

## HISTORICAL WITNESS

★ SOCIAL MESSAGING ★

### TIMELINE

1826

Joseph Nicéphore Niepce creates the earliest surviving photographic image.

1836

Ralph Waldo Emerson writes *Nature*.

1839

Louis-Jacques-Mandé Daguerre exhibits his first daguerreotype, a photographic image produced on a silver-coated copper plate.

William Henry Fox Talbot announces his photogenic drawing process, in which an image is captured on light-sensitive paper. This process becomes the basis for negative/positive photography.

1848

Gold is discovered in California.

1851

The state of California sends the Mariposa Battalion to force Indian populations into reservations, and the battalion stumbles into Yosemite Valley.

1854

*Walden* by Henry David Thoreau is published.

1861

The photographer Carleton E. Watkins travels two hundred miles east of San Francisco to the Yosemite Valley and Mariposa Grove in order to create photographs such as *Tutucanula - El Capitan 3600 ft. Yo Semite*.

1864

President Abraham Lincoln signs the Yosemite Valley Grant Act to protect Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove so that the "premises shall be held for public use, resort, and recreation." The bill marks the first time the federal government reserved land for conservation reasons.

1869

The first transcontinental railroad was built in the United States.

John Muir begins a three-and-a-half month visit to Yosemite and captures his experience in journals and sketches.

1872

Yellowstone becomes the first official national park.

1885–86

The first gasoline automobile is invented by Karl Friedrich Benz in Germany.

1890

Yosemite National Park is created on October 1.

1892

John Muir founds the Sierra Club, an environmental organization dedicated to using and preserving nature.

1898

The first mass-produced panoramic camera, the Al-Vista, is introduced in the United States.

1903

The Wright brothers fly the first successful airplane.

1908

The Ford Motor Company produces its first Model T automobile.

1911

*My First Summer in the Sierra*, based on John Muir's journals and sketches from his 1869 stay in Yosemite, is published.



1913

The Ford Motor Company streamlines its assembly-line process so that the Model T can be assembled in ninety-three minutes. By 1927, more than fifteen million Model Ts are sold.

1913–14

The first 35 mm still camera is developed.

1930s

Severe droughts in the American Midwest and Great Plains give rise to the Dust Bowl.

1932

Route 66 connects hundreds of towns between Chicago and Los Angeles.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt is elected as the thirty-second president of the United States on his "New Deal" platform.

Mid-1930s

Thousands of Great Plains farmers, known as "Okies," move to California to find work.

1935

Roosevelt establishes the Works Progress Administration to lessen the effects of the Great Depression.

1937

The United States Housing Act is passed, renewing federal commitment to offer affordable housing to America's urban poor and creating public housing programs.

1941

Japan bombs Pearl Harbor, and the U.S. enters World War II, putting an end to the Great Depression.

1944

The G.I. Bill offers low-interest thirty-year loans to potential homeowners who have returned from World War II.

1945

Japan surrenders, and World War II ends.

1947

William Levitt begins construction of seventeen thousand houses in Long Island, New York, using assembly-line techniques to mass-produce the houses.

1950

Lakewood, one of the first large-scale postwar housing developments, is built in a Los Angeles County suburb. William A. Garnett shoots photographs of Lakewood, including *Trenching Lakewood, California*, while flying a plane.

1954

Visitors to Yosemite exceed one million per year for the first time.

1956

The Federal-Aid Highway Act authorizes the building of over forty thousand miles of U.S. highways.

1959

California establishes the Motor Vehicle Pollution Control Board to regulate motor vehicle emissions.

Mid-1990s

Visitors to Yosemite exceed four million per year.

2007

The American Lung Association releases a report ranking Los Angeles as the most polluted U.S. city.