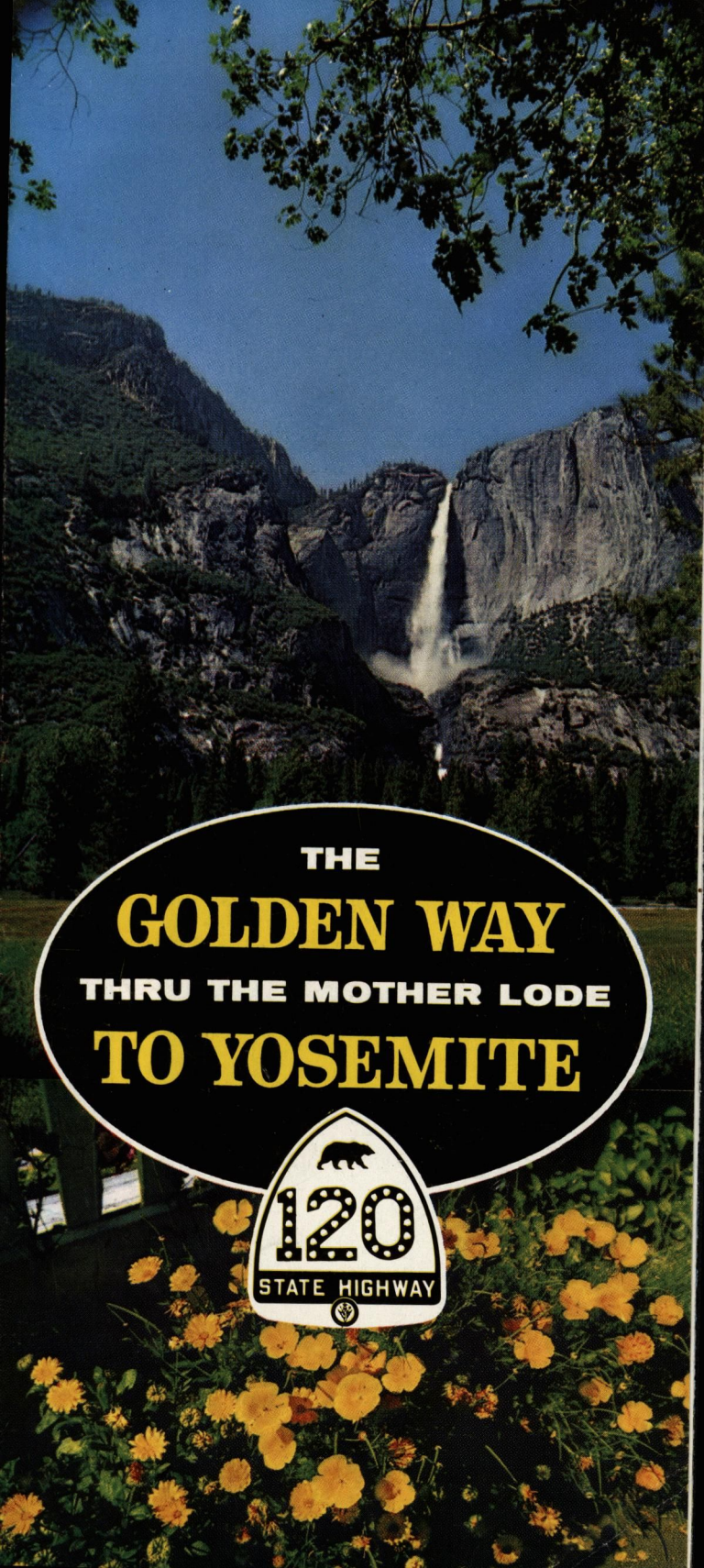
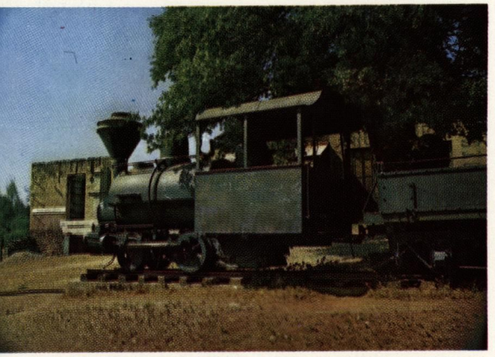

THE
GOLDEN WAY
THRU THE MOTHER LODE
TO YOSEMITE
120
STATE HIGHWAY

CALIFORNIA'S HISTORIC "Gold Road"

120 STATE HIGHWAY

Cherry Valley, north of Highway 120, you will find the wilderness area of Yosemite National Park, the fisherman's paradise. Its innumerable lakes, large and small, are stocked with fighting trout. It is also popular camping for those who shun the crowds. For native trout, fish the Tuolumne River.

Groveland, still a thriving town, is in the center of the scenic gold country along Highway 120, the "Big Oak Flat Road."



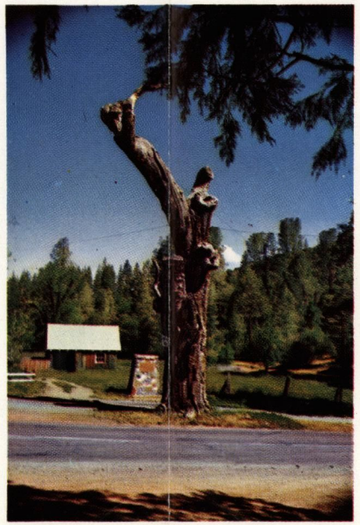
Whisting Billy at Coulterville on Highway 49 is a narrow-gauge engine out of the past, once a marvel of mechanical efficiency.

Choose a spot to stay on Highway 120, then drive to interesting places all around. This is an area of historical fact, not fantasy—and yet it all seems so intriguingly unreal.

Smooth water for excellent water skiing, can be found on many beautiful lakes in the area. Don Pedro Reservoir is soon to be enlarged to second in size of all California's man-made lakes.

Hangman's Tree at Second Garrote. It is just east of Groveland, which was known as First Garrote until 1875 and had its own hanging tree.

Groveland School has provided education for generations of residents of this year-round community.



The Trail of History through the Mother Lode

You can't drive a mile without seeing something of interest. The Mother Lode country is rich in the lore of the miners and those who flocked to the land in the glorious days of more than a century ago. So interesting and alive is this country with a colorful past, you can't be content with just passing through.

Stay awhile and see the scenery, or fish the wonderful lakes of the area—Benson Lake, Lake Eleanor, Hetch-Hetchy Reservoir, Kibbee Lake, Laurel Lake, Tilden Lake and Lake Vernon. Pack trains are available to all these places of interest.

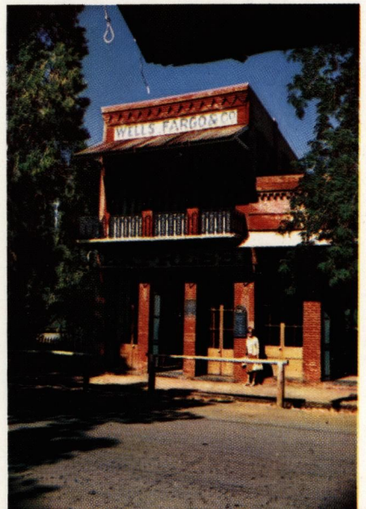
Bret Harte Cabin, across the road from Hangman's Tree, was the home of Chaffee and Chamberlain, subjects of the Bret Harte story, "Tennessee's Partner".

Columbia State Park is a 49'er city restored to original condition—a photographer's paradise. This Wells-Fargo building and the museum are tourist favorites.

A cabin, motel or hotel along Highway 120 can be your headquarters for a relaxed, carefree and wonderfully interesting vacation.

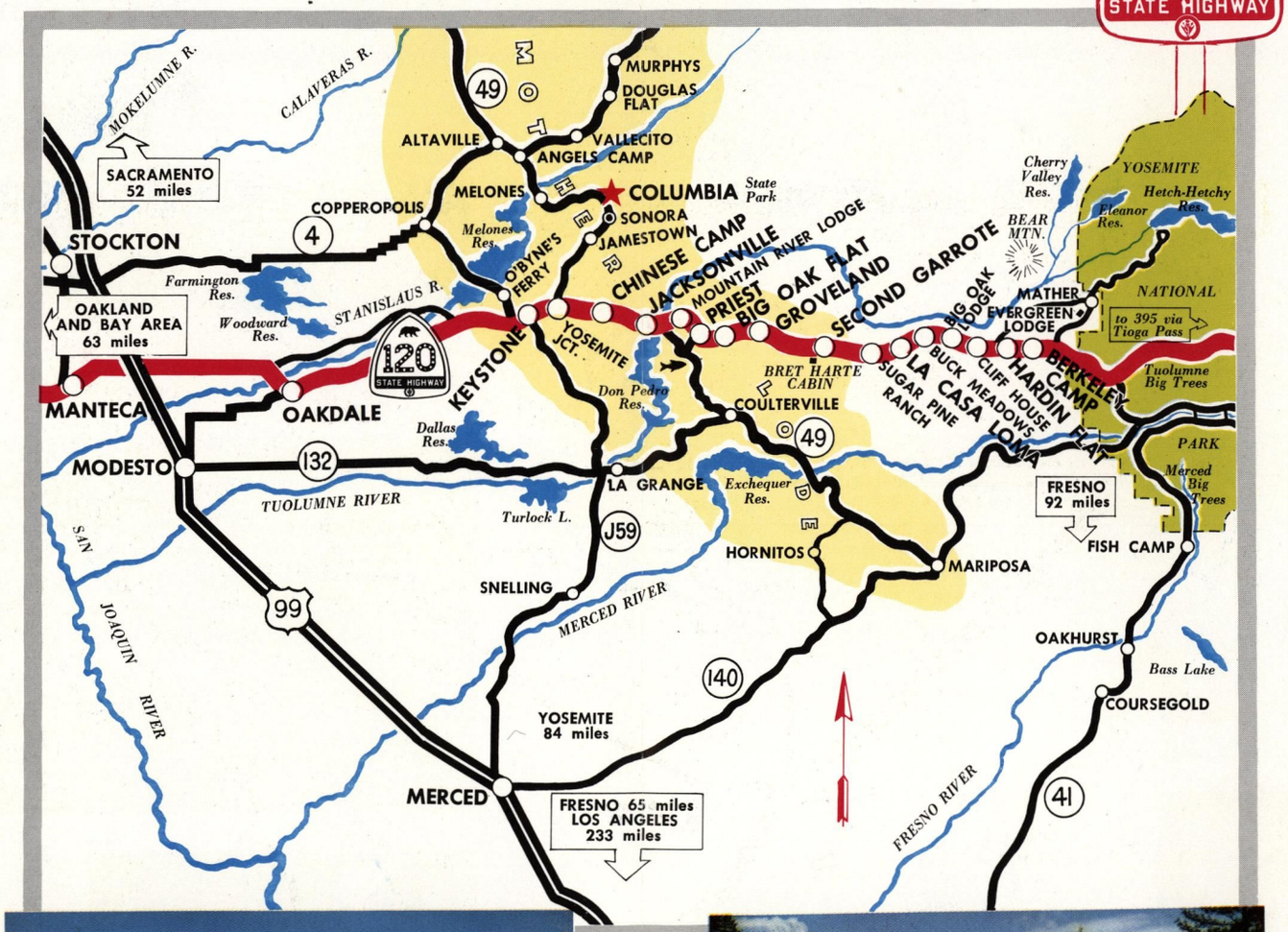
Modern Trailer home contrasts with the many historic structures and is a type of residence popular in the area. Travel trailer accommodations are also available all along Highway 120.

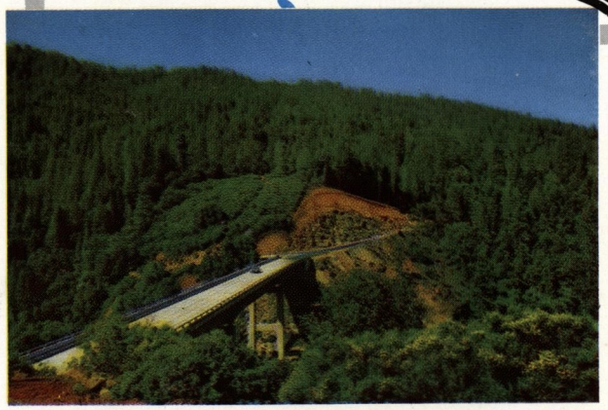
Horseback still is favored for seeing the surrounding area. Pack trips into the hinterlands and high Sierra lake country can be arranged at Camp Mather and Cherry Valley.



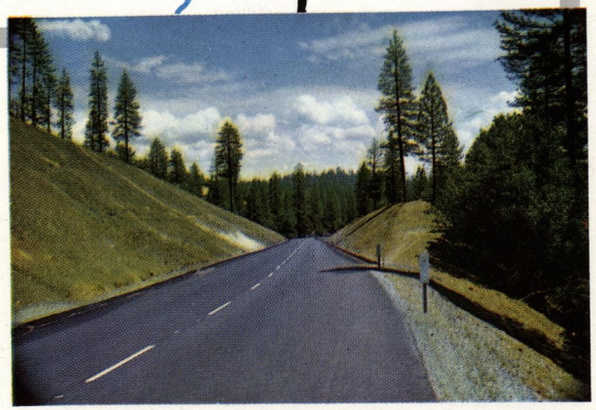
COLOR PHOTOS AND PROCESSING BY JOHN D. ROCHE, INC., LOS ANGELES

"This is the spectacular way to GO . . . ROUTE ONE-TWO-O!"
"The Big Oak Flat Road"

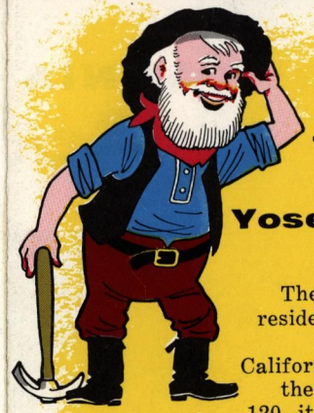




New Route 120, the "Big Oak Flat Road", presently completed over some length of the approaches, will be one of the fine highways of tomorrow. This bridge over the South Fork of Tuolumne River was opened in 1962.



Wide stretches, easy grades and broad sweeping curves characterize portions of the "Big Oak Flat Road" now in use. Other new sections opening from time to time will make it a delight to travel.



Take the Direct and Beautiful Route to Yosemite National Park

The route best known to Bay Area residents is also the most spectacular way to Yosemite for Southern Californians. If you want scenery, take the "Big Oak Flat Road", Highway 120, it takes you through the big trees and the high country, and lets you look down from wide turnouts at breathtaking panoramas of the Yosemite Valley below—the falls, the peaks, the majestic grandeur. It's almost like flying, except you can take your time and drink in its beauty. On the way down, the falls all around, you will go past the road to Tioga Pass then through three tunnels to the Valley entrance.

Along "Big Oak Flat Road", Highway 120 you'll find every few miles a nice place to stop—an inn, an historical monument, a town, a place to stay—with good food and friendly hospitality. The meals will absolutely amaze you with their gourmet flavor, generous portions and modest prices. The fried chicken is "out of this world", tender steaks are thick and juicy, and apples, cherries and purple Italian onions are simply delightful. All along this great route people know how to live, and they'll be happy to help you enjoy the country and get the most out of your trip.

Happy Motoring!

BIG OAK FLAT
120 HIGHWAY ASSOCIATION
GROVELAND, CALIFORNIA

Jet trails of the space age and the charm of a century past blend in this land of enchantment and contrast.