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(May 1929)

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

----- NATIONAL PARK

Vault
16-H

FILE NO.

SUPERINTENDENT'S

ANNUAL REPORT

1938

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file constitutes a part of the official records of the National Park Service and should not be separated or papers withdrawn without express authority of the official in charge.

All Files should be returned promptly to the File Room.

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

ARNO B. CAMMERER,
Director.

W. S. W. W. W.
file

Yosemite National Park
California

August 1, 1938.

Joseph

The Director,
National Park Service,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Director:

There is transmitted herewith the annual report for Yosemite National Park for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1938.

We regret very much that, due to the extremely heavy press of administrative matters here, its submission has been delayed beyond July 15.

Sincerely yours,

Lawrence G. Merriam,
Superintendent.

SJ
Enc.

Yosemite National Park

California

ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal Year 1938

GENERAL

June 30, 1938, marked the close of an extremely active and interesting year in Yosemite. There were, as usual, many problems, large numbers of visitors, adverse weather conditions which created real emergencies, and an ever-increasing amount of administrative and routine activities in each of the divisions here. We feel that to the park visitor, however, there was no outward semblance of a tremendously busy organization, but only a comparatively smooth operation designed to assist and control people efficiently and with the least possible amount of interference.

The 481,492 visitors who came to Yosemite during the 1937 travel year were the greatest bona fide number recorded here in any year. Travel during the present travel year is somewhat less than last, however, evidently due principally to the flood conditions which were encountered in December throughout the state, the closing of approach roads during winter and spring months by slides caused by flood damage and general saturation, and the flooding of highways in the lowlands during the spring.

**WEATHER
CONDITIONS**

Due to its unusual character this year during the winter, the weather and its effects should have comment. Normal conditions were encountered up to December, 1937, but on December 11 and 12 a rather serious and damaging flood inundated approximately 50 per cent of Yosemite Valley under a considerable amount of water. A total of 11.54 inches of precipitation, in the form of rain entirely, was recorded in the Valley during the period December 9 to 12, inclusive. This, coupled with unusually warm temperatures for December and the consequent melting of the snowpack which already lay in the higher portions of the park, brought the flood conditions which sent the Merced River far beyond its banks, causing a large amount of damage to physical improvements. The All Year Highway along the Merced Canyon below the park boundary was undermined badly for several miles, and at two points within the park this road was rendered impassable for some time. It was not until December 31, almost three weeks after the flood, that travel from Merced to the park was resumed over the All Year Highway, under convoy control through the damaged areas, and convoy controls on 12 miles of the road outside of the park boundary are still in effect. The washout of a large fill on the Wawona Road during the actual flood period served to isolate the park entirely for a three-day period. The park was isolated again on February 11 and 12, when both the All Year Highway and the Wawona Road were closed by slides; and the All Year Highway remained closed for three additional days after the 12th.



SECTION OF THE ALL-YEAR HIGHWAY JUST BELOW ARCH ROCK
BADLY DAMAGED BY FLOOD WATERS



WASHED OUT PORTION OF THE LARGE FILL ON THE
WAWONA ROAD AT GROUSE CREEK. FLOOD STAGE
WATERS IN DECEMBER CUT SQUARELY ACROSS THE
ROAD AT THIS POINT.

Estimates of damage to physical improvements of the National Park Service within the park, including roads and trails, caused directly by the December flood, amounted to \$271,750, and appropriations were received to undertake the necessary rehabilitation work. Reconstruction projects are still under way, although much of the work has been done.

Unusually heavy precipitation was common throughout the northern and central portions of California between December 9 and 12.

During the latter part of the winter, a tremendously heavy snowpack was built up in the high country, the heaviest in years. Total precipitation for the whole fiscal year amounted to 58.99 inches, setting a new record for precipitation within the park by exceeding the previous record year of 1906-7 when precipitation amounted to 56.17 inches. As indicated, a large portion of the precipitation came as snow during the latter part of the winter, and the effect this spring and summer has been striking. The waterfalls and river have stayed higher than usual, to the delight of summer visitors. The flora is lush and is remaining green for a longer period, and wildlife undoubtedly benefits by such conditions.

WINTER
USE

Use of the park during the winter months declined considerably from the former year. During the period December 1, 1937, to March 31, 1938, inclusive, a total of 34,843 visitors came into the park, compared with 51,233 the previous year. A total of 25,634 were counted at the ski fields at Badger Pass, compared with 35,812 the winter before.

It is interesting to note that there were 11,630 visitors to the park in January and 10,289 in February, together amounting to almost 63 per cent of the total travel to the park during the past winter season; only 5,825 visitors came in December and 7,099 in March. The low travel in December was due, of course, to the flood conditions, closing of roads, and unfavorable conditions generally for winter sports at that time.

The Badger Pass ski house was operated during the latter part of December, but there was only 4 to 8 inches of snow available that month, an insufficient amount to cover all the ski runs. Good skiing was not enjoyed at Badger Pass until the latter part of January, due to lack of snow until that time. Snow depths at Badger Pass reached a maximum of 11 feet on February 19. The ski house and upski were operated until May 1, although visitors did a little skiing there during May. Heavy snows closed the road into Badger Pass for several days during February. As in former years, on week-ends when weather and skiing conditions were favorable, the Badger Pass parking area proved to be too small, and it was necessary to plow out the Glacier Point Road above Badger Pass for a short distance to provide suitable parking space for the overflow.



SNOW CONDITIONS ENCOUNTERED ON THE GLACIER POINT ROAD
TO BADGER PASS IN LATE WINTER



BADGER PASS SKI HOUSE, WITH MAIN SKI HILL IN BACKGROUND,
IN MID-WINTER



THE BADGER PASS AREA, AFTER THE FIRST RELATIVELY
HEAVY SNOWFALL OF THE SEASON

Additional work on the ski trails in the Badger Pass area was performed by the CCC during the summer and autumn months.

Conditions for winter sports in Yosemite Valley were generally not good. The skating rink at Camp Curry was not opened until December 23, later than planned, because of warm weather. Ice skating was enjoyed intermittently during January for a total of about half of the month, being interrupted the remainder of the month by inclement weather. There was no skating in February due to heavy rains and snows in the Valley, and attempts to maintain the ice rink were abandoned for the winter. Following a relatively light snowfall in the Valley, on January 30 the toboggan slide, sleighs and dog teams were in operation for the first time during the winter.

Snow removal costs were about the same as in the previous year, but with more funds expended on the Wawona Road and the Glacier Point Road as far as Badger Pass for continuous snow removal than in any other year. There was less than the average amount expended in snow removal on the floor of the Valley. Shortage of equipment compelled the suspension of snow removal on the Glacier Point Road beyond the Badger Pass area after the middle of January. Heavy continued snowfall prevented the use of the Glacier Point Road even as far as Badger Pass for several days in February. The road into the Mariposa Grove of Big Trees was also closed for periods following heavy storms.

MAJOR
ROADS

Construction work on the new Big Oak Flat and Tioga roads within the park was carried on actively. With the exception of gaps at Cascade, Tamarack, and Wildcat creeks, where bridges have not yet been constructed, a new road grade is now available from the floor of the Valley over the new Big Oak Flat Road to Crane Flat and on the new Tioga Road from Crane Flat to a point near the old Tioga Road; this new roadway is not yet in condition, of course, for use by the public. Projects completed during the past year include the finishing in all respects of the two short tunnels near the Valley floor; the holing through of the long tunnel above Cascade, Tamarack, and Wildcat creeks; rough grading of the entire distance from the long tunnel to Crane Flat; and completion of the South Fork Tuolumne Bridge on the new Tioga Road. The stone guardrail on the first section of the new Big Oak Flat Road leading from the Valley floor is practically complete. A contractor is starting this summer on the paving of the new Big Oak Flat Road from the long tunnel through Crane Flat and on the new Tioga Road as far as the South Fork of the Tuolumne River.

Work is being undertaken this summer to construct the short section of road remaining between the end of present construction on the new Tioga Road and McSwain Meadows, near White Wolf, on the old Tioga Road. The paving of the 11.6 mile stretch of the new Tioga Road from Cathedral Creek through Tuolumne Meadows to Tioga Pass was completed in the fall of 1937.



COMPLETED PORTAL AT THE UPPER END OF THE FIRST TUNNEL
ON THE NEW BIG OAK FLAT ROAD



PORTION OF THE STONE GUARD RAIL BEING CONSTRUCTED
ON THE LOWER SECTION OF THE BIG OAK FLAT ROAD NEAR
THE FLOOR OF YOSEMITE VALLEY

The Wawona Road resloping and realignment project was completed and all funds expended by late fall of 1937. Post construction on the Glacier Point and Wawona roads was continued by the Bureau of Public Roads.

CONSTRUC-
TION

In addition to the major roads, a small amount of new construction work was undertaken. The principal project was the construction of a new employee residence in the Lost Arrow residential area under the CCC. Another residence in the same area, also constructed under CCC, was practically finished at the close of the fiscal year and is now occupied. Another CCC project was the construction of the Wawona Schoolhouse. Construction of a fixed beam scale at the Valley sewage disposal plant was a fourth construction project of the CCC.

The County of Mariposa constructed a residence for the high school bus driver near the grammar school in Yosemite Valley.

MAINTEN-
ANCE

No outstanding maintenance work was necessary, but some of the reconstruction work necessary after the December flood was rather unusual in character. Portions of the Valley road system and highway to El Portal were entirely washed out, the lower floors of three Government residences were flooded and required complete renovation, some of the bridges were either badly damaged or washed away, the sewage disposal system in the Valley was flooded and operation was not satisfactory from December 11 to 16, power and light systems were rendered inoperative, etc. There are little or no evidences at this time that a rather devastating flood occurred last December.



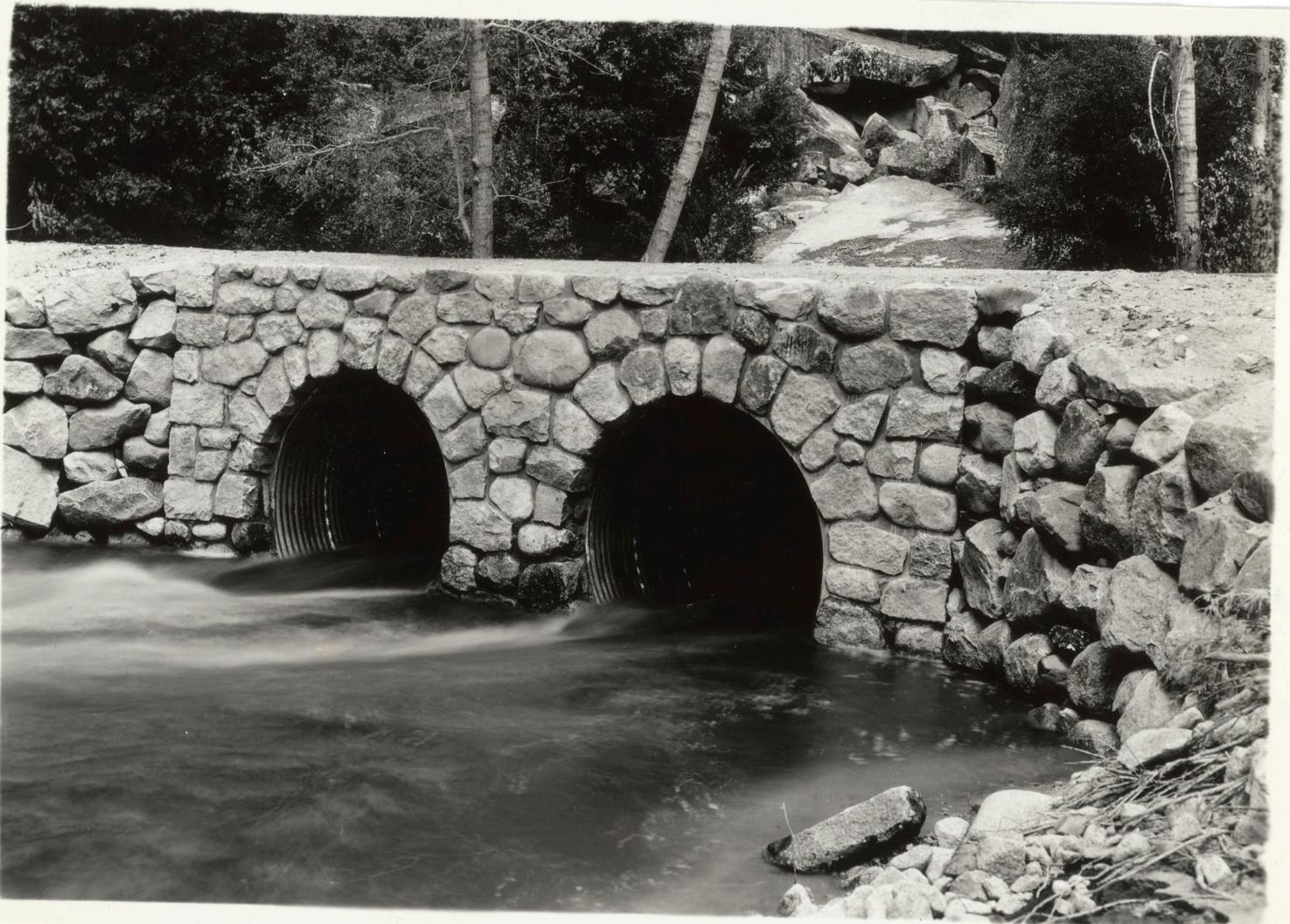
NEW RESIDENCE CONSTRUCTED UNDER CCC IN THE
LOST ARROW RESIDENTIAL AREA



PORTION OF THE MIRROR LAKE ROAD WASHED OUT COMPLETELY
BY TENAYA CREEK DURING THE DECEMBER FLOOD PERIOD



THE OLD CASCADE CREEK BRIDGE ON THE ALL-YEAR HIGHWAY
SHORTLY AFTER RECEDING OF THE HIGH WATER DURING THE
DECEMBER FLOOD PERIOD.



NEW CULVERT INSTALLATION FOR THE ALL-YEAR HIGHWAY
AT CASCADE CREEK, REPLACING THE BRIDGE STRUCTURE
RUINED IN THE DECEMBER FLOOD

One of the most urgent necessities in the Valley is the installation of a pressure balancing tank for the water system. For the past few summers water pressure in the Valley mains has decreased alarmingly during the period of heavy demand, and a seasonal order restricting primarily the use of water for irrigation and sprinkling has been customary. An exceedingly low water pressure such as has been experienced during the past few summer seasons is dangerous particularly, of course, in case of fire.

The Valley sewerage system, and also that at Tuolumne Meadows, were in use at times during the summer beyond their designed capacities.

Low trail maintenance allotments have compelled the concentration of available funds on the most popular trails, to the detriment of many miles of outlying trails. The most popular and heavily used trails are in good condition except for the oil caks, which is deteriorating progressively.

HETCH
HETCHY

The project of enlarging Hetch Hetchy Dam by the addition of approximately 85 feet to its height was completed in the spring of 1938 after more than two years' work by a contractor engaged by the City of San Francisco. Evidences of the reconstruction work, including machinery, tram lines, etc., have been removed, and the area restored carefully under the supervision of the National Park Service. The contractor provided a tunnel in the cliff at the north end of the completed dam to provide access to the Lake Eleanor Road. No automobile traffic, except such as may be necessary in connection with official business, is permitted on the dam or on the Lake Eleanor Road, however. The contractor on the dam reconstruction placed the Mather - Hetch Hetchy Road in good shape before the project was completed.

FORESTRY

The major development in forestry activities was the beginning, toward the end of the fiscal year, of a Ribes eradication program in the white pine species types within the park. The work is being done by the CCC under the supervision of the National Park Service, with technical assistance provided by the Division of Plant Disease Control, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine. Two CCC camps, in addition to the camps here all year, were provided this summer principally for Ribes control, one to devote all of its time to this project and the other about one-half the time.



VIEW OF THE NEW SPILLWAY AT HETCH HETCHY DAM



PHOTOGRAPH OF A CUT-OVER AREA WITHIN THE PARK SHOWING
RIBES CONCENTRATIONS AND SUGAR PINE REPRODUCTION

Bark beetle maintenance control was continued throughout the year with the CCC. Due to flood rehabilitation work, it was not possible to cover all the areas ordinarily covered during the winter and spring months. A considerable amount of windfall, due to the unusually heavy winter storms, may develop an increase in the amount of bark beetle infestation this fall, but at the present time infestation conditions are on the whole endemic.

Reconnaissances and experimental work indicate definitely a further spread of lodgepole pine needleminer infestations in the high country, particularly at Forsyth Pass and in the vicinity of Bear Valley and Rodgers Canyon. An increase in infestation that may become serious was noted in the extensive lodgepole pine stands adjacent to and immediately north of Tuolumne Meadows. In cooperation with the Service, the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine is continuing its investigative and experimental work on needleminer through its laboratory maintained in the park.

Evidence of the success of the willow planting projects carried out with CCC labor on the slopes of the Wawona Road is more pronounced with the passing of each season. Slopes formerly decidedly bare are now green with a mat of protective willow brush.



VIEW OF WILLOW GROWTH ON A LARGE CUT BANK OF THE
WAWONA ROAD AT GROUSE CREEK

FIRE

There were 36 reportable forest fires during the year, 25

PROTECTION

Class A and 11 Class B, with a total burn-over of 14.44 acres.

Fourteen of these fires were caused by lightning, 17 by smokers, 3 by camp fires, 1 by a firecracker, and 1 by insect control operations. Credit is due the detection and dispatching system, and the constant availability of CCC suppression crews, for promptness in locating and extinguishing the fires before much damage was done.

Fire warning signs were posted conspicuously, prohibiting smoking while moving or traveling inside of Yosemite National Park below an elevation of 7,000 feet above sea level, except along paved roads, in camps, picnic and regularly inhabited areas, and on the floor of Yosemite Valley east of the Pohono Bridge; and prohibiting all fires within Yosemite National Park below an elevation of 7,000 feet, except at designated camp grounds, hotels, lodges, other regularly inhabited areas, and on river beaches in Yosemite Valley.

A valuable fire protection training school was held March 19 - 22 under the direction of Assistant Forester Barrows of the Branch of Forestry. It was attended by Yosemite personnel and other members of the Service, by representatives of the Forest Service, and a representative of the State of California. A representative of the Pacific Marine Supply Company, and a member of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, participated in demonstration and instruction.

Training schools for CCC personnel at each of the camps, demonstrating proper use of tools and methods of suppression, were conducted by Assistant Chief Ranger Wegner.

WILDLIFE

The principal concern during the year was the control of bears. Authority was secured to dispose permanently of a limited number of unruly individuals who were not susceptible to trapping and moving to portions of the park away from Yosemite Valley. Several were transferred to the Los Padres National Forest in Southern California. Bears, as a result, have not been nearly so bothersome to campers and residents so far during the 1938 season. There still is a surplus of bears living on the floor of the Valley at the present time, however.

The new regulation prohibiting the feeding, touching, teasing, or molesting of bears is well worth while. Compared with previous years, the number of bear injuries up to the close of the fiscal year was almost negligible.

Several hundred ground squirrels were killed around developments in the Valley.

FISH

Fish planting last summer was completed in August, with a total of 341,300 Eastern Brook, 453,000 Rainbow, and 150,700 Loch Leven placed in lakes and streams. These three groups total 945,000.

Fishing last year was good, but fishing conditions in general received a set-back for the early part of 1938. The flood conditions during the winter undoubtedly killed many fish, and the high water throughout the spring and early summer reduced success in angling to a minimum, although many good catches were made. The high water took out entirely the egg-taking station at Frog Creek near Lake Eleanor, and it will have to be wholly re-built this season. No

Rainbow eggs have been made available from Lake Eleanor, therefore, this season.

CAMP
GROUNDS

Camp grounds in Yosemite Valley received the same intensive use this past year as heretofore. An all-time peak of about 15,000 campers in the camp grounds in the Valley was reached on July 4, 1937, about 3,000 more than the count at the same time the year before. Hundreds of visitors camped at areas outside of the Valley during the latter part of the summer. At Tuolumne Meadows the count averaged 300 to 400 campers per night during July, and at Wawona there were 70 to 80 campers per night the same month. The 30-day camping limit in Yosemite Valley and at Wawona tends toward greater use of the outlying areas.

During the 1938 season individual camp fire programs were started in each of the camp grounds in Yosemite Valley rather than concentrating the camp fire entertainment for campers solely in Camp 14, and the plan has met with success.

A survey of public camp ground No. 15 in Yosemite Valley was completed last summer, and the data obtained used for a camp ground management plan. Controls for similar work have been laid out in public camp grounds No. 7 and 12 in the Valley. This spring a development and improvement program for Camp 16 in Yosemite Valley, which is used by the Yosemite Park and Curry Company in the furnishing of rental tents, was undertaken with the CCC.

House trailers were not permitted in the park during the winter months. This restriction was adopted as a safety measure due to icy road conditions, and also to lack of sanitation facilities for such trailers in the Valley during the winter.

PUBLIC
UTILITY
OPERATORS

In the main the public utility operators had a good year, although the flood conditions and consequent lower travel was some deterrent to business. No new services were rendered by the principal operator, the Yosemite Park and Curry Company, although a new High Sierra Camp at May Lake was constructed to take the place of the camp formerly located at Tenaya Lake. The general store operated by the Company in the Old Village, and the Old Village Pavilion which is used principally for the showing of motion pictures, suffered a good deal of water damage due to the December flood.

Best's Studio, Inc., was opened for business in the spring of 1937, and has rendered continuous photographic service since. Boysens' Studio was also open all year. Mrs. Foley's Yosemite Falls Studio was closed during the winter season. Following some alteration in the building, Degan's Delicatessen reopened this spring after the usual winter shutdown.



YOSEMITE LODGE CABINS DAMAGED BY FLOOD WATERS

LAND
ACQUIL-
SITIONS

The principal land acquisition matter is, of course, the Carl Ina area of 8,206.78 acres authorized by Congress in 1937 for addition to Yosemite National Park. There has been continuous activity of a highly varied nature and of considerable importance concerning this project which required constant attention and coordination throughout the year. Options have been secured from two owners who have interests within the acquisition area, namely Mrs. D. A. Curry and T. H. Carlon. An option from the State of California is anticipated in the near future. Agreements as to purchase price have not been made with the Yosemite Sugar Pine Lumber Company, the Yosemite Power Company, or George and Steve Cuneo. The United States is preparing condemnation data concurrently with attempts to negotiate for settlement of the various interests involved, these data to form the basis of a condemnation case against those who have interests in the area but with whom it is not possible to negotiate a mutually satisfactory purchase price.

The purchase of 115.6 acres of land owned by John R. Tyrrell in Section 35 at Wawona was fully consummated at a cost to the Government of \$17,130.50, one-half of the purchase price having been donated by the owner.



TYPICAL VIEW OF SUGAR PINE IN THE CARL INN ACQUISITION AREA

The Northwest Quarter of Section 16, Township 5 South, Range 22 East, known as the McGilvray tract, adjacent to the Mariposa Grove of Big Trees, was purchased from the American Trust Company at a cost of \$7,173.64. This tract of land, originally purchased several years ago in the interest of the Government by the Yosemite Park and Curry Company inasmuch as the water for the Mariposa Grove sourced on it, was held in trust by the American Trust Company, from whom final purchase was made by the United States. The developments at the South Entrance Ranger Station are also served by the water supply coming from this property.

RANGER,
NATURALIST,
AND MUSEUM
SERVICE

The ranger and naturalist divisions rendered a good service to the public. The ranger division had no particularly outstanding assignments, but their duties included the usual number of rescues of persons stranded on cliffs, lost skiers, and so on.

The naturalist program was well received by large numbers of people. The naturalist division made the usual glacier measuring surveys in the autumn. Under the direction of the naturalist division, the centenary of the birth of John Muir was observed in Yosemite on April 21, with exhibits at the museum and a special pilgrimage to various points in the Valley having Muir significance. The naturalist division also participated in the California Conservation Week of March 7 - 14, cooperating with the California Conservation Council, through special lectures to audiences both within and outside of the park, and one radio broadcast from San Francisco.

The fourteenth session of the Yosemite School of Field Natural History was started on June 20, with the usual number of 14 men and 6 women in attendance. The Junior Nature School started on its ninth session June 27.

A new research room at the museum was set up prior to the starting of the Field School, and has been in use by that group this summer. Additional development of the room and preparation of additional specimens will be undertaken by the regular naturalist staff.

In cooperation with the naturalist staff, the Entomology Field Course #49 of the University of California was conducted in Yosemite this spring during intersession, 20 men students attending. The group made extensive collections of insect fauna, duplicates of which were added to the research collection at the museum.

CIVILIAN
CONSERVA-
TION
CORPS

As indicated throughout this report, the CCC were of great assistance in innumerable ways, not only on a few construction projects, but in keeping open trails, and performing emergency work on road slides and drainage, as well as the usual forestry, telephone line, and fire protection activities. The Cascades Camp was damaged severely by the flood conditions in December, some of the buildings being entirely washed away. The site at Cascades has been abandoned for CCC camp purposes, the camp personnel moving to a new camp constructed near the El Capitan Station at the base of the Big Oak Flat Road control.



A PART OF THE CASCADE CCC CAMP AFTER THE DECEMBER FLOOD

Two CCC companies remained throughout the winter, and two additional companies were brought in this spring principally for Ribes control work, one located at Crane Flat and the other at Middle Fork a short distance outside of the park in the Stanislaus National Forest.

RADIO

Radio communication continued to prove highly useful in several phases of operation here. It was of assistance during the flood period in December when roads into the park were impassable. It is, of course, of much service after the first snows of winter, which usually bring down telephone lines to outpost stations. On emergencies of almost any character it is highly valuable.

NATIONAL MONUMENT ADMINIS- TRATION

Yosemite was responsible for the Devil Postpile National Monument and the Joshua Tree National Monument. One ranger was stationed at Devil Postpile during the summer months, but no personnel was assigned to Joshua Tree. It was possible, through careful budgeting, to construct 30 camp tables with attached benches for the Devil Postpile National Monument out of funds allotted to that area for the 1938 fiscal year. No development of any nature has been undertaken by the Service at the Joshua Tree National Monument.

PERSONNEL CHANGES

Two permanent employees transferred from Yosemite during the year. Ranger Wilfred K. Merrill transferred to the Boulder Dam Recreational Area in November. Junior Bacteriologist Russell G. White transferred to the federal Food and Drug Administration, at San Francisco, in December.

Two members of the permanent organization in Yosemite passed away. Ranger William M. Reymann died of natural causes in San Francisco on January 1, 1938. Mechanic David H. Sewall died of natural causes in Merced on May 22, 1938. Both men had had long periods of service in Yosemite, and were well-known here. Their absence is felt keenly by all who knew them.

MISCELLANEOUS

The placing of signs warning people of the deceptive distances across the Merced River in Yosemite Valley and of the low temperature of the water was of assistance in informing visitors of the potential hazard of swimming in the river. Emergency ropes, together with rafts and buoys, were also provided for use in case of accident.

The most tragic accident of the year here was the crash of a TWA airliner in the park. The plane, with a total of nine persons aboard, had disappeared on the stormy night of March 1, and efforts of the airline company to trace or locate it were futile, although it was presumably somewhere in the Sierra. On June 12 the wrecked plane was located by H. O. Collier III on Buena Vista Crest in the southern portion of the park. Collier, a former CCC enrollee at Yosemite, was carrying out his own planned searching program for the plane when the discovery was made. All of the crew and passengers had been killed.

CHURCH

Church services for various denominations were conducted under the general direction of Dr. James A. White, Executive Secretary of the Yosemite National Park Church. Several hundred persons attended the special Sunrise Service at Mirror Lake on Easter morning.

Lawrence C. Merriam,

Superintendent.

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE AT MIRROR LAKE



10-23
(May 1929)

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Director.

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Conditions for winter sports in Yosemite Valley were generally not good. The skating rink at Camp Curry was not opened until December 23, later than planned, because of warm weather. Ice skating was enjoyed intermittently during January for a total of about half of the month, being interrupted the remainder of the month by inclement weather. There was no skating in February due to heavy rains and snows in the Valley, and attempts to maintain the ice rink were abandoned for the winter. Following a relatively light snowfall in the Valley, on January 30 the toboggan slide, sleighs and dog teams were in operation for the first time during the winter.

Corrections for 1939 Fiscal year

less than the average. This was due

~~Snow removal costs were about the same as in the previous year, but with more funds expended on the Wawona Road and the Glacier Point Road as far as Badger Pass for continuous snow removal than in any other year. There was less than the average amount expended in snow removal on the floor of the Valley. Shortage of equipment compelled the suspension of snow removal on the Glacier Point Road beyond the Badger Pass area after the middle of January. Heavy continued snowfall prevented the use of the Glacier Point Road even as far as Badger Pass for several days in February. The road into the Mariposa Grove of Big Trees was also closed for periods following heavy storms.~~

to relatively lighter snowfall throughout the Park.
However, as in previous years,
and on Mariposa Grove beyond Grizzly Giant

MAJOR
ROADS

Construction work on the new Big Oak Flat and Tioga roads within the park was carried on actively. With the exception of gaps at Cascade, Tamarack, and Wildcat creeks, where bridges have not yet been constructed, a new road grade is now available from the floor of the Valley over the new Big Oak Flat Road to Crane Flat and on the new Tioga Road from Crane Flat to a point near the old Tioga Road; this new roadway is not yet in condition, of course, for use by the public. Projects completed during the past year include the finishing in all respects of the two short tunnels near the Valley floor; the holing through of the long tunnel above Cascade, Tamarack, and Wildcat creeks; rough grading of the entire distance from the long tunnel to Crane Flat; and completion of the South Fork Tuolumne Bridge on the new Tioga Road. The stone guardrail on the first section of the new Big Oak Flat Road leading from the Valley floor is practically complete. A contractor is starting this summer on the paving of the new Big Oak Flat Road from the long tunnel through Crane Flat and on the new Tioga Road as far as the South Fork of the Tuolumne River.

Work is being undertaken this summer to construct the short section of road remaining between the end of present construction on the new Tioga Road and McSwain Meadows, near White Wolf, on the old Tioga Road. The paving of the 11.6 mile stretch of the new Tioga Road from Cathedral Creek through Tuolumne Meadows to Tioga Pass was completed in the fall of 1937.

The Wawona Road resloping and realignment project was completed and all funds expended by late fall of 1937. Post construction on the Glacier Point and Wawona roads was continued by the Bureau of Public Roads.

CONSTRUC-
TION

In addition to the major roads, a small amount of new construction work was undertaken. The principal project was the construction of a new employee residence in the Lost Arrow residential area under the CCC. Another residence in the same area, also constructed under CCC, was practically finished at the close of the fiscal year and is now occupied. Another CCC project was the construction of the Wawona Schoolhouse. Construction of a fixed beam scale at the Valley sewage disposal plant was a fourth construction project of the CCC.

The County of Mariposa constructed a residence for the high school bus driver near the grammar school in Yosemite Valley.

MAINTEN-
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No outstanding maintenance work was necessary, but some of the reconstruction work necessary after the December flood was rather unusual in character. Portions of the Valley road system and highway to El Portal were entirely washed out, the lower floors of three Government residences were flooded and required complete renovation, some of the bridges were either badly damaged or washed away, the sewage disposal system in the Valley was flooded and operation was not satisfactory from December 11 to 16, power and light systems were rendered inoperative, etc. There are little or no evidences at this time that a rather devastating flood occurred last December.

One of the most urgent necessities in the Valley is the installation of a pressure balancing tank for the water system. For the past few summers water pressure in the Valley mains has decreased alarmingly during the period of heavy demand, and a seasonal order restricting primarily the use of water for irrigation and sprinkling has been customary. An exceedingly low water pressure such as has been experienced during the past few summer seasons is dangerous particularly, of course, in case of fire.

The Valley sewerage system, and also that at Tuolumne Meadows, were in use at times during the summer beyond their designed capacities.

Low trail maintenance allotments have compelled the concentration of available funds on the most popular trails, to the detriment of many miles of outlying trails. The most popular and heavily used trails are in good condition except for the oil cove, which is deteriorating progressively.

HETCH
HETCHY

The project of enlarging Hetch Hetchy Dam by the addition of approximately 85 feet to its height was completed in the spring of 1938 after more than two years' work by a contractor engaged by the City of San Francisco. Evidences of the reconstruction work, including machinery, tram lines, etc., have been removed, and the area restored carefully under the supervision of the National Park Service. The contractor provided a tunnel in the cliff at the north end of the completed dam to provide access to the Lake Eleanor Road. No automobile traffic, except such as may be necessary in connection with official business, is permitted on the dam or on the Lake Eleanor Road, however. The contractor on the dam reconstruction placed the Mather - Hetch Hetchy Road in good shape before the project was completed.

FORESTRY

The major development in forestry activities was the beginning, toward the end of the fiscal year, of a Ribes eradication program in the white pine species types within the park. The work is being done by the OGC under the supervision of the National Park Service, with technical assistance provided by the Division of Plant Disease Control, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine. Two OGC camps, in addition to the camps here all year, were provided this summer principally for Ribes control, one to devote all of its time to this project and the other about one-half the time.

Bark beetle maintenance control was continued throughout the year with the CCC. Due to flood rehabilitation work, it was not possible to cover all the areas ordinarily covered during the winter and spring months. A considerable amount of windfall, due to the unusually heavy winter storms, may develop an increase in the amount of bark beetle infestation this fall, but at the present time infestation conditions are on the whole endemic.

Reconnaissances and experimental work indicate definitely a further spread of lodgepole pine needleminer infestations in the high country, particularly at Forsyth Pass and in the vicinity of Bear Valley and Rodgers Canyon. An increase in infestation that may become serious was noted in the extensive lodgepole pine stands adjacent to and immediately north of Tuolumne Meadows. In cooperation with the Service, the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine is continuing its investigative and experimental work on needleminer through its laboratory maintained in the park.

Evidence of the success of the willow planting projects carried out with CCC labor on the slopes of the Wawona Road is more pronounced with the passing of each season. Slopes formerly decidedly bare are now green with a mat of protective willow brush.

FIRE

There were 36 reportable forest fires during the year, 25

PROTECTION

Class A and 11 Class B, with a total burn-over of 14,44 acres.

Fourteen of these fires were caused by lightning, 17 by smokers, 3 by camp fires, 1 by a firecracker, and 1 by insect control operations. Credit is due the detection and dispatching system, and the constant availability of GOC suppression crews, for promptness in locating and extinguishing the fires before much damage was done.

Fire warning signs were posted conspicuously, prohibiting smoking while moving or traveling inside of Yosemite National Park below an elevation of 7,000 feet above sea level, except along paved roads, in camps, picnic and regularly inhabited areas, and on the floor of Yosemite Valley east of the Pohono Bridge; and prohibiting all fires within Yosemite National Park below an elevation of 7,000 feet, except at designated camp grounds, hotels, lodges, other regularly inhabited areas, and on river beaches in Yosemite Valley.

A valuable fire protection training school was held March 19 - 22 under the direction of Assistant Forester Barrows of the Branch of Forestry. It was attended by Yosemite personnel and other members of the Service, by representatives of the Forest Service, and a representative of the State of California. A representative of the Pacific Marine Supply Company, and a member of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, participated in demonstration and instruction.

Training schools for GOC personnel at each of the camps, demonstrating proper use of tools and methods of suppression, were conducted by Assistant Chief Ranger Wegner.

WILDLIFE

The principal concern during the year was the control of bears. Authority was secured to dispose permanently of a limited number of unruly individuals who were not susceptible to trapping and moving to portions of the park away from Yosemite Valley. Several were transferred to the Los Padres National Forest in Southern California. Bears, as a result, have not been nearly so bothersome to campers and residents so far during the 1938 season. There still is a surplus of bears living on the floor of the Valley at the present time, however.

The new regulation prohibiting the feeding, touching, teasing, or molesting of bears is well worth while. Compared with previous years, the number of bear injuries up to the close of the fiscal year was almost negligible.

Several hundred ground squirrels were killed around developments in the Valley.

FISH

Fish planting last summer was completed in August, with a total of 341,300 Eastern Brook, 453,000 Rainbow, and 150,700 Loch Leven placed in lakes and streams. These three groups total 945,000.

Fishing last year was good, but fishing conditions in general received a set-back for the early part of 1938. The flood conditions during the winter undoubtedly killed many fish, and the high water throughout the spring and early summer reduced success in angling to a minimum, although many good catches were made. The high water took out entirely the egg-taking station at Frog Creek near Lake Eleanor, and it will have to be wholly re-built this season. No

Rainbow eggs have been made available from Lake Eleanor, therefore, this season.

CAMP
GROUNDS

Camp grounds in Yosemite Valley received the same intensive use this past year as heretofore. An all-time peak of about 15,000 campers in the camp grounds in the Valley was reached on July 4, 1937, about 3,000 more than the count at the same time the year before. Hundreds of visitors camped at areas outside of the Valley during the latter part of the summer. At Tuolumne Meadows the count averaged 300 to 400 campers per night during July, and at Wawona there were 70 to 80 campers per night the same month. The 30-day camping limit in Yosemite Valley and at Wawona tends toward greater use of the outlying areas.

During the 1938 season individual camp fire programs were started in each of the camp grounds in Yosemite Valley rather than concentrating the camp fire entertainment for campers solely in Camp 14, and the plan has met with success.

A survey of public camp ground No. 15 in Yosemite Valley was completed last summer, and the data obtained used for a camp ground management plan. Controls for similar work have been laid out in public camp grounds No. 7 and 12 in the Valley. This spring a development and improvement program for Camp 16 in Yosemite Valley, which is used by the Yosemite Park and Curry Company in the furnishing of rental tents, was undertaken with the CCC.

House trailers were not permitted in the park during the winter months. This restriction was adopted as a safety measure due to icy road conditions, and also to lack of sanitation facilities for such trailers in the Valley during the winter.

PUBLIC
UTILITY
OPERATORS

In the main the public utility operators had a good year, although the flood conditions and consequent lower travel was some deterrent to business. No new services were rendered by the principal operator, the Yosemite Park and Curry Company, although a new High Sierra Camp at May Lake was constructed to take the place of the camp formerly located at Tenaya Lake. The general store operated by the Company in the Old Village, and the Old Village Pavilion which is used principally for the showing of motion pictures, suffered a good deal of water damage due to the December flood.

Best's Studio, Inc., was opened for business in the spring of 1937, and has rendered continuous photographic service since. Boysens' Studio was also open all year. Mrs. Foley's Yosemite Falls Studio was closed during the winter season. Following some alteration in the building, Degan's Delicatessen reopened this spring after the usual winter shutdown.

LAND
ACQUI-
SITIONS

The principal land acquisition matter is, of course, the Carl Inn area of 8,206.78 acres authorized by Congress in 1937 for addition to Yosemite National Park. There has been continuous activity of a highly varied nature and of considerable importance concerning this project which required constant attention and coordination throughout the year. Options have been secured from two owners who have interests within the acquisition area, namely Mrs. D. A. Curry and T. H. Carlon. An option from the State of California is anticipated in the near future. Agreements as to purchase price have not been made with the Yosemite Sugar Pine Lumber Company, the Yosemite Power Company, or George and Steve Cunes. The United States is preparing condemnation data concurrently with attempts to negotiate for settlement of the various interests involved, these data to form the basis of a condemnation case against those who have interests in the area but with whom it is not possible to negotiate a mutually satisfactory purchase price.

The purchase of 115.6 acres of land owned by John R. Tyrrell in Section 35 at Wawona was fully consummated at a cost to the Government of \$17,130.50, one-half of the purchase price having been donated by the owner.

The Northwest Quarter of Section 16, Township 5 South, Range 22 East, known as the McGilvray tract, adjacent to the Mariposa Grove of Big Trees, was purchased from the American Trust Company at a cost of \$7,173.64. This tract of land, originally purchased several years ago in the interest of the Government by the Yosemite Park and Curry Company inasmuch as the water for the Mariposa Grove sourced on it, was held in trust by the American Trust Company, from whom final purchase was made by the United States. The developments at the South Entrance Ranger Station are also served by the water supply coming from this property.

RANGER,
NATURALIST,
AND MUSEUM
SERVICE

The ranger and naturalist divisions rendered a good service to the public. The ranger division had no particularly outstanding assignments, but their duties included the usual number of rescues of persons stranded on cliffs, lost skiers, and so on.

The naturalist program was well received by large numbers of people. The naturalist division made the usual glacier measuring surveys in the autumn. Under the direction of the naturalist division, the centenary of the birth of John Muir was observed in Yosemite on April 21, with exhibits at the museum and a special pilgrimage to various points in the Valley having Muir significance. The naturalist division also participated in the California Conservation Week of March 7 - 14, cooperating with the California Conservation Council, through special lectures to audiences both within and outside of the park, and one radio broadcast from San Francisco.

The fourteenth session of the Yosemite School of Field Natural History was started on June 20, with the usual number of 14 men and 6 women in attendance. The Junior Nature School started on its ninth session June 27.

A new research room at the museum was set up prior to the starting of the Field School, and has been in use by that group this summer. Additional development of the room and preparation of additional specimens will be undertaken by the regular naturalist staff.

In cooperation with the naturalist staff, the Entomology Field Course #49 of the University of California was conducted in Yosemite this spring during intersession, 20 men students attending. The group made extensive collections of insect fauna, duplicates of which were added to the research collection at the museum.

CIVILIAN
CONSERVA-
TION
CORPS

As indicated throughout this report, the CCC were of great assistance in innumerable ways, not only on a few construction projects, but in keeping open trails, and performing emergency work on road slides and drainage, as well as the usual forestry, telephone line, and fire protection activities. The Cascades Camp was damaged severely by the flood conditions in December, some of the buildings being entirely washed away. The site at Cascades has been abandoned for CCC camp purposes, the camp personnel moving to a new camp constructed near the El Capitan Station at the base of the Big Oak Flat Road control.

Two CCC companies remained throughout the winter, and two additional companies were brought in this spring principally for Ribes control work, one located at Crane Flat and the other at Middle Fork a short distance outside of the park in the Stanislaus National Forest.

RADIO

Radio communication continued to prove highly useful in several phases of operation here. It was of assistance during the flood period in December when roads into the park were impassable. It is, of course, of much service after the first snows of winter, which usually bring down telephone lines to outpost stations. On emergencies of almost any character it is highly valuable.

NATIONAL MONUMENT ADMINIS- TRATION

Yosemite was responsible for the Devil Postpile National Monument and the Joshua Tree National Monument. One ranger was stationed at Devil Postpile during the summer months, but no personnel was assigned to Joshua Tree. It was possible, through careful budgeting, to construct 30 camp tables with attached benches for the Devil Postpile National Monument out of funds allotted to that area for the 1936 fiscal year. No development of any nature has been undertaken by the Service at the Joshua Tree National Monument.

PERSONNEL CHANGES

Two permanent employees transferred from Yosemite during the year. Ranger Wilfred K. Merrill transferred to the Boulder Dam Recreational Area in November. Junior Bacteriologist Russell C. White transferred to the federal Food and Drug Administration, at San Francisco, in December.

Two members of the permanent organization in Yosemite passed away. Ranger William M. Reymann died of natural causes in San Francisco on January 1, 1938. Mechanic David H. Sewall died of natural causes in Merced on May 22, 1938. Both men had had long periods of service in Yosemite, and were well-known here. Their absence is felt keenly by all who knew them.

MISCELLANEOUS

The placing of signs warning people of the deceptive distances across the Merced River in Yosemite Valley and of the low temperature of the water was of assistance in informing visitors of the potential hazard of swimming in the river. Emergency ropes, together with rafts and buoys, were also provided for use in case of accident.

The most tragic accident of the year here was the crash of a TWA airliner in the park. The plane, with a total of nine persons aboard, had disappeared on the stormy night of March 1, and efforts of the airline company to trace or locate it were futile, although it was presumably somewhere in the Sierra. On June 12 the wrecked plane was located by H. O. Collier III on Buena Vista Crest in the southern portion of the park. Collier, a former CCC enrollee at Yosemite, was carrying out his own planned searching program for the plane when the discovery was made. All of the crew and passengers had been killed.

CHURCH

Church services for various denominations were conducted under the general direction of Dr. James A. White, Executive Secretary of the Yosemite National Park Church. Several hundred persons attended the special Sunrise Service at Mirror Lake on Easter morning.

- - - - -

Lawrence G. Merriam,

Superintendent.



Total Visitors

Badger Pass

Dec. 1937

5,825

2,900

Jan. 1938

11,630

8,000

Feb. "

16,289

7,584

Mar. "

7,099

7,150

Total

34,843

25,634

21,919

11630

10289

21919

34843 | 21919.000
209058

629
34843
1887
1 2516
5032
2576
1887
2753

101320
69686
316340
313587
2753

21919000

HH

Special Reports
Annual

10-23
(May 1929)

6-7410

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yosemite NATIONAL PARK

Fourth Regional Office

FILE NO. Yosemite NP

207

ANNUAL REPORT FOR YOSEMITE NP

FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1938.

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.

All Files should be returned promptly to the File Room.

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

ARNO B. CAMMERER,
Director.

311642

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

*YNP
207*

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

CALIFORNIA

AUG 9 1938	
August 8, 1938.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RITTEL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DEVL. C.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ERGE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TAYLOR
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FLEISCHHAUER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> HOYT
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MANBEY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LEWIS
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BALLARD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SANFORD
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BROWN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PA. ED.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CROSS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carpenter
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BOSSEMEYER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sangley
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CROUCH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WATSON

Regional Director, Region IV,
 National Park Service, ①
 601 Sheldon Building,
 San Francisco, Calif.

*Return to J.B. before
 filing for certain pictures
 from the copies.*

Dear Sir:

We are transmitting herewith for your information a copy of the Annual Report for Yosemite National Park for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1938.

While the "Land Acquisitions" section of the report on pages 15 and 16 is not strictly confidential, we feel sure you will realize that it is of a confidential character and it is requested that it be treated as such.

Sincerely yours,

Lawrence C. Merriam
 Lawrence C. Merriam,
 Superintendent.

Enc.

Yosemite National Park

California

ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal Year 1938

GENERAL

June 30, 1938, marked the close of an extremely active and interesting year in Yosemite. There were, as usual, many problems, large numbers of visitors, adverse weather conditions which created real emergencies, and an ever-increasing amount of administrative and routine activities in each of the divisions here. We feel that to the park visitor, however, there was no outward semblance of a tremendously busy organization, but only a comparatively smooth operation designed to assist and control people efficiently and with the least possible amount of interference.

The 481,492 visitors who came to Yosemite during the 1937 travel year were the greatest bona fide number recorded here in any year. Travel during the present travel year is somewhat less than last, however, evidently due principally to the flood conditions which were encountered in December throughout the state, the closing of approach roads during winter and spring months by slides caused by flood damage and general saturation, and the flooding of highways in the lowlands during the spring.

WEATHER
CONDITIONS

Due to its unusual character this year during the winter, the weather and its effects should have comment. Normal conditions were encountered up to December, 1937, but on December 11 and 12 a rather serious and damaging flood inundated approximately 50 per cent of Yosemite Valley under a considerable amount of water. A total of 11.54 inches of precipitation, in the form of rain entirely, was recorded in the Valley during the period December 9 to 12, inclusive. This, coupled with unusually warm temperatures for December and the consequent melting of the snowpack which already lay in the higher portions of the park, brought the flood conditions which sent the Merced River far beyond its banks, causing a large amount of damage to physical improvements. The All Year Highway along the Merced Canyon below the park boundary was undermined badly for several miles, and at two points within the park this road was rendered impassable for some time. It was not until December 31, almost three weeks after the flood, that travel from Merced to the park was resumed over the All Year Highway, under convoy control through the damaged areas, and convoy controls on 12 miles of the road outside of the park boundary are still in effect. The washout of a large fill on the Wawona Road during the actual flood period served to isolate the park entirely for a three-day period. The park was isolated again on February 11 and 12, when both the All Year Highway and the Wawona Road were closed by slides; and the All Year Highway remained closed for three additional days after the 12th.



SECTION OF THE ALL-YEAR HIGHWAY JUST BELOW ARCH ROCK
BADLY DAMAGED BY FLOOD WATERS



WASHED OUT PORTION OF THE LARGE FILL ON THE
WAYONA ROAD AT GROUSE CREEK. FLOOD STAGE
WATERS IN DECEMBER CUT SQUARELY ACROSS THE
ROAD AT THIS POINT.

Estimates of damage to physical improvements of the National Park Service within the park, including roads and trails, caused directly by the December flood, amounted to \$271,750, and appropriations were received to undertake the necessary rehabilitation work. Reconstruction projects are still under way, although much of the work has been done.

Unusually heavy precipitation was common throughout the northern and central portions of California between December 9 and 12.

During the latter part of the winter, a tremendously heavy snowpack was built up in the high country, the heaviest in years. Total precipitation for the whole fiscal year amounted to 58.99 inches, setting a new record for precipitation within the park by exceeding the previous record year of 1906-7 when precipitation amounted to 56.17 inches. As indicated, a large portion of the precipitation came as snow during the latter part of the winter, and the effect this spring and summer has been striking. The waterfalls and river have stayed higher than usual, to the delight of summer visitors. The flora is lush and is remaining green for a longer period, and wildlife undoubtedly benefits by such conditions.

WINTER
USE

Use of the park during the winter months declined considerably from the former year. During the period December 1, 1937, to March 31, 1938, inclusive, a total of 34,843 visitors came into the park, compared with 51,233 the previous year. A total of 25,634 were counted at the ski fields at Badger Pass, compared with 35,812 the winter before.

It is interesting to note that there were 11,630 visitors to the park in January and 10,289 in February, together amounting to almost 63 per cent of the total travel to the park during the past winter season; only 5,825 visitors came in December and 7,099 in March. The low travel in December was due, of course, to the flood conditions, closing of roads, and unfavorable conditions generally for winter sports at that time.

The Badger Pass ski house was operated during the latter part of December, but there was only 4 to 8 inches of snow available that month, an insufficient amount to cover all the ski runs. Good skiing was not enjoyed at Badger Pass until the latter part of January, due to lack of snow until that time. Snow depths at Badger Pass reached a maximum of 11 feet on February 19. The ski house and upski were operated until May 1, although visitors did a little skiing there during May. Heavy snows closed the road into Badger Pass for several days during February. As in former years, on week-ends when weather and skiing conditions were favorable, the Badger Pass parking area proved to be too small, and it was necessary to plow out the Glacier Point Road above Badger Pass for a short distance to provide suitable parking space for the overflow.



SNOW CONDITIONS ENCOUNTERED ON THE GLACIER POINT ROAD
TO BADGER PASS IN LATE WINTER



BADGER PASS SKI HOUSE, WITH MAIN SKI HILL IN BACKGROUND,
IN MID-WINTER



THE BADGER PASS AREA, AFTER THE FIRST RELATIVELY
HEAVY SNOWFALL OF THE SEASON

Additional work on the ski trails in the Badger Pass area was performed by the CCC during the summer and autumn months.

Conditions for winter sports in Yosemite Valley were generally not good. The skating rink at Camp Curry was not opened until December 23, later than planned, because of warm weather. Ice skating was enjoyed intermittently during January for a total of about half of the month, being interrupted the remainder of the month by inclement weather. There was no skating in February due to heavy rains and snows in the Valley, and attempts to maintain the ice rink were abandoned for the winter. Following a relatively light snowfall in the Valley, on January 30 the toboggan slide, sleighs and dog teams were in operation for the first time during the winter.

Snow removal costs were about the same as in the previous year, but with more funds expended on the Wawona Road and the Glacier Point Road as far as Badger Pass for continuous snow removal than in any other year. There was less than the average amount expended in snow removal on the floor of the Valley. Shortage of equipment compelled the suspension of snow removal on the Glacier Point Road beyond the Badger Pass area after the middle of January. Heavy continued snowfall prevented the use of the Glacier Point Road even as far as Badger Pass for several days in February. The road into the Mariposa Grove of Big Trees was also closed for periods following heavy storms.

MAJOR
ROADS

Construction work on the new Big Oak Flat and Tioga roads within the park was carried on actively. With the exception of gaps at Cascade, Tamarack, and Wildcat creeks, where bridges have not yet been constructed, a new road grade is now available from the floor of the Valley over the new Big Oak Flat Road to Crane Flat and on the new Tioga Road from Crane Flat to a point near the old Tioga Road; this new roadway is not yet in condition, of course, for use by the public. Projects completed during the past year include the finishing in all respects of the two short tunnels near the Valley floor; the holing through of the long tunnel above Cascade, Tamarack, and Wildcat creeks; rough grading of the entire distance from the long tunnel to Crane Flat; and completion of the South Fork Tuolumne Bridge on the new Tioga Road. The stone guardrail on the first section of the new Big Oak Flat Road leading from the Valley floor is practically complete. A contractor is starting this summer on the paving of the new Big Oak Flat Road from the long tunnel through Crane Flat and on the new Tioga Road as far as the South Fork of the Tuolumne River.

Work is being undertaken this summer to construct the short section of road remaining between the end of present construction on the new Tioga Road and McSwain Meadows, near White Wolf, on the old Tioga Road. The paving of the 11.6 mile stretch of the new Tioga Road from Cathedral Creek through Tuolumne Meadows to Tioga Pass was completed in the fall of 1937.



COMPLETED PORTAL AT THE UPPER END OF THE FIRST TUNNEL
ON THE NEW BIG OAK FLAT ROAD



PORTION OF THE STONE GUARD RAIL BEING CONSTRUCTED
ON THE LOWER SECTION OF THE BIG OAK FLAT ROAD NEAR
THE FLOOR OF YOSEMITE VALLEY

The Wawona Road resloping and realignment project was completed and all funds expended by late fall of 1937. Post construction on the Glacier Point and Wawona roads was continued by the Bureau of Public Roads.

CONSTRUC-
TION

In addition to the major roads, a small amount of new construction work was undertaken. The principal project was the construction of a new employee residence in the Lost Arrow residential area under the CCC. Another residence in the same area, also constructed under CCC, was practically finished at the close of the fiscal year and is now occupied. Another CCC project was the construction of the Wawona Schoolhouse. Construction of a fixed beam scale at the Valley sewage disposal plant was a fourth construction project of the CCC.

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NEW RESIDENCE CONSTRUCTED UNDER CCC IN THE
LOST ARROW RESIDENTIAL AREA



PORTION OF THE MIRROR LAKE ROAD WASHED OUT COMPLETELY
BY TENAYA CREEK DURING THE DECEMBER FLOOD PERIOD



THE OLD CASCADE CREEK BRIDGE ON THE ALL-YEAR HIGHWAY
SHORTLY AFTER RECEDED OF THE HIGH WATER DURING THE
DECEMBER FLOOD PERIOD.



NEW CULVERT INSTALLATION FOR THE ALL-YEAR HIGHWAY
AT CASCADE CREEK, REPLACING THE BRIDGE STRUCTURE
RUINED IN THE DECEMBER FLOOD

One of the most urgent necessities in the Valley is the installation of a pressure balancing tank for the water system. For the past few summers water pressure in the Valley mains has decreased alarmingly during the period of heavy demand, and a seasonal order restricting primarily the use of water for irrigation and sprinkling has been customary. An exceedingly low water pressure such as has been experienced during the past few summer seasons is dangerous particularly, of course, in case of fire.

The Valley sewerage system, and also that at Tuolumne Meadows, were in use at times during the summer beyond their designed capacities.

Low trail maintenance allotments have compelled the concentration of available funds on the most popular trails, to the detriment of many miles of outlying trails. The most popular and heavily used trails are in good condition except for the oil cake, which is deteriorating progressively.

**HETCH
HETCHY**

The project of enlarging Hetch Hetchy Dam by the addition of approximately 85 feet to its height was completed in the spring of 1938 after more than two years' work by a contractor engaged by the City of San Francisco. Evidences of the reconstruction work, including machinery, tram lines, etc., have been removed, and the area restored carefully under the supervision of the National Park Service. The contractor provided a tunnel in the cliff at the north end of the completed dam to provide access to the Lake Eleanor Road. No automobile traffic, except such as may be necessary in connection with official business, is permitted on the dam or on the Lake Eleanor Road, however. The contractor on the dam reconstruction placed the Mather - Hetch Hetchy Road in good shape before the project was completed.

FORESTRY

The major development in forestry activities was the beginning, toward the end of the fiscal year, of a Ribes eradication program in the white pine species types within the park. The work is being done by the CCC under the supervision of the National Park Service, with technical assistance provided by the Division of Plant Disease Control, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine. Two CCC camps, in addition to the camps here all year, were provided this summer principally for Ribes control, one to devote all of its time to this project and the other about one-half the time.



VIEW OF THE NEW SPILLWAY AT HETCH HETCHY DAM



PHOTOGRAPH OF A CUT-OVER AREA WITHIN THE PARK SHOWING
RIBES CONCENTRATIONS AND SUGAR PINE REPRODUCTION

Bark beetle maintenance control was continued throughout the year with the CCC. Due to flood rehabilitation work, it was not possible to cover all the areas ordinarily covered during the winter and spring months. A considerable amount of windfall, due to the unusually heavy winter storms, may develop an increase in the amount of bark beetle infestation this fall, but at the present time infestation conditions are on the whole endemic.

Reconnaissances and experimental work indicate definitely a further spread of lodgepole pine needleminer infestations in the high country, particularly at Forsyth Pass and in the vicinity of Bear Valley and Rodgers Canyon. An increase in infestation that may become serious was noted in the extensive lodgepole pine stands adjacent to and immediately north of Tuolumne Meadows. In cooperation with the Service, the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine is continuing its investigative and experimental work on needleminer through its laboratory maintained in the park.

Evidence of the success of the willow planting projects carried out with CCC labor on the slopes of the Wawona Road is more pronounced with the passing of each season. Slopes formerly decidedly bare are now green with a mat of protective willow brush.



VIEW OF WILLOW GROVE ON A LARGE CUT BANK OF THE
WAVONA ROAD AT GROUSE CREEK

FIRE

There were 36 reportable forest fires during the year. 25

PROTECTION

Class A and 11 Class B, with a total burn-over of 14.44 acres.

Fourteen of these fires were caused by lightning, 17 by smokers, 3 by camp fires, 1 by a firecracker, and 1 by insect control operations.

Credit is due the detection and dispatching system, and the constant availability of CCC suppression crews, for promptness in locating and extinguishing the fires before much damage was done.

Fire warning signs were posted conspicuously, prohibiting smoking while moving or traveling inside of Yosemite National Park below an elevation of 7,000 feet above sea level, except along paved roads, in camps, picnic and regularly inhabited areas, and on the floor of Yosemite Valley east of the Pohono Bridge; and prohibiting all fires within Yosemite National Park below an elevation of 7,000 feet, except at designated camp grounds, hotels, lodges, other regularly inhabited areas, and on river beaches in Yosemite Valley.

A valuable fire protection training school was held March 19 - 22 under the direction of Assistant Forester Barrows of the Branch of Forestry. It was attended by Yosemite personnel and other members of the Service, by representatives of the Forest Service, and a representative of the State of California. A representative of the Pacific Marine Supply Company, and a member of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, participated in demonstration and instruction.

Training schools for CCC personnel at each of the camps, demonstrating proper use of tools and methods of suppression, were conducted by Assistant Chief Ranger Wegner.

WILDLIFE

The principal concern during the year was the control of bears. Authority was secured to dispose permanently of a limited number of unruly individuals who were not susceptible to trapping and moving to portions of the park away from Yosemite Valley. Several were transferred to the Los Padres National Forest in Southern California. Bears, as a result, have not been nearly so bothersome to campers and residents so far during the 1936 season. There still is a surplus of bears living on the floor of the Valley at the present time, however.

The new regulation prohibiting the feeding, touching, teasing, or molesting of bears is well worth while. Compared with previous years, the number of bear injuries up to the close of the fiscal year was almost negligible.

Several hundred ground squirrels were killed around developments in the Valley.

FISH

Fish planting last summer was completed in August, with a total of 341,300 Eastern Brook, 453,000 Rainbow, and 150,700 Loch Leven placed in lakes and streams. These three groups total 945,000.

Fishing last year was good, but fishing conditions in general received a set-back for the early part of 1936. The flood conditions during the winter undoubtedly killed many fish, and the high water throughout the spring and early summer reduced success in angling to a minimum, although many good catches were made. The high water took out entirely the egg-taking station at Frog Creek near Lake Eleanor, and it will have to be wholly re-built this season. No

Rainbow eggs have been made available from Lake Eleanor, therefore, this season.

CAMP
GROUNDS

Camp grounds in Yosemite Valley received the same intensive use this past year as heretofore. An all-time peak of about 15,000 campers in the camp grounds in the Valley was reached on July 4, 1937, about 3,000 more than the count at the same time the year before. Hundreds of visitors camped at areas outside of the Valley during the latter part of the summer. At Tuolumne Meadows the count averaged 300 to 400 campers per night during July, and at Wawona there were 70 to 80 campers per night the same month. The 30-day camping limit in Yosemite Valley and at Wawona tends toward greater use of the outlying areas.

During the 1938 season individual camp fire programs were started in each of the camp grounds in Yosemite Valley rather than concentrating the camp fire entertainment for campers solely in Camp 14, and the plan has met with success.

A survey of public camp ground No. 15 in Yosemite Valley was completed last summer, and the data obtained used for a camp ground management plan. Controls for similar work have been laid out in public camp grounds No. 7 and 12 in the Valley. This spring a development and improvement program for Camp 16 in Yosemite Valley, which is used by the Yosemite Park and Curry Company in the furnishing of rental tents, was undertaken with the CCC.

House trailers were not permitted in the park during the winter months. This restriction was adopted as a safety measure due to icy road conditions, and also to lack of sanitation facilities for such trailers in the Valley during the winter.

**PUBLIC
UTILITY
OPERATORS**

In the main the public utility operators had a good year, although the flood conditions and consequent lower travel was some deterrent to business. No new services were rendered by the principal operator, the Yosemite Park and Curry Company, although a new High Sierra Camp at May Lake was constructed to take the place of the camp formerly located at Tenaya Lake. The general store operated by the Company in the Old Village, and the Old Village Pavilion which is used principally for the showing of motion pictures, suffered a good deal of water damage due to the December flood.

Best's Studio, Inc., was opened for business in the spring of 1937, and has rendered continuous photographic service since. Boysens' Studio was also open all year. Mrs. Foley's Yosemite Falls Studio was closed during the winter season. Following some alteration in the building, Dagnan's Delicatessen reopened this spring after the usual winter shutdown.



YOSEMITE LODGE CABINS DAMAGED BY FLOOD WATERS

LAND
ACQUI-
SITIONS

The principal land acquisition matter is, of course, the Carl Inn area of 8,206.78 acres authorized by Congress in 1937 for addition to Yosemite National Park. There has been continuous activity of a highly varied nature and of considerable importance concerning this project which required constant attention and coordination throughout the year. Options have been secured from two owners who have interests within the acquisition area, namely Mrs. D. A. Curry and T. H. Carlon. An option from the State of California is anticipated in the near future. Agreements as to purchase price have not been made with the Yosemite Sugar Pine Lumber Company, the Yosemite Power Company, or George and Steve Cuneo. The United States is preparing condemnation data concurrently with attempts to negotiate for settlement of the various interests involved, these data to form the basis of a condemnation case against those who have interests in the area but with whom it is not possible to negotiate a mutually satisfactory purchase price.

The purchase of 115.6 acres of land owned by John R. Tyrrell in Section 35 at Wawona was fully consummated at a cost to the Government of \$17,130.50, one-half of the purchase price having been donated by the owner.



TYPICAL VIEW OF SUGAR PINE IN THE CARL INN ACQUISITION AREA

The Northwest Quarter of Section 16, Township 5 South, Range 22 East, known as the McGilvray tract, adjacent to the Mariposa Grove of Big Trees, was purchased from the American Trust Company at a cost of \$7,173.64. This tract of land, originally purchased several years ago in the interest of the Government by the Yosemite Park and Garry Company inasmuch as the water for the Mariposa Grove sourced on it, was held in trust by the American Trust Company, from whom final purchase was made by the United States. The developments at the South Entrance Ranger Station are also served by the water supply coming from this property.

RANGER,
NATURALIST,
AND MUSEUM
SERVICE

The ranger and naturalist divisions rendered a good service to the public. The ranger division had no particularly outstanding assignments, but their duties included the usual number of rescues of persons stranded on cliffs, lost skiers, and so on.

The naturalist program was well received by large numbers of people. The naturalist division made the usual glacier measuring surveys in the autumn. Under the direction of the naturalist division, the centenary of the birth of John Muir was observed in Yosemite on April 21, with exhibits at the museum and a special pilgrimage to various points in the Valley having Muir significance. The naturalist division also participated in the California Conservation Week of March 7 - 14, cooperating with the California Conservation Council, through special lectures to audiences both within and outside of the park, and one radio broadcast from San Francisco.

The fourteenth session of the Yosemite School of Field Natural History was started on June 20, with the usual number of 14 men and 6 women in attendance. The Junior Nature School started on its ninth session June 27.

A new research room at the museum was set up prior to the starting of the Field School, and has been in use by that group this summer. Additional development of the room and preparation of additional specimens will be undertaken by the regular naturalist staff.

In cooperation with the naturalist staff, the Entomology Field Course #49 of the University of California was conducted in Yosemite this spring during intersession, 20 men students attending. The group made extensive collections of insect fauna, duplicates of which were added to the research collection at the museum.

CIVILIAN
CONSERVA-
TION
CORPS

As indicated throughout this report, the CCC were of great assistance in innumerable ways, not only on a few construction projects, but in keeping open trails, and performing emergency work on road slides and drainage, as well as the usual forestry, telephone line, and fire protection activities. The Cascades Camp was damaged severely by the flood conditions in December, some of the buildings being entirely washed away. The site at Cascades has been abandoned for CCC camp purposes, the camp personnel moving to a new camp constructed near the El Capitan Station at the base of the Big Oak Flat Road control.



A PART OF THE CASCADE CCC CAMP AFTER THE DECEMBER FLOOD

Two CCC companies remained throughout the winter, and two additional companies were brought in this spring principally for Ribes control work, one located at Crane Flat and the other at Middle Fork a short distance outside of the park in the Stanislaus National Forest.

RADIO

Radio communication continued to prove highly useful in several phases of operation here. It was of assistance during the flood period in December when roads into the park were impassable. It is, of course, of much service after the first snows of winter, which usually bring down telephone lines to outpost stations. On emergencies of almost any character it is highly valuable.

NATIONAL MONUMENT ADMINIS- TRATION

Yosemite was responsible for the Devil Postpile National Monument and the Joshua Tree National Monument. One ranger was stationed at Devil Postpile during the summer months, but no personnel was assigned to Joshua Tree. It was possible, through careful budgeting, to construct 30 camp tables with attached benches for the Devil Postpile National Monument out of funds allotted to that area for the 1938 fiscal year. No development of any nature has been undertaken by the Service at the Joshua Tree National Monument.

PERSONNEL CHANGES

Two permanent employees transferred from Yosemite during the year. Ranger Wilfred K. Merrill transferred to the Boulder Dam Recreational Area in November. Junior Bacteriologist Russell C. White transferred to the federal Food and Drug Administration, at San Francisco, in December.

Two members of the permanent organization in Yosemite passed away. Ranger William M. Reymann died of natural causes in San Francisco on January 1, 1938. Mechanic David H. Sewall died of natural causes in Merced on May 22, 1938. Both men had had long periods of service in Yosemite, and were well-known here. Their absence is felt keenly by all who knew them.

MISCELLANEOUS

The placing of signs warning people of the deceptive distances across the Merced River in Yosemite Valley and of the low temperature of the water was of assistance in informing visitors of the potential hazard of swimming in the river. Emergency ropes, together with rafts and buoys, were also provided for use in case of accident.

The most tragic accident of the year here was the crash of a TWA airliner in the park. The plane, with a total of nine persons aboard, had disappeared on the stormy night of March 1, and efforts of the airline company to trace or locate it were futile, although it was presumably somewhere in the Sierra. On June 12 the wrecked plane was located by H. O. Collier III on Buena Vista Crest in the southern portion of the park. Collier, a former CCC enrollee at Yosemite, was carrying out his own planned searching program for the plane when the discovery was made. All of the crew and passengers had been killed.

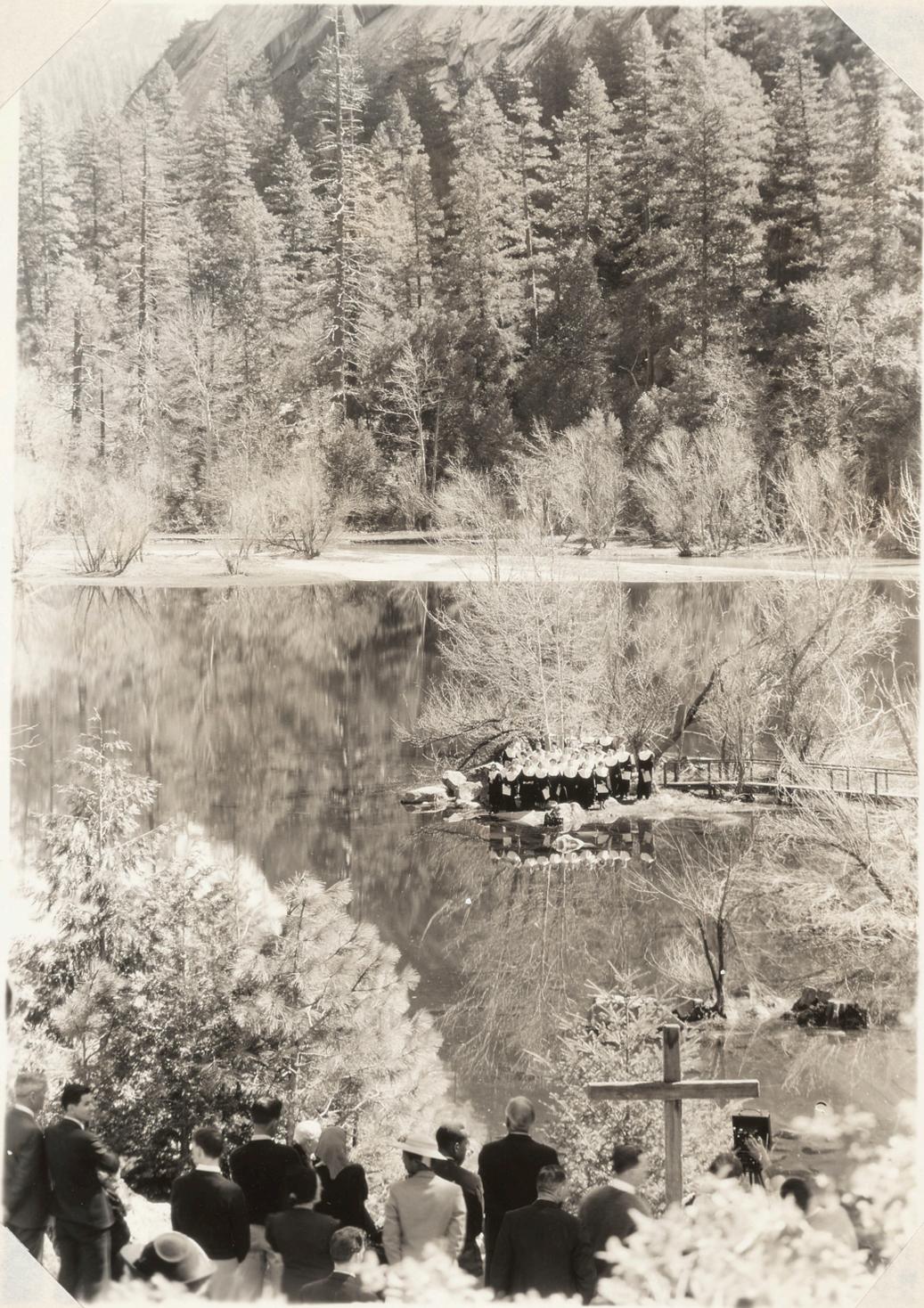
CHURCH

Church services for various denominations were conducted under the general direction of Dr. James A. White, Executive Secretary of the Yosemite National Park Church. Several hundred persons attended the special Sunrise Service at Mirror Lake on Easter morning.

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Lawrence G. Merriam.

Superintendent.



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EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE AT MIRROR LAKE