

In reply refer to:
A2623

July 1, 1954

Memorandum

To: The Director
From: Superintendent, Yosemite
Subject: Superintendent's Annual Report (1A1) for Devils Postpile

There have been no events of importance to add to the Superintendent's annual report (Devils Postpile), 1953-1954, submitted by this office on June 25.

John C. Preston
Superintendent

In duplicate

Copy to: Regional Director, Region Four

RNMcIntyre:jb

Bie

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6/30

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John C. Preston
Superintendent

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In reply refer to
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June 25, 1954

Annual

Bice

Memorandum

To: The Director
From: Superintendent, Yosemite
Subject: Superintendent's Annual Report (1A1) for Yosemite
Attached is the Superintendent's annual report for
Yosemite National Park, 1953 - 54.

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

John C. Preston
Superintendent

In duplicate

Attachment

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

RNMcIntyre:jb

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SIGNIFICANT EVENTS OF THE 1954 FISCAL YEAR

Yosemite National Park, California

Summary Sheet

1. Revised Schedule of Entrance Fees.
2. Benefits Derived from Public Law # 230.
3. Heavy Travel Year to the Park.
4. Forest Fire Control.
5. Police Protection.
6. Park Accidents and Deaths.
7. Lodgepole Pine Needleminer Epidemic
8. Hazardous Tree and Limb Removal
9. White Pine Blister Rust Approaches the Park.
10. Vista Clearing.
11. Preservation of Wawona Tunnel Tree.
12. Park Concession Improvements.
13. The Yosemite Travel Survey.
14. Research and Interpretation.

1. Revised Schedule of Entrance Fees.

Following closely upon the original revision of park entrance fees placed in effect on June 8, 1953 at Yosemite, a revised schedule of entrance fees was applied to the National Parks and Monuments on June 16, 1954. The new schedule provided the following fees for Yosemite National Park:

		<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Automobile fee.	(15-day permit)	\$2.00	\$3.00
Automobile fee.	(annual permit)	4.00	6.00
Housetrailer fee.	(15-day permit)	1.00	3.00
Housetrailer fee.	(annual permit)	2.00	6.00
Motorcycle fee.	(15-day permit)	1.00	1.00
Motorcycle fee.	(annual permit)	2.00	2.00

2. Benefits Derived from Public Law # 230

Passage of Public Law # 230 authorized various services, including utility service, to be furnished concessioners, contractors, permittees, etc., on a reimbursement of appropriation basis to the extent of costs. This Act of Congress became law on August 8, 1953, and materially aided various areas such as Yosemite National Park in the maintenance and rehabilitation of certain physical facilities during the fiscal year 1954.

3. Heavy Travel Year to the Park

During the calendar year which ended December 31, 1953, Yosemite National Park was visited by 969,225 people as compared with 973,971 visitors in the calendar year of 1952, a loss of less than $\frac{1}{2}$ of one percent from the previous record travel year of 1952.

A total of 282,285 motor vehicles entered the park as compared with 283,206 during 1952.

During the winter season from December 13, 1953 to April 18, 1954 a total of 98,662 people visited the Badger Pass ski area, as compared with 93,186 people last year. The travel to the ski area set a new park record this past winter and weather and snow conditions were very good most of the winter.

The total visitors days use of the park for 1953 was 2,523,980 as compared with 2,563,323 in the year of 1952.

4. Forest Fire Control

There were 79 forest fires during the year, the largest number in park records. This number is more than double the 20 year average of 38½ fires per season.

Yosemite has experienced larger single fires in previous years, but never so many in number. This year there were six project fires burning at the same time, complicating the control problem.

The causes of the fires were as follows: Lightning --- 59; Smokers --- 16; Campers and Miscellaneous --- 4. The high number of fires was due to several lightning "busts" during the summer season.

The total acreage burned over was 4,212.22 acres.

The total costs of all fires was \$158,430.87.

5. Police Protection

A total of 101 arrest cases were taken before the U. S. Commissioner in 1953 as compared with 55 the previous year. this large gain being due mainly to the increase in arrests for speeding and traffic violations. A special road patrol was maintained during the summer months, and during the weekends in winter, to control speeding and traffic violations in order to prevent car accidents. We believe that this road patrol helped to reduce accidents.

6. Park Accidents and Deaths

Of the 12 deaths recorded in the park during fiscal year 1954 only 5 were caused by accidents.

The most unusual accident occurred on June 21, 1954 when Assistant Chief Ranger, Charles R. Scarborough was struck by rocks falling from the cliff near Clark's Point on the Nevada Fall Trail. He was killed instantly. He and his horse were swept off the trail while on a park trip to Merced Lake in company with Park Ranger, Herbert Ewing. The horse too was killed instantly. This is the first death of a permanent ranger while on duty in Yosemite.

Other deaths are summarized below:

- 2 drownings in the Merced River (park visitors)
- 1 visitor was killed when his car hit a tree.
- 1 visitor was killed by a fall at the base of upper Yosemite Falls.
- 7 were deaths due to natural causes.

7. Lodgepole Pine Needleminer Epidemic

As the summer of 1953 advanced the vast epidemic of lodgepole pine needleminer, amounting to approximately 45,000 acres, became more and more noticeable. Even the general public realized that something was wrong in the lodgepole pine forests of the Tenaya Lake and Tuolumne Meadows areas of the park. In the middle of September 11,000 acres of infested forest between Tenaya Lake and Tuolumne Meadows were sprayed with a DDT formulation by means of airplane. The spraying operations were based at the Deadman's Pass airstrip on the Inyo National Forest. The very successful application was completed in six days. Field tests are under way to determine the effect of the spray upon the insect infestation.

Within the lodgepole pine needleminer epidemic area a local epidemic of the mountain pine beetle (Dendroctonus monticola) was discovered late in 1953. In May of 1954 a bark beetle control camp was established in the Conness Creek basin to treat approximately 2,000 bark beetle infested trees on 500 acres. The camp equipment and initial supplies were air dropped late in May and control work was still in progress at the end of June.

8. Hazardous Tree and Limb Removal

An allotment of \$7,000 was made available at the beginning of the 1954 fiscal year for the removal of hazardous trees and limbs in the heavily utilized areas of Yosemite Valley and some of the out-lying campgrounds. This work has been very successful and the government headquarters, government residential, the Old Village, all of the public campgrounds of the Yosemite Valley, and numerous other isolated areas have been cleared of great numbers of hazardous limbs and dead trees. These areas are safer for use by the public than they have been for many years.

9. White Pine Blister Rust Approaches the Park

A considerable southward advancement of the known occurrence of the dreaded White Pine Blister Rust was recorded last fall when scouts picked up the rust on sugar pine trees in the Herring Creek drainage only 11 miles from the northwest portion of the park. The park will have scouts in the field during the 1954 field season to check possible sites for the occurrence of the rust. Yet another re-appraisal of the White Pine Blister Rust Control program resulted in the elimination of 13,380 acres from the approved 1949 re-appraisal. The program now calls for eradication work on 88,126 acres of which 52,622 acres were on maintenance at the end of the 1953 field season. Slightly less than 60% is now on maintenance.

10. Vista Clearing

An allotment of \$7,000 was made available at the beginning of the 1954 fiscal year for vista clearing of 10 approved areas. That the work has been of value and appreciated by the public is evidenced in the use of the parking spaces available in the immediate vicinity of the vista cleared areas. The Yosemite Falls, Bridalveil Falls, El Capitan, and Three Brothers views are now clearly attractions readily seen in balanced forest settings.

11. Preservation of Wawona Tunnel Tree

After a detailed study was made of the alarming amount of human erosion about the base of the World Famous tree where exposure and death of feeder roots was impairing the vigor and life of the tree, a maintenance project was instituted to prevent further damage by human feet.

A wet stone wall was placed in May and June, 1954 to hold both soil and moisture in place on the upper side of the tree, and the exposed root system was covered with Sequoia limbs to protect the thousands of feeder rootlets.

12. Park Concession Improvements

During fiscal year 1954, a new store and grill at Wavona was built by the Yosemite Park and Curry Company. Roads and parking area adjacent to the development were completed by park personnel.

An extensive addition was made to the Tuolumne Meadows Store parking area with park funds.

The wing extension to the Lewis Memorial Hospital in Yosemite Valley was completed in December 1954 by the Hedahl-Martin Construction Company of Redwood City, California at a cost of \$24,432.

Work continued during the year on the construction of the Yosemite Village area utility improvements for the proposed construction sites of Dagnan-Donohoe, Inc. and the Yosemite Park and Curry Company.

13. The Yosemite Travel Survey

Field work for the Yosemite Travel Survey was completed in October 1953 after the questionnaires for the fall period were turned in. All forms were edited and coded and sent to the California State Division of Highways where the I.B.M. coding and tabulations were completed by March 1954. The Region Four office started work on analyzing and tabulating the coded information, but due to expected personnel changes responsibility for this phase of the project was turned over to Yosemite in April. Work on a rough draft of the report has been accomplished primarily on an evening and weekend basis because of the demands of a heavy spring work load for all park operations; so progress has been admittedly slow.

14. Research and Interpretation

The three year research project on the status of fish in the lakes and streams of Yosemite National Park, undertaken by Ranger Orthello L. Wallis and sponsored by a gift of \$5000 from Mrs. Mary Curry Tresidder, came to a close in December 1953. Prior to his transfer to Lake Mead Recreational Areas as naturalist, Ranger Wallis completed an extensive report and file on the fish ecology of park lakes. Based upon this report, certain changes were recommended in fishing regulations for the park. Present work of this nature is being carried on by Ranger Glenn Gallison who returned to the park from the 5th Departmental Management School of the Department of Interior, Washington, D. C.

Near the crest of the Sierra lie the Tiogan group of mines. Although the Great Sierra Consolidated Silver Company spent nearly a half million dollars in this venture in the early 1880s, little has been recorded of the operation. Considerable research has been done the past year in an effort to learn who the men were and how the activities were carried on, and voluminous materials have been added to the Yosemite Museum Research Library.

Anti-litter exhibit, devised and built under the direction of Associate Park Naturalist Doug Hubbard, was installed in the foyer of the Yosemite Museum in February. This exhibit has since received wide publicity and favorable comment.

The University of California archeological survey team under contract to the National Park Service, excavated selected archeological

sites in Yosemite Valley the first part of September 1953. A new archeological survey team from the University of California, also under contract, began a more extensive study of archeological sites in June 1954.

In December 1953 conferences began with Mr. E. T. Spencer, San Francisco architect who is donating his services, leading to the drawing of preliminary plans for the proposed new campfire center at Camp 14. This project is made possible through the donation of \$14,600 from Charles Shamel to the Yosemite Natural History Association for this purpose.

A training conference in protection and interpretation was held as a pilot project in the Yosemite Museum from May 3-7, 1954.

The Yosemite Field School was suspended by order of the Director issued on December 31, 1953 pending further study of an in-service training program in the National Park Service. With the release of personnel from Field School obligations the new summer-long children's nature program has been organized. This 5-day week program began on June 28.

In reply refer to
A2623

June 25, 1954

Memorandum

To: The Director

From: Superintendent, Yosemite

Subject: Superintendent's Annual Report (1A1) for Devils Postpile

Attached is the Superintendent's annual report for Devils
Postpile National Monument, 1953-1954.

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

John C. Preston
Superintendent

In duplicate

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

RNM McIntyre:jb

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SIGNIFICANT EVENTS OF THE 1954 FISCAL YEAR

Devils Postpile National Monument
California

Summary Sheet

1. Protection and Conservation Objectives
Through Interpretation.
2. Protection and Public Relations.
3. Interpretive Contacts.

1. Protection and Conservation Objectives Through Interpretation.

During the 1953 season at Devils Postpile National Monument an experienced seasonal ranger, Mr. Earl Homuth, with over twenty seasons of naturalist and ranger experience in five national parks, acted as the representative of the park superintendent. In and around the Devils Postpile area including Red's Meadow and Mammoth Lakes he participated in a number of public programs where his theme was the basic history, the objectives, and policies of the National Park Service in which he is well versed.

Although Mr. Homuth was not able to study the contents of FO-54-53 until the week after the 4th of July, he had already put into practice many of the points outlined while acting in the dual role of ranger and naturalist for the area.

Devils Postpile National Monument
California

2. Protection and Public Relations

Devils Postpile was manned from June 24 to September 6, 1953 by a seasonal ranger of the Yosemite force who was supervised by the Tuolumne Meadows District Ranger. From September 6, through October, Mr. Verret of the U. S. Forest Service stationed at Red's Meadow Ranger Station acted for the National Park Service in protecting the area.

31,885 persons visited the area during the time the road was free of snow. A total of 1,821 people used the campground. Total camper-days, including Boy Scouts and Y.M.C.A. members was 6,700.

During late June, Ranger Homuth contacted all nearby resort owners to the east of the monument and participated in a number of their informal programs. Thirty-six resorts were visited in five days.

A good cooperative relationship was entered into with Mr. Verret of the U. S. Forest Service at Red's Meadow. Ranger Homuth contributed 9½ hours on nearby fires and 3 hours as an interpreter at the U. S. Forest Service campgrounds.

Friendly relations were maintained between Ranger Homuth and David Swain, son-in-law of Archie Mahan, the concessioner at Red's Meadow. Both Mr. Swain and Homuth spent considerable time in helping each other to carry out informal interpretive programs in the immediate area.

Devils Postpile National Monument
California

3. Interpretive Contacts

A summary of the interpretive contacts made by Ranger Hornuth during the short season, June 24 - September 6, is listed below:

1. Trailside Contacts	1950 people
2. Interpretive Sign at the Postpile (unattended)	25485 people
3. Interpretive Programs (19)	1987 people
4. Conducted Trips (7)	324 people
5. Publications Sold to	1380 people

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