

HALF DOME HAPPENINGS 4

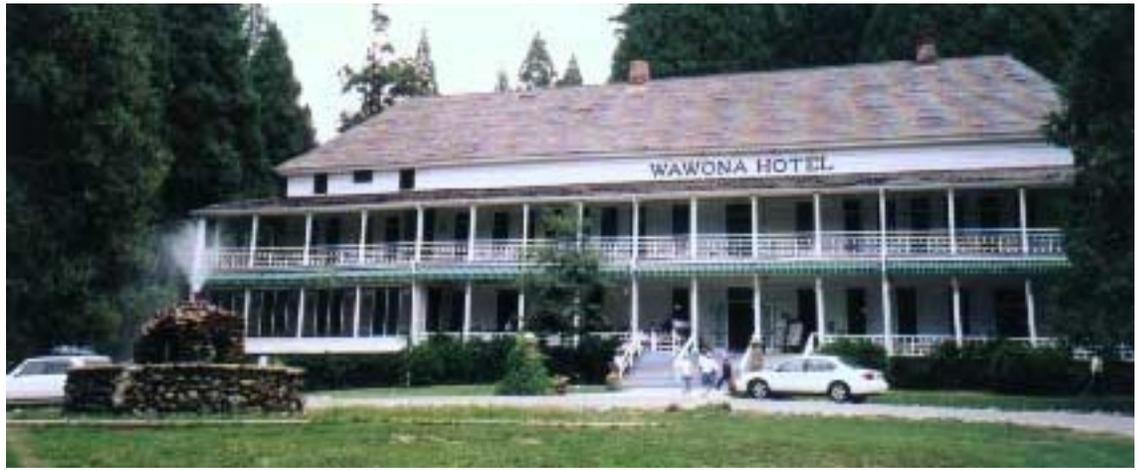


Early Art Show Entry

The Bureau of Indian Affairs was none too happy with the AhwahneeCon committee for our plan to use the Ahwahneechee Village for our con. After a strongly worded letter was received, we're folding like a comedy club in the early 1990s. Luckily, we've got a brand new set of digs!

After our negotiations to secure the Sentinel Hotel hit a snag (the hotel was demolished in 1938), the committee settled on the beautiful Wawona Hotel.

Who needs Yosemite Valley? Wawona, that gem that's about 40 minutes up a mountain from the Valley, is a gem of a place. There's a beautifully rugged mountain setting, a lovely Pioneer Historic center (which, since we were kicked out by the Indians, we're now in full support of!) and a world class golf course!

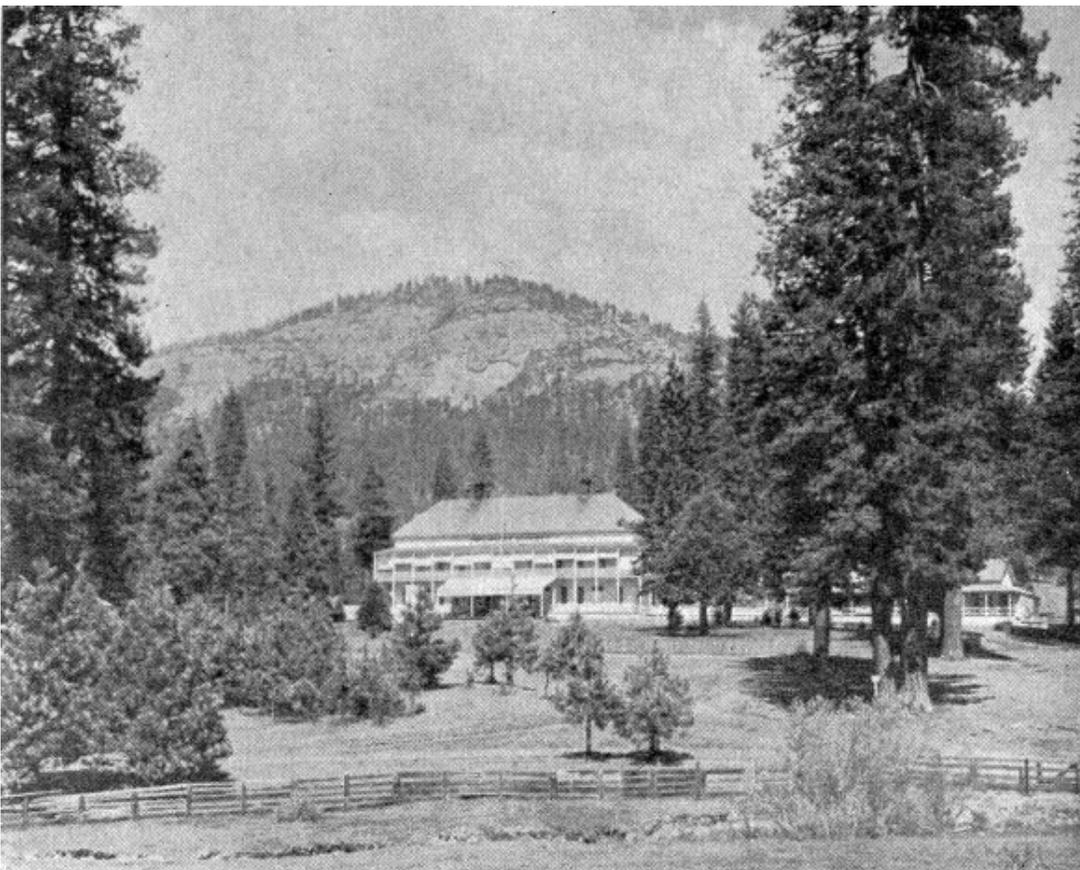


So you may ask yourself, what sort of amenities are there at the historic Wawona Hotel? Well, there's a classy dining room, perfect for eating at, and there's a swimming tank for those so inclined. Almost half the rooms have private baths! It's almost the perfect historic venue for a Westercon! Add more wildlife than you'll find in the valley (including beaver and porcupine) and what's better? Even the lack of Acorn storage isn't troubling!

The site also allows for some special programming. Much of the programming will take place at the Pioneer History Center, a

short stage ride from the Hotel. What other bid could offer you a stagecoach shuttle between venues (Note: Stagecoach rides not recommended for pregnant women or people with bad backs) and what other site can offer you an at-con newsletter printed on plates from the 19th Century?

So, we're so proud to say that this is it! The Wawona is it. There's no doubt that if you join up, you'll be living the high life in beautiful Wawona.





The Annual Board meeting for the Society for the Restoration of Half Dome was a raucous time, as always. More than 5 people attended, breaking the previous record of 4 and Walt Flannagan's dog set back in 1997. The meeting was called to order at the traditional starting time of 7:15 am, which may account for the low turn-out over the years.

The president read the minutes from the last meeting since the secretary was asleep and couldn't be roused to wakefulness, and the meeting began with old business.

Committee reports followed with the Gynastics Special Interest Group (GYMSIG) announcing that they'd begun work on convincing the National Park Service to replace the current cable to the top of Half Dome with parallel bars so that the Olympics, if they were even to come to Yosemite Valley, could hold part of the Gymnastics competi-

tion there.

Member Duane Dibly brought the matter of the Danishes which had been tabled at the 1993 Annual meeting back up. A strongly worded condemnation of the caterers for their sub-par Danishes was approved by a vote of 1-to-0. An attempt to bring the tabled motion from the previous annual meeting to declare Yosemite Valley a part of the Sucker-Free State failed for lack of a second.

New business was brought by member Sir Lloyd Reginald Coxon III. He requested that the restoration of Half Dome be done using paper mache. Member Dibly seconded, there was debate and the motion carried. Further debate was entertained as to which paper would be most appropriate. The San Jose Mercury News was chosen because what else would it be good for?

Meeting ajourned at 8:21.

Nostradamus said a lot of things. Recently, while looking for cantos that would suggest the rise of Diet Dr. Pepper as the superior diet soft drink, we came across this verse

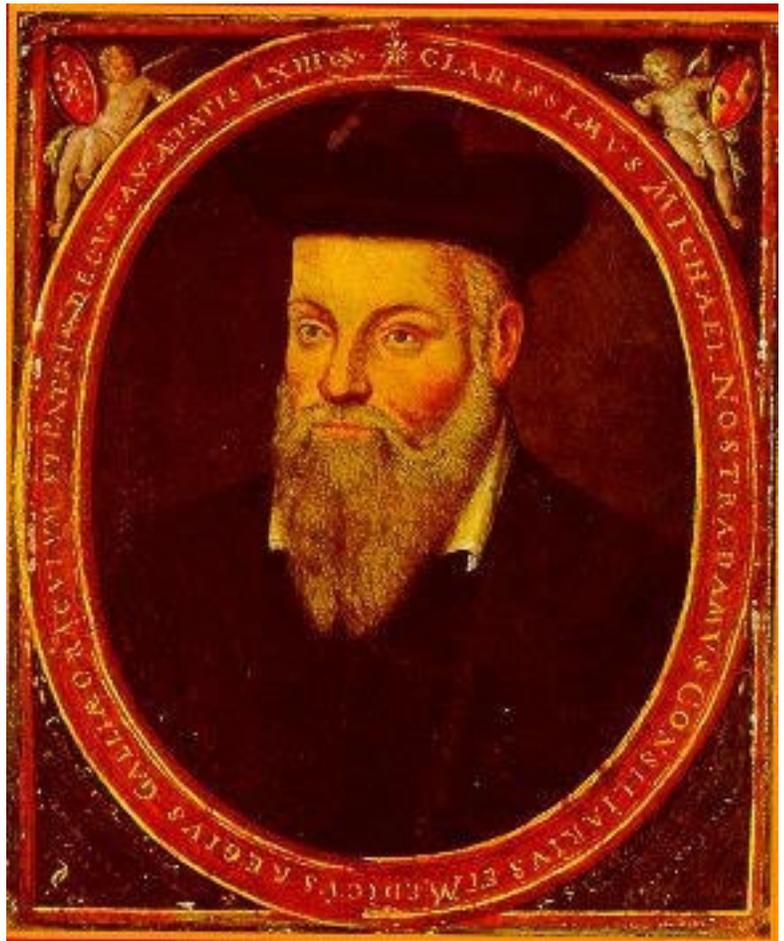
In the Country of Bright Light on a holiday

A sovereign prince will be born of an infamous woman:

Surname of breeches on the ground will make him extra fannish, Never was there a Fan so very bad in his province.

Now, you'd have to be blind to not see what that means. If we bring the Westercon to a city "in the country of bright light" we'll be dooming ourselves to bringing about a new fan of death and doom. Perhaps even someone mad enough to start a sercon fanzine! *shudder*

So, there's only one way to stop it: Don't Let Westercon go to Phoenix!



Youths Participating in the Biking for Westercon Programme, a part of the Tourist-in!

Pro-AhwahneeCon Activists Hold Tourist-In Protest in Valley

While the mainstream Media wouldn't touch it this summer, we are proud to report the great success of the AhwahneeCon Tourist-In that took place in Yosemite Valley between Memorial Day and Labor Day, 2006. In a huge show of support, AhwahneeCon supporters from around the world and across the US came together and took turns being a part of the largest protest ever! More than a million people came and showed their support for AhwahneeCon by driving in and spending money at the various shops and staying at campgrounds and hotels.

"I love Yosemite" said one tourist with a serious accent that might have been Czech. While they didn't say it outright, I'm sure they would have added 'and I'm here to show my support for the AhwahneeCon bid. Great many support!' he would have said.

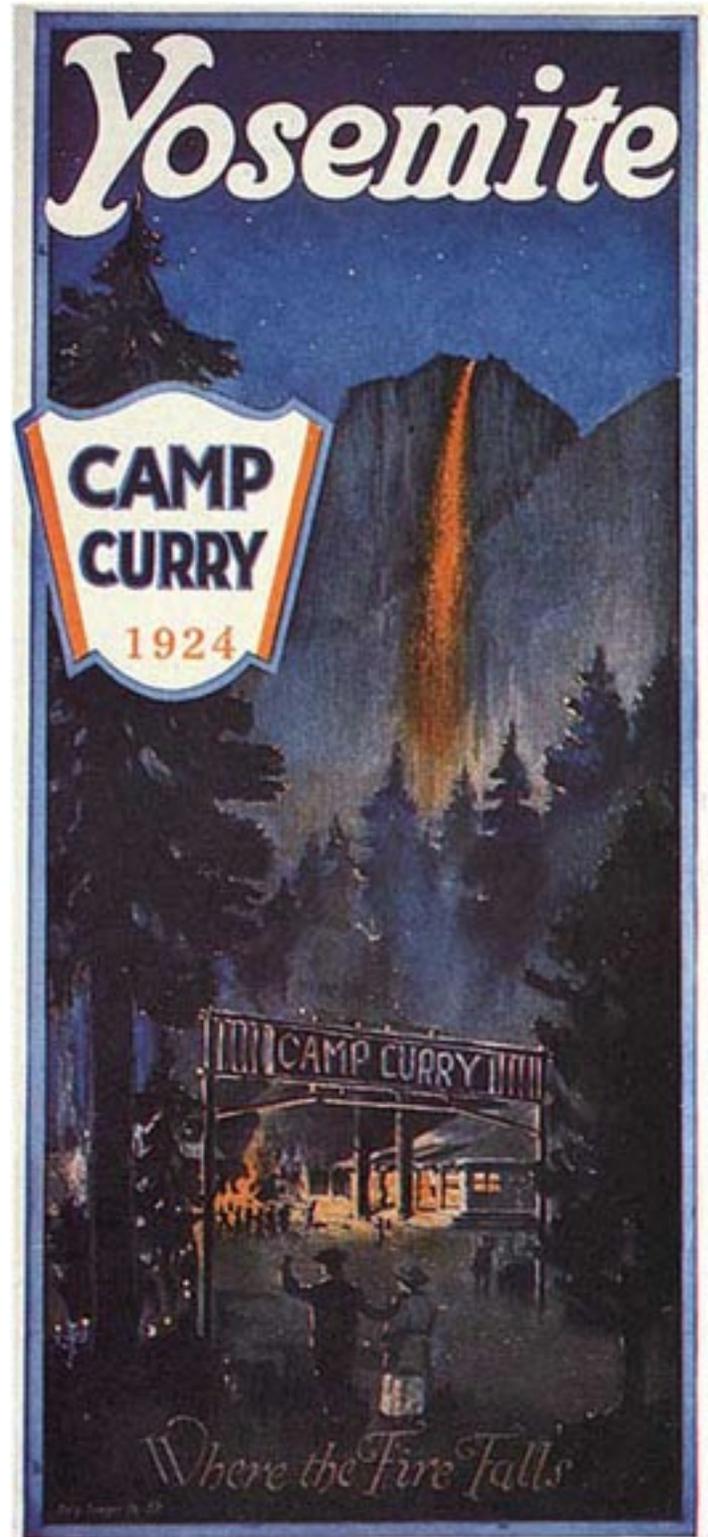
Supporters of AhwahneeCon have also noted that they'll be holding another one this coming summer!

One of the many reasons we love the Yosemite Valley for Westercon is all of the history. Why, the Wawona Hotel was built in the 1950s, the Ahwahnee in the 1920 and most of the bathrooms in the campgrounds seem to be from the distant past as well. It's a place that's positively puking history! It's almost ideal for a group like us who loves history so much we completely ignore it in favor of the future!

One of the great things about Yosemite used to be Fire Fall. If you're over 50 and visited in the old days, you may have seen it. People would gather at Camp Curry before 9pm. A guy would yell "Let the Fire Fall" and push over a bunch of embers that would rain down like a waterfall...only made out of fire. You can see it in *The Caine Mutiny* when one of the guys goes on shore leave to Yosemite. It supposed started in the 1970s when Mr. Curry pushed the embers of a fire they had started to keep warm on Glacier point over the edge to the valley below. Since it was all rocks, there wasn't much danger of a forest fire, but the idea stuck and Curry began doing it every night in summer in 1880. It ran until 1968 when the killjoys of the National Park Service took it away. Still, there were millions of people who saw it during the 88 year run of the Fire Fall and many people still say that it was the best thing about Yosemite in the old days.

Untill 2009!

That's right, in 2009, if the AhwahneeCon bid goes through, we'll br bringing back Fire Falls in a totally new form! We'll be doing it New School using techniques that would make even John Muir proud. The AhwahneeCon committee discovered a catalog with a USB devise called "Really Giant Light Waterfall". When we picked one up to complete an order, it turned out to be several thousand feet of fibre optic wire that can run off of a single computer and seems to simulate the falling of fire. The good people in Curry Village will get a full view of the wonderful happening each night of Westercon 2009 at 9pm, just like in the old days.



You'll be able to sit and marvel at the spectacle as if it were a real event.

And with this change in our programming, it's made something else terribly evident once we started thinking about it. We're going to have to do it again, one last time.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the AhwahneeCon committee is proud to announce that...



WE'RE MOVIN' AT CAMP CURRY!!!

That's right, we're going to Camp Curry so that every attendee will get the chance to see the Fire Fall when it happens! We're very happy to be bringing the Westercon to the place where it belongs...tents in the near-wilderness.

Camp Curry has everything you could possibly want. There's a fine story, an excellent little restaurant, an fire ring where night programmign can be held. There's even a meeting room that'll serve as a fine location for a ConSuite. There's even a post office so you can send messages to all your con-going buddies who will be so freakin' jealous that you got to attend AhwahneeCon when they didn't! All of this so close to nature that you practically have to walk across all of creation



just to get to the showers!

So, NOW we're finished with the moving. I mean, what could make us want to move out of a place with the luxurious accommodations you see above? That's right, nothing! Nowhere else in the world would our USB Fire Falls look so awesome and be so ecological. In fact, if we didn't host it at Camp Curry, I'm not sure where we'd hold it. There's nothing lkike it in Yosemite Valley as far as price, quality of facilities and just plain fun! Camp Curry has it all!

While there are still some things to be negotiated (like possible on-site Acorn storage), we'll get it done and get 'er done right! That's the AhwahneeCon way!

