P A R K S E R V I C E N E W S

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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INVASION OF THE PARKS.

Considering the important position which the parks now occupy in our national life and that they are not only permanent assets of the present generation, but also heirlooms to be passed on inviolate to posterity, it seems almost inconceivable that it should be necessary for the friends of the national parks to wage a continuous defensive fight against selfish local interests, ever looking for an opportunity to capitalize their natural resources; but this is true nevertheless.

The most determined efforts are being made and will continue to be made by private irrigation and water power interests to invade the sanctity of matchless scenic exhibits. It is primarily toward the utilization of their wonderful lakes, rivers and spectacular waterfalls that their efforts are directed, and we are squarely face to face with the fact that the whole National Park System is facing a grave crisis, where a single false step would be irremediable. Fortunately most of the people appreciate the parks and reverence them as the handiwork of the Creator to be preserved unspoiled by the hand of man. These attempted invasions of the parks will not succeed, but it should be unnecessary to be continually on guard to frustrate such destructive attempts. It should be understood that for once and for all the national parks are to remain as undefiled examples of primitive America, and this seems a small thing to ask when consideration is taken of the fact that our entire park and monument system only covers an area equal to one-third of one percent of the area of the whole country.

In the present Secretary of the Interior, Hon. John Barton Payne, the parks have a staunch friend and protector, who has unconditionally opposed several attempts to exploit them for purposes inimical to their best interests. It is to be hoped that they will always have as sympathetic a guardian.

It is a decided misfortune that the Federal Water Power bill which passed last session of Congress should not have exempted the national parks and monuments from its general provisions, for this lends encouragement to those who are seeking an entry to the parks, but assurance is given that the act will be amended at the coming session.

CLIMATE IN PARKS.

When you stop to think about it the traveler has not only the choice of a wide variety of scenery to select from in the park system, but he can pretty nearly have just the temperature that he desires. In September, for instance, while Mr. Sparrow was wading through three or more feet of snow in Crater Lake Park, Mr. Pinkley was finding it quite difficult with the thermometer registering 105 degrees, to keep cool in the shade of the trees at Casa Grande,- or do they have trees in that section of Arizona? There are some full-sized cacti there anyway, and it is supposed one can find shade behind them.

HIGHWAY TOUR.

The Park to Park Highway caravan continued the tour which it began in August from Denver, heretofore reported in the News, and some idea of the future possibilities of this road can be had when it is said that up to the time when the party reached Grand Canyon it had been able to adhere to the schedule made at the commencement of the trip. The possibilities of such a highway are wonderful when assurance can be given that its entire 5,000 miles can be traveled without discomfort to the motorist. Taking in as it does most of the parks in one circle, it will afford the visitor a vacation never to be forgotten.

AIDING THE MOTION PICTURE GAME.

Each month sees an increasing use being made of the parks in connection with motion picture work. Not only are the natural features being more constantly "shot", but a number of producers have learned that the parks themselves afford the proper locale for many of their pictures.

One company of 40 people not including numerous cowboys and Indians, were specially accommodated in Glacier Park in September after the regular season had closed. They were engaged in filming scenes incident to Custer's campaigns against the Indians.

PARK CHANGES.

It is very gratifying to announce that Mr. D. L. Reaburn is once more a member of the National Park Service. His many friends will be delighted to learn of his return to national park work again. As superintendent of Mount Rainier park for a number of years he made a reputation for efficiency in park management, and also acquired a wide circle of friends. Mr. Reaburn has become superintendent of Grand Canyon Park, and Mr. Peters designated superintendent of Mount Rainier, succeeding Mr. Roger W. Toll, whose resignation is keenly regretted by all.

THE RANGER FORCE.

The Washington Office is very frequently complimented for the high standard of the ranger personnel, not in any one park, but in all of them. Without question it would be impossible to find a more loyal self-sacrificing, intelligent and efficient body of men as a whole. Unusual deeds among them are commonplace, and they accept these as a part of the day's work, attaching no importance to them. For instance here is an occurrence reported by Superintendent Goodwin as having taken place in Glacier.

In August one of the rangers while traveling from the east boundary of the park over Lee Ridge, discovered a small fire, and realizing that if left for

any length of time it would undoubtedly break out beyond control, and being a long distance from help, started in to control it himself. He found that the fire was almost more than he could handle, but kept doggedly at it, constantly fighting it, and kept this up, without food or rest, from the afternoon of one day to the afternoon of the second day, when the fire was finally extinguished. To make matters worse, his horse, to which he could give no attention during the time, strayed away and left him to walk a distance of seven miles to his station.

THE PARK OPERATORS.

The Sentinel Hotel in Yosemite remained closed during September undergoing repairs to put in shape for the winter season. The improvements consist mainly of electrical equipment for cooking and heating, and the addition of private baths.

Camp Curry closed on Oct. 1st., as did the Yosemite Lodge. The other lodges and Glacier Point Hotel, excepting the annex, discontinued operations earlier.

In Rainier the National Park Inn at Ashford closed September 15th but Paradise Inn will remain open until sometime in October. The improvements being added to the plant of the Rainier National Park Company progressed satisfactorily, and should make it possible to accommodate comfortably all who visit the park next summer. A hydroelectric plant is one of the new additions, and a club building, with a 300 seat auditorium, another of the innovations. Altogether the company expects to expend in the neighborhood of a quarter of a million dollars in connection with the increased facilities which it will provide.

Most of the public operators in Yellowstone Park were too budy up to the close of the season taking care of the wants of tourists to do much in the line of improvement work, and they all ceased operations promptly on September 20th. The hotel company continued work on the dormitory at the Canyon Hotel which it is building for its female help, and the transportation company began the important work of installing a steam heating plant in its garage building at Mammoth Hot Springs so that its motor equipment may be overhauled during the winter.

SEPTEMBER IN THE PARKS.

Casa Grande Ruin.

In September 587 persons visited the monument in 421 automobiles, which figures compare very favorably with those for the same month in 1919, 363 and 138, respectively; this in face too of the fact that the roads in that region were in poor condition due to the hot, dry weather.

Crater Lake.

One of the worst snow storms in the history of the park occurred on September 22d to 25th, when nearly three feet of snow fell at the Rim, effectually blocking all travel to the lake for over a week and closing the Rim Road for the winter.. On the 26th the sky was clear again and the lake perfectly placid reflecting the snow covered cliffs in a wonderful manner. Fine weather prevailed after the storm until the 30th, when another period of bad weather set in, making it difficult to hold enough employees to finish work under way and store equipment and supplies for the winter.

However, in spite of the unusually heavy snow storm the number of private automobiles visiting the park was 40% greater than for September of last year. The total travel amounted to 1,021 persons.

General Grant.

Pleasant weather prevailed here during September, with light frosts towards the latter part. With these favorable conditions for motoring 2,839 people came into the park, notwithstanding that the country roads leading thereto were in a rough condition.

Superintendent White advises that additional safeguards must be thrown around the General Grant and other trees next season as they are being injured by tourists walking over their roots and rubbing off their bark.

Glacier.

September was, for the section adjacent to Glacier, a very wet month, especially in the northern portion of the park and at the higher elevations. At Belton, the headquarters, there were ten days of almost continuous rain, with a total precipitation for the month of 3.73 inches.

The number of visitors up to the first of September had surpassed the total travel of any previous year, and, although travel dropped during the month as in practically all the other parks, the total count for the month was 2,800 a very respectable figure.

Superintendent Goodwin found labor extremely scarce and high, due principally to the demand outside the park in harvest and logging operations, and as a result his work was seriously curtailed.

He states that altogether the 1920 season, particularly from the standpoint of the public operators was a very successful one.

Grand Canyon.

September, while generally very pleasant, proved rather a rainy month for Grand Canyon with a total precipitation of 1.04 inches, falling six days. The highest temperature recorded was 84 degrees, and the lowest 27 degrees.

Travel fell off considerably from the previous month, only 6,391 persons stopping off to enjoy the pleasures afforded by the park.

Superintendent Peters experienced considerable difficulty during the month in obtaining labor and teams to aggressively prosecute the work on hand. He attributes this condition to the fall roundup and harvest periods, and says that it is to be expected at this time of the year. Even contractors in the vicinity paying fifty cents more per day than the park scale found it troublesome to secure sufficient help.

Together with regular maintenance work, 8,055 square yards of pavement were laid during the month, which completes 48.3% of the paving work, and 30 miles of trail on the north rim were cleared of brush and otherwise improved.

Hot Springs Reservation.

Dr. Parks states in his report for September that Hot Springs is becoming more popular each year and people from all corners of the globe visit there for the purpose of taking advantage of the hot waters. Many remarkable cures have been reported as resulting from the baths, and some of the stories seem almost inconceivable, but that the radio-active waters in connection with the treatment of certain diseases cannot be doubted by any reasonably inclined person with so much evidence in support of the fact.

When the Government Free Bath House is finally completed, and progress continues to be made on it, many unfortunates not able to pay their way will find in it a God-send and a means which will aid them in a return to health again.

Mesa Verde.

September in Mesa Verde has been an ideal month for travel, with no rains except a few local showers. The frosts, which usually come early in these altitudes, held off and the foliage changed gradually from the deep green of summer to the brilliant hues of autumn. Aktogether, the park has been a riot of gorgeous color, making a picture to be remembered by the fortunate visitor who selected this season in which to take his vacation.

Dr. J. Walter Fewkes completed his restoration work on certain ruins during the month, and was greatly pleased with the results. One of the principal accomplishments was the restoration of the New Fire Temple. This is a ruin that is quite distinctive and different from all others thus far uncovered. He was also successful in restoring an ancient tower and a painted kiva in Soda Canyon, and completed a new approach to the ruins in Fewkes Canyon. Considering the limited amount at his disposal he made a wonderful showing and has added much that will be of interest to the visitor.

Mount Rainier.

In Mount Rainier the month was marked by an unprecedented amount of rain, the total precipitation at Longmire Springs being 11.32, as compared with 4.50; the maximum for September in the previous seven-year period. Normal precipitation averages about 3.91 inches.

The wet weather was discouraging to many prospective vititors to the park, but in spite of this 8,573persons came in.

Superintendent Toll mentions the fact that a scenic finder has been installed at Alta Vista, a view point above Paradise Valley. The device is of bronze and is mounted on a masonry pedestal. Its purpose is to indicate to visitors the names and elevations of the various mountains and other prominent features that are visible from that point.

He also says that at park headquarters in Longmire Springs he installed a bulletin board which had been in preparation for 633 years. Some speed! This, however, was made from a section of Douglas fir five feet in diameter, which explains the slight delay.

The hunting season in the State of Washington opened October 1, and closed November 1. In previous years hunters have been given the usual permission to carry firearms through the park in order to reach hunting-grounds at various locations outside. Mr. Toll, though, has found out that this permission worked disadvantageously for two reasons. One is that the game killed at the edge of the park is, in reality, park game and he feels that no assistance should be given to hunters to reach these locations. The other reason is that if a man is given permission to carry a gun through the park, even though sealed, he will return with it unsealed, and a man found in the park with a gun can claim that he is passing through under this permit. Accordingly, instructions were issued to the rangers at the four entrances to the park that no permits would be granted to carry firearms through from September 20 until November 2. Therefore any person found in the park with a gun during this period would be clearly violating the hunting regulations.

Platt.

The rainfall for the month in Platt was 5.38 inches, which was more than double the precipitation for August, and the mean maximum temperature was 88.56 degrees, which was only one degree less than that of the preceding month.

Travel to the park, while showing a decline, evidencing the approach of the season's end, amounted to 14,873 persons, an increase of 3,455 over the same period last year.

With his report for September Superintendent Ferris inclosed several pictures showing the buffalo and elk which are kept in an inclosure in the park. These animals with a herd of deer, form an exhibit that is extremely interesting to the visitors.

Rocky Mountain.

There were two storm periods in Rocky Mountain Park during September, the first occurring from the 3d to the 9th, with heavy rains; the other from the 23d to the 26th, with snow flurries and cold winds. With the exception of these two periods, the weather was otherwise fair.

The roads on the Eastern Slope were generally in better condition than during the month of August, due to the drier weather. On the western slope, the road from Grand Lake to Pole Creek Ranger Station was in good condition, with the exception of three quarters of a mile of new construction, which had no surfacing, and on all of which the corduroy had settled unevenly. The North Fork road was in fair condition, with the exception of the long straight level stretch just north of Grand Lake, which was badly rutted.

While there was naturally a falling off in the number of people entering the park, checkers reported an increase of 38% over the corresponding month in 1919. There was an actual count of 14,505 visitors, not including persons missed at the entrances at which no checkers are stationed.

The new entrance gateway under construction on the Fall River road was practically completed by the end of the month, requiring only the placing of oakum in the cracks, which will be covered with cement on the outside, the installation of the doors and windows, and the finish of the interior floors and partitions, held up on account of the lack of material.

Sequoia.

September in this park was a pleasant sunny month, light rain falling only on the 15th and 22nd. Maximum and minimum temperatures were 82 and 32 degrees, respectively. Superintendent White thinks September is one of the most pleasant months in which to visit Sequoia, and it would be more largely taken advantage of if it were not for the opening of colleges and schools and the harvest season in the valley below. A total of 2,213 persons registered for the month.

Lieutenant John R. Morgan, Air Service, U. S. A., visited Hockett Meadow and Giant Forest as a guest of the park and found it extremely interesting to see the ground over which he had been flying all summer. He was quite willing to attempt a landing at Hockett Meadow, but was unable to secure the permission. Later he flew around Moro Rock to the delight of many spectators and on several occasions dropped mail and newspapers at Giant Forest, demonstrating the feasibility of a mail service that would surpass the present stage service by a day or so.

Wind Cave.

In Wind Cave favorably weather for travel prevailed throughout most of the month, extending the season later than heretofore. As little rain fell in the surrounding section of the country the roads leading to the park were in very good condition, as compared with the earlier part of the year. A goodly number of persons took advantage of the situation to visit the park during the month, the exact count being 1,056.

There is one feature of the travel to this park that is gratifying to Superintendent Brazell and that is there is a constant increase in the number of travellers who utilize the camping facilities offered in the park.

Yellowstone.

The monthly mean temperature in Yellowstone was 50.3 degrees which was 3.1 degrees colder than the normal for the month of September. The minimum temperature was 25 degrees on the 26th. Altogether, the month was quite unusual from the standpoint of weather. The heavy rains beginning on the 5th, which turned to snow in the higher levels, made rather unpleasant traveling for tourists up to the middle of the month, but from then to the 21st travel conditions improved.

During the storm which occurred September 22-25, 14 inches of snow fell at Lake, Thumb, and the eastern side of the park, stopping all motor traffic for several days. In Sylvan Pass it drifted to a depth of six feet for a distance of about 60 feet. Several cars bound for the park via the eastern entrance turned back, and either abandoned the trip entirely, or came around by the way of Gardiner. Traffic via this entrance was resumed on September 30th, when the drift in the pass was shoveled out by private motorists. Several cars and trucks in the park were delayed on account of the storm and were obliged to wait until the roads were cleared out. The snow was not deep enough to interrupt travel on the west side. Quite a number of motorists visited the

park after the 25th, but as the hotels and camps had closed they were forced to either use their own camping equipment or secure accommodations on the outside, making short trips into the park.

During the month 7,356 people entered the park, which compares quite favorably with 4,402 representing the attendance for September 1919.

Superintendent Albright has found that there is a considerable demand for the monthly bulletins on flowers, geology, animals, and birds which are prepared in the park and placed at all ranger stations, camps hotels, and other public places, and he feels that the printing of such a paper should be made a regular feature of the park work.

To guard against the reoccurrence of hemorraghic septicemia in the buffalo herd, which disease exacted a heavy toll several years ago, arrangements are being made to vaccinate the calves so that they may be immunized like the older animals.

The storms of September brought a few deer and antelope down from the higher altitudes and they were objects of much interest to the late visitors. The elk, however, had not begun to come down, finding considerable forage on their summer range.

The contiguous States of Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming, naturally sent more visitors than the others into the park during the season, but there was a gratifying increase in the number of tourists from a distance, and the figures show that each state in the Union was represented.

Yosemite.

As usual September provided excellent working conditions as far as weather was concerned. Cool and for the most part, fair, the weather was all that could be asked for or desired. Showers, generally accompanied by snow flurries, were frequent in the high country, but in no case of sufficient amount to affect road conditions. Nevertheless Superintendent Lewis says that the increasing extent of the snow flurries toward the end of the month was sufficient to frighten the motorist, with the result that as the month drew to a close travel to the park by auto had practically ceased. This too in the face of the fact that September is considered by the residents of the park to be the ideal time for a visit. Then the roads are at their best and the autumn coloring of the foliage has reached its greatest beauty.

The Superintendent finds the same fear of these early snows, which are invariably followed by delightful weather, is shown by workmen in the higher country, and as a consequence it is quite impossible to continue trail work after the 15th of September.

Labor conditions in the park have taken a turn for the better which is a most encouraging feature in connection with its administration. Not only have men come in seeking work, but those on the job have given more satisfactory service. Summing up the labor situation it pretty nearly resolves itself into the old question of supply and demand. As a prominent engineer remarked the other day, as long as there are three jobs for every two men you cannot expect the best possible results. We have no quarrel with labor, nor do we wish to appear unduly pessimistic, but indications point to the fact that the tendency

from now on will be to a reversion of the ratio referred to by our engineer friend.

Actual survey for the sanitary sewage system to be installed in the Valley was computed during the month, and the work of clearing and grading begun. It is the intention to contract for the laying of the pipe, installation of pumping machinery, septic tanks, toilet units, disposal works, etc., but all excavation and clearing will be performed by force account.

Rains during the latter part of the month of August, combined with more effective maintenance crews, kept the roads of the park in better shape than at any time during the season; in fact, in about as good shape as they have been. This was particularly true of the Wawona, Glacier Point, Mariposa Big Tree and the El Portal roads. All roads, with the exception of the Tioga Road, were either dragged or graded thoroughly, ditched and brought into a good state of repair. Towards the end of the month with the coming of the rain, crews were withdrawn from the Big Oak Flat road and the Glacier Point road and work concentrated on the Wawona and the Big Tree roads, where culverts are being placed for better drainage. On the Wawona road very extensive improvements were also made in the shape of additional parking space at Alder Creek checking station.

During September a total of 4,319 people entered the park, of which 3,103 came in 993 private automobiles. During the same period in 1919, 2,806 persons were counted at the various gateways. Of these, 2,081 were conveyed by private machines to the number of 630.

Mr. Lewis states that wild animals, as is usual at this time of the year, are abundant in the lower elevations, and particularly so on the floor of the Valley where they become somewhat of a nuisance when they begin to destroy vegetable and flower gardens.

Zion.

In Zion, up to the 15th of September, the weather was dry and hot, but much cooler toward the latter part of the month. Because of the dry weather and heavy travel the auto road in the park was in a rather rough condition. An attendance of 1,213 persons established a new monthly record for the park.

Death of Charles P. Punchard Jr., Landscape Engineer.

In the death of Landscape Engineer at Large Charles P. Punchard, Jr., which occurred in Denver, Colorado, the night of November twelfth, the Park Service loses one of its most valuable and beloved members. "Punch", as his friends were wont to call him, was well known in his professional circles throughout the country. He made friends wherever he hung his hat. Faithful, loyal, hard-working, and energetic, he was also endowed with a fund of good common sense and rare judgment that secured for him the respect of all with whom he came in professional contact. He was always willing to devote his energies to public duties, irrespective of the demand on his vitalities, and at his own request worked up to within a few days of his death. The Assistant Director saw him shortly before in Denver, and Mr. Punchard told him that he had so many reports that were delayed he wanted to keep at them "as long as he could push a pencil". Apparently after that his strength waned fast, because he telegraphed the Service to place him on sick leave, none of which or of his annual leave he had taken. Five days after he had entered on his sick leave a telegram was received from Denver that he had died.

It is such men as Mr. Punchard that leave their indelible stamp by work faithfully and well done as an inspiration to othere in his profession and in the Service.

As an evidence of the esteem in which Charles Punchard and his work are held by the Service, Director Mather telegraphed instructions that all flags in the Park Service be at half-mast for thirty days.