

P A R K S E R V I C E B U L L E T I N

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS

With the coming of the New Year the Director and his Washington Office staff extend to the field personnel hearty greetings and best wishes for a happy, successful year.

Acknowledgment is also made of the loyal cooperation and support given the Service during the year by its field representatives. To this in large measure is due the successful operation of the parks which has made 1927 a banner year in national park annals.

With us all pulling together, as in the past, we may look forward to a bigger and better season in 1928.

IMPORTANT PRIVATE HOLDINGS SECURED FOR SEQUOIA AND ZION NATIONAL PARKS

Through the generosity of Miss Aurelia Harwood, president of the Sierra Club of California, the acquisition of a private holding in Sequoia Park 480 acres in extent has been made possible. Miss Harwood contributed \$5,000 toward this purchase, and her donation was met by an equal amount of Federal funds.

Mr. Wm. C. Gregg of Hackensack, New Jersey, an earnest friend of the parks and the park people, again showed his continued interest by making it possible to acquire 13 acres of private land immediately inside the entrance to Zion National Park, which he was one of the first to visit.

DEATH OF CRATER LAKE PIONEER

In his last monthly report Superintendent Thomson of Crater Lake Park recorded the death of Wm. F. Arant of Klamath Falls, the first superintendent of Crater Lake. Mr. Arant was in charge of the park for eleven years.

DISASTROUS STUDIO FIRE IN YOSEMITE

Early in November the auditorium, workrooms, and stockrooms of A. C. Pillsbury, professional photographer of the Yosemite, were destroyed by fire. The cause of the fire is unknown. The night before the fire moving pictures were shown in the auditorium, and the oil heater for furnishing hot air for warming the theater was in operation for awhile. This was turned off before the performance was finished, and the fire evidently did not start in that end of the room. When discovered at five o'clock the following morning the fire was almost entirely within the walls and roof of the building, and was burning most fiercely in the east section, which contained the workrooms and photograph stock. The loss is estimated at \$35,000. The fire was an especially serious blow to Mr. Pillsbury as the building had been erected only two or three years before in the new Yosemite Village.

Fortunately for the rest of the Village there was practically no wind, the flames going straight into the air. Nevertheless cinders fell on all the nearby buildings, including the Administration Building and the Museum, on the roofs of which men were stationed with fire extinguishers.

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ASSISTANT DIRECTOR ALBRIGHT (FIELD) AT YOSEMITE FOR WINTER

Assistant Director Albright (Field), under instructions from the Director, is making his headquarters in Yosemite National Park this winter. While there he will make a study of some of the park's most pressing problems, particularly the care of the increased number of visitors to the reservation both summer and winter. Superintendent Lewis is spending the winter at Parkersburg, West Virginia, recuperating from his recent illness.

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ARCHEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

Several interesting archeological finds have been reported recently. Especially interesting is Superintendent Nusbaum's report of the casual way in which he goes out and digs up a skeleton or two while waiting for dinner to be served. To use his own words:

"On Thanksgiving day Mrs. Nusbaum and myself were hosts to all the park personnel who remained during the day, at a dinner in the open. After the pit was dug and a heavy bed of cedar coals made, Mr. Devlin, Chief Ranger Finnan, Deric, his tutor, and a little Indian boy accompanied me to a mound just below and just found by Deric. In two hours we had secured a perfect pitcher, a large bowl in three pieces, and an excellent burial of an extremely old man with just one snag of a tooth in the lower jaw. The cavities in the upper and lower jaw bone had completely filled in. The excavation was accomplished while the women folks assisted Mrs. Nusbaum in preparing three turkeys for the feed, which was a most excellent one. Further work will be accomplished at this small burial mound as it promises an early type of pottery of which we have all too few pieces in the museum at present."

Custodian Buehler also found a prehistoric Indian in his reservation, his find being a mummy with plenty of teeth. Mr. Buehler states that the aborigine was evidently a prominent member of his tribe, judging from the carefully prepared grave, which was lined with sandstone slabs and was in a good state of preservation when found. The skeleton had charcoal under and over it, even in its ribs and eyesockets. Its skull was in good shape, and the teeth in especially fine condition. Other articles of archeological interest brought to light in uncovering the skeleton were two whole bowls, a stone hammer, two grinding bowls, and some grinding stones. All of these objects were placed in the museum at the Petrified Forest.

GETTING THE MOST OUT OF GASOLINE

Assistant Director Cammerer thinks the following excerpt from one of Superintendent Pinkley's report of sufficient interest to be quoted in full:

"I just returned last night from a trip through my district covering 2,055 miles in our Government-owned Ford car, in which I burned 86.5 gallons of gasoline, averaging 23.7 miles to the gallon. Let some of the other superintendents hang that record up in front of their big sixes as a mark to shoot at. The car has now covered a total of 77,595 miles and is still going strong."

PETRIFIED WOOD RETURNED TO MONUMENT FIVE YEARS AFTER BEING CARRIED OFF

Custodian Buehler reports that a visitor to the Petrified Forest National Monument during the summer, learning that the taking of specimens of petrified wood from the monument was prohibited, stated that during a visit five years before he had taken some pieces home with him. He asked for Mr. Buehler's card, and shortly afterwards 15 pounds of the wood was returned to the monument by him.

YOSEMITE'S FREAK DEER OBJECT OF SCIENTIFIC INTEREST

Last year Yosemite had among its deer one that had sprouted a rhinoceros-like horn one-third of the way between the tip of its nose and antlers. The rhino-deer was watched with interest, to see if he would shed this extra horn with his antlers. When he did shed all his horns, interest settled in whether or not he would still have this horn when his antlers came back. When the next season came a velvety knob appeared in the place of the supernumerary horn, and this later developed into a two-pointed horn. Counting all three horns, this year the rhino-deer had sixteen points or tines. Except for his spiked snout and twisted irregularly-branched antlers, this animal is a well-developed specimen of the mule deer of the region.

THIRD "NATION'S CHRISTMAS TREE" CELEBRATION

The General Grant Tree, dedicated as the "Nation's Christmas Tree," was the central feature of the Christmas celebration in General Grant Park, which was attended by over a thousand people. This was the third annual celebration at the old tree, and it is planned to make it an annual event.

SHORT FORM CONTRACT SIMPLIFIES WORK IN THE FIELD

The detail of contracting for supplies and materials at the various national parks and national monuments has been greatly simplified and the contracting officers of the Service in the field relieved of much of the paper work which has heretofore been necessary in making purchases, by the decision of the Comptroller General of August 25, 1927 (Decision A-13881), in which he held that the Standard Government Short Form Contract, Standard Form No. 33, may be accepted when executed as indicated thereon as in compliance with section 3744, Revised Statutes. This is the form approved by the President on July 29, 1927, and promulgated in Bureau of the Budget Circular No. 207.

This short form contract, which virtually amounts to no more than proposal and acceptance form formerly in use, may now be used to effect all purchases not exceeding in amount \$1,000. The signature of the Government contracting officer to this form completes the formality of reducing the agreement to writing as required by section 3744, and copies may then be distributed.

Field officers should not overlook, however, the requirement of affixing an oath of disinterestedness to the copy of this informal contract for filing in the Returns Office which should also be accompanied by the original of all rejected bids received and all papers comprising this copy bound together with blue ribbon and seal.

FORM OF ALLOTMENTS CHANGED

The installation in most of the parks of the Uniform Accounting System and the new Cost System has made it necessary to change the form in which allotments are made. There will now be two forms, one for Allotment Advices and one for Advice of Change in Outline of Work. The Allotment Advice will allot funds to the park or cancel funds that have previously been allotted. The Allotment Advice will be issued in one amount without reference to cost projects and will only be issued when the total amount allotted to the park is affected.

When the original Outline of Work is approved it will be attached to the Allotment Advice. Changes in the Outline of Work will be made on the Advice of Change in Outline of Work form, and when such change affects the total amount allotted to the park, an Allotment Advice will also be issued.

Allotment Advices will be entered in the allotment and control accounts while the Advice of Change in Outline of Work will only change the cost limitations which are taken up on the cost report.

PERSONNEL NOTES

The Director's October trip was the most important of the four field trips he made during the year. At that time he met Representative Cramton, Chairman of the subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee handling Interior Department appropriations, and went with him into the Yosemite, going over some of the most pressing needs of the park resulting from the exceedingly heavy 1927 tourist travel. On October 10 the Director and Mr. Cramton had a conference at the Grand Canyon, going over the problem of the approach road with Senator Hayden and the local people and securing local cooperation. Later the Director crossed the Canyon and inspected the work of the Union Pacific at the North Rim, which was going along at such an excellent rate as to insure the availability of the new accommodations by June 1. After leaving the Canyon he went up to the Yellowstone to inspect new improvements by the hotel and lodge companies.

Director Mather particularly regretted his inability to visit Mesa Verde, Mount Rainier, Glacier, and Rocky Mountain Parks during the summer, but he felt that in the limited time he had in the field he must cover those parks where extensive improvements were being made by the operators.

The absence of the signature of Assistant Director Cammerer to official mail during the months of September, October, and November was due to special assignments by the Secretary which carried him into the Lafayette National Park and to the proposed Shenandoah National Park in the State of Virginia. Congress early in 1926 passed a law authorizing the establishment of two new eastern national parks, namely the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in the States of North Carolina and Tennessee and the proposed Shenandoah National Park in the State of Virginia. About the same time another act was passed authorizing the establishment of a Mammoth Cave National Park. Both these acts were tied up with conditions precedent before the parks could be considered established. In the case of the Great Smoky Mountains Park a maximum area of 704,000 acres was described within which a final park of 427,000 acres minimum was to be created, and in the case of the Shenandoah a gross area of 521,000 acres was outlined within which a park of 385,000 acres minimum was to be found. Assistant Director Cammerer laid out the boundaries of the Great Smoky area in May and June, and in October and November he laid out the boundaries for the Shenandoah, finding, however, in the latter case that the law would have to be amended to reduce the minimum park acreage from 385,000 to 327,000 acres. No inspection of the proposed Mammoth Cave area has been made. All these areas have to be turned over to the United States without expense, and in fee simple. Some \$5,000,000 has been subscribed toward the \$10,000,000 necessary to acquire the Great Smokies Park by the residents and organizations and legislatures of the States of North Carolina and

Tennessee, and the larger portion of the remainder appears in sight. Toward the \$5,000,000 necessary for the Shenandoah Park citizens and organizations within the State of Virginia have subscribed over a million and the Governor has submitted to the Legislature an item of \$1,000,000 additional for this purpose, leaving the rest to be subscribed by friends of the movement and of the State.

Director Mather now has another assistant, made necessary by the growing responsibilities and duties falling on the Washington Office officials. George A. Moskey, legal officer of the Service, has been appointed to this position with the title of Assistant to the Director, Mr. Demaray being the Senior Assistant to the Director.

Daniel R. Hull, Landscape Engineer of the Service, resigned to devote his time to private work. His assistant, Thos. C. Vint, was appointed Landscape Engineer to fill the vacancy thus created.

Mr. Vint came through the Washington office in September, on his way to Lafayette National Park, which he visited with Mr. Cammerer.

Superintendent Lewis of the Yosemite was recently recalled from his leave, which he is spending in Parkersburg, West Virginia, and spent several weeks in Washington on Yosemite business. The personnel here is always glad when something happens to bring Mr. Lewis to the office. It is probable that he will be occupied with other important work for several months more.

Frank A. Kittredge, formerly with the Bureau of Public Roads, has been appointed Chief Engineer of the National Park Service, with offices in San Francisco.

Park Naturalist Schmoee of Mount Rainier National Park has resigned to devote his time to lecturing this winter. Incidentally this is good publicity for Mount Rainier. Engineer Sager of the Landscape Division also resigned, to enable him to attend Harvard this winter and work for another degree. Mr. Sager visited the Washington office on his way to Harvard. Philip Martindale, Ranger of the Yellowstone, also resigned to go on a lecturing tour, and visited Washington not long ago. It is hoped that all of these men will come back to the Service with the opening of the general park season.

Other resignations were those of Custodian Gormley of the Colorado National Monument and Paul Fassel, Assistant Custodian of the Aztec Ruin National Monument.

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Among the operators to drop in at the office recently were Mrs. David A. Curry of the Yosemite, Howard H. Hays of Sequoia and Glacier, and George Whittaker of the Yellowstone. Randall Jones of the Union Pacific, lecturer on the Zion country, and Fred Payne Clatworthy, photographer and lecturer on Rocky Mountain Park, were also in Washington.