

May 28, 1965

Schnettler
RB 5/28

A2621-DI

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Western Region

From: Superintendent, Yosemite

Subject: Annual Narrative Report PI-3

Enclosed, in duplicate, is the subject report for the 1965 fiscal year as requested by Acting Regional Director Myers' memorandum of May 12.

~~JOHN C. PRESTON~~

John C. Preston

In duplicate

Enclosures

WASchnettler:eb

FILE COPY

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

In reply refer to:
A2621-DI

WYOMING NATIONAL PARK
RECEIVED

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
450 Golden Gate Avenue, Box 36063
San Francisco, California 94102

MAY 13 1965

May 12, 1965

Superintendent	✓
Asst. Supt.	✓
Adm. Officer	
Chief Ranger	⊙
Mgmt. Asst.	✓
Engineer	
Naturalist	
Landscape Arch.	
Personnel	
Accounting	
Warehouse	

Memorandum

To: Superintendents, Western Region
From: Acting Regional Director, Western Region
Subject: Annual Narrative Report PI-3
Deadline: June 1, 1965

You will recall that last year instructions were changed regarding subject report, in that field areas did not submit annual reports directly to Washington, but instead a consolidated report was prepared by each regional office.

We have just received word that again this year the regional offices are to submit the annual narrative report for fiscal year 1965. We will, however, need your help; please report all significant events for this fiscal year--and, where applicable, furnish 8 by 10 glossy photographs.

Please submit your report in duplicate and likewise any photographs in duplicate. We suggest as topics of interest the same as we gave you last year. These are, of course, suggestions, and you are free to add anything you consider should be included in the report to the Director.

- I Public Information/Relations
- II Administration
- III Operations
- IV Design and Construction
- V Specialized Services
- VI Resource Studies
- VII Cooperative Activities

Please submit by June 1; this will give us only a few days to go through all reports and make a consolidated one by the deadline set for us by the Washington Office.

James B. Myers

(Sgd.) James B. Myers

1. CENTENNIAL OF YOSEMITE GRANT

Yosemite concluded a full year of observance of the 100th anniversary of the signing by President Abraham Lincoln of the Yosemite Grant which transferred to the State of California the Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Big Tree Grove. Featured during the year was the presentation to the Park of a California Registered Historical Landmark plaque to be placed in Yosemite Valley in commemoration of the fact that the Valley was a part of the first State Park in America. Also a highlight was the dedication of the Pioneer Yosemite History Center at Wawona.

2. CONCESSIONS OPERATIONS

All Park concessioners reported profitable years as a result of the record visitation, more than 1,547,000.

The Yosemite Park and Curry Company completed 13 more cast-concrete dual units in the Housekeeping Camp, along with a new laundromat to replace the two portable laundrecars which had been operated under a subconcession, and new public shower facilities. Also completed during the year was a swimming pool for guests at The Ahwahnee. The concessioner has submitted plans for a chair lift to supplement present T-bar lifts at the Badger Pass ski area.

Degnan, Donohoe, Inc. has submitted plans for an addition to their building to accommodate a bakery sales unit separate from the delicatessen. Construction is expected to begin after the close of the summer season.

A new five-year revocable concessions permit was issued to Arthur A. Sellenrick for continued operation of the El Portal Motor Service, a repair garage.

3. PUBLIC RELATIONS

Yosemite was again honored by visits from a number of dignitaries from other countries. Among them were: His Excellency Merrena Francis de Silga Jayaratne, Ambassador from Ceylon; Ambassador and Mrs. Anotoly F. Dobrynin, Russia; Alan W. Jones, President of the Natural Resources and Conservation League of Victoria, Australia, and Mrs. Jones; B. M. Sesanga, Superintendent of Parks, Kampala, Uganda; Dr. Kresimir Car, Undersecretary of the Government Committee for Tourism, Yugoslavia; Said Dajani, Director, Budget Department, Jordan; Arnold Toynbee, British historian, and Mrs. Toynbee.

Also, Admiral of the Fleet, The Lord Mountbatten, Earl of Burma, and his daughter and son-in-law, Lord and Lady Brabourne; Dr. Zoran Polic, Federal Secretary for Budget and Administrative Organization, Yugoslavia; and Dr. Manuchehr Kalali, member of the Iranian Parliament.

Other distinguished guests included Executive Vice President Melvin Payne of the National Geographic Society, with Mrs. Payne and their daughters; and Brooks Atkinson, drama critic for the New York Times and a conservationist of note.

Several of the major television networks sent representatives to the Park during the year for television film footage and interviews.

The press, radio, and television also gave considerable coverage to major news happenings in the Park and to feature articles and spots.

4. DECEMBER FLOOD

Yosemite Valley was hit by a damaging flood on December 23 and 24, 1964, as a result of a heavy snowpack in the high country, a period of warm weather, and continued heavy rain for a period of five days, beginning on December 19.

The Park was placed on flood alert early in the evening of December 22 when it became apparent that the Merced River was rising rapidly and would continue to rise with the runoff of heavy rain and snowmelt. High water, rock slides, and washouts in several places caused Park roads to be closed to all traffic during the night.

The river crested at 13.7 feet during the morning of December 23 before beginning a gradual decline. In the meantime, campgrounds and other visitor use areas and roads in the Valley had sustained considerable damage from rushing overflow waters.

The water had receded sufficiently by Christmas Eve so that the Wawona Road could be opened to both inbound and outbound traffic. The El Portal Road remained closed to public traffic throughout the holidays because of hazardous conditions. Efforts to repair the road were delayed when maintenance forces were called off to take part in snow removal operations in the Valley and on the Wawona Road as heavy snow followed the rains. A complete and immediate survey of flood damage was impossible because of snow conditions, but it was eventually determined that trails above the floor of the Valley had also suffered heavy damage and that several trail bridges had been completely destroyed.

An account of flood repair work is given under the heading "Design and Construction" elsewhere in this report.

5. DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

Construction accomplishments for the 1965 fiscal year are summarized below:

Major Roads. Clearing and grading of the third and final section of the new Big Oak Flat Road were substantially complete at the end of the fiscal year. Base course and paving work is now programmed in the 1966 fiscal year.

Minor Roads and Trails. Park personnel began reconstruction of the House-keeping Camp roads and parking areas in September 1964. However, early storms shut down the project in November and work was not resumed until May 1965. Paving will probably not be completed on this \$32,000 project before the end of the fiscal year.

Buildings and Utilities. A new comfort station was constructed by Charles D. Joslin, of Modesto, California, at the Yosemite Falls parking area for a contract price of \$10,249.

A \$136,836 contract was awarded to Valley Engineers, Fresno, California, for replacement of a major portion of the sewer lines in Yosemite Valley. Construction began after Labor Day and was completed in December 1964.

There were two historic structures projects programmed in the 1965 fiscal year. Work was started on rehabilitation of the Mariposa Grove Museum, but reconstruction of the Yosemite Valley Chapel was delayed pending preparation of the historic buildings report and construction drawings.

Two other projects programmed in 1965 were not started because they will be packaged with 1966 fiscal year projects; i.e., Entrance Station and Employee Residences (4), Hodgdon Meadow.

Flood Damage Reconstruction. More than \$300,000 damage to park facilities resulted from the December 1964 flood in Yosemite and Yosemite Valley was isolated by flooded roads for two days. However, emergency repairs were started immediately and continued throughout the spring and early summer. The first order of business was to reopen winter use roads and make temporary repairs to utility systems and campgrounds. Permanent repairs to most facilities, including all back country trails, will be performed during the summer.

Devils Postpile National Monument. A \$67,250 contract was awarded to the Major Engineering Construction Company, of Ojai, California, on June 30, 1964, for construction of campground facilities at Devils Postpile National Monument. The work included construction of a water system, two comfort stations with septic tanks, and 50 campground sites with tables and fireplaces. An additional allotment of \$2,500 was provided for day labor construction of bulletin boards, signs, markers, and miscellaneous items by park personnel.

6. WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

A Park-wide research project was in progress throughout the year with full cooperation from the California Fish and Game Commission and the U. S. Forest Service. It had been determined by midyear that the deer population within the Park was too great for the available summer range. It was also evident that the winter range on Forest Service, B. L. M. and private lands outside the Park, to which the herds migrate, was also being depleted.

The findings prompted a request to the Fish and Game Commission for the establishment of a late season hunt, by permit, outside the Park in order to reduce the herds. Park representatives have since attended meetings in several neighboring communities to explain the proposal and the Service policy on the management of wildlife. Considerable local opposition has developed, along with some support from sportsmen and conservation organizations throughout the State. Public hearings have been held on the proposed hunt, and a decision by the Fish and Game Commission is to be made on June 25.

7. WEATHER

Precipitation in Yosemite Valley as of June 1 was 11 inches above the normal. The water content of the snow remaining in the high country as of the end of April was twice that of a year ago. The cool and wet spring has been responsible for an unusual growth of vegetative cover.

8. LAW ENFORCEMENT

A special detailed report has been submitted to the Regional and Washington Offices on this subject.

In general, the crime rate and problems with juveniles showed an increase corresponding to the increase in number of visitors. Law enforcement efforts were also stepped up and, in fact, strengthened by additional training and use of an improved system of record keeping. Working relationships with law enforcement agencies in surrounding communities have continued at a high level.

Three criminology students will be employed as seasonal rangers this summer and assigned to the Valley District in which there is the largest concentration of Park visitors.

9. PRIVATE INHOLDINGS

A great deal of preparatory work has been accomplished in anticipation of the trial in which the owner of the Big Meadow property at Foresta will contest the amount proposed to be paid by the Government for his holdings.

Maps and records covering most of the inholdings at Wawona have been prepared. This major project should be completed by year's end.

Options have recently been completed for the Baker and Hickok properties, also at Wawona.

10. BACK-COUNTRY STUDY

A study expected to be the basis for guidelines to be used for better management of the Yosemite back-country was made during the summer and autumn of 1964 by the Park Forester. The report on the study is expected to be completed in the near future.

11. WINTER SPORTS

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The 1964 season was marked by three major searches for lost children, all of whom were found alive and well. Most notable was the return of a 10-year old boy to his parents after eight days of searching by more than 100 Park employees, military personnel, and volunteers.

A 16-year old boy who went swimming above Yosemite Falls was swept over the brink. The remains were recovered the following day.

Several cliff rescues involving technical rock climbing were made. Most difficult was the removal of two youthful climbers from the face of cliffs 2,000 feet below Glacier Point on May 16, 1965.

Numerous victims of heart attacks were removed from the high country including a fatality from the slopes of Mt. Lyell. There were also a large number of carry-outs from trails and remote areas as a result of injuries sustained in falls. The contract helicopter was used to good advantage on several occasions.

13. FISCAL OPERATIONS

The Yosemite Field Finance Office was closed on December 5, 1964, with the accounting responsibilities and the majority of the clerical functions being transferred to the Western Regional Office. Six of the eight permanent positions were removed to the Regional Office at that time. The remaining two positions are required to handle the considerable workload involved in utility operations, use permits, vehicle operations, records, and other details not transferred.

14. PERSONNEL

The number of permanent full-time budgeted positions on Park rolls was reduced during the year to 131. There are now 62 graded and 69 ungraded positions. Instructions calling for 10 positions to be abolished were carried out. Six positions were abolished when accounting and payroll functions were transferred to the Regional Office. Two more were removed by transfer of the landscape architect and a trainee in that office to the Western Office, Division of Design and Construction.

Personnel actions taken during the year resulted in a turnover rate of approximately 35 percent in the permanent staff. Actions included 4 new appointments, 1 reinstatement, 34 promotions and transfers within the Service, 2 retirements, 2 transfers out of the Service, 3 resignations, and 1 death.

The new Service-wide Career Development and Placement Plan for permanent employees in grade GS-9 and above and all Park Rangers and Naturalists and Foreman II and III was put into effect and forms for all employees submitted to the Regional Office early in April.

The annual wage survey resulted in an average increase of approximately 8 cents per hour for ungraded employees, effective April 25.

15. PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Stores inventory was reduced in the 1965 fiscal year to \$46,178, largely through use of low-cost sales procedures and disposal of obsolete items.

Miscellaneous equipment items with a total value of \$33,758 were declared to GSA for disposal by transfer to other agencies.

Purchase orders were issued for 29 replacement vehicles at an estimated total cost of \$62,606. The vehicles to be replaced were originally "frozen" for Job Corps use, but were later released for disposal by sale. A spot bid sale conducted by GSA on April 30, 1965, netted \$10,733. Formal contracts awarded during the year for supplies and materials numbered 11, and totaled \$36,000. Consolidation of requisitions and issuance of requests for quotations and formal bids resulted in a reduction of the number of purchase orders issued to 1,219, almost 200 fewer than in the previous year. A total of 85 requests for quotations were issued and purchases made therefrom. Fedstrip orders to GSA totaled 1,409 line items, including 653 line items on time-consuming individual cards. Adoption of Fedstrip multi-line orders has reduced ordering time considerably.

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Pioneer Yosemite Transportation Center. A 40x100' shelter for historic vehicles, designed by WODC, was erected by Park forces at El Portal. At year's end a 1925 White stage, a 1937 Cadillac stage, a 1929 naturalist's Dodge roadster, a 1929 FWD snowplow, a White firetruck, a Hetch Hetchy Railroad railcar and a snow weasel were on exhibit. All were restored with funds provided by the Branch of Museums. Approval was received from the Regional and Washington Offices to move the old station of the Yosemite Valley Railroad from Bagby to El Portal for use as a museum. The building was scheduled for destruction by inundation.

The supervisors of the Sierra and Stanislaus National Forests are interested in cooperating with the Service at the transportation museum.

An exhibit commemorating the Yosemite Centennial (1864-1964) was constructed locally for the California State Fair, following which it was installed in the lobby of the Yosemite Museum.

New exhibits were constructed and installed by the Western Museum Laboratory at the Mariposa Grove Museum. Plans were completed for new exhibits at the Glacier Point Overlook.

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