

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

Washington

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 -----GRAND CANYON TRAGEDY

Officers and employees of the National Park Service were greatly shocked last month to hear of the tragic ending to an exploratory trip into the Grand Canyon in which Park Naturalist Glen E. Sturdevant and Ranger Fred Johnson lost their lives. Superintendent Tillotson has told the story so sympathetically in the last issue of Grand Canyon Nature Notes that we are quoting him here, for the benefit of those employees in other parks who have not had an opportunity to read it.

"This irretrievable loss occurred on the morning of February 20 when, in company with Chief Ranger James P. Brooks, Sturdevant and Johnson were returning from a ten-day trip in the Canyon, the object of which was the collection of specimens of scientific interest, securing data on Canyon flora and fauna, search for prehistoric ruins and other objects of archeological interest, as well as a general exploration of some of the unknown regions of the Canyon.

"While breaking camp that morning the boys had been congratulating themselves on the fact that, although they had been in some rather dangerous places, the trip had been completed without the slightest accident and they now had only to go on out, the expectation being that they would reach home that afternoon. In crossing the Colorado River, however, their boat was caught in an eddy and Johnson was thrown into the water. Brooks immediately jumped overboard to his rescue, but failed to reach him and was himself swept downstream into the rapids. In the meantime the boat containing Sturdevant was also caught in the rapids and Brooks in the water, most of the time being drawn below the surface by the undercurrent, saw no more of him. How Brooks ever escaped he does not know, but he finally found himself cast ashore more dead than alive. When he regained consciousness he still had to wait for some time before gaining sufficient strength to drag himself from the water and was completely numb from the effects of the icy cold stream. He spent two hours in a vain endeavor to find some trace of his comrades, then climbed to the Tonto Plateau on the north side of the river, made his way to the Kaibab Suspension Bridge, and hiked up the trail to headquarters.

"Immediately upon receipt of Brooks' report one searching party was sent down that night, two other parties (Brooks being a member of one) left the next morning at five o'clock, and still a fourth party was on the river by 3.30 Thursday afternoon. A boat at Hermit Creek was manned Thursday night and started upstream at daybreak Friday morning. The boat crew consisted of four men who found the body

of Glen Sturdevant Friday afternoon at a point about two miles below Horn Creek rapids, in which the accident occurred. The search for Johnson's body was unavailing and was finally abandoned except that a watch is being maintained further downstream.

"A double military funeral was held under the auspices of John Ivens Post No. 42, The American Legion, at the community building, Grand Canyon, Tuesday afternoon, February 26, the tenth anniversary of the creation of Grand Canyon National Park. To celebrate this event a big birthday dinner and dance had previously been planned for this day. February 26 was therefore a day of sorrow and mourning rather than one of feasting and celebrating as had been planned.

"Glen was laid to rest in the village cemetery alongside the Grand Canyon he loved so well and for the cause of which he gave his life. Fred still sleeps in the Canyon itself, and a more fitting grave no National Park officer could have. After the military detail had fired its volleys over Glen's grave and after the bugle had blown "Taps," then the military escort proceeded with the family and many friends to Powell Memorial Point, where another round of rifle shots was fired over the Grand Canyon, Fred's grave, and where again the notes of "Taps" echoed and reechoed from the Canyon walls.

"Just as truly as if they had fallen on the field of battle, these two brave men laid down their lives in the service of their country. Their lives, their work, and their death will always be an encouragement and an inspiration to those of us who are left to carry on. May we not fail them."

SALUTING THE FLAG

Requests sometimes come from the field for information relative to the use of the flag and the proper manner in which the salute to the flag should be given. No instructions have heretofore been issued by the Service on this subject other than those contained in the circular issued by the Adjutant General's Office and the Flag Code adopted by the National Flag Conference in 1923. The following, however, will serve as a guide until a definite set of rules and regulations on the subject is issued:

Inasmuch as the National Park Service is not a military organization, and it is the desire of the Service to eliminate the military aspect from its contact with the public whenever possible, Service employees should observe the usual civilian customs in saluting the flag when passing in a parade or on public occasions, as well as in raising or lowering it.

The hat should be removed when raising or lowering the flag in civilian dress, and as the Park Service uniform is nonmilitary, the same rule should apply. No hand salute is given, as the removal of the hat is sufficient indication of respect.

During rainy or stormy weather it is not imperative that the flag be displayed when to do so would subject it to unnecessary damage by the elements. However, should a superintendent desire to make use of a storm flag, such flag should not be lowered until sunset.

If further information is desired the Washington office will be glad to obtain War Department and American Legion circulars containing full data on the subject.

TEMPORARY RETURN OF LAKE OF FIRE TO KILAUEA

As reported in the Associated Press dispatches, Hawaii Park's Lake of Lava returned for a short time last month to the pit known as Halemaumau, "The House of Everlasting Fire," in Kilauea Volcano. According to Superintendent Allen the flow started at one o'clock on the morning of February 20, the fiery lava commencing quietly to come up from the bottom of the fire pit without any accompanying violent phenomena such as earthquakes or explosions. Fountains played as high into the air as 250 feet. For 36 hours the flow continued, then quietly ceased. For a week afterwards the molten mass could still be seen at night gleaming through cracks in its cooled top crust like a huge illumined map.

At the end of the flow, Halemaumau had a new floor and the bottom was 70 feet nearer the rim.

CHARTS ANNOUNCE EXACT TIME OF BOTH SUNRISE AND SUNSET AT THE GRAND CANYON FOR EVERY DAY IN THE YEAR

Since many visitors to the Grand Canyon National Park desire to view the stupendous gorge at sunrise and sunset, when the color effects are most striking, Superintendent Tillotson has prepared charts which give the exact time of sunrise and sunset for each day in the year, based on data given in the American Ephemeris and Nautical Almanac. Copies of the charts are posted at park headquarters and in the hotel and camp on the South Rim.

The time given does not take into consideration the configuration of the terrain. In other words, the time given is as if the point on the horizon behind which the sun sets or rises were exactly level with the point on which the observer would stand. For that reason there may be a slight difference of the sun behind higher ground to the west, but this difference is so slight as to make no material error for practical purposes. The charts also include data as to the phases of the moon for each month.

It is believed that similar charts might prove useful in some of the other parks where the sunrise and sunset effects are especially spectacular.

TETON REGION NOW TWENTY-FIRST NATIONAL PARK

Another new park was added to the system on February 26 when President Coolidge signed the act to establish the Grand Teton National Park in the State of Wyoming. This ends a thirty-one-year struggle to give the magnificent Teton Mountains their rightful place among the outstanding scenic features of the United States. The area of the Teton Park is about 150 square miles. On the west it borders the Jackson Hole country, which in the early days was a hiding place for cattle thieves and other criminals. Many picturesque characters of pioneer days still live in the region, although the people now there are law-abiding farmers and stock growers.

It is interesting to note that February 26 is prominent in national park annals as the date on which four national park acts received approval--the Grand Teton in 1929, the Grand Canyon, and Lafayette (now Acadia) in 1919, and the Mount McKinley in 1917.

YELLOWSTONE AND ACADIA PARKS ENLARGED

Yellowstone National Park was enlarged by congressional action to 3,426 square miles. The 78 square miles added is on its north and east boundaries, taking in the headwaters of the Lamar River. No roads, hotels, or camps will be constructed in this new section of the park. It is interesting to note that the Yellowstone boundary revision bill was signed on March 1, 1929, just 57 years after the signing of the original act creating the park. No boundary change has been made in the meantime.

Congress also authorized the President of the United States to appoint a commission to study further adjustments in the boundaries of Yellowstone Park, with special reference to the Bechler River Basin.

The area of the Acadia Park was increased to 15 square miles through the acceptance by the Secretary of the Interior of a deed to 3 square miles of interesting scenic country.

EXCLUSIVE JURISDICTION OVER ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK CEDED BY
STATE AND ACCEPTED BY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The long controversy between the State and Federal Governments as to jurisdiction over Rocky Mountain National Park, especially its roads, was ended with the cession by the State of Colorado of exclusive jurisdiction to the United States, and the acceptance of such jurisdiction by act of Congress.

STUDY OF PROPOSED TROPIC EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
AUTHORIZED BY CONGRESS

Congressional authority was granted the Secretary of the Interior to investigate and report to Congress on the advisability and practicability of establishing a national park in the State of Florida, to be known as the Tropic Everglades National Park. The area under consideration will be inspected by Government park experts next fall, to determine whether or not it is of national park caliber.

OUACHITA BILL GIVEN POCKET VETO

The bill to establish the Ouachita National Park in the State of Arkansas was passed by both Houses of Congress. President Coolidge did not sign it, and that bill at least is now dead, although like the Phoenix, it may rise again. This is the area that was investigated by Associate Director Cammerer, Superintendent Roger Toll, and Col. W. B. Greeley, formerly Chief of the Forest Service. All of them reported that the area in no way measured up to national park standards. Should it become a national park, there is no doubt but that eventually every State in the Union would endeavor to have similar areas made into national parks, and the system would suffer immeasurably.

PARK BOOKLETS ON SANTA FE CRACK TRAINS

In the previous issue of the Bulletin reference was made to Superintendent Tillotson's suggestion to Santa Fe Railway officials that Grand Canyon information circulars be kept available upon trains of that line. To this suggestion Passenger Traffic Manager Black replied in part as follows:

"I note that with the cooperation of Mr. Patrosso arrangements are being made to place copies of your Circular of General Information about Grand Canyon National Park at hotel desks, to be given out on request of guests. We shall be glad to supplement this publicity by placing bound copies of said booklet in observation cars of our principal California trains, viz: the two California Limiteds and the Chief; the understanding being that you will supply copies gratis, including replacements as needed, the Santa Fe Railway to furnish the leather binders, placing on the inside of same a notice that extra copies can be obtained on application, etc."

NEW POST OFFICE ADDRESS FOR HAWAII PARK

Superintendent Allen's post-office address is now Hawaii National Park, Hawaii, instead of Volcano House, Hawaii. The hotel is still called Volcano House.

E. C. SOLINSKY APPOINTED SUPERINTENDENT AT CRATER LAKE

Park Service employees were delighted to hear of the appointment of E. C. Solinsky as superintendent of Crater Lake National Park. Previous to his appointment Mr. Solinsky served in the Yosemite where he was first appointed in 1915. During his service in the California park he had direct supervision of all timber operations and served as the representative of the Government's interests on the Hetch Hetchy water and power project. His work involved the cruising of timber for land and timber exchange purposes, the working out of details of such exchanges, supervision of the cutting of park timber for construction and all other purposes, and the investigation of all park problems involving the development of privately owned lands, grazing problems, etc. In 1926, as assistant to the superintendent, Mr. Solinsky's duties were expanded to include supervision of all matters pertaining to the protection and control of the forests of the park. At the time of his transfer he was in general charge of all activities pertaining to maintenance and development of roads, trails, and other park facilities.

CHIEF RANGER SAM WOODRING APPOINTED SUPERINTENDENT OF
NEW GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK

Sam Woodring, for a number of years the popular chief ranger of Yellowstone National Park, has just been appointed superintendent of the newly created Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming. Mr. Woodring's training in the Yellowstone, including his knowledge of executive work and his experience in wild-animal conservation, fits him admirably for his new position. He will probably enter on his new duties under this appointment about the middle of May.

IMPROVED MOTOR TRANSPORTATION SERVICE TO CRATER LAKE
NATIONAL PARK FOR 1929

Improved motor transportation service to Crater Lake National Park from nearby railroad terminals will be available when the park opens to the public on July 1. Three gateways--Medford, Klamath Falls, and Chiloquin--may be used this year. In the past service was available from only the latter two points.

The round-trip fare will be reduced from \$17.50 to \$12, and in addition visitors to the park will have the option of entering by any one of the three gateways and leaving by the same or either of the other two. This is similar to the service that has been in force in Yellowstone Park for years.

AIRPLANE CONFERENCE HELD FEBRUARY 20

The conference to discuss the possibility of admitting airplanes to the national parks was held on February 20, as scheduled. It was attended by representatives of the various western railroads, park operators, representatives of the aviation interests, and others. Although the problem was discussed at

length, pro and con, no attempt was made to reach a decision. At the close of the meeting Secretary West appointed a committee to study the matter further. The committee as appointed consists of Representative Cramton, the Secretary of the Interior, and the Director of the National Park Service, with such additions as the committee itself may wish to make. The minutes of the meeting will soon be multigraphed and made available to those wishing them.

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TERRORS OF ACCOUNTING DISAPPEAR ON CLOSER ACQUAINTANCE

Pending the appointment of a permanent accounting clerk and special disbursing agent at Zion National Park, Superintendent Scoyen has been handling the park accounts. Accounting officers in the Washington office enjoyed the following paragraph from one of his recent letters:

"It has been rather an interesting experience to handle the park books. Taking into consideration the mistakes and errors which I have no doubt made, I think the system is exceedingly simple to understand, and hope to have it down pat by the end of the present month. Prior to taking up this job, I was completely dizzy regarding accounts. All I can remember was the fact that clerks and accountants would stand around in a wise way and talk about 'Unliquidated encumbrances, allotment ledgers, control accounts, etc.,' until I felt as I did when I was a school kid and one of the big boys sprung 'spontaneous combustion' on me for the first time. However, like all big words, I find these accounting terms have simple meanings. Before going into the details of the park system, I used to think that when a clerk told me he had to liquidate his encumbrances, that this was at least a week's job. It sounded like it! "

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DETAILED REPORT OF MR. VINT'S ACCIDENT

Knowing the keen interest all of Mr. Vint's friends (and that means the entire National Park Service) are taking in his accident and convalescence, we are quoting below a detailed account which Chief Engineer Kittredge furnished the Washington Office under date of March 15:

"I am sure that you and the Washington office would be interested in knowing some of the details surrounding Tom Vint's accident.

"Mr. Boles wired you the day following the accident so I realized you were acquainted with the fact and his condition. I left Mr. Vint at the Government Golden State Hospital in Los Angeles Saturday night. He was feeling very comfortable but unable to have the cast placed on his leg until swelling had receded, three or four days hence.

"In company with Superintendent Boles, Chief Ranger White and Engineer Dunn we had spent most of the day studying trail problems in the caves. Other matters such as lighting, sanitation, etc., had been considered. Late in the afternoon Mr. Boles took us to a new part of the cave which had only recently been discovered by Jim White. Trail construction has just been started and the

planning work is yet to be done. After traversing the length of the cavern we started to return when Tom slipped on a wet incline and fell. Most of the footing had been on rather firm ground without tendency to slip, and apparently he started to walk down this 3-foot incline without any expectancy of slipperiness. Although the fall was short and did not even constitute much more than an ordinary fall on a pavement, his foot caught against a stalagnite and the twist in conjunction with falling on his leg appears to have given just the right strain for the break. We all heard the bone snap but thought it was the breaking of a stalagnite under foot. He was, of course, in terrible pain, and due to the fact that the roof was so low, it was impossible for us to get around him and lift properly. Fortunately he succeeded in rolling himself over onto a level spot where a stiff puttee was placed around his leg for a temporary splint. The break was about half way between the ankle and knee of the left leg. A man was immediately dispatched to the lunch room, possibly 2 miles away, for a cot and assistance. During this wait, Tom got himself into a comfortable position and rested, although he was in no condition to enjoy the scenery. The roof which was only about 3 inches above his head was completely set with dazzling formations. A more spectacular place could hardly have been selected.

"In making our way into this new portion of the cave, Mr. Boles had constructed merely a way through, in most cases this constituted the breaking out of enough of stalactites and stalagnites so that we could squeeze past. There were also many places where the opening was barely wide enough to pass. We were, of course, under these conditions very much concerned as to just how we would get Tom out. No stretcher was available and the Gold Medal army cot is quite wide, nearly 30 inches, I believe. In one place we had come in through a sloping cleft in the rock which would under no conditions accommodate a cot. For over an hour we worked with sledge hammers breaking a new channel through stalagnites and stalactites. This entire channel was about 20 feet in length, 3 feet in width and not over 20 inches high at any point. You can imagine the difficulty we had in pushing and pulling Tom through this hole. In fact he was dragging against the top of the hole a considerable portion of the distance and if the middle legs of the cot had not broken and let his hips down we would have had still further difficulty in getting him through. One man pulled the cot and another pushed, there being no room for other assistance. To make matters worse, the lower half of this hole was through water about a foot deep.

"In many other places we had to break out the path a sufficient width to permit the cot to pass. In some crevices it was necessary for the men to lift the cot above their heads in order to get it up where the crevice was of sufficient width. Three short ladders, 10 to 15 feet in length had to be negotiated and you can imagine the difficulties encountered. Tom was roped to the cot to prevent his sliding off and of course he kept a good grip on the sides. There were several inclines, one of which we had climbed with the aid of a rope in coming in, and in going down this meant added difficulty in finding safe footing while at the same time carrying the cot. Fortunately a number of experienced cave men, who have been working several months for Mr. Boles, were available.

"The accident occurred at about 5 o'clock and it was about nine before we succeeded in getting him to the lunch room. It took two hours more, or after 11 o'clock at night before he was gotten to the surface. As you know, the trail from the surface to the lunch room has a great many switchbacks and it took considerable

maneuvering to get the cot around these switchbacks without its hitting rock on the upper side or pushing the carriers over on the lower side. The long stairways were negotiated fairly easy as the upper carriers held down while the lower men held the cot as high as they could reach. The latter part of the journey, from the lunch room to the surface was not very painful to Tom; in fact, the carrying did not cause movement of the broken parts and during the latter part of the journey there was something of an air of joviality by all concerned, including Tom. As he reclined upon his couch on his elbow he was told he resembled an ancient sovereign being borne on the shoulders of his stalwart subjects.

"Tom was taken to Carlsbad immediately, 30 miles distant, and his leg X-rayed - two o'clock in the morning. The doctor said that he could do nothing more until the next day and he was put to bed in the local hospital. He rested fairly comfortably and slept most of the remainder of the night. The next day the doctor put on a basket splint bandage rather loosely to permit swelling without pain.

"We started that afternoon by bus for El Paso, 198 miles distant. This trip was made with little pain.

"At El Paso the hotel bed was very soft and it was impossible for him to move around into a comfortable position. We tried the mattress on the floor, but this position proved almost as painful. Finally he sat on a chair for the remainder of the night, from midnight to 5.30 a.m., when we got up to take the 6.30 train to Los Angeles. Tom has shown a lot of nerve throughout the ordeal.

"We took a compartment and although the short distances he had to walk on crutches were difficult, still there was comparatively little pain in this travel. He also slept well on the train. We arrived in Los Angeles Saturday morning and an ambulance from the Government hospital was waiting. Mr. Burney had arranged all of the details of hospitalization and care from San Francisco. Two other X-rays were taken at the hospital and much pain was experienced on account of having to twist the leg to obtain the proper exposures. The doctor appears to be very capable and efficient. The hospital is fine and everybody, including the nurses, seem to be doing all they can to make life pleasant for all the patients. The general atmosphere of the hospital seems fine.

"While the doctor was rebandaging the leg we found that he and Colonel Thomson had been associates in the Philippines.

"The doctor advised that it would be impossible to put Tom's leg in a cast until the swelling had receded, three or four days hence, but that the deflection of the broken bone (about 15 degrees angle at the break) would all be taken care of at the time of putting on the cast.

"I was with Tom quite a part of the day Saturday and during the doctor's visits, and left him in the evening to return to San Francisco. The doctor advises that it will be three or four weeks before he can come to San Francisco and probably eight weeks before he can discard his crutches.

"Mr. Wosky and Mr. Davidson drove to Los Angeles last night to discuss with him many problems which are awaiting his final action. His work will be handled in this manner until he is able to return to San Francisco. Tom's mother and brother live in Los Angeles and he has many friends there."

REGARDING THE BULLETIN

After the issuance of the last Bulletin several letters came in from the field asking if it could be issued monthly, or even semimonthly.

There are just two causes for the delay that occurs in issuing the Bulletin. One is at times the lack of material. It is therefore requested that the various parks submit any data regarding their organizations which they think may be of interest to the other parks.

The other is lack of time and assistance in the editorial section where the Bulletin is prepared. It is hoped, however, that this condition will be remedied in the next couple of months with the securing of additional help.

Therefore, send in your stuff, or do something spectacular that will come to our attention! And we will endeavor to do our share in broadcasting it to the other parks.

Owing to the press of work just now, this notice will take the place of answers to the individual letters received on the subject.

PERSONNEL NOTES

Associate Director Cammerer has just returned from Chicago (March 26) where he spent the better part of a day with Mr. Mather, who in this fashion sends his greetings to the field.

Mr. Mather surprised Mr. Cammerer by walking into the room on the arm of his nurse. He is beginning to move his left hand and if this improvement keeps up his physicians expect he will be in fine shape before the summer is over. He plans to go to his summer home at Darien, Connecticut, as soon as the weather moderates -- possibly in several months -- and is talking about spending next winter in southern California.

One of the most remarkable things about Mr. Mather has been his wonderful spirit and buoyancy throughout his illness. It is no doubt due to these qualities that he has been able to show such excellent progress.

It would be impossible, were he a well man, to answer personally all the cheering messages that have come to him. He wants you all to know, however, that they have given him the greatest pleasure and comfort during his long illness.

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Since the preparation of the last Bulletin Assistant Superintendent Daum of the Yellowstone and Landscape Architect Vint have been in the Washington office. In fact Mr. Daum arrived before the Bulletin was issued, but after it had gone to the mimeographing division in the Secretary's Office.

It was on his way back to the Coast that Mr. Vint stopped by Carlsbad Cave and had the accident referred to elsewhere.

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It was with regret that the Service accepted the resignation of Assistant Chief Ranger Winess, who had been assigned to the North Rim of the Grand Canyon for several years. Previous to that he spent many years in the Yellowstone, following Army service in the Philippines. In closing his letter of resignation Mr. Winess said:

"I wish to state that I was never treated better by anyone than by my superiors, and I can see a great future for the Service. I have seen these national parks growing ever since 1908, when I first started to patrol them, and I always will remember these last twenty summers spent in the different parks with pleasure."

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The resignation of Mrs. Anna E. Greer as clerk in the Yellowstone was also regretfully accepted, effective January 31, 1929. Mrs. Greer spent several years in the Washington office previous to going to the park, as Anna E. Madsen.

Appointment has been issued to Johnwell Faris as custodian of the Tumacacori National Monument, effective April 1.

POETICAL PLEA FOR THE PRESERVATION OF YOSEMITE'S TREES

The following poem, written by Frances Ann Johnson of Littleton, New Hampshire, is indicative of the general interest that has been aroused over the threatened destruction of some of the Yosemite trees. It won first prize in the Poetry Contest for members of the National Life Conservation Society.

SAVE THE YOSEMITE

Save the Yosemite! Sovereign Yosemite!
Temple primeval, where gigantic trees
Stand in imperial, infinite majesty,
Bringing vain, trivial man to his knees.

Save the Yosemite! Troubled Yosemite!
Fearing the selfish dominion of man,
Pleading for patriarch - friends of eternity
Bartered for gold in a money-stained plan.

Save the Yosemite! Living Yosemite!
Deep-throated pipes of God's organ of prayer
Chant devout sanctus in shadow-veiled symphony---
Is their recessional echoing there?

Save the Yosemite! Lovely Yosemite!
Holy cathedral, Cyclopean, vast,
Valley of Titans, colossal their dignity,
Solemn, imposing, proud kings of the past!

Save the Yosemite! Fight for Yosemite!
It shall be done if the Nation decrees,
Veteran Monarchs, you've earned immortality,
Oh, we must save you, Yosemite trees!