

sent airmail

Yosemite National Park
California

May 29, 1951

gms

Memorandum

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

Enclosed is my annual report, 1950-1951.

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

/S/ Carl P. Russell

Carl P. Russell
Superintendent

Attachments 2

Copy to: Regional Director, Region Four, with copy of annual report (2)

CPRussell:bk

FILE COPY

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS OF THE 1951 FISCAL YEAR

Yosemite National Park
California

Summary Sheet

1. Observance of Yosemite Centennial
2. Research
3. Notable Foreign visitors
4. Land Acquisition
5. Insect Control and Removal of Forest Hazards
6. Fiscal Operations
7. Conference on Fire Suppression Organization and Management
8. Disastrous Floods in November
9. National Park Service Conference held in Yosemite
10. Concessioner Construction
11. The Yosemite Field School in 1950
12. Irreplaceable documents and paintings subjected to constant Fire Hazard
13. Travel Records Broken
14. Reduction in number of Accidents

1. Observance of Yosemite Centennial

March 25, 1951 marked the 100th anniversary of the discovery of Yosemite Valley by white men. Newspapers and conservation journals throughout the west publicized the anniversary. The March number of Yosemite Nature Notes was devoted exclusively to a Centennial Issue in which the first of a series of articles on the early history of the park was published. In March, April and May, 53 illustrated talks were given by Yosemite officials largely to communities outside the park, to audiences totaling more than 16,000. The talks were designed to promote understanding of policies, practices, broad objectives, etc., as well as to cover the discovery of Yosemite Valley and the significance of the Yosemite Act of 1864.

Our speakers, including the Rangers and administrative officers as well as the Naturalist organization, ranged from Stockton and San Francisco on the North to Taft on the South. Plans are under way to install a special Centennial exhibit in the Yosemite Museum about June 1 and a number of press releases and special articles will continue to be prepared for the various newspapers and journals. Centennial observances in the Park were limited to the Easter services on March 25 and the regularly scheduled naturalists' talks. Ceremonies were held by local historical societies and county officials (Mariposa and Madera Counties) with Yosemite officers participating, at the J. D. Savage trading post and grave on the Fresno River, and at the J. D. Savage trading post site at the mouth of the South Fork

of the Merced River. The Tuolumne County Chamber of Commerce held a special Yosemite-Big Oak Flat meeting which was addressed by the Superintendent. In San Francisco the California Historical Society took cognizance of the Yosemite Centennial by arranging for an illustrated lecture on Yosemite history.

In all instances of public address this year, Yosemite officials have stressed the idea that in the passage of the Yosemite Act in 1864, the world saw the start of conservation law and the beginning of the national park concept.

2. Research

Considerable research was made into the history of Yosemite in connection with the 100th anniversary of the discovery of Yosemite Valley. Numerous old-timers were located and interviewed in several California towns and many old photographs, documents, and relics were acquired or photographed for the Yosemite Museum collection. This acquisition of materials involved considerable work in libraries and museums, as well as personal contacts with individuals and groups. A wealth of historic data has been added to our collection as a result of concerted effort during the past six months.

Through funds donated to the Yosemite Natural History Association by Mrs. Mary Tresidder, a survey of lakes and streams was begun. The object of this study is to determine types of natural foods, varieties of fish and carrying capacity of the park's waters. Correlated with these studies is an analysis of fisherman pressure upon our waters. These studies should be of great value in future fish planting programs.

A special study was made by rangers and other employees of pioneer log cabins in and near the park. This work was continued over a two-year period and a detailed report, with photographs and sketches, was prepared by Ranger Robert Uhte, in collaboration with others during the early months of 1951. The report was published

in the annual Sierra Club Bulletin, May, 1951, pp. 49-71, as a special Yosemite Centennial contribution. At the suggestion of the Director the basic data assembled during this study are made available to the Chief of Planning and Construction for possible use in a revived HABS program.

In preparation for future research and interpretation in the field of Yosemite history the Park Naturalist organization has made a complete survey of the manuscript collection in the Yosemite Museum Library. The manuscripts were collated, filed systematically, and a check list prepared. The park photographer copied several hundred standard lantern slides, stereos, and historic pictures to make 2 x 2 slides which were added to the Yosemite Museum collection. The Yosemite Natural History Association purchased microfilm copies and photostats of many rare documents pertaining to early Yosemite history.

3. Notable Foreign Visitors

Mr. Geo. F. Guenther, City Planner, Muenchen, Germany (July, 1950)

Egyptian Ambassador Kamil Rahim and wife (Sept.)

Dr. Palmi Hannesson, Prof. Geol., Reykjavick, Iceland (Sept.)

Mr. Jean Beridon, Ministre, France, Washington, D. C. (Sept.)

Mr. Jean de Lagarde, French Consul, San Francisco (Sept.)

Col. Mervyn Cowie, Director, Royal National Parks, Kenya Colony, Africa (Oct.)

Mr. S. E. Louage, Inspector General, Ministry of Justice, Belgium (Oct.)

Mr. and Mrs. Leo Boyd, Provincial Council of Natal, Union of South Africa (Nov.)

Theodore Blasius, West Germany)

E. H. Berntot, West Germany)

Eric Schwarz, West Germany)

Hildegard Kaseke, West Germany)

Ilse Lausanne, West Germany)

Students introduced by the
State Department (Dec.)

Dr. and Mrs. Sten Karlberg, Royal School of Forestry, Stockholm (Jan. 1951)

Mr. and Mrs. Colin Marshall, Conservator of Forests, Malaya (Feb.)

Mrs. Kitty Shiva Rao, New Delhi, India (May)

Sir Benegal N. Rau, Indian Delegate, UN, New Delhi, India (May)

Many of the above foreign visitors were introduced to the
Yosemite organization by the State Department.

4. Land Acquisition

The acquisition of the remaining privately-owned lands in Yosemite has been greatly accelerated by the purchase of approximately 50 acres of land in Section 35, Mariposa, from Sara Scroggs who died shortly after the transaction.

The large portion of the Cascades subdivision located on the very rim of Yosemite Valley has been acquired from The Irving Corporation. The remaining small parcel is in the process of being purchased from Mrs. Kate Merle-Smith of New York. The acquisition of these holdings removes forever a serious threat which hung over a very choice part of Yosemite National Park.

An option has been approved for the purchase of the White Wolf property, located on the old Tioga Road, from Mr. Wilson Meyer. Mr. Meyer has been a very cooperative neighbor and the Service is indeed fortunate to acquire this property from him for less than other offers.

Preliminary steps have been taken to work out an exchange of park trees for the privately-owned lands at Aspen Valley and Rest Meadow. These lands have been logged off but the owners, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bright, feel that they still have a high value for subdivision into summer homesites. In fact it is believed the owners will expect nearly double the value set by appraisers engaged by the Service. It is doubtful we can come to acceptable terms with the owners.

Section 35 continues to be a problem. More and more homes, cabin courts, etc. are being constructed in the area and, of course, this activity affects the ultimate purchase price. One of the owners of considerable acreage has just arranged to have about a million feet of timber cut on his property. Such action apparently does not affect the value of the land for homesites.

Activity in Forests is not very pronounced. Only a few small cabins have been constructed this past year.

No changes have taken place at Big Meadow adjacent to Forests, and other private lands in the park remain in status quo.

5. Insect Control and Removal of Forest Hazards

A pronounced increase occurred in the losses in sugar and ponderosa pine forests of the park from bark beetles. To combat this increase additional funds above the amounts allotted for previous years was made available and control operations were increased proportionately. Under a cooperative understanding park insect control crews treated Sierra National Forest infested areas adjoining park control areas. Costs of this cooperative work were paid from Sierra National Forest insect control funds.

Due to the Federal Torts Claim Act and its implications emphasis is being placed on the removal of hazardous trees and limbs in areas of public concentration particularly campgrounds and along the heavily travelled roads and trails.

6. Fiscal Operations

A complete physical inventory was made of all equipment. New decal numbers were assigned to all non-expendable property and the new BI-100 file system installed.

The tremendous added work load caused by repair of flood damage was handled with little or no additional clerical help but with some expenditure of overtime. All personnel and fiscal operations are current at date of report.

The mess operations account reflects a small profit. Total number of meals served to date is in excess of 82,000, which covers an operation of one all-year camp and from ten to twelve seasonal camps. A rate of \$3.85 per meal for regular meals and \$4.50 per meal for ration camps has been charged during the fiscal year. No loss has occurred during the year.

7. Conference on Fire Suppression Organization and Management

For the first time in the history of the park a joint conference on fire suppression organization and fire management was held in Yosemite during the past year with officials of the U. S. Forest Service, the State of California, Division of Forestry and the National Park Service in attendance. The objective of the conference was to develop a uniform understanding of fire organization structures and terminology which will result in more effective joint action through wider interchanges in personnel between units, and to develop a nucleus of men from each unit which will extend training within their organizations. This conference will, no doubt, be mutually helpful to all the agencies concerned in handling future forest fires.

8. Disastrous Floods in November

As a result of heavy rains over a period of several days a flood occurred on November 19 that was comparable in many ways to the 1937 flood. On December 3 and 8 the rivers and streams again reached flood stages. The three floods caused a huge amount of damage approximately \$453,000 to Service roads, trails, buildings, etc. The concessioners, mainly the Yosemite Park and Curry Co., were also hard hit. Damage to their property exceeded \$100,000. The State Highway below the park was severely damaged and it is estimated that \$1,000,000 will be required to make repairs.

Flood damage repairs in the park are progressing at a very satisfactory rate and the 1951 visitors will not be inconvenienced to any degree.

9. National Park Service Conference held in Yosemite

The National Park Service conference was held in Yosemite from October 16 to 20, 1950, inclusive. This was the 20th Service-wide conference and the third to be held in Yosemite National Park.

10. Concessioner Construction

The Pine Cottage, a 32 room structure, was built by the Yosemite Park and Curry Co. at Yosemite Lodge. It is the first of 10 units planned to replace the present unsatisfactory buildings. Additional construction will depend on clearance by the National Production Authority. Two storage units, one in Camp 16 and the other at Yosemite Lodge, were also completed. The re-arrangement of obsolete non-bath cabins into employees quarters is nearly finished.

The Service is constructing new roads, parking areas and utilities in the Lodge area to serve the proposed new buildings.

11. The Yosemite Field School in 1950

The 1950 Yosemite Field School was one of the most successful in the 25 year history of the school, both from the standpoint of operation and caliber of students. The graduates received an average of three inquiries offering them the possibility of employment, thereby indicating the great need for this practical naturalists training school.

12. Irreplaceable documents and paintings subjected to constant Fire Hazard.

The paintings in the Yosemite Museum were completely cleaned and renovated by an expert from a San Francisco studio and an appraisal of their value made by him. This revealed a present valuation of the paintings in the Museum to be in excess of \$31,000 which reflects an important curatorial responsibility devolving upon the Yosemite Naturalist Department.

In addition to the paintings the Yosemite Museum possesses nine rare drawings which were made here during the years immediately after the discovery of Yosemite Valley. Their value is as great as is the value placed upon the appraised paintings. Manuscripts, rare books, extensive collections of separates, prints and old maps, bound series of journals and a valuable library of pertinent books are housed on the second floor of the Yosemite Museum in rooms which are in no way fire resistant. New fireproof housing for these priceless possessions is one of the greatest needs of the park, for these research and interpretive materials constitutes the heart of the Yosemite Park Naturalist program.

13. Travel Records Broken

The travel year ended September 30, 1950, was the greatest in park records. A total of 830,241 people visited Yosemite National Park. This was 3.4 per cent greater than the previous year. A total of 249,061 cars entered the park. About 97 per cent of the park travel was by private car. The number of visitors from outside the State of California was also the greatest in park records. The number of out-of-state cars recorded for the year was 42,631 and cars were registered from every State in the Union and 20 foreign countries.

Travel has increased from 506,781 visitors in 1940 to 830,241 in 1950 while the permanent ranger force has remained practically the same with 23 men on duty in 1950 as compared with 22 to 23 men on duty during each of the last ten years.

14. Reduction in number of Accidents

There were very few serious accidents during 1950-51 and an unusually small number of lost people or climbers who needed help from the rangers. A two-day school was held in August 1950 for the instruction of the rangers in rock climbing technique and rescue work. This course was conducted by several experienced rangers who are qualified rock climbers.

Yosemite National Park
California

FO-968 attached

207-01

Anderson

AIRMAIL

May 22, 1951

Memorandum

To: The Director
From: Superintendent, Yosemite
Subject: Participation in Defense Programs

We have Mr. Demaray's memorandum to all Field Offices dated May 8 requesting a concise statement regarding activities which are in any way connected with the emergency or have any bearing on the defense program.

We have nothing to report other than the occasional use of our public campgrounds by military personnel from nearby army camps.

Carl P. Russell
Superintendent

Copy to: Regional Director, Region Four
RHAnderson/du

FILE COPY

In reply refer to:
A2619 WASO

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

FO-968

RECEIVED

MAY 21 1951

May 8, 1951

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Memorandum

To: All Field Offices
From: Director
Subject: Participation in Defense Programs

205-02
207-01 ✓

For Part I of the Annual Report of the Secretary of the Interior, we have been instructed to supply a 2,500-word article, dealing primarily with the Service's part in meeting the Department's responsibilities in "both the immediate and long-range defense effort." While the contribution of the National Park System to this effort cannot, except in rare instances, include the commercial utilization of resources, we know that in many other ways, these areas and the personnel assigned to them can assist in very valuable ways.

In order that what we have done and are doing may be covered as fully as possible, each superintendent will please furnish this office, not later than May 25, a concise statement regarding activities which are in any way connected with the emergency, whether in the form of special use permits, participation in civilian defense, or any other kind of activity having any bearing on the defense program. Superintendents having nothing to report will please indicate by memorandum, before the deadline date, that that is the case.

A. E. Demaray
A. E. Demaray
Director

207-01 Annual Report

1203

Interior--Duplicating Section, Washington, D. C.

*Mr. Wasker
6710-5/17
Mr. [unclear]*

May 16, 1951

Memorandum

To: All Department Heads

From: Superintendent

Subject: Annual Report

As in the past, we are required to submit to the Director by June 1, a brief account of the events of the past year which we regard to be of sufficient importance for publication in the Director's Annual Report.

Points that will be stressed in this year's Director's Annual Report will be activities undertaken specifically to promote understanding of Park policies, practices and special problems in nearby communities. Our activities in connection with the observance of the Yosemite centennial will be important in this connection. Meetings with organizations in neighboring communities deserve mention, and it is desirable to have a report on those foreign visitors with whom we have come in contact. Some of these have been especially interested in the management of the parks, because of their responsibilities to park programs in their homelands.

We are requested to supply data in regard to any significant research in which Yosemite has played a part, whether it was undertaken by employees of the Service, by any other federal agency or by any other individual or agency. Our report should contain data concerning the results of such research as the cabin study and trout investigations conducted by the Ranger Department.

Please understand that this report is not to be a lengthy one covering all of the activities of your department. Some of our departments may have nothing to report along lines of activities to be included in the Director's Annual Report, but it will be appreciated if you will look back over the events of the past year, jot down anything you believe may be sufficiently important and turn the material over to Ralph Anderson for compiling.

Carl P. Russell

Carl P. Russell
Superintendent

May 16, 1951

FO-958
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207-01 ✓

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Carl P. Russell
Superintendent

RHAnderson/du

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In reply refer to:
A2623 WASO

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

FO-958

Memorandum

April 9, 1951

To: All Field Offices APR 19 1951

From: The Director YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Subject: Submission of Annual Reports from Field Areas and Regional Offices

Report 1al, Annual Report of Officials in Charge of Field Areas and of the Regional Directors, which will reach all field offices shortly for inclusion in Chapter 1 of the Report Manual, puts into effect the procedure which has been followed the past few years with respect to the submission of these reports. The important points are (1) that each of the field officials indicated by the title quoted above is required to submit an annual report to reach the Director by June 1; (2) the events of sufficient importance for consideration in the Director's annual report, and which occur between the time the field report is prepared and the end of the fiscal year, are to be reported in a supplementary report to reach the Director by July 15, and (3) no other general annual report is required of field officials.

All of the Regional Directors and Superintendents should study the revised annual report requirements carefully and follow it meticulously.

For the 1951 annual report, I am particularly anxious to receive data on public relations activities, such as the "Show Me" Day instituted in several areas, or any other activities undertaken specifically to promote understanding of park policies, practices, and problems in nearby communities. I should like to see each report include an item on this matter.

I believe that the past year has been particularly notable for the number of foreign visitors who have had glimpses of one or more National Park Service areas or, in several cases, have visited them especially to study the way they are managed or used. Your reports should cover such visits adequately.

Since research is one of the important justifying uses of many of our areas, please be sure to supply data in regard to any significant research in which any area of the System played a significant part, whether it was undertaken by employees of the Service, by another Federal agency, or by an outside individual or agency. The report should contain data concerning the results of such research.

207-01 Annual Reports

1094

207-01 ✓
205-02 ✓

EAR 5/8/51

If any Regional Director, Superintendent, or other employee of the Service wishes to offer any suggestion as to how the Annual Report of the Director may be made a more effective and valuable document, it will be given full and careful consideration.

A. E. Demaray

A. E. Demaray
Director

Subject: Submissions of Annual Reports from Field Areas and Regional Offices

Report for Annual Report of Officials in Charge of Field Areas and of the Regional Directors, which will reach all Field Offices shortly for submission in Chapter I of the Report Annual, will effect the procedure which has been followed the past few years with respect to the submission of these reports. The important points are (1) that each of the field officials indicated by the title quoted above is required to submit an annual report to reach the Director by June 1; (2) the extent of sufficient importance for consideration in the Director's annual report, and which occur between the time the field report is prepared and the end of the fiscal year, are to be reported in a supplementary report to reach the Director by July 15, and (3) no other general annual report is required of field officials.

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Interior - Duplicating Section - - Washington, D. C.

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