

# SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK



FISHING IN HAMILTON LAKE

PADILLA STUDIOS

*OPEN ALL YEAR*

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HAROLD L. ICKES, Secretary

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
NEWTON B. DRURY, Director



# SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK

## CALIFORNIA

SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK, an area of 604 square miles on the western slope of the Sierra Nevada in east-central California, was established by act of Congress on September 25, 1890, primarily to preserve the groves and forests of giant sequoia. The great red trees are the supreme attraction, but the park is notable also for superb lofty mountain scenery, including Mount Whitney, the highest peak in the United States proper; for the Crystal Cave, an exquisite marble cavern; and for its restful wilderness atmosphere. The park ranges in elevation from 1,900 feet to 14,495 feet above sea level. The Sequoia National Park is open the year around.

### The Giant Sequoias

The giant sequoias and the coast redwoods are the sole survivors of an ancient race of huge trees which flourished throughout the world during the age of monstrous reptiles. Fossil remains indicate that they formerly rivaled our present day pines in distribution. Today the giant sequoias grow only in California from Placer County south to southern Tulare County, a distance of 250 miles. They are in scattered groves along a narrow belt between 4,000 to 8,000 feet altitude on the western slope of the Sierra Nevada and reach their maximum development in Sequoia National Park. The coast redwoods are confined to the fog belt within 30 miles of the coast from the tip of southern Oregon to Monterey County in California.

The giant sequoias are the largest and perhaps oldest living things. The tallest approach 300 feet in height, and many exceed 30 feet in diameter. The key to their great size and age is incomparable resistance to destruction by fire, insects, and decay. The colorful asbestos-like bark attains a thickness of as much as 3 feet, and a large amount of tannin immunizes it to a great extent against insects and fungi. When injured by lightning or fire, the trees show amazing recuperative powers in healing wounds. Man has been the greatest threat to their continued existence. Entire groves of these magnificent trees were destroyed by early day lumbering operations in areas north of Sequoia National Park.

There is excellent reproduction in all the groves in the park, and trees of all ages may be seen. Unlike the coast

redwood, these trees grow only from seed. The seedlings require well-drained mineral soil and direct sunlight; consequently the survival is low.

The most complete information on the giant sequoias and their near relative, the coast redwoods, is available in publications which are on sale at the Giant Forest Museum.

### The Giant Forest

Giant Forest is the very fitting name given by the famous scientist, John Muir, to the largest and most distinctive of the 32 groves of giant sequoias which are in-



GIANT FOREST LODGE PADILLA STUDIOS

cluded within the Sequoia National Park. In the Giant Forest Area are the Giant Forest Lodge, and housekeeping and other accommodations of the park, conveniently situated for the visitor to enjoy the sequoias and other attractions. Giant Forest is also the chief point of departure on trips for the high mountain area to the east. There are delightful short drives about the sequoia forest, but the entrancing beauty of the groves is best enjoyed along the short pathways and trails which lead away from the sight and noise of human development. As a guide to a few of the features of particular interest and beauty, the following are listed:

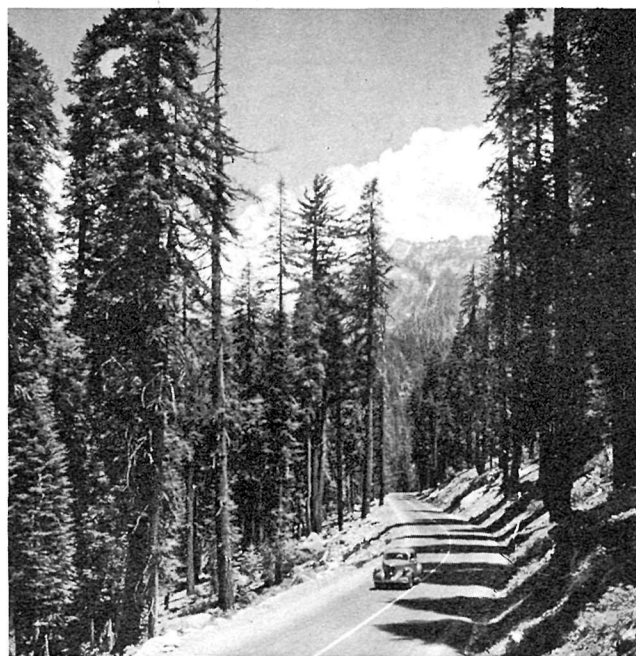
**General Sherman Tree.** The largest and perhaps oldest of all living things, conservatively estimated to be 3,500 years old. Visitors are impressed by the dimensions of this old giant:

Height . . . . .	272.4 feet
Base circumference . . . . .	101.6 feet
Greatest base diameter . . . . .	36.5 feet
Diameter 60 feet above ground . . . . .	17.5 feet
Diameter 120 feet above ground . . . . .	17.0 feet
Height of largest branch . . . . .	130.0 feet
Diameter of largest branch . . . . .	6.8 feet

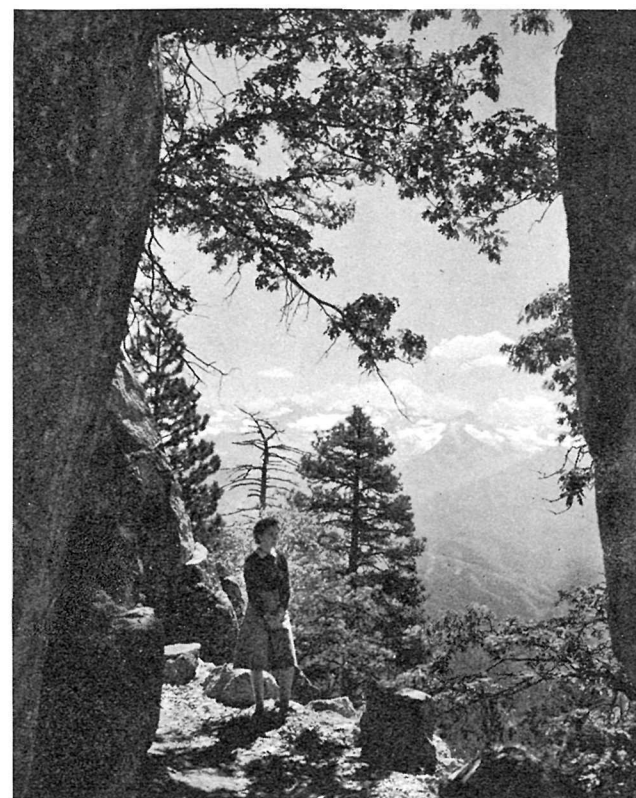
**Congress Group.** A grove of sequoias of exceptional grace and beauty, considered perhaps the finest example of the giant sequoias, and reached by a mile walk from the General Sherman Tree.

**Moro Rock.** A massive monolith with a stone stairway to the summit, which offers one of the most famous views of the Sierra. To the east spreads out the Great Western Divide, a range of lofty peaks surpassing 13,000 feet in elevation; below in the foreground is the mile-deep canyon of the Middle Fork of the Kaweah; and to the west extend the broad plains of the San Joaquin Valley.

**Crescent Meadow.** John Muir aptly called this the "Gem of the Sierra." Stretching out its nearly mile of flower-strewn sward into a great crescent, the meadow is bordered by towering and beautiful sequoias. A picnic ground is available. The parking area beside the meadow provides an excellent base from which short hikes may



GENERALS HIGHWAY PADILLA STUDIOS



HIGH SIERRA TRAIL PADILLA STUDIOS

be made over the numerous trails through a primitive wilderness of giant sequoias.

**Tharp Log.** A huge sequoia log, prostrate on the edge of Log Meadow, was burned hollow centuries ago. Hale Tharp, early California pioneer, discovered both the Giant Forest and this hollow log in 1858. With rough, native materials he closed the open end and created a spacious cabin which he and other old-timers occupied for many summers. John Muir was an appreciative guest and in his writings refers to the log as "a noble den." Reached in an easy 15-minute hike over an excellent footpath from the parking area at Crescent Meadow.

**Sunset Rock and Beetle Rock.** Granite outcroppings along the rim of Giant Forest, overlooking the Marble Fork Canyon and affording fine sunset views across the distant hills.

**Tokopah Valley.** A perfect miniature of famed Yosemite Valley. A narrow valley, towering cliffs, a rushing stream, and a beautiful waterfall. The trail runs east from Lodgepole Campground for 2 miles.

**Watchtower.** A startling viewpoint atop a 2,000-foot cliff overlooking Tokopah Valley. Reached by trail from Wolverton.

**Heather Lake.** A jewel-like mountain lake set on the west slope of Alta Peak. Reached by trail from Wolverton. Beyond Heather Lake a good trail leads to Emerald, Aster, and Pear Lakes.

**Other Features.** Giant sequoias of unique form or beauty, meadows, trails, and panoramic views. The map in this folder gives names and locations.

### Side Trips from Giant Forest

**Lost Grove.** To those visitors who enter the park through the Ash Mountain Checking Station, departure through the Lost Grove Checking Station, in the northwest corner of the park, will prove a scenic treat. Lost Grove is an impressive group of giant sequoias. The station has been termed the most beautiful entrance to any national park. Through this station travel passes en route to General Grant Grove in Kings Canyon National Park, and to northern points. The road is not open during the winter months.

**Muir Grove.** A forest of giant sequoias which is reached by a 14-mile automobile trip north from Giant Forest over the Generals Highway to Cabin Creek, thence by trail for 2 miles, or by trail from Dorst Public Camp.

**Admiration Point.** The edge of a marble cliff rising almost sheer for 1,600 feet above the Marble Fork of the Kaweah River, with spectacular view of the deep canyon and of the cascading Marble Falls. Reached by automobile along the Colony Mill Road for 8 miles, thence by foot trail for three-quarters of a mile.

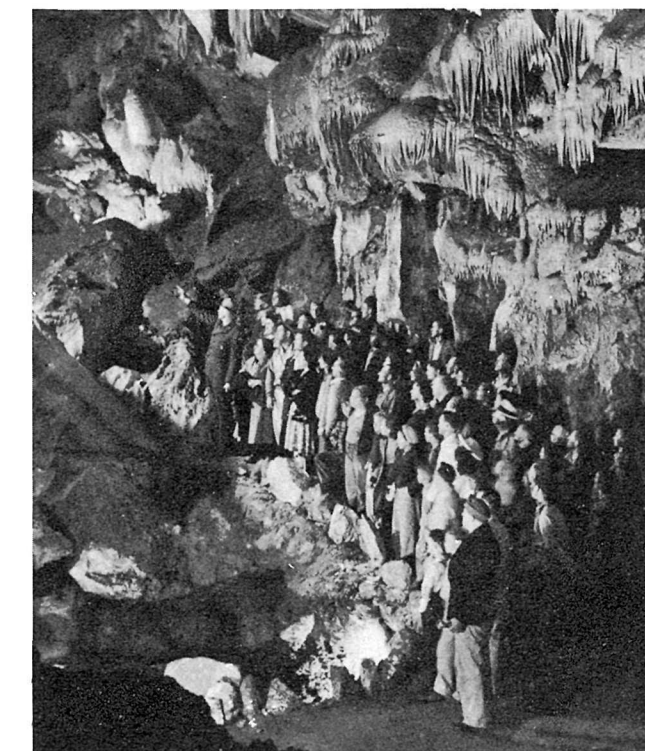
**Colony Mill.** Historically significant as the site of lumber mill of the short-lived Kaweah Cooperative Commonwealth Colony, whose establishment resulted in the creation of the park. Inspiring views of the North and Middle Fork Canyons and of the high mountains. Reached by automobile over the Colony Mill Road, 9 miles from Giant Forest.

**Hospital Rock.** Located on the Generals Highway, 11 miles below Giant Forest and 5 miles above Ash Mountain Checking Station. A huge, overhanging boulder forms a room-like shelter which was used by the Indians as a ceremonial room and a refuge for the sick. Indian pictographs of unknown age are an intriguing attraction. A picnic area and overnight campground are maintained at this point.

**Bearpaw Meadow.** A high mountain "outpost" camp, with meals and sleeping accommodations. Reached by an 11-mile hike over the interesting, easy graded High Sierra Trail. Saddle horses are also available for the trip. The

startling spectacle of mountain ruggedness and beauty in the "Garden of the Gods" observed from this point is not surpassed anywhere in the Sierra. The camp serves as a base for several delightful side trips, including visits to Redwood Meadow, Hamilton Lake, and Lonepine Canyon. It is on the direct trail route to Big Arroyo, Kern Canyon, and Mount Whitney.

**Little Baldy.** The most easily made mountain-top ascent is to this peak, from which are obtained superb views of valley, forest, and high mountain scenery. Reached by automobile from Giant Forest, 11 miles north on the Gen-



RANGER NATURALIST LEADS PARTY THROUGH CRYSTAL CAVE

erals Highway to Little Baldy Saddle, thence 1 3/4 miles by easy trail to summit. Nature hikes are conducted regularly by park naturalists to this point.

### Fishing

The open fishing season in the park is May 1 to October 31. There are more than 650 miles of streams and 300 lakes containing rainbow, golden, or eastern brook trout. The streambeds are rough, and the lakes are accessible only to the hiker, but the ardent fisherman finds conditions ideal for recreation. A special bulletin covering the fishing regulations is obtainable at ranger stations.

## Crystal Cave

This unique cavern, situated in a nearly vertical lens of marble near the headwaters of Yucca Creek, is reached by a drive of 9 miles from Giant Forest, with a scenic half-mile walk to the cave entrance. An easy footpath through the cave follows a clear stream in a glistening marble channel through beautifully decorated passageways into a series of spacious rooms. In addition to the usual types of cave decorations, including stalactites, stalagmites, helictites, columns, and domes, there are miniature lakes with delicately beaded shores, nests of "cave pearls," or pyrolites, and glistening crystalline cascades of flow stone, or cave onyx. Weird erosional remnants hang from the walls and ceilings, lending a gnome-like atmosphere throughout.

Visitors are conducted through the cave daily by ranger naturalists during the summer season. There is an entrance charge of 40 cents for persons over 16 years of age, and recently enacted taxes also apply.

## How to Reach the Park

**By Automobile.** The park can be reached only on the west side. The routes are outlined clearly on all California automobile maps. From U. S. Highway 99 excellent roads lead eastward to the park from Famosa (north of Bakersfield), Tulare, and Visalia Airport Junction (south of Kingsburg). During the summer season automobiles may enter Sequoia through the General Grant Grove of the Kings Canyon National Park, but this route is blocked by snow during the winter months.

Automobiles may enter the park only between the hours of 5 a.m. and 9 p.m., except on Saturdays and the days preceding holidays when the closing hour is 11 p.m. Departure from the park is limited to the hours of 6 a.m. and 10 p.m.

A \$1 license is required for all motor vehicles entering the park and will be issued at the checking stations. For house trailers a special \$1 license is required. Licenses are good for the calendar year and allow entrance to both Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks.

**By Railroad.** Most convenient point is Fresno, served by both Southern Pacific and Santa Fe Lines. Connection with bus direct to the park is made here. Daily bus service is available during the summer season only, but "on call" service is obtainable at other seasons.

**By Bus.** The Pacific Greyhound and the Santa Fe Lines serve Visalia and Fresno, where connection is made with the park bus during the summer only.

**By Airplane.** Fresno is served by the United Air Lines and the TWA, connecting with transcontinental service at Oakland and Los Angeles.

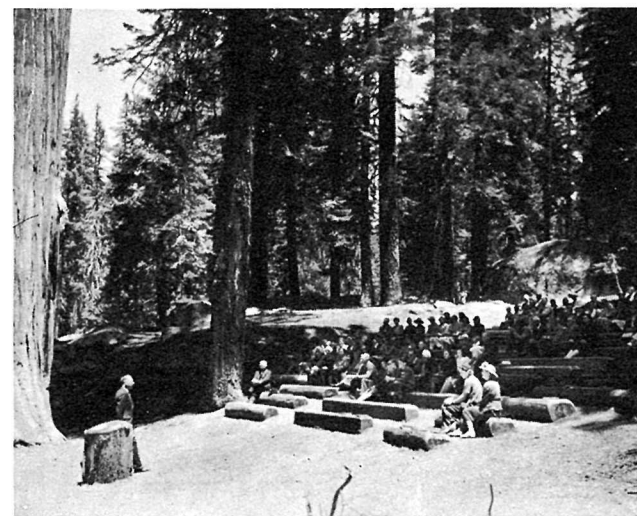
## Mail, Telephone and Telegraph Service

A post office is maintained in the Giant Forest Area from May 16 to September 30. The official address is Sequoia National Park, Calif.

Long distance telephone and telegraph service to all points is available from numerous stations in the park.

## Medical Service

An emergency hospital, with doctor and nurse in attendance, is maintained at Lodgepole in the Giant Forest Area during the summer months.



CHURCH OF THE SEQUOIAS  
PADILLA STUDIOS

## Religious Services

During the summer there are religious services each Sunday. Catholic services are conducted at Sunset Chapel in Giant Forest, while Protestant services are held at the Church of the Sequoias in Giant Forest and at the Lodgepole Chapel at Lodgepole Camp. All services are in the open beneath the towering trees of the forest.

## Maps and Publications

At the Giant Forest Museum topographic maps of the park and adjacent area are on sale. There are also pamphlets and books on natural history, including the most complete accounts of the giant sequoias.

In addition to publications which are on sale at Giant Forest Museum, a branch of the Tulare County Library is maintained there for the benefit of the visitors. Books may be taken out under the same conditions that prevail in free public libraries.

## Administration

The park is administered by the superintendent, assisted by a staff of trained personnel. All communications should be addressed to the Superintendent, Sequoia National Park, Calif.

The general headquarters of the Sequoia National Park is at Ash Mountain on the Generals Highway. Information offices are also maintained at Giant Forest and at Lodgepole Camp during the summer season.

## Naturalist Service

The summer program of nature hikes, led by ranger naturalists, includes short nature walks through the heart of Giant Forest and to nearby points of interest; all-day hikes to high mountain lakes and peaks; and an overnight hike once a week to Bearpaw Meadow on the High Sierra Trail, where tent lodgings and meals are available at moderate rates. This affords an opportunity to enjoy some of



CHILDREN'S NATURE WALK TO ROUND MEADOW IN GIANT FOREST,  
CONDUCTED BY A RANGER NATURALIST

the magnificent back country without packing supplies and bedding.

Evening campfire programs are held at Giant Forest Amphitheatre, Lodgepole Camp, and Dorst Camp. An important part of these programs are talks on the human and natural history of the park. The lectures at Lodgepole and at Giant Forest Amphitheatre are illustrated with natural color slides and motion pictures. Lecture topics change nightly.

Giant Forest Lodge and Camp Kaweah also offer similar evening campfire entertainments.

## Rules and Regulations

The Congress of the United States by act of August 25, 1916, established the National Park Service and directed the Service to "... regulate the use of the ... national parks ... and ... to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." In furtherance of this obligation regulations have been formulated, the full text of which is on file at the superintendent's office. Special attention is directed to the following brief of the regulations:

**Smoking** during the long, dry, dangerous fire season is prohibited while traveling the roads and trails. Enjoy your smokes in camp, in the developed areas, and at watering places.

**Fire** is the greatest danger to the park. Build campfires only in the prepared fireplaces. Extinguish the last spark before leaving camp even for temporary absence.

**Trees, Plants, Flowers, and All Natural Objects** must be left undisturbed so that those who follow you may also enjoy them. No material object may be removed from the park.

**Wildlife** of all types, except fish, must not be molested. The park is a sanctuary for all living things. Visitors who feed bears are subject to arrest.

**Fishing** is permitted. A State angling license is required of all persons over 18. Obtain bulletin from rangers listing closed waters and limits.

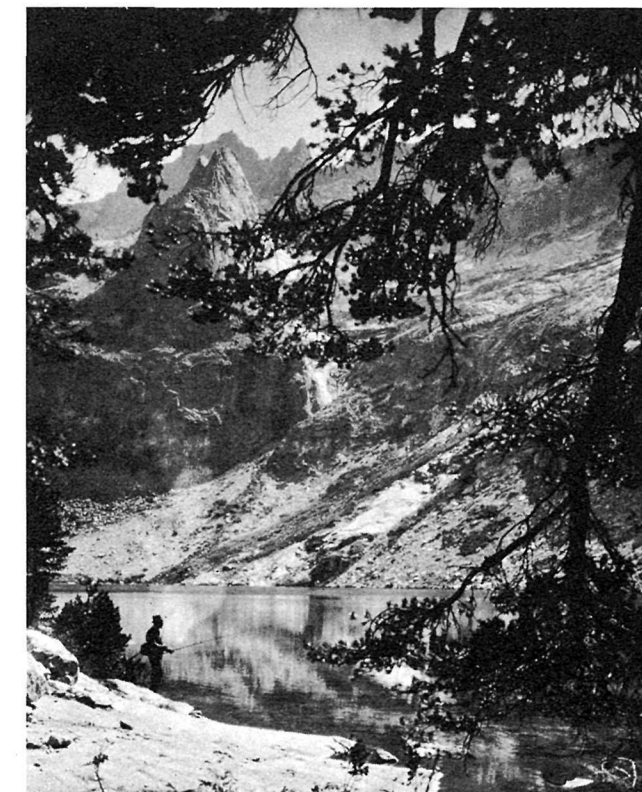
**Camps.** Individual sites have been prepared. Use these only. Respect your neighbor's rights. Maintain quiet from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. Radios in automobiles must be tuned down so as not to annoy others. No aeriels are allowed.



EDDY AND MAINS PHOTO

**GENERAL SHERMAN TREE**  
THE LARGEST AND PERHAPS OLDEST LIVING THING

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**Firewood.** Any down timber, apart from sequoia, may be used in areas designated by signs.

**Trash.** Refuse receptacles and garbage cans are available. Help to keep a clean park by using them even for such minor litter as gum wrappers and cigarette packages.

**Dogs and Cats** will be admitted on permit obtained at entrance station. They must be on leash or otherwise under physical restrictive control, at all times. They will not be permitted on trails, or at Giant Forest Lodge, Pinewood Shelter Camp, or Camp Kaweah.

**Automobile Regulations** are in general similar to the laws of California. Maximum speed is 35 miles, with lower speeds as posted. Careful driving and consideration of other drivers is especially important on mountain roads. Be particularly careful not to kill squirrels or other small mammals on the roads.

### Wildlife

There is a wide variety of animal life in the park. At the lower elevations raccoons, California gray foxes, California ring-tailed cats, spotted and striped skunks are observed, chiefly at night.

California mule deer are abundant throughout the park, and many near the campgrounds have become quite tame. They should not be fed, as this leads to pauperism and to concentrations of the animals in small areas where they destroy the vegetation through over-browsing.

The American black bear is common at elevations comparable to Giant Forest. They are not dangerous so long as they are treated as wild animals and not fed or molested. **Visitors must not feed the bears.**

Most common at the Giant Forest elevation are chipmunks, golden-mantled ground squirrels, Douglas pine squirrels, and the Columbia gray squirrels. These little animals are frequently tame. It is wisest to enjoy them without actual contact, however, for some rodents have been known to carry dangerous diseases.

Elsewhere in the park, and often seen by visitors who hike the trails, are marmots, mountain beaver, bobcats, conies, coyotes, and other small animals. Residents of the park, but rarely seen, are bighorn sheep, mountain lions, wolverines, fisher, and the pine marten.

### Trees, Plants, and Shrubs

Apart from the giant sequoias, the trees most commonly seen include sugar pine, white and red fir, ponderosa,

Thirteen

From December to March conditions are ideal for winter sports. At Lodgepole a large outdoor rink offers good skating from about December 1 to February 22. Toboggan and ash can slides also are maintained at Lodgepole. Nearby is the Wolverton area where snow from 8 to 12 feet deep provides excellent skiing for amateurs and experts. Winter sports equipment and clothing may be rented.

Due to a mile difference in altitude between the Ash Mountain entrance and the winter sports areas, diverse climatic conditions prevail during the winter months. The foothill section of the park at this season is verdant with lush grasses, and from early February a succession of blooming shrubs and other flowering plants gives a variety of color. Visitors are impressed at the amazing changes of scenery encountered in the short space of an hour's drive, from the orange trees laden with fruit and in full bloom a few miles below the park boundary to the deep snows of Giant Forest.

### Free Public Campgrounds

The long, almost rainless summers make Sequoia National Park an ideal campers' park. Among the giant sequoias in Giant Forest are 225 prepared campsites, and 4 miles away, among the lodgepole pines at Lodgepole Camp, are 300 more. Each has a fireplace and a substantial table-bench combination. Water hydrants, garbage cans, and modern flush comfort stations are nearby. General stores to accommodate the campers' needs are within easy walking distance. For those who desire more quiet camping, Dorst Camp, situated 12 miles beyond Giant Forest, is ideal. Here 150 sites are available with conveniences similar to those at Lodgepole and Giant Forest, except that as yet only dry pit toilets have been installed and the nearest store is 4 miles away.

Giant Forest, Lodgepole, and Dorst public campgrounds are situated at elevations of from 6,400 to 6,800 feet, and are open for use only during the summer. Hospital Rock Campground, 5 miles east of the Ash Mountain Checking Station, and Buckeye Flat Campground nearby are at 2,800-foot elevation, below the snow line, and may be used the year around. In conveniences they are similar to Dorst Camp.

Bathing facilities are not provided in the public campgrounds, but hot shower and tub bath service is available for a small charge at Pinewood Shelter Camp, Camp Kaweah, and Giant Forest Lodge. There is an excellent natural swimming pool at Lodgepole Camp free to the public.

Daily garbage collection and care of comfort stations are maintained.

Dead and down wood may be gathered for camping purposes, except in sequoia grove areas where especially

Fifteen

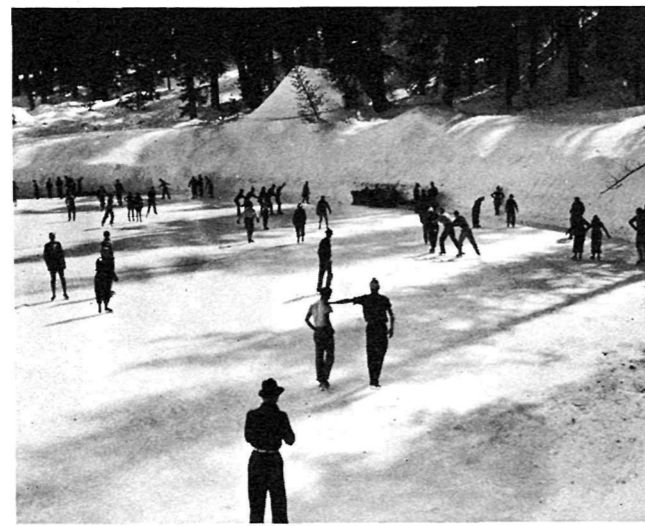
lodgepole and Jeffrey pines, incense cedar, and aspen. Among the shrubby plants coloring the lower elevations are ceanothus, buckeye, redbud, bush poppy, bush lupine, Fremontia, California laurel, yerba santa, chamise, and many others. The Pacific dogwood is especially striking in early spring when in bloom and in late September when the leaves take on their autumnal coloring. Brilliant flowering plants include the yucca, shooting star, gilia, pentstemon, monkey flower, lupine, Mariposa lily, and numerous others. The wide range of elevation results in a succession of blooms from early February to late September.

### The Wilderness Area

The wild grandeur and diversity of the back country are unexcelled by any area of equal size in America. The rugged and spectacular Sierra Range reaches its culminating point in Mount Whitney at 14,495 feet elevation, the highest point in United States proper. Seven other peaks tower above 14,000 feet, 20 are more than 12,000, and 75 exceed 11,000 in elevation. The mighty Kern Canyon is a picturesque canyon 25 miles long. This wilderness area is accessible only by trail, but scores of sturdy hikers, both men and women, put packs on their backs and tramp into this wonderland each summer. Others use pack and saddle animals which are obtainable on both sides of the Sierra Maps, literature, and helpful information may be obtained from the park superintendent.

### The Winter Season

Sequoia National Park is open all year through the Ash Mountain entrance to Giant Forest and Lodgepole Camp.



SKATING RINK RINEHART PHOTO

Fourteen

signed. Sequoia wood may not be gathered or disturbed at any time.

No reservations may be made in public campgrounds. Occupancy is limited to 30 days each year in any area.

No charge is made for the use of any park public campground.

### Pay Accommodations and Services

For detailed information and rates on pay accommodations and services of any type address the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks Co., Sequoia National Park, Calif. The following services are provided during the summer season only:

**Giant Forest Lodge.** European Plan accommodations, with or without bath. Rates for one start at \$2.25. Dining room service. Breakfast 50 cents up, luncheon 85 cents up, dinner \$1.10 up.

**Camp Kaweah.** Fully equipped housekeeping camps. Weekly rates for two, \$16.50; for three, \$20; for four, \$23.50. By day, for one, \$2; for two, \$3; for three, \$3.50; for four, \$4.

**Pinewood Shelter.** Auto camp, partially equipped for housekeeping. Rates start at \$1.50 per day for two persons, 50 cents for each additional person. These cabins cannot be reserved.

**Bearpaw Meadow.** A hikers' camp on the High Sierra Trail. Rates \$1.50 for lodging; \$1 per meal.

**Rates mentioned herein may have changed slightly since issuance of this folder, but the latest rates approved by the Secretary of the Interior are on file with the superintendent and park operator.**

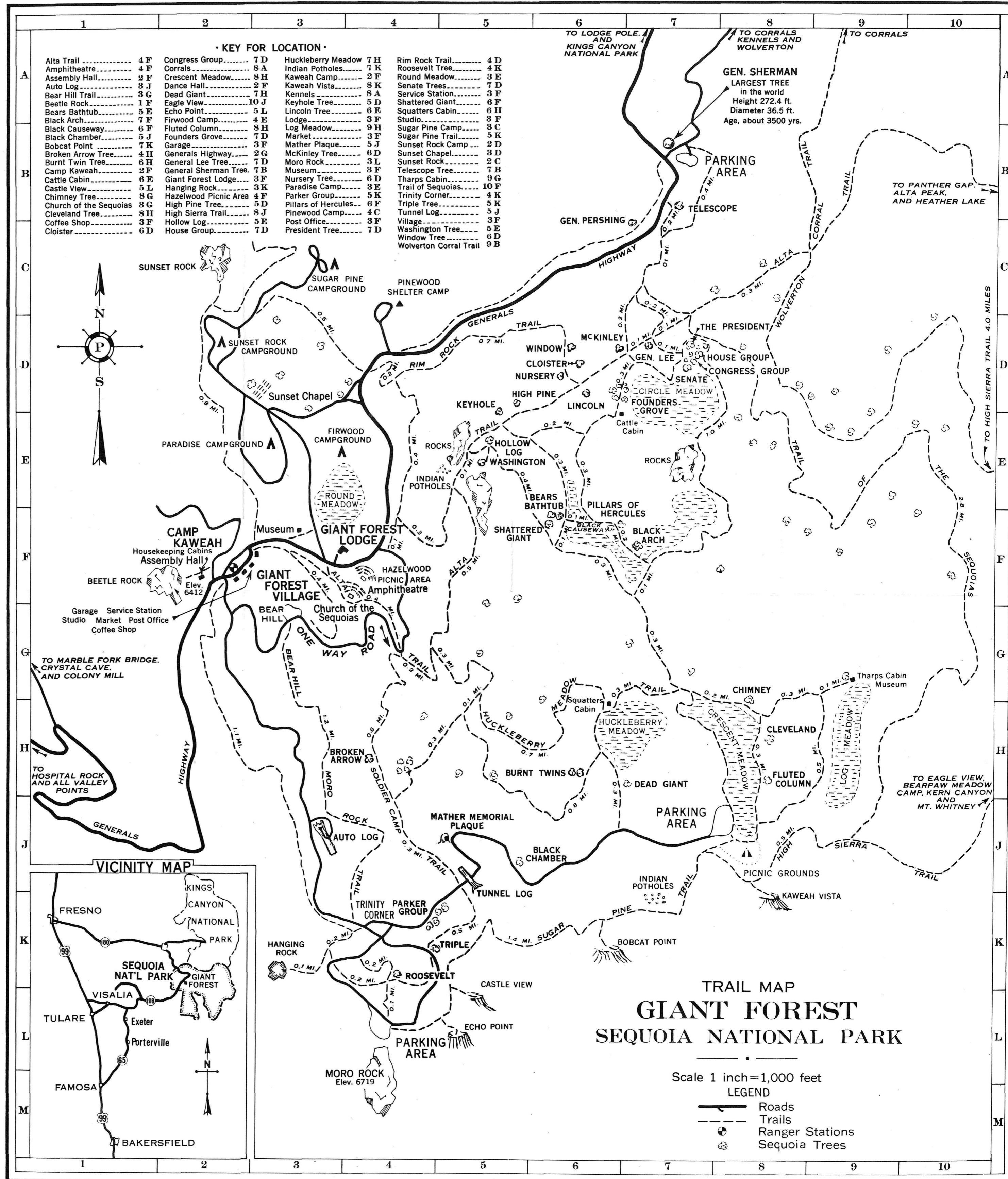
**Saddle Horse and Pack Train Service.** Available for short or long trips.

**Bus and Automobile Transportation.** Bus service is furnished daily from June 10 to September 10. At other times transportation is available on advance arrangements. Bus operates one way only, from Fresno to Visalia to Giant Forest, going back from Giant Forest to Grant Grove to Fresno. Sight-seeing service in park.

**Other Summer Services.** Coffee shop, fountain service, dance pavilion, central market, mechanical repair garage, service station, curio store, newspaper sales, laundry service.

**Winter Accommodations.** The Giant Forest Winter Lodge is open from September to May and offers the same types of service and accommodations as the Giant Forest Lodge, Camp Kaweah, and Pinewood Shelter, with slightly varying rates.

Sixteen



Fifteen