

Yosemite National Park
California

June 11, 1952

Memorandum

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

Anderson

Enclosed is the Superintendent's annual report, 1951-1952.
Events of importance which take place before the end of
the fiscal year will be reported in a supplementary report prior to
July 15.

E. C. Smith
Acting Superintendent

Attachments

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

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FILE COPY

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS OF THE 1952 FISCAL YEAR

Yosemite National Park
California

Summary Sheet

1. Yosemite Centennial
2. Research and Interpretation
3. Land Acquisition and Timber Exchange
4. Concessions
5. Severe Winter and its Problems
6. Unprecedented Travel
7. Joint Agency Meeting
8. Devil Postpile

1. Yosemite Centennial

The celebration of the Yosemite Centennial continued throughout 1951 with special exhibits in the Yosemite Museum, special articles in newspapers and in Yosemite Nature Notes, the centennial design used on all stationery and a pageant presented August 31 and September 1 to those visitors and residents of the Valley who were here at the time. No advance publicity was given to the pageant in order to avoid excessive crowds without adequate facilities.

Principle result of the centennial observance was the acquisition of a large number of photographs and manuscripts by the Yosemite Museum, plus a renewed interest in local Yosemite history and a wider appreciation of the work of the National Park Service in preserving Yosemite National Park for the benefit and enjoyment of the public.

2. Research and Interpretation

The Yosemite Museum staff, despite limited personnel, continued to serve increased numbers of visitors. A total of 2,116,940 interpretive contacts were made during the past year. These included large numbers of school children such as the 1,050 who came in recently from Modesto in one day.

After much discussion the Camp 14 Campfire Amphitheatre will be used in its present form throughout the 1952 season and an experimental amphitheatre will be erected in Camp 7 to determine public reaction to this attempt to reduce great concentrations of persons and the attendant parking difficulties in conjunction with such programs in Yosemite Valley.

In addition to the gifts received as a result of the centennial year, the Yosemite Museum received many valuable paintings including three large paintings by Charles Dormant Robinson, a plaster cast of a large statue of Thomas Starr King and an oil painting of a scene of Yosemite Valley by Thomas Hill. The last two were given by Miss Patigian through the suggestion of Gustave Liljestrom who recently painted and presented to the Yosemite Museum an interpretation of Bridalveil Fall.

Considerable progress was made during 1951 on the trout investigation in Yosemite by Ranger Orthello Wallis. This research was made possible through private donation by Mrs. Mary Tresidder, President of the Yosemite Park and Curry Co. This is producing some very valuable information which will guide the future fish management policies of the Park.

3. Land Acquisition and Timber Exchange

Title to 120 acres of the White Wolf property of Henry Wilson Meyer passed to the United States in the deed recorded at Sonora, Tuolumne County, on October 17, 1951.

Preliminary work on the acquisition of the Foresta and Big Meadows properties was done by having appraisals made of the unimproved lots in Foresta and an overall appraisal of the Meyer's Big Meadows properties. Preliminary negotiations for the purchase of individual lots at Foresta have been unsuccessful.

An outstanding achievement in the acquisition of private lands was the contract signed October 16, 1951, between Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Bright and the United States for cutover lands at Aspen Valley and East Meadows through a timber and land exchange arrangement. The deed to these properties, showing transfer of title to the United States, was filed March 14, 1952 at Sonora, California.

Important in the building and maintenance program of the National Park Service was the salvaging of insect control treated and hazardous trees in a utilization program whereby the Davis Lumber Company of Oakdale, California, removes and utilizes these logs, returning 25 per cent of the saw log scale in finished lumber at no cost to the National Park Service.

4. Concessions

Preliminary discussions were held in Yosemite in early February for the renewal of contracts of Dr. Avery E. Sturm, Best's Studio, Degnan, Donohoe, Inc., and the Yosemite Park and Curry Co. Through frank, direct discussions between Director Wirth, Assistant Director Thomas Allen, Chief of Concessions Donald Lee and the various concessioners involved, substantial agreements were reached. Many overlapping features of previous contracts were eliminated or clarified. It is planned to have the contracts run concurrently to simplify problems of renewal.

The Foley Studio, next to the main Post Office at Government Center, which has not been in operation for many years was torn down and the area landscaped in October, 1951.

The Yosemite Park and Curry Co. has pushed ahead on its construction program completing Building "J", known as Oak Cottage at Yosemite Lodge representing an investment of approximately \$200,000. The multiple housing unit near the Company general offices is nearing completion at a cost of approximately \$180,000 and a new Company residence in the new Tecoya area cost about \$30,000.

The Company suffered extensive damage from the heavy snows of the past winter. The west section of the Big Trees Lodge completely collapsed and the east wing is also severely damaged. The Company estimates the cost of restoration will be approximately \$50,000.

5. Severe Winter and its Problems

Snow depths in the Sierra this past winter were the greatest since 1911 and Yosemite depths in the high country the greatest since records have been kept. Approximately twice the normal amount of snow fell this year. At Badger Pass, elevation 7,300 feet, the depth reached 204 inches, or 17 feet.

Despite a great deal of snow shovelling from the roofs of all buildings, considerable damage resulted. Snow removal was exceptionally difficult and costly. Repairs to the Badger Pass Ranger Station alone will cost about \$3,400.

In January a rock slide knocked over a steel tangent pole on the 70,000 volt transmission line between Arch Rock and the Park boundary. It is estimated that the cost of repairs will be \$2,330. The 11,000 volt line to Glacier Point was broken down in several locations by winter snows and avalanches and the estimated cost of repair will be about \$500. The Valley street lighting circuit was damaged by heavy snow and falling trees to the extent of about \$500 damage. The 2300 volt primary power line also sustained damage by snow and falling trees and the cost of necessary repairs was estimated at \$600. Telephone lines suffered considerable damage in the January snow storms and the estimated cost of repairs will be \$5,500.

Thus far this year the cost for snow removal within the park was more than \$70,000 and the Tioga Road is not yet cleared. The excess cost of snow removal this year has resulted in not accomplishing much planned maintenance work.

6. Unprecedented Travel

Again all Yosemite travel records were broken for the 1951 travel year ended September 30 when 850,585 visitors entered the Park. Indications are that 1952 will be another record breaking year with the visitor count already 21 per cent ahead of last year. The recent Memorial Day holiday broke all records for both one day visitation and for the three day holiday. On May 30 this year 26,966 visitors entered as against 19,818, the previous record on May 30, 1947. For the three day period 43,907 visitors entered the park this year as compared with the former record of 34,905 during the same three days in 1949. The tremendous increase in travel found all facilities severely overtaxed. The sewage system was incapable of handling the unprecedented load; the roads were crowded with cars bumper to bumper for miles; eating places, stores and all rented accommodations were filled beyond capacity; campgrounds overflowed and the following morning found many tents in all sections of the Valley. Ranger personnel was entirely inadequate to maintain and protect the park and its many visitors.

7. Joint Agency Meeting

The second annual joint agency meeting on fire suppression, organization and management was held in Yosemite April 16 and 17, 1952. Representatives included those from adjacent and nearby national forests and national parks. The California State Division of Forestry, United States Weather Bureau, various county fire organizations and the Regional Offices of the United States Forest Service and the National Park Service participated. Approximately 90 officials were in attendance at the conference.

8. Devil Postpile

Transfer of the administration of Devil Postpile National Monument, which has been under the United States Forest Service for the past few years, to the National Park Service was accomplished this year by mutual consent of the two Bureaus.

Growing importance of Devil Postpile as a result of the improvement of the access road via Agnew Meadows and increased concern over the protection of this important geologic feature has resulted in the National Park Service assuming this responsibility. A park ranger and ranger-naturalist will be on duty in the Monument throughout this season to administer and interpret its unique features.

Yosemite National Park
California

June 9, 1952

Memorandum

To: Superintendent

From: Park Naturalist

Subject: Annual report of the Naturalist Division
June, 1951 to May, 1952.

1951 was the centennial of the effective discovery of Yosemite Valley on March 21, 1851. Celebration of this event commenced with a broadcast mentioning this significant occasion by Rev. Alfred Glass as part of the program of the Easter Sunrise Service from Mirror Lake on Easter, March 21st. A special exhibit highlighting significant historical developments related to the discovery was on display throughout the Centennial Year. A special issue of Yosemite Nature Notes carrying an article by Carl P. Russell on the subject was published followed in subsequent issues by other articles on The Geography of the Mariposa Indian Wars also by Russell. Many talks outside as well as in the park directing attention to the Centennial resulted in gifts to the Yosemite Museum of many significant historical pictures, documents and interviews with oldtimers formerly associated with the early history of Yosemite.

The summer season of the Centennial year closed appropriately with the presentation of a pageant by the greatly augmented Centennial Theater cast depicting in tabloid a series of historical events related to the discovery. Throughout the year an emblem, designed by Park Naturalist McHenry, was carried on all official and Yosemite Natural History Association stationery as well as the letterhead of the Yosemite Park and Curry Company.

Under the impetus of the Washington Office there has been considerable discussion pro and con regarding the future of naturalists campfire programs especially in Yosemite Valley. Since this comes at a time when some thought was being given to the reconstruction of the Camp 14 campfire amphitheater, it was decided in conference with the Director and Regional Director and representatives of their staffs that the present temporary structure at Camp 14 would continue to be used during the 1952 summer season and that an experimental campfire amphitheater would be erected in Camp 7 to determine public reaction to this attempt to reduce great concentrations of persons and the attendant parking difficulties in conjunction with such programs in Yosemite Valley.

The interpretive development outline of the park master plan was completely revised and brought up to date. Since the National Park Service is again taking over the administration of the Devil Post Pile National Monument, an interpretive development outline was drawn up for this area. Plans were made for stationing a ranger and ranger-naturalist at the Monument during the summer, and a graduate of the Yosemite Field School has been selected for this interpretive post.

Some misunderstanding has arisen between the National Park Service and Ted Phillips who produced the excellent interpretive film "Yosemite" under a grant from the Atwater Kent Foundation which jeopardizes the future availability of replacement prints of this picture. Two loan copies of this film have been in almost constant use throughout the past year, being shown as far away as Porto Rico with inquiries from Sweden for its use.

Associate Park Naturalist attended the In-service Museum Training School in Washington, D.C. during January, 1952, with the expense being shared by the service and the Yosemite Natural History Association. Subsequently Mr. Parker has been notified of his proposed transfer to Crater Lake National Park where he will take charge of the naturalist program beginning on June 8, 1952.

During the year the naturalist staff has been composed of four permanent naturalists, a museum secretary and a museum custodian. During the summer season a seasonal staff is added composed of a librarian, an additional secretary, a museum assistant and 12 ranger-naturalists (same as in 1936 except working hours have been reduced to 40 per week). One thousand one hundred and twenty-five uncompensated overtime hours were donated by members of the permanent staff last year.

In addition to the gifts received because of the Centennial Year, the Yosemite Museum has been given three large paintings by Charles Dormant Robinson from his daughter, an heroic plaster cast of a statue of Thomas Starr King and an oil painting of a scene of Yosemite Valley by Thomas Hill. The last two were given by Miss Patigian through the services of Gustave Liljestrom who subsequently painted and presented to the Yosemite Museum an interpretation of Bridalveil Fall.

2,116,940 interpretive contacts were made during the past year. These include not only the visitors in general to the park but also many special groups such as the 1050 school children from Modesto who visited the park at one time as well as many persons of importance and prominence, some being persons in positions of leadership in foreign governments and in the fields of science both at home and abroad.

The library of the Yosemite has made considerable progress during the year both through substantial gifts received and through purchase of books especially through funds provided by the Yosemite Natural History Association, Inc. The Association has also provided funds for binding of periodicals and for books whose bindings have been in need of repair. Forty-seven books were added through these means. Without doubt the most significant addition to the library was the gift of 105 books and about 80 journals presented by Ansel Hall from his own personal library which he assembled on Yosemite subjects while he was Park Naturalist in this park. It is noteworthy also that a card index file of historical manuscripts and separates was compiled during the year.

The Yosemite Natural History Association, Inc. continues its staunch and valuable support of the interpretive program in the park. At the cost of \$600.00 a season, the Association has provided during the summer season, the hand-out weekly announcements of the naturalists daily program which has added much to the success of the work. The publication of the monthly Yosemite Nature Notes is one of the Association's most valuable functions. A special issue of the Notes entitled Mammals of Yosemite, by Harry C. Parker, is now in press and will appear in June, 1952. Mr. Herkenham has done much work on a special number of Yosemite Nature Notes on the "Shrubs of Yosemite." It is expected that this number will be ready sometime in 1953.

Mr. C. M. Goethe continues to give evidence of his constant and lively interest in our interpretive program and the publication of Yosemite Nature Notes by sending us many small checks to help defray the expense of publication. Nevertheless there was a loss of \$1,000.00 in publishing Yosemite Nature Notes during the last year which made it necessary to advance the yearly subscription price from \$1.00 to \$1.50. This will cut the loss in half.

The gift of \$14,600 from Charles Shamel reported over a year ago has become somewhat confused through the mismanagement of the Crocker First National Bank in San Francisco. Everything possible is being done to get this matter cleared up. The gift is restricted to the construction of the stage and projection booth at the proposed new Camp 14 campfire amphitheater.

Other gifts to the Association were as follows: Dr. and Mrs. (latter now deceased) Harold C. Bradley, \$200 in two gifts for the purchase of recorded music for campfire programs; Ansel Adams, the design for the new cover format of Yosemite Nature Notes. There were many gifts of less importance.

The Yosemite Natural History Association, Inc. loaned the Eastern National Park and National Monument Association \$500.00 for the purchase of some private land on which historical ruins were known to exist. The loan has been repaid. A loan of \$750.00 has recently been granted to the Crater Lake Natural History Association to help pay for the publication of a book on the birds of that park.

The Association continues its lively support of the Yosemite Field School. During the summer of 1951, seventeen college graduates formed one of the most outstanding classes in the history of the school. All of these "graduates" who have been willing have been snapped up at least on a seasonal basis by other National Park areas and other agencies offering outdoor interpretive programs. The Junior Nature School continues to operate as a two weeks practice school for members of the Field School and in spite of its short session is a very popular feature of the naturalist program.

The "annual" glacier survey was resumed in 1951 after a skip during 1950. The report of the 1951 trip has been commended as the most outstanding such report yet produced.

Ranger Othello Wallis continues his excellent work in studying the fish population of the park under the renewed grant from Mrs. Mary Curry Tresidder and is producing some very valuable information which will guide the future fish management policies of the park.

During the summer of 1951 a Yuma-type spear point was discovered in one of the caves on the talus slopes of the Valley not far from Yosemite Falls. Service archeologists are in the park at the time of writing this report to examine this and other archeological matters long in need of attention.

The tenth known record of the Spotted Bat (*Euderma maculatum*) was made with the discovery of a specimen near Camp 19 on August 15, 1951. The specimen has been placed on permanent loan at the University of California for the best possible care and protection.

Mr. Horton, a graduate student working on his Ph.D. at the University of California, spent a part of the summer of 1951 studying the lava flows in the region of Rancheria Mountain in the park.

Howard W. Oliver, who is working on his PhD. at Harvard spent some time in the park on gravity studies of the Sierra southward from the Tuolumne River. He will return to continue these studies this (1952) summer and possibly endeavor to determine the depth of the alluvium on the floor of the Valley by this method.

Donald Edward McHenry
Park Naturalist

~~Mr. Russell~~ CAP 6/6/52

June 6, 1952

Memorandum

To: Mr. Hill
Mr. Sedergren
Mr. McHenry
Mr. Smith
Mr. Anderson
Mr. Ernst
Mr. Ellis

From: Acting Superintendent

Subject: Superintendent's Annual Report

We inadvertently neglected to send to the Director the Superintendent's Annual Report. It is requested that each of you prepare a list of all important and unusual items that occurred in your department during the past year and submit these to Mr. Anderson by Tuesday morning without fail. Mr. Anderson will select the items for this report and compile and assemble it for immediate submission.

E. G. Smith
Acting Superintendent

RECEIVED
JUN -6 1952
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

...Superintendent
...Asst. Supt.
...Chief Clerk
...Engineer
...Naturalist
...Chief Ranger
...Adm. Assist.
...Oper. Mgr.
...Forester
...Mechanic
...Files
.....

June 5, 1952

Memorandum

To: Superintendents, Hawaii
Lassen Volcanic
Mount McKinley (and Katmai)
Mount Rainier (and Whitman)
Sequoia and Kings Canyon (Cabrillo and Channel I.)
Yosemite (and Devil Postpile)
Craters of the Moon
Death Valley
Joshua Tree
Lava Beds
Muir Woods
Sitka (and Glacier Bay)
Coulee Dam
Millerton Lake
Columbia Basin

From: Assistant Regional Director

Subject: Annual Report of Officials in charge of Field Areas and
of the Regional Directors, Report 1a1

To date we have not received the two copies of your annual report to the Director (Report 1a1) the original and one copy of which should have been placed in the mail in order to reach the Washington Office by June 1. It is possible, of course, that you have already sent the report to the Director and have delayed furnishing us with copies.

This is simply a reminder that the report was due in Washington June 1 and that a supplementary report, covering significant events occurring between that date and July 1, is due in the Washington Office July 15.



Herbert Maier
Assistant Regional Director