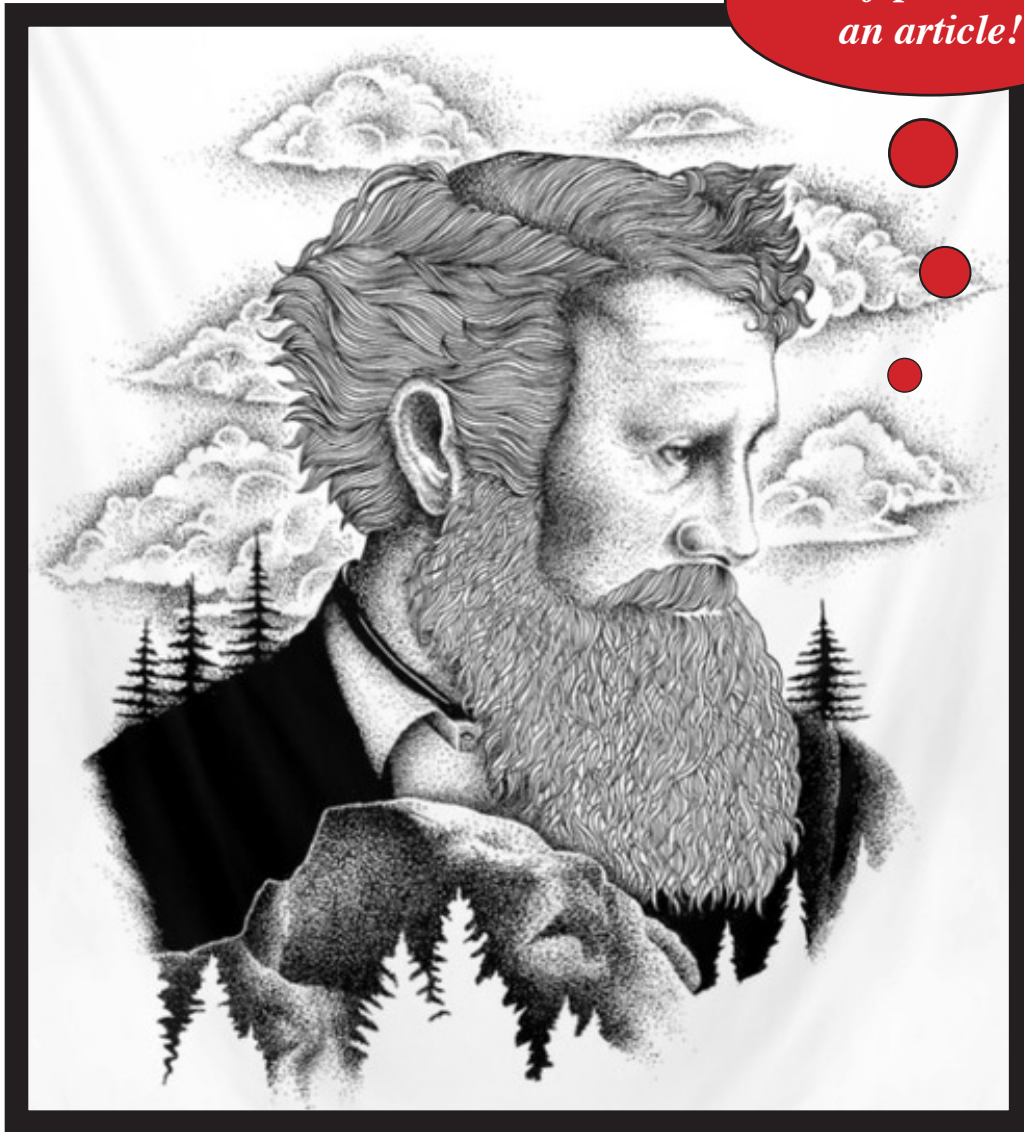


PWR Newsletter



*I self-published
an article!*



John Muir

(April 21, 1838 – December 24, 1914)



PUBLISHED WRITERS OF ROSSMOOR



PUBLISHED WRITERS OF ROSSMOOR



A Club to Celebrate and Support Aspiring and Published Authors



May 5, 2018

Volume VII, Issue 5

Board Members

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Vice President: Patricia Keith-Spiegel
Secretary: Dorothy Pritchett
Treasurer: Nazli Monahan
Programs: Polly Bernson
Publicity: Peter Li

Coordinators

Membership: Julie Blade
Channel 28: Joanna Kraus
Featured Authors: Peter Li
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Website Manager: John Braggio
Author Events: Karl Livengood
Social Coordinator: TBD
Fall Bazaar Coordinator: Lee Gale Gruen

President Emeritus: Duke Robinson

Newsletter Editor: Paul Weisser

Coming up!

PWR's Monthly Meeting
This Saturday, May 5, 2018
From 9:45 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.
In the Fairway Room at Creekside Clubhouse

Come early and enjoy complimentary coffee or tea!

May's Speaker: Ruth Schwartz, the Bookbirthing Wonderlady

BY PETER LI



Peter Li

Ruth Schwartz will be the featured speaker on Saturday, May 5, at our monthly meeting in the Fairway Room at 9:45 A.M.

Ruth comes to us originally from Philadelphia, where she graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1967, after which she immediately relocated to San Francisco.

Her book-publishing career started with the University of California Press, where she was the Exhibits and Print Production Manager. Over the years, Ruth held several positions and founded a number of businesses, all of which revolved around graphic design and words, providing services that result in physical products, including books.

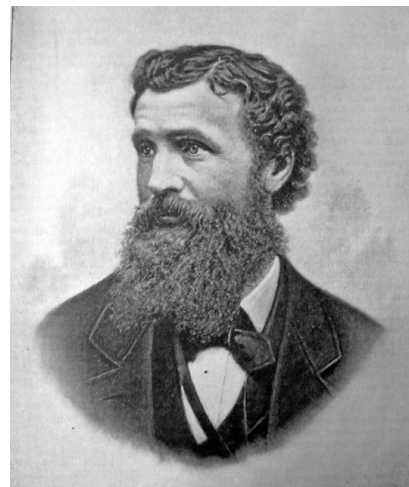
Ruth's book midwifing services have brought her many years of design,

publishing, marketing, branding, sales, and project management expertise, which allows her to help authors to turn out books that read and look as good as anything produced by a traditional publisher.

Ruth has aided quite a number of Rossmoor authors to "birth" their books, and she has spoken a number of times to PWR audiences, always to rave reviews. □



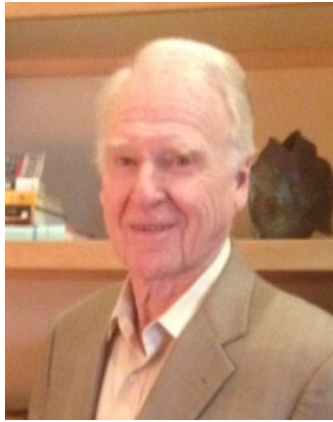
Ruth Schwartz



John Muir

The President's Page

BY RON WREN



Ron Wren

I'm pleased to report that my new book, *The Secrets of Getting Published*, is finished. I've had only one problem: so far, I've been unable to find a publisher who will take it.

At our April meeting, I suggested that plot, characters, and style were important, but some attention should be paid to grammar. A few examples:

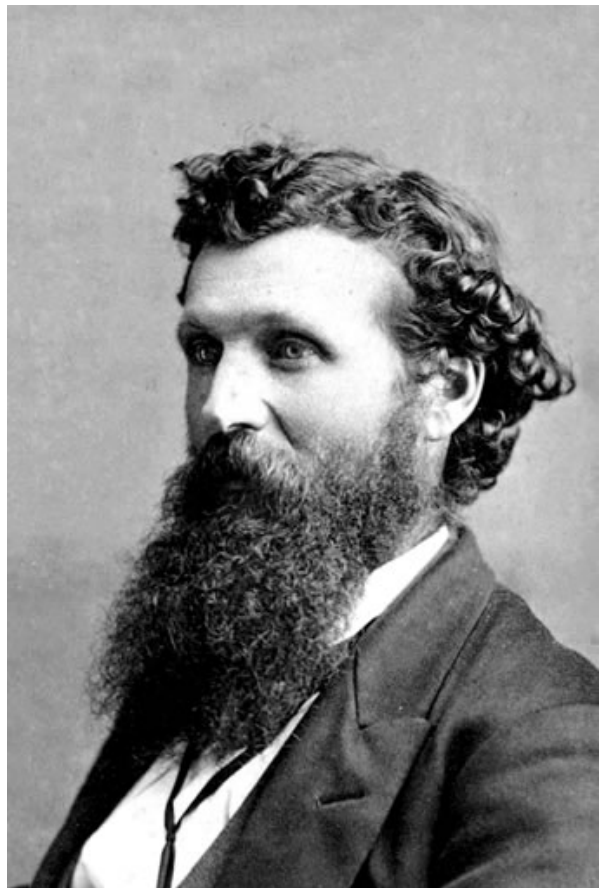
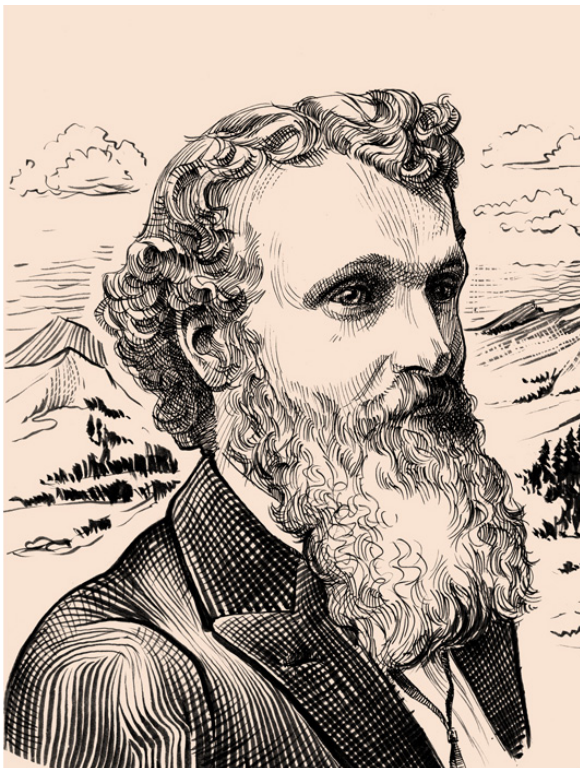
- No sentence fragments.
- Foreign words and phrases are not always apropos.
- All generalizations are bad.
- Avoid excessive use of ampersands & abbrevs., etc.
- Don't overuse exclamation marks!!!
- The passive voice is to be avoided.
- One-word sentences? Eliminate.
- Never use a big word when substituting a diminutive one would suffice.
- Use the apostrophe in it's proper place, and omit it when its not needed,

and use it correctly with words' that show possession.

I'll look forward to seeing you all on May 5, when our guest will be Ruth Schwartz, "The Wonder Woman of Publishing." □

(PWR is dedicated to supporting aspiring as well as accomplished authors in publishing and promoting their books. All residents of Rossmoor are welcome to attend its programs. For more information on the club, visit its website at www.Rossmoor-writers.com or contact Ron at [ronwren@aol.com/.](mailto:ronwren@aol.com/))





Vegetarian Circle

BY GENE GORDON



Gene Gordon

Vegetarian Writer of the Month: Miyoko Schinner

Many artists, novelists, scientists, poets, physicians, and historians have appeared in this column as vegetarian writers. But what about one who produces cookbooks? Is she not a writer as well?

Miyoko certainly is. She has written five books. Her first was *Artisan Vegan Cheese*, which began the vegan cheese revolution. Vegan cheeses now sell in the billions of dollars; their growth rate exceeds by 300% what was expected.

Miyoko's other books are *Homemade Vegan Pantry*; *Now and Zen Epicure*; and *Japanese Cooking*.

She is the founder of Miyoko's Kitchen, where artisanal vegan cheese is made in Marin and Sonoma Counties.

It can be found at Whole Foods and other stores.

Miyoko is also co-host of *Vegan Mashup*, a cooking show on PBS. □



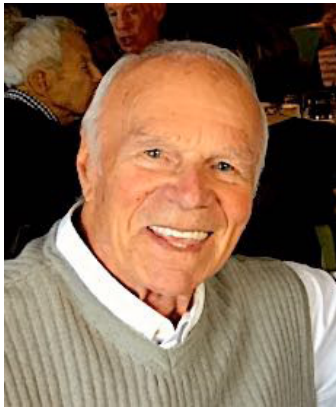
Miyoko Schinner





Enrich Your Writing

BY DICK McLEAN



Dick McLean

On Memoirs

- Remember that a memoir is a personal gift from you to the reader: it is about you, your insights, your wisdom, and your capacity to keep the reader entertained.

- Know who your target audience is. Know what they are interested in. Know what you want them to think when you are done.

- Understand that you are a storyteller, and understand the rules of dramatic structure if you expect the reader to keep turning page after page. It's as simple as learning the rules of any sport before you begin.

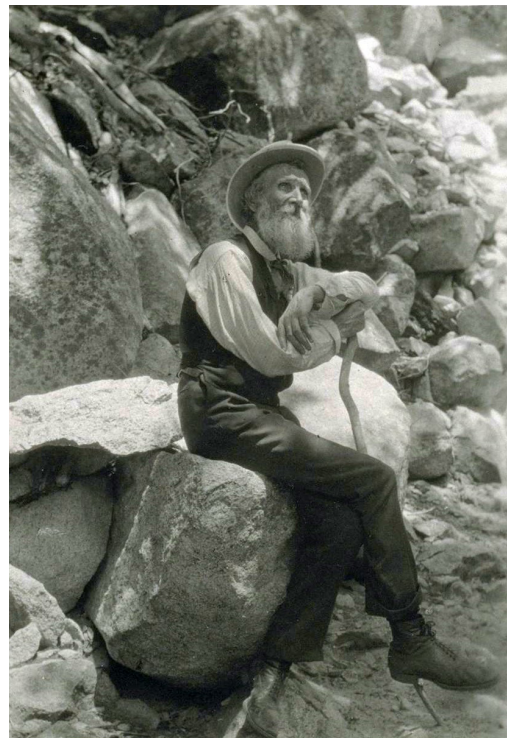
- George Bernard Shaw said, "Writing is like digging a ditch. It is hard work and demands perseverance." You must find the passion within yourself to be

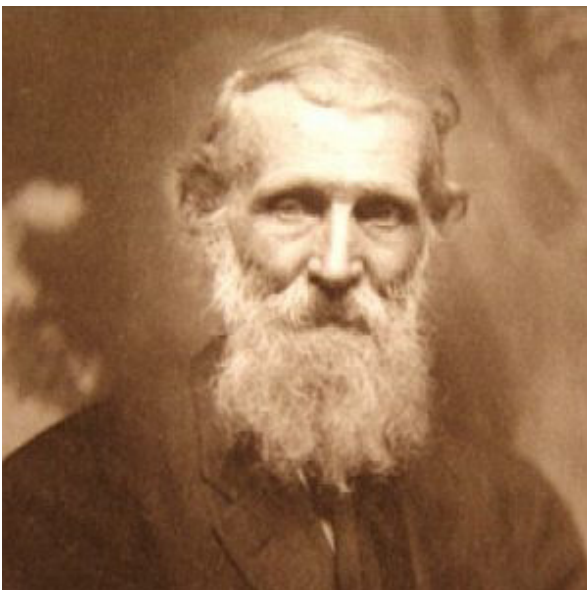
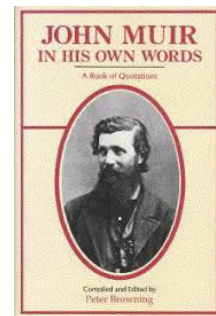
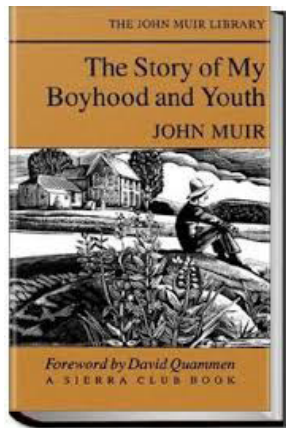
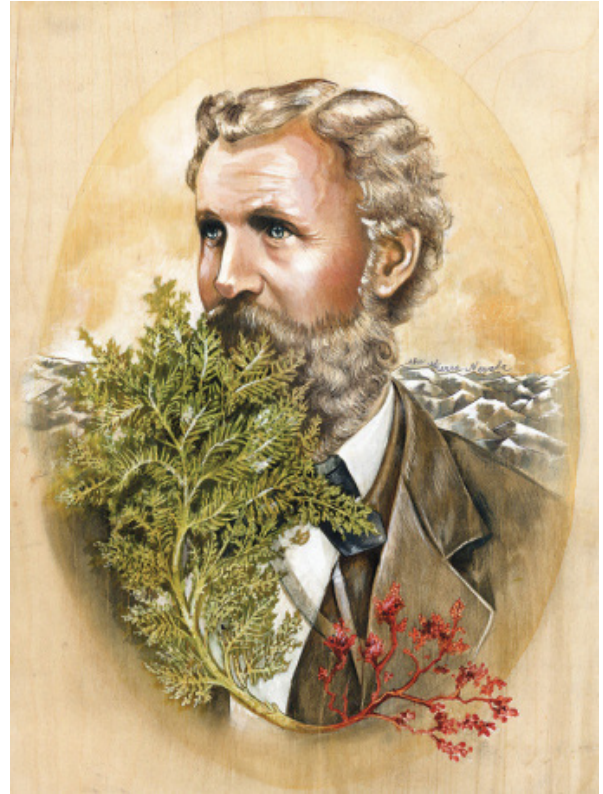
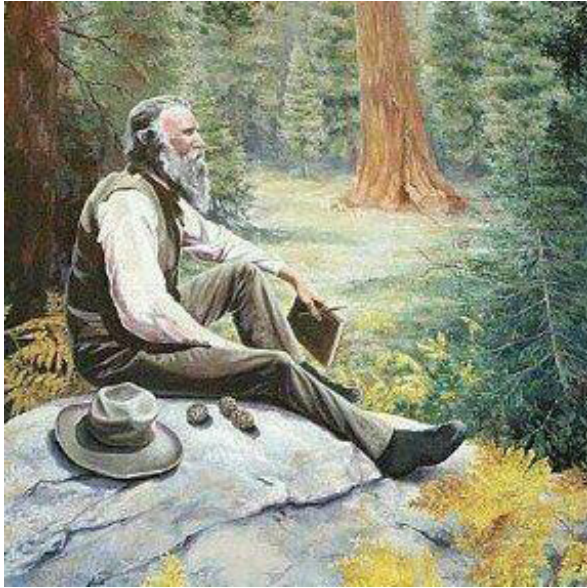
compelled to tell the story and find the energy to complete it.

- The battle is won or lost during the first drafts, when you find the courage to reveal the painful as well as the self-congratulatory about yourself. Accept the need for extensive editing and rewriting to create a professional outcome.

- Decide before you begin what you want to do with the memoir when it is completed. Be realistic. Know what the costs are—both personal and financial.

- Accept the sometimes hidden truth that you will learn more than anyone else from the memoir and profit the most when it is done properly. □





***Featured Author for May:
Jon Foyt***

BY PETER LI



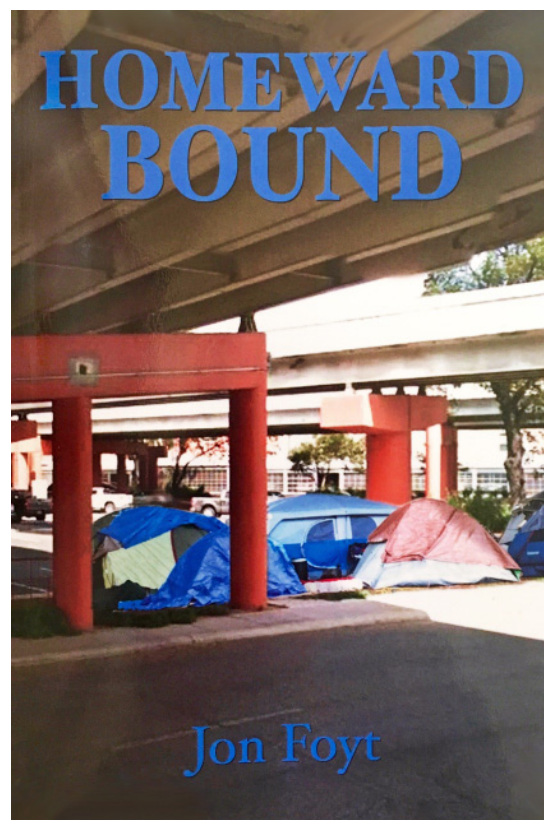
Jon Foyt

PWR has selected Jon Foyt as the featured Author of the Month for May 2018, for his newest novel, *Homeward Bound—But What If There Is No Home?* The setting for the novel is the San Francisco Bay Area, which has a burgeoning homeless population. The story suggests that planning at local community levels might not be the correct method for achieving the best solution to homelessness.

Jon traces the history of land use in California back to the Mexican Land Grants prior to the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo in 1848. Of special interest to readers who enjoy historical fiction is his portrayal of the Irish who immigrated to America during the time of the potato famine. During the Mexican War, they were lured away

to fight for Mexico, becoming known as Los Patricios (“The Patricks”). The Los Patricios organization is alive and active to this day in Glifden Town, Galway. Their ballads continue to be sung and can be heard on YouTube.

Jon makes use of knowledge he gained during his career in real estate. His interest in history led him to research land use in California, especially Yerba Buena and the Bohemian Club. He threads his story through an eventful poker game on a ship bound for Monterey, unscrupulous real estate brokers, city planning commissions, and the homeless living in tent cities under freeway overpasses. “As human beings,” he asks, “are we not each entitled to a home and medical care?”



(continued on page 11)

A native of Indiana, Jon attended Stanford University, where he earned a B.A. in Journalism and Geography. He continued his education at Stanford, receiving an MBA, and also completed a master's degree in Historic Preservation at the University of Georgia.

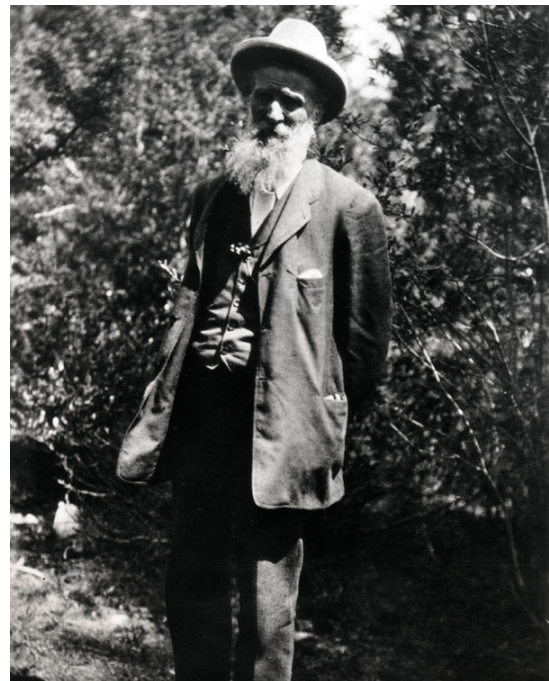
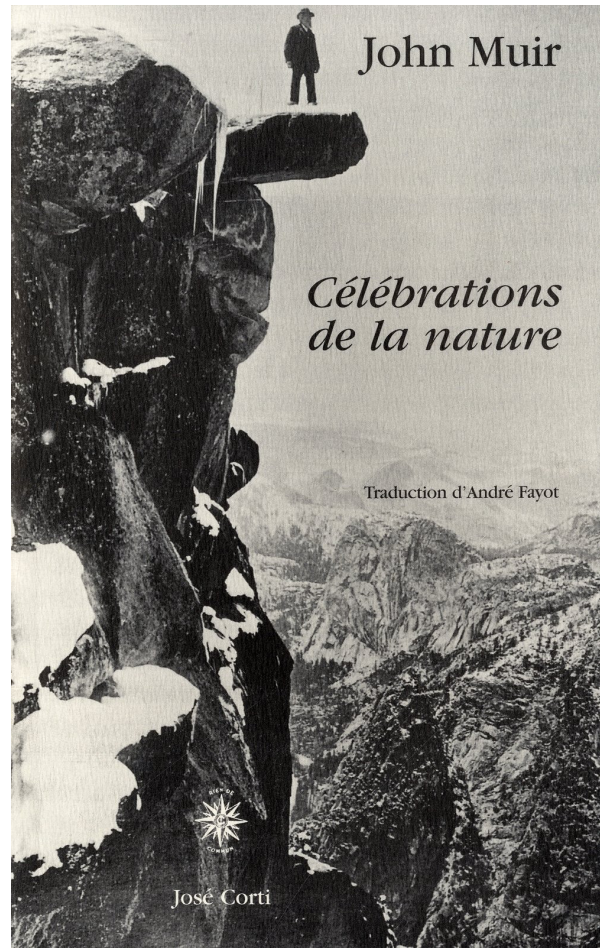
Jon began writing novels and screenplays with his wife, Lois, in 1992, and together they completed seven novels and four screenplays. After Lois died, Jon completed five more novels.

An octogenarian and true Renaissance man, Jon has been active in all aspects of real estate, from designer, developer, and contractor, to lender and broker. His other careers included radio broadcasting and banking.

Jon has lived in numerous states, as well as in England. After moving to Rossmoor seven years ago, he became active in the Trails Club, the Buddhist Club, and Democrats of Rossmoor, and is currently the president of the Stanford Club. To top it off, he has completed sixty marathons.

On September 11, 2018, Jon will hold a book launch at the historic Dollar Club House at 5:00 P.M. Everyone is invited to attend. His books are available in print and e-book format from Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and Orinda Books.

For more information, visit Jon's website, www.jonfoyt.com, or write to jonfoyt@mac.com. □



Operation Decentralize

BY HARVEY MEYERSON



Harvey Meyerson

Operation Decentralize: How Small Towns Can Save America is the title of my new book, which has just been published.

A work of history and public policy, it is my fifth book and has occupied me for the last fourteen years, ever since I retired from the Library of Congress, where I oversaw studies on public policy issues.

I have also worked as a journalist in the United States and overseas, as an aide to a U.S. Senator, and as the director of an international program for NASA.

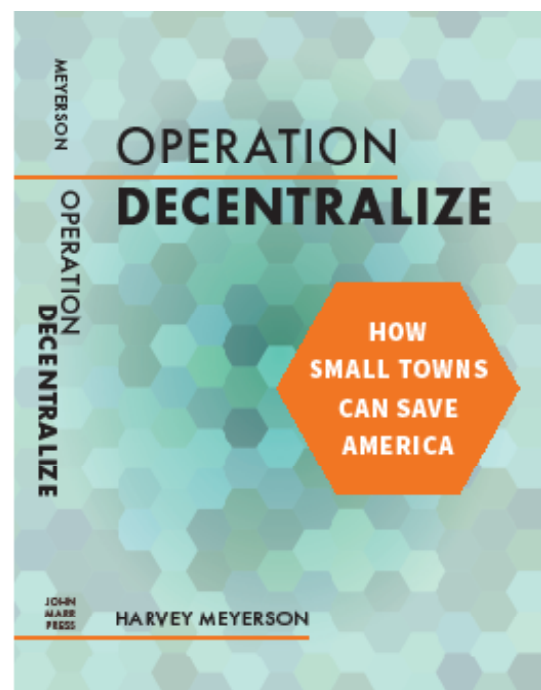
I hold a doctorate in American History from Brandeis University and undergraduate and graduate degrees in journalism from Northwestern University and Columbia University.

My first four books were for commercial and university presses and followed the usual procedures, but this one was an intuitive exploration along a counterintuitive path. I had no outline

and no clear idea where it would lead.

The book began as a history of the U.S. Army's role as a domestic nation-building instrument, but then it took one surprising turn after another. I started out with the founding of West Point by Thomas Jefferson as an engineering school for nation-builders—which by the twentieth century even West Point had forgotten.

Then I moved on to the Army organizing and running FDR's Civilian Conservation Corps, which it did so unobtrusively that hardly anyone remembers its saving role.



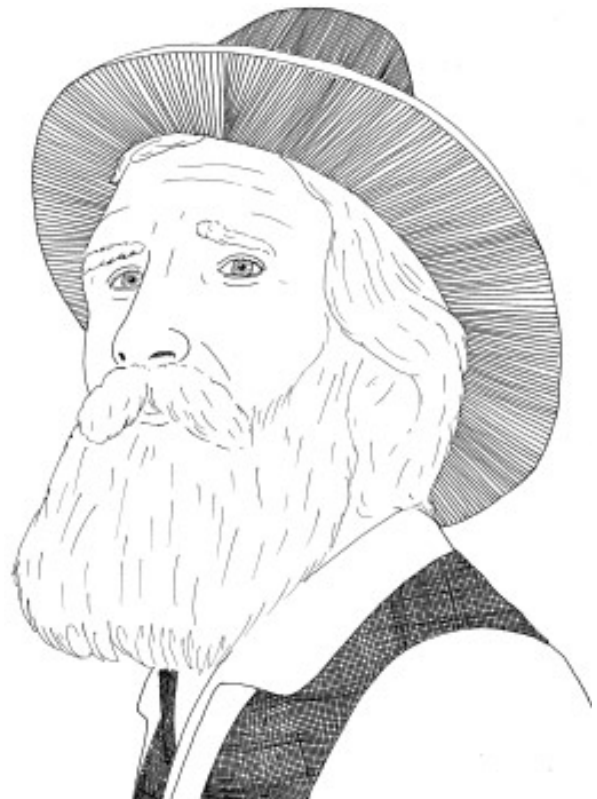
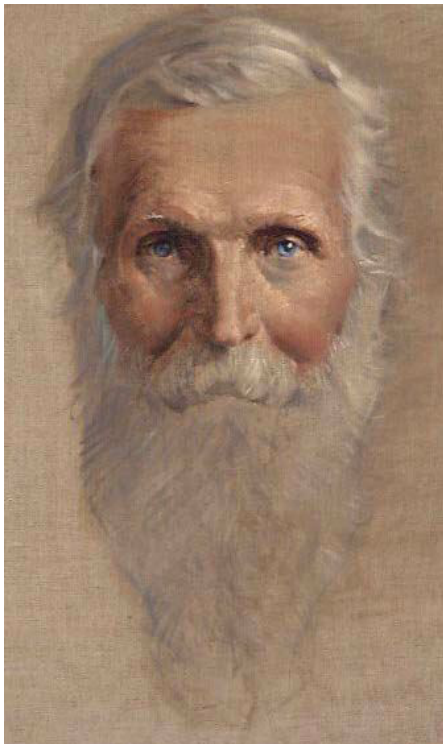
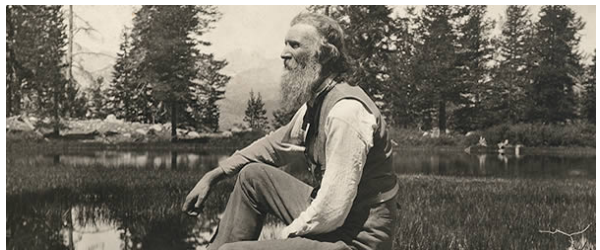
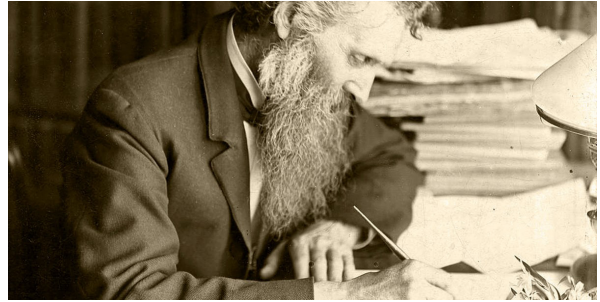
Finally, I came to the present and the biggest surprise of all: Defense planners look at America's super-urbanized political economy as a risk to national security. As climate change progresses,

(continued on page 13)

urbanization will worsen the impact of a growing number of natural disasters. Our urban-centered, internet-connected national electric grid is increasingly vulnerable to a crippling cyberattack.

Already, the Army is moving to disconnect its homeland installations from the grid and has programs for renewable energy and water recycling that could be national models if anyone pays attention.

During the course of this unconventional research odyssey, my perspective shifted on a number of contemporary issues that I had always examined from an urban-centered perspective. The potential of small towns appeared in a new light. It's been quite a ride. No one is happier that it's over than my wife! □



Channel 28 Interviews

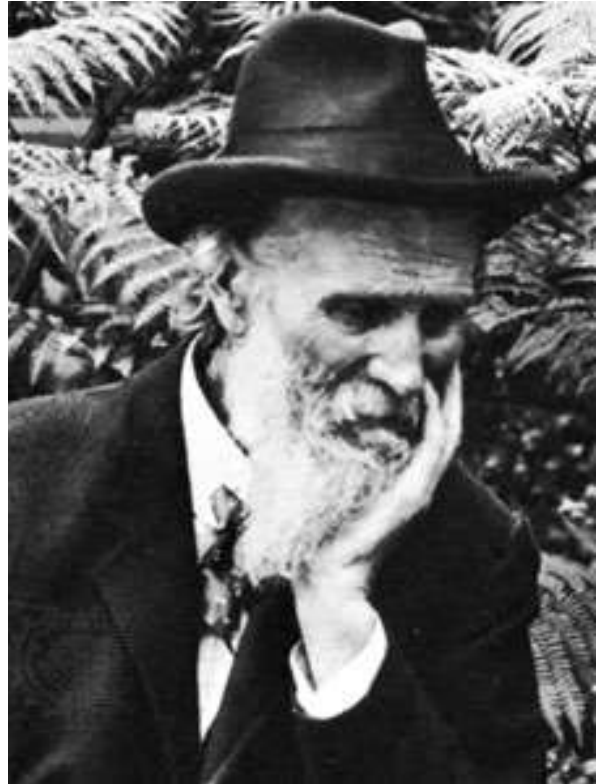
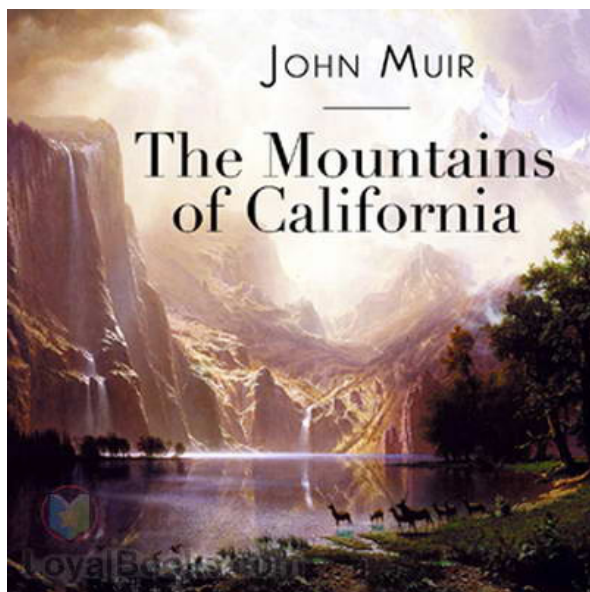
BY JOANNA KRAUS

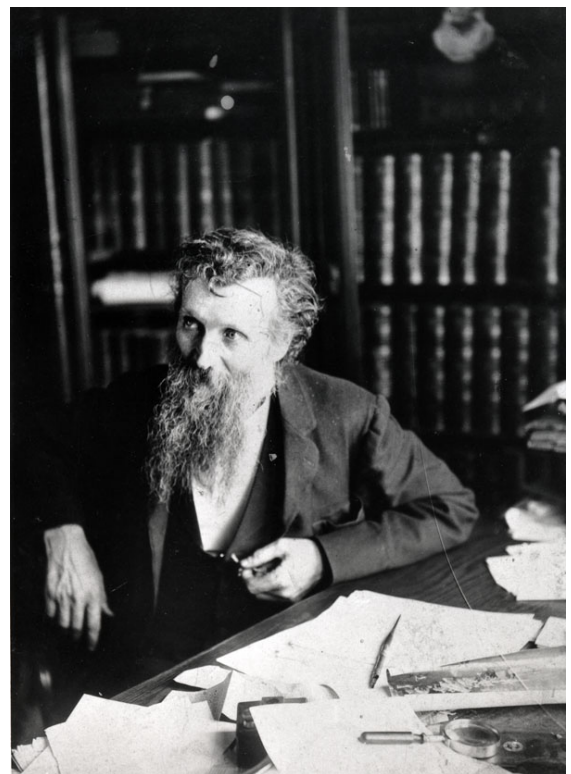
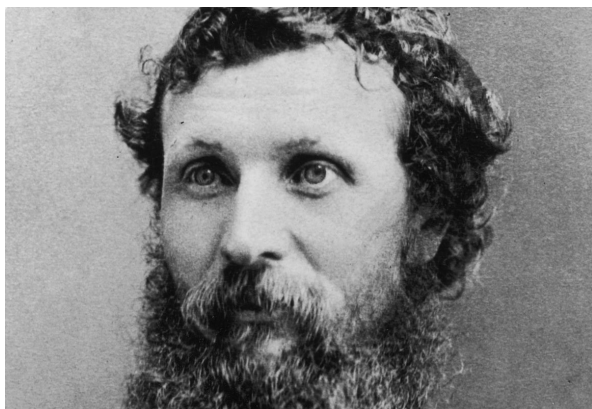
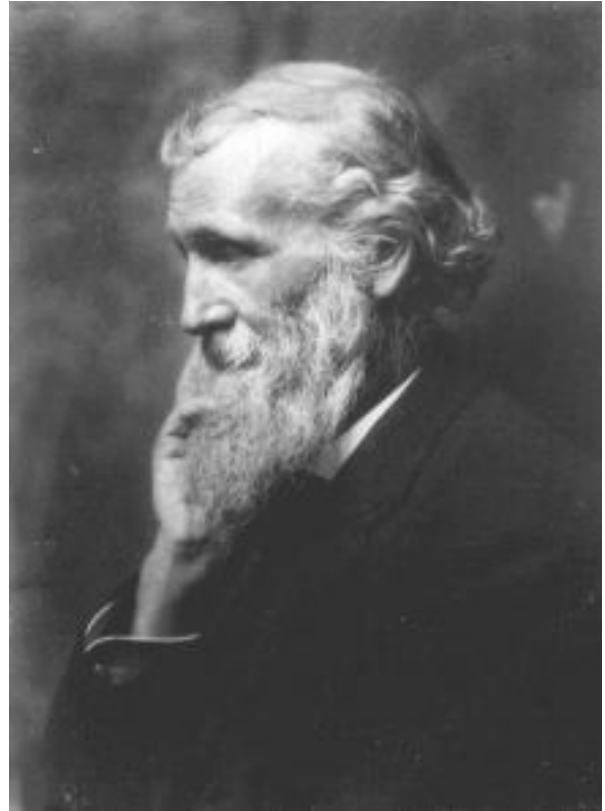
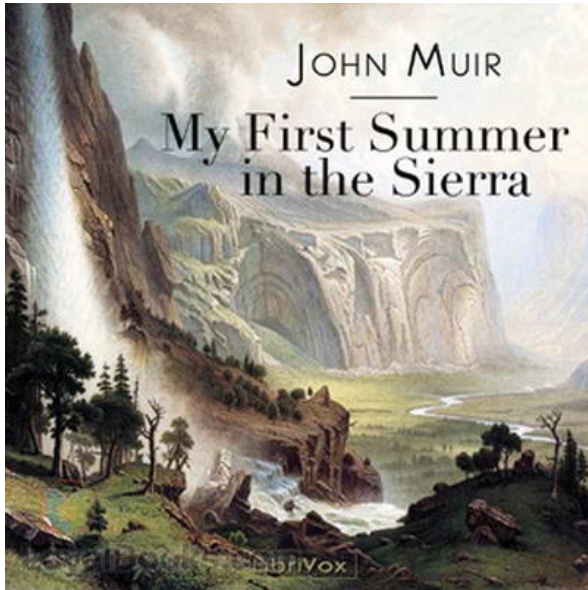


Joanna Kraus

The next time for Channel 28 interviews for PWR authors will be on October 16, 2018, a Tuesday. Please contact me for further information at our monthly meeting or by writing to: tjkraushouse@hotmail.com □

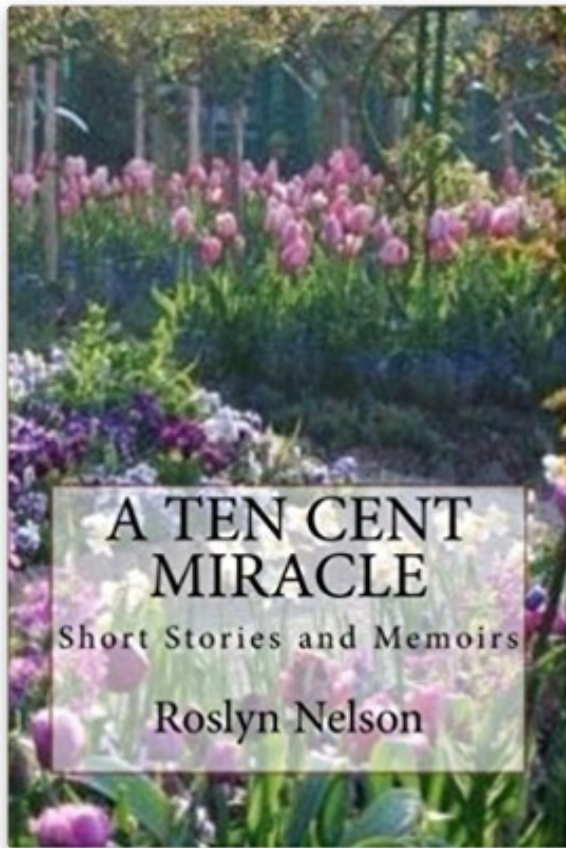
To learn about my new children's book, *Blue Toboggan*, click here: www.joannakraus.com





A Ten Cent Miracle

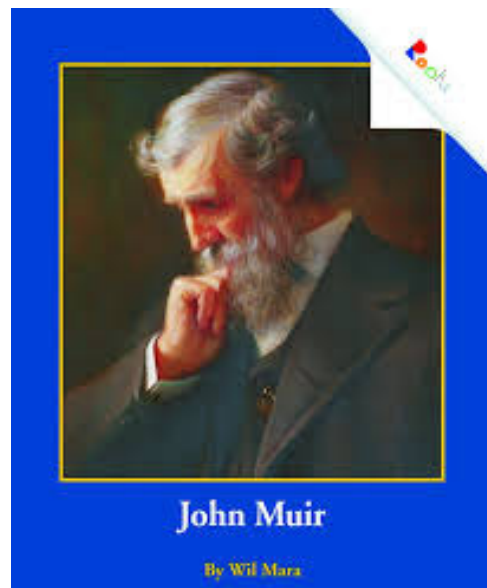
BY ROSLYN NELSON



My book, *A Ten Cent Miracle*, is a combination of memoir and short stories. Reflecting my childhood during the Great Depression, it ranges from comic to sad, from upbeat to downbeat.

I will have copies for sale at the next PWR meeting, and the book can also be purchased on Amazon, or directly from me by writing to: kappynelson@gmail.com

□



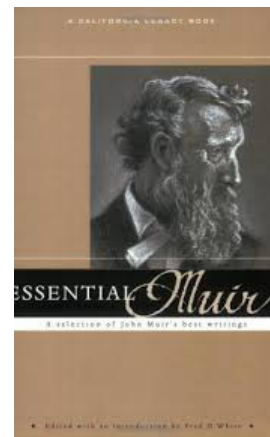
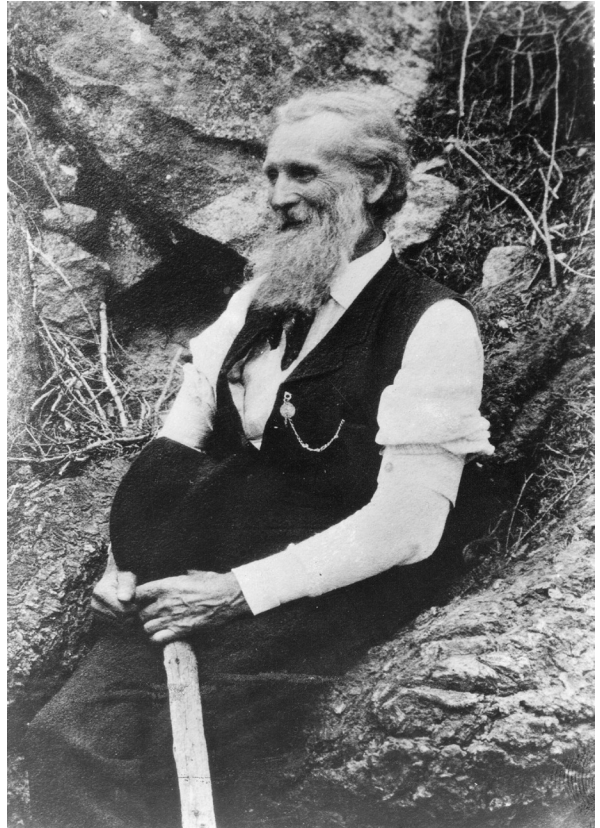
The Sound of Children Laughing

BY DICK McLEAN

The sound of children laughing
Is a tickle to my ears
That lifts the edges of my mouth
As surely as a puppeteer

The sound of children laughing
Is pitch perfect in the key of joy
Open, gusty, unfettered fortissimo
Laughing for laughter's sake

The sound of children laughing
Is exuberance gone wild
Like the singing jingle of bells
Laughing on a Christmas sleigh



Nominating Committee Preliminary Report

BY DUKE ROBINSON



Duke Robinson

This may not be the most exciting news you've read this year, but for the well-being of PWR, it's important.

A month or so ago, your Board enlisted me to chair the 2018 Nominating Committee. I completed the five-member committee required by the bylaws, with Tricia Spiegel and Nazli Monahan from the Board, and with Julie Blade and Bob Tunnell from the general membership. We will report our nominations during our monthly PWR meeting on June 2, which will also be our Annual Meeting.

At last year's Annual Meeting, the Board of six officers, also bylaws-defined, was granted a "special year of dispensation," which would give the Board the flexibility to explore how best to meet the oversight of our growing programs.

The Board was given the authority to expand the number of its officers,

with the stipulation that, in June 2018, it bring to the PWR membership any recommendations it has regarding the future shape and size of the Board.

In fact, the Board has made no changes to itself since last June. It has, however, alerted the Nominating Committee that it plans to recommend on June 2: (1) that the year of flexibility be extended, beginning July 1, for another year; (2) that the Membership Coordinator operating alongside the Board (a role presently handled by Julie Blade) be made a formal Membership Officer on the Board; and (3) that two Vice President offices replace the one held for the past two years by Tricia Spiegel, who will be rotating off the Board on June 30.

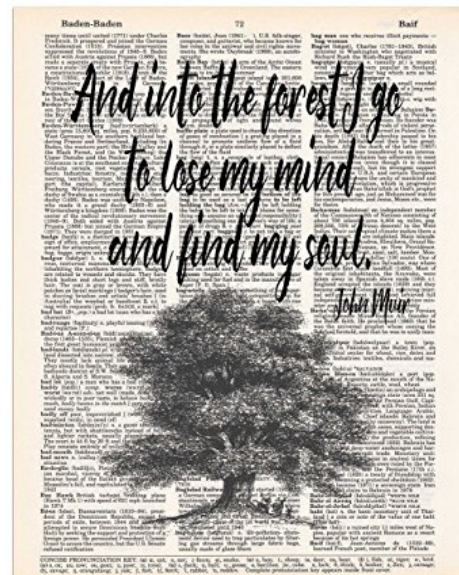
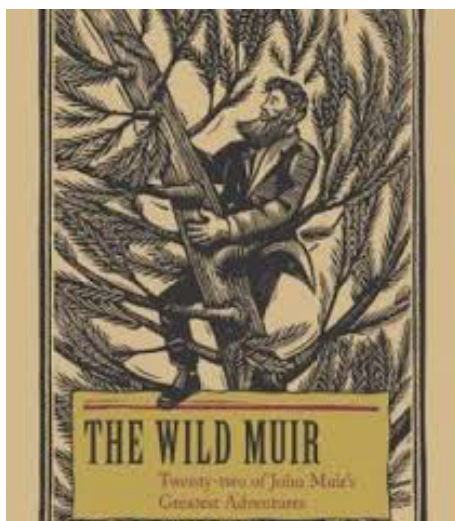


(continued on page 19)

At the Annual Meeting on June 2, we will act first on a motion by Ron Wren to approve the above recommendations of the Board. If approval is achieved, I will then, on behalf of the Nominating Committee, place in nomination: (1) Peggy Snyder and Jim Ware to fill the two Vice President offices; and (2) Julie Blade to fill the new Membership Officer position on the Board.

Our committee will make public its report in mid-May by e-mail and place the nominations verbally at the Annual Meeting on June 2. Based on a bylaw stipulation, before a vote is taken, the floor will be opened for PWR members to nominate other members for the offices of Vice President and Membership Officer, so long as those nominees have given their consent prior to the meeting.

Meanwhile, if you have questions or suggestions for the Nominating Committee, please feel free to contact any committee member or to write to me at dukenclaire@gmail.com □



PWR Writing & Publication Resources

By RON WREN



Ron Wren

The following PWR members are available for consultation on various aspects of writing and publication:

Art & Design

Polly Bernson: drpplot@pacbell.net

Children's Books

Joanna Kraus: tjkraushouse@hotmail.com

Paul Weisser: editinggg@gmail.com

Desktop Publishing

Polly Bernson: drpplot@pacbell.net

Paul Weisser: editinggg@gmail.com

Editing & Proofreading

Julie Blade: julieblade@gmail.com

Ellen Sarbone: editor@etraveller.com

Paul Weisser: editinggg@gmail.com

Fiction

Paul Weisser: editinggg@gmail.com

Ben Zikria: baz2@columbia.edu

Ghostwriting

Julie Blade: julieblade@gmail.com

Ellen Sarbone: editor@etraveller.com

Paul Weisser: editinggg@gmail.com

Grant Writing

Paul Weisser: editinggg@gmail.com

Memoir Assistance

Julie Blade: julieblade@gmail.com

Paul Weisser: editinggg@gmail.com

Nonfiction

Ellen Sarbone: editor@etraveller.com

Paul Weisser: editinggg@gmail.com

Ron Wren: ronwren@aol.com

Ben Zikria: baz2@columbia.edu

Playwriting

Joanna Kraus: tjkraushouse@hotmail.com

Paul Weisser: editinggg@gmail.com

Poetry

Paul Weisser: editinggg@gmail.com

Ben Zikria: baz2@columbia.edu

Promotion & Publicity

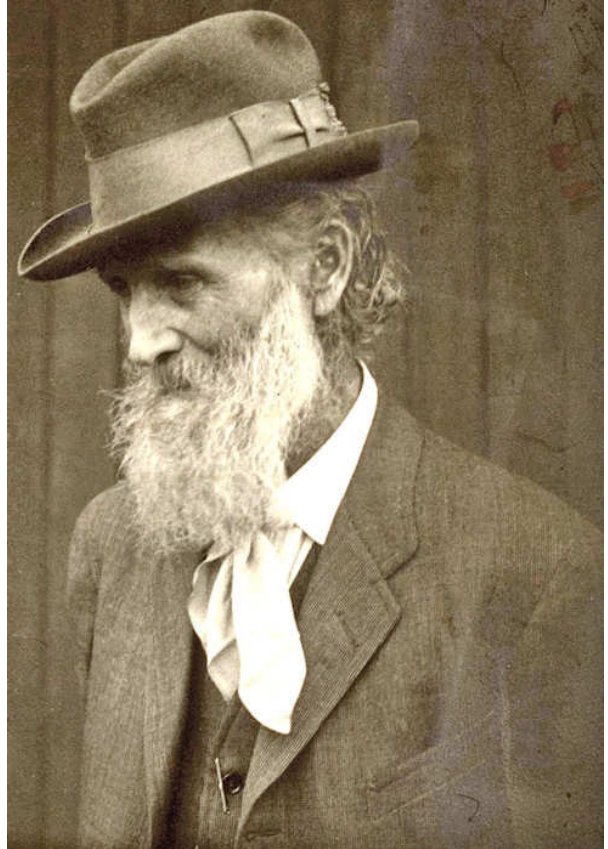
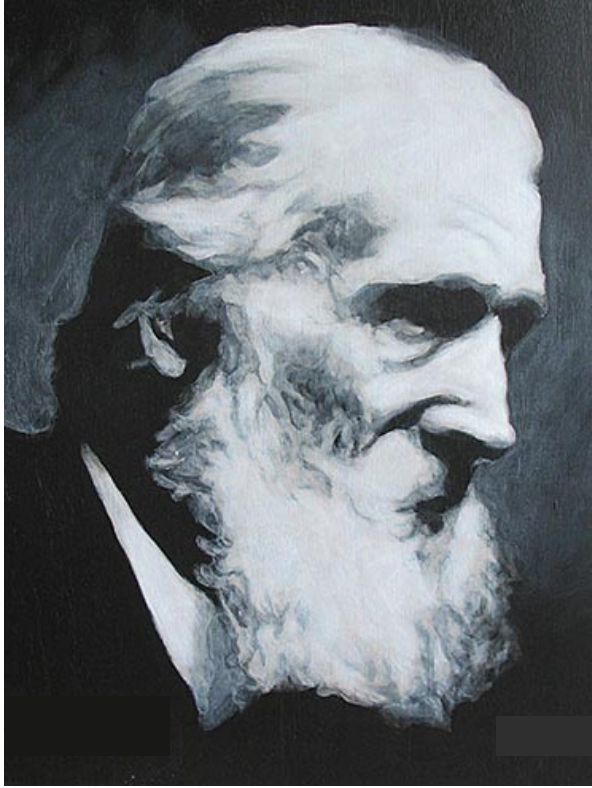
Ron Wren: ronwren@aol.com

Screenwriting

Paul Weisser: editinggg@gmail.com

Speeches & Dramatic Coaching

Paul Weisser: editinggg@gmail.com



From the Editor



Paul Weisser

John Muir, Self-Publisher

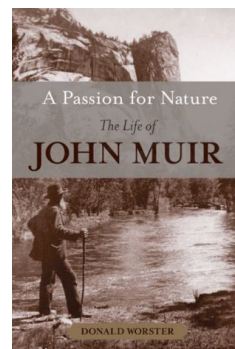
John Muir was born to Daniel Muir and Ann Gilrye Muir on April 21, 1838, in a four-story stone house in Dunbar, Scotland. The third of eight children, John attended the local schools of that small coastal town until the age of 11, when the Muir family emigrated to the United States. They settled first at Fountain Lake, Wisconsin, and then moved to Hickory Hill Farm near Portage, Wisconsin.



Daniel Muir was a harsh disciplinarian, who worked his family from dawn to dusk, sometimes with a whip, believing that anything that distracted from Bible studies was frivolous and punishable. Thus, by the age of 11, John could recite by heart all of the New Testament and three-quarters of the Old Testament.



Nevertheless, whenever John and his younger brother, David, were allowed a short period away from the plow and hoe, they would roam the fields and woods of the rich Wisconsin countryside, where John became more and more the loving observer of the natural world. From an early age, he also became a great admirer of the writings and lifestyle of Henry David Thoreau, and later often referred to himself as a “disciple” of Thoreau.



(continued on page 23)

John also became an inventor, a carver of curious but practical mechanisms in wood. He made a horse feeder, a table saw, a thermometer, wooden locks, a mechanical desk, clocks that kept accurate time, and a wondrous device that tipped him out of bed before dawn.

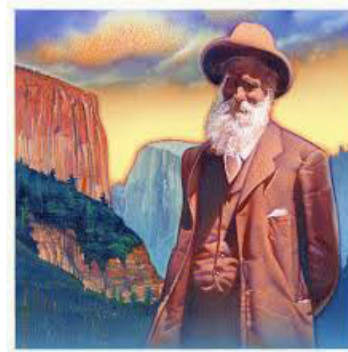


Muir's Mechanical Desk

In 1860, when John was 22, he took his inventions to the state fair at Madison, where he won admiration and prizes. Also that year, he entered the University of Wisconsin. He made fine grades, but after three years left Madison to travel the northern United States and Canada, odd-jobbing his way through the yet unspoiled land.



In 1867, when John was 29, he was working at a wagon wheel factory in Indianapolis when a tool he was using slipped and struck him in the eye. He was confined to a darkened room for six weeks, worried about whether he would ever regain his sight. When he did, he saw the world—and his purpose—in a new light, resolving to turn his eyes to the fields and woods, and thus began his years of wanderlust. “God,” he wrote, “has to nearly kill us sometimes, to teach us lessons.”



Giving up his own inventions “to study the inventions of God,” he set out on a walk of a thousand miles from Indianapolis to the Gulf of Mexico. He followed no specific route, he wrote, except to go by the “wildest, leafiest, and least trodden way I could find,” creating detailed sketches of the terrain along the way.

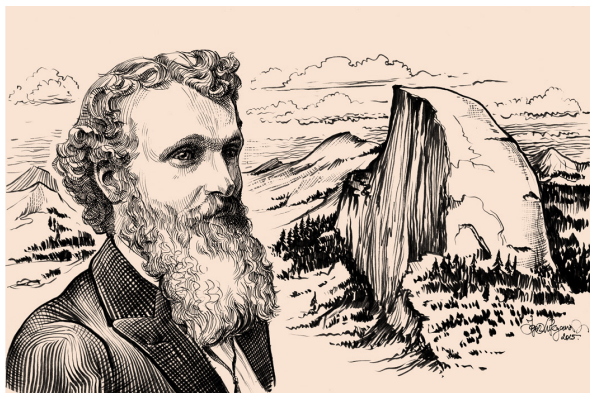


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From Florida, he then sailed to Cuba and later to Panama, where he crossed the Isthmus and sailed up the West Coast, landing in San Francisco in March 1868. From that moment on, though he would travel around the world, California became his home.



Most of all, it was California's Sierra Nevada and Yosemite that truly claimed him. In 1868, when he was 30, John walked across the San Joaquin Valley through waist-high wildflowers and into the high country for the first time. Later he wrote that the Sierra was "the most divinely beautiful of all the mountain chains I have ever seen." He herded sheep through that first summer and made his home in Yosemite.



Ironically, John's first appearance in print, for which he gets credit as a self-publisher, was not intended by him. Someone he didn't know submitted to a journal a letter that John had written to a friend about *Calypso borealis*, a rare flower he had encountered. The piece was published anonymously, identified as having been written by an "inspired pilgrim." This can be thought of as a form of self-publishing without a self.



By 1871, when John was 33, he was beginning to be known throughout the country, and famous men, including Ralph Waldo Emerson, made their way to the door of his small pine cabin along Yosemite Creek, which John had built himself, designing it so that a section of the stream flowed through a corner of the room so he could enjoy the sound of running water.

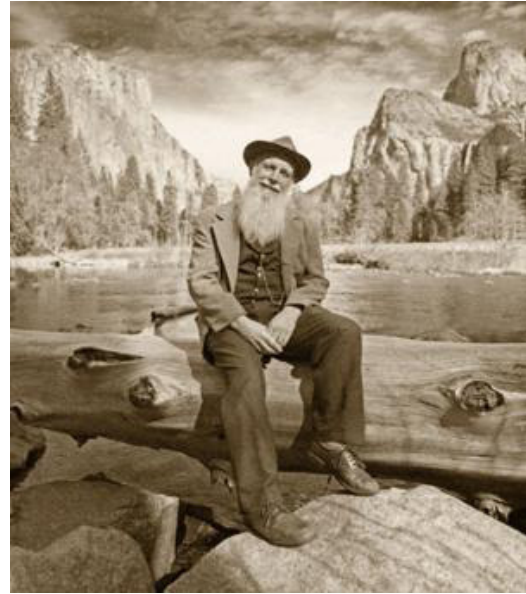
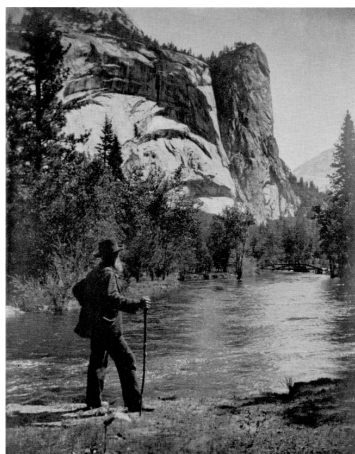
Emerson offered John a teaching position at Harvard, but Muir declined, writing later, "I never for a moment thought of giving up God's big show for a mere profship!"

(continued on page 25)

From observing the features of the Yosemite Valley and the surrounding area, John became convinced that they had been sculpted by glacier erosion. This notion, now generally accepted, was in stark contradiction to the theory prevalent in Muir's day, which attributed the formation of the valley to a catastrophic earthquake.



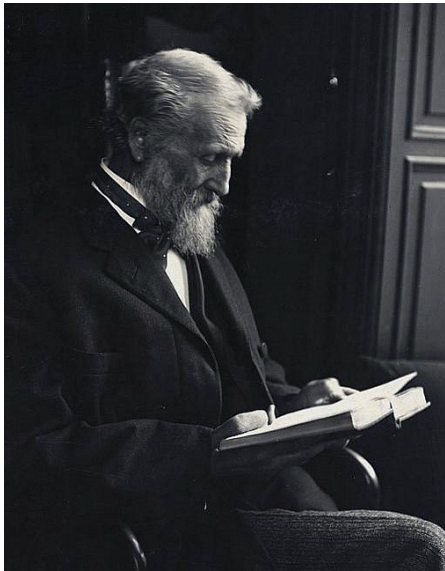
Muir became a writer in earnest in 1874, at the age of 36, when he published a series of articles entitled "Studies in the Sierra." But writing was always a slow and laborious process for him. Every phrase underwent his critical scrutiny twenty times or more before he was satisfied to let it stand. "This business of writing books," he once told a friend, "is a long, tiresome, endless job."



On another occasion, he wrote, "No amount of word-making will ever make a single soul to 'know' these mountains. One day's exposure to mountains is better than a cartload of books." In the wilderness, he felt, he could study the plants and animals in an environment that came straight from the hand of God, uncorrupted by civilization and domestication.



As one of Muir's biographers noted, John "styled himself as a John the Baptist, whose duty was to immerse in 'mountain baptism' everyone he could." Muir himself wrote, "Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and give strength to body and soul alike."



Nevertheless, for a while, Muir left the mountains to live in Oakland, California, from which he took many trips, including his first to Alaska in 1879, at the age of 41.

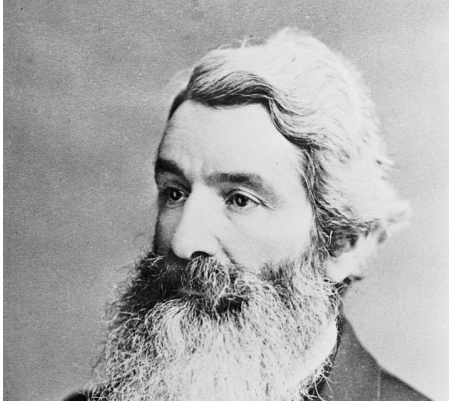
The following year, single up to now, John married Louisa Wanda Strentzel, the daughter of a prominent physician and horticulturist with a 2,600-acre fruit orchard in Martinez, northeast of Oakland, where the couple raised two daughters, Wanda and Helen. Settling down to domestic life, John went into partnership with his father-in-law, managing the family fruit orchard with great success for a decade.



But those years of active farming did not quell John's wanderlust. Louisa understood her husband's needs, and would occasionally "shoo him back up" to the mountains, sometimes accompanied by his daughters. When he was alone, his travels took him to Alaska many more times, as well as to Australia, South America, Africa, Europe, China, Japan, and, again and again, his beloved Sierra Nevada.

"Only by going alone in silence," wrote Muir, "without baggage, can one truly get into the heart of the wilderness. All other travel is mere dust and hotels and baggage and chatter."





Eventually, Muir published some three hundred articles and ten major books that recounted his travels, expounded his naturalist philosophy, and beckoned everyone to “climb the mountains and get their good tidings.”

In 1890, due in large part to John Muir’s efforts in collaboration with Robert Underwood Johnson, the associate editor of *Century* magazine, an act of Congress created Yosemite National Park, modeled after Yellowstone National Park. John was also personally involved in the creation of Sequoia, Mount Rainier, Petrified Forest, and Grand Canyon national parks, for which he is often deservedly called the “father of our national park system.”

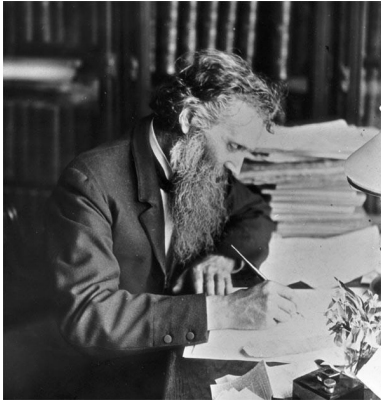


Muir felt that the greatest threat to the Yosemite area and the Sierra was domesticated livestock—especially domestic sheep, which he referred to as “hoofed locusts.” Therefore, in 1892, to protect Yosemite from the assaults of stockmen, poachers, and land prospectors who wanted to diminish its boundaries, John and a number of his supporters followed a proposal made by Professor Henry Senger, a philologist at UC Berkeley, to form a local “alpine club” for mountain lovers. This led to the founding of the Sierra Club, with John Muir serving as its president for the next twenty-two years.



In 1901, John published *Our National Parks*, the book that brought him to the attention of President Theodore Roosevelt. In 1903, John joined Roosevelt in Oakland for the train trip to Raymond. The presidential entourage then traveled by stagecoach into the park. While traveling, John told the president about state mismanagement of the valley and rampant exploitation of the valley’s resources. Even before they entered the park, he was able to

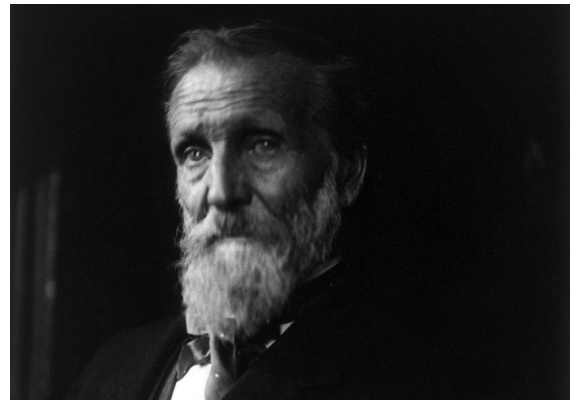
convince Roosevelt that the best way to protect the valley was through federal control and management.



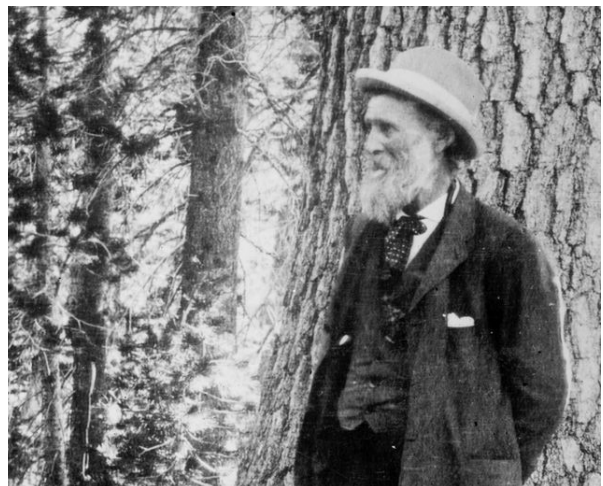
After entering the park and seeing the magnificent splendor of the valley, the president asked John to show him the real Yosemite. Muir and Roosevelt set off largely by themselves and camped in the back country. The duo talked late into the night, slept in the brisk open air of Glacier Point, and were dusted by a fresh snowfall in the morning. It was a night Roosevelt never forgot. That trip laid the foundation for the president's innovative conservation programs.

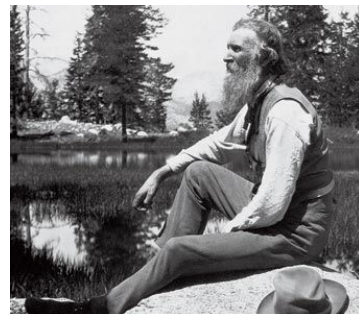
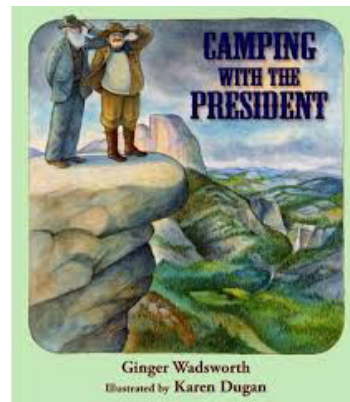
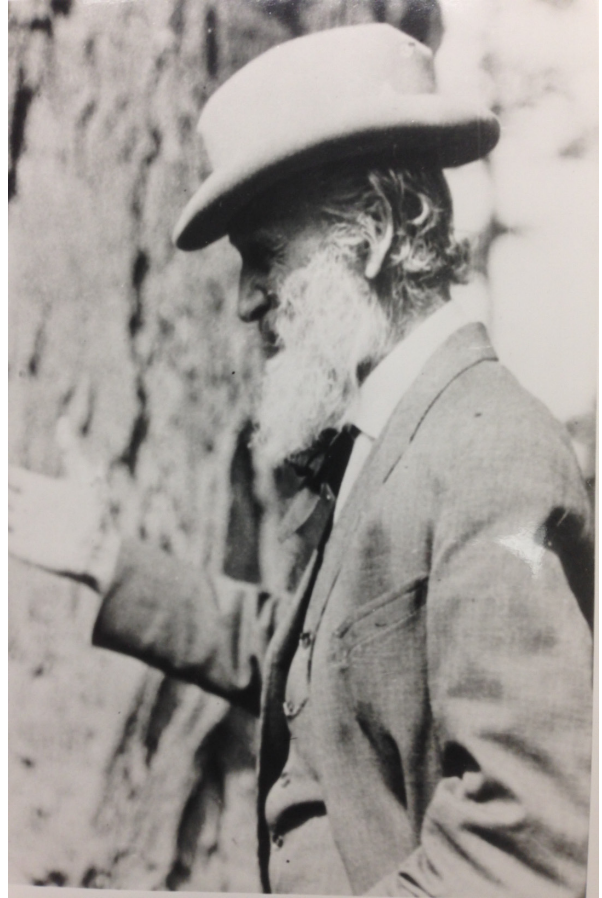


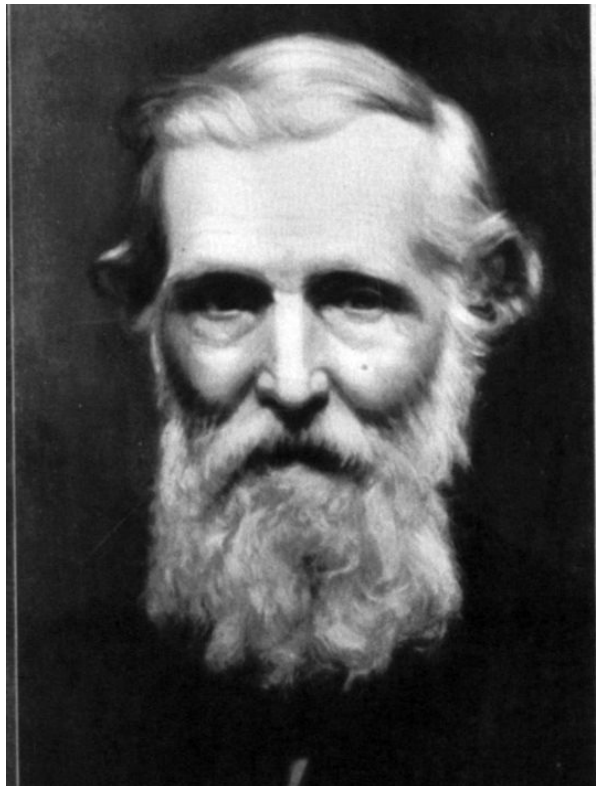
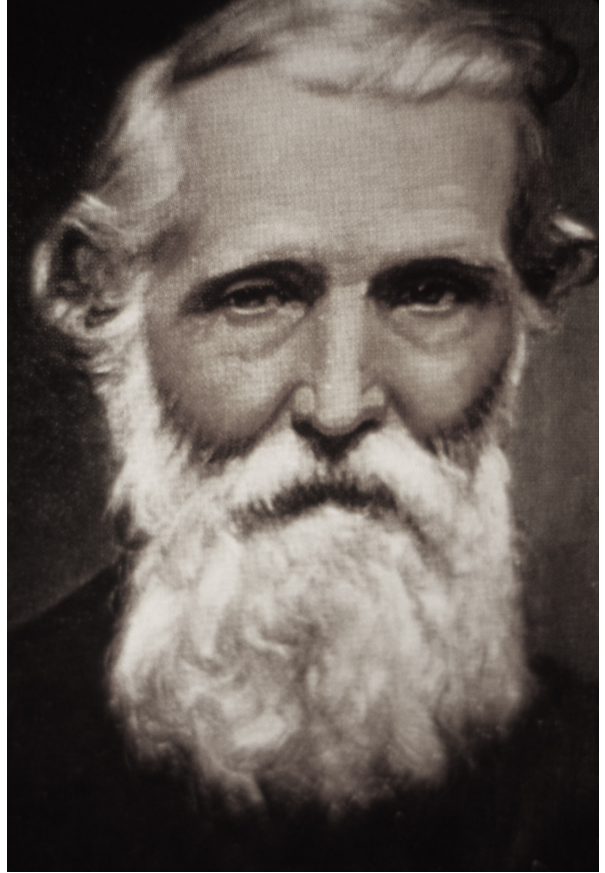
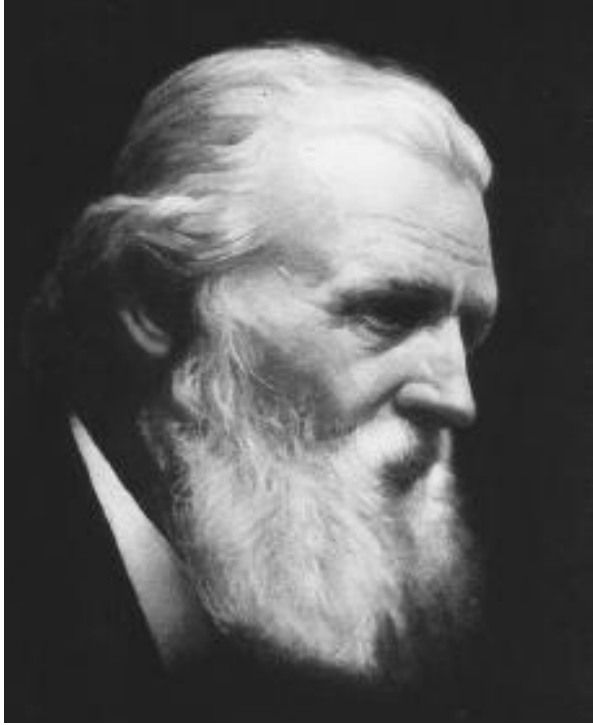
Over the years, the Sierra Club fought many battles to protect Yosemite and the Sierra Nevada, the most dramatic being the campaign to prevent the damming of the Hetch Hetchy Valley within Yosemite National Park. In 1913, after a mighty effort, the battle was lost and the valley that John likened to Yosemite itself was doomed to become a reservoir to supply the water needs of a growing San Francisco.

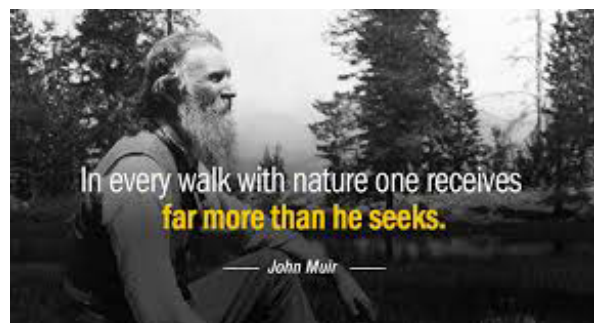
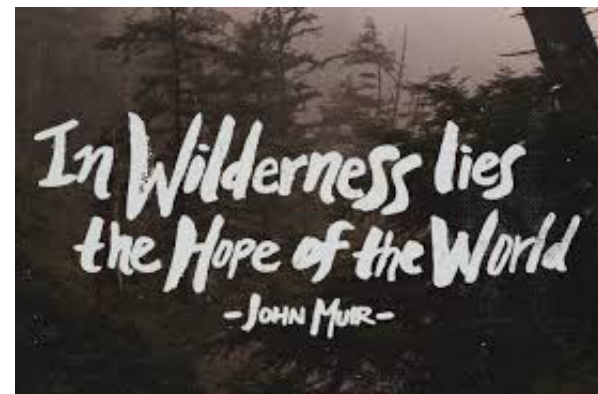
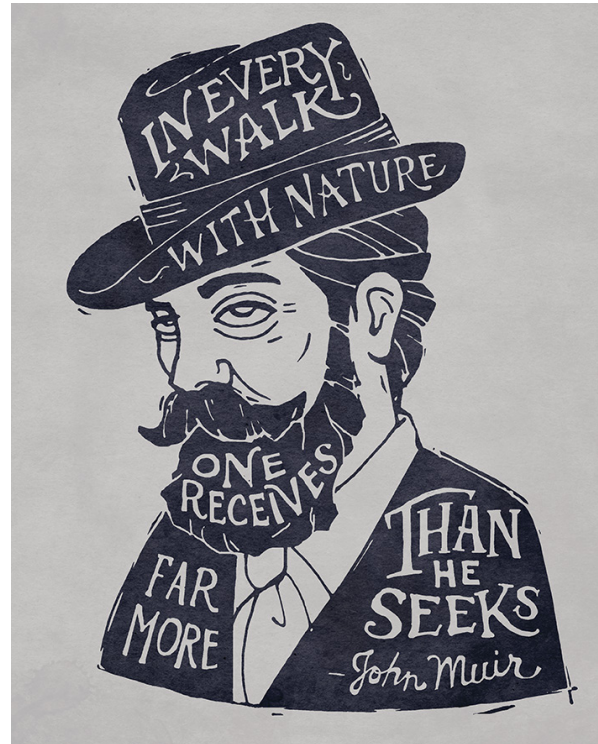


The following year, nine years after his wife died, John Muir contracted pneumonia. On December 24, 1914, after a short illness, he died of pneumonia in a hospital in Los Angeles. □









Thought for the Month

"One day's exposure to mountains is better than a cartload of books."

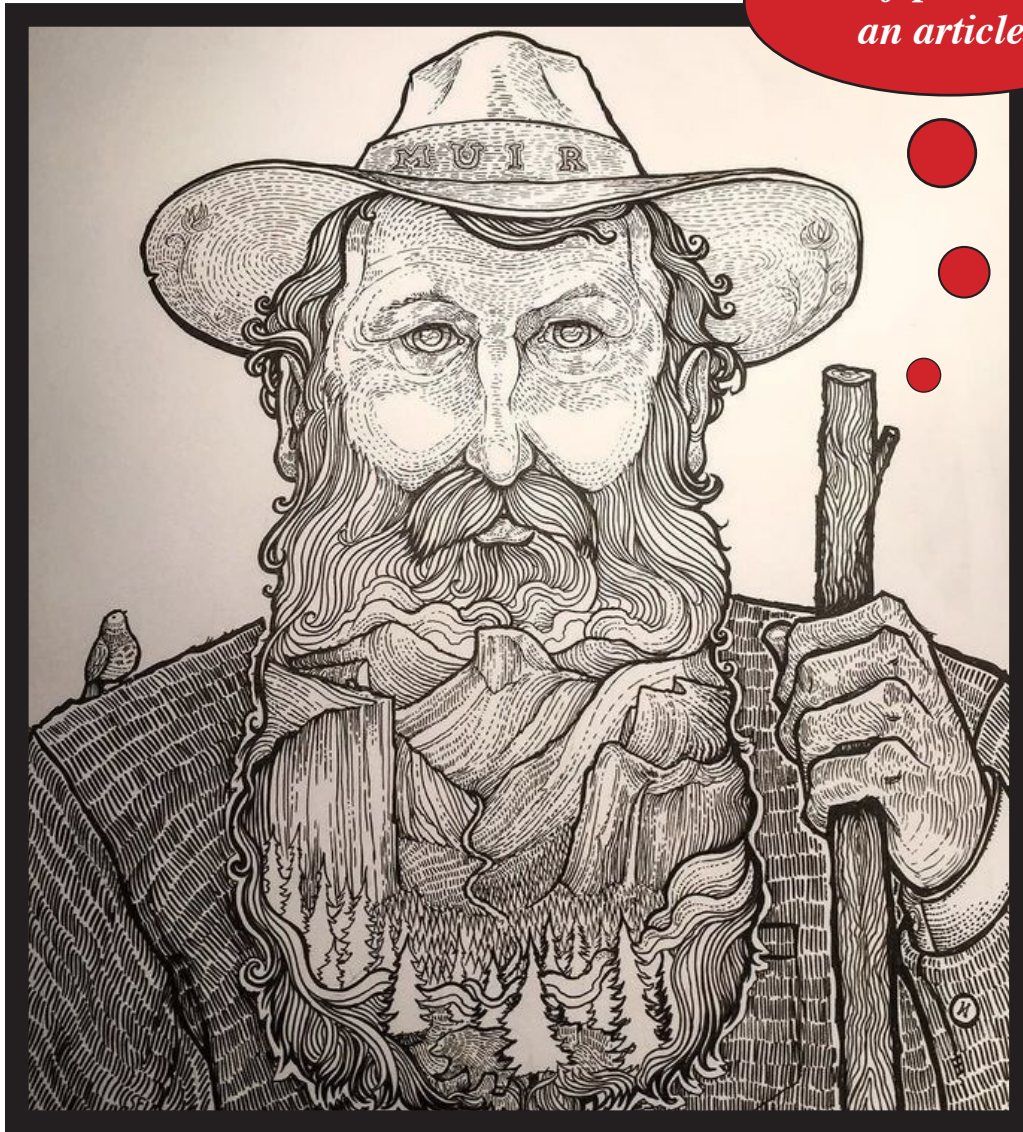
—John Muir



PWR Newsletter



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John Muir

(April 21, 1838 – December 24, 1914)



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