

ROAD TO YOSEMITE: CHAPTER TWO

Written by

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FADE IN

INT. MARIPOSA TODAY STUDIOS - DAY

HANK JOHNSTON and SHIRLEY SARGENT sit behind the brightly covered news desk shuffling papers and taking a last quick sip of coffee before the show starts.

HANK

Good morning and welcome to another edition of Mariposa Today.

SHIRLEY

We are coming to you live from our studios just down the street from our almost brand new County Courthouse. I'm Shirley Johnston.

HANK

And I'm Hank Johnston. I hear the clock in the clock tower of the courthouse cost over \$1200 and was shipped around Cape Horn from the East Coast.

SHIRLEY

Starting the day with fun facts.

HANK

Not a great segue, but we are now moving on to the sad facts.

SHIRLEY

Do we have to?

HANK

It says so on the teleprompter.

SHIRLEY

Okay. I'm ready.

HANK

First up, I am sad to report on the death of Major James Savage. While traveling on the Tulare Indian Reservation, Major Savage got into a fight with Major Walter Harvey. Harvey shot and killed Major Savage.

SHIRLEY

This is from the transcript in the People of the State of California vs Walter H Harvey. Mr. Edmunds is testifying. Edmunds says: "Yesterday morning Major Savage came into my house and asked Major Harvey if had said he was no gentleman. Major Harvey replied he had said it. Major Savage struck Major Harvey on the side of the head and knocked him down on some sacks of flour and then proceeded to kick and beat him. Judge Marvin and some one else interfered, and Major Savage was taken off of Major Harvey. Major Savage still had hold of Major Harvey, when Major Harvey kicked him. Major Savage then struck Major Harvey on the cheek, and knocked him down the second time, and used him, the same as before. Major Savage was again taken off, and they separated. Major Savage was in the act of attacking him again when Major Harvey drew his pistol and shot him."

HANK

Wow. That's terrible.

SHIRLEY

There's more. The DA asks: "Did Major Harvey shoot more than once? Edmunds: "I think he did; I found four holes in him."

HANK

What happened to Major Harvey.

SHIRLEY

It just so happened the Judge in the case, Judge Joel H. Brooks was put on the bench by Major Harvey.

HANK

Convenient.

SHIRLEY

Major Harvey, who was also a judge, was acquitted of all charges.

HANK

From writings in the San Francisco Daily Herald on Aug 21, 1852, it appears that this final altercation could be traced to an incident involving an Indian Reservation on the San Joaquin River.

SHIRLEY

When we talk about the Indians, there is only one man to talk to, joining us now, the Indian Commissioner for Central California Dr. Oliver Wozencraft.

Stout and sporting an amazing mustache connected to his mutton chops, DR. OLIVER WOZENCRAFT appears on the split screen.

WOZENCRAFT

Good morning, Shirley. Thank you for inviting me on.

SHIRLEY

Dr. Wozencraft do you know of any of the background behind this tragedy?

WOZENCRAFT

Yes, it seems that some white settlers entered into the reservation to put a ferry on the San Joaquin River just east of Fort Miller. One Indian responded to the provocation by telling the White Men they had no right to be on the land. Major Harvey gathered a group of men to go to the Indian Village and I guess put the Indians in their place. Two women were killed as well as several children. The Indians from this village who traded with Savage appealed to the Major for help. I think that's the reason Savage went to find Harvey.

SHIRLEY

But certainly all the treaties put in place would put an end to these confrontations?

WOZENCRAFT

You would think that. Except there is one little problem with the treaties.

HANK

What's that?

WOZENCRAFT

The treaties were never ratified.

HANK

What now?

WOZENCRAFT

The treaties were never ratified by the US Senate.

SHIRLEY

But didn't you move all the Indians off their lands?

WOZENCRAFT

Yes.

SHIRLEY

Put them in camps?

WOZENCRAFT

Also true.

SHIRLEY

Why didn't the Senate ratify the treaties?

WOZENCRAFT

There was an outcry from the people of California. They argued they didn't want to give all this valuable farmland to a bunch of digger Indians.

SHIRLEY

But we took valuable land from them.

WOZENCRAFT

I'm hoping the Senate will eventually ratify the treaties and these sorts of altercations will come to an end.

SHIRLEY

I hope so. Thank you for joining us
Commissioner Wozencraft.

Wozencraft's screen fades away.

HANK

But that's not the only sad news
coming from the region concerning
the Mariposa War.

SHIRLEY

That's right, Hank. It turns out
Chief Tenaya has also been killed
in a fight. But it was his fellow
Indians who did the deed.

HANK

Reports are unclear about the
reasoning behind the killing, some
say it was because Yosemite tribe
members stole horses from the Mono
tribe. Others suggest it was over a
gambling game. Either way Chief
Tenaya was killed.

SHIRLEY

The end of an era.

HANK

And the beginning of the tourist
era. News of the battles between
the Yosemite Indians and Mariposa
came out along with notice of the
remarkable features of the valley.

SHIRLEY

Here to talk about those early
reports is our friend Lafayette
Bunnell. Thank you for joining us,
Mr. Bunnell.

LAFAYETTE BUNNELL appears in the split screen, a
distinguished looking gentleman with full beard.

BUNNELL

Thank you for having me. And it's
Dr. Bunnell, to be clear.

SHIRLEY

Sorry, Dr. Bunnell. For our
viewers, Dr. Bunnell fought with
Major Savage as a part of the
Mariposa Battalion as a private.

(MORE)

SHIRLEY (CONT'D)

He was part of the group that was the first white party to actually enter the valley.

BUNNELL

Yes, the Walker party in 1932 might be the first Europeans to actually see the valley. Our group was the first to set foot in the valley. And I was responsible for christening the Valley as Yosemite Valley.

SHIRLEY

I think we knew that. But how did news of the valley first come to peoples attention?

BUNNELL

It should have been me. I told a Mr. Winchester on a journey to the Tejon Ranch in Southern California all about Yosemite Valley and gave him detailed account. But Mr. Winchester never published the story. I talked to another gentleman about my story. He didn't believe any of my descriptions. He thought I exaggerated about the heights of the waterfalls and wanted me to report the size of the waterfalls as half the size they actually are.

SHIRLEY

How high did you say the waterfalls were?

BUNNELL

Using a rough guess, I thought the Yosemite Falls was more than a 1000' tall.

HANK

1000'? That can't be right. That's three times the height of the Niagara Falls. Everyone knows those are the biggest falls in the United States.

BUNNELL

It was precisely because of that attitude, I declined to write that article. But I'm sure my assertions will be verified.

SHIRLEY

So, who did write the report.

BUNNELL

Lieutenant Moore out of Fort Fremont wrote the report. I believe that's where men like Mr. James Mason Hutchings first saw descriptions of the Yosemite valley.

SHIRLEY

Thank you, Dr. Bunnell.

Dr. Bunnell vanishes from the screen.

HANK

Fortunately for us, we happened to have Mr. Hutchings with us tonight. Mr. Hutchings. Thank you for being here.

Mr. JAMES MASON HUTCHINGS appears on the split screen.

HUTCHINGS

It is an honor to be on your program.

SHIRLEY

Wait. What's that accent?

HUTCHINGS

English. I was born in Towcester, England.

SHIRLEY

Why did you come to the United States?

HUTCHINGS

I saw George Catlin's American Indian Exhibition in Birmingham. There were paintings and artifacts, two live grizzly bears and several real American Indians. I knew right then I wanted to travel. And that's what I did.

(MORE)

HUTCHINGS (CONT'D)

I went to New York then on to New Orleans and eventually made my to California.

HANK

I can guess the answer, but what made you want to travel to California?

HUTCHINGS

Gold.

HANK

It's always Gold.

HUTCHINGS

I read about the Gold discovery in 1848 and made my way to California the following spring.

SHIRLEY

So, you were an original 49er?

HUTCHINGS

I was indeed. I ended up in the beautifully named Hangtown. Made some money. Lost some money. Wrote some articles for the Placerville Herald.

SHIRLEY

Is that how the Miner's Ten Commandments came about?

HUTCHINGS

My fame proceeds me. Yes, that grew out of an editorial I wrote about the less than, shall we say, savory conditions in the mining camps. I thought something should be done about giving Sunday back to the lord and I wrote about that. It proved so popular I expanded the article into the Miner's Ten Commandments. I sold a ton of those Lettersheets.

SHIRLEY

Did you make more money as a gold miner or as a Letter Sheet publisher?

HUTCHINGS

Let's just say I gave up gold mining. And I used that money to start my own magazine.

SHIRLEY

What was it called?

HUTCHINGS

Well, Hutchings California Magazine. I spent years traveling the state from Mariposa to the Oregon border. I even made it out to the Farallon Islands.

HANK

Was it during that travel you heard about Yosemite Valley and want to go there?

HUTCHINGS

Yo-Hamite.

HANK

Isn't it called Yosemite?

HUTCHINGS

No offense to Dr. Bunnell but the real name should be Yo-Hamite. I got that direct from the Indians. They say Yo-Hamite.

SHIRLEY

I thought they called the valley Ahwahnee?

HUTCHINGS

They do. But they call themselves the Yo-Hamites.

SHIRLEY

Not Ahwahneechee?

HUTCHINGS

They do. But Dr. Bunnell named the place after what he thought the Indians called themselves. And it should be Yo-Hamite?

HANK

Does anyone else call it Yo-Hamite?

HUTCHINGS

No.

SHIRLEY

But you did make it into the valley? You were the first tourist party?

HUTCHINGS

My friend James Lamon would beg to differ. He says his was the first tourist party. But my trip in July of 1855 was the first time a tourist party was written about in the newspaper. I was clever enough to bring along artist Tom Ayres.

HANK

Tell us about the trip. How did you get there? What was the journey like? Any problems along the way? Since you were among the first to be in there. You would know.

HUTCHINGS

Problems? Problems you say? Well, the first being that no one could remember how to get to the park. That was a bit of a problem.

HANK

I thought it was famous?

HUTCHINGS

Not quite then. We asked three different people who were part of the Mariposa Battalion where to find the trail to the park. None of them knew. None of them knew.

SHIRLEY

Amazing.

HUTCHINGS

Right. Eventually our party was directed to Fresno Crossing where we hired two Indians, Ko-Sum and So-pin to guide us to the valley. And off we went.

SHIRLEY

Now, Lafayette Bunnell contends there is a waterfall over a 1000' high in the Yosemite Valley.

HUTCHINGS

Yohamite. And no. The Yo-Hamite falls isn't a thousand feet tall. It's almost twenty-five hundred feet tall. Eight times the height of Niagara Falls.

HANK

Incredible.

HUTCHINGS

The whole valley was incredible. We spent three days there going from one amazing sight to another. We couldn't get enough. Fortunately, Tom Ayres was there to do some sketches.

The Tom Ayres sketch called general view of the valley comes on screen. The sketch shows a high elevation shot of the valley with El Capitan on the left and Bridal Veil Falls on the right. Off in the distance can be see Half Dome.

HUTCHINGS (V.O.)

This is it. This is the valley.

HANK (V.O.)

What were your first impressions when you saw the valley for the first time?

HUTCHINGS (V.O.)

We had been out from Mariposa about four days, and the fatigue of the journey had made us weary and a little peevish, but when our eyes looked upon the almost terrific grandeur of this scene, all, all was forgotten. I never expected to behold so beautiful a sight. The scene alone amply repaid me for the travel. I should have lost the most magnificent sight that I ever saw had I not witnessed this. There were exclamations of pleasurable surprise from all the members of our party as we sat down to drink in the varied beauties of this intoxicating and enchanting scene.

The sketch disappears and is replaced with a shot back in the studio of Hank and Shirley. Hutchings still appears on a different screen.

HANK

What was it like once you were in the valley?

HUTCHINGS

One is struck with the awful grandeur of the immense mountains on either side-- some perpendicular, some a little sloping. One looks like a light-house, another like a giant capital of immense dimensions. All are singular. Still advancing up the valley, we turned a point, and before us was an indescribable sight: The Yo-Hamite Falls two thousand two hundred feet in height, the highest waterfall in the world. It rushes over the cliffs and with one bold leap falls one thousand two hundred feet, then a second of five hundred feet more, then a third of over five hundred feet more. Three leaps making two thousand two hundred feet.

SHIRLEY

Amazing. Twenty two hundred feet?

HUTCHINGS

I know, right? It was incredible. When we finally returned to Mariposa, L.A. Holmes begged me to write about the trip for his Mariposa Gazette. The following week, the San Francisco Chronicle copied the Gazette's article in their paper.

SHIRLEY

Do you think that article is what made people want to go to Yosemite?

HUTCHINGS

If I may quote "The enthusiastic descriptions given by Hutchings party, on its return, aroused the curiosity of the people, staggered, and silenced the croakers." That and the lithograph we made of Tom Ayres sketches. We sold a boatload of those.

HANK

And this was all part of the research for the magazine?

HUTCHINGS

Forty eight pages of interesting reading matter in Double columns. We went all over the state. Published Sixty issues. Went back to Yo-Hamite multiple times. People couldn't get enough of Yo-Hamite stories. In 1859, I brought photographer Charles Weed with me and he was able to make some of the first photographs of the valley. Including Yo-Hamite Falls for the first time.

Weed's photographs of Yosemite appear on the screen including views from Inspiration point and the previously mentioned Yosemite Falls.

HANK (V.O.)

Those are amazing!

The pictures are removed. Hank, Shirley, and Hutchings once more appear on the screen.

SHIRLEY

What happened to the magazine?

HUTCHINGS

Sold it. For a suit of clothes. The problem with the magazine was that every dime the magazine made, I had to put back into the magazine. After sixty issues, I hadn't made any money, so I got rid of it. I kept all the rights to the content. Turned that into a book called "Scenes of Wonder and Curiosity in California" The book made money. It went through five editions.

SHIRLEY

What's next for you, now that you are no longer a magazine publisher?

HUTCHINGS

Well, my wife Elvira has been told by her doctors that the air in San Francisco is not conducive to her health. They suggested mountain air would be better for her.

(MORE)

HUTCHINGS (CONT'D)

It occurred to me that I knew where there was some of the best mountain air in the world. Yo-Hamite Valley.

HANK

What?

HUTCHINGS

There was a hotel for sale in the Valley where I had stayed in 1859 on a trip. As a matter of fact, one of the first photographs ever taken in Yo-Hamite was of that hotel. For the sum of \$400, I bought the place and laid claim to 160 acres of prime real estate right in front of the Yo-Hamite Falls. Soon as we solve a few legal considerations, my wife and I and my mother-in-law will be running Hutching's House.

HANK

Incredible news. I wish you the best of luck in your new endeavor.

SHIRLEY

Sounds exciting. What do you think your legacy is going to be?

HUTCHINGS

I'm the guy who introduced the Yo-Hamite Valley to the world.

SHIRLEY

That's good. Thank you for joining us tonight, Mr. Hutchings.

HUTCHINGS

My pleasure.

Hutching's window fades from the screen.

HANK

This is going to be the perfect segue.

SHIRLEY

Didn't we do your perfect segue last week?

HANK

Maybe. This one will top that one.

SHIRLEY

Hit me.

HANK

Much like James Mason Hutchings
having to travel to the mountains
for his wife's health and ended up
owning a hotel, so too did our next
guest.

SHIRLEY

Smooth.

HANK

Joining us now is the owner of
Clark Station in Wawona, Mr. Galen
Clark. Welcome, Mr. Clark.

GALEN CLARK appears in the split screen with a full old
testament beard.

CLARK

Thank you for inviting me on to
your program.

HANK

You are quite the traveler. My
notes say you were born in Dublin,
New Hampshire. You spent time in
Canada, Missouri, and Philadelphia.
Should I even ask what brought you
to California? I will. What brought
you to Mariposa, California?

CLARK

Gold.

SHIRLEY

It's always gold.

HANK

It's always gold. And just like our
previous guest, Mr. Hutchings,
you've been to Yo-Hamite Valley.

SHIRLEY

Are we sticking with Yo-Hamite.

HANK

Mr. Hutching's was pretty positive
it's Yo-Hamite.

SHIRLEY

But Mr. Bunnell was the one who named it and he named it Yosemite.

HANK

Fair point. We will stick with Yosemite until told otherwise. Mr. Clark, you've been to Yosemite.

CLARK

Yes, sir. Not many weeks after Mr. Hutchings party. It was life changing.

HANK

Life changing? Shirley, we really need to visit this place.

SHIRLEY

That's what I keep saying.

HANK

Waiting on a good trail. How did the trip to Yosemite change your life?

CLARK

After I went back to work, I became sick. My lungs started to bleed.

SHIRLEY

That's terrible. What did the doctor's say?

CLARK

They gave me a few months to live. I decided if I was going to die, it might as well be in some place beautiful. I went back into the mountains. I homesteaded 160 acres near where the Mariposa battalion camped on their expedition. I built myself a cabin and waited.

SHIRLEY

But you're still here?

CLARK

So far. Knock on wood, I guess.

HANK

Speaking of wood.

SHIRLEY

Oh, please.

HANK

You weren't completely idle. Tell us what you found.

CLARK

I didn't find anything. I'm sure the Indians knew.

HANK

But you were the first white man to see this particular place.

CLARK

Actually, it was a hunter by the name of Hogg. June of '56, he told me about these three big trees he found. Which is saying something, because there were a lot of big trees around. But these stood out.

HANK

What did you do?

CLARK

I had to check them out. Me and my friend William Mann loaded up our guns and headed out. A couple miles from my homestead we found them. Hogg was right. These were the biggest trees we ever saw. 90' around at the base.

SHIRLEY

90 feet?

CLARK

We measured. And that tree wasn't the only one. There were hundreds of trees that big.

HANK

And this was another grove of Sequoia Gigantes trees?

CLARK

Yes. The largest grove of Sequoias found. People come from all over to see them.

HANK

Good thing someone built a place for people to sleep and eat near there for people who want to visit the trees. What's that place called, Shirley?

SHIRLEY

Clark's Station.

HANK

Clark's station. How did that come about, Mr. Clark?

CLARK

It starts with Milton and Houston Mann, I guess. After they visited Yosemite Valley with the Sherlock Party in 1855, they decided to build a pack saddle trail from White and Hatch's near Mariposa over the Chowchilla Mountains and to the South Fork of the Merced near my place. They built a bridge over the South Fork and continued the trail up and over the mountains and down into the valley, ending near Bridal Veil Falls. They made money by charging tolls to use the trail. Next thing I knew, I had all these exhausted travelers asking me for food and a place to rest. I built a bigger spread to accommodate them. I also got the Mann's to help me make a trail out to the Mariposa Grove of Big Trees. I built a cabin in the grove so people would have a place to rest after seeing the big trees.

HANK

That was very considerate of you, Mr. Clark.

CLARK

Thank you.

HANK

Thank you, Mr. Clark for your time.

Galen Clark's screen inset fades out.

SHIRLEY

Here's my question.

HANK

Okay.

SHIRLEY

Mr. Clark said people from all around the world visit Clarke Station.

HANK

He did.

SHIRLEY

How did they know?

HANK

How did they know what?

SHIRLEY

About Yosemite. How did they know about it? And if they did know about Yosemite, what made them want to come here?

HANK

Interesting. It's not like it's easy to get here.

SHIRLEY

It's either a 3000 mile journey across the United States in a wagon or a month long journey by a steamship around South America.

HANK

You can shorten that journey by traveling across the Isthmus of Panama.

SHIRLEY

A great way to get malaria. I heard Jesse Fremont, wife of Mariposa's own John Fremont, waited on the beach for weeks waiting for a steamship to take her to California.

HANK

Collis Huntington as well.

SHIRLEY

It's not easy. And yet people from all across the country are putting up with tremendous hardships to see our Valley.

HANK

All I can think is Yosemite Valley has a great publicist.

SHIRLEY

A publicist?

HANK

Exactly. First, you have Milton.

SHIRLEY

Milton Mann, Galen Clark's trail building buddy?

HANK

Seriously? Try John Milton. Author of Paradise Lost. Everyone has a copy. People keep a copy right next to their Bibles. Probably the second most popular book ever.

SHIRLEY

The only problem is Milton died 190 years ago. I'm pretty sure he never wrote about the Yosemite.

HANK

Didn't he though? Of a steep wilderness, whose hairie sides with thicket overgrown Access denied: and over head grew insuperable height of loftiest shade, Cedar, and Pine, and Fir. Southward through Eden went a river large From a sapphire fount the rippled brooks, Rolling on orient pearl and sands of gold.

SHIRLEY

Milton was talking about the Garden of Eden.

HANK

Waterfalls? Steep Cliffs? A lazy river? Cedars and Pines and Firs. It sounds very familiar. It sounded familiar to a lot of people, a lot of Reformed Protestant people.

SHIRLEY

It does.

HANK

When James Hutchings wrote his article for the Mariposa Gazette about Yo-Hamite, he certainly alluded to Milton and his descriptions of Eden. Here his description of Bridalveil Fall "Just opposite to this, on the south side of the valley, our attention was first attracted by a magnificent waterfall, about seven hundred feet in height. It looked like a broad huge feather of silver, that hung depending over a precipice; and as this feathery tail of leaping spray thus hung, a slight breeze moved it from side to side, and as the last rays of the setting sun were guiding it with rainbow hues, the red would mix with the purple, and the purple with the yellow, and the yellow with the green, and the green with the silvery sheet of its whitened form, as it danced in space, one almost felt that he was upon the forbidden ground some unknown spirit; or that it was a dream from which to awaken and find it but a dream; was an irreparable loss; but on rushed the water over its rocky bed, and as it reached the valley, it threw up a cloud of mist that made green and flourishing the grass and flowers, and shrubs, that slumbered at the mountains base.

SHIRLEY

Very pretty. That still doesn't get us out of California. Yosemite was just West Coast Famous.

HANK

Horace Greeley changed that.

SHIRLEY

Go West Young Man, Horace Greeley?

HANK

Yes. He did a big trip in 1859. He came across the country on the Pike's Peak Express Leavenworth to Denver route that had just opened.

(MORE)

HANK (CONT'D)

He spent a whole day in the valley in Aug 14 after a 60 mile mule ride from Bear Valley. He thought Yosemite Falls was vastly over rated and described it as Humbug.

SHIRLEY

I'm sure that helped sell Yosemite as a destination.

HANK

Despite his many aches and pains from the journey, Greeley said "I certainly miss here the glaciers of Chamonix, but I know no single wonder of nature on earth which can claim superiority over the Yosemite"

SHIRLEY

That's better.

HANK

His report of his Overland Journey from New York to San Francisco introduced Yosemite widely to an East Coast audience. But he wasn't the only one writing for the East Coast. Henry Bellows of the San Francisco Bulletin had this to say about our next guest "When this man spoke of the beauties of Yosemite, New englanders were inclined to listen. No one had really seen the Sierra Nevada, Mt. Shasta, the Yosemite Valley or the coast of Oregon until his fine eye saw and his cunning brain and hand depicted them. It was not without reason that writers of promotional literature and Yosemite guidebooks soon began to use Mr. King's words and name to give authority to their statements. Please welcome, Reverend Thomas Starr-King

REV THOMAS STARR-KING appears in the window box opposite the host. He is a slight, frail man in his forties.

STARR-KING

Thank you for having me.

HANK

To be honest, I will be quite shocked if you give the traditional answer to this question, but what brought you to California? Please don't say Gold.

STARR-KING

I'm afraid not. I came from Boston to be the pastor at the First Unitarian Church in San Francisco.

HANK

You were the pastor at Hollis Street Church in Boston, but most people might know you better for a different reason.

STARR-KING

Probably. I wrote a series of articles for the Boston Evening Transcript about one of the most glorious places on earth, The White Mountains of New Hampshire. As I wrote at the time "Oh God! How wonderful are thy works! One Passage of Scripture seems to be written on every cliff, and echoed to the soul from every ridge." Those articles were eventually turned into a book. It was quite popular.

HANK

And now you've written another series of articles about Yosemite. How would you compare the White Mountains to Yosemite?

STARR-KING

Poor White Mountain Notch. Its nose is broken. If you can find any copies of my book on the New Hampshire ant-hills, I advise you, as a friend to the author, to buy up the remaining editions and make a bonfire of them in the park.

HANK

So, better?

STARR-KING

Imagine yourself on a horseback tour and suddenly riding out from a thicket of young birches on the edge of a wall. We came to a precipice of sheer rock, which is twenty-seven hundred feet deep. Immediately opposite, about a mile across, a portion of that northerly wall stands up thirty-eight hundred feet high. And it does not abate a jot from the perpendicular. It is clean, naked granite. How can I express the awe and joy that were blended and continually struggling with each other, during the half hour that we remained on the edge of the abyss where the grandeurs of the Yosemite were first revealed to us?

HANK

From what we've heard, Yosemite never disappoints.

STARR-KING

Before I go, I'd like to quote from the State Agricultural Society.

HANK

Please do.

STARR-KING

We will not attempt any description of the thing as a whole. The thing is there away up in the Sierras; and all we have to say is that he who has threaded the streets of Nineveh and Herculaneum, scaled the Alps, and counted the stars from the top of Egypt's pyramids, measured the Parthenon, and watched the setting sun from the dome of St. Peter's, looked into the mouth of Vesuvius, and taken the key-note of his morning song from the thunder of Niagara, and has not seen the Yosemite, is like the Queen of Sheba before her visit to King Solomon-the half has not been told him.

HANK

Reverend Thomas Starr-King, ladies
and Gentlemen.

STARR-KING

Thank you for having me.

Reverend Starr-King vanishes from the screen

SHIRLEY

But he's a San Francisco preacher.
Not national.

HANK

He's nationally known and much
beloved. His book on the White
Mountains was famous. And his
letters to the Boston Evening
Transcript were widely read. His
word was taken at full value.

SHIRLEY

It still seems like a stretch that
people started coming to Yosemite
because of some newspaper articles.

HANK

So, the Garden of Eden reference
didn't convince you and the
speeches of a famous preacher
didn't convince you, that only
leaves one thing.

SHIRLEY

What would that be?

HANK

Carleton Watkins.

SHIRLEY

Carleton Watkins?

HANK

Exactly. Some would call him the
father of Landscape Photography. He
wasn't the first photographer in
Yosemite, that honor belongs to
Charles Leander Weed, he went in
with James Hutchings, but Carleton
Watkins photographs were a lot of
people's introduction to the
Yosemite Valley.

A picture Carleton Watkins took from Inspiration Point appears on screen

HANK (V.O.)
It's one thing to read about
Inspiration Point. It's another
thing to see it. Look at this
place.

The photograph disappears to show Hank and Shirley.

HANK
Joining us now is photographer
Carleton Watkins.

CARLETON WATKINS appears on the screen.

WATKINS
Good Day.

HANK
Mr. Watkins, thank you for agreeing
to be with us.

WATKINS
My pleasure.

HANK
Now, photography is relatively new.
How did you get involved with the
craft.

WATKINS
I worked as the outdoor man for
several established photographers
including Robert Vance in San
Francisco. I was out on my own by
1858. I worked for your previous
guest James Hutching and his
California Magazine. I did a lot of
commercial work including
photographing the Fremont Ranch
here in Mariposa.

HANK
John and Jesse Fremont's place out
in Bear Valley?

WATKINS
Yes, sir. I think what really got
me known were the photographs I
took in 1861 in Yosemite Valley.

SHIRLEY

That was a great series of photographs. How many did you take?

WATKINS

I ended up with 100 stereoscopic negatives and 30 mammoth plate negatives?

HANK

What's the difference?

WATKINS

The stereographic negatives come from a camera with two lenses on it. The images on the negative are slightly offset. When you put them in the stereographic viewer and look at the photos, you get a slightly three dimensional effect. It adds more depth to the images.

SHIRLEY

Is that the same for the Mammoth Plate Negatives?

WATKINS

No. The Mammoth plate negatives are just, well, mammoth. I custom built a camera to take an 18" by 22" plate of glass for the negative.

HANK

That does sound big.

WATKINS

When I print the Mammoth Plate negatives I end up with a very big print full of detail.

SHIRLEY

They are spectacular. Now let's look at some of these prints.

A picture of the Grizzly Giant Sequoia fills the screen.

WATKINS (V.O.)

That would be the Grizzly Giant in the Mariposa Grove of Sequoia Trees. Sequoias are the largest living thing on earth and the Grizzly Giant is probably the oldest tree in the Grove.

HANK (V.O.)
Who is that in front of the tree?

The pictures switches to show Galen Clark at the base of the Grizzly Giant.

WATKINS (V.O.)
That would be my guide to the Grove, Galen Clark

SHIRLEY (V.O.)
Another guest.

HANK (V.O.)
I don't think anyone knows more about that Grove than Galen Clark.

The next photo shows El Capitan, photographer's number 48.

SHIRLEY (V.O.)
Would that be the 3000' of granite that doesn't vary from the perpendicular?

WATKINS (V.O.)
The Indians called that Tutocanula. We know it better as El Capitan.

Photo number 37 fills the screen. Half Dome.

HANK (V.O.)
This place can't be real

WATKINS (V.O.)
Half-Dome has that effect on a lot of people. Also known as Tasayac.

Photo number 2 appears. Upper and lower Yosemite falls from Leidig's Meadows.

SHIRLEY (V.O.)
Wait a second. Is that the waterfall Horace Greeley said was over rated.

WATKINS (V.O.)
Yosemite Falls. It all depends on what time of year you see it. I went in July when it was still flowing pretty well. Oh, here is an interesting shot.

Photo number 72 under Upper Yosemite Falls. The view show a man sitting in a cleft in the rock as the water flows by outside.

SHIRLEY (V.O.)

Is that you in the photograph.

WATKINS (V.O.)

Maybe. We had quite the climb to get there. That's about 1000' from the Valley Floor.

HANK (V.O.)

You climbed a 1000's with all your equipment and it has to be a lot of equipment, right?

WATKINS (V.O.)

There is a lot of equipment. I had the two cameras. The glass plates. All the chemicals you need to make the pictures.

HANK (V.O.)

All that to take a picture?

WATKINS (V.O.)

You have to stand in interesting spots to get interesting pictures.

SHIRLEY (V.O.)

What is that little tent off to the left?

WATKINS (V.O.)

That would be the darkroom where I coat the glass plates with the photo chemicals.

The photograph vanishes. The Studio comes back to the foreground showing Shirley, Hank and Watkins in the split screen.

HANK

You have to coat the glass panels on location? In a darkroom?

WATKINS

We can't do it ahead of time or the chemicals will go bad. Before I take a photograph, I need to make my own negative.

(MORE)

WATKINS (CONT'D)

I cover a sheet of glass with collodion which is basically a sticky substance to hold the chemicals. Then I go into the darkroom and coat the glass with Silver nitrate, the chemical that actually makes the negative. I put the glass into a holder that is light proof. I then take the glass holder and place it into the camera. I remove the shield that protects the negative. I then remove the lens cap to expose the glass plate to the scene. The sunlight react with the silver nitrate on the glass.

HANK

How long do you do that for?

WATKINS

Anywhere from 20 seconds to five minutes.

SHIRLEY

How do you know how long to expose the glass plate?

WATKINS

Trial and error. After I put the lens cap back on and put the shield back over the negative, I go back into the darkroom and pour developer over the silver nitrate. This sets the negative. It turns the silver nitrate into silver. I then wash the plate to remove the developer. I can then leave the darkroom. I then put the glass in another bath to fix the negative and remove excess chemicals.

SHIRLEY

What do you do if the negative isn't any good?

WATKINS

I scrape the glass and do it all again.

HANK

How many photographs do you take a day?

WATKINS

On a good day, I produce 3 or 4 shots.

SHIRLEY

Boy, this sounds like a lot of work.

WATKINS

It can be.

HANK

What is next for you?

WATKINS

I might be doing some work for the California state Geologist Josiah Whitney.

HANK

Very good. Thank you for coming, Mr. Watkins.

The picture of Watkins fades leaving only Shirley and Hank in the studio.

HANK (CONT'D)

And it's through those pictures, stories, and newspaper articles Yosemite came to fame.

SHIRLEY

That sounds reasonable. But now what?

HANK

What do you mean.

SHIRLEY

Everyone knows about the area, this Eden on earth, a place to see the handiwork of God, right?

HANK

Sure.

SHIRLEY

People are going to want to see it in person. What is going to happen when all these people start showing up?

HANK

Well, you've got a couple of hotels there already. James Hutchings finally bought his hotel. Galen Clark has Clark station for visitors. There are a few other hotels.

SHIRLEY

What about people who see the valley and just want to live there. Settle there. James Lamon staked a claim, built a cabin and has been living there since 1862. He's the first man to live there full time. He's planting orchards and clearing fields.

HANK

That's his right as a US citizen. As long as he lives on the land and improves, he can own it once the federal government surveys it.

SHIRLEY

But is that what you want in Eden? A bunch of homes and hotels?

HANK

It's their right.

SHIRLEY

So, this is going to just be another Niagara Falls situation?

HANK

What do you mean?

SHIRLEY

Niagara Falls? It was the previous must see spot of great beauty here in the United State.

HANK

I am familiar.

SHIRLEY

Speculators moved in snapped up all the view spots along the river and fenced them off to sell tickets. In other spaces, factories moved in to harness the power of the water to run their mills.

(MORE)

SHIRLEY (CONT'D)

It got so you couldn't see the falls without paying a fee. It was just a tourist trail from one fee collector to the next.

HANK

Land has to be used. What good is Land if we don't use it? It's why God gave it to us.

SHIRLEY

But shouldn't we have a higher standard for the Garden of Eden or at least our version of it?

HANK

What would you like to do?

SHIRLEY

I don't know. But something should be done before too many more people set up farms and hotels. Don't you think?

HANK

We shall see. Until next time, I'm Hank Johnston.

SHIRLEY

I'm Shirley Sargent. Please join us for the next edition of Mariposa Today.

As the microphones go off and the theme MUSIC plays, Hank and Shirley continue to silently debate the fate of Yosemite Valley.

FADE OUT.