

No. 12 July 1920
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

WASHINGTON

BEGINNING OF NEW YEAR.

With July began the fiscal year of 1921, and with the new appropriations then available the beginning of operations theretofore planned. Unfortunately, these will not be conducted on the scale we had hoped might be possible because of the limited funds made available by Congress. However, the National Park Service is not the only organization to feel the pinch of a curtailed budget made necessary because of general economic conditions, as other branches of the Government have also encountered the same situation; our program for the year will necessarily be limited, for the most part, to purely maintenance work, and practically no new construction will be begun. One exception will be the installation of a sewage system in Yosemite Valley. This was one of the most imperative needs of the Service, becoming increasingly pressing each season as the numbers of visitors to this popular reservation increased. There the situation is probably unlike that encountered in any other park. Although Yosemite Park is of vast proportions, the bulk of its thousands of daily visitors make their headquarters and live in the Valley, a comparatively limited area, and as a result in the height of the season it is fairly well crowded. An adequate and sanitary sewage disposal system has long been a crying need.

LASSEN VOLCANIC PARK.

With an initial appropriation of \$2,500, we will now be able to take over the active administration of Lassen Volcanic National Park in California, for which, although established in August, 1916, no provision has heretofore been made. The Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture has up to this time aided this bureau in looking after the interests of the park, and this cooperation will be continued during the present year.

Director Mater recently took advantage of the opportunity while in the vicinity to look over the park and determine its immediate needs.

GOVERNMENT FREE BATHHOUSE

With the balance available during the present year of the appropriation previously made from the construction of the new Government Free Bathhouse and improvement of the Administration Building, on the Hot Springs Reservation, there is nothing to prevent the continuance of this important work, now progressing satisfactorily, despite great difficulties in obtaining materials. The bathhouse, when completed, will provide more adequate facilities in the way of medical service and baths than the antiquated structure now being utilized for the treatment of persons coming to Hot Springs who are financially unable to pay for these services.

ELIMINATING PRIVATE HOLDINGS.

In the Sundry Civil Act this year is a provision which reads as follows:

"Hereafter the Secretary of the Interior in his administration of the National Park Service is authorized, in his discretion, to accept patented lands, rights of way over patented lands or other lands, buildings, or other property within the various national parks and national monuments, and moneys which may be donated for the purposes of the national park and monument system."

This authorization is going to be of inestimable benefit to the national park system as it will enable the Service to avail itself of the generous donations of individuals and organizations interested in the betterment of the system. Already under this law it has been made possible to add 5 tracts of privately owned land within the park boundaries, to the Sequoia National Park. The acquisition of areas is a very important step forward in the administration of the park since they are strategically located and contain magnificent stands of sequoia trees, which, if cut, would have made scars that could never be eradicated. The donors of these lands are entitled to the commendation and thanks of the American people for their generous and patriotic gifts.

PARK APPROPRIATIONS

The table below will indicate the funds available for the present year as compared with those for 1920.

	<u>1920</u>	<u>1921</u>
National Park Service (Wash. office)	\$22,220	27,420
Crater Lake National Park	28,225	25,300
General Grant National Park	6,000	5,300
Glacier National Park	85,000	95,000
Grand Canyon National Park	40,000	60,000
Hawaii National Park	750	1,000
Lafayette National Park	10,000	20,000
Lassen Volcanic National Park		2,500
Mesa Verde National Park	11,000	14,000
Mount Rainier National Park	32,000	40,000
National Monuments	8,000	8,000
Platt National Park	6,000	9,000
Rocky Mountain National Park	10,000	40,000
Sequoia National Park	35,000	36,000
Wind Cave National Park	4,000	5,000
Yellowstone National Park	255,500	278,000
Yosemite National Park	200,000	300,000
Zion National Park	* -----	7,300
	<hr/> 753,695	<hr/> 973,820

* Established as a park subsequent to passage of 1920 sundry civil bill.

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE TRIP.

When Director Mather succeeded in inducing the Appropriations Committee of the House of Representatives to make a trip of inspection of some of the parks, he paved the way for a better understanding of our national playgrounds and their needs on the part of the men upon whom devolve the question of deciding what their annual appropriations shall be. The importance of the trip cannot be overemphasized. This is one of the most important committees in Congress, and as they pass on the estimates for almost the entire government service covering an untold number of activities, it is plain that it is humanly impossible for them to have intimate knowledge of all of them. To personally learn by actual contact what the parks are and what they stand for will undoubtedly aid the Committee greatly in giving more intelligent and sympathetic study to future park needs.

Shortly before the close of the last Congress, Chairman Good decided that it was in the interests of the Government for the Committee to obtain first-hand information on the larger national parks and reclamation projects, so a combination trip was planned. The party left Chicago on the evening of June 20th on a special Pullman compartment car for Denver, their first stop, from which point they visited Rocky Mountain National Park, and before returning to Chicago will have inspected a number of the reclamation projects and Yosemite, Sequoia, Crater Lake, Mount Rainier, Yellowstone, and Glacier National Parks. Assistant Director Cammerer accompanied the party to Rocky Mountain National Park, and from this point to Seattle Director Mather himself was with them practically all the time; he will relinquish his custody of the party to Superintendent Albright of Yellowstone Park while the Committee is visiting Yellowstone and to Acting Superintendent Goodwin when they visit Glacier.

That the Committee has been much impressed with what they have seen goes without saying, and that they have had numerous words of approval for the general policies governing the administration of the park system is particularly gratifying.

Following the visit of the Committee to Rocky Mountain Park, Mr. Good wrote Superintendent Way as follows:

"My dear Captain Way -

Just a word to let you know what the members of the Committee think of the efficient manner in which you handled our party in its inspection of the Rocky Mountain National Park. Certainly nothing was left undone. That kind of service will attract tourists, and will make the parks what they are destined to be, and on behalf of the Committee I thank you most sincerely for the kind and painstaking arrangements which were made for our comfort during our stay.

With kind personal regards, I beg to remain,

Very truly yours,

James W. Good,

Chairman.

JURISDICTION OF CALIFORNIA PARKS

On June 2d last President Wilson added his signature to a bill which accepts, on behalf of the United States, exclusive jurisdiction over the lands embraced by the Yosemite, Sequoia and General Grant National Parks. This is an important piece of legislation that will aid very materially in the better and more expeditious administration of these areas since it will place illegal offenses committed therein under the jurisdiction of the United States courts, as represented by two commissioners, one for Sequoia and General Grant Parks, and the other for Yosemite, who will reside in the parks, thus relieving the State courts.

UNITED STATES COMMISSIONERS.

Mr. Walter Fry, who has for many years been superintendent of Sequoia and General Grant National Parks, has been appointed by the Department of Justice as United States Commissioner for these two reservations. It is with many regrets that we see Mr. Fry relinquish the post of superintendent after his long and faithful service, to which he has so unselfishly devoted himself, but we are happy in the thought that he will retain the post of special disbursing officer for the park, in addition to his new position, and will thus be available for his advice and counsel.

In Yosemite Park Mr. C. A. Degnan will hold the post of commissioner. Mr. Degnan is of a family that has long resided in Yosemite Valley and vicinity, and his appointment has proved popular in that community.

NEW SUPERINTENDENT.

To fill the vacancy left by Mr. Fry, Secretary Payne has commissioned Lt. Col. John R. White, as temporary superintendent of Sequoia and General Grant National Parks. Colonel White is not entirely unknown in the National Park Service as he assisted Superintendent Peters at Grand Canyon for some months recently. Previous to this he saw service in the world war, entering as private and within a comparatively short time rising to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Colonel White in the past also performed notable service in the Philippines, both in the constabulary where he distinguished himself, and as superintendent of the Iwahig penal colony, in which latter position, due to his exceptional personal qualities and unwavering devotion to duty, he was credited by the then Secretary of Public Instruction of the Philippines of having turned a disease-laden swamp into a healthful and beautiful reservation, a body of unreformed criminals into a corps of self-respecting laborers, and what might have been an expensive prison station into a economical and largely self-supporting penal colony.

Greetings to Colonel White, and may every success attend him in his new work. It is a pleasure to have him associated with us.

AUTO TRAVEL TO PARKS

It is indeed interesting to see the steadily increasing number of persons touring the parks in their own automobiles. The figures show that each year the percentage of them as compared with the total travel is growing larger. In many of the parks now the motorist represents the bulk of the travel, and this should become even more marked as road conditions in the west improve. It is a significant to note too that not all of this travel is local, but considerable of it is distributed over the various states, many distant ones being represented, and even foreign countries in a few instances.

I trust that our railroad friends will not become alarmed at this statement as there is still lots of business for them, and the opportunity open to make more. Not every tourist takes kindly to the idea of going long distances in his automobile, and there will always remain a large number who will be satisfied to depend on the railroads for their transportation.

HIGHWAY PATHFINDING TRIP.

Reports have reached us that Mr. A. L. Westgard, of the American Automobile Association, who left Washington some time ago in his automobile for a pathfinding trip for the National Park-to-Park Highway, is making satisfactory progress. He will visit practically all of the parks and map out the most feasible and direct route connecting them, and is expected to return to Denver by August 25th, which marks the date when the officers of the National Park-to-Park Highway Association and many others interested in the plan leave for a publicity trip over the same route.

SWATTING THE MOSQUITO.

For a number of years past the pestiferous mosquito has been the bane of existence of the visitor to Yosemite Valley, and he usually got in his best - or rather worst - work during the month of June when so many took advantage of this glorious season to spend their vacations in that popular resort. At times in the past this pest has proved such a nuisance as to drive many people from the Valley. Following an experience of this sort in the summer of 1918 Superintendent Lewis decided it was high time to remedy conditions if it was at all practicable, so through his and the Service's efforts a promise was secured from the Public Health Service to send several of their representatives in the Valley in the spring of last year to make a survey of the situation and recommend measures that would curb the activities of the insect. Following their visit they mapped out a plan to follow, which consisted largely of spraying the many standing pools of waters constituting the breeding places for the mosquito, at intervals with oil, a mixture of crude and kerosene oil being found by Superintendent Lewis to be the most satisfactory. This practice was adhered to last season, and continued during the present, with extremely gratifying results. In fact Mr. Lewis says that as a result of the work the mosquito has been practically eliminated from the Valley.

In this connection it may interest the reader to learn just how oil controls the insect. The writer had an opportunity several years ago to see a practical demonstration of this in motion pictures. The eggs of the mosquito are generally laid in stagnant water, or where there is no current, and from these hatch the larvae or wigglers as they are popularly called, which, although under water most of the time, must come to the surface to breathe. It is here the oil plays its part by forming a film over the water, thus preventing the wiggler from getting the air necessary for its existence. Fortunately, the life cycle of the mosquito is comparatively short, so by preventing the new generations from developing the old are soon eliminated.

BURIED TREASURE.

Now here is an opportunity to get rich that Custodian Pinkley of the Casa Grande National Monument offers to some superintendent or custodian of the National Park Service. One at a time, please don't rush! And the chance is available by merely supplying a shovel and a little (?) digging. Of course he does not guarantee that the fortunate applicant will discover gold, but then, what assurance does a gold digger have anyway? Incidentally, I want to add that one application for the job has already come to him from a point as far away as Florida, so it is important not to delay, especially since this gentleman alleges that he is possessed with a peculiar gift for finding buried treasure, which he has put to test on several occasions, invariably with success.

Report has it that somewhere about the Tumacacori National Monument of which Mr. Pinkley is also in charge, is buried a fortune said to consist of 2,955 burro loads of gold and silver, hidden by the padres of the mission, in the gateway of which were found plans and maps showing the location of the wealth.

Mr. Pinkley does not admit finding these clues, or even that 2,955 loads are buried about the mission, but does acknowledge that local legends credit the existence of buried riches in the vicinity on the public domain. In fact, he has even seen copies of alleged ancient manuscripts said to indicate the places where the treasures are located, but somehow they never seemed to work out just right. Right here Mr. Pinkley is himself suspected of having done a little digging on his own account.

However, here are the facts as they were given to us and for which all legal and moral responsibility is disclaimed.

CLIFF DWELLINGS IN ZION

It has been suspected for some time that homes of the ancient cliff-dwellers were to be found in Zion National Park, although this was never confirmed until just recently when Superintendent Ruesch discovered the remains of a number. He reports these as being absolutely ruined, but their presence leads to the hope that others in a better state of preservation may be located.

SERVICE CIRCULARS.

This opportunity is taken to invite special attention to the provisions of Service circulars A (reimbursement of travel expense), B (requisitions) and C (appointments and related matters), and to suggest that superintendents familiarize themselves with the helpful directions found in the circulars. A considerable number of instances have recently come to the Service's attention in which the circulars apparently have been overlooked in preparation of matters forwarded to the Service; and unnecessary delays and correspondence have resulted. These circulars contain most essential information, carefully condensed, and careful reference to them whenever related questions arise will save a large amount of correspondence and work both for the field and headquarters. That's what they are for - to save work and worry.

JUNE IN THE PARKS.

CRATER LAKE.

Road Conditions.

Superintendent Sparrow says that special effort was made to open the roads in the park this season and as a result, despite the very heavy fall of snow, it was possible to have them free for travel at an earlier date than ever before. The Fort Klamath and Medford roads were open to Anna Spring June 13th and 17th, respectively, and to Crater Lake Lodge June 26th. The Rim Road from west to east side and Kerr Notch was available for travel on June 28th. It is his expectation that all of the roads will be clear by July 20th.

Opening and repair of the roads was begun on June 3d, and at the end of the month 35 miles had been graded and repaired, as against a total of 57 in the park.

Travel

A total of 365 persons visited the park during June, which figure, compared with that representing June of last year, indicates a loss of 66.

GENERAL GRANT.

Weather Conditions.

Precipitation to the extent of .25 inches, in the form of rain, fell over the entire area of the park during the month. Otherwise the temperature was cool and pleasant and the atmosphere clear and invigorating, and all the snow had melted. In fact, the weather has been so delightful that Mr. Fry had not experienced any great difficulty in getting the necessary labor required for the park work, the men showing

a preference to laboring there at somewhat lower wages than paid in the Valley below, where the temperature is considerably higher.

Wild Animals, etc.

Deer, grouse and song birds are quite plentiful and frequently seen near headquarters, and fishing in Sequoia Lake has been quite satisfactory.

Travel.

Visitors to the number of 3,938 availed themselves of the park, of which 3,610 came in their own automobiles.

GRAND CANYON.

Weather.

Superintendent Peters has the following to say of Grand Canyon:

"The month of June was warm and dry with cool nights and brilliant days. During the month the total precipitation was .06 inches. Showers occurred on four days, and twenty-two days were clear. The lowest temperature was 38 degrees F., the highest 90 degrees F. The average minimum temperature was 46.20 degrees, and the average maximum was 81.53 degrees. Owing to the excellent condition of dirt roads in the park and to the small amount of clay binder introduced into the road bed this spring very few places became dusty, and it is expected that the July rains will effect this small inconvenience."

Travel.

"During the month a total of 9,979 persons visited the park, an increase of 3,903 or 64% over May, 5,028 over April, and 5,325 over March. Of the above 6,346 arrived by regular trains, 1,790 by special trains (being mostly Shriners en route to their convention at Portland), and 1,843 by automobile travel, an increase in automobile travel of 633 over May and 1,818 over March. This indicates the largest amount of travel in any one month since the Service has taken over the Park. This increase is due in my belief to the large amount of publicity derived from the dedication and in a lesser measure to stop-overs made by the Shriners and travelers to the Democratic Convention at San Francisco. It is expected that July travel figures will total over 10,000."

Concessioner Improvements.

The Fred Harvey Company, which has the hotel and transportation concessioners, is constructing a new garage in the park, and has completed it to the point where it can now accommodate visiting cars, although the rapidly increased travel has already cramped the available storage space.

To replace most of their horse-drawn vehicles the company has recently obtained delivery on 10 large White tourist cars. These are painted a dark battleship gray and bear on the sides the Hopi Sun symbol. In addition each car is named after some point of interest in the park.

Lost Visitors

On the night of June 23d it was reported that four persons were lost on the Grand View trail, and within a few minutes several of the park employees, including the superintendent, equipped themselves and set out in search for the missing visitors. Three of them were found without difficulty, but the fourth was not located until a point 4,000 feet below the rim was reached; when discovered he was completely exhausted owing to the intense heat and the fact that he had been 17 hours without water. These people, contrary to warnings, had descended into the Canyon without food or water.

HOT SPRINGS RESERVATION.

Weather.

Normal weather conditions prevailed in Hot Springs during June, the mean maximum temperature being 85.36, and the mean minimum 68.46. The thermometer registered 94 degrees as a maximum and 51 as a minimum.

Travel.

It is estimated that about 12,750 persons visited the city during the month, most of these coming over the railroads as the bad condition of the roads was not conducive to automobile travel.

New Regulation.

Considerable work was necessary in preparation of putting into effect the regulation included in the last sundry civil act providing for the collection of fees from registered physicians, bath attendants, masseurs and masseuses for the privilege of operating on the Reservation.

MESA VERDE.

Travel.

This park was visited by 256 tourists during the month, mostly local people, and Superintendent Rickner attributes this small number to the fact that train service was lacking, which had a discouraging effect on travel from distant points, and the bad condition of some of the roads outside of the park prevented a number from motoring in.

Two young ladies, however, not to be daunted by such trifles, walked to the park from Canyon City, a distance of 26 miles, in one day, and were not too tired to participate in the dancing held that evening at the camp.

MOUNT RAINIER

Winter Sports.

It is not all of our parks that can boast of affording the opportunity to indulge in winter sports in June, but Mount Rainier has this distinction. On June 27th the Northwest Ski Club held its annual tournament at Paradise Valley, in which 13 contestants participated. Unfortunately, the snow was somewhat soft for the best performances. The longest standing jump was 95 feet.

Ascent of Mountain.

The first ascent of Mt. Rainier this year was made on June 27th. It was the first successful ascent by the route chosen, which was tried by Lieutenant Kautz in 1857 when he made the first attempt to scale the mountain. The party, which consisted of three other men besides Superintendent Toll, an experienced mountaineer, started at Christine Falls, an elevation of 3,667 feet, and climbed the south side of the mountain by way of Van Trump Park and Kautz Glacier, reaching the summit, an altitude of 14,408 feet, in 20 hours. Here they remained over night, returning the next day.

High Peaks.

It may interest the reader to know that Mount Rainier ranks as the third highest peak in the United States, exclusive of Alaska. Elevations determined by the United States Geodetic Survey and recently adopted by the United States Geological Survey, give the premier honors to Mt. Whitney, in California, its topmost peak rearing 15,001 feet above sea level, Mt. Elbert in Colorado, with an altitude of 14,420 being placed second.

Travel.

A total of 2,063 persons visited the park during the month, of which 2,097 came in in private automobiles.

PLATT.

Although a park of limited area, Platt enjoys a popularity that places it in the front rank with some of the larger reservations for attendance. Superintendent Ferris says that the volume of travel is increasing each month now, and the tourist season appears to be earlier than last year. A count of visitors in June showed that 19,339 took advantage of the recreational opportunities and health-giving waters offered by the park.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN.

Weather.

Superintendent Way reports that in Rocky Mountain Park the weather has been generally fair and favorable on the eastern slope, with frequent light showers, and one heavy soaking rain, and the last snow fell on June 1st, but melted quickly. On the western slope the weather was ideal, with but little rain, the days warm and the nights chilly.

Fall River Road.

Two contractors have started operations on the Fall River Road under construction by the State of Colorado, and it is estimated that it will be completed by the middle of August.

Travel.

Reports from checkers show that 19,323 persons visited Rocky Mountain Park during the month, which is something over a 50% increase as compared with the same period last season.

SEQUOIA.

Camping Facilities

The Giant Forest in Sequoia Park has become so popular with the camper that it became necessary to clear 10 additional acres for this purpose, with the result that now about 3,000 people can be accommodated at one time on the 140 acres available.

Travel.

Although the gasoline shortage on the Pacific Coast has had the effect of curtailing travel, 3,965 persons registered at the several entrances, 3,333 making the trip in their own machines.

WIND CAVE.

Weather Conditions.

Superintendent Brazell advises that in his park the tourist season is quite late, due to unfavorable weather conditions. An unusual amount of rain fell during the month, with some hail, and in the early part a cyclone skirted the park, doing considerable damage to buildings and telephone lines, and completely demolishing the home and out buildings on an adjoining farm.

Travel.

A total of 782 visitors availed themselves of the opportunity to visit the cave, which was a slight increase over the preceding month.

Labor Conditions.

Mr. Brazell is fortunate in having an all-around ranger force that pitches in and tackles any sort of job about the park, so the question of labor is not as acute with him as it would be otherwise. His men are just as ready to perform manual labor on the roads as they are to patrol the park or guide visitors in the cave, and he has a word of praise for the spirit which they show.

Inspection of Park.

Assistant Director Cammerer visited the park on the 12th and 13th of the month, which was much appreciated by Mr. Brazell as it gave him an opportunity to personally discuss a number of administrative matters with a representative of the Washington Office.

YELLOWSTONE.

Weather.

In Yellowstone Park the continued low temperature during the month resulted in backward spring conditions, and added materially to the difficulty and expense of clearing the high passes on the park roads of snow before the opening of the tourist season, which began June 20th. Sylvan Pass on the eastern approach road from Cody presented the biggest problem

as the snow was 30 feet deep in some place, but with the combined efforts of the park employees and the assistance furnished by the people of Cody, this roadway was free on the 17th, three days in advance of the opening date. When the early visitors came in they found in many places high drifts of snow on either side of the roads, which furnished a novel background for many pictures and the opportunity to indulge in snowball battles, etc.

Travel.

It would seem that Superintendent Albright's prediction made sometime ago that 1920 would be the banner season for Yellowstone is in a fair way of being fulfilled as travel records for June show that 7,187 people visited the park as against 6,580 for the same period in 1919; and in contrast with most of the other parks, this increase was handled mainly by the railroads.

Improvements by Concessioners.

At Mammoth the Yellowstone Park Camps Company finished the construction of new tents and installed new sanitary features in connection with their camp. They have added this year a concrete plunge into which water from a hot spring will be piped. Work on the construction of a new camp at Lake Outlet was also resumed, as well as operations at Camp Roosevelt, a very popular location for the fisherman.

The hotel company has the Lake Hotel in operation this season and is adding some improvements to it and increased dining facilities at several of the other hotels.

Wild Animals.

In general the conditions for wild animals during June were excellent, and grass eating animals had no difficulty in finding an abundance of food everywhere.

Buffalo.

The tame herd of buffalo has been increased so far this season by the addition of 54 calves, and is otherwise doing well.

Superintendent Albright is also of the opinion that the wild herd is growing larger as some of the animals have left the old feeding grounds and have been seen in other sections of the park, indicating, so he feels, that this migration is due to the need for new pasture for the increased number of animals.

Fish Census.

In order to determine the number of fish removed from the lakes and streams of the park, the plan is being tried this season of securing from the visitors reports of their catches, which information will be used in connection with a recent census of the finny population and will make possible a more intelligent stocking of the waters and a continuance of the good sport which is now to be found there.

Encouraging the Motorist.

The installation of free public auto camps for the tourists traveling in their own cars with their own equipment have been completed at Old Faithful, Grand Canyon, and at Yellowstone Lake. Cold, pure spring water, piped from the hills to the camping ground; large wood piles, and

comfort stations have been placed for the convenience of the autoists at these resorts. Forty-six of these free automobile camps will be constructed in the early future.

Natural phenomena.

Government geologists in completing information for the tourist have recently discovered a decrease of 11 minutes in the intervals between the eruptions of Old Faithful geyser as compared with 1919. This famous geyser is now "playing" regularly every 60 minutes instead of 75 for last season. It was claimed by the officials that all other geysers of the park are decidedly more active than in any past season, probably due to the excessive snowfall of the past winter. The Geologists say that the geysers at the Upper and Lower Geyser Basins are playing at shorter intervals with more tremendous volume eruptions, than ever before in the history of the park. The Grand Geyser, noted for its smooth, powerful eruptions, and considered the only rival to Old Faithful, is playing at shorter intervals. It is said to be even more beautiful, through its volume and height, than Old Faithful. Registrations of its actions show its eruptions to last almost twenty minutes at a height of 200 feet.

YOSEMITE.

Elk in the Valley.

With the completion of a corral fence 4,500 feet in length and 8 feet in height, inclosing some 23 acres of pasture in the Valley, arrangements will be made to introduce in the park a species of elk indigenous to that part of California. The California Academy of Sciences has undertaken at its expense to secure 10 or 12 elk from the well-known Mill and Lux ranch in the State and place these in the Valley for propagation purposes and the edification of the visitors, and it is thought the experiment will prove an interesting one.

Travel.

Yosemite has proved so popular this year that throughout the month all available accommodations were being utilized. Reservations were limited in the outside offices of both of the concessioner companies and it was necessary to advise prospective visitors to bring their own camping equipment whenever possible to be assured of accommodations. A total of 16,022 people entered the park, as compared to 14,635 for June of last season, a very gratifying increase.

Nature Guide Service.

The nature guide service under the direction of Drs. H. C. Bryant and Loyal H. Miller has met with a success which was hardly anticipated, even considering the popularity of both of these gentlemen and their unusual qualifications for carrying on the work. They not only give lectures in the Valley at fixed intervals, but conduct field trips twice daily for five days, the morning hikes for adults and those in the afternoon devoted to children. In fact, their efforts have proved so popular that it has not been possible to accommodate all requests to accompany them on their various expeditions.

Superintendent Lewis says there is a real demand for the service, which is greatly appreciated by the tourist, and that in his opinion final results will show the desirability of continuing it another year, and probably on a larger scale.

LeConte Memorial Lectures.

He also reports a very keen interest in the second series of the LeConte Memorial Lectures, and states that on an average they were attended by about 200 people. These talks were given by Dr. Joseph Grinnell, Professor of Zoology at the University of California, and Dr. Clinton Hart Merriam, Research Associate, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.

Aeroplane Flights.

The Valley seems to have an especial appeal to the aviator as 8 landings were made there during June, although it would seem that some difficulties would be encountered in negotiating the comparatively narrow gorge. However, for the most part the many landings there have been very successful.