

Schnettler
Lee

July 8, 1963

A2623

Memorandum

To: Director

From: Superintendent, Yosemite

Subject: Supplement to Superintendent's Annual Narrative Report

The only item of interest which might be added to the main body of the Annual Narrative Report for this Park concerns the beginning of the biennial program of spraying for lodgepole needle miner. A short statement on that program is attached.

John C. Preston

In duplicate

cc:
Regional Director, Western, with 2 copies of statement

WASchnettler:eb

FILE COPY

13. (a) NEEDLE MINER CONTROL PROGRAM

To avoid the need for evacuating the Tuolumne Meadows Campground during the course of a more extensive program, 225 acres encompassing the campground were sprayed with malathion mixed with diesel oil as a control against lodgepole needle miner larvae late in May. The full program, covering more than 4,000 acres, will be conducted at a time when the moths are in flight.

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK
RECEIVED
July 2, 1963
JUL -3 1963

A26

7/3

Superintendent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Asst. Supt.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Adm. Officer	<input type="checkbox"/>
Engineer	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chief Ranger	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mgt. Asst.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Naturalist	<input type="checkbox"/>
Forester	<input type="checkbox"/>
Landscape Arch.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Personnel	<input type="checkbox"/>
Accounting	<input type="checkbox"/>
Warehouse	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shop	<input type="checkbox"/>

7/5 ✓

Memorandum

To: Superintendents, Point Reyes and Yosemite ✓

From: Acting Regional Director, Western Region

Subject: Annual Report, 1963

Will you please furnish us an additional copy of your report, (NPS-PI-3).

The Reports Handbook instructs us to review the area reports and submit one with recommendations or comment. We will need one for our files also. Thank you.

Edward A. Hummel

P. S. These should be carbon not Thermofax--as these are part of a permanent record and Thermofax copies are not acceptable for permanent files.

E.A.H.

JP - Understand we wrote a similar letter last year - - - ?

Schnettler
Lib

A2623

June 6, 1963

Memorandum

To: Director

From: Superintendent, Yosemite

Subject: Annual Narrative Report--Report NPS(PI)-3

Enclosed, in duplicate, is the subject report for this Park.

John C. Preston

In duplicate

Enclosures

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Regional Director, Western, w/ copy of report

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SIGNIFICANT EVENTS OF THE 1963 FISCAL YEAR
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK, CALIFORNIA

Summary Sheet

1. Mission 66
2. Concessions Operations
3. Personnel
4. Property Management
5. Interpretive Planning
6. Interpretive Facilities
7. Museum Collections
8. Research
9. Yosemite Natural History Association
10. Accidents and Rescues
11. Weather
12. Police Protection
13. Forest Insect Control
14. Hazardous Tree and Limb Removal

1. MISSION 66

A review of the MISSION 66 development program for Yosemite shows that 168 government projects have been completed through the 1963 fiscal year at a total cost of approximately \$13,000,000. An additional 235 projects valued at \$17,000,000 are still to be accomplished according to the latest development schedule. Construction accomplishments for the 1963 fiscal year are summarized below.

Major Roads. A \$581,069 contract was awarded to the Toston-Raymond Construction Company of Lakeside, California, for clearing, grading, and drainage work on the second section of the Big Oak Flat Road between Sugar Pine Saddle and Hodgdon Meadow. Grading of the remaining one mile of road will be included in a separate contract.

Minor Roads and Trails. The first project in this category was for reconstruction of existing roads in the El Portal Administrative Area. This work was performed by the Barringer and Botke Construction Company of Santa Paula, California, under a \$102,433 contract.

Park crews worked on four day labor projects reconstructing trails and bridges in the back country which cost \$106,900. More than 50 miles of trails were reconstructed and a dozen bridge spans replaced. Other day labor projects included post-construction work along the Tioga Road, the Rail Creek parking area, and flood damage reconstruction on various trails.

The Herman H. Neumann Construction Company, of El Cajon, California, combined with Park forces to construct parking areas, roads, and walks to serve the Pioneer History Center at Wawona on a \$33,843 project.

A contract was completed by the J. R. Armstrong Construction Company, of El Cerrito, California, in the amount of \$122,630 for construction of access and circulation roads in the new Crane Flat Campground.

Buildings and Utilities. J. R. Armstrong also constructed water and sewer systems in the Crane Flat Campground for \$147,422 and accomplished grading of 200 campsites at a cost of \$11,850.

The Barringer and Botke Company completed water and sewer systems in the El Portal area along with the new Moss Creek intake and supply line at a cost of approximately \$300,000. Water storage capacity was increased 600,000 gallons under this contract.

Bids were advertised near the end of the fiscal year for the following projects:

Crane Flat Campground:

- Comfort Stations (5)
- Ranger Station
- Campfire Circle
- Camp Tables and Stoves

Tenaya Lake Campground:

- Water System
- Sewer System
- Comfort Stations (3)
- Camp Tables and Stoves

North Mountain Fire Lookout

Park crews worked on the following day labor construction projects
under the 1963 Buildings and Utilities Program:

Utilities for Acquired Residences, Wawona

Utility Systems, High Sierra Camps

Pioneer History Center, Wawona

Obliterate Camp Curry Dump

Cabinet A-V Installations

Garage and Storage, Wawona

Happy Isles Nature Center Reconstruction

2. CONCESSIONS OPERATIONS

High point of the year was the award to the Yosemite Park and Curry Company of a new 30-year contract, signed on May 9, 1963, and effective as of October 1, 1963. A feature of the new contract is a provision whereby construction will be started, before September 1, 1964, on facilities to include from 80 to 100 rooms with bath at Yosemite Lodge, and 100 housekeeping units at Camp 16. There is also provision for additional improvements at Wawona, or elsewhere as directed by the Secretary.

The kitchen at the Wawona Hotel was completely rehabilitated at a cost of approximately \$100,000.

William E. Neubert, who operated the El Portal Market under contract, passed away on November 4, 1962. Operation of the Market is being continued by Mrs. Neubert and her son.

The contract for operation of the El Portal Motor Inn reverted to a five-year period, expiring December 31, 1963, when the provision calling for construction of additional units was abrogated. A prospectus covering the concession has been submitted to the Washington Office in draft form for approval.

3. PERSONNEL

The trend that began with the inauguration of MISSION 66 has continued through the 1963 fiscal year with the establishment of five new permanent positions, four graded, and one ungraded. The staff now numbers 151 permanent positions of which 75 are graded, and 76 ungraded.

The high rate of turnover also continued as shown in the following summary of personnel actions: New appointments, 15; reinstatements, 2; transfers within the Service, 24; retirements, 5; resignations, 8; separations (military), 1. These actions represent a turnover rate of approximately 25 percent in the permanent staff.

The annual wage survey which went into effect on April 28 resulted in an average increase of approximately 7 cents per hour for ungraded employees.

4. PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

During the 1963 fiscal year, considerable progress was made in upgrading Park equipment. A sale was conducted by General Services Administration to dispose of 32 vehicles. To date, replacements have been received for 27 of the vehicles sold, with the remaining 5 to be delivered in the near future. The above includes a new fire truck for Valley use which replaced the obsolete 1942 White.

Continual effort has been directed toward reducing obsolete or slow moving items in storehouse stock. The total number of stock items is also being reduced by use of the "low cost sale" method.

5. INTERPRETIVE PLANNING

Plans were initiated for the construction of a new visitor center in Yosemite Valley. This is included in the 1966 schedule.

Interpretive prospectuses were submitted and approved for Yosemite National Park, Happy Isles Nature Center, the Pioneer Yosemite History Center, and the Pioneer Yosemite Transportation Center. The Yosemite Valley Visitor Center prospectus was written, but has not yet been approved by the Regional Office.

Furnishing plans were completed and approved for all cabins at the Pioneer Yosemite History Center. Many of the furnishing items have already been acquired.

The first draft of the Yosemite History Base Map was completed by collaborators Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Hood. The finished product will complete the Yosemite Base Map Series.

The exhibit plan for the Happy Isles Nature Center has been prepared and approved. Rehabilitation of the building and completion of exhibits are expected to be completed by September.

6. INTERPRETIVE FACILITIES

All phases of restoration work have been completed at the Pioneer Yosemite History Center. This past year's accomplishments included the reconstruction of the Jorgensen Art Studio and Pioneer (Anderson) Cabin; the rehabilitation of a number of historic vehicles; the acquisition of furnishings; and the construction of a parking area, foot and horse paths, and improved access roads.

Development of the Pioneer Yosemite Transportation Center continued.

An old Dodge roadster, once the Park Naturalist's car, and an old White Auto Rail Car, formerly used in Yosemite on the Hetch Hetchy Railroad, were donated to the National Park Service by individuals interested in their preservation.

Following restoration work, they will be placed under protective cover with present exhibits at El Portal.

7. MUSEUM COLLECTIONS

The conversion of the vacant Museum Curator position to that of Supervisory Park Naturalist intensified efforts to update the museum records. The incumbent, assisted by two clerk-typists, devoted virtually full time to the activity from January through the first part of May. An estimated 1800 items have been sorted and accessioned since the program was stepped up.

8. RESEARCH

Mr. Richard J. Hartesveldt, after extensive study and investigation of the effects of human impact in the Mariposa Grove, submitted and published a dissertation on his findings in partial fulfillment of the requirements for a doctorate degree from the University of Michigan. A committee was appointed by the Superintendent to analyze his recommendations for administering the Grove and advise on adoption of these recommendations.

The 1961 Glacier Survey report was completed and sent to various interested organizations. No survey was conducted in 1962.

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Plans were made to re-publish Mrs. Mary Curry Tresidder's Trees of Yosemite as one of the Yosemite Classic series. It is hoped to have it ready by the summer of 1963.

Four publications were revised and prepared for printing--

Birds of Yosemite, Cone-Bearing Trees of Yosemite, Devils Postpile, and the Self-Guiding Auto Tour. The new edition of Birds should appear this summer.

10. ACCIDENTS AND RESCUES

Eleven near drownings occurred last year--most attributed to the use of air mattresses in the Merced River. Three accidental deaths occurred. A woman slipped on Sentinel Dome and rolled 200 yards down. She died on the way to the hospital despite first aid administered. A construction worker was killed when he was thrown from and crushed beneath a water tanker he was driving. A man was drowned in the Merced River as a result of drunk driving. There were three deaths from natural causes, and eight rescues of lost or stranded people. Numerous rescues were performed on the Vernal-Nevada Falls trail where people slipped and injured themselves.

11. WEATHER

The latter part of 1962 was warm and dry. This trend continued until January 30 when a warm storm deluged the Park with 14.96 inches of rain, causing flooding conditions. The Emergency Flood Plan was put into operation and because of it loss and damage was kept to a minimum. There followed another period of dry weather after which winter finally arrived, around the middle of April, resulting in an extremely wet spring.

The seasonal total as of April 30, was 36.16" compared to a normal of 35.56".

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Citations and arrests were about 8% ahead of last year and felonies reported were slightly less. While offenses in Yosemite Valley were greatly reduced, offenses in the Tuolumne District were greatly increased. The value of property stolen was about 80% of last year's value. Of the six felons arrested in the Park this year, one received a 15-year prison term for sex perversion, one a 3-year sentence for manslaughter and felon drunk driving, and one who was found guilty of issuing fraudulent checks fled to Mexico before he could be sentenced.

During August, the ranger force was stretched thin during the President's visit to the Valley. No difficulties were encountered and the operation ran smoothly.

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Effects of drought conditions prior to 1962 continue to increase forest insect problems in the Park. Infestations are so widespread and heavy that a major change in control methods was initiated during the 1963 fiscal year. Crews no longer seek individual insect trees to treat. Instead, a complete survey is made of selected infested areas to detect newly infested green trees before they fade and the beetles emerge. Scouting crews then prepare maps showing infested trees for use by the treating crews.

The special mountain pine beetle control project at Delaney Creek was discontinued during the year. This area is now a part of a regular maintenance unit.

The Southwest Experiment Station continued research activities on the Lodgepole needle miner problem in the Tuolumne Meadows area.

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Extensive hazardous tree and limb removal was accomplished during the 1963 fiscal year. This was the second year of a four-year program to reduce the threat of death or injury to visitors and damage to property.

The most critically dangerous trees and limbs have been removed from all auto campgrounds in the Park, and a complete survey is being made of all remaining trees, green and dead. Potentially hazardous trees were removed from the new Crane Flat Campground prior to development. Removal of hazardous trees from roadsides has been started on a systematic basis.

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See - 13. (a). Supplemental Report

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From: Superintendent, Yosemite

Subject: Supplement to Superintendent's Annual Narrative Report

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John C. Preston

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Regional Director, Western, with 2 copies of statement

WASchnettler:eb

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