

10-23
(June 1941)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Yosemite NATIONAL PARK

207-01

~~1947~~

FILE NO. 207-01

SUPERINTENDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

1947 to 1953

IMPORTANT

This file constitutes a part of the official records of the National Park Service and should not be separated or papers withdrawn without express authority of the official in charge.

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Officials and employees will be held responsible for failure to observe these rules, which are necessary to protect the integrity of the official records.

NEWTON B. DRURY,
Director.

July 6, 1953

Ryne
7/6

Pace

Memorandum

To: Director
From: Superintendent, Yosemite
Subject: Superintendent's Annual Report (Yosemite)

There have been no events of importance to add to the Superintendent's annual report (Yosemite), 1952 - 1953, submitted by this office on June 5.

John C. Preston
Superintendent

Copy to: Regional Director, Region Four

RNMcIntyre:pj

June 5, 1953

FILE COPY

Memorandum

To: Director
From: Superintendent, Yosemite
Subject: Superintendent's Annual Report

Enclosed is the Superintendent's annual report, 1952-1953.

Events of importance which take place before the end of the fiscal year will be reported in a supplementary report prior to July 15.

John C. Preston
Superintendent

Attachments

Copy to: Regional Director, Region Four, with copy of annual report (2)
Administrative Assistant
Miss Betty Koubele

RNMcIntyre:pj

Bill

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS OF THE 1953 FISCAL YEAR

Yosemite National Park
California

Summary Sheet

1. Unprecedented Travel
2. Furlough of Dr. Carl P. Russell, transfer of John G. Preston to position of Park Superintendent
3. Concessions
4. Master Plan Developments
5. Acquisition of Private Land
6. Insect Epidemic
7. Forest Fire Control
8. Yosemite Fish Survey
9. Interpretation and Research
10. Yosemite Advisory Board

1. Unprecedented Travel

Yosemite National Park closed its travel year on September 30, 1952, with the greatest number of visitors ever recorded on park records. A total of 963,536 visitors entered the gates of Yosemite, a gain of 13.3% over the previous year. Automobiles numbering 284,914 transported these people to the park.

A total of 2,548,876 visitor days was recorded for the year's park use. On the greatest single period of use, the Memorial Day weekend, 43,907 people in 10,803 cars entered the park.

2. Furlough of Dr. Carl P. Russell, transfer of
John C. Preston to Position of Park Superintendent

On November 1, 1952, the Director honored a request of Dr. Carl P. Russell, well known Superintendent and Naturalist of Yosemite, for a one year furlough to accept a Guggenheim Fellowship, which would allow him to complete a lifelong work on the history of the American Fur Trade.

In November 1952, the position of Park Superintendent, Yosemite National Park, was filled by transfer of John C. Preston, long time Superintendent and keen student of park management, from Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

3. Concessions

Consistent with the policy of the Department of the Interior toward concessions in the national parks, the Director during the year of 1952-1953 entered into new concessions contracts with the Yosemite Park and Curry Co., Best's Studio, Inc., Dr. Avery E. Sturm of the Lewis Memorial Hospital, and Dr. Charles Woessner, dentist, located in the Lewis Memorial Hospital, Yosemite Valley. A new contract with Degnan-Donohoe, Inc. of Yosemite Valley has not yet been consummated, but a one year extension of the previous contract was effected to permit the business to continue during 1953.

4. Master Plan Development

The development of Yosemite National Park for the enjoyment of its visitors without the sacrifice of its natural heritage is progressing step by step under the park master plan.

During the past year, the Wawona Campground was opened to public use. This development includes about one and one-half miles of roads and parking areas, four comfort stations with a fifth under construction, plus pertinent utilities including sewer and water, located in the Cunningham Flat area.

On May 1, 1953, by force account labor, new construction was begun on the Yosemite Village Site and road system adjacent to Government Center in Yosemite Valley.

5. Acquisition of Private Land

Title to the 291.85 acres of land formerly owned by Maude Hodgdon Bright and Robert L. Bright, Sr. was accepted by the Director on October 8, 1952, following the opinion of the Attorney General. Forest trees with a value equalling the appraised value of the properties acquired, will be marked for removal by the sellers under a timber and land exchange contract entered into on October 10, 1951.

6. Insect Epidemic

An epidemic of the Lodgepole Pine Needleminer came into great prominence toward the end of the 1952 summer season. This epidemic area now covers approximately 47,500 acres of the Tuolumne and Merced River watersheds in Yosemite National Park. Aerial surveys confirmed ground observations and revealed the vastness of the area under insect attack. It is anticipated that aerial spraying operations will be undertaken by contract during the flight period of the moths in early August of 1953.

Yosemite National Park
California

7. Forest Fire Control

Sixty-seven forest fires of all classes were recorded in Yosemite during the fire season of 1952. This was the greatest number recorded in recent years, a great majority of them being lightning fires. Only 12 fires were man-caused and 55 were started by lightning. Due to a trained group of personnel and expert supervision, the fires were confined to small areas and burned over only 32.8 acres, a very fine record for the park protection force.

8. Yosemite Fish Survey

Ranger O. L. Wallis, supported by a gift of \$2500.00 from Mrs. Mary Tresidder, conducted an extensive fish investigation in the park during the year. The investigation of all principal park waters, probably the most intensive study ever given to the waters in a national park, may be a guide for studies in other areas. For his outstanding contribution to fish management in Yosemite, Ranger Wallis was granted a meritorious within grade promotion.

9. Interpretation and Research

A new campfire amphitheatre was constructed and put into use at Camp 7. The program at this point was immediately successful.

A new trail guide through the High Sierra camps, as well as a trail map for this area were prepared by Lewis W. Clark and published under the auspices of the Yosemite Natural History Association by Stanford Press. It is now being sold by the Association.

The Yosemite Field School was conducted from June 21, to August 11, with sixteen graduates.

A three man archeological team from the University of California worked in the park during July, mapping Indian sites in Yosemite Valley, and in areas in the high country, adjacent to Yosemite Valley. This was done under contract to the University of California.

10. Yosemite Advisory Board

The Yosemite Advisory Board, composed of Messrs. William E. Colby, John P. Buwalda, and Frederick Law Olmstead, members, met in Yosemite, October 13, through 15, 1952. This group of citizen advisors authorized under the laws of Congress, studied and discussed many park management problems including the overuse of Yosemite Valley, the Yosemite Church, and the proposed new Tioga Road location.

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W. P. MARSHALL, PRESIDENT

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:MAIER ASSISTANT REGIONAL DIRECTOR NPS=...

June 2, 1953

Memorandum

To: Mr. Hill
Mr. Sedergren
Mr. McHenry
Mr. Ranner
Mr. McIntyre
Mr. Ernst
Mr. Ellis
Mr. Adams

From: Superintendent, Yosemite

Subject: Superintendent's Annual Report to the Director

We neglected to prepare the subject report which was due in the Washington Office on June 1, therefore, it is requested that each of you prepare a list of all important and unusual items that occurred in your department during the past year and submit these to Mr. McIntyre by noon, June 3, without fail. Mr. McIntyre will select the items for this report and compile and assemble it for immediate submission.

(SGD.) JOHN C. PRESTON

John C. Preston
Superintendent

Bill

FILE COPY

In reply refer to:
A2623

July 1, 1954

Memorandum

To: The Director
From: Superintendent, Yosemite
Subject: Superintendent's Annual Report (1A1) for Devils Postpile

There have been no events of importance to add to the Superintendent's annual report (Devils Postpile), 1953-1954, submitted by this office on June 25.

John C. Preston
Superintendent

In duplicate

Copy to: Regional Director, Region Four

RNMcIntyre:jb

Bee

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