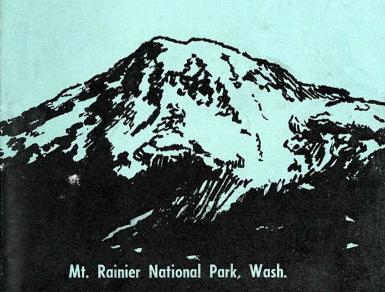
Mount Rainier



MOUNT RAINIER

NATIONAL PARK—WASHINGTON

Mount Rainier, a towering, ice-clad dormant volcano, dominates this National Park. A few miles west of the Cascade Range crest, it rises 14,410 feet, the most superb landmark of the Pacific Northwest. A gleaming mantle of glacial ice on the upper slopes conceals all but its most rugged peaks and ridges. In delightful contrast to this bold landscape are flower-filled alpine meadows and deep forests of the lower slopes. Smaller peaks provide the foreground for this impressive scene.

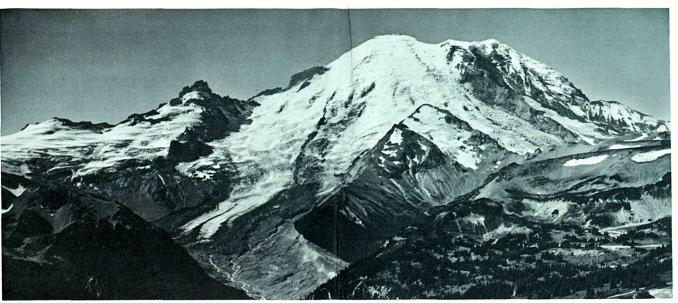
The park's 378 square miles extend from Mount Rainier eastward to the Cascade Range crest.

Along the Trails

More than 300 miles of well-marked and maintained trails invite you to explore the park. Trips range from 15-minute walks over self-guiding nature trails to hikes of a week or more. Leading from all campgrounds and other developed areas, the trails take you to the beauty spots of this mountain wonderland, from dense lowland forests to glaciers and high peaks with ever-changing views of Mount Rainier.

If you are looking for wilderness adventure, the Wonderland Trail is a dream come true. Almost entirely in primeval surroundings, this 90-mile, around-the-mountain route winds through snow-fields, meadows, and forests. It drops into deep, shadowy canyons, and climbs to ridges with panoramic views.

Along the Wonderland Trail there are shelter cabins at Indian Henrys Hunting Ground, Klapatche



Emmons Glacier above Sunrise.

Park, Sunset Park, North Mowich River, Mystic Lake, Summer Land, Indian Bar, and Nickel Creek. The shelter cabins are open on one side, and are equipped only with outdoor fireplaces; bring your own sleeping and cooking gear. Campgrounds along the route are at Ipsut Creek, Sunrise, White River, and Longmire. To avoid carrying food for the entire trip, you can have someone meet you at a campground with supplies for the next part of your journey.

We suggest that your goal for each day be about 9 miles. Maybe you believe you can hike farther, but remember, this is rough country. And to enjoy it thoroughly you should take time to look around. Ten days after hitting the trail you will have completely encircled Mount Rainier. Your experience will need no embellishment in the telling.

Parts of the Wonderland Trail afford excellent 1day hikes, for it intersects roads at several places. For a selection of short trips along this trail, see the map.

Shelter cabins on other trails are located at Van Trump Park, Berkeley Park, Lake James, and Lake George.

Show that you are an experienced hiker by observing the rules.

Be extremely careful with fire. Hikers must obtain fire permits in advance. Observe strictly the fire rules.

Stay on the trails. They lead you to the scenic areas of the park, and if you stay on them you will not become lost. Pets cannot be taken on trails or on cross-country trips.

Be a good camper. Preserve the park's natural beauty by not disturbing trees, flowers, or birds and other animals. Never cut green boughs for beds. Leave a clean and sanitary camp. You are requested to carry out your unburnable trash.

A Guide to the Trails of Mount Rainier National Park, which describes each trail in the park, is on sale at all visitor centers. It also may be obtained by writing the superintendent.

By Road

Roads in the park provide spectacular views of Mount Rainier and its surroundings. The roads from Nisqually Entrance to Paradise and from the northeast boundary to Ohanapecosh are open all year, although snow conditions may cause them to be closed for short periods. Carry tire chains during the winter. They may be required for part of the drive.

Stevens Canyon, White River-Sunrise, West Side, Carbon River, and Mowich Lake Roads are closed for the winter after the first heavy snowfall, usually about November 1. They ordinarily are opened between June 15 and July 1.

Mather Memorial Parkway, a section of U.S. 410 beginning and ending in Snoqualmie National Forest, passes through Mount Rainier National Park over Chinook Pass. It was named in honor of Stephen T. Mather, first director of the National Park Service. This road takes you through magnificent mountain scenery, from deeply shaded evergreen forests to alpine lakes in flower-spangled meadows.

The glacial streams and upland lakes are generally too cold to support much aquatic life, but some of the remote lakes and clear streams yield fair to good catches. No license is required in the park. Unless posted as closed, lakes are open to fishing from July 4 through September 30. You may keep 10 pounds and 1 fish in any 1 day, if your total catch does not exceed 10 fish, but you may not possess more than 1 daily limit. In all park waters, the minimum length is 6 inches. The season for streams, which changes from year to year, conforms to that of the State of Washington. You can obtain complete fishing regulations at any ranger station, visitor center, or by writing to the superintendent.

Mountaineering

Climbing Mount Rainier is no easy task. It is a difficult route over ridges of crumbling lava and along inclined and deeply crevassed glaciers and icefields. Yet about 800 climbers now reach the summit each year. Independent parties with qualified, experienced leaders may climb the mountain between May 30 and Labor Day when the routes are officially open. In the interest of safety, all summit climbers must register with a park ranger at the time of starting and upon returning. Climbers must give evidence that they are physically capable, have proper equipment, and have had experience in similar hazardous climbing. Regulations for summit climbs may be obtained from the office of the superintendent.

The route up Ingraham Glacier is the most popular, since it is almost entirely over ice and snow. The ascent is made in 2 days, the first night being spent at Camp Muir, a rock shelter at 10,000 feet. Early next morning, the climbers continue on to the summit, this time roped together. The return is usually by Camp Muir, where a short rest stop is taken, and then back to Paradise.

Professional guide service, instruction, and rental equipment are available from the concessioner at Paradise.

TO HELP YOU ENJOY THE PARK

To help you enjoy and understand the wonders of Mount Rainier, the National Park Service provides rangernaturalists as natural history interpreters from mid-June through Labor Day. These services are free. Program schedules are posted at ranger stations and visitor centers. The following services and activities are offered:

Longmire (park headquarters): Park Naturalist's office and library, evening illustrated programs (Longmire Community Building), guided nature walks and hikes, and automobile caravans. Trail of the Shadows and Kautz Creek Mudflow self-guiding nature trails (near Longmire); visitor center services include exhibits, orientation talks, sales publications and color slides.

Paradise: Evening illustrated programs (Paradise Guide House), guided nature walks and hikes; informationinterpretation station services (in Paradise Lodge) include orientation talks and sales publications and color

Box Canyon of the Cowlitz: Trailside exhibits and observation points, observation bridges, guided nature walks; information station services include interpretive information and sales publications and color slides.

Ohanapecosh: Evening campfire programs (Ohanapecosh Amphitheater), guided nature walks and hikes, automobile caravans; visitor center services include exhibits, orientation talks, sales publications and color

slides. Sunrise: Evening illustrated programs (Sunrise Visitor Center), guided nature walks and hikes, Emmons Vista self-guiding nature trail; visitor center services include exhibits, orientation talks, sales publications and color

Ipsut Creek: Evening campfire programs, guided nature walks and hikes; information station services include orientation talks and sales publications and color slides.

Throughout the park: Other interpretive activities include old-fashioned campfire programs; also orientation talks at major overlooks. Consult bulletin boards throughout the park for time and place. Look for roadside and trailside exhibits and orientation markers describing points of interest and natural features.

If you have any questions, ask the man in the National Park Service uniform.

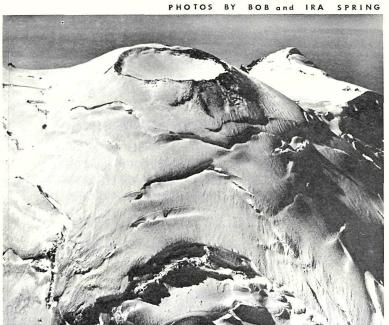
THE ORIGIN OF MOUNT RAINIER

The rocks and landforms of Mount Rainier National Park tell a long, exciting story of deposition, volcanic eruptions, earth movements, and sculpturing by rivers and glaciers.

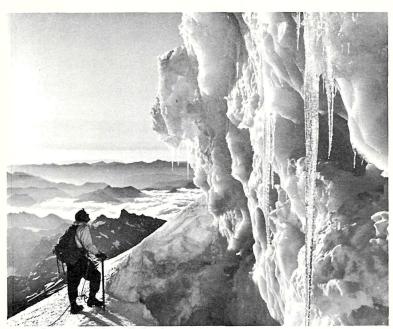
Long before Mount Rainier existed, volcanic lava flows, mudflows, and ash deposits, altogether thousands of feet deep, built up the lowlands where the Cascade Range was to form. Later, earth stresses gradually elevated this region several thousand feet. As the land rose, rivers cut deep narrow valleys, dissecting the region into ridges and peaks.

During the last million years or so, local eruptions have built cones on top of the Cascade Range which are distributed, in the United States, from northern Washington (Mount Baker) to northern California (Lassen Peak). Of these cones, Mount Rainier is the highest and grandest. These volcanoes formed, in recent geologic time, part of a veritable circle of fire around the Pacific Ocean.

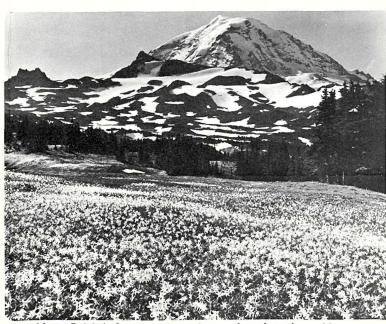
The eruptions that built Mount Rainier were of two types. Early eruptions were, for the most part, lava flows of gray andesite, while later history was marked by explosions of rock debris. Sheets of massive, dark lava formed the inside of the immediate base of Mount Rainier. Above them, alternating layers of solid and fragmental lavas, which erupted later, are clearly visible in the higher



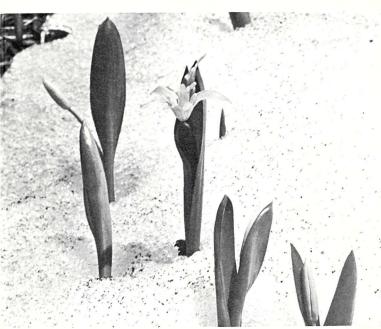
Aerial view of summit crater showing ice cap and crevasses



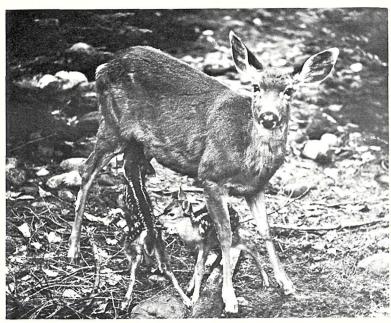
Conquering Mount Rainier's summit.



Iount Rainier's flower meadows—famous throughout the world



Spring comes to the high country—lambstongue fawnlilies push through snow.



A sanctuary for wildlife.

ridges, such as Success Cleaver. Very young, thin deposits of volcanic ash and pumice are widespread around the base of the mountain. Recent studies indicate that the last violent outburst, which threw nut-sized brown pumice over the slopes, occurred between 1,000 and 3,000 years ago.

The broad, rounded top of Mount Rainier is about 1 square mile. From it rise three separate peaks: on the north, Liberty Cap, 14,112 feet; on the south, Point Success, 14,150 feet; and on the east, the summit, Columbia Crest, 14,410 feet. Liberty Cap and Point Success are remnants of the rim of an old crater about 11/4 miles in diameter, within which recent eruptions have built two small cones. Columbia Crest is on the crater rim of the higher of these, which is about 1,200 feet across. Steam vents still persist within the crater, melting the snow to form small caves. These have provided refuge for mountaineers caught on the summit by bad weather.

The former summit of the volcano has disappeared, probably because of callapse, glacial erosion, or both.

Some marked boulders, weighing several tons, were observed to move 525 feet in 8 years on the Nisqually Glacier. Yearly studies by the U.S. Geological Survey and the park staff show the surface ice of this glacier to be moving about 25 feet per month at the 6,000-foot elevation. Such action slowly moves the ice from upper basins and canyons to lower elevations, where most melting takes place.

From late in the 19th century until recently, the glaciers of Mount Rainier were receding. Vegetation is now slowly advancing into the barren areas thus exposed. Waterfalls plunge into canyons that once were ice-filled, and valley floors formerly buried under ice are now the flood plains of glacial streams.

Recent studies show that the glaciers at higher elevations are again expanding, causing their fronts to move downstream. This may be a temporary advance reflecting a variation in climate.

GLACIERS

From a distance you can see in Mount Rainier's long, exposed ridges, sweeping from the base toward the summit, the symmetrical profile of a cone. But close at hand, this profile is obscured by deep basins and canyons between the ridges. These excavations were cut by water and later were enlarged by glaciers.

Several times during the ice age, some of the Mount Rainier glaciers advanced many miles beyond present park boundaries. The last extensive glaciation was so recent in geologic time (ending perhaps only 10,000 years ago) that its sculpturing effects on the landscape are very evident today. The broad-floored and steep-walled canyons of all the larger rivers radiating from Mount Rainier, the many cirques (glacier-carved basins) of the Cascade Range, and the numerous lakes and spectacular waterfalls all owe their origins to sculpturing by water and ice.

The 26 named glaciers remaining on Mount Rainier cover about 40 square miles, although they are mere remnants of their former selves. Twelve are classed as major glaciers, originating either in large cirques at elevations between 10,000 and 12,000 feet or at the summit icecap. Emmons Glacier, on the northeast side of the mountain, and the Nisqually, on the south side, are the best known and most easily visited large glaciers. The Emmons, about 5 miles long and 1 mile wide, is the largest on Mount Rainier.

Of the 14 smaller ones, Paradise Glacier is the easiest to reach. In a comparatively small area near the glacier, there are many features of a typical valley glacier-melt water, moraines, polished and fluted rocks, a large cirque, and a broken, crevassed expanse of blue ice several hundred feet thick. At times, beautifully colored ice caves develop where the outlet stream flows from beneath the Paradise-Stevens Glaciers.

How did these glaciers form? An excess of winter snow accumulation over summer melting, continuing over many years, gradually compacted into ice. When the ice became heavy enough it began to move downhill, and with this motion, became glaciers—rivers of ice.

A glacier is at once a plow, a file, and a sled. As a plow, it churns up loose soil and pieces of bedrock; as a file, it uses this material to rasp away and polish solid rock in its path; as a sled, it carries away the plowed-up and filed-off rock, plus rock that has fallen from valley walls. As Mount Rainier's glaciers slowly move down the mountainside, they transport vast quantities of rock debris, including large boulders.

CLIMATE

The snow which feeds Mount Rainier's glaciers originates as clouds over the Pacific Ocean. As the moistureladen, westerly winds move inland, the first barrier they meet is the Cascade Range. Rising to pass over the mountains, they are cooled, and the condensing moisture falls as rain and snow. The heaviest precipitation falls on the windward slope, especially between 5,000 and 10,000 feet. Paradise receives about 100 inches in a year.

Clouds and fog often obscure the mountain. However, warm, clear weather may be expected from about July 1 to mid-September. In many years, Indian-summer weather continues well into October, when autumn colors are at their best.

Snow falling from November until April accounts for most of the yearly precipitation. The record snowfall at Paradise occurred during the winter of 1955-56, when 80 feet of snowfall accumulated into 301/2 feet of snowpack. Many of the snowfields above 6,000 feet are perennial.

During late winter and early spring occur many clear, warm days, interspersed with snowstorms sometimes lasting several days. Snow usually disappears in early July at elevations comparable to that at Paradise. The glaciers which project below the perennial snowline do so only because of the large amount of snow and ice at their heads.



ROAD MILEAGES					
between points within MOUNT RAINIER NATIONAL PARK and nearby cities and towns *Short distance	ENUMCLAW	ТАСОМА	SEATHE	PORTLAND	YAKIMA
NISQUALLY ENTRANCE	57*	55*	80*	149*	100*
LONGMIRE	63*	61*	86*	155*	94*
INSPIRATION POINT	69*	71*	95*	165*	84*
PARADISE	71*	74*	98*	168*	87*
BOX CANYON	61*	79*	East 98*	166*	76*
STEVENS CANYON ENTRANCE	51*	77*	88*	156*	66*
OHANAPECOSH	52*	78*	89*	155*	64*
CAYUSE PASS	40*	66*	77*	167*	65*
CHINOOK PASS	43*	70*	80*	170*	61*
WHITE RIVER ENTRANCE	38*	64*	75*	172*	69*
SUNRISE	52*	78*	89*	186*	83*
ENUMCLAW		26*	37*	172*	105*
TACOMA	26*		32*	146*	131*

FLOWERS AND FORESTS

Mount Rainier is famous for its colorful display of wildflowers. Climatic variety and short, intense growing seasons produce an abundance of flowers and number of species found in few areas of comparable size. Changes in the flora from lower park boundaries to the upper slopes of Mount Rainier are comparable to the change between Puget Sound and the Arctic Circle.

At no time, from early spring to early autumn, can you fail to find a flower display somewhere in the park. Blooming begins in May in the forests and progresses up the mountainsides as the snow melts.

Flowers of the deep forests are most numerous in July, when Pacific trillium, bunchberry, dogwood, threeleaf anemone, and the colorful calypso are at their best. Showiest of the deep-woods flowers is beargrass.

In the mountain parks there are two good shows. The first comes in early July, when avalanche fawnlily, yellow lambstongue fawnlily (glacier lily), western pasqueflower, marshmarigold, and mountain buttercup take over the meadows from receding snowbanks. Some wildflowers push right up through the snow. The second display occurs about a month later, when Indian paintbrush, lupines, speedwell or veronica, valerian, American bistort, cinquefoil, and many others tint these same meadows.

The effects of altitude and habitat are reflected as definitely, but less conspicuously, in tree growth. Lowland forest, penetrating the park in the largest river valleys, reaches its upper limits around 3,000 feet. These dense, cathedral-like forests have some trees of great size. The lowland forest contains principally Douglas-fir, western hemlock, and western redcedar. Grand fir grows up the valleys to about 2,500 feet; above, it is replaced by Pacific Silver fir and noble fir.

You can easily identify the true firs by their erect cones, which disintegrate at maturity. Other cone-bearing species have pendant cones which do not break up when

Intermediate forest lies between the dense lowland forest and the parklike meadows, and contains some species of both. Noble fir, Pacific fir, western white pine, and Alaska-cedar are characteristic. The lowland western hemlock, with its nodding top, here gives way to the smaller mountain hemlock, with its dark purple cones.

In mountain meadows above 5,000 feet trees grow in clumps. Alpine fir and mountain hemlock are typical. In the Sunrise region, whitebark pine, sentinel of the high country, and Engelmann spruce are found.

WILDLIFE

The majestic setting of forests and flowers is enlivened by abundant animal life. Protected from encroachment of civilization, Mount Rainier's slopes provide homes and food for more than 130 species of birds and 50 species of mammals. Wilderness trails offer the best opportunities for seeing wildlife.

Many of the animals appear tame. But be wary. Having lost their fear of man, they can be dangerous.

Some animals make seasonal migrations, following receding snows up the mountain in spring and descending at the approach of winter. Among these is the blacktailed deer, which ranges to timberline in summer and migrates to lowland forests in winter. Elk, which can be found along the east side of the park, make similar migrations.

Black bears also roam the forests. They come in several color phases—black (most common) and brown, blond, or cinnamon.

Mountain goats are frequently seen in summer above timberline near glaciers. Look for these crag-dwellers above Van Trump and Klapatche Parks, and at Skyscraper Mountain, Emerald Ridge, the Colonnade, and the Cowlitz Chimneys.

Smaller mammals common at lower elevations are raccoon, Douglas squirrel, chipmunk, porcupine, snowshoe hare, and beaver. Others to watch for are the marmot, abundant in rock slides above 5,000 feet; marten, agile tree-climber of the weasel family; red fox; coyote; bobcat; and the secretive cougar.

Birds are most numerous in thickets and mountain parks, especially along streambanks and lakeshores. Above timberline, watch for white-tailed ptarmigans, white in winter and mottled gray in summer; pipits; and gray-crowned rosy finches. In mountain meadows, look for the gray jay, or camp robber; Clark's nutcracker; mountain bluebird; and raven. Along forest trails you are most likely to see woodpeckers, robins and other thrushes, warblers, kinglets, and chickadees.

HISTORY

On May 8, 1792, Capt. George Vancouver of the British Royal Navy saw a "round snowy mountain" from near Port Townsend on Puget Sound. He named it after his friend, Rear Adm. Peter Rainier.

Such an imposing and unknown mountain was bound to challenge the adventurous. The first was Dr. William Fraser Tolmie, a physician and surgeon employed by the Hudson's Bay Company to help establish Fort Nisqually, at the head of Puget Sound. On August 29, 1833, with five Indians, he started from the fort on an extensive botany survey. Approaching by way of the Puyallup River, he became the first white man known to have entered what is now Mount Rainier National Park. Several prominent features bear his name.

Not until 1857 was a serious attempt made to climb the mountain. Then Lt. A. V. Kautz, stationed at Fort Steilacoom, accompanied by Dr. O. R. Craig from Fort Bellingham, an Indian guide named Wapowety, and four soldiers, made the assault. Shortage of food, however, prevented Kautz from gaining the actual summit.

Interest in climbing Mount Rainier lay dormant for some years. But in August 1870, two active young men, Hazard Stevens and P. B. Van Trump, tried and succeeded. Led part of the way by Sluiskin, an Indian guide, the two men followed what is today called the Gibraltar route. On August 17 they reached the crest. They expected to return the same day, but bad weather and coming darkness forced them to stay on the summit overnight. In search of a protected spot, they discovered a small crater and steam caves. While a blizzard raged outside, they

spent the night in one of these caves. When they returned the following day, Sluiskin was both surprised and overjoyed. Seeing their sunburned and windburned faces, he at first thought they were ghosts.

Several successful summit ascents followed. The most noteworthy was in 1883 when James Longmire discovered some warm mineral springs.

Longmire dreamed of developing this area in the wilderness as a health resort. He staked his claim and later, under the mineral act, secured title to the land around the springs. In 1884, Longmire constructed the first building near the present park headquarters. Six years later, with the help of his sons, he pushed a crude road through and built a small hotel at Longmire's Springs.

Early visitors were greatly impressed by the mighty glacier-clad mountain and the surrounding lush alpine

meadows. In 1894, a concerted effort was made to preserve this area as a National Park. However, it was not until March 2, 1899, that President McKinley signed the bill establishing it as the fifth National Park in the United States.

FURTHER READING

Other publications about the park may be purchased in the park or ordered from the Mount Rainier Natural History Association, a nonprofit organization, at Longmire, Washington. A price list will be sent upon request.

HOW TO REACH THE PARK

Seattle and Tacoma, gateway cities to the park, can be reached by airplane, train, or bus.

For a direct approach to your destination in the park, consult a current road map.

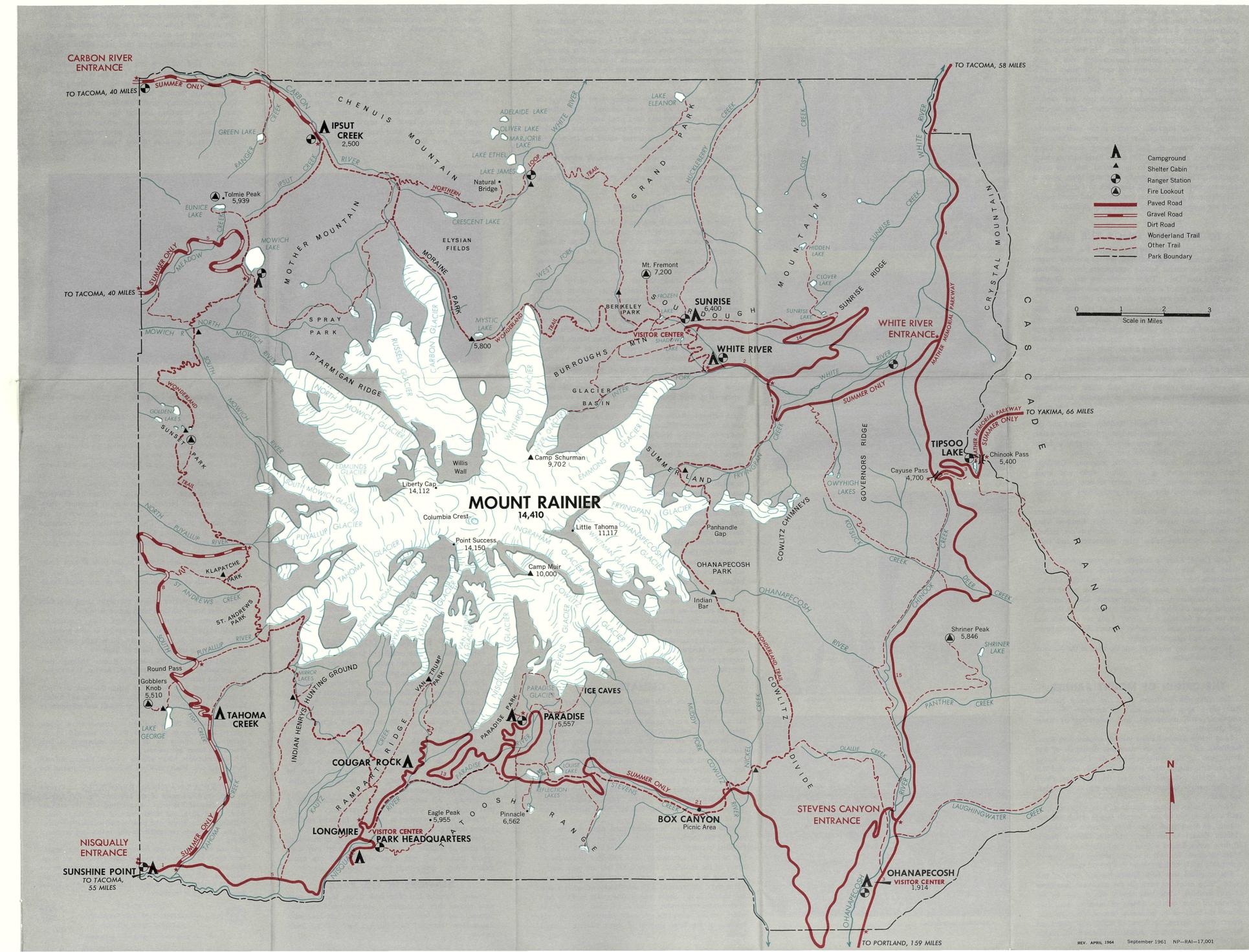
From late June to early September, daily bus service is available from Tacoma and Seattle to Longmire, Paradise, and Sunrise. During the winter no regularly scheduled

public transportation is provided into the park.

For transportation rates write to the Rainier National Park Company, Box 1136, Tacoma 1, Wash.

VISITOR-USE FEES

Vehicle permit fees are collected at entrance stations. Fees are not listed herein because they are subject to change. National Park fees are deposited in the U.S. Treasury. They offset, in part, appropriations made for operating and maintaining areas of the National Park System.



WHERE TO STAY

Hotels

National Park Inn, at Longmire, is open from early May until October; Paradise Inn is open from late June until Labor Day. Write to the Rainier National Park Company for reservations and rates. There are no overnight accommodations at Sunrise.

Camping

The main campgrounds, at Longmire, Cougar Rock, Paradise, Ohanapecosh, and Sunrise, have fireplaces, tables, water, and sanitary facilities. For those who want solitude and more primitive conditions, smaller campgrounds are located at Tahoma Creek, Sunshine Point, White River, Mowich Lake, and Ipsut Creek. At Tahoma Creek, water must be taken from the nearby stream. Mowich Lake has limited camping facilities. Housetrailers may use campgrounds where there is space, but there are no utility hookups. Campsites cannot be reserved.

Campgrounds are not open in winter, except for Sunshine Point. Opening and closing dates depend on weather and snow conditions. Limited camping supplies are available at Longmire and Sunrise Lodge. Additional supplies and ice can be purchased in nearby towns.

HELP PROTECT YOUR PARK

Park regulations were established to protect you as well as the park. Violators are liable to summons before the U.S. Commissioner at Longmire.

Fire is the park's greatest enemy. Permits, available at any ranger station or visitor center, are required for building fires at any point other than auto campgrounds. Build fires only at designated places. Be sure your campfire is out before you leave it. Be careful with cigarettes and matches. Smoking on trails is not allowed.

Caring for the park. Picking flowers and cutting or damaging trees or other vegetation are prohibited. Rocks and minerals or other material native to the park may not be taken away. Only dead and down trees may be used for firewood. Defacing signs, buildings, or other park property is punishable by law.

Climbing. All summit climbers must register with a park ranger before starting and upon returning.

Hunting is not permitted in the park. Firearms must be broken down or sealed to prevent their use.

You and the animals. Feeding, touching, or molesting any form of wildlife is prohibited. Although they may appear tame, bears and other wild animals can cause serious injury. Enjoy them from a distance.

SERVICES IN THE PARK

Meals. Paradise Inn offers table d'hote and a la carte meal service daily in summer. At Paradise Lodge and Sunrise, cafeteria service is available from late June until Labor Day. National Park Inn has only grill-type meal service.

Post offices are at Longmire (all year) and Paradise (summer).

Medical services. There is a registered nurse at Paradise Inn. Hospitals are at Morton, 37 miles from Longmire and 44 miles from Ohanapecosh, and at Enumclaw, 37 miles from the White River entrance. Eatonville, 33 miles from Longmire, has a clinic.

Souvenir gift shops are at Paradise, Sunrise, and Longmire.

Guide service is available only at Paradise.

Church services. The National Council of Churches ministry sponsors Protestant services at Longmire, Paradise, Ohanapecosh, and Sunrise. Catholic services are held only at Paradise. Church services are conducted from July 1 until Labor Day. Schedules are posted.

Service stations are at Sunrise (summer) and Longmire (all year).

Dogs and cats are allowed in the park if kept under physical restraint at all times. But they may not be taken on trails or cross-country trips or into public buildings.

Camping or parking trailers overnight along roadsides or at other areas not designated is not permitted.

Cleanliness. Camps must be kept clean, combustible rubbish burned, and other refuse placed in cans provided. If no receptacle is nearby, carry refuse until you locate one. Please do not litter roads or trails.

ADMINISTRATION—Mount Rainier National Park is administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior.

The National Park System, of which this park is a unit, is dedicated to conserving the scenic, scientific, and historic heritage of the United States for the benefit and enjoyment of its people.

Development of this area is part of Mission 66, a 10-year conservation program to unfold the full potential of the National Park System for the use and enjoyment of both present and future generations.

A superintendent, whose address is Mount Rainier National Park, Longmire, Wash. 98397, is in immediate charge of the park.

AMERICA'S NATURAL RESOURCES — Created in 1849, the Department of the Interior—America's Department of Natural Resources—is concerned with the management, conservation, and development of the Nation's water, wildlife, mineral, forest, and park and recreational resources. It also has major responsibilities for Indian and territorial affairs.

As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department works to assure that nonrenewable resources are developed and used wisely, that park and recreational resources are conserved, and that renewable resources make their full contribution to the progress, prosperity, and security of the United States—now and in the future.



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



Mount Rainier

