Register of the Mountain View House (Peregoy Meadows, Calif.) Hotel Register, 1869-1878

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Collection number: Mss166

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Descriptive Summary
Title: Mountain View House (Peregoy Meadows, Calif.) Hotel Register,
Date (inclusive): 1869-1878
Collection number: Mss166
Creator: Bea Peregoy
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Access
Collection is open for research.

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Biography
Born in Baltimore (1826) Charles Peregoy came to California in search of gold (1849). He engaged in mining in Calaveras and Mariposa counties. Sometime in the 1850's Pereyog bought a ranch at Mormon Bar about two miles from the town of Mariposa. Shortly after Charles Peregoy made the final payment on the Mormon Bar ranch, John C. Fremont claimed the land as part of his Mexican land grant and demanded that Pereyog pay him rent on his property. The latter refused and took the case to court where it was litigated for seventeen years before finally being settled in Pereyog's favor. Faced with the possibly of losing his property, he decided to concentrate on stock raising rather than making costly improvements on the land. During the summer months Pereyog drove his cattle through Mormon Bar, past Clark's Station (Wawona) and up toward Glacier Point to the spot later known as Pereyog Meadows. Here he established a cattle camp and lived with his wife and five children during the summer.
In the late 1860's tourist travel into Yosemite increased considerably. Tourists could travel by stage as far as White and Hatch's mill on Chowchilla Mountain. They made the remainder of the trip on horseback as there was then no roads into the Valley. Tourists took the trail from White and Hatch's to Clark's Station, where they stopped to visit the Big Trees. The next day they usually rode to Inspiration Point then down to the Valley floor. The trail led past the Peregoy cattle camp and many weary travelers stopped to ask for food or a night's lodging, so Charles and Mary decided to put up a small hotel, called Mountain View House (1869). This consisted of two buildings with accommodations for sixteen people. Mountain View House ceased to be important as an overnight stopping place when wagon roads from Coulterville, Big Oak Flat, and Wawona were completed (1875). Charles Peregoy died in Mariposa (1904) at the age of 78. The inn was not used after 1919 and was dismantled by a Civil Conservation Corps crew during the 1930s. The location of the fireplace is still barely visible. See Pacific Historian vol. 6, no. 3, pp. 123-128. "Charles and Mary Agnes Peregoy--Yosemite Pioneers" by Bea Peregoy (Great-Granddaughter).

Scope and Content
Photocopy of original hotel register, unpaginated, bound volume of approximately 207 pages with preface and copies of two photographs. The register has also been microfilmed and is held by the University of the Pacific and the University of California. The Hotel Register is first addressed "To Chas. E. Peregoy, from his friends Geo B. Bayley & Clinton Day. June, 1870. First entries are signed by them on June 11, 1870. However the second page lists entries for September 10, 1869 and June 3, 1870. An estimated 5,000 guests enjoyed Peregoy's hospitality. Inn visitors came from throughout the United States and twenty-two foreign countries. Famous guests included Mark Hopkins, De Witt Talmage, Joaquin Miller, Asa Gray, Horace Greeley, and John Muir. Many guests made comments about their sightseeing and the views, expressed appreciation of the guides, wrote poems about the hotel, or disparaging remarks about hotels in the valley. The last guests registered at Mountain View House on October 24, 1874. Nearly four years later, in June 1878, the final entries were made in the hotel register by members of the "Dr. Dio Lewis Camping Party."

BOX 1: MT. HOUSE HOTEL REGISTER, 1869-1878
1.1: STAFF RESEARCH FILE
- "An inn's register gives glimpse of Yosemite's Past," Fresno Bee (November 20, 1979)
- Bea Peregoy. "Charles and Mary Agnes Peregoy--Yosemite Pioneers," The Pacific Historian vol. 6, no. 3 (August, 1962), pp. 123-128

1.2: MOUNTAIN VIEW HOUSE LEDGER [Bound photocopy of the original register, unpaginated, with preface and copies of two photographs added. Approximately 207 pages.]