

General Grant

NATIONAL PARK • CALIFORNIA

GENERAL GRANT

National Park

CALIFORNIA

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
THE INTERIOR · Harold L. Ickes, Secretary

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE · Arno B. Cammerer, Director

The

GENERAL GRANT NATIONAL PARK lies on the western slope of the Sierra Nevada at a vertical distance above sea level of about one and a quarter miles. It contains two magnificent groves of Big Trees, including the famous General Grant Tree, dedicated several years ago as the Nation's Christmas Tree. There are fine automobile campgrounds in a forest of sugar pine, ponderosa pine, cedar, and fir, with many miles of trails to scenic points within and near the park. Geographically, the park is due east of Fresno, Calif., a distance of 64 miles by motor road. From Visalia, on the southwest, it is 53 miles to the park. Approach from these and other valley towns is over standard paved highways and oiled roads with easy grades after entering the hills.

From various points on Grant Park Ridge, at the eastern boundary of the park, including Panoramic Point, Rocking and Balcony Rocks, the Point of View, and Lookout Point, there are sweeping views of the High Sierra to the east and the great San Joaquin Valley and the Coast Range to the west. The panorama from Point of View, the highest point on the Ridge, includes 700 square miles on the main crest of the Sierra, and the San Joaquin Valley from the Tehachapi Mountains to the Coast Range west of Merced.

THE BIG TREES

The General Grant Tree in the Grant Grove of Big Trees is so huge its size is difficult to visualize. Its greatest horizontal diameter is 40.3 feet at the base, and at 200 feet above the ground its diameter is about 12 feet. This tree is 267 feet high, and is one of the most celebrated trees in the United States. Huge specimens of sugar and ponderosa pine, fir, and cedar are

found in this grove, arousing an interest second only to that of the Big Trees themselves. Sugar pines have been found with a base diameter of 11 feet, and there are ponderosa pines, silver firs, and cedars almost as large. A short distance beyond the Grant Grove is the North Grove of Big Trees, where some of the most beautiful Sequoias of the park are growing.

The Big Trees are the supreme attraction of General Grant Park, although the mountain scenery and the fishing are added allurements. The Big Tree, *Sequoia gigantea*, is sometimes confused with the redwood, *Sequoia sempervirens*, the smaller species of Sequoia found only in the Coast Range of California and Oregon. While the *gigantea* approaches 40 feet in base diameter, the *sempervirens* rarely exceeds 20 feet. The wood is similar in color and texture, but the foliage is distinct, and the bark of the Big Tree is much thicker and of a rich red color instead of a dull brown. The most distinctive characteristic is that the Big Tree is reproduced only from the seed, while the redwood when cut down sprouts from the stump.

The western slopes of the Pacific mountain ranges, enriched with soil accumulated over thousands of years, watered by the deep snows that cloak the peaks in winter, and warmed by mild ocean winds heated as they pass over the lowlands, nourish the most luxuriant forests in the United States. General Grant Park and its big neighbor, Sequoia, are in the heart of an area of remarkable fertility. Not only are there millions of giant trees, but the shrubs and wild flowers attain maximum development.

HOW THE SEQUOIAS GOT THEIR NAME

The Big Trees of California were named in tribute to a Cherokee Indian, who spelled his name Se-quo-yah. An uneducated, non-English-speaking Indian, he perfected a phonetic alphabet of 86 symbols with a character representing every sound in the tongue of his tribe. It was said that with this alphabet, sometimes characterized as one of the greatest ever invented, a Cherokee child might learn to read and write his native language in a day, and that within a remarkably short time after the official acceptance of the alphabet by the tribe every one of its members was able to read and write. The change brought about in the Cherokee Tribe by the introduction of this means of expressing thought on paper was remarkable. A printing press was established, type made of the various symbols, and the news of the day printed in two newspapers. Their laws were printed in Sequoyah's alphabet, and also the Gospels and many other books both useful and interesting to the Cherokee people, who thus made rapid advance in general knowledge and in civilization. During his spare time, a park ranger carved a symbolical representation of the "Spirit of Sequoyah" from



“SINGING WATERS,” SEQUOIA CREEK

a slab of Sequoia wood. This carving is now on display at the park administration building.

TRAILS

The trail system offers the hiker or horseback rider miles of well-graded pathways to many lovely sections of the park. The Sequoia Lake Trail is especially recommended as a half-day hike. The grades are easy and the trail winds through a portion of the park only recently opened up. Points of especial interest are the Sequoia Creek group of Big Trees and Ella Falls, a water spectacle of great beauty during the spring and early summer when the mountain snows are melting.

At Sequoia Lake, near but outside the western boundary of the park, the Young Men's Christian Association maintains camps, and fishing, boating, and bathing are permitted under regulations promulgated by the groups owning the area.

WILDLIFE

The California mule deer, so-called because of its large ears, black bear, and several species of squirrel are the best-known animals of the park. Deer are everywhere and so tame that many camps have especial pets for which "salt licks" are provided. Bears are found throughout the park but not in large numbers. *Feeding of these animals by visitors is strictly prohibited.* When this regulation is followed the bears cause very little trouble to campers. The Columbia gray squirrel is a common sight as it dashes across roads and trails, a blue-gray vision that at times appears to be all tail. The Douglas squirrel, or Sierra chickaree, gray-brown in color, is well known for its scolding habits. Large numbers inhabit the park.



MULE DEER ARE SEEN EVERYWHERE IN THE PARK

The Sierra golden-mantled ground squirrel is often taken for a chipmunk, but it may be distinguished by its golden color and larger size. Ground squirrels from the San Joaquin Valley have recently invaded the park. Alpine, Sierra Nevada, and San Bernardino chipmunks are everywhere in the Sequoia and pine belt. They become very tame, and are a real menace to an unguarded camp table or other sources of food. Mountain lions, wildcats, mountain beaver, coyotes, foxes, and trade rats are also found.

Stalking game to see how many different animals may be noted is a popular pastime in all national parks.

The blue-fronted or steller jay, western robin, towhee, chickadee, red-shafted flicker, cabanis woodpecker, and several species of sparrows, warblers, and finches are the best-known birds of the park. The golden eagle may sometimes be seen from Park Ridge. The park museum is headquarters for information about the birds and animals.

KINGS RIVER CANYON

At an elevation of 6,600 feet, General Grant Park and places nearby at Hume and Big Meadow are direct points of departure for the Kings River Canyon, Sugarloaf, and Roaring River areas. From the Kings River Canyon main trails lead out as follows: Up Copper Creek and by Granite Basin to Simpson Meadow and down the Middle Fork to Tehipite Valley and the Dome, north from Simpson Meadow to the John Muir Trail, and over Muir Pass via LeConte Canyon to Yosemite; up Paradise Valley to Woods Creek and John Muir Trail over Pinchot Pass to the upper basin of the South Fork of the Kings River; up Bubbs Creek to the



A SPECIAL DINNER FOR A GOLDEN-MANTLED GROUND SQUIRREL



Photo by Laval Co., Inc.

“THE GATEWAY TO THE KINGS” ON THE STATE HIGHWAY

intersection with the John Muir Trail, or over Kearsarge Pass to the Owens Valley, or by Center Basin and Foresters Pass to the Kern Canyon.

Kings River Canyon is noted for its wild beauty, and has long been recommended for national park status.

PARK SEASON

General Grant Park is open all year, with Federal and State authorities cooperating to clear the roads in winter. It is seldom that travel is interrupted more than a day or two. Campgrounds, of course, are not open during the winter season, but informal accommodations are available. All forms of winter sports, except skating, are enjoyed, and snowshoes, skis, and toboggans may be rented at reasonable prices.

ADMINISTRATION

The General Grant National Park is administered by the National Park Service of the United States Department of the Interior. The representative of this bureau in direct charge of the park is Guy Hopping, superintendent. Administrative headquarters is at the Plaza, near the center of the park. All-year mail, telephone, and telegraph service is maintained. The post office is General Grant National Park, Calif.

NATURALIST SERVICE

All forms of outdoor activities are encouraged, but special attention is paid to fostering a knowledge of the wildlife and natural beauty which the park was created to preserve. At the Plaza a ranger naturalist is in charge of the educational program, which includes guided field trips, automobile caravans, and campfire entertainments. There are talks on the Big Trees and other natural features by rangers, and music and stunts by visitors.

General Grant Park has a very fine amphitheater, with a seating capacity of 1,200. Programs are given here two or three times a week. The Western Music Camp, with summer headquarters in the park, gives concerts of classical and modern music in the amphitheater three times weekly during the season.

FREE PUBLIC CAMPGROUNDS

The campgrounds are located among the pines, firs, and cedars of the plateau and ridges near headquarters. Comfort stations with hot and cold showers are conveniently located, spring water is piped through the camping areas, and an abundance of wood is piled nearby, requiring only a little splitting to be ready for use. Many of the camps are supplied with combination tables and cupboards. New campgrounds are being developed and additional facilities provided each year as funds become available.

CHRISTMAS TREE CEREMONY

At high noon on Christmas Day each year, devotional and patriotic services are held beneath the General Grant Tree, designated several years ago as the Nation's Christmas Tree. These services have been broadcast over Nation-wide hook-ups, and Presidential messages have constituted a part of the program. When the weather is favorable, a large number of visitors attend this unique ceremony.

CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday morning services and Sunday school are conducted during the season by the Church of the Sequoias at the religious headquarters near the park amphitheater. Evening vesper services or an evening program of religious instruction, with illustrated lectures, features Sunday evening presentations by the Church of the Sequoias at the amphitheater, which is on the Wilsonia Road one-eighth mile from park headquarters and the Plaza.

HOW TO REACH THE PARK

BY RAILROAD AND AUTO STAGE

Fresno, Visalia, and Exeter are the railway gateways to Sequoia and General Grant National Parks, served by the Southern Pacific Railway and the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe. These cities are reached by an overnight journey from either Los Angeles or San Francisco. Pullman service is available daily to Fresno and three times a week to Exeter and Visalia.

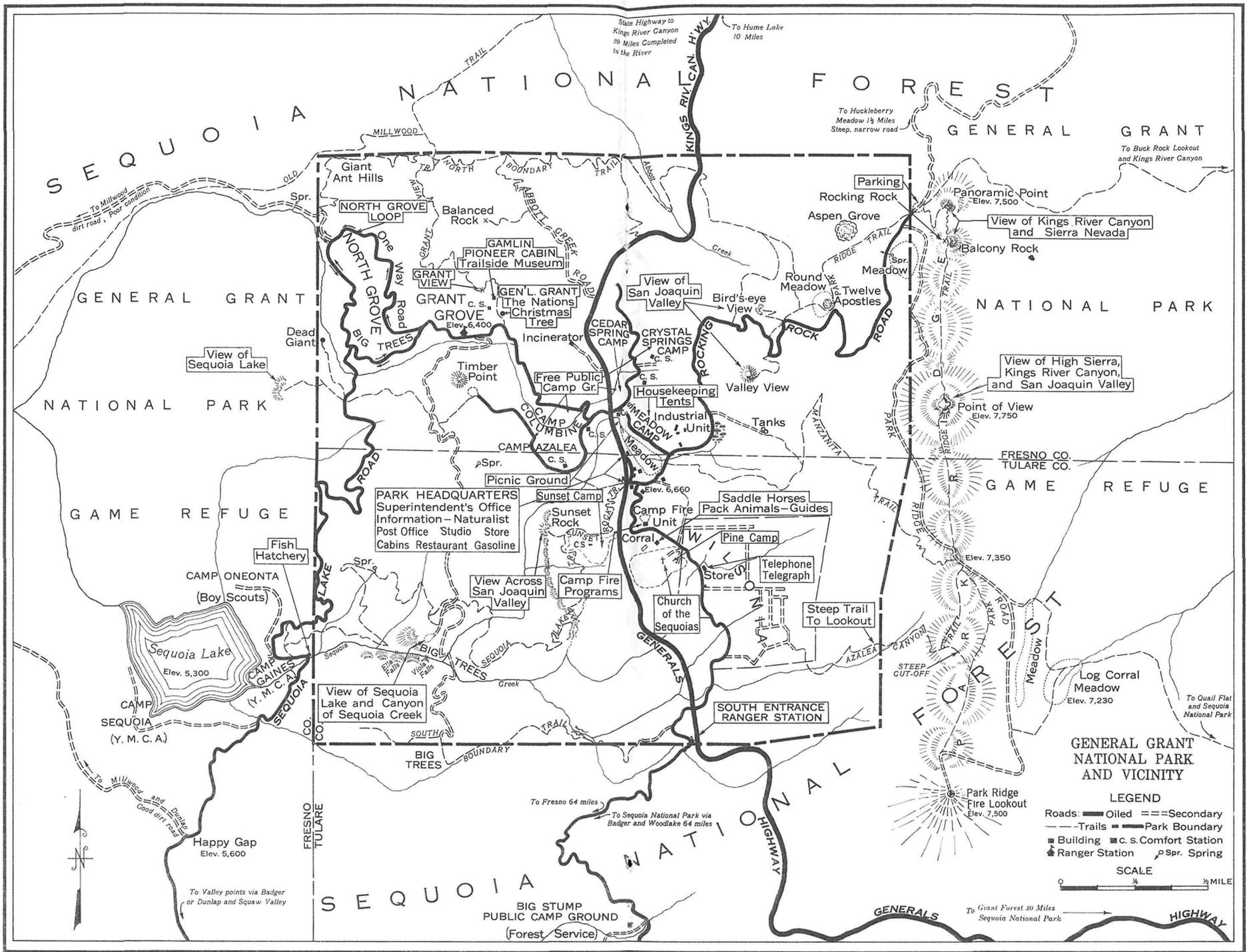
The standard tour of Sequoia and General Grant National Parks is, in one direction only, from Fresno, which is served by the Pacific Greyhound Lines and Santa Fe Trail System via Visalia and Exeter, to Giant Forest in Sequoia National Park, thence via the Generals Highway to General Grant National Park, returning direct to Fresno. A special service direct to General Grant National Park, returning by the same route, is available on advance reservation.

From June 10 to September 10 an auto stage of the Sequoia and General Grant National Parks Co. leaves Fresno daily at 8 a. m. for Giant Forest, Sequoia National Park, by way of Visalia and Exeter, arriving at Giant Forest about 12:15 p. m. From there the auto stage leaves about 1:45 p. m. for the return trip to Fresno, via General Grant National Park, over the spectacular new Generals Highway, arriving at Fresno 6:30 p. m. This circle tour service enables travelers to visit both parks easily.

From September 11 to June 9 "on call" service by advance reservation is provided from Visalia and Exeter to Giant Forest, Sequoia National



THE GENERAL GRANT—THE NATION'S CHRISTMAS TREE *Grant Park Studio*



GENERAL GRANT NATIONAL PARK AND VICINITY



Grant Park Studio

THE FALLEN MICHIGAN TREE

Park, and return over the same route, but no service is available to General Grant National Park during this period.

Special excursion fares are in effect on the railroads and bus lines during the summer in connection with trips to Sequoia and General Grant National Parks. Detailed information about railroad service and rates may be obtained from local railroad ticket agents; the passenger traffic manager of the Southern Pacific Lines, San Francisco; the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway, Chicago; or the Sequoia and General Grant National Parks Co., Sequoia National Park, Calif. Information on bus schedules, rates, and park tours may be obtained from any bus agent in the United States or Canada.

BY AUTOMOBILE

Visitors from the north reach General Grant Park by way of Fresno and the Ventura Avenue approach. Motorists from the southern highways of the State may route their approach through Visalia and the Sand Creek Road to the South Entrance.



THE CALIFORNIA TREE

Visitors from Sequoia Park reach the same entrance by way of the recently completed Generals Highway, which forms a scenic mountain approach to the park from the southeast.

BY AIRPLANE

Air service from all parts of the country is available through United Air Lines schedules to Fresno or Bakersfield.

ACCOMMODATIONS AND EXPENSES

Grant Park Camp and Meadow Camp are operated by the Sequoia and General Grant National Parks Co. They are open from May 25 to September 5, and reservations for week ends and holidays should be made in advance. Address the camp at which you wish to stay, General Grant National Park, Calif.

Grant Park Camp is a colony of rustic cabins and tent cottages grouped about a central community building. A few of the tents are fully equipped for housekeeping by the week. The cabin rates range in price from \$2 a day per person for two in a room without bath to \$4 a day for one person



Grant photo

SECTION OF THE HEADQUARTERS AREA

in a room with bath. Children under 3, no charge; 3 to 10, inclusive, half rate. Fully equipped housekeeping bungalow tents, \$12 a week for one person; \$16.50 for two; \$20 for three; \$23.50 for four; and \$27 for five persons. Transient rates are \$2 a day for one; \$3 for two; \$3.50 for three; \$4 for four; and \$4.50 for five persons.

At Meadow Shelter Camp new rustic cabins, with housekeeping accommodations, are available. The rates are \$1.50 a day for one or two persons and 50 cents a day for each additional person. Linen, blankets, and other camping equipment may be rented.

TRANSPORTATION

MOTOR SERVICE

From June 10 to September 10 daily auto-stage service is available between the park and Fresno and Visalia: Fresno to the park, \$6; park to Fresno, \$4.50; round trip, \$9. Visalia to the park, via Sequoia National Park, \$8. "On call" motor service between General Grant and Sequoia Parks is operated via the new Generals Highway: One way, \$2 per passenger; round trip, \$3; minimum of four passengers.

Sightseeing trip to Kings River Canyon: An "on call" service for four or more passengers will be provided from General Grant National Park to "Road End," Kings River Canyon Highway. Fare \$2 per passenger, round trip.

Visitors operating their own cars will find mechanical and service-station accommodations near the Headquarters Plaza during the season.

PACK TRIPS

Pack trips to Kings River Canyon and other sections of the High Sierra may be arranged. For trips of 4 days or more saddle horses, or pack mules, cost \$1.50 a day. Guides or packers cost \$5 a day; cooks \$6 a day.

SADDLE HORSES

Experienced riders may secure mounts for \$4 a day or \$2.50 a half day. Burros are 25 cents an hour and \$1.50 a day. Escorted saddle trips to Grant Grove of Big Trees, Park Ridge Fire Lookout, the Boole Tree, Millwood, and other points of interest affording magnificent panoramas of the High Sierra may be arranged for small parties at reasonable prices. The half-day trips average about \$2.50 each and the 1-day excursions about \$4 each.

This booklet is issued once a year and *the rates mentioned herein may have changed slightly since issuance*, but the latest rates approved by the Secretary of the Interior are on file with the superintendent.



A TRAILSIDE SCENE

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The Book of the National Parks. 444 pp. Illustrated. Scribners. 1926. Sequoia and General Grant National Parks on pp. 69-92.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

[Briefed]

THE PARK REGULATIONS are designed for the protection of the natural beauties and scenery as well as for the comfort and convenience of visitors. Complete regulations may be seen at the office of the superintendent. The following synopsis is for the general guidance of visitors, who are requested to assist the administration by observing the rules. The parks belong to future generations as well as the present.

Fires.—Light carefully and in designated places. Extinguish completely before leaving camp even for temporary absence. Do not guess your fire is out—know it.

Camps.—Keep your camp clean. As far as possible burn garbage in campfire and put empty cans and residue into garbage cans provided. If no can is provided, bury the refuse.

Trash.—Do not throw paper, lunch refuse, kodak cartons, chewing-gum paper, or other trash on roads, trails, or elsewhere. Carry until you can burn in camp or place in receptacle.

Trees, shrubs, flowers.—Do not touch them until you know the regulations. Dead and down timber except sequoia may be used for firewood. Live growth must not be in any way injured.

Animals, birds.—Do not kill, capture, or scare. They are your friends.

Dogs and cats.—Prohibited on Government lands in the park. Travelers on through roads may secure permit to transport them through the park under complete restrictive control.

Fishing.—Get a State license. Special limits apply in certain streams; otherwise the limit is 25 fish a day or 10 pounds and 1 fish. Avoid closed waters.

Noises.—Be quiet in camp after 10 p. m. Many people come here for rest.

Automobiles.—Drive carefully. Keep cut-outs closed. Obey local traffic rules. The automobile permit fee is \$1, good for calendar year in General Grant and Sequoia National Parks.

Park rangers.—The rangers are here to help and advise you as well as to enforce the regulations. When in doubt, ask a ranger.

Penalties.—Please study the regulations. We shall enforce them as courteously and liberally as possible; but deliberate infraction may bring penalty not to exceed \$500 fine or 6 months' imprisonment, or both.

Please read the park signs.—They are for your protection and guidance.

Smoking restrictions.—No smoking will be allowed during the fire season while visitors are in motion on roads or trails in the park. Smoking is permitted in camps or at stations. Warning signs will indicate the season of fire hazard and will be removed only when danger from this source is over. Watch the signs.

EVENTS

OF HISTORICAL IMPORTANCE

- 1862— First white man of record entered area. Joseph Hardin Thomas discovered the Grant Tree, then unnamed.
- 1867— Grant Tree measured and called the General Grant Tree by Mrs. Lucretia P. Baker, member of a pioneer family of the district.
- 1870— First settlers occupied the Fallen Monarch, huge hollow log, and ran a saloon therein.
- 1872— The Gamlin brothers built the log house now known as the Gamlin Pioneer Cabin and used as a trailside museum for park visitors.
- 1878— Preemption claim surrounding the Grant Tree surrendered to the Government by Israel Gamlin.
- 1890— General Grant National Park created by act of Congress, October 1.
- 1891— First administration of park by Capt. J. H. Dorst, of the United States Cavalry.
- 1892— The Gamlin Cabin moved by Captain Dorst to near present Park Headquarters and used as storehouse for hay and grain for cavalry horses.
- 1902— First regularly built road constructed to Grant Big Trees. This was later rebuilt with some change in alignment to form the present Sequoia Lake Road.
- 1913— First well-graded approach road to General Grant Park built, still known as the Sand Creek Road, reaching the park at the South Entrance Station. Now a State highway.
- 1914— Walter Fry, now United States Commissioner for General Grant and Sequoia National Parks, appointed first civilian superintendent of both parks.
- 1919— Exclusive jurisdiction over park ceded by California, April 15.
- 1925— The General Grant Tree designated as the Nation's Christmas Tree at high noon of Christmas Day. First of the annual ceremonies now broadcast over the radio networks each year.
- 1929— Construction started on State highway from Grant Park to Kings River Canyon.
- 1932— Grant Park section of the Generals Highway completed.
- 1933— Separate park administration established with acting superintendent in charge. Formerly under jurisdiction of Sequoia Park.
- 1934— Generals Highway grade, interpark highway, open for travel between General Grant and Sequoia National Parks.
- 1934— Gamlin Pioneer Cabin rebuilt at site of original construction and dedicated to park use as a trailside museum.

GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS

Glimpses of Our National Parks. An illustrated booklet containing descriptions of the national parks. Address the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C. Free.

Recreational Map of the United States. Shows Federal and State reservations with recreational opportunities. Brief descriptions of principal ones. Free. Address same as above.

The Secret of the Big Trees. By Ellsworth Huntington. 24 pages. Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C. 5 cents.

Forests of Yosemite, Sequoia, and General Grant National Parks. By C. L. Hill. 40 pp. Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C. 10 cents.

National Parks Portfolio. By Robert Sterling Yard. Cloth bound and illustrated with more than 300 beautiful photographs of the national parks. Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C. Price \$1.50.

Fauna of the National Parks, Series No. 1. By G. M. Wright, J. S. Dixon, and B. H. Thompson. 157 pages, illustrated. Survey of wildlife conditions in the national parks. Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C. 20 cents.

Fauna of the National Parks, Series No. 2. By G. M. Wright and B. H. Thompson. Wildlife management in the national parks. 142 pages, illustrated. Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C. 20 cents.

Booklets about each of the national parks listed below may be obtained free of charge by addressing the National Park Service:

Acadia, Maine	Mesa Verde, Colo.
Carlsbad Caverns, N. Mex.	Mount McKinley, Alaska
Crater Lake, Oreg.	Mount Rainier, Wash.
Glacier, Mont.	Platt, Okla.
Grand Canyon, Ariz.	Rocky Mountain, Colo.
Grand Teton, Wyo.	Sequoia, Calif.
Great Smoky Mts., N. C.-Tenn.	Wind Cave, S. Dak.
Hawaii, Hawaii	Yosemite, Calif.
Hot Springs, Ark.	Yellowstone, Wyo.-Mont.-Idaho
Lassen Volcanic, Calif.	Zion and Bryce Canyon, Utah

NATIONAL PARKS IN BRIEF

ABRAHAM LINCOLN, KY.—Birthplace of Abraham Lincoln. Established 1916; 0.17 square mile.

ACADIA, MAINE.—Combination of mountain and seacoast scenery. Established in 1919; 24.91 square miles.

BRYCE CANYON, UTAH.—Canyons filled with exquisitely colored pinnacles. Established 1928; 56.23 square miles.

CARLSBAD CAVERNS, N. MEX.—Beautifully decorated limestone caverns. Established 1930; 15.75 square miles.

CRATER LAKE, OREG.—Beautiful lake in crater of extinct volcano. Established 1902; 250.52 square miles.

FORT McHENRY, MD.—Its defense in 1814 inspired writing of Star Spangled Banner. Established 1925; 0.07 square mile.

GENERAL GRANT, CALIF.—General Grant Tree and grove of Big Trees. Established 1890; 3.98 square miles.

GLACIER, MONT.—Unsurpassed alpine scenery; 200 lakes; 60 glaciers. Established 1910; 1,537.98 square miles.

GRAND CANYON, ARIZ.—World's greatest example of erosion. Established 1919; 1,008 square miles.

GRAND TETON, WYO.—Most spectacular portion of Teton Mountains. Established 1929; 150 square miles.

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS, N. C.-TENN.—Massive mountain uplift; magnificent forests. Established for protection 1930; 643.26 square miles.

HAWAII: ISLANDS OF HAWAII AND MAUI.—Interesting volcanic areas. Established 1916; 248.54 square miles.

HOT SPRINGS, ARK.—Forty-seven hot springs reserved by the Federal Government in 1832 to prevent exploitation of waters. Made national park in 1921; 1.54 square miles.

LASSEN VOLCANIC, CALIF.—Only recently active volcano in United States proper. Established 1916; 163.32 square miles.

MAMMOTH CAVE, KY.—Interesting caverns, including spectacular onyx cave formation. Established for protection 1936; 54.09 square miles.

MESA VERDE, COLO.—Most notable cliff dwellings in United States. Established 1906; 80.21 square miles.

MOUNT McKinLEY, ALASKA.—Highest mountain in North America. Established 1917; 3,030.46 square miles.

MOUNT RAINIER, WASH.—Largest accessible single-peak glacier system. Established 1899; 377.78 square miles.

PLATT, OKLA.—Sulphur and other springs. Established 1902; 1.32 square miles.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN, COLO.—Peaks from 11,000 to 14,255 feet in heart of Rockies. Established 1915; 405.33 square miles.

SEQUOIA, CALIF.—General Sherman, largest and possibly oldest tree in world; outstanding groves Sequoia gigantea. Established 1890; 604 square miles.

SHENANDOAH, VA.—Outstanding scenic area in Blue Ridge. Established 1935; 282.14 square miles.

WIND CAVE, S. DAK.—Beautiful cavern of peculiar formations. No stalactites or stalagmites. Established 1903; 19.75 square miles.

YELLOWSTONE: WYO.-MONT.-IDAHO.—World's greatest geyser area, and an outstanding game preserve. Established 1872; 3,437.88 square miles.

YOSEMITE, CALIF.—Valley of world-famous beauty; spectacular waterfalls; magnificent High Sierra country. Established 1890; 1,176.16 square miles.

ZION, UTAH.—Zion Canyon, 1,500 to 2,500 feet deep. Spectacular coloring. Established 1919; 134.91 square miles.

