

A couple of decades later and a thousand miles to the west, one of the most remarkable, poetic, and intelligent of tree men arrived in Yosemite on foot. John Muir, the founder of the Sierra Club, single handedly helped save the king of the tree world—the giant Sequoias of the Sierra Nevada—from the axe. Muir’s love of trees, and in particular Californian trees, is legendary: “Going to the woods is going home,” he said. His meeting and overnight camp with President Theodore Roosevelt in 1903 ensured that the Yosemite Valley would be protected as a national treasure, becoming America’s second National Park.

Muir tramped the hills and valleys of California at a time when many men, rich off the bounty of industrialization, were rediscovering the power of nature. In fact, Muir was one of several esteemed naturalists and scientists of his day who accompanied Union Pacific Railroad baron E.H. Harriman on an exploratory voyage of Alaskan flora and fauna in 1899. Another industrialist who loved and protected trees and forests was Indiana’s William H. Donner, a steel magnate deeply connected to wild forests and waterways, a passionate fly fisherman with an insatiable curiosity about trees providing cancer medicines. His love of nature and humankind led him to create the International Cancer Research Foundation and the Donner Canadian Foundation, established in 1950, to support environmental and social services projects throughout Donner’s adopted homeland.

In the mid-1950s a young organic chemist named Gordon Moore graduated from Caltech with his doctorate. Dr. Moore co-founded Intel and correctly predicted that the number of transistors on a chip would double about every two years (Moore’s Law). A passionate conservationist, avid fly fisherman, and

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