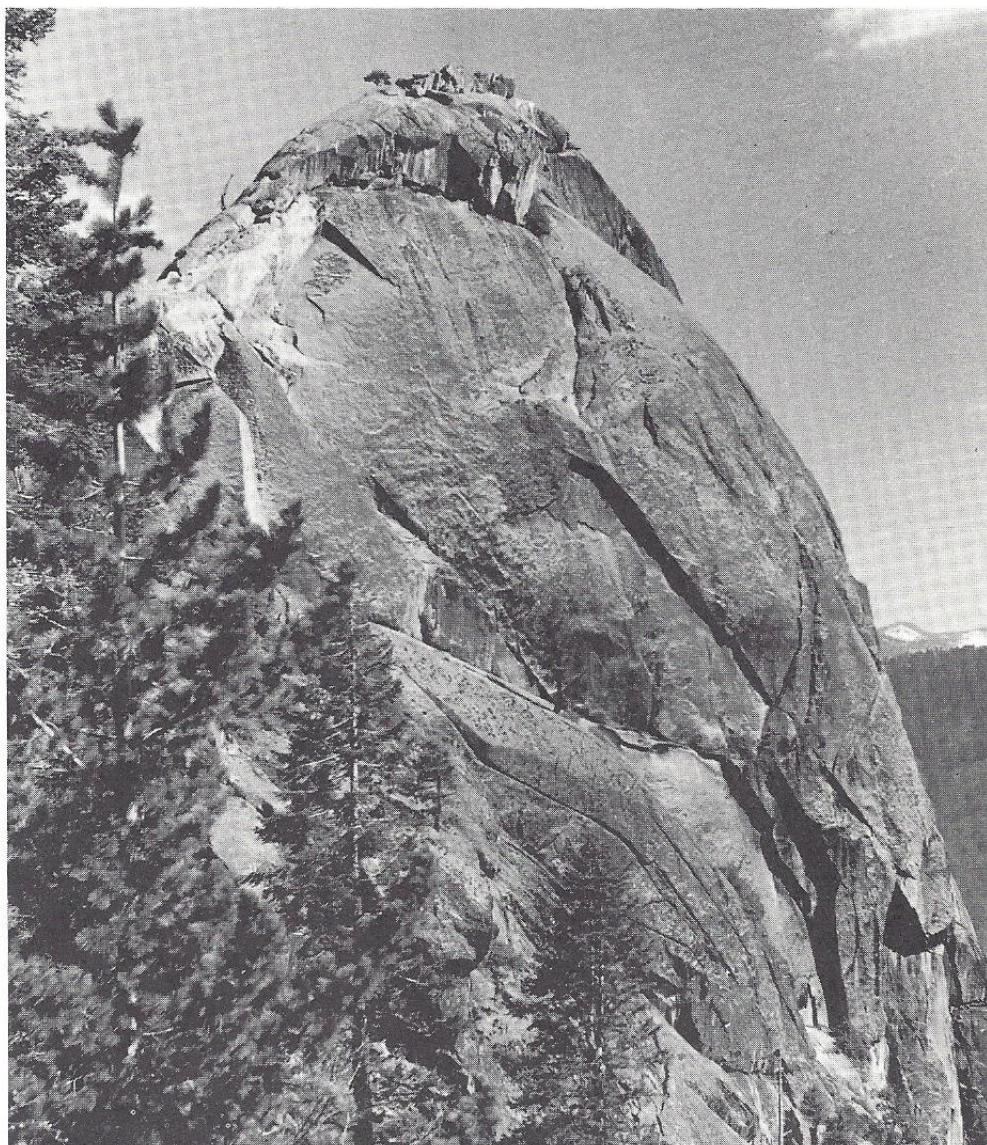




THURSDAY. AUGUST 23, 1973.

Cold in the morning - Dana up first and had alot done before Kathy + I struggled out. After breakfast we set off to tour the big trees. Drove through Giant Forest to the Antelope log where we photographed the Wagon as we had the Mustang four years before - similarly the Tunnel log. Then on to Moro Rock which we all climbed - tremendous view of the Sierras to the east and valleys to the west. Down again, and after a short stop in Giant Forest we drove back to camp for lunch. After lunch the kids played around the stream for a while - then got their swimming costumes on and I filmed them leaping into a pool in the cold river by our site. Then got all our swimming things together and spent the afternoon by a larger pool just below the ~~best~~ bridge in the campground. Very refreshing - we all bathed and chatted with other kids by the pool. Dana + Kathy were rather upset when two boys caught a rainbow ~~hook~~ trout in the pool - but the ~~hook~~ boys returned the tiny fish. Finally we returned and packed up our things having decided to head home. Drove down the extremely windy and steep road leading ~~to~~ down from Sequoia. The kids were amazed at the height of Moro Rock above us but both felt queasy due to the many turns. Finally made it to the freeway bypassing Visalia and stopped at our Carousal Pancake house in Delano for dinner. Home at about 10.00 P.M.





THE ORIGIN OF MORO ROCK

Moro Rock is part of a massive granite ridge that extends across the valley of the Kaweah River and includes the Castle Rocks pinnacles and domes. Many of the large bodies of granite in this region have rounded forms, and of these Moro Rock is an outstanding example. Other examples may be seen at Sunset Rock and Beetle Rock at Giant Forest, and at Little Baldy along the Generals Highway to Grant Grove.

The domed surface of the formation is somewhat scaly in appearance. An onion-like structure of curving layers of granite enclose the solid



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*Last updated 7/30/99.
Christopher E. Brennen*