UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK
CALIFORNIA

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

July 1, 1946.

ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 1946

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(SGD.) FRANK A. KITTREDGE
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Forestry.

Yosemite was fortunate in having little loss from forest fires during the past fiscal year. Thirty-two fires burned only 2.56 acres from July 1, 1945, to July 1, 1946. This is an excellent record, especially since all fireguards were boys of high school age. There were no serious building fires.

Blister rust work progressed with the aid of boys recruited from high schools. At least half of the foremen were high school instructors. Last summer a camp at Wawona and another at Crane Flat employed at their peak about 200 workers. At the close of the fiscal year four 40-man camps were in operation, and another at Sugar Pine Pass will soon be ready for occupancy. The blister rust control program was greatly benefited by buildings and equipment acquired from the Naval Hospital and from the Army Signal Corps Camp at Wawona.

Insect control work continued in accessible areas during the winter and spring. Establishment of a camp at Carl Inn will make it possible to work areas which have not been covered since the discontinuance of the C.C.C. According to the Bureau of Entomology, Yosemite shows lighter losses from insects while surrounding forests have suffered heavier losses during the war.

Little was accomplished in fire hazard reduction and vista clearing during the past year on account of shortage of manpower and appropriations.

Accidents to Equipment.

As a result of an electrical storm, together with the wear of many years of service, both generators at the powerhouse burned out last fall. The units had to be dismantled and sent to San Francisco for rewinding. This and other repairs resulted in the complete shutdown of the powerhouse and made it necessary to purchase electricity over a period of several months.

The large transformer at Glacier Point was damaged by lightning and was replaced early in the spring with some difficulty due to snow conditions.

Engineering.

Only the most urgent construction and maintenance projects could be carried on during the past fiscal year. Several log trail bridges were replaced, and the washout on the Wawona Road near South Entrance, which necessitated a detour during the war, was repaired by installation of a 90-inch (diameter) culvert.

The Park Engineer made an extensive study in order to plan the accomplishment of work left undone for the past four years.

Yosemite Valley Railroad.

The abandonment of the Yosemite Valley Railroad on August 27, 1945, has added further to the traffic problem in the Valley and on the highway from Merced by adding huge truck-trailers now necessary for hauling produce and supplies.

Removal of the railroad made it necessary to move the road oil heating plant from El Portal to Yosemite Valley, where it will be set up at the quarry site.

Hospital.

The National Park Service continued to operate the W. B. Lewis Memorial Hospital throughout the fall of 1945, but the return of Dr. Avery E. Sturm as contract physician relieved the Service of this responsibility on December 1. Dr. Sturm now has a splendid staff of nurses and an assistant doctor to render excellent service. We have found Dr. Sturm very cooperative and of great assistance toward maintaining better health in the community. He has taken a great interest in keeping down epidemics by inoculation and vaccination.

Weather.

In general, weather conditions were normal during the year. Rainfall for the year totaled 39.06 inches as compared with a normal of 34.14 inches. The snow pack in the higher elevations on April 1 was about 98 per cent of the average for the past 15 years.

The first heavy snowstorm of the fall season came early and closed the Tioga Road on October 29. Snowfall in the Valley started November 7, and the Big Oak Flat and Glacier Point roads were closed on that day. The greatest snow depth in the Valley was on March 30, when 16 inches covered the ground. The lowest temperature was on February 5, when the thermometer hit 11 degrees.

Snow conditions at Badger Pass were good all winter from November 15 until April 20 with snow depths ranging from 17 to 100 inches.

Warm, sunny weather in April and May melted the snow earlier than usual, and the Big Oak Flat road was opened on April 29, and the Tioga road on June 8.

Accidents.

Skiing continued to cause more accidents than any other activity. There were 112 people given first aid by rangers at Badger Pass. There were four automobile accidents involving serious injury, but no one was killed. Two lost their lives through drowning, and eight died in the park from natural causes. No injuries from bears were reported during the past year.

On February 13, 1946, William P. Jacobs, age 26, Boston, Massachusetts, was found by rangers, after an exhaustive search, near a ski trail east of Badger Pass. Jacobs was lost for 11 days without food or fire. He had managed to survive through discovery of a first-aid toboggan which was equipped with bedding and mattress pad.

The near loss of life of Jacobs brought closer to us the need for added safety devices to aid in protecting the lives of winter visitors. Newly developed army equipment may partially solve a serious problem and enable rangers to cover wide areas of snow covered country quickly and economically to effect rescue.

Fishing.

Fishing improved slightly during the war period, but present hatchery facilities can not keep pace with the increasing numbers of fishermen during the coming years.

The fish plant for the season totaled 943,960, of which 559,470 were Rainbow, 217,840 Eastern Brook, and 166,650 Loch Leven.

Special Visitors.

On August 15 and 16 Congressmen John J. Rooney of New York and Jed Johnson, Oklahoma, members of the House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee, visited Yosemite and delved into concessioner contracts.

Senator James E. Murray of Montana and Senator Homer Z. Capehart of Indiana, members of the Senate Committee on Small Business, visited Yosemite with a group between hearings in near by cities.

During October 1945 Warner Brothers Studios made background scenes for a film, "Escape Me Never," starring Errol Flynn and Ida Lupino.

During the year Yosemite was visited by an unusually large number of technically trained men from foreign countries. A number of these were from China; others were from South America, India, and Australia. Several were deeply interested in the National Park Idea and hoped to stimulate interest in the conservation of outstanding examples of their nations' scenery upon their return home.

James Perry Wilson, artist, and Ralph H. de Lucia, museum preparator, were in Yosemite early in June for materials for a coyote group for the Hall of North American Mammals in the American Museum of Natural History of New York. The background will consist of a large painting of Valley View.

Postwar Summary.

In conclusion, the past fiscal year has been difficult, but park values remain intact. Increasing travel with its accompanying demands

requires constant vigilance and careful planning in order to protect the park and preserve a cathedral-like atmosphere.

To add to difficulties there was an acute shortage of funds to maintain the park in anything like prewar standards. Manpower was difficult to obtain, and the quality of manpower is still most discouraging. One reason that we could not obtain men was on account of their living in idleness under unemployment insurance.

The Yosemite Park and Curry Co. has had the same difficulty in rebuilding an organization of effective employees. Since they have increased wages to some extent, they will probably have less trouble interesting the right type of worker. Their problem is complicated by the fact that universities from which they secure student help are not out until the early part of June as a rule, and they are confronted with a heavy demand for services in late May.

The national parks contain the finest remnants of what was once the great American wilderness. These priceless bits of natural scenic and scientific wonderland are a national heritage increasing in value with each year's expansion of industrial life. The National Park Service must carry out its trust to conserve and make accessible for the benefit and inspiration of all the people the irreplaceable national resources in the National Park System.

Frank A. Kittredge,
Superintendent.

RHA.

HEADINGS

1. TRAVEL
   A. Unprecedented numbers presented both opportunity and a challenge
   B. Facilities, Gov't and Co. run down during war years
   C. Lack of adequate personnel to properly maintain sanitary facilities, etc.
   also general effects

2. PRIVATE LANDS
   A. Tax delinquent lots at Foresta offered for sale
   B. Number of new homes built or under construction at Wawona, Foresta, etc.
   C. Cooperation of Isaac Walton League, Sierra Club, etc.

3. DEVELOPMENT WORK, CO. AND GOV'T, TO ACCOMMODATE INCREASING NUMBERS.
   A. Ahwahnee Hotel — No new campgrounds
   B. Wawona Hotel

4. LABOR RELATIONS
   A. Tension eased by adoption of new wage scale
   B. Increased activity of Teamsters Union, culminating in election

5. EFFECT OF LIMITED APPROPRIATIONS
   A. Shortage of rangers meant stations kept open all night, less control.
   B. Poor maintenance of museum facilities, shortage of trained help.
   C. Vandalism not serious, but worse than would have been the case with more adequate patrol.
   D. Increased cost of per diem labor rates as well as cost of materials
   amount to — % reduction of approp.

6. ACCIDENTS
   A. Auto accident rate very low
   B. Drownings and waterfall fatalities.

Get collection Viola Parnell

no. rules at Foresta
no. lots.

HEADINGS FOR MATERIAL FOR DIRECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

(due in Director's Office June 5)

1. Tremendous increase in travel and its impact on facilities run down during the war years. Lack of adequate ~~housing~~ rented accommodations and camping areas to accommodate unprecedented number of visitors. Lack of adequate personnel to properly maintain sanitary facilities for visitors.

2. Skyrocketing of values of private lands in and adjoining the Park. New owners at Wawona, number of new homes built or under construction. Sale of tax delinquent lots at Foresta and elsewhere by Mariposa County. Cooperation of Isaac Walton League, Sierra Club, etc.

3. Small amount of development during past year by Y.P. C. Co. to accommodate increasing numbers of visitors. Opening of the Ahwahnee Hotel relieved to some extent severe criticism by public of antequated Lodge cabin facilities. Work on butane system for reopening of Wawona on June 12 (after the big Memorial Day rush) Opening of Big Trees Lodge and Glacier Point Hotel May 28 and June 6 respectively - several weeks after considerable public demand.

4. Brief history of labor difficulties in Company operations, culminating in election re whether or not Teamsters Union would serve as bargaining agent for all Schedule 1 employees of Y.P.C. Co.

5. Limited appropriations and its effect on park administration

a. shortage of rangers meant stations open all night, less control over park travel, possible loss to gov't in revenue, etc.
b. vandalism not serious, but more extensive than it would have been had there been more ranger patrol
c. poor maintenance of museum facilities, lack of adequate interpretation to add to visitors understanding as well as education along conservation lines.
d. Increase per diem labor rates + materials with no corresponding increase in appropr.

Winter Use: Light snowfall resulting in early opening of Tioga Pass Rd, Big Oak Flat and Tioga Roads = a profitable season.

July 12, 1946.

MEMORANDUM for the Director.

In response to Acting Director Tolson's memorandum for All Field Offices dated June 12, 1946, we are submitting in duplicate the Annual Report covering summary of activities in Yosemite National Park for the Fiscal Year 1946.

Frank A. Kittredge,
Superintendent.

Enclosure.

cc:Regional Director, Region Four.

John — Pl take charge of

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
CHICAGO 54, ILLINOIS

No. FO 388.

K 6/17

June 12, 1946

MEMORANDUM for All Field Offices.

Although we have not yet been told by the Department what amount of space will be permitted the Service this year in the Secretary's Annual Report, it is necessary now to make all possible advance preparations for the writing of the Director's report to the Secretary. Mr. Drury wants the report, when it is prepared, to devote considerable space to important field events and developments.

Previous annual reports from the superintendents and custodians have found their way to this Office at varying intervals after the close of the fiscal year. Many of them have been too late to be considered at all in the preparation of the annual report; many others have been so long that there was not sufficient time to analyze them and select the really significant portions of their contents.

In order to facilitate the work of preparing the Director's annual report for 1946, the superintendents and custodians are requested to follow this procedure:

By reviewing your monthly reports, or otherwise, single out a few of the most significant events and developments that have affected or occurred in the areas of which you have charge. The actual number is left to your own judgment. Under a heading which properly identifies or describes it, prepare a brief, succinct account of each of these events or developments.

In addition, to meet, if necessary, a suggestion now pending for the division of the report into two main phases -- conservation and bureau reports -- please write a paragraph or two on conservation in the areas under your jurisdiction. If you wish to add a paragraph embodying your conception of the broad phase of conservation in the National Park System, this also will be appreciated. It is important that any statement the Service makes upon this subject be based upon broad, workable principles that will stand against possible opposition to the basic purpose of the National Park Service.

This material should be sent to the Director's Office, in duplicate, to arrive here not later than July 15. This deadline should give each of you ample time to review your reports, select your subjects, and prepare the requested material. A copy should also be sent to the Regional Director.

If any of you should desire to supplement the requested material with suggestions for the Director's annual report, please feel free to do so. All suggestions will be given full and careful consideration if they are received on or before the above-named deadline date. We trust you will realize, however, that it may not be possible to use all exceptional material that may be submitted, since our report must fit into a framework yet to be furnished by the Department.

Hillory A. Tolson
Acting Director.

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yosemite National Park
California

June , 1947.

TRAVEL: The most significant highlight of the fiscal year of 1947 was the phenomenal increase in the number of visitors who enjoyed the inspirational and recreational benefits of Yosemite National Park. During the war years travel was comparatively light and there was little more than a skeleton force on duty to administer, protect and maintain the area.

Immediately following the end of hostilities, the travel boom was on. This year's rate of increase has continued consistently about 15 to 20% ahead of last year. Memorial Day, 1947, hit an all-time record for the largest number of visitors to enter the Park in any one day when 19,818 people drove in the rain to see the area.

The end of the 1947 fiscal year will likely show that more than 710,000 visitors entered Yosemite, exceeding last year's record travel by approximately 47%.

Such large numbers of enthusiastic vacationists presented both an opportunity and a challenge. The National Park Service welcomed the many visitors. We did our best to offer the services and facilities which they needed in order to get the most from their park experience. Such an opportunity to contribute to the cultural life of a travel-hungry America was unequalled. Both the government's and Company's services were inadequate and unsatisfactory in some ways, but we believe that despite the many handicaps imposed by lack of sufficient appropriations, lack of materials, shortage of trained personnel, and the limitations of the 40 hour week, a great service was rendered.

Long before the war, accommodations for the public were run down or outmoded. Tents, which should have been replaced by the concessioner many years ago, were continued in use. Three long outmoded units - the Lodge, store and warehouses of the concessioner were scheduled for replacement 21 years ago. This lack of replacement has resulted in traffic congestion, poor service, and verbal complaints from park visitors for many years and has introduced many administrative problems for the National Park Service.

The conversion from the stagecoach facilities to adequate modern placement of planned structures must be completed before either the public service or the National Park Service objectives can be accomplished.

DEVELOPMENT WORK: The Yosemite Park and Curry Co. reopened the Ahwahnee Hotel in December, 1946, after it had served as a naval hospital during the war. This hotel and bungalows that are used in connection with it serve a maximum house count of about 220, which is less than 2% of the number of overnight visitors in Yosemite Valley during most of the summer season.

While the re-opening of the Ahwahnee Hotel does not accommodate many guests, it does relieve the Park of some criticism heaped on the antiquated bath cabins at the Lodge by those who can afford the rates at the Ahwahnee.

A few new tents have been purchased, but it is hoped that many additional tents may be erected at Yosemite Lodge to replace those which have become unservicable. The demand this year far exceeds the facilities available in accommodating visitors.

Thousands of prospective visitors who wrote for advance reservations were turned away. Thousands who came without advance reservations stood in line for hours, often to be accommodated on a night to night basis. This arrangement made it possible to take care of large numbers of transient visitors from all parts of the country, and automatically spread the use of the Park to take care

of more people for shorter stays.

The Wawona Hotel, closed since the start of the war, is planning to reopen on June 12. This unit contains only 96 rooms and accommodates a maximum of 192 persons, hence it will not relieve the heavy demand for accommodations to any great extent.

From last year's experience in endeavoring to carry out the Director's stated policies with the concessioner, it seems obvious that there must be a greater degree of cooperation on the part of the operator with the Superintendent, and a greater recognition on the part of the concessioner that all matters pertaining to his operations are to be taken up with and through the Superintendent.

No new campgrounds have been developed by the National Park Service, and present camping areas, including many outside of Yosemite Valley, are filled to capacity over weekends and holidays. At the present time the Vint Plan of relieving the Valley of habitations, public services, etc. is under consideration. If it should be decided later that the present general method and locations for serving the public are to continue, then we must recognize the fact that Yosemite is still functioning under primitive developments in many respects so far as the concessioner's services are concerned. Until the main facilities are decentralized and placed off the main travelled roads, and new and adequate structures provided for serving the public efficiently, there can hardly be much relief from present congested conditions.

There is a dire need for tables in the campgrounds. We have less than half enough for the normal summer campers, and only a small fraction of the number needed on peak days, a demand we do not hope to meet.

Over 400 camp tables were repaired and repainted in our carpenter shop during the past few months. No new tables were constructed on account of short-