

## SUPPLEMENT TO PARK SERVICE BULLETIN NO. 52.

DEATH OF W. B. LEWIS

With deepest sorrow we must here record the death of Assistant Director W. B. Lewis, who passed away suddenly but peacefully at his home in Chevy Chase, Maryland, at 7 o'clock, Tuesday evening, August 26th. To those closest to him among his official associates he had confided that he knew that, because of the nature of his illness, his span of life would inevitably be shortened, but that when the time came he hoped to pass out swiftly without having the dread of invalidism hang over his head for years. It is consoling to know that this boon was his, since, while he had been desperately ill in bed since May, he had been feeling much better for several days. While sitting in bed chatting with his wife, he quietly leaned back on his pillow and passed away.

Simple funeral services were held at his home at 2 o'clock Thursday afternoon, after which the body was cremated in accordance with his wishes.

The floral tributes were unusually beautiful, a large blanket of lilies and roses from his former Washington associates covering the casket, while great baskets of flowers from the Yosemite Park organization and the Yosemite Park and Curry Company with whom he worked for so many years, stood at each end. The rest of the room was literally filled with innumerable floral remembrances from those others to whom he had endeared himself as an official, as a friend, and as a man.

Coming so soon after the passing of our beloved former Director, "Dusty" Lewis's death has cast its gloom over the entire national park organization, where his friends numbered all with whom he came in contact. His great ability

as an executive, his kindness and thoughtfulness as a friend, and his outstanding qualities as a man, coupled with that cheerful disposition and smile that were individual to him, will forever keep his memory green.

Since it may contain information concerning his life and achievements not generally known to the field, the following notice of his death given to the press will be of general interest:

"W. B. Lewis, Assistant Director of the National Park Service, died at his residence, 22 Grafton Street, Chevy Chase, Maryland, Tuesday evening, August 26, after a prolonged illness.

"Mr. Lewis had been attached to the Washington Office of the National Park Service since July 1, 1928, and had direct charge of the Branch of Lands dealing with all land matters affecting the national parks and monuments, including the acquisition of private land holdings in these reservations. His work in connection with the big Yosemite timber deal, involving nearly three and a half million dollars, was invaluable, and was accomplished shortly before illness forced him to leave the office.

"His connection with national-park work dates back to March, 1916, when he became superintendent of Yosemite National Park. For eleven and a half years he served in that capacity, during the first four years acting as his own engineer and personally supervising all construction work in the park. Owing to ill health, brought on by his untiring devotion to his work, he found it necessary to take an extended leave of absence beginning in 1927.

"Before going to Yosemite Park, Mr. Lewis was connected with the topographic branch of the United States Geological Survey. In 1909, shortly after his appointment with that bureau, he went to Alaska as head topographer of the

first National Geographic Society Expedition studying glacier action in that area, and he also accompanied the Second Alaskan Geographic Expedition in 1910. In 1911, at the request of the Argentine Government, he went to South America to make exploratory surveys in Patagonia, primarily with a view to the development of underground water supplies along the zone of influence of the Patagonian Railroad, at that time under construction between the Atlantic Coast and the Andes. While with the Geological Survey, Mr. Lewis also spent some time in mapping in Wyoming, Oregon, and Washington.

"He was born in Marquette, Michigan, March 28, 1884, and graduated from the University of Michigan in 1907 as a civil engineer.

"In 1913 Mr. Lewis married Bernice Carle of Parkersburg, West Virginia, who returned to South America with him for the completion of the Patagonian work."