

EVALUATION OF
HISTORICAL AND
ARCHITECTURAL
SIGNIFICANCE

of

BIG TREES LODGE
Mariposa Grove of
Giant Sequoia Trees

Yosemite National Park
California

By

Gordon Chappell
Regional Historian

Jack Gyer
Park Curator

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San Francisco:
National Park Service
1982


EVALUATION OF HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF BIG TREES LODGE, YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Big Trees Lodge was a small guest lodge located in the Mariposa Grove of Big Trees (*Sequoiadendron Giganteum*, or Giant Sequoia) of Yosemite National Park. The date of construction of the original Big Trees Lodge is unknown, but it dates from at least 1920 and possibly much earlier. As of a 1920 plan, it consisted principally of about 17 guest cabins of three types: wood frame with gable roofs, canvas on wood frame, and canvas tents. The largest structure was a rustic, wood-frame octagonal dining room built around a living Giant Sequoia tree; adjacent was a rectangular kitchen which connected by a corridor with the dining room. After the new and more substantial Big Trees Lodge was completed in 1933, all of the structures which constituted the old lodge were demolished.

Built in 1933 by the Yosemite Park and Curry Company to meet a commitment to the National Park Service to upgrade the tourist accommodations in Yosemite National Park, the new lodge was a rambling, wood frame, gable-roofed building designed to fit the sloping contour of the land and twist around existing Giant Sequoia trees. At one corner of the lounge in the central part of the structure was a rustic stone fireplace and chimney, the only architectural feature of the whole complex which had any distinction. The rambling building was mostly bereft of any architectural features worthy of note. The exterior walls were horizontal siding, the roofs shingled, the foundations concrete. Porches had simple, functional railings. Attached to one end of the central portion of the building was a wing which contained the twelve guest rooms. Two smaller wings extending from the other end of the central portion contained quarters for men servants and women servants. During its history, the building was a little-known, rather obscure, resort, which had, according to the principal historian of Yosemite concessioners, a "limited but enthusiastically select clientele." No individuals of historical significance are known to have been associated with the lodge, no events of historical significance are known to have occurred there, and the lodge possesses no significance as representing a particular type of accommodation or particular type of architecture. The lodge closed in 1972.

In terms of context, while not written for historic preservation purposes, a commercial popular history, Yosemite and its Innkeepers by Shirley Sargent, does provide some degree of context. It is interesting to note, therefore, that in this 176-page 8½ by 11 inch book, there are only three page references to the Big Trees Lodge with a grand total of only 64 words devoted to the property. Clearly, author Sargent did not consider it among the park's really significant accommodations.

Thus in terms of historical and architectural significance (see separate evaluation of the latter by Historical Architect Anthony Crosby), and in terms of the context provided by a history essentially of Yosemite hotels, lodges and camps, the Big Trees Lodge built in 1933 does not appear to qualify for even the lowest level of significance on the National Register of Historic Places.


Gordon Chappell
Regional Historian



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

P.O. BOX 577

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK, CALIFORNIA 95389

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H30 (WR)RCH

MAY 14 1982

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Western Region

From: Superintendent, Yosemite

Subject: Environmental Impacts of the Big Trees Lodge

The Mariposa Grove is one of Yosemite's most important natural and scientific resources, and next to Yosemite Valley, a major reason for the establishment of the former grant and this park. Preservation of the natural character and serenity of this grove and protection of the relict giant sequoia trees from all man-made impacts was of paramount importance in the act establishing this park.

The Big Trees Lodge in the upper portion of the grove has been closed as a summer visitor facility since 1972, and has long been identified by the National Park Service as an environmental liability. Although architecturally somewhat attractive, the Lodge has only been used sporadically since then to house YCC and CCC crews and a few cross country skiers during winter. Due to its adverse impact on the grove and the lack of adaptive use, the Lodge now is truly a structure in the wrong location. Accordingly, it is listed for removal in the Park's approved General Management Plan and its Environmental Impact Statement.

The upper grove is probably the most attractive part of the Mariposa Grove and is a natural area of incredible interest and beauty. Unfortunately, there are three buildings dispersed through that area that together tend to give this grove an appearance of overdevelopment. The Lodge, a large building, is the last important and due to its size, prominent location and appearance, constitutes a serious aesthetic impact on the natural scene.

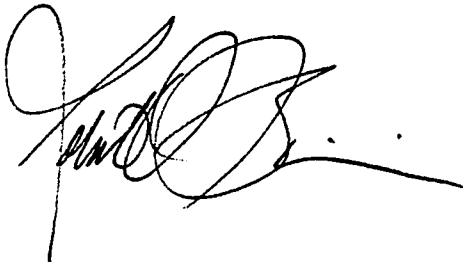
Secondly, there is a continuous fire threat represented by this structure. The building, erected in 1932, is of all wood construction, has no sprinkler system or other significant fire prevention equipment and is approximately 6.25 miles from Fish Camp, the site of the closest volunteer fire brigade. Should this building catch fire, it is doubtful if this brigade could respond in time to prevent total loss of the structure. Also any such fire would probably be so intense that several to many nearby sequoias would be killed, a risk the park can ill afford to take.

Year of
the
Visitor

The wastewater system for this structure, which consists of a sewerline, septic tank and leachfield is underdesigned for the level of use the Lodge originally received. As a consequence, leachfields failed frequently and for long periods untreated effluent flowed on top of the ground. Attempts to replace leachfields always entailed trenching, which had adverse impacts on nearby sequoia trees. Although recent use of the lodge is not known to have overtaxed the existing system, it is likely that it did when large YCC crews were quartered there. Also the altered environment resulting from the existing wastewater system significantly expands the footprint of man in a relatively small area originally set aside for the protection of a unique resource.

The lodge is sufficiently large to interfere locally with drainage and thereby probably adversely affects giant sequoias growing nearby. Also, use of this structure concentrates people and is responsible for the bare, trampled appearance of the ground nearby. This latter condition is inimical to the survival of sequoia seedlings and other native plant life.

In view of the above coupled with the lack of any compelling reason to save the structure, we urge that permission be granted for immediate removal of the Big Trees Lodge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J. D. B.", written in a cursive style. The signature is located below the text of the document.

BIG TREES LODGE

The existing "Lodge" was constructed from about July through October of 1932 in the Mariposa Grove of Big Trees, Yosemite National Park at a cost varying from \$35,000 to \$50,000. Preceding this construction, there was an earlier development, also called the Big Trees Lodge, consisting of sixteen cabins and an octagon shaped headquarters which was built in 1920. These units were razed to make room for the present building.

One wing contains twelve rooms, four with private bath, the opposite wing has eight rooms, ostensibly for employees. A lounge, office, gift shop, dining room, kitchen and manager's office make up the remainder of the building. The lodge is about two miles from the lower Grove area and approximately four miles from the south entrance to the park.

Cafeteria service was offered to guests and visitors. Winter use was envisioned "...when the road is open for year-round use," but actual operation was approximately June 1 to September 15. Heavy snows delayed opening dates. The lodge was run on the European plan.

Big Trees Lodge ceased operations as a guest accommodation function in 1972. It has served as a dormitory for YCC groups until this year. A fire broke out in the kitchen and a falling tree smashed the roof during the winter of 1982.

Mr. Joe Higuera, Park Sanitarian, was not sure of the status of the water supply but stated that the waste disposal system displayed evidence of saturation and overflow in past years.

Aside from its impact on the Sequoia ecosystem, the building presents a significant fire hazard to the surrounding grove. Firefighting units are about eight miles away, enough time during a dry year for substantial damage to be generated.

Any historic importance of the structure is scarcely documentable, except for its age, just less than fifty years. It is neither the first nor only lodge in a Sequoia grove. Nothing unique nor influential was offered for the environment or the visitors. It was, simply and only, a means to earn money for the concessioner. The opportunity to experience a stay in the grove was available to only two hundred fifty or so guests each season. The cost of rehabilitating the lodge and maintaining it, compared to the funding urgently needed for other, significant historic structures, in the park poses the reality that the structure would rapidly deteriorate in the severe climate for want of care. The opportunity exists now to remove the building and utilize the material for repair and maintenance of historic places.

Jack Gyer
Park Curator

Sources

Shirley Sargent, Yosemite and Its Innkeepers, 1975, Yosemite: Flying Spur Press.

Carl Parcher Russell, One Hundred Years in Yosemite, 1959, Yosemite: Yosemite Natural History Association.

Annual Report of the Director of the National Park Service to the Secretary of the Interior, Washington, D. C., 1932, Government Printing Office.

General Information Regarding Yosemite National Park, 1934, U.S.D.I., National Park Service, Washington, D. C., Government Printing Office.

A Report on a Provisional Program for the Development of the Buildings, Equipment, and Grounds of Yosemite Park and Curry Company for a Five-Year Period from 1930 to 1935, Yosemite Park and Curry Company, March 1, 1930, (Big Trees section p. 76 - 78)

U.S.D.I., National Park Service, "Mariposa Grove Development" file, 1924-1948 correspondence.

"Big Trees Lodge in the Mariposa Grove, Yosemite National Park", Yosemite Park and Curry Company, 1933.

"Big Trees Lodge in the Mariposa Grove, Yosemite National Park", Yosemite Park and Curry Company, 1934.

The following is an evaluation of the architectural significance of the Big Trees Lodge at the Mariposa Grove, Yosemite National Park, by Denver Service Center Historical Architect Anthony Crosby. The evaluation is based upon the criteria for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

DESCRIPTION

The Big Trees Lodge at the Mariposa Grove is a concession owned structure in Yosemite National Park. It was designed by Architect Eldridge Spencer and constructed in 1932 to serve as sleeping and eating accommodations for guest and concessioner employees. It was closed for overnight guest use when the Mariposa Grove was closed to automobile traffic, ca. 1968, but food was served to guests for a few more years afterwards. In more recent times the Lodge has been used only occasionally for such things as seasonal housing for construction personnel working in the general area and for overnight lodging for an occasional winter ski touring group. In addition to the building itself there are several ground level concrete platforms which served as places for group gatherings, night camp fires, and similar activities.

General Characteristics

The overall shape of the plan of the Big Trees Lodge is basically that of a bent or broken "Y" oriented along an east-west axis. The floor at the east end of the building is approximately ten feet higher in elevation than the west end as it follows the sloping terrain from east to west (Figure 1). This grade change is accomplished in five short sets of stairs.



Figure 1: A view of the east end of the lodge looking west. The relationship of the building to the sloping site is somewhat evident here.

Within the approximately 7,000 square feet of the lodge are 12 guest rooms, bath rooms, a dining room, a kitchen, a lounge, storage rooms, and employee rooms. Two of the guest rooms have private baths, four other guest rooms have semi-private, shared baths, and the other six have a sink in each room. There is also one bathroom in the east portion of the structure to serve occupants of eight employee rooms.

The lodge is of platform frame construction on a perimeter concrete foundation wall and concrete piers. The exterior siding is a 1" x 12" "v"-groove lap siding used horizontally (Figure 2). The majority of the windows are double-hung, two-light sash, most have screens and all exterior openings are shuttered. Most roofs are simple gables, although the west end has a gabled hip with the hip portion extending over the west porch (Figure 2). Because of the rather complex floor plan, there are several other small roofs, and roof junctures that vary from a standard gable roof. Small louvered ventilators are shown in construction drawings to have been located on the north side of the gable roof of the central portion of the structure, but do not exist currently. A large stone fireplace and chimney are located on the west side of the lounge.



Figure 2: The west end of the building from the southwest.

As can be seen in Figure 3, architectural detailing is very minimal overall in the interior. The interior walls are covered with random width "v" - groove siding used vertically and the floors are wood on a diagonal wood subfloor. The boiler room located just east of the kitchen has a concrete floor and most guest rooms presently have carpet over the wood flooring.

A small fire did some minimal damage to the north eave of the central portion of the building and a tree fell across the west portion this past winter. However, the building appears generally to be in reasonably good structural condition.



Figure 3: A view in the hall of the guest rooms wing.

SIGNIFICANCE

The construction of a building such as this for guest accommodations in direct proximity to an important material resource was somewhat typical until quite recently in our National Parks. Many other structures of similar use were built in other areas of Yosemite National Park. There are also examples in other significant natural areas such as in Sequoia National Park. Consequently, its use and association with the natural landscape is not unusual, although present values and management directions are in opposition to this type of association, which is often detrimental to the natural environment.

The Big Trees Lodge has no significant associative value with any person or persons. Neither does it have any significance from the standpoint of landscape design. Although not significant, an interesting architectural feature is related to the siting of the building and the way that the building changes elevations as it follows the contours of the land.

In summary, it is my professional judgement that the Big Trees Lodge has no significant architectural value or merit, and does not meet the criteria for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

"Big Trees Lodge" brochure
(Library attic)

"Old Big Trees Lodge"

BIG TREES LODGE

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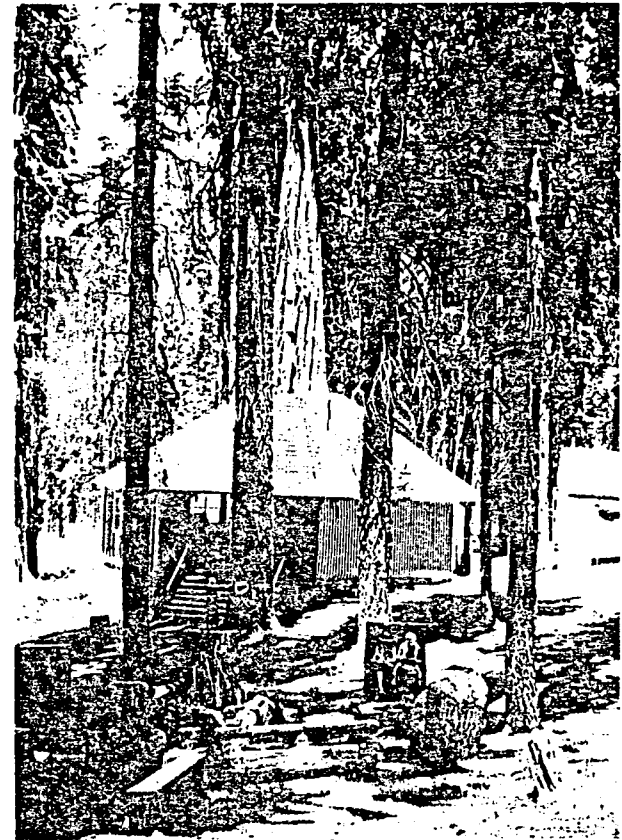
LUNCHEON UNDER THE BIG TREES

THE BIG TREES LODGE is located in the heart of the Mariposa Grove. The Lodge is recommended as an overnight stop for the motorists traveling to or from Yosemite by way of the Wawona Road. It is thirty-five miles from Yosemite and ninety-one miles from Merced.

At Big Trees Lodge meals and lodging are available at reasonable rates. The lodging facilities consist of cabins located among the Big Trees. They are comfortably furnished and heated with wood stoves. At the open-air cafeteria, one may dine from unique tables made of cross sections from fallen Big Trees, with scarlet tanagers, blue jays and other wild birds for next-door neighbors and the Giant Sequoias towering above. Big Trees Lodge enjoys a reputation for fine meals and hearty hospitality. It is an ideal vacation spot for those who enjoy the quiet of a great forest and the simple life in the open. Each evening the guests of the Big Trees Lodge gather about the campfire to spin yarns and plan the next day's adventures. A number of interesting trails lead from the Lodge through the Mariposa Grove.

[5]

BIG TREES LODGE



BIG TREES LODGE HEADQUARTERS

"Big Trees Lodge" brochure v.d.
(Library etc)

BIG TREES LODGE

[10]



"Y. T. S." STAGE IN THE MARIPOSA GROVE

BIG TREES LODGE

[11]



BIG TREES LODGE REDWOOD CABINS

RATES AND INFORMATION

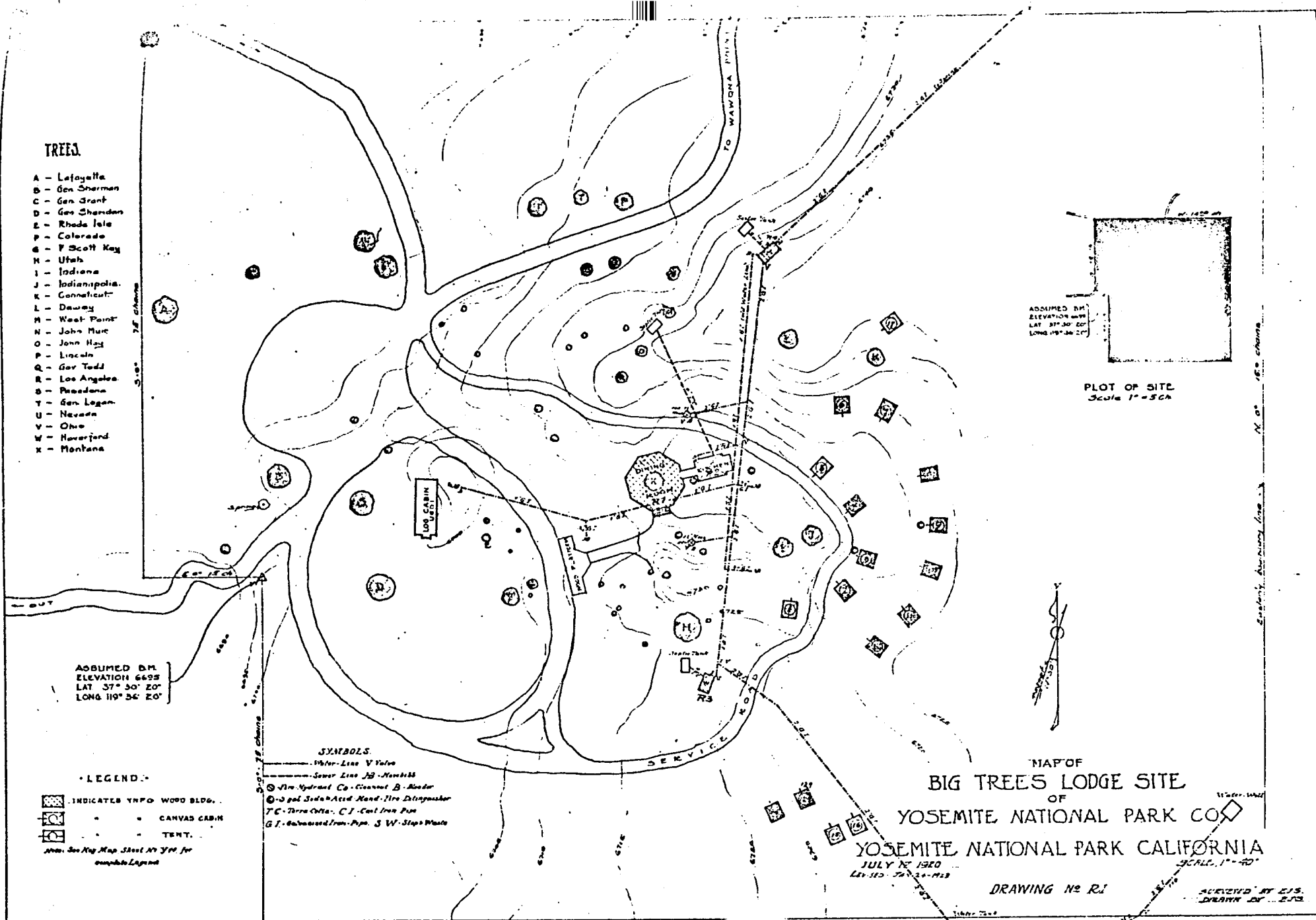
THE BIG TREES LODGE is open June 1 to September 1; capacity 30. The elevation is 6000 feet. Big Trees Lodge is served daily by "Y. T. S." Stages from Yosemite and "Horseshoe Route" cars operating between Merced or Fresno and Yosemite. The fare from Yosemite is: One-way \$7.50; round-trip \$10.00. Big Trees Lodge has telephone connection with Yosemite Valley and long-distance service with other localities. Guests are requested to make reservations in advance.

Rate per person, European Plan:

One person in cabin \$3.00 per day

Two or more persons in cabin 2.00 per day

Meals are served cafeteria style.



From A Report on a Provisional Program
for the Development of the Buildings, Equipment, and Grounds of
Yosemite Park and Curry Co. for a Five-Year Period from 1930

YPCC 193

NEW BIG TREES LODGE

SITUATED in the heart of a magnificent grove of giant sequoias, the small but charming Big Trees Lodge harmonizes with its superb setting and offers every modern comfort and convenience. Designed so that you are in touch with the grandeur of the age-old trees around you even when indoors, the architecture of the Lodge is romantically patterned after the homes of the settlers of the gold rush days.

IN THE SHADE OF THE SEQUOIAS. One may dine on an outdoor terrace, with the tremendous trees lifting their leafy branches to the deep blue sky above and scarlet tanagers and brilliant bluejays flashing back and forth in the sunlight. A sheltered porch invites you to rest and enjoy green forest vistas. In the evening, friendly groups gather around the outdoor fireplace, where the flames of the campfire light up the towering red-brown trunks of the mighty trees encircling it.

SMALL AND HOSPITABLE. The Lodge is planned for comfort and simplicity. The living room has an inviting fireplace for cool evenings, and glass doors frame ever-changing glimpses of the forest. The dining room opens onto the attractive outdoor eating terrace described above. Of the twelve bedrooms, four have private baths, and the remaining eight have hot and cold running water, with a bath conveniently near.

IDEAL FOR SHORT OR LONG STAYS. The Lodge is a convenient overnight stop for motorists traveling between Yosemite and Fresno or Merced by way of the Wawona Road, and a perfect vacation place for those who enjoy the quiet of a great forest and the simple life of the open. A number of interesting trails lead through the Grove. There is a splendid view of the High Sierra and of the Wawona basin from Wawona Point (elevation 7,000 feet), a short motor drive from the Lodge. It is only a 15-minute drive from the Grove to Wawona Hotel, where there is golf, riding and swimming; and 45 minutes over a high-gear road to Yosemite Valley.

SKI-ING HEADQUARTERS. The Lodge is planned for winter use. When the new paved road from Yosemite to the Big Trees is open all year, ski-ing parties can be comfortably accommodated and enjoy the excellent ski-ing in the vicinity. The sequoias, contrasted with the dead-white snow, are spectacularly beautiful.

Big Trees Lodge

HOW TO REACH

BY AUTOMOBILE: From Yosemite, by the high-gear Wawona Road which leaves Yosemite Valley near Bridal Veil Fall and passes through the new tunnel—35 miles. In good condition from May to October, it is expected that this road can be kept clear of snow, so that the Mariposa Big Trees can be reached in winter. From Fresno or Madera via the Wawona Road. From Merced to Mariposa on the All-Year Highway, thence via Wawona; this is a typical mountain road, with narrow stretches and steep grades, open in summer only.

BY MOTOR COACH SERVICE: Open-top coaches of the Yosemite Transportation System maintain daily service from May 1 to October 1 between Fresno and Yosemite Valley via the Mariposa Big Trees, stopping for luncheon at the Big Trees Lodge. A daily side-trip from Yosemite Valley to the Mariposa Grove is operated from May 1 to October 1; round-trip fare \$7.50. An overnight stop at Glacier Point Hotel on the rim of Yosemite Valley may be combined with the Big Trees trip.

RATES

The Big Trees Lodge is open from approximately May 1 to October 1. Capacity 24. Elevation 6,290 feet. European plan, with breakfast and dinner a la carte and luncheon cafeteria style. Box lunches may be ordered. Note discounts for stays of 3 or more days.

	Weekly	Over 7 Days	3 to 6 Days	1 to 2 Days
Rooms without bath				
2 or more in room	\$15.05	\$2.15 daily	\$2.25 daily	\$2.50 daily
1 person in room	\$21.00	\$3.00 daily	\$3.15 daily	\$3.50 daily
Rooms with bath				
2 or more in room	\$21.00	\$3.00 daily	\$3.15 daily	\$3.50 daily
1 person in room	\$29.75	\$4.25 daily	\$4.50 daily	\$5.00 daily

Children: Under 3 years, no charge; 3 to 10, half rate.

YOSEMITE PARK AND CURRY CO.

Yosemite National Park, California

In San Francisco, 39 Geary St. : Phone EXbrook 3906
In Los Angeles, 540 W. 6th St. : Phone VAndike 5022

Printed in 1933 by H. S. Crocker Co., Inc.

BIG TREES LODGE



IN THE MARIPOSA GROVE
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

THE MARIPOSA GROVE of BIG TREES

OF all Yosemite's many attractions the most romantic to the majority of visitors is the Mariposa Grove of Big Trees. As old as civilization, as graceful as a great waterfall, almost as sturdy as granite cliffs, the Giant Sequoias have an appeal not found in any other wonder of Yosemite—they are alive. The Mariposa Grove is the largest of three groves of Giant Sequoias found in Yosemite National Park and contains the largest trees. The Grizzly Giant, a great tree ninety-six feet in circumference, is said to be one of the two largest and oldest living things on earth. The Wawona Tree is perhaps the most widely known tree in the world—pilgrims from all lands come each year to take the trip in the motor stage that passes through the tunnel, more than eight feet wide and twenty-seven feet long, cut through its trunk.

HUNDREDS OF CENTURIES OLD

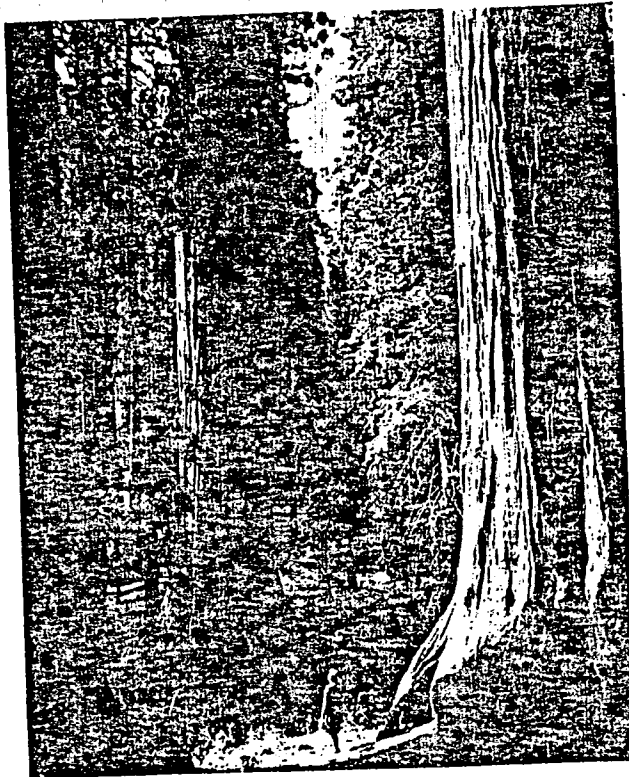
Some of the trees in the Mariposa Grove are thought to be at least 4,000 years old. The Grizzly Giant and the Wawona may be 5,000 years old. How these venerable giants managed to escape destruction from wind and storm and fire and glacier while nation after nation rose and fell is one of the mysteries of the world.

ONLY IN CALIFORNIA

Geologists hold the theory that once the western world was plentifully populated with sequoias, but that practically all of them were wiped out during the long glacial periods. The only ones that survived are in the Sierra Nevada region of California. The forerunners of the present trees may have escaped destruction because they grew in the few sheltered spots in the mountains not molested by glaciers. Thus storms were frustrated, too. The sequoias protected themselves against fire with an almost unburnable bark which slowly heals the wounds of fires.

One curious tree, the Telescope Tree, has had its heart completely burned out, yet it lives. It is one of the marvels of

the Mariposa Grove. Practically all of the Giant Sequoias have had their tops crashed off by lightning, one of their worst enemies. The Big Trees grow among great pines and firs, yet so immense are the sequoias that the neighboring trees, themselves large, are dwarfed by comparison.



THE SPELL OF EVENING

To really appreciate the Big Trees, one should stop among them for a while. The quiet of the Mariposa Grove, early in the morning when the sun's rays flit across the rugged trunks, brings peace. An experience to remember for a lifetime is an evening among these sighing giants. Then the Grove is likened to a great open-air temple with the sky for the roof and the Big Trees for the columns. The lights from the campfire chase the shadows through the forests, a witching sight, equaled only by the magic of a moonlight walk among these noble growths.

LOG CABIN MUSEUM

A free Government museum contains exhibits of the story of the big trees from the time they first appeared on earth, millions of years before humanity, to their discovery by Galen Clark in 1857, and their history from then until the present time. A Ranger-Naturalist, who leads nature walks through the Grove, is in attendance from May to September.

SIZES OF SOME OF THE BIG TREES

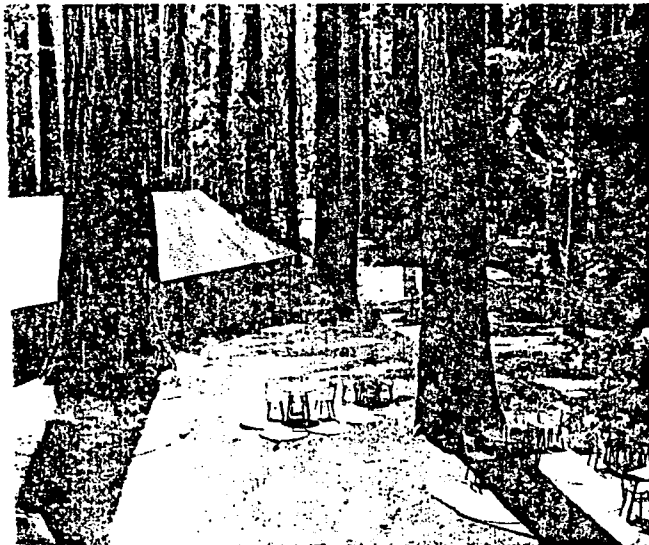
Name of the tree	Girth at base	Diameter at base	Height
	Feet	Feet	Feet
Grizzly Giant.....	96.5	27.6	209
Faithful Couple.....	95.8	30.6	244
Columbia.....	88.1	28.0	290
Lafayette.....	96.1	30.6	267
General Sheridan.....	78.0	24.8	258
St. Louis.....	78.6	25.0	277
Washington.....	93.5	29.7	238
Wawona.....	86.4	27.5	231
Mark Twain.....	55.7	17.7	274
Stable.....	92.0	29.5	266
Virginia.....	89.3	28.4	186
Clothespin.....	69.6	22.2	293
California.....	78.1	22.8	234

SIZES OF SOME OF THE BIG TREES

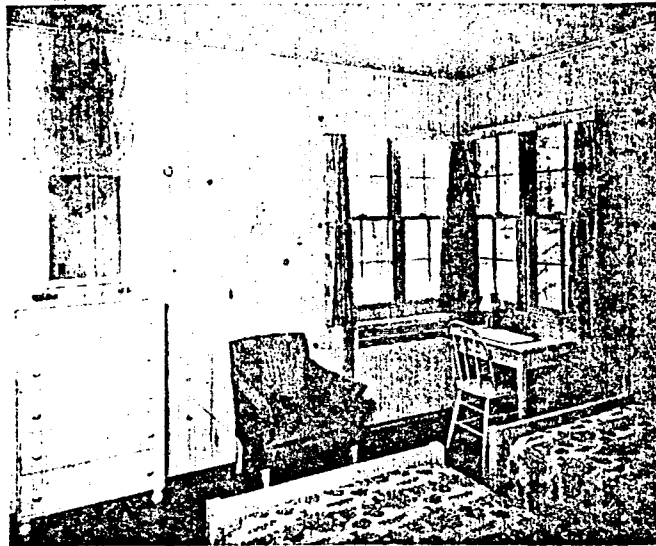
Grizzly Giant	Diameter at base 27.6 ft.	Height 209 ft.
Faithful Couple	Diameter at base 30.6 ft.	Height 244 ft.
Columbia	Diameter at base 28.0 ft.	Height 290 ft.
Lafayette	Diameter at base 30.6 ft.	Height 267 ft.
General Sheridan	Diameter at base 24.8 ft.	Height 258 ft.
St. Louis	Diameter at base 25.0 ft.	Height 277 ft.
Washington	Diameter at base 29.7 ft.	Height 238 ft.
Wawona	Diameter at base 27.5 ft.	Height 231 ft.

LOG CABIN MUSEUM

A free Government museum contains exhibits of the story of the big trees from the time they first appeared on earth, millions of years before humanity, to their discovery by Galen Clark in 1857, and their history from then until the present time. A Ranger-Naturalist, who leads nature walks through the Grove, is in attendance from May to September.



THE OUTDOOR DINING TERRACE



PLEASANT, RESTFUL BEDROOMS

The Big Trees Lodge is open from approximately June 1 to September 15. Capacity 24. Elevation 6,290 feet. European plan, with breakfast and dinner table d'hote and luncheon cafeteria style. Box lunches may be ordered. Note discounts for stays of 3 or more days.

RATES PER PERSON

Rooms without bath	Weekly	Over 7 Days	3 to 6 Days	1 to 2 Days
2 or more in room	\$15.05	\$2.15 daily	\$2.25 daily	\$2.50 daily
1 person in room	\$21.00	\$3.00 daily	\$3.15 daily	\$3.50 daily
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1 person in room	\$29.75	\$4.25 daily	\$4.50 daily	\$5.00 daily

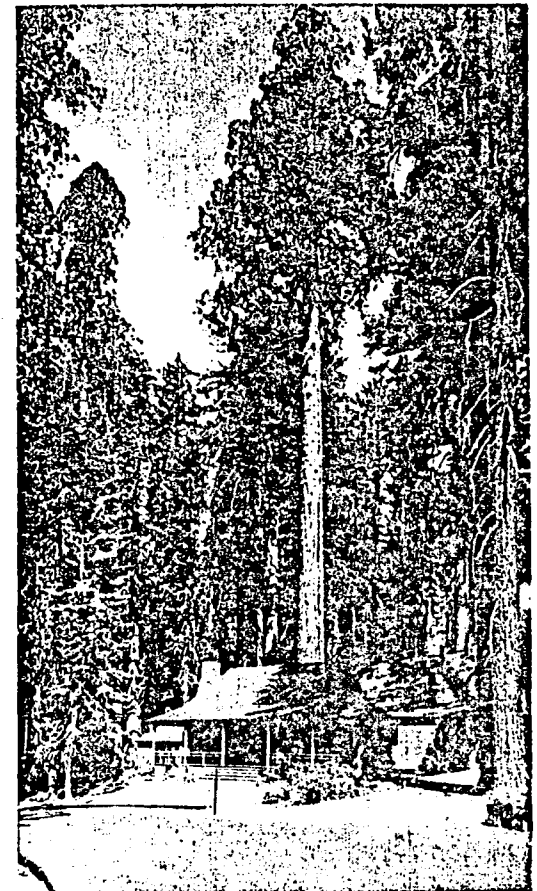
Children: Under 3 years, no charge; 3 to 10, half rate.

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Printed in 1934 by Schwabacher-Frey Company

BIG TREES LODGE



IN THE MARIPOSA GROVE
 YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK



WORLD'S OLDEST TREE

BIG TREES LODGE

BEAUTIFUL as the Mariposa Grove is at mid-day, its beauty is increased a hundred-fold in the late evening and early morning when sunset and sunrise illuminate the colossal red-bronze trunks of the Sequoias.

A DAY IS TOO BRIEF . . . Those who want more than a hurried glimpse of these splendid trees and who enjoy the quiet and restfulness of a magnificent forest will stay overnight at the new Big Trees Lodge.

SIMPLICITY AND COMFORT . . . The living room has glass doors across two sides that frame ever-changing forest vistas. A sheltered porch invites you to relaxation. Four of the twelve bedrooms have private bath. The remaining eight have hot and cold running water, with a shower conveniently near.

OUTDOOR DINING TERRACE . . . The dining room opens onto an outdoor dining terrace with the sky for a roof; tables are in the shade of the giant trees; and the floor is made of huge slabs hewn from a fallen monarch. Scarlet tanagers and bluejays flash in the sunlight, hoping for crumbs. Chipmunks and squirrels scamper about unafraid and deer come down from the mountains at dusk.

CAFETERIA LUNCHEON . . . Though small, the Lodge is prepared to serve a large number of mid-day meals cafeteria-style. Breakfast and dinner are table d'hôte.

FOR SHORT OR LONG STAYS . . . While the Lodge is a convenient overnight stop for motorists, it is also a perfect vacation place for those who enjoy the peace of a great forest. Interesting trails through the Grove, and a new 5-mile bridle trail to Wawona, offer splendid high mountain scenery. It is only a 15-minute drive to Wawona Hotel where an excellent mountain golf course, riding, tennis, swimming and trout fishing are available; and an hour over a high-gear road to all the scenic and recreational attractions of Yosemite Valley.

THE GREAT SEQUOIAS

TWO WORLD-FAMOUS PLACES . . . No California visit is complete without Yosemite. And to leave Yosemite without visiting the Mariposa Grove of Big Trees would be like leaving Egypt without seeing the Pyramids.

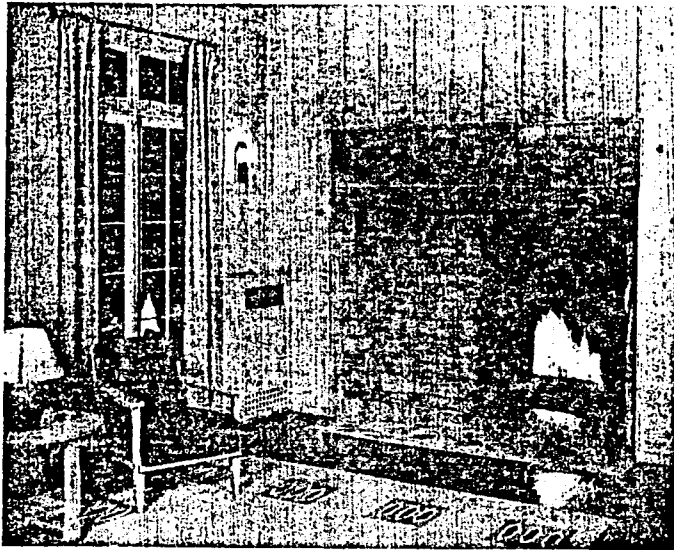
ONLY IN CALIFORNIA . . . Sequoia gigantea, the oldest and largest trees in existence, are found to-day only on the western slopes of the Sierra Nevada. The Mariposa Grove, the best known, is thirty-five miles from Yosemite Valley by high-gear road.

HUNDREDS OF CENTURIES OLD . . . Although they are of the same family as the Coast "Redwoods", the "Big Trees" are larger, taller, older. The Mariposa Grove has five hundred mature Sequoias and countless smaller ones. Some are estimated to be 4,000 years old and were full grown before Christ was born. How these venerable giants managed to escape destruction from wind, storm, lightning and fire, while nation after nation rose and fell, is one of the world's mysteries.

LIVING TUNNEL TREE . . . In 1881 a tunnel, eight feet wide and twenty-seven feet long, was cut through the living trunk of the now famous Wawona Tree so that the eight-horse stages of those days could drive through. To-day you may drive through this living tunnel in modern, sight-seeing motor coaches. Another widely-known tree is the Grizzly Giant, considered the oldest in existence. The Telescope Tree still lives although its heart was burned from roots to top (200 feet) so that you can stand inside the trunk and see the sky through its crest.

IMPRESSIVE MAJESTY . . . Smeaton Chase in his book "Yosemite Trails," says: "The spectator experiences . . . the awe of unutterable age, irresistible power, and infinite repose." Especially fortunate are visitors to the Mariposa Grove who see the moonlight creeping quietly over the forest and flocking with ghostly silver the deep-channeled trunks of these immemorial trees.

M A R I P O S A G R O V E O F B I G T R E E S



A CORNER OF THE LIVING ROOM

HOW TO REACH

BY AUTOMOBILE: From Yosemite, by the new high-gear, dustless Wawona Road which leaves Yosemite Valley near Bridal Veil Fall and passes through the new tunnel—35 miles. From Fresno or Madera via the Wawona Road. From Merced to Mariposa on the All-Year Highway, thence via Wawona; this is a typical mountain road, with narrow stretches and steep grades, open in summer only.

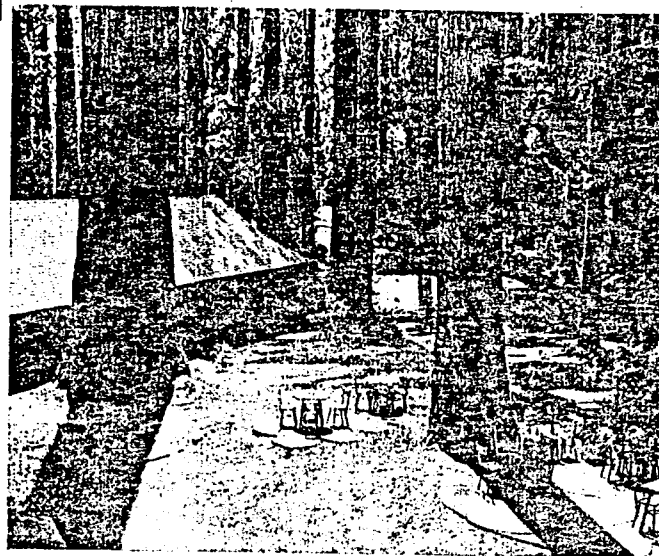
BY MOTOR COACH SERVICE: Open-top coaches of the Yosemite Transportation System maintain daily service from May 1 to October 1 between Fresno and Yosemite Valley via the Mariposa Big Trees, stopping for luncheon at the Big Trees Lodge. A daily side-trip from Yosemite Valley to the Mariposa Grove is operated all year; round-trip fare \$7.50. An overnight stop at Glacier Point Hotel on the rim of Yosemite Valley may be combined with the Big Trees trip during the summer.

SIZES OF SOME OF THE BIG TREES

Grizzly Giant	Diameter at base 27.6 ft.	Height 209 ft.
Faithful Couple	Diameter at base 30.6 ft.	Height 244 ft.
Columbia	Diameter at base 28.0 ft.	Height 290 ft.
Lafayette	Diameter at base 30.6 ft.	Height 267 ft.
General Sheridan	Diameter at base 24.8 ft.	Height 258 ft.
St. Louis	Diameter at base 25.0 ft.	Height 277 ft.
Washington	Diameter at base 29.7 ft.	Height 238 ft.
Wawona	Diameter at base 27.5 ft.	Height 231 ft.

LOG CABIN MUSEUM

A free Government museum contains exhibits of the story of the big trees from the time they first appeared on earth, millions of years before humanity, to their discovery by Galen Clark in 1857, and their history from then until the present time. A Ranger-Naturalist, who leads nature walks through the Grove, is in attendance from May to September.



THE OUTDOOR DINING TERRACE



PLEASANT, RESTFUL BEDROOMS

The Big Trees Lodge is open from approximately June 1 to September 15. Capacity 24. Elevation 6,290 feet. European plan, with breakfast and dinner table d'hote and luncheon cafeteria style. Box lunches may be ordered. Note discounts for stays of 3 or more days.

RATES PER PERSON

Rooms without bath	Weekly	Over 7 Days	3 to 6 Days	1 to 2 Days
2 or more in room	\$15.05	\$2.15 daily	\$2.25 daily	\$2.50 daily
1 person in room	\$21.00	\$3.00 daily	\$3.15 daily	\$3.50 daily

Rooms with bath	Weekly	Over 7 Days	3 to 6 Days	1 to 2 Days
2 or more in room	\$21.00	\$3.00 daily	\$3.15 daily	\$3.50 daily
1 person in room	\$29.75	\$4.25 daily	\$4.50 daily	\$5.00 daily

Children: Under 3 years, no charge; 3 to 10, half rate.

YOSEMITE PARK AND CURRY CO.

Yosemite National Park, California
 In San Francisco, 39 Geary St. : Phone EXbrook 3906
 In Los Angeles, 540 W. 6th St. : Phone VAndike 5022

Y.P.C.C. "Big Trees Lodge, Yosemite National Park, California"
 n.d.

"New Big Trees Lodge"



One of the most pleasing features of the Big Trees Lodge is the open air dining terrace where meals may be enjoyed in the shade of the giant redwoods. The charm of this forest dining room is enhanced by the unique floor on which the tables are grouped. The circular blocks which form the pavement are cross sections from the remains of an old tree felled half a century ago.

BIG TREES LODGE

Elevation, 6000 feet; capacity, 30

Simplicity and complete modern comforts distinguish Big Trees Lodge, in the heart of the Mariposa Grove. Every window of this picturesque mountain retreat frames an inspiring forest vista of unparalleled grandeur. A sheltered porch invites relaxation; the dining room opens on a spacious outdoor terrace with the sky for a roof; four of the twelve rooms have private baths and the remainder have running water and a shower conveniently near.

As an overnight stop for Yosemite motorists, or an extended vacation for those seeking complete rest and seclusion, Big Trees Lodge is ideal.

HOW REACHED: The Mariposa Grove is 35 miles from Yosemite Valley, via Wawona Road, or 10 minutes' drive from Wawona Hotel with its vacation recreations. It is also conveniently reached from Fresno or Madera via the Wawona Road; or from Merced via the All-Year Highway.

OPEN approximately May 1 to September 30. European Plan (meals not included) are:

(Rates subject to change without notice)

	Daily Per Person	Weekly Per Person
Room with bath:		
One person in room	\$5.00	\$29.75
Two or more persons in room	3.50	21.00
Rooms without bath:		
One person in room	3.50	21.00
Two or more persons in room	2.50	15.05

MEAL RATES: Breakfast, 50c, 75c or a la carte; Luncheon, Cafeteria Service; Dinner, \$1.25.

Children's Rates: Under 3, no charge; 3 to 10, inclusive, half rate; 11 and over, full rate.

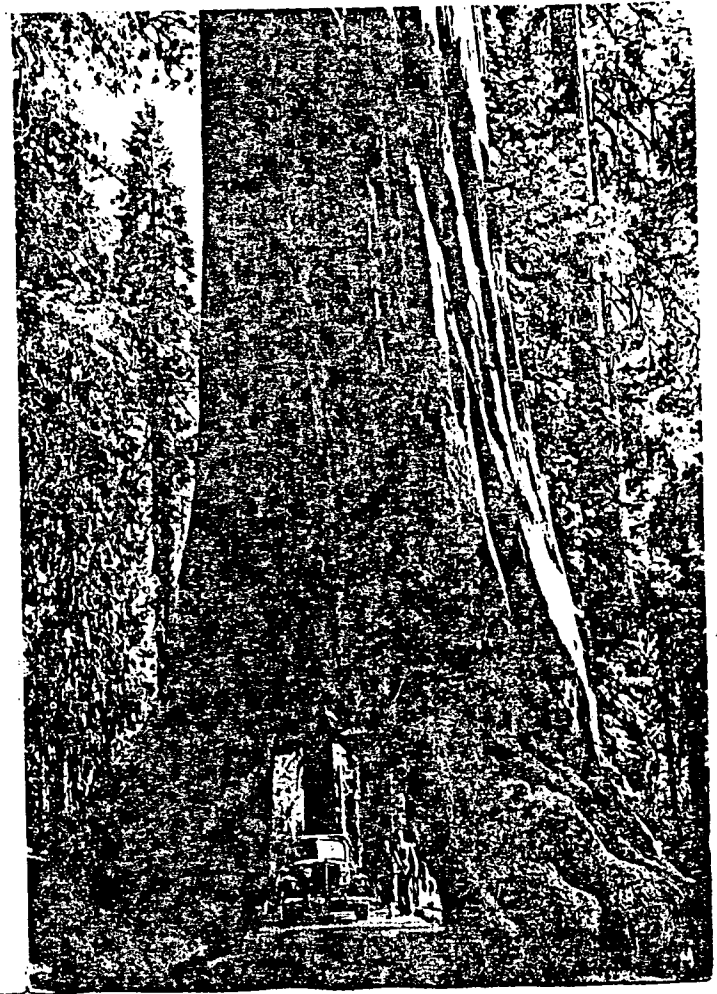
RESERVATIONS: Guests are requested to make reservations in advance, addressing Yosemite Park & Curry Co., Yosemite National Park, California, or by applying to the offices listed below.

YOSEMITE PARK & CURRY CO.
Yosemite National Park - California

SAN FRANCISCO - 39 GEARY STREET - TELEPHONE EXBROOK 3906
 LOS ANGELES - 612 SOUTH OLIVE ST. - TELEPHONE VANDIKE 2396

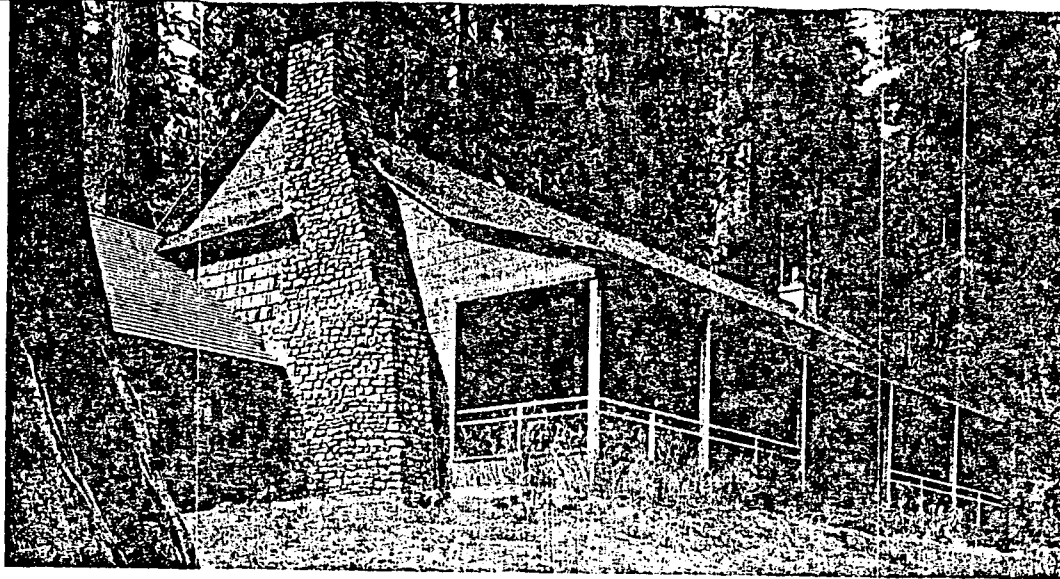
BIG TREES LODGE

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK - CALIFORNIA



YPCC "Big Trees Lodge, Yosemite National Park, California" n.d.

Most famous of the three stands of Sequoia Gigantea in Yosemite National Park is the Mariposa Grove, an hour's easy drive from the Valley. This grove of six hundred trees contains some of the largest known specimens, including the Wawona Tree and the Grizzly Giant. The Wawona Tree was tunneled through in 1881 to admit the passage of stage coaches. The Grizzly Giant is the patriarch of the grove, its age being estimated at 3,800 years. A score of people, with arms outstretched, would have difficulty encircling the trunk. Its base diameter is nearly 30 feet. . . . How these trees have withstood the ravages of time and the elements for centuries

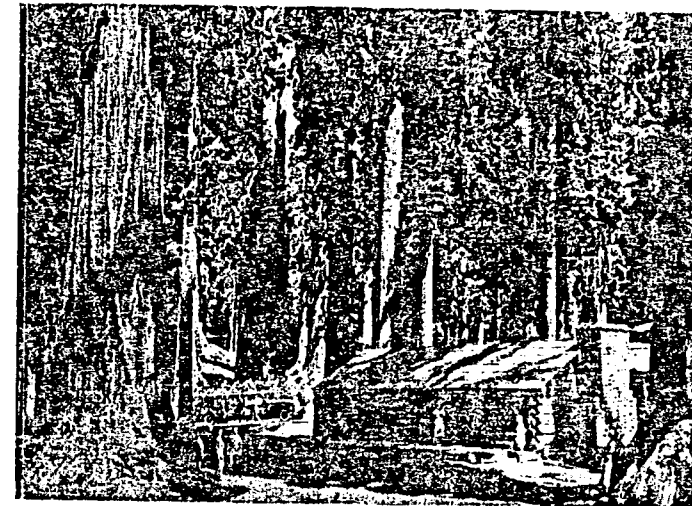


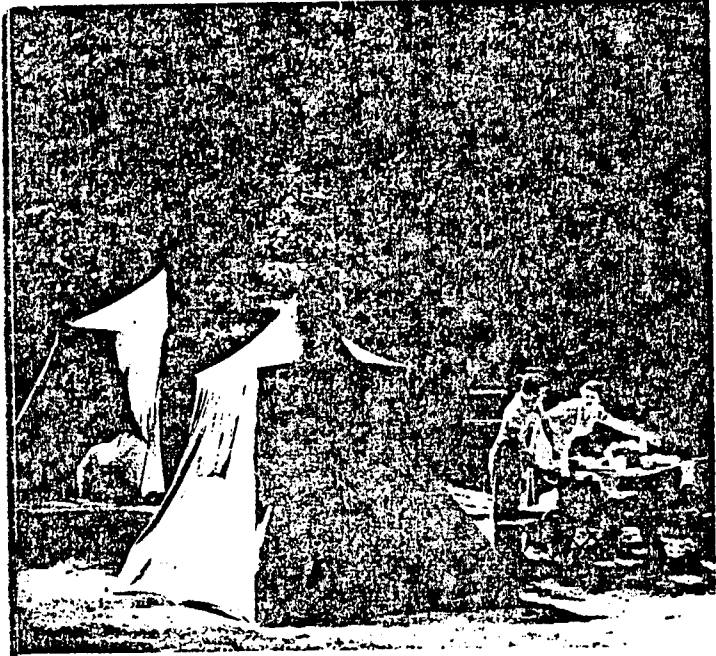
BIG TREES LODGE IN THE MARIPOSA GROVE

trunks are like the columns of a Greek temple—free of branches for upwards of 150 feet—is like being in another world. Here are trees that were mature when Rome fell—trees that antedate the Christian era by a thousand years and more. . . . Not far from Big Trees Lodge is the Government Museum, where many fascinating hours may be spent studying the growth, history and characteristics of the Sequoia Gigantea. At one end of the Museum the cross section of a Big Tree is on view, dated to correspond with its rings. During the summer a ranger naturalist is on duty and gives talks on the trees and answers the questions of visitors.



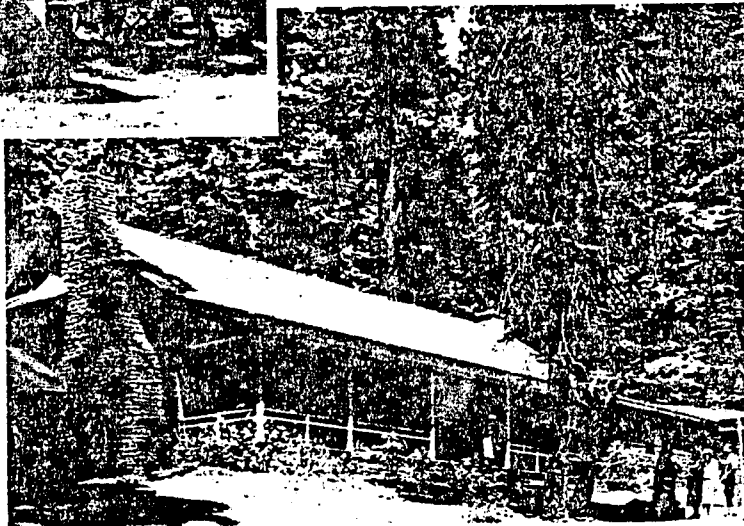
will forever remain a mystery. True it is, their fibrous, cinnamon-colored bark is fire-resistant and often attains a thickness of from one to two feet; but their roots are shallow for their towering heights. The Mark Twain, for example, stands 331 feet high. Notwithstanding, there have been few casualties in the two groups comprising Mariposa Grove. The Massachusetts tree, which was blown down in the winter of 1927, even though fallen, requires a stairway for one to mount its trunk. . . . To stand in the shade of these Big Trees, whose fluted





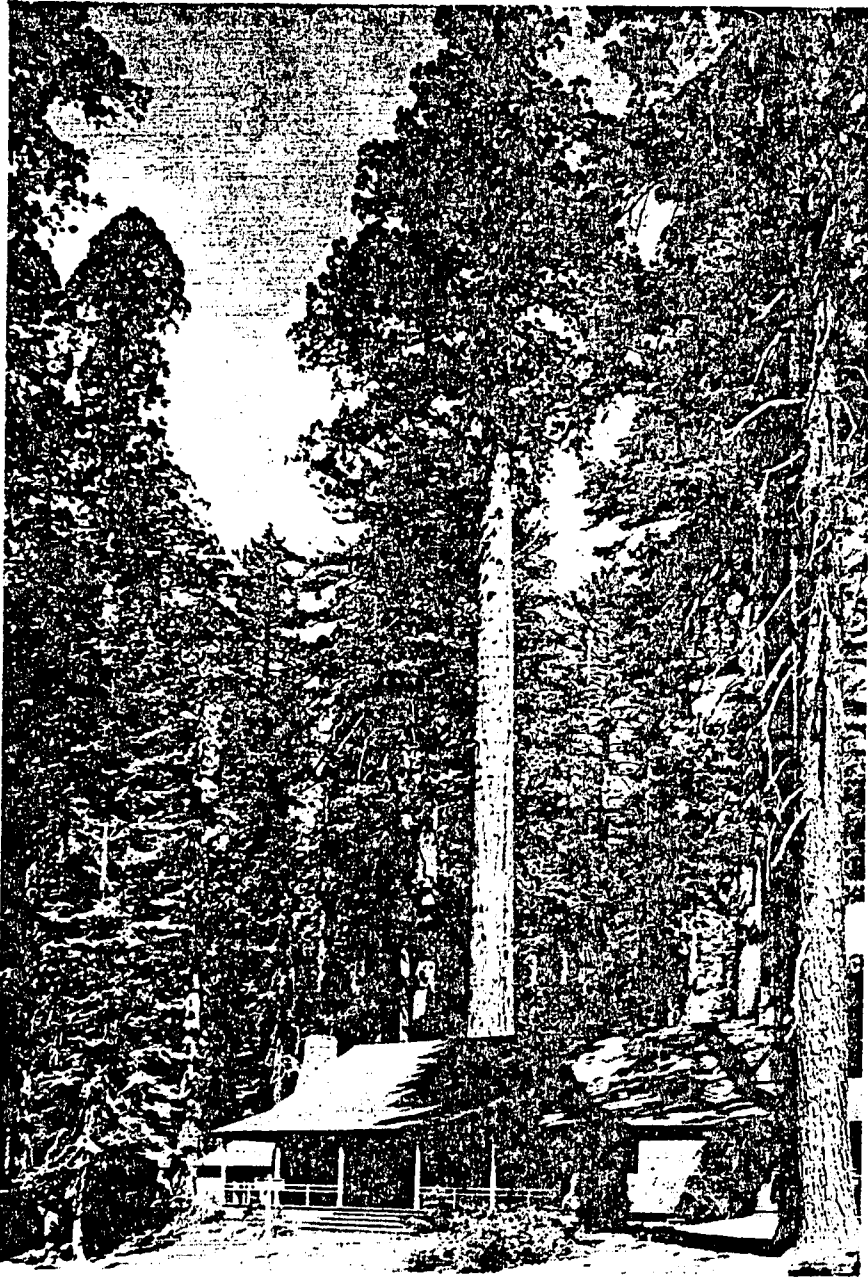
CAMPING IS IDEAL AMONG THE EVERGREENS IN YOSEMITE. THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE MAINTAINS WATER HYDRANTS, HEAVY TABLES WITH BENCHES ATTACHED, AND MODERN REST ROOMS. A RANGER IS STATIONED AT THE ENTRANCE TO EACH CAMPGROUND TO HANDLE REGISTRATION, ASSIST VISITORS, AND ADMINISTER THE AREA.

AN ATTRACTIVE LODGE OF ARCHITECTURE COMMON IN CALIFORNIA DURING THE "GOLD RUSH" DAYS OFFERS COMFORTABLE ACCOMMODATIONS FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO SLEEP IN THE MIDST OF THE MARIPOSA BIG TREES IN THE SUMMER.



TA-BU-CE, ELDERLY INDIAN WOMAN, POUNDS ACORNS BACK OF THE YOSEMITE MUSEUM IN A MODEL INDIAN VILLAGE. SHE DOES NATIVE COOKING, BEAD WORK AND BASKET WEAVING, AND RELATES STORIES OF OLD TIMES TO HER MANY WHITE FRIENDS. THIS IS ONE OF THE FEW PLACES WHERE CALIFORNIA INDIANS MAY BE SEEN AT WORK ON THEIR NATIVE ARTS AND CRAFTS.

Yosemite National Park—California



Big Tree Lodge.

Yosemite High Sierra

BIG TREES LODGE



SIMPLICITY and complete modern comforts distinguish the New Big Trees Lodge, at the heart of the Mariposa Grove. Surrounded by 600 Sequoia giants, the world's oldest living things, its windows frame a sun- and moon-splashed forest vista. A sheltered porch invites you to relaxation; the dining room opens on a majestic outdoor terrace with the sky for a roof; four of the twelve rooms have private baths and the remaining eight have running water and a shower conveniently near.

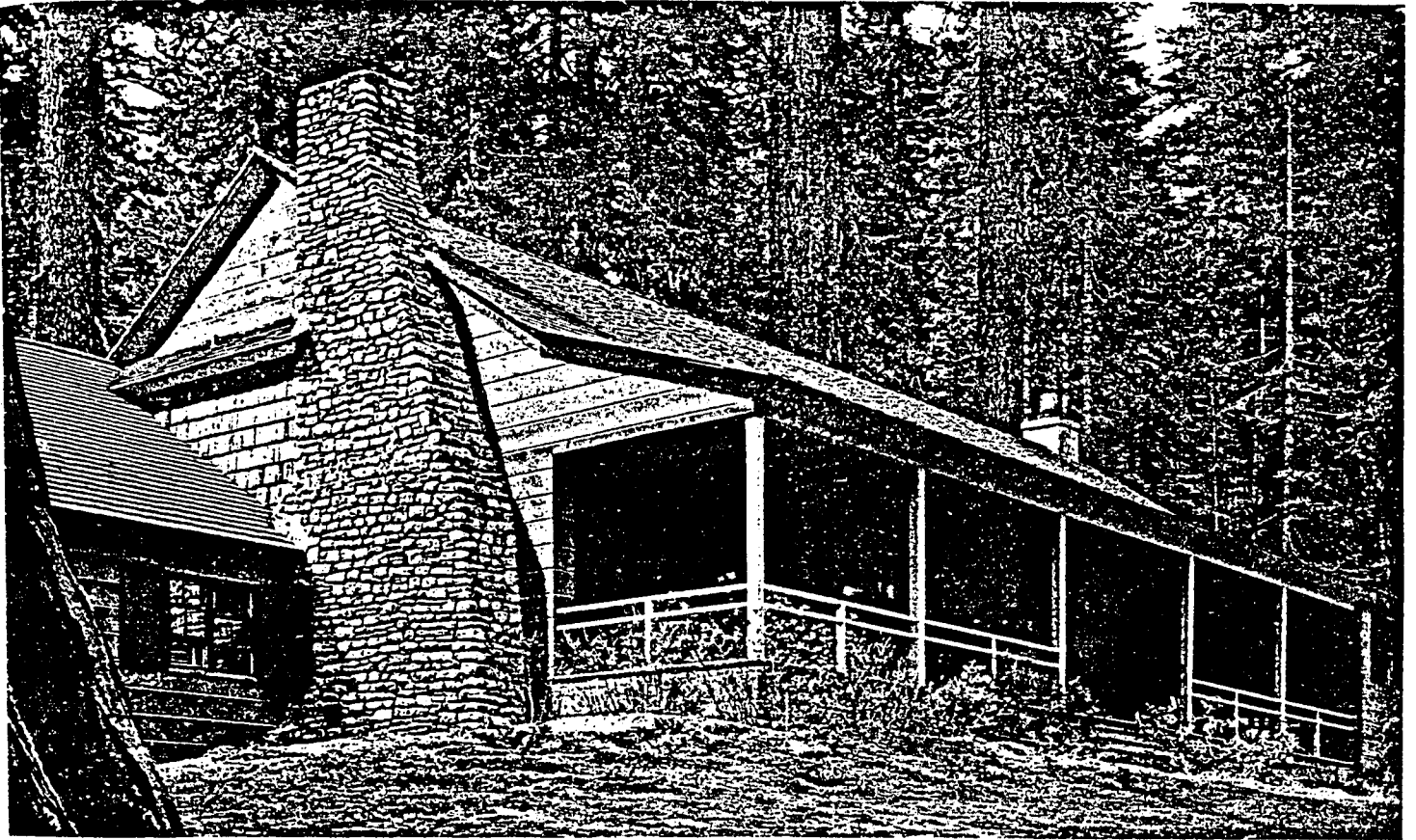
As an overnight stop for Yosemite motorists, or an extended vacation for those seeking complete rest and world-famed scenic diversion, Big Trees Lodge is ideal. Sequoia gigantea, the oldest and largest trees in existence, are found today only on the western slopes of the Sierra Nevada. The Mariposa Grove is the best known, and although its trees are of the same family as the Coast "Redwoods," the "Big Trees" are larger, taller, older. Some of the trees are estimated to be 4,000 years old and were full grown before Christ was born. How they managed to escape destruction from wind, storm, lightning and fire, while nation after nation rose and fell, is one of the world's mysteries.

NEAR YOSEMITE VALLEY. The Mariposa Grove is 35 miles from Yosemite Valley, via Wawona Road, or 15 minutes' drive from Wawona Hotel and all vacation recreations. It is also conveniently reached from Fresno or Madera via the Wawona Road; or from Merced via the All-Year Highway and connecting roads at Mariposa and Chinquapin (passable only during summer months).

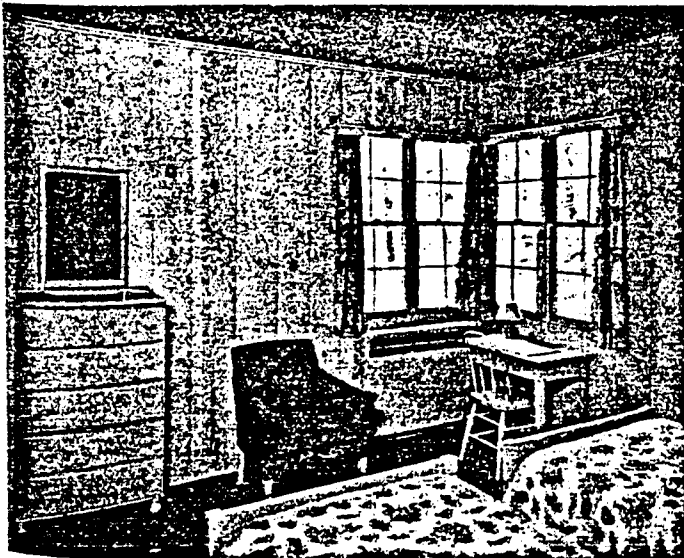
OPEN approximately May 1 to September 30. European Plan (meals not included) are:

	DAILY	WEEKLY
Room with bath:	Per Person	
One person in room.....	\$5.00	\$29.75
Two or more persons in room.....	3.50	21.00
Rooms without bath:		
One person in room.....	3.50	21.00
Two or more persons in room.....	2.50	15.05





Entrance Porch, Big Trees Lodge, Yosemite National Park



Interior, Big Trees Lodge, Yosemite National Park



Interior, Big Trees Lodge, Yosemite National Park

Opposite are pictured the plan and a general view of this small hotel in the awe-inspiring Mariposa Grove of Big Trees. The large cut above shows the entrance porch in closer detail. The surrounding trees prevent the taking of a photograph showing the full expanse of this attractive

building. The partial views obtainable evidence a nice simplicity of structure, deferential to the magnificence of the setting. A like simplicity is discovered in the interiors, which have an uncluttered modernity. Eldridge T. Spencer was the architect of this development.



Big Trees Lodge, Mariposa Grove, Yosemite National Park

