

COPY

ZION NATIONAL PARK
SUPERINTENDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT
1941

On May 14 at 7:50 A.M. one of the largest landslides in the park's history occurred one mile up Zion Canyon from park headquarters, blocking the Virgin River and washing out a 500-foot section of park highway. This slide, estimated to contain over 90,000 cubic yards, and which impounded river water for twenty minutes, came from the west side of the canyon not far from the base of The Sentinel. Fortunately the earth and rock dam broke before enough water had accumulated to do serious damage to structures below.

This large landslide was the result of abnormally heavy rainfall during the winter and spring seasons, which increased the weight of the mountainside in this area beyond its angle of repose. Within a week after the slide a detour road had been constructed around the washed-out section of highway.

Personnel changes of importance that occurred during the 1941 fiscal year include the return of Superintendent Paul R. Franke on August 16, 1940, who replaced former Superintendent G. Marshall Finnan. Assistant Park Naturalist Myrl V. Walker was transferred to Crater Lake National Park on August 15, and the appointment of Russell K. Crater as Assistant Park Naturalist was made effective September 16, 1940. A new position of Equipment Operator was added to the park organization and filled by appointment of Whitford Gifford on April 1, 1941.

The Zion Easter Pageant was discontinued because of certain objections by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. The cancellation of this colorful Easter program resulted in a loss to park travel of approximately 9,000 persons.

During the spring of 1941 twenty bathroom additions to standard cabins were constructed by the Utah Parks Company, which provided 40 additional rooms with toilet and shower facilities. An exceptionally large increase in the use of park operator services occurred during May and June of 1941.

Torrential rain storms occurring on September 6 and 17, 1940, did a large amount of damage to park roads, water systems, bridges and trails. An allotment of \$12,100 from Roads and Trails and Emergency Reconstruction Funds was used to repair damage caused from flood waters.

One CCC camp operated throughout the year accomplishing much valuable work. Of outstanding importance was the start of construction on an employees' dormitory, which was 85 per cent complete at the end of June, 1941.

One NPS-sponsored WPA road improvement job was completed during May, 1941, while another WPA project of broader scope employing an average crew of 80 men for a year's time was started. An application for WPA funds for the construction of an employees residence was submitted to the WPA state administrator during June.

The surfacing with crushed rock of all sections of the Zion-Bryce Approach Road through Section C-1 was completed during the summer of 1940, and a contract for clearing and grading of Section C-2 was awarded during November, 1940.

Negotiation for the purchase of .96 second feet of water from the Crawford Ditch owned by Messrs. John R., John W., and James Crawford was completed and all necessary legal papers were forwarded to Washington for final approval by the end of the fiscal year. Purchase of these water rights will provide sufficient water to meet current irrigation and domestic requirements.

While the number of visitors coming to the park showed a 17 per cent decrease and was 6,426 persons behind last year at the end of April, in May one of the most sudden and largest increases in travel in the park's history started, and in a two-month period an increase of 10,451 persons over the previous year was recorded.

A revised preliminary plan for an administration building was completed and signed by the Superintendent in June, 1941.

Receipts and Expenditures

Receipts	- Permits to enter National Parks	\$ 30,414.00
	Rent of public buildings	53.17
	Sale of unserviceable CCC property	30.75
	Sale of government property, all other	85.65
		<u>\$ 30,583.55</u>
Expenditures-	Emergency Reconstruction and FFF	\$ 1,959.82
	Forest protection and fire prevention	290.30
	National Park Service, regular	49,483.68
	Civilian Conservation Corps	29,223.58
	Roads and Trails:	
	Zion-Bryce Canyon Approach Road	181,536.00
	Flood damage repairs	9,549.19
	Other	7,170.28
		<u>\$279,192.85</u>

Paul R. Franke
Superintendent