

A2623

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT *File*

TO : Messrs. Abbott, Allcock, Fladmark, Hill,
Hubbard, Sharp and Westley

DATE: May 4, 1959

FROM : Management Assistant

SUBJECT: Superintendent's Annual Reports (1A1) for Yosemite
and Devils Postpile

Kindly check your monthly reports from July 1958 to date, select events and accomplishments of importance, and write them up in brief form so they may be included in the subject report. If there is any question about the format we use, please come by my office and look at last year's report. We like to have enough material so that the Superintendent can have a variety of items to choose from.

May I have your reports not later than the close of business
May 18.

Stratton

Stratton
Neilson

July 7, 1959

Memorandum

To: Director

From: Superintendent, Yosemite

Subject: Superintendent's Annual Report (10A8), Yosemite

Since submission of the subject report on May 27, the following events have occurred which should be added to the "Accidents and Rescues" section:

Donald Goodrich, 27, of Berkeley, California, died June 13 from a compound skull fracture suffered in a fall while attempting to climb the west face of Mt. Conness. The group had not registered for the climb nor given any other indication of their intention.

Robert Irion, 10, from Los Angeles, California, was killed June 22 in a fall of about 100-150 feet from the face of Glacier Point near Camp Curry. The boy had earlier been reported lost.

Jack Hunter, 14, of Hawthorne, California, suffered a skull injury and lacerations on June 22 when he fell about 40 feet after leaving the Yosemite Falls trail. Rangers and fire control aids carried the injured youth down to the Valley floor by litter.

John C. Preston
Superintendent

In duplicate

Copy to: Regional Director, Region Four (2)

JStratton:hd

FILE COPY

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Superintendent

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May 28, 1959

Memorandum(AIR MAIL)

To: Director

From: Superintendent, Yosemite

Subject: Superintendent's Annual Narrative Report (10A8)

A review of events at Devils Postpile National Monument during the period July 1, 1958, to date has produced no material worthy of inclusion in the subject report.

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May 27, 1959

Memorandum (AIR MAIL)

To: Director

From: Superintendent, Yosemite

Subject: Superintendent's Annual Narrative Report (10A8)

Attached is the subject report for Yosemite National Park covering the period from July 1, 1958 to date.

John C. Preston
Superintendent

In duplicate

Attachment

Copy to: Regional Director, Region Four, w/2 copies of report

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SIGNIFICANT EVENTS OF THE 1959 FISCAL YEAR

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK, CALIFORNIA

Summary Sheet

1. MISSION 66
2. Concession Operations
3. Yosemite Central Sign Shop
4. Visitor Days Use
5. Foreign Visitors
6. Accidents and Rescues
7. Forest and Building Fire Control
8. Wildlife and Fish Planting
9. Police Protection
10. The El Capitan Climb
11. Safety
12. Road Equipment
13. Wawona Pioneer Village
14. Camp 7 Amphitheater
15. Interpretive Facilities
16. Cooperating Associations
17. Lodgepole Needleminer Control Project
18. The Mountain Pine Beetle Control Program
19. Forest Pest Control
20. Disease Control
21. Protection of the Big Trees
22. Land Acquisition

1. MISSION 66

I. Good progress was again made under the MISSION 66 program during the 1959 Fiscal year, including completion of the following projects:

A. Roads

1. Roads, parking areas and walks to serve the new Village Store and restaurant
2. Circulation roads in Valley residential areas
3. Glacier Point parking area completion
4. Badger Pass parking area enlargement
5. Washburn Point parking area
6. Bridalveil campground circulation roads
7. Wawona Campground roads
8. White Wolf campground roads

B. Trails

1. Yosemite Falls trail and footbridge reconstructed
2. Happy Isles Nature Center walks
3. Valley floor walks reconstruction
4. Camps 7-16 trail bridge replacement

C. Buildings

1. Ten employee residences in Upper Tecoya area, Valley floor
2. Comfort station at Wawona campground

3. Four comfort stations in Bridalveil campground
4. Three comfort stations in White Wolf campground
5. Three comfort stations in Camp 9
6. Enlargement of the Glacier Point comfort station

D. Utilities

1. Utilities for the Yosemite Lodge
2. Utilities for the new concession warehouse on the Valley floor
3. Digester and presettling tank at the Valley sewage disposal plant
4. White Wolf campground water and sewer systems
5. Utilities for ten new residences in the Upper Tecoya area
6. Completion of the Yosemite Village utilities

E. Campgrounds

1. Reconstruction of 400 campsites in Yosemite Valley

F. Miscellaneous

1. Acquisition of five house trailers
2. Demolition of 10 old residences

SUMMARY

Projects which have been completed under MISSION 66 between July 1, 1956 and April 1, 1959, are summarized as follows:

Roads	13 projects	\$ 539,510.76
Trails	4 projects	29,631.82
Buildings	7 projects	368,459.58
Utilities	6 projects	440,462.10
Campgrounds	3 projects	26,211.26
Miscellaneous	2 projects	<u>19,795.64</u>
Construction Total		\$ 1,424,071.16

II. MISSION 66 projects still under construction include:

A. Roads

1. Tioga Road reconstruction. Work now under contract totals almost $3\frac{1}{2}$ million dollars and should be completed this season. Paving is programmed in the 1960 fiscal year.
2. Service area and roads to concessioner's new warehouse and utility shops.

B. Trails

1. Trail extensions to May Lake, Tenaya Lake, etc.
2. Trail construction between Tenaya Lake and Tuolumne Meadows
3. Glacier Point footpath reconstruction

C. Buildings

None

D. Utilities

1. Camp 9 utilities

E. Camgrounds

1. Wawona campground, A.E. Wood
2. Bridalveil Campground
3. White Wolf Campground

F. Miscellaneous

1. Protection of Big Trees, Mariposa Grove
2. Wawona Pioneer Village rehabilitation

SUMMARY

Projects which were still under construction as of April 1, 1959 are summarized below:

Roads	2 projects	\$ 3,525,913.50
Trails	3 projects	49,830.00
Buildings	None	----
Utilities	4 projects	163,650.82
Campgrounds	3 projects	135,929.31
Miscellaneous	3 projects	<u>24,285.00</u>
	Construction Total	\$ 3,899,608.63

The grand totals for projects and expenditures during the first three years of MISSION 66 at Yosemite are 50 construction projects and approximately 5½ million dollars, excluding plans, surveys and supervision costs.

2. Concession Operations

This year was outstanding in providing new concession facilities to serve the million-plus visitors to Yosemite National Park.

Yosemite Park and Curry Co. completed the new Village Store, restaurant, fountain, beauty parlor and barber shop at an estimated cost of \$800,000. Director Wirth and other dignitaries participated in the formal dedication ceremonies on May 9, 1959.

The Company also completed the new warehouse and utility building at a cost of approximately \$700,000.

Completion of these two structures allowed removal of the Old Village Store complex and the many buildings which comprised the old concession utility yard. At the same time, the old Degnan restaurant was razed and all areas were landscaped. Removal of these dilapidated buildings, along with removal of a number of government shacks, has done much to enhance the beauty of Yosemite Valley.

In addition to the above concession improvements, an attractive 3-unit teacherage was constructed in the Upper Tecoya residential area for use of the Yosemite school teachers.

3. Yosemite Central Sign Shop

This last year the Yosemite Central Sign Shop was particularly active in developing techniques for the construction of engraved interpretive plaques and other devices for areas administered by the National Park Service. Some of the jobs included:

- 16 engraved aluminum interpretive plaques
- 42 engraves laminated plastic interpretive plaques
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and labels
- 84 engraved plastic desk name plates with holders
- 25 NPS emblem signs
- 500 embossed aluminum boundary signs
- 32 alphabet and number sign templates

Sign shop personnel also conducted several training courses for personnel from other Service areas in the use of sign templates.

4. Visitor Days Use

Actual increase in the use of the Park is indicated
by the following comparisons:

	<u>1958</u>	<u>1957</u>
Total visitor days use	3,013,031	2,882,060
Camper days use - entire park	1,286,423	1,151,164
Camper days use - Yosemite Valley	996,482	861,358

5. Foreign Visitors

A considerable amount of time was given to special handling of foreign visitors sponsored by the Department of State, International Cooperation Administration, Governmental Affairs Institute, and various educational organizations. Following is a breakdown of visitors who received special attention from Yosemite personnel during the period June 1, 1958 to May 31, 1959:

Austria	3
Belgium	10
Brazil	5
England	2
France	1
Guatemala	14
India	2
Indonesia	1
Japan	131
Jordan	1
Kenya	1
Libya	3
Mexico	37
Netherlands	3
New Zealand	1
Pakistan	41
Singapore	1
South Africa	1
Spain	12
Sweden	1
Thailand	14
Turkey	7
Uruguay	<u>35</u>
Total	327

King Baudoin of Belgium and his retinue were in Yosemite National Park May 22 and 23. He was apparently much impressed by Yosemite Valley, Mariposa Grove and Glacier Point, and was profuse in his thanks for courtesies extended by Park personnel.

6. Accidents and Rescues

Motor Vehicle:

On July 17 Mr. Sverre G. Johanneson, age 56, of Glendale, California, was killed when his car went off the Wawona Road near Bishop Creek. Four passengers in the car were injured.

On September 29 Mr. Ralph Arancibia, age 46, of Merced, California, was killed when his car went off the Big Oak Flat Road about two miles above the big tunnel. He was the sole occupant of the car.

In addition, there were eight other vehicle accidents which resulted in serious injury to some of the persons involved.

Falls from Cliffs:

On July 16 Mr. Leon Erdman, age 16, of San Lorenzo, California, fell to his death while climbing alone on the cliffs east of Indian Canyon. Rangers recovered his body on July 17.

On November 1 Mr. Alvin Griggs, age 16, of Fairfax, California, fell to his death while climbing on a ledge above Sunnyside Bench with a companion. His body was recovered on November 2.

Neither of the above cases involved registered rock climbers.

Rescues:

There were five rescues involving people becoming stranded on cliffs and requiring the assistance of ranger rescue teams. Three occurred on the cliffs of Yosemite Valley and two on the domes in the Tuolumne Meadows District.

The most spectacular, and one which received extensive publicity, occurred on August 20 when Bill Beeghley, age 17, from Long Beach, California, became stranded on a very narrow ledge directly below Glacier Point and about 1500 feet above the Valley floor. Almost 14 hours were necessary to effect this hazardous rescue which was witnessed by hundreds of Park visitors, as it was clearly visible from the Valley campgrounds and Camp Curry.

In addition, there were five evacuations of injured or sick persons on the main trails leading from the floor of the Valley. The wheeled stretcher was used in these cases.

On March 24 LCDR. Peter Rippa crashed his single-engine Navy patrol bomber into a cliff near the head of Tenaya Canyon. A ranger rescue team aided from the air by members of the Civil Air Patrol Squadron from Bishop, California, located the wreckage and transported the body back to the Valley on March 27. Adverse weather conditions contributed to the difficulty of this mission.

Other:

There were six deaths from natural causes during the year.

7. Forest and Building Fire Control

During the fire season for 1958 there were 53 reportable and 15 non-statistical forest fires in Yosemite National Park. Of this total, 48 were small class "A" fires, 20 class "B", and no class "C", "D" or "E" fires.

The average fire was 0.33 acres, and the average suppression cost \$210.59 per fire. Nine of the fires were man-caused, and 59 were the result of lightning.

The total loss from 4 building fires was \$111.00.

8. Wildlife and Fish Planting

Very little trouble was experienced from bears during the summer season. There were nine injuries to Park visitors inflicted by bears, but none were of a serious nature. Only six bears were trapped and removed from the Valley during the year as compared to 48 in 1957.

A program of trapping and removing deer from the upper end of Yosemite Valley was instituted in order to relieve the pressure on the vegetation from the abnormal concentration of animals. Forty-two head have been removed to date.

Fish planting for 1958 was as follows: A total of 650,551 trout was planted in the Park this season. A breakdown by species is as follows:

Rainbow 585,171	Eastern Brook 57,180	Golden 8,200
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Thirty-two lakes were planted by air; all other waters were planted by truck.

In addition to the continuous lake and stream investigations carried on by the Protection Division, an intensive study of the comparative productivity of the lakes in the Vogelsang area was conducted by Dr. John Harville and a crew of four graduate students from San Jose State College.

9. Police Protection

During 1958 there were 182 arrest cases taken before the U. S. Commissioner, as compared with 148 cases in 1957. Of these 167 involved traffic violations. Fines assessed totaled \$3,715. 658 written warnings were issued for less serious offenses.

In addition to the daily road patrols maintained by the rangers in the various districts, three special speed and traffic control cars were assigned to the most-traveled Park roads all summer.

10. The El Capitan Climb

In November the climbing of the face of El Capitan was completed by three climbers. It was the first climbing of this 3564-foot nearly vertical rock face. The climb was started in 1957 and shared by a number of climbers. Twenty-six days in all were spent in actually climbing. The three who finally accomplished the feat spent nine days, almost without rest, on the final assault.

11. Safety

The Park Safety Committee was reorganized and a determined effort initiated to reduce the accident frequency rate.

First line supervisors are now required to conduct monthly safety meetings and submit written reports on these meetings. The supervisors also hold on-the-spot meetings at the beginning of new projects and prior to any undertaking which might be unusually hazardous. These meetings and safety discussions have brought to light many hazards which have been corrected.

We feel some progress has been made and this effort is being continued.

12. Road Equipment

A 42,000 G.V.W. positive four-wheel drive Walter Snow-Fighter with a 300 H.P. supercharged Diesel engine, equipped with a rigid one-way plow and a high speed 9 ft. "V" plow and wing, costing approximately \$30,000, was received in December 1958.

This machine was used to help open the Glacier Point, Big Oak Flat and Tioga Roads at an estimated saving to the road department of \$3,000. This saving could be even greater in a bad snow year.

13. Wawona Pioneer Village

The revised prospectus for the Wawona Pioneer Village and Master Plan sheets were completed and forwarded. Site locations were made for the buildings which will form the village.

The old wagon shop has been stabilized, including underpinning, a new shake roof, and stairs to the loft. Horse-drawn vehicles stored here will be on display this summer.

Built originally at Wawona and moved to a site across from Yosemite Lodge by the Army in 1906, the first Park Headquarters has been returned to the pioneer village. A small Army equipment building and the Wells Fargo building have been moved to their respective sites in the village. As the buildings are moved into place they are restored to their original condition and appearance.

One of Yosemite's most colorful military superintendents was Major H. C. Benson. His widow recently presented his dress saber to the National Park Service for display at the Wawona Pioneer Village.

14. Camp 7 Amphitheater

The amphitheater at Camp 7, reconstructed after flood damage, was dedicated. Incorporating a number of innovations, the stage-projection room has rear projection onto a 12-foot plastic screen, a remote-controlled projector, and an electrically-operated steel door to protect the screen when not in use. The twilight music preceding the campfire programs is stereophonic. Public response has been excellent.

15. Interpretive Facilities

Two self-guiding trails, the Inspiration Point Nature Trail and the Pioneer Cemetery Trail, were placed in operation. Their respective guide booklets were printed as monthly issues of Yosemite Nature Notes.

16. Cooperating Associations

Yosemite's program for the reprinting of classics went steadily forward with the scheduled reprinting of 2500 copies of 100 Years in Yosemite and the printing of 1000 copies of The Big Oak Flat Road. Arrangements were made for future printing of Merriam's The Living Past.

During the year 26,500 copies of reprints of special issues were ordered.

17. Lodgepole Needleminer Control Project

The large scale spray program planned for fall completion was cancelled due to the lack of conclusive evidence which would justify such a project. Intensive investigations made during the fall by cooperating Forest Service entomologists provided the evidence necessary to program a large scale (3500 acres) spray project for the 1960 Fiscal Year. Efforts to keep the Park visitors well informed on the "why's and wherefore's" of this project are being given increased attention.

This past year the research program was expanded to include entomologists from the University of California. Along with the research being done on the use of chemical controls, work is being conducted toward the ultimate use of biological control which is not only the most desirable control method, but will also ultimately be the most practical means of control.

Spraying was limited to two sample plots, 100 acres in the spring and 80 acres in the fall.

18. The Mountain Pine Beetle Control Program

The program to control this epidemic situation in the Dingley-Delaney Creek area included an intensive spotting and marking program which was concluded last September and was followed by a month-long control program carried out during June by a 20-man crew.

The condition here is an aggressive epidemic of the Mountain Pine Beetle which are attacking the trees weakened by the lodgepole needleminer. The ultimate control of this situation rests in the control of the needleminer.

19. Forest Pest Control

The incidence of bark beetle infected trees showed a considerable increase during the latter half of the year due to the extremely dry fall, winter, and spring. Considerable progress was made in treating the infected trees in the mixed-conifer type.

20. Disease Control

One blister rust camp was in operation at Crane Flat during the summer of 1958; 5188 acres were worked for 1759 man days expended and 253,843 ribes were removed. Initial work was accomplished on 357 acres, re-eradication was done on 4160, and maintenance work on 671 acres. An eradication crew of 25 men, a checking crew of 12 men, and 6 private contracting groups were used to accomplish the work. The wide-strip checking method was used exclusively except for contract inspection.

21. Protection of the Big Trees

The effectiveness of log barrier enclosed with slash chips has been most gratifying in alleviating the human erosion around the base of the Grizzly Giant and the California Trees. A research project was initiated to determine the effects of human erosion on the Mariposa Grove of Big Trees.

22. Land Acquisition

The year marked one of the most productive as far as land acquisition was concerned. A total of 1,005 acres was added to the administrative responsibility of the Park. Of these, 992 acres were acquired in connection with the new administrative site at El Portal. 9.4 acres represent the acquisition of 67 lots in the Foresta area and approximately 3.8 acres were acquired in the Wawona area.

Developments as well as land values in the Wawona area are growing steadily and are continuing to pose the most difficult inholdings within the Park.

Speculative as well as genuine interest by private parties has shown unprecedented growth in the past two months in the Foresta area.

Considerable effort has been expended in an effort to resolve the acquisition of the unpatented mill sites and mining claims in the El Portal area.

A number of appraisals were made on Wawona properties, as well as the Mono Mining claims.

Offers to sell private inholdings in the Wawona area exceed, by far, the funds available for such purchases.

July 7, 1959

Memorandum

To: Director

From: Superintendent, Yosemite

Subject: Superintendent's Annual Report (10A8), Devils Postpile

There have been no events of importance during June to add to the subject report submitted to your Office May 27.

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Superintendent

In duplicate

Copy to: Regional Director, Region Four (2)

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SIGNIFICANT EVENTS OF THE 1959 FISCAL YEAR

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3. Yosemite Central Sign Shop
4. Visitor Days Use
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Neither of the above cases involved registered rock climbers.

Rescues:

There were five rescues involving people becoming stranded on cliffs and requiring the assistance of ranger rescue teams. Three occurred on the cliffs of Yosemite Valley and two on the domes in the Tuolumne Meadows District.

The most spectacular, and one which received extensive publicity, occurred on August 20 when Bill Beeghley, age 17, from Long Beach, California, became stranded on a very narrow ledge directly below Glacier Point and about 1500 feet above the Valley floor. Almost 14 hours were necessary to effect this hazardous rescue which was witnessed by hundreds of Park visitors, as it was clearly visible from the Valley campgrounds and Camp Curry.

In addition, there were five evacuations of injured or sick persons on the main trails leading from the floor of the Valley. The wheeled stretcher was used in these cases.

On March 24 LCDR. Peter Rippa crashed his single-engine Navy patrol bomber into a cliff near the head of Tenaya Canyon. A ranger rescue team aided from the air by members of the Civil Air Patrol Squadron from Bishop, California, located the wreckage and transported the body back to the Valley on March 27. Adverse weather conditions contributed to the difficulty of this mission.

Other:

There were six deaths from natural causes during the year.

7. Forest and Building Fire Control

During the fire season for 1958 there were 53 reportable and 15 non-statistical forest fires in Yosemite National Park. Of this total, 48 were small class "A" fires, 20 class "B", and no class "C", "D" or "E" fires.

The average fire was 0.33 acres, and the average suppression cost \$210.59 per fire. Nine of the fires were man-caused, and 59 were the result of lightning.

The total loss from 4 building fires was \$111.00.

8. Wildlife and Fish Planting

Very little trouble was experienced from bears during the summer season. There were nine injuries to Park visitors inflicted by bears, but none were of a serious nature. Only six bears were trapped and removed from the Valley during the year as compared to 48 in 1957.

A program of trapping and removing deer from the upper end of Yosemite Valley was instituted in order to relieve the pressure on the vegetation from the abnormal concentration of animals. Forty-two head have been removed to date.

Fish planting for 1958 was as follows: A total of 650,551 trout was planted in the Park this season. A breakdown by species is as follows:

Rainbow 585,171	Eastern Brook 57,180	Golden 8,200
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Thirty-two lakes were planted by air; all other waters were planted by truck.

In addition to the continuous lake and stream investigations carried on by the Protection Division, an intensive study of the comparative productivity of the lakes in the Vogelsang area was conducted by Dr. John Harville and a crew of four graduate students from San Jose State College.

9. Police Protection

During 1958 there were 182 arrest cases taken before the U. S. Commissioner, as compared with 148 cases in 1957. Of these 167 involved traffic violations. Fines assessed totaled \$3,715. 658 written warnings were issued for less serious offenses.

In addition to the daily road patrols maintained by the rangers in the various districts, three special speed and traffic control cars were assigned to the most-traveled Park roads all summer.

10. The El Capitan Climb

In November the climbing of the face of El Capitan was completed by three climbers. It was the first climbing of this 3564-foot nearly vertical rock face. The climb was started in 1957 and shared by a number of climbers. Twenty-six days in all were spent in actually climbing. The three who finally accomplished the feat spent nine days, almost without rest, on the final assault.

11. Safety

The Park Safety Committee was reorganized and a determined effort initiated to reduce the accident frequency rate.

First line supervisors are now required to conduct monthly safety meetings and submit written reports on these meetings. The supervisors also hold on-the-spot meetings at the beginning of new projects and prior to any undertaking which might be unusually hazardous. These meetings and safety discussions have brought to light many hazards which have been corrected.

We feel some progress has been made and this effort is being continued.

12. Road Equipment

A 42,000 G.V.W. positive four-wheel drive Walter Snow-Fighter with a 300 H.P. supercharged Diesel engine, equipped with a rigid one-way plow and a high speed 9 ft. "V" plow and wing, costing approximately \$30,000, was received in December 1958.

This machine was used to help open the Glacier Point, Big Oak Flat and Tioga Roads at an estimated saving to the road department of \$3,000. This saving could be even greater in a bad snow year.

13. Wawona Pioneer Village

The revised prospectus for the Wawona Pioneer Village and Master Plan sheets were completed and forwarded. Site locations were made for the buildings which will form the village.

The old wagon shop has been stabilized, including underpinning, a new shake roof, and stairs to the loft. Horse-drawn vehicles stored here will be on display this summer.

Built originally at Wawona and moved to a site across from Yosemite Lodge by the Army in 1906, the first Park Headquarters has been returned to the pioneer village. A small Army equipment building and the Wells Fargo building have been moved to their respective sites in the village. As the buildings are moved into place they are restored to their original condition and appearance.

One of Yosemite's most colorful military superintendents was Major H. C. Benson. His widow recently presented his dress saber to the National Park Service for display at the Wawona Pioneer Village.

14. Camp 7 Amphitheater

The amphitheater at Camp 7, reconstructed after flood damage, was dedicated. Incorporating a number of innovations, the stage-projection room has rear projection onto a 12-foot plastic screen, a remote-controlled projector, and an electrically-operated steel door to protect the screen when not in use. The twilight music preceding the campfire programs is stereophonic. Public response has been excellent.

15. Interpretive Facilities

Two self-guiding trails, the Inspiration Point Nature Trail and the Pioneer Cemetery Trail, were placed in operation. Their respective guide booklets were printed as monthly issues of Yosemite Nature Notes.

16. Cooperating Associations

Yosemite's program for the reprinting of classics went steadily forward with the scheduled reprinting of 2500 copies of 100 Years in Yosemite and the printing of 1000 copies of The Big Oak Flat Road. Arrangements were made for future printing of Merriam's The Living Past.

During the year 26,500 copies of reprints of special issues were ordered.

17. Lodgepole Needleminer Control Project

The large scale spray program planned for fall completion was cancelled due to the lack of conclusive evidence which would justify such a project. Intensive investigations made during the fall by cooperating Forest Service entomologists provided the evidence necessary to program a large scale (3500 acres) spray project for the 1960 Fiscal Year. Efforts to keep the Park visitors well informed on the "why's and wherefore's" of this project are being given increased attention.

This past year the research program was expanded to include entomologists from the University of California. Along with the research being done on the use of chemical controls, work is being conducted toward the ultimate use of biological control which is not only the most desirable control method, but will also ultimately be the most practical means of control.

Spraying was limited to two sample plots, 100 acres in the spring and 80 acres in the fall.

18. The Mountain Pine Beetle Control Program

The program to control this epidemic situation in the Dingley-Delaney Creek area included an intensive spotting and marking program which was concluded last September and was followed by a month-long control program carried out during June by a 20-man crew.

The condition here is an aggressive epidemic of the Mountain Pine Beetle which are attacking the trees weakened by the lodgepole needleminer. The ultimate control of this situation rests in the control of the needleminer.

19. Forest Pest Control

The incidence of bark beetle infected trees showed a considerable increase during the latter half of the year due to the extremely dry fall, winter, and spring. Considerable progress was made in treating the infected trees in the mixed-conifer type.

20. Disease Control

One blister rust camp was in operation at Crane Flat during the summer of 1958; 5188 acres were worked for 1759 man days expended and 253,843 ribs were removed. Initial work was accomplished on 357 acres, re-eradication was done on 4160, and maintenance work on 671 acres. An eradication crew of 25 men, a checking crew of 12 men, and 6 private contracting groups were used to accomplish the work. The wide-strip checking method was used exclusively except for contract inspection.

21. Protection of the Big Trees

The effectiveness of log barrier enclosed with slash chips has been most gratifying in alleviating the human erosion around the base of the Grizzly Giant and the California Trees. A research project was initiated to determine the effects of human erosion on the Mariposa Grove of Big Trees.

22. Land Acquisition

The year marked one of the most productive as far as land acquisition was concerned. A total of 1,005 acres was added to the administrative responsibility of the Park. Of these, 992 acres were acquired in connection with the new administrative site at El Portal. 9.4 acres represent the acquisition of 67 lots in the Foresta area and approximately 3.8 acres were acquired in the Wawona area.

Developments as well as land values in the Wawona area are growing steadily and are continuing to pose the most difficult inholdings within the Park.

Speculative as well as genuine interest by private parties has shown unprecedented growth in the past two months in the Foresta area.

Considerable effort has been expended in an effort to resolve the acquisition of the unpatented mill sites and mining claims in the El Portal area.

A number of appraisals were made on Wawona properties, as well as the Mono Mining claims.

Offers to sell private inholdings in the Wawona area exceed, by far, the funds available for such purchases.