

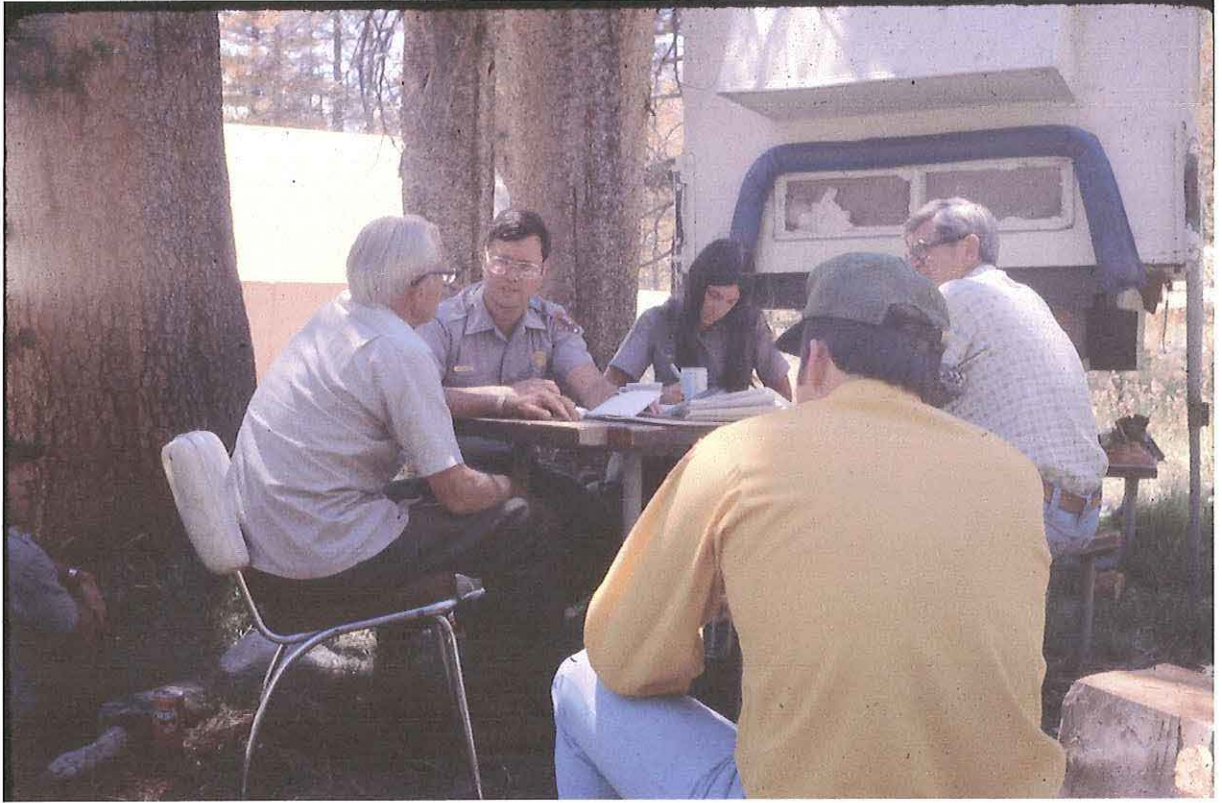
## Yosemite National Park Archives

*SAR Slide Collection from Brown SAR Box Located in Archives Office*

- All 5 Slides all taken July 18, 1981 from Stacey Arras Search, labeled as such

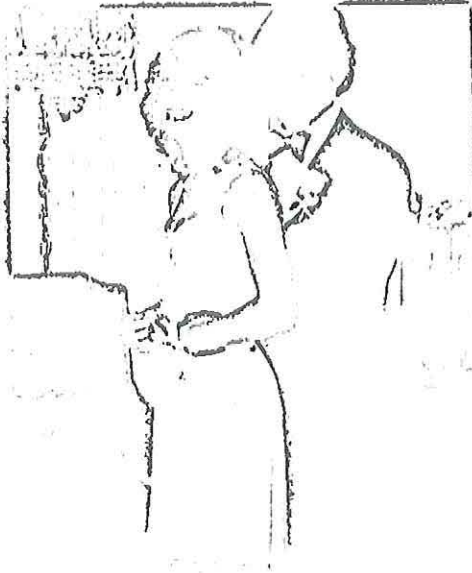












Attempt to xerox prom photo  
7-19



Original prom photo  
7-19







# STACEY ARRAS

14 Years Old 5'5" Tall 120 lbs Blonde Hair

CLOTHES: When last seen, she was wearing a white windbreaker, light colored short sleeve blouse with square neckline, short shorts with wide white and lavender stripes, grey hiking boots (rough out, possibly size 8 or 9) with vibram soles, gold tone ankle bracelet, and she had a retainer on her upper



# HAVE YOU SEEN THIS PERSON?

## STACEY ARRAS 14 Years Old

DESCRIPTION: White female, approximately 5'5" tall, 120 lbs., 14 years old. When her blonde hair is combed forward, she looks 16 years old, and when her hair is pulled back in a ponytail, she looks 12 years old. She may have been wearing blue dot pierced earrings.

CLOTHES: When last seen wearing an off-white, pullover windbreaker, with horizontal zipper front pouch about breast-line and a hood that hangs down the back or tucks inside; all white jersey blouse with 1/4" white lace around the square neckline (tight fitting); shorts, with vertical 1/2" maroon and white stripes with intermittent sky-blue pin stripes and an approximate 1/2" slip on the sides (no pockets, pull-on type, no belt or buttons); grey hiking boots (rough cut, size 8 1/2 or 9), vibram soles. She was also wearing a gold double-wrap around ankle bracelet.

ADDITIONAL: She may be carrying a small Olympus camera, with embroidered neck strap, multi-colored, predominately black. She may also be carrying cigarettes and gum. She is wearing upper and lower narrow teeth retainers.



If seen contact Yosemite Natl Park  
209/372-4461 or 911

TO SUPERINTENDENT, YOSEMITE NP  
P.O. BOX 577  
YOSEMITE, CA. 95389

BOX \_\_\_\_\_ BOIQUET \_\_\_\_\_  
COLLECTION  
**Yosemite search ends;  
teen-ager is still lost**

FRESNO Bee JULY 28, 1981

McClatchy News Service

YOSEMITE — The search for Stacy Arras, 14, who disappeared in the Yosemite high county 11 days ago has been called off.

The Saratoga teen-ager "just seems to have disappeared" said National Park Service Superintendent Robert O. Binnewies, who added that the service would still like to hear from any backpacker who was in the area for any hint of information.

More than 50 volunteers combed the area around Sunrise High Sierra Camp again Sunday, the ninth day of a massive search in which volunteers, rangers and others logged thousands of hours.

At the height of the search, 100 persons were involved, including teams of professional searchers, dog teams, mountain climbers and skin divers and the park's contract helicopter, which logged more than 40 hours in the air.

The park service is picking up the cost of the search, which is estimated at \$50,000.

Stacy disappeared near the end of a horse-pack trip in the park, when she left a group to take photographs. Her disappearance from that point has become a mystery.

Some people feel the girl may have "taken a walk." And unless she did walk off intentionally, hopes for finding her alive are now considered slim, rangers said.

Park spokeswoman Linda Abbott said the girl's last talk with her father was over footwear. She was wearing thongs until her father told her she should wear hiking boots if she planned to walk away to take pictures.

"If she had planned on walking off, she wouldn't have gone off in thongs," the spokeswoman said.

Park officials said Stacy was having some family or school troubles and she was missing her teen-age boyfriend.

The search had been concentrated in a three- to five-mile-square section around Sunrise Lakes, south of Tenaya Lake.

Elevations there range 9,000 feet, with a number of lakes, forests, open granite ridges and meadows.

One searcher said there are many places where a body could slip in. If the girl was injured, she could have crawled under a ledge or into a hollow tree to escape the 40-degree night temperature, suggested a searcher.

The lack of the usual summer thunderstorm also may have hampered the search, rangers said. Dog teams brought into the area were unable to pick up any scent because of dry and dusty conditions.

The park service has contacted other backpackers via wilderness permit applications to see if any of them have seen the school girl.

Foul play has not been ruled out, said a park official.



# Yosemite search under way for girl missing on hike

McClatchy News Service

The National Park Service continued its search for Stacy Arras, 14, of Saratoga, who disappeared Friday while on a horseback pack trip near the Sunrise Camp in Yosemite.

Stacy, who was on the trip with her father, failed to return from a short hike after arriving at the campsite, according to Sharon Johnson of the National Park Service.

The site is about five miles south of Tenaya Lake.

She was last seen by a 77-year-old man who said he met her on a trail and accompanied her for 20-30 minutes before turning back towards the camp.

The man, who was traveling with the pack, told park officials he talked with a group of people coming from the direction in which the girl had hiked, but he hadn't seen her.

Sunrise Camp staff members began searching for Stacy on Friday. The National Park Service joined in Saturday morning.

Search efforts have included 50 people on foot, three helicopters, eight dog teams and 50-50 volunteers from the Mountain Rescue Association, according to the park service.

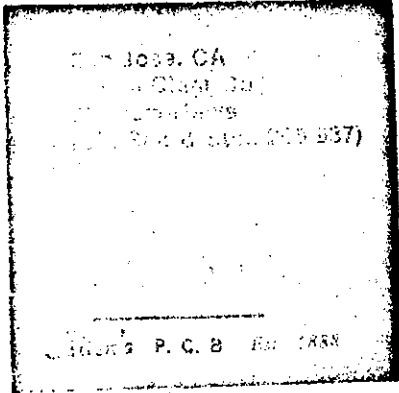
At the time of her disappearance, Stacy was wearing shorts, a T-shirt, a windbreaker and gray hiking boots.

SUPERINTENDENT  
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CALIFORNIA 95359

*The Fresno Bee*

*7/20/81*

*Pg B2*

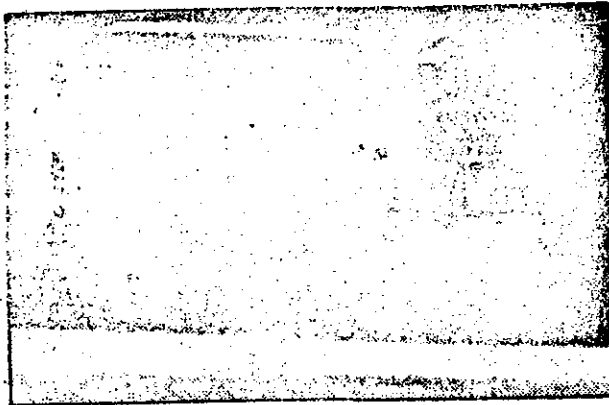


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# The Search

175



at  
Sunrise



# Quest to find Stacey a labor of love and hope

Fingers of light had barely stretched toward the granite domes and peaks surrounding the Yosemite campground, but the day already was well under way for the members of the San Jose Search and Rescue team.

They pulled on orange jump suits and coiled climbing ropes around day packs, getting ready to spend another eight

hours traversing ravines and descending down creek drainages, looking for Stacey Arras.

The team, nine of them in all, was 225 miles from Alum Rock Park and other places where they normally use their skills.

For two days, the team joined with other rescue teams from around California in the search of the well-traveled, but rough, terrain around the Sunrise High Sierra Camp where the 14-year-old Saratoga girl was July 17.

"The first day was all up, up, up," one of the San Jose searchers groaned. "The next day was all down, down, down."

The search has been carried out with military precision, and the omnipresent drone of helicopters has made the air above the Yosemite high country seem like a war zone.

Park spokeswoman Linda Abbott said about 60 searchers will continue hunting for the missing girl during the weekend, concentrating on the Sunrise High Sierra Camp from which she disappeared. If their efforts fail, Abbott said, the search probably will end Monday.

At a command post next to the ranger station at Tuolumne Meadows, five miles from the Sunrise Camp, search coordinators have spent mornings and nights studying aerial photographs and topographic maps.

To the east, west, south and north of the spot where Stacey disappeared, they have drawn lines around natural boundaries, such as steep ravines, which they do not believe she could have crossed.

Within the prime search area they have established a grid, and the searchers — numbering as many as 90 — have moved across it methodically, yard by yard.

According to Park Service spokesmen, about half the searchers are paid for their efforts. The pay ranges from \$4 an hour to about \$10 for rock climbers, who

have to traverse steep and potentially dangerous granite ledges.

The other half work for free, including the San Jose contingent. The search-and-rescue team is a division of the San Jose Office of Emergency Services, said Bob Marconi, who works for a Silicon Valley electronics firm, and some of its usual activities include helping injured hikers in urban parks or lending support to firemen during a big blaze.

It is a labor of love for Marconi and the 35 or so others who are part of the team. "You might say it's our hobby," said Mike Edwards, an electrician for the Southern Pacific railroad who serves as the operations director.

Members attend weekly and monthly meetings, receive training in rescue methods and first aid, and, Edwards said, spend a fair amount of their own money on equipment, especially paging devices.

The team is one of 13 such search-and-rescue units registered with the state.

Other volunteers involved in the search have a less urban flavor. Mountain-rescue teams include the Bay Area Mountain Rescue unit from Redwood City and Sierra Madre Mountain Rescue, from a town near Pasadena.

The Sierra Madre group included Linda Stoner and her 2-year-old German shepherd, "Duke."

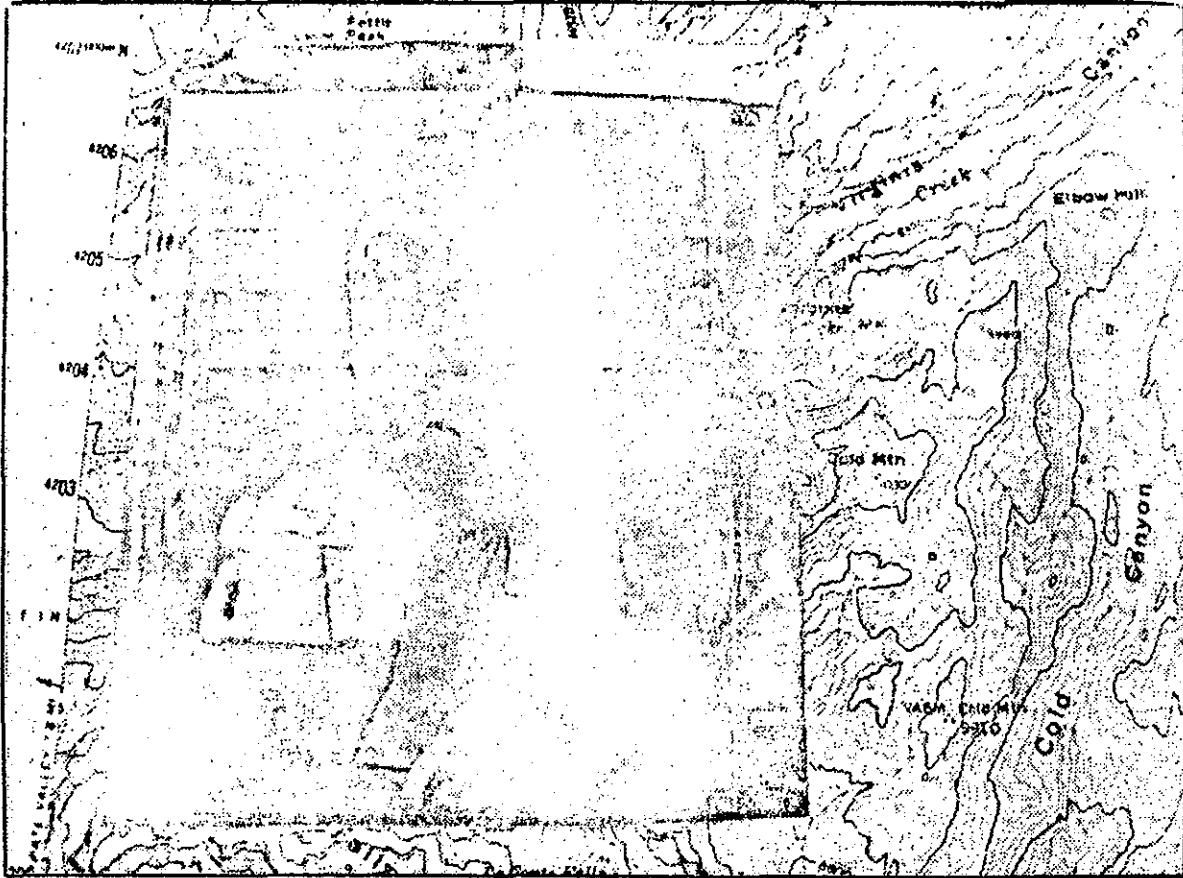
Stoner took time off from her job as a nurse in a Pasadena hospital to spend two days walking with Duke around two Yosemite lakes, hoping he might pick up a scent and find Stacey.

Unlike bloodhounds, who chase the scent of a particular person, German shepherds will pick up any human scent and hone in on the person emitting it like a missile to a target.

The dogs are efficient, she said, but not infallible. They have to be upwind of the person they are trying to find, so wind direction, and a certain amount of luck, plays a part.

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2075



The last picture taken of Stacey Arras before she disappeared is taped to the map used at searchers' Tuolumne Meadows headquarters.

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SUPERINTENDENT, YOSEMITE NB  
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YOSEMITE, CA. 95309



A scuba diver takes break from search, resting beside Upper Sunrise Lake. Another fruitless day behind them, volunteer searchers from San Jose had only near break from search at Yosemite National Park.

Photographs by Randy Olson Text by Karen Klingler



San Jose, CA  
(Santa Clara Co.)  
4500  
10/15/1977

Yosemite National Park Archives

Collection



Folder Box

# No trace of missing girl

By Karen Klinger  
Staff Writer

National Park Service ranger Bob Johnson used three words Thursday to sum up the status of the hunt for Stacey Arras: "Nothing significant found."

Once more, search teams trudged the high country of Yosemite National Park, looking for any sign of the missing 14-year-old girl from Saratoga, and again, the efforts were fruitless.

"We'll keep going until we have a satisfactory answer" about the probable fate of the teen-ager, Johnson promised.

Stacey was last seen July 17 near the Sunrise High Sierra Camp where she had stopped for the night with her father, George Arras, and 10 other members of a mule pack trip.

Since then, ground searchers, trackers with German shepherds, rock climbers and helicopter pilots have crossed and re-crossed miles of territory in every direction from the camp.

About 25 people took part in the search Thursday. If nothing is found before the weekend, Johnson said, the number of searchers will increase on Saturday and Sunday because "we'll have some more volunteers who are rested. We're all pretty tired right now."

Linda Abbott, a Park Service spokeswoman, said the operation is likely to cost \$50,000 to \$75,000, depending on how long it lasts.

While the field work continues, two Park Service investigators have been spending their time on the phone, talking to people who think they might have seen Stacey and combing through a stack of wilderness permits to find others who were camping in the area where she disappeared.

Park officials have said it is possible that the girl hiked to a road and left the park. The investigators have been checking that angle too, answering queries about what they are doing with a "No comment."

"I can tell you," Abbott said, "that they have not turned up anything significant."

# Search for girl is intensified

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Sun Stay July 24 1981

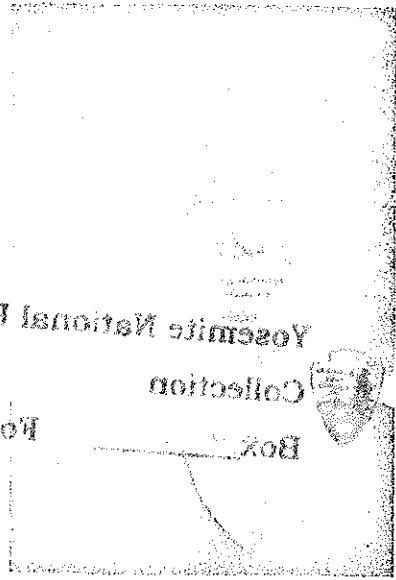
YOSEMITE — Approximately 100 rescuers are searching for a Saratoga teen-age girl missing in the high country of Yosemite National Park since Friday.

Stacey Arras, 14, was camping with her father when she left camp to take some pictures. There has been no sign of her since.

The search team includes approximately 60 people on foot, six dog teams and two helicopters.

The search is concentrated in the general area of Sunirise Camp, south of Tenaya Camp.

Before she left to take photos, the girl said she was going to walk alone on a short trail to a ridge.



STACEY ARRAS

SUPERINTENDENT, YOSEMITE NP  
P. O. BOX 577  
YOSEMITE, CA. 95389

Missing since July 23, 1981

# Search continues for Saratoga girl in Yosemite park

YOSEMITE — A search for a Saratoga girl missing six days in rugged Sierra mountain country here was cut down to nine volunteers and one ranger today.

The searchers were re-checking areas that larger groups of 90-100 people had combed previously in unsuccessful efforts to find Stacy Arras, 14.

Park spokesman Linda Abbott said if Miss Arras is not found, an intensive search will be conducted again Saturday and Sunday with about 50 volunteers.

Miss Arras disappeared after leaving Sunrise Camp south of Tenaya Lake for a walk along a short trail to take photographs from a ridge Friday. She and her father were on a horseback trip through Yosemite's rugged back country.

JULY 23, 1981

MARIPOSA GAZETTE

# Teenager Disappears In Yosemite

Stacy Arras, 14, of Saratoga mysteriously disappeared last Friday near the Sunrise High Sierra Camp in Yosemite. Stacy and her

father were part of a group that had just arrived at the campgrounds by horseback. The girl left camp, taking her camera for a short hike toward nearby lakes.

Another member of the group, a 77 year old man accompanied her for a short distance and then he stopped to rest while she continued up the trail. He told park officials that he had spoken to a group of people coming from the direction that Stacy had taken, but they had not

See Page Twelve

# Yosemite Seeks Murder

Who done it? This is the question, and "who", is the answer, in Yosemite Valley's summer theater workshop.

The plot to Agatha Christie's murder mystery "The Mousetrap," explodes with intense and often humorous bundles of calamity. The story taking place in England, with a young couple eager to make a go in the cruel business world. They convert the family mansion into a guest house. The opening day provides them with a conglomeration of unusual people. All, suspects of the Culver St. murder. Vague descriptions and highly suspicious minds, cause fingers to point, and mouths to chatter. Could it be the mild mannered mayor? Or what about the pernickety judge? The other six are also guilty, until proven innocent! Come solve the mystery, before it solves you! The opening date will be August 20, 8 p.m. at Yosemite Valley Elementary School auditorium. The play will run August 21 and 22 at 8 p.m. Adults - \$2.50 and children \$1.00.

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JULY 23, 1981  
MARIPOSA GAZETTE

# Teenager Disappears

From Page One

seen the girl.

Park information officer, Linda Abbott said that approximately 100 searchers assisted by three helicopters and eight dog teams are involved in the intensive search near the camp where the girl was last seen.

By using wilderness permits to determine those hikers who may have been in the area contacts are being made in an effort to determine if anyone may have seen the girl.



A76  
July 27, 1981

Chief Ranger

Yosemite National Park Archives

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Administrative flights

Folder

Box

Superintendent

As you know, the air operations for the Stacey Arras search began in earnest on Saturday, July 18. This search has involved the Laxore helicopter, Roger's Flying Service helicopter and our own contract helicopter. Coordination has been critical. At times, we have had to fly with only one helicopter so that they would not be popping out of canyons into each other. However, at all times we knew where the three helicopters were located. Fortunately, the flights for water samples occurred last week and didn't overlap with the search operation. This happenstance "luck-out" situation is not acceptable when there is a moratorium on administrative flights without your approval during this season.

Last year, we worked together with the Research Scientist and his staff and set up an itinerary which gave us forewarning if we were working in the same part of the Park that water sampling was being done. With the smoke conditions that we now have, we simply have to have this kind of coordination. Something fall through the cracks. The attached letter is to Mr. Bradford in order to avoid similar situations next year. When I learned of this situation on July 14, I called the Research Scientist's Office, but Jan wasn't in. Joe Cono had no knowledge of the itinerary of the sampling helicopters at 1:30 p.m. No one else was in the office that could help us out.

We have faithfully been going by the memorandum which requests prior approval for all administrative flights between June 15 and September 15. This moratorium includes privately contracted helicopters. I think that the policy is a sound one, but everyone has to go along with it in order to make it work and insure that there is an element of safety in our inherently dangerous air operations.

Charles W. Wendt

Enclosure

cc:

Backcountry District Ranger  
Fire Management Officer

CWendit:la 7/23/81

A3415

Mr. Dave McCoy  
Mammoth Mountain Ski Area  
Box 24  
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

Dear Mr. McCoy:

We wish to convey our gratitude for your efforts in the search for Stacey Arras, the fourteen-year-old girl missing from Sunrise High Sierra Camp the week of July 17, 1981. Although the search was unsuccessful and not a single clue was found, we feel that Stacey had the best possible chance due to the professional efforts of organizations such as yours. We look forward to working with you in the future and, should you be in Yosemite, please feel stop and say hello.

Sincerely yours,

Robert O. Binnewies  
Superintendent

Commanding Officer  
HHS Lemoore  
Lemoore, CA. 93245

address to: Capt. J. H. Gleim

Headquarters, ARRS/APRCC  
Scott AFB, Illinois 62225

Attn: Director

address letter to: Col. James W. Mc Elhaney

Mr. Don Roberts  
Fire Management Officer  
Inyo National Forest  
✓ 873 N. Main St.  
Bishop, CA. 93514

(Tom Archer was the pilot)

Aubrey Majors,  
Chief, Central Division  
✓ Calif. Highway Patrol  
Box 11730, Fresno, CA. 93775

(personnel: Jack Becker, Mike Brown, Ron Wakefield)

Wing Commander  
146th TAW  
✓ Van Nuys Air National Guard  
8030 Balboa Blvd.  
Van Nuys, CA. 91409

China Lake Mountain Rescue Group  
Box 2037  
✓ Ridgecrest, CA. 93555

Volt Walker  
Riverside Mountain Rescue Unit  
Box 5444  
Riverside, CA. 92517

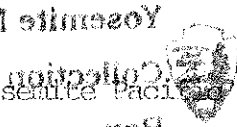


Mike Peterson  
Los Padres Search & Rescue  
Box 30400  
Santa Barbara, CA. 93105

Van Williams  
Malibu Search and Rescue  
14723 Oracle Place  
Pacific Palisades, CA. 90272

Mr. C.J. Johnson  
Dist. Manager  
Pacific Telephone & Telegraph  
1925 E. Dakota, Room 257  
Fresno, CA. 93702

address letter to the entire Yosemite Pacific Tel. crew rather  
than one individual



Mr. Dave McCoy  
Mammoth Mtn. Ski Area  
Box 24  
Mammoth Lakes, CA. 93546