



SEQUOIA  
and  
KINGS CANYON

NATIONAL PARKS

CALIFORNIA

# SEQUOIA and KINGS CANYON National Parks

## WELCOME

The National Park Service, which administers the National Park System, welcomes you to Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. We hope that your contact with the majesty and beauty of these parks will be a memorable and deeply satisfying experience. Employees of the National Park Service here are eager to do what they can to add to your enjoyment.

*You and all Americans share ownership of the parks. Please help us to protect them so that they will remain unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations. While using them, you will take sincere pride in preserving them.*

## SEQUOIA AND KINGS CANYON IN BRIEF

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks lie across the heart of the lofty Sierra Nevada in east central California. They cover more than 1,300 square miles of spectacular granite mountains, deep canyons, and magnificent forests. Their borders, west to east, extend from the foothills of the San Joaquin Valley to the crest of the High Sierra. From north to south, the two parks extend approximately 65 miles.

Though separately established—Sequoia in 1890 and Kings Canyon in 1940—they are virtually a single park and are so administered.

Nature has bestowed her bounty lavishly on Sequoia and Kings Canyon. Early in your visit here you will become aware of the two things that give these parks special distinction—the forests of gigantic trees and the extensive, rugged, and lofty mountains. Here the giant sequoias (*Sequoia gigantea*), largest of all living things, reach their greatest size and are found in largest numbers. They are among the longest-lived trees and are known to exceed 3,000 years in age. Here also the vast Sierra Nevada rises to its highest altitudes, culminating

The National Park System, of which these parks are units, is dedicated to conserving the scenic, scientific, and historic heritage of the United States for the benefit and inspiration of its people.

in the 14,495-foot summit of Mount Whitney, highest point in the continental United States, excluding Alaska.

Both parks have big trees; vast, mountainous primitive areas; deep canyons; polished, granite domes; jeweled lakes; and tumbling waterfalls. You will learn, however, as you explore and observe, that each park has its own distinctive character.

## HOW TO START YOUR VISIT

What can I see and do here? How can I get the most out of my visit? This booklet is intended to help you answer these questions. So—

First, take 10 minutes to *read it*; read it all the way through. It will answer your initial questions and will give you a general knowledge of the two parks. In the section entitled "General Information," you will find suggestions about where to stay, where to eat, and the services available in the parks. The separate map folder will help you locate ranger stations, campgrounds, roads, trails, and places of interest.

As you read, you will find it easier to decide where you want to go and what you want to see and do. It is a good idea to keep this booklet with you for ready reference.

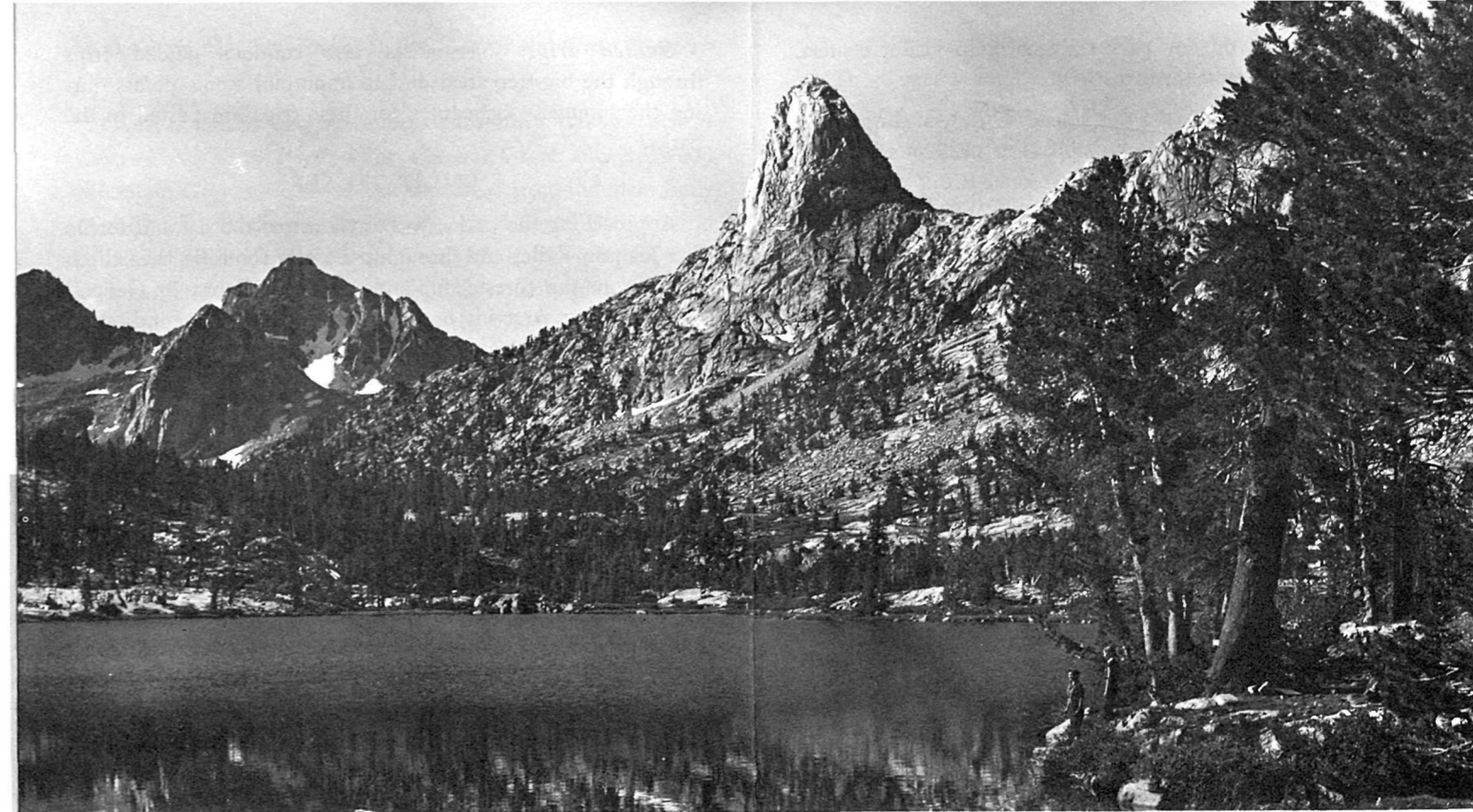
## HOW TO PLAN YOUR TIME

At the outset, visit the Giant Forest Visitor Center, or the ranger stations at General Grant Grove or Cedar Grove. The uniformed park naturalist or ranger will help you plan the best use of your time and will inform you about conducted tours, nature hikes, evening campfire programs, and other scheduled activities. He will also advise you about the things you can do and see for yourself.

You will want to be "on your own" part of the time. One of the finest dividends of a visit here is a sense of exploration and discovery. There is a great variety of things to do and see without guidance—but, for safety's sake, not alone; you may fish, take a saddle-horse trip, follow the close-in trails, hike into the mountains. Consult a park naturalist or ranger for other possibilities.

The Giant Forest Visitor Center contains exhibits, photographs, and interpretive data about the parks. Be sure to see these. They will give you a better understanding of the region and will help you recognize the various park features.

Make a practice of consulting the bulletin boards at ranger stations, lodges, and camps, where announcements of activities, services, time schedules, and other information are posted. They will keep you up to date on what is going on and help you make the most of your time.



*Rae Lakes and Fin Dome, Kings Canyon National Park*

## TO HAVE A TROUBLE-FREE VISIT

While here, you are living a life different in two respects from your normal life: (1) You are in a National Park that is to be preserved in its natural condition; therefore, you should understand that certain requirements, even beyond those usually practiced in the out-of-doors, must be met. (2) You are in the mountains, where rugged terrain and high altitudes present special problems of health and safety.

We are sure you will wish to observe park regulations. You will find them posted in conspicuous places in the parks. Meanwhile, here are a few points for you to remember:

**About yourself.** Avoid overexertion. Accustom yourself gradually to strenuous hikes and to the higher elevation of the mountains. Stay on the trails. Avoid trips alone. Tell one of your party or a park ranger where you are going and when you expect to be back.

**Your car.** Some mountain roads are crooked and steep. So always drive on your own side. Drive slowly, and shift into second or low gear to control your speed. Continuous use of your brakes may cause them to overheat; this may result in

loss of control of your car. Wherever you drive, observe posted speed limits; practice the courtesies of the road.

**Your camp.** Pitch it in a designated camp area. On trail trips, camp where others have camped before. Campfire permits are required for trailside or back-country camping. Obtain your permit, without charge, at any ranger station. Build your campfire in the fireplace provided, or where others have been built. Leave your camp clean when you depart. Use refuse receptacles for all paper and trash.

**Pets.** You may take your dog or cat into the parks. However, because of the park wildlife it must be kept under physical control at all times—caged, on a leash, or in your car—and it

## WILD ANIMALS

It is dangerous for you to get near wild animals though they may appear tame. Some have become accustomed to humans, but they still are wild and may seriously injure you if you approach them. Regulations prohibiting feeding, teasing, touching, or molesting wild animals are enforced for your own safety.

may not be taken on any park trails, or into visitor centers, stores, or eating establishments.

**Fires and smoking.** Do not smoke while traveling along the trails. If you want to smoke, stop, clear the ground around you, smoke, put it out, and then move on. Break your match before throwing it away. Never leave campfires unattended even for a few minutes; always extinguish them with water. During the fire season, from about late June to October, smoking in moving cars is not permitted below 6,000 feet elevation.

**Park features.** All things in the parks—flowers, trees, rocks, and minerals—are to be left unharmed for others to enjoy. The protection of everything here is a matter of law; it is also a matter of consideration for others and of good citizenship.

#### INTERPRETIVE SERVICES

The National Park Service provides certain interpretive services in the parks to help you understand these areas and their special features. Aside from the exhibits mentioned earlier these include evening campfire programs and guided trips to places of interest. Such services are free and you are invited to take advantage of them.

**Campfire programs.** Park naturalists give illustrated talks on various aspects of the two parks at evening campfire programs at Giant Forest, General Grant Grove, and Cedar Grove during the summer. The weekly program, showing time schedules and subjects, is posted at Giant Forest Visitor Center and at lodges, campgrounds, and other public places in the parks.

**Guided trips.** Naturalists also conduct guided trips through the big-tree areas and to important scenic points during the summer. Schedules for these trips are posted in the parks.

#### WHAT TO SEE

Approaching the parks, you travel across the flat and fertile San Joaquin Valley and through the Sierra foothills, then climb abruptly to the forested uplands of Giant Forest or General Grant Grove. Arriving here, you already have some indication of the varied landscape and the grandeur of this region. But much more awaits you.

The features of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks are so numerous and so diverse that you have a wide choice of things to see. What you do see will depend on your interests, your mode of travel, and your time.

Here is a brief summary of the chief attractions:

**Giant Forest, Sequoia National Park.** Some of the finest groves of giant sequoias may be seen at Giant Forest. Here, too, is the General Sherman Tree, largest and one of the oldest of living things. It is approximately 272 feet in height and 101.6 feet in circumference, and the maximum diameter of its trunk at the base is 36.5 feet. Its age is estimated at about 3,500 years. In this part of the park, you may also see: Moro Rock, Crescent Meadow, Crystal Cave, Tokopah Valley, Sunset Rock, and Beetle Rock. Short climbs to Moro Rock or Little Baldy open up superb views of valley, forest, and high mountain scenery. Or you may take yourself into that high-country scene by longer trail trips to Heather Lake, to Alta Peak, or

to Bearpaw Meadow Camp at the base of the Great Western Divide.

**General Grant and Redwood Mountain Groves, Kings Canyon National Park.** The General Grant and Redwood Mountain Groves are somewhat separated from the main body of the park. In the former is the General Grant Tree, second in size to the General Sherman Tree. It is 267 feet tall, with a circumference of 107.6 feet. Other notable giants are the General Lee Tree, second largest in the Grant Grove, and the Hart Tree, fourth largest known sequoia, in Redwood Mountain Grove. In striking contrast to these living survivors of antiquity, is the time-weathered Centennial Stump, cut in 1875 to provide an exhibit for the Philadelphia World's Fair. Big Stump Basin, where ages-old trees met death from the lumberman's ax, may be seen nearby.

**Kings Canyon and Cedar Grove.** Kings Canyon, a major feature of Kings Canyon National Park, is the steep-walled, 9-mile-long valley of the South Fork of the Kings River. It is similar in many ways to Yosemite Valley. Towering peaks rise to heights of a mile or more above the stream. Readily accessible by road and trail from Cedar Grove are spectacular canyon walls; and views of the mountain river, Zumwalt Meadows, Roaring River Falls, and Mist Falls. Cedar Grove is the center of activity in Kings Canyon and a popular base point for extensive trail trips into the high country beyond.

**The high country.** This is a vast region of unbroken wilderness, of mountains, canyons, rivers, lakes, and meadows. Within the two parks it extends from Coyote Peaks at the southern border of Sequoia to the northernmost limits of Kings Canyon at Pavilion Dome. Evolution Basin, Kern Canyon, Tehipite Valley, Bubbs Creek, Simpson Meadow—these are a few of the places where you may find the unspoiled and spectacular natural scene. You will catch glimpses of this wild country here and there from your car or from such overlooks as Moro Rock or Panoramic Point. But only by trail can you gain acquaintance with this rugged but friendly country. The Sierra crest, ranging in elevation from 11,000 feet to the 14,495-foot summit of Mount Whitney, forms the eastern boundary of the two parks. The John Muir Trail enters Kings Canyon National Park at Pavilion Dome and extends down along the west side of the range to Mount Whitney.

If you are the hardy type, you can have the vacation of a lifetime here. You may want to backpack into the wilds; or you may prefer to explore the wilderness with the luxury of pack and saddle animals, which are obtainable at many places in or near the parks. Many people enter the high country from Owens Valley, east of the Sierra.

#### ROADS AND TRAILS

The Generals Highway, the main road that connects Sequoia and Kings Canyon (see Road Log on back page), winds through the Giant Sequoia belt and covers 47 miles from the Ash Mountain Entrance to the northern border of General Grant Grove. Branching off from it are other roads that take you to certain featured attractions or within short trail distances of them. Some lead to overlooks for spectacular scenic views.

From General Grant Grove, you travel 28 miles on State Route 180 through Sequoia National Forest and along the South Fork of the Kings River to Cedar Grove. The road continues for 6 miles through the canyon to Copper Creek. Here you stop beneath solid granite walls that tower thousands of feet above the canyon floor and end in a mass of lofty domes and pinnacles. Here begin many fine trails into higher areas.

#### ON YOUR OWN

**Fishing.** You will find trout fishing in almost every lake and stream a half day's journey beyond the roads. Park waters contain brook, brown, and rainbow trouts, and the famous California golden trout.

The most popular fishing spots are along the Kings River and the forks of the Kaweah River. Their smaller tributaries, offering somewhat limited fishing, are best in early summer. You may buy a State fishing license at the stores. A 10-day nonresident license costs \$5; the annual license for California residents is also \$5. Certain closures and special regulations are in effect from time to time, so check upon these matters at a ranger station before you fish.

**Swimming.** Because of the low temperature of the waters of mountain lakes, swimming in them is inadvisable, and often dangerous; therefore, you'd better not attempt it.

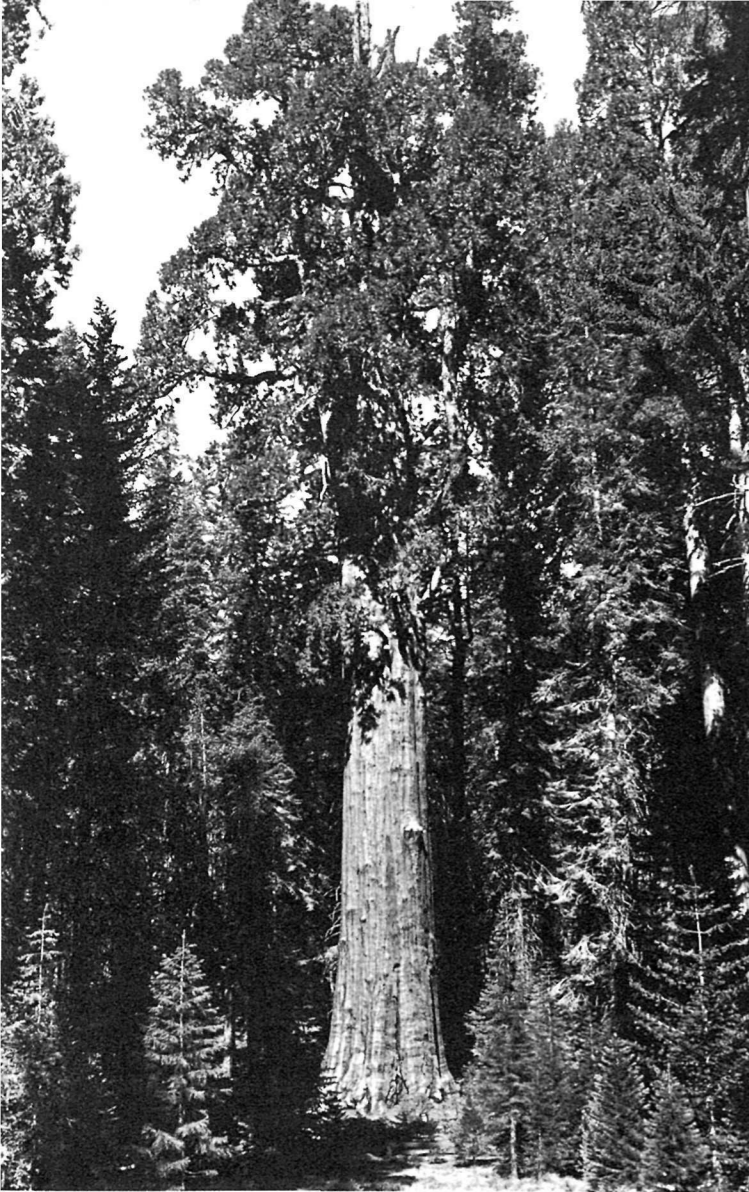
**Saddle horses.** You may rent saddle horses at any of a number of corrals near Giant Forest, Wolverton, General Grant Grove, or Cedar Grove; in Owens Valley, on the east side of the Sierra; and at many other places around the borders of the parks.

#### A BIT OF HISTORY

**Long years ago.** In prehistoric days, early Indians used this region as a hunting ground. Later Indians roamed its mountains and fished in its streams. The first men of European origin to encounter the High Sierra were the early explorers, trappers, and fur traders. On John C. Fremont's third expedition to the West in 1845, a section of his party traveled along the Kern River, which he later named for his topographer. The Indians had called it Pu-sun-co-la. Spanish explorers discovered and named the Kings River. They called it Rio de los Santos Reyes—River of the Holy Kings.



Moro Rock,  
Sequoia  
National Park



*General Sherman Tree, Sequoia National Park*

In the middle of the 19th century, settlers began moving into the San Joaquin Valley around Visalia. Hale Tharp, a pioneer cattleman, was the first to settle at Three Rivers. He made friends with the Indians and formed a strong friendship with Chief Chappo, head of the Potwishas. One day in 1858, Chappo and other Potwishas led him up to the Indian Trail under Moro Rock to the fabulous big trees. He was thus the first white man to see the sequoias at Giant Forest. In 1862, Joseph Hardin Thomas was the first to see the General Grant Grove and it was he who discovered the General Grant Tree. Some years later, in 1879, James Wolverton, a trapper, discovered the General Sherman Tree and named it for his Civil

War commanding officer. It was John Muir who gave the Giant Forest its name.

*How these mountains and groves became parks.* Muir was one of our country's greatest advocates of conservation. In his writings, he extolled the natural wonders and beauties of the high mountain wilderness; he begged for preservation of the giant sequoias. However, loggers felled hundreds of "the giants" in accessible areas. Ghostly reminders of their activity may be seen today in Big Stump Basin, Redwood Mountain Grove, and elsewhere. In Converse Basin, only a single sequoia, The Boole Tree, was left standing.

Public-spirited citizens, campaigning for years to save the big trees, made little headway. But when a sawmill was erected at Colony Mill, Col. George W. Stewart, Visalia editor, and Gustav Eisen, of the California Academy of Sciences, renewed the fight, aided by a few other far-visioned men. Their efforts succeeded when the Congress established Sequoia National Park on September 25, 1890, and General Grant National Park 3 weeks later. Kings Canyon National Park was not established until 1940. The act of establishment made General Grant National Park a part of it.

Today, a number of park features bear the names of conservation stalwarts who helped in the fight to preserve this region for posterity. Among these, Muir Pass and Muir Grove perpetuate the name of John Muir. Mount Stewart and Mount Eisen, towering peaks of the Great Western Divide, and the Founders Group in Giant Forest, stand as memorials to some of the men who helped establish Sequoia National Park.

### THE GIANT SEQUOIAS

The giant sequoias (*Sequoia gigantea*) are survivors of an ancient lineage of huge trees that grew over much of the earth millions of years ago. Evidence of their antiquity is supplied by fossilized remains found buried (outside these parks) in ancient rock strata. The dinosaurs, the giant lizards, and the ichthyosaurs are long since gone. Most of the giant sequoias went too, yet the species has survived through the ages, generally, it is believed, in places that escaped glaciation in the ice age. As John Muir expressed it, "\* \* \* God cared for these trees, saved them from drought, disease, avalanches, and a thousand straining, levelling tempests and floods \* \* \*."

The only place in the world today where these titans of the forest are found in their natural habitat is here in central California along the western slope of the Sierra Nevada. They grow in scattered separated groves in a narrow 250-mile belt from Placer County south to southern Tulare County at elevations of 4,000 to 8,000 feet.

*World's largest.* Most surviving sequoias are protected in Sequoia, Kings Canyon, and Yosemite National Parks, in State and county parks, and in National Forests. The largest groves and biggest trees are in Sequoia and Kings Canyon.

Their nearest kin is the coast redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*), among which is found the world's tallest tree, 359 feet in height. At least one of these has been estimated as 2,000 years old, but the giant sequoia is the world's largest in volume and the longer lived of the two. Some of the sequoias here—notably the General Sherman and the General Grant—are estimated to be between 3,000 and 4,000 years old. Many exceed 30 feet in diameter and reach heights near 300 feet.

*Age.* How can trees live so long? Several reasons are apparent. Unlike most trees, sequoias seem to have no built-in age limit; an indefinite life span enables them to go on living until some external force or combination of forces topples them. And their resistance to such forces is remarkable. The thick, asbestos-like bark and the wood, heavy with tannin, resist fire and the various tree diseases and insect attacks so often fatal to other trees. If fire, winds, or storms cause damage, the sequoia has remarkable recuperative powers. It grows new wood over fire scars, produces new branches and crowns to replace those broken by the elements. The tree surmounts most of the accidents normal to a forest. Even at the ripe age of 3,500 years, a sequoia has the vigor and vitality of maturity and continues to produce annually the tiny seeds from which new trees begin life.

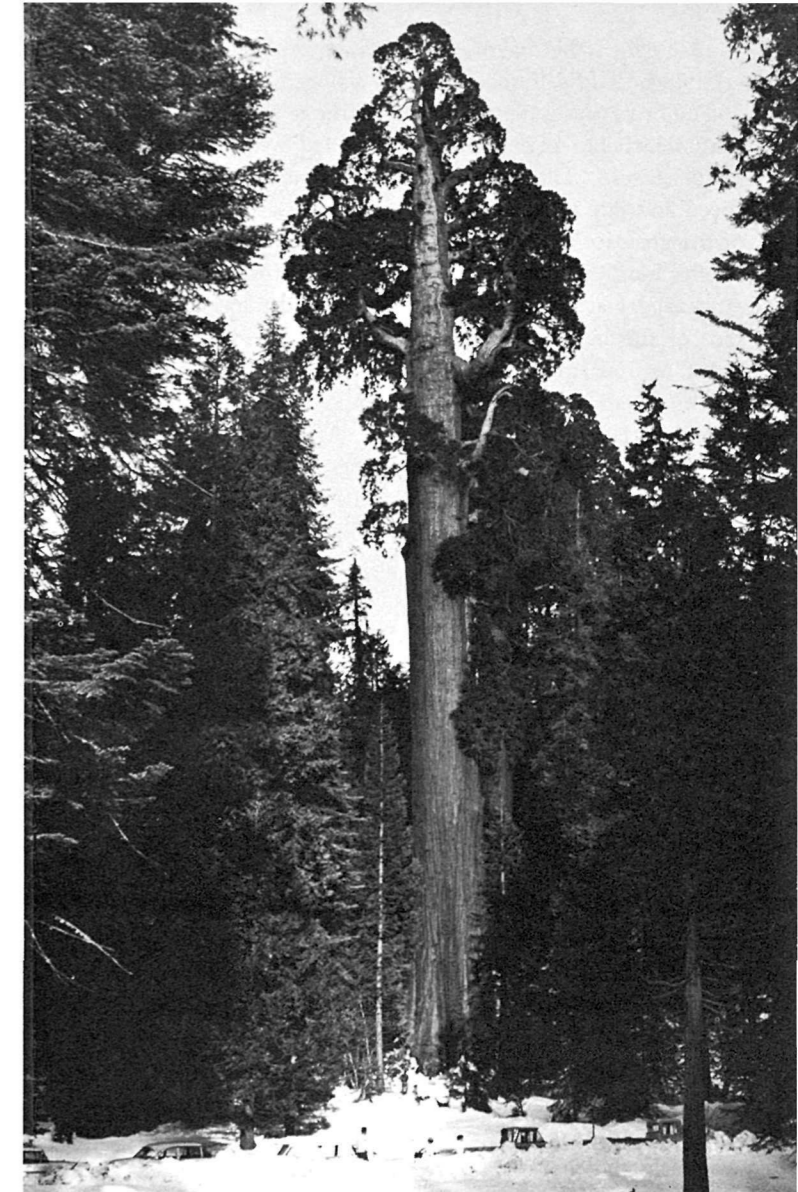
You may ask, "Are there any young sequoias?" There are and you can see many here, though they differ in appearance from the older trees. In youth, the sequoia has a tall slender trunk and a thin conical crown, and the branches cover the trunk nearly to the ground—a true Christmas-tree appearance. Later, it broadens out, develops large lateral limbs, and sheds the lower branches. In old age, the tree assumes a broad conical or open, oval shape with immense limbs and large tufts of foliage. Once you are able to recognize them at different stages of growth, you will find representatives of all generations in most of the groves.

*Community life.* Invariably the giant sequoias live in association with other trees—in forest communities, where they are scattered individually and in groups. The forest floor is often covered with lupine, dogwood, azalea, alder, and willow. Giant sequoias, with firs and pines, blend harmoniously into the forest community; but note how strikingly different the ages-old sequoias are from their neighbors. Massive and vigorous, they are the patriarchs of the community. Spanning the ages, they seem to serve as a link with eternity.

For publications containing more complete information about the sequoias, see listing in this booklet.

### GEOLOGY: HIGH MOUNTAINS AND DEEP CANYONS

Geologists interpret the topography of the Sequoia and Kings Canyon region—the high mountains and deep canyons,



*General Grant Tree, Kings Canyon National Park*

the rocks, the hills, and valleys—as the result of forces operating over millions of years. Tremendous earth upheavals, erosion, the movements of ponderous glaciers and raging rivers, the winds, and changing temperatures—all have had a part in sculpturing this vast region.

Colorful rocks of foothill and summit areas were formed as sediments when the region lay beneath the waves of the sea in what was doubtless an eastward extension of the Pacific. The lighter-colored granites prevalent in sheer canyon walls, rounded domes, and glistening lake basins, on the other hand, were once molten-rock material, called magma. The granites

formed when the magma, working upward from the depths, crystallized and solidified before reaching the land surface.

The great Sierra Nevada itself is a huge block of the earth's crust which has been uplifted and tilted westward in several major stages. Tilting steepened the slope, thus increasing the speed and rate of downcutting of the rivers. With the advent of the great ice age, approximately a million years ago, canyons approaching their present depths had been formed.

Ice age glaciers gave added beauty and adornment to the face of the land. Canyons were quarried wider and deeper. Great natural amphitheaters, called cirques, were gouged into the higher ridges and crests. Basins occupied by the many jewel-like lakes were scooped out. And as if to add a final touch of glittering adornment, glaciers polished and burnished the sheer canyon walls and high valleys. Glaciers have thus added that charm and beauty to the Sierra which led John Muir to refer to it as "The Range of Light."

### LIFE IN THE MOUNTAINS

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks would be incomplete without the native life that is a part of them. Here the animals roam at will in their natural habitat; the trees and shrubs, the plants and flowers, in colorful array, grow wild in their home environment. Various and peculiarly, each is fitted by nature to live where it does.

Because of the extreme variations of altitude and the diversity of climate in the parks, you will find different kinds of life in different places—for the living things thrive only where their living requirements are most fully met. You experienced a decided change in climate motoring here from the San Joaquin Valley. You probably became aware also of the change in vegetation from the brush-covered foothills to the higher, forested plateau. On the grassy hills, you saw buckbrush, chamise, redbud, and buckeye, plants that flower and seed early and that can survive the hot, dry summer. As you go higher into the mountains, the flowering season is progressively later.

Each succeeding climate zone has its own typical trees and is enlivened by its own special floral combinations. Within the parks, over 1,200 different kinds of trees, shrubs, plants, and flowers have been identified.

Climate affects the animals, too, but not in the way it does the trees and the flowers. Some animals move from place to place with the seasons. The California mule deer, abundant in the parks, spends the winter in the snow-free foothills, and generally moves into higher country in summer. The black bear, common in the forested areas in summer and early autumn, simply retires to a quiet existence in his den during the winter, as do the marmot, chipmunk, and ground squirrel.

Various other kinds of squirrels, and some predators such

as the raccoon and weasel, remain in the same territory all year but are most active in the summer. The cougar, bobcat, and ringtail, active chiefly at night, are occasionally seen. Resident in the parks, but rarely seen, are the Sierra bighorn, pine marten, wolverine, and fisher. The latter two, both rare species, shun man and retire to the least-visited, most-primitive places.

The golden eagle is common, nesting in the mountain crags. There are about 167 other species of birds, occupying a variety of habitats in the parks.

### THE SEASONS

Most visitors come to these parks in the summer. Thousands have discovered that other seasons, too, are ideal here, and richly reward a visit. In the autumn, the dogwood, aspen, and oaks enliven the landscape with brilliant red, yellow, and orange. If you come here in the spring—in April or May—the foothills are covered with flowers; the rivers are bank-full from the winter's melted snow.

In winter, the sequoias are festooned with snow; the forest floor is smoother and brightened by a trackless white blanket. You can get into the picture with skis, toboggans, and skates. For skiers there are simple rope tows at Wolverton, above Giant Forest. There's a practice hill for novices, an intermediate run, and a steeper slope for the experts. Unless you are skilled, avoid the experts' run. You can also ski at Big Stump Basin near General Grant Grove and on other slopes in both parks. The outdoor skating rink at Lodgepole is open from about mid-December through February. As a rule, the first snow comes in October, usually at the higher elevations.

At any season it is easy to find complete solitude; you will be impressed not only by the majesty of your surroundings but by the silence within the sequoia groves.

### THE NATIONAL PARK STORY

If this is your first visit to a National Park, you probably will want to know something of the history, the scope, and the significance of the National Park System, and how it is managed. Only a brief account can be given here. We recommend that you read some of the publications listed herein for more detailed information.

The United States was the first country in the world to set aside an area of great natural beauty as a National Park for all to enjoy. The first park—Yellowstone, established in 1872, "as a public park or pleasuring-ground for the benefit and enjoyment of the people"—was followed by others, similarly marked for preservation and enjoyment. The movement spread to other countries. Now, many nations have such parks for their people. Though our own park system contains some 23,000,000 acres, it comprises less than 1 percent of the United States and its possessions.



*The Great Western Divide in the High Sierra, from Moro Rock, Sequoia National Park*

The purpose of these parks and the pattern of their use were defined in the Yellowstone National Park Act of 1872. Congress reemphasized this purpose and this pattern in 1916, when it established the National Park Service.

Two basic principles govern the administration of the parks: One is the preservation of their natural beauties as an American heritage, that future generations may see them as the pioneers saw them; the other is that they be made available for the use and pleasure of yourselves and of Americans of the future.

So, in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, you will see virgin country as it evolved over the ages. As did the early pioneers, here you will find nature in control, free from human guidance; predator and prey each has its place in the picture; the forest cycle goes on its appointed way, free from the threat of ax and saw; the waters flow undammed. All about you is change—but it is change over which man exerts as little influence as possible.

### YOU AND THE PARKS

At first, you will be impressed by the size of things in Sequoia and Kings Canyon and by the beauty and the grandeur

around you. The sequoias are the biggest trees you've ever seen. The mountains are among the highest. The mile-deep canyons of the Kings River are spectacular and awesome. But there is more to these parks than bigness and grandeur. Perhaps your stay will be long enough for you to discover and experience other qualities that give them distinction.

The majesty of the sequoia groves fosters a mood of serenity, of separation from the turmoil and fret of the outside world. Some of these forest giants were already huge trees before the birth of Christ. Here time drops away; a sense of tranquillity and of peace prevails.

The wildness of the mountain scene—rushing rivers, deep gorges, serrated peaks—challenges and revitalizes the human spirit. As John Muir, the great naturalist, said: "Going to the mountains is going home \* \* \* wilderness is a necessity \* \* \* and mountain parks \* \* \* are useful not only as fountains of timber and irrigating rivers, but as fountains of life."

### OTHER PUBLICATIONS

You will want to know more about these parks than we can give you in this brief publication. We suggest the following

publications, which are available at ranger stations and stores in the parks:

ALCORN, WAYNE B. *Discovering Cone-Bearing Trees in Sequoia and Kings Canyon*. Sequoia Natural History Association.

BUTCHER, DEVEREUX. *Exploring Our National Parks and Monuments*. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston, Mass.

COFFMAN, JOHN D. *Forests and Trees of the National Park System*. U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C.

COOK, LAWRENCE F. *The Giant Sequoias of California*. U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C.

DIXON, JOSEPH S. *Wildlife Portfolio of the Western National Parks*. U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C.

DIXON, JOSEPH S., and SUMNER, LOWELL. *Mammals of the Sierra*. University of California Press, Berkeley, Calif.

FRY, WALTER, and WHITE, JOHN R. *Big Trees*. Stanford University Press, Stanford, Calif.

MATTHES, FRANCOIS E. *Sequoia National Park: A Geological Album*. University of California Press, Berkeley, Calif.

OBERHANSLEY, FRANK. *Crystal Cave*. Sequoia Natural History Association, Three Rivers, Calif.

PEATTIE, DONALD C. *The Sierra Nevada: The Range of Light*. Vanguard Press, Inc., New York, N.Y.

SHANKLAND, ROBERT. *Steve Mather of the National Parks*. Alfred A. Knopf, New York, N.Y.

STAGNER, HOWARD R. *The Giants of Sequoia and Kings Canyon*. Sequoia Natural History Association, Three Rivers, Calif.

STARR, WALTER A., Jr. *Guide to the John Muir Trail*. Sierra Club of San Francisco, San Francisco, Calif.

TILDEN, FREEMAN. *The National Parks: What They Mean to You and Me*. Alfred A. Knopf, New York, N.Y.

WAMPLER, HEALD, and McDERMAND. *High Sierra—Mountain Wonderland*. Joseph Wampler, Berkeley, Calif.

WHITE, JOHN R., and PUSATERI, SAMUEL J. *Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks*. Stanford University Press, Stanford, Calif.

YEAGER, DORR G. *National Parks in California*. Lane Publishing Co., Menlo Park, Calif.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Administration

A superintendent, representing the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, is the official in charge of

these parks. His headquarters are near the Ash Mountain Entrance to Sequoia National Park. The post-office address is: Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, Three Rivers, Calif.

### How To Reach the Parks

The two main entrances to the parks are on the west side. The railroads, buslines, or airlines will take you to Tulare or Visalia, Calif. From Tulare or Visalia, sightseeing buses operate to Giant Forest during the summer; on-call taxi service during the winter. By car, take Route 180 from Fresno or Routes 198 and 65 from Visalia to the Big Stump Entrance to General Grant Grove, Kings Canyon National Park (52 miles); or Route 198 to the Ash Mountain Entrance, Sequoia National Park (34 miles). Generals Highway connects the two parks.

The roads to Giant Forest and Lodgepole and to the General Grant Grove's Big Stump Entrance are open all year, but Generals Highway between Lodgepole and General Grant Grove is closed by snow at times during the winter.

### Where To Stay

**Lodges and cabins.** Giant Forest Lodge (American and European plans), open May 22 to September 13; Grant Grove Lodge (European plan), open May 22 to September 7; cabins equipped for housekeeping at Camp Kaweah, Giant Forest, open all year, and at Meadow Shelter Camp, General Grant Grove, May 22 to September 7; Bearpaw Meadow Camp, small tent chalet, 9 miles from Giant Forest on the High Sierra trail (no auto road), season approximately last week in June to first week in September. *Advance reservations* should be sought for all of the accommodations listed above. Cabins, partially equipped, at Pinewood Shelter Camp, on Generals Highway, 1 mile north of Giant Forest, open May 23 to September 14—no reservations necessary.

All communications regarding reservations for accommodations and for bus transportation to the parks from nearby vicinities should be addressed to: Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks Co., Sequoia National Park, Calif. (Address, October to May: Visalia, Calif.)

**Free campgrounds** at Giant Forest, Lodgepole, Dorst Creek, Grant Grove, and Cedar Grove are equipped with running water, sanitary facilities, fireplaces, and tables. A gasoline camp stove is recommended. Firewood may be purchased or may be collected in *designated* areas. Camping is permitted only in designated campsites, except in the high country. Lodgepole camp in the Giant Forest area and the camp at Cedar Grove are best suited to trailer use, though no electrical or

sewer connections are provided. Occupancy of camps is limited to 14 days. Advance reservations cannot be made. Most campgrounds are open from June 1 until closed by snow in October.

### Food and Supplies

**Coffee shops.** At Giant Forest, open all year; at General Grant Grove, May 22 to September 7; at Cedar Grove, June 19 to September 7. Dining room at Giant Forest Lodge open May 22 to September 13.

**Stores.** General supplies and curios at Giant Forest, General Grant Grove, Lodgepole, and Cedar Grove during summer. Limited staple items available at Giant Forest and General Grant Grove during winter.

**Equipment rental.** Camping and hiking supplies, including tents, cots, and mattresses, at Pinewood Shelter Camp, Giant Forest; ski equipment, knapsacks, etc., at Wolverton; and figure and hockey skates at Lodgepole.

**Summer post offices** at Giant Forest, Sequoia National Park, Calif., and General Grant Grove, Kings Canyon National Park,

*Mount Whitney, highest point in the United States outside Alaska, Sequoia National Park.*





*Mist Falls, Paradise Valley, Kings Canyon National Park.*

*Courtesy, Padilla Studios.*

Calif. Telephone and telegraph at Giant Forest, General Grant Grove, Cedar Grove, and all permanent lodges and camps. Gasoline stations at Giant Forest, General Grant Grove, Stony Creek, and Cedar Grove. Church services, Catholic and Protestant, each Sunday at Giant Forest, General Grant Grove, and Cedar Grove, mid-June to first week in September.

**MISSION 66**

Mission 66 is a program designed to be completed by 1966 which will assure the maximum protection of the scenic, scientific, wilderness, and historic resources of the National Park System in such ways and by such means as will make them available for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

*Dimensions of the General Sherman and General Grant Trees*

	<i>General Sherman</i>	<i>General Grant</i>
Height above mean base.....	272.4 feet	267.4 feet
Circumference at base.....	101.6 feet	107.6 feet
Maximum diameter at base.....	36.5 feet	40.3 feet
Mean diameter at base.....	32.2 feet	33.3 feet
Diameter 60 feet above ground....	17.5 feet	18.8 feet
Diameter 120 feet above ground..	17.0 feet	15.0 feet
Diameter 180 feet above ground..	14.0 feet	12.9 feet
Height to first large branch.....	130.0 feet	129.0 feet
Diameter of largest branch.....	6.8 feet	4.5 feet
Weight of trunk (approximate)..	625 tons	565 tons
Total volume of trunk.....	50,010 cu. ft.	45,232 cu. ft.

**ROAD LOG**

ASH MOUNTAIN—CEDAR GROVE  
(Via Generals Highway and State Route 180)

From Ash Mountain Entrance Station MILES (Read down)	TO	From Cedar Grove MILES (Read up)
0.....	Ash Mountain.....	76
5.....	Hospital Rock.....	71
10.....	Amphitheater Point.....	66
16.....	Giant Forest.....	60
18.....	General Sherman Tree.....	58
	Wolverton Road (a).....	
20.....	Lodgepole.....	56
29.....	Dorst Creek Campground.....	47
31.....	Lost Grove.....	45
33.....	Stony Creek.....	43
38.....	Big Meadow Junction.....	38
40.....	Kings Canyon Overlook.....	36
41.....	Redwood Canyon Junction.....	35
44.....	Junction State Route 180 (the Wye). Big Stump Entrance (b).....	32
46.....	General Grant Grove.....	30
53.....	Hume Lake Junction.....	23
66.....	Boyden Cave.....	10
76.....	Cedar Grove (c).....	0

- (a) Wolverton Road intersects Generals Highway 1 mile beyond General Sherman Tree, and Wolverton Area is 1 mile east.
- (b) Big Stump Entrance is 2 miles southwest of Junction on State Route 180.
- (c) Road ends at Copper Creek, 6 miles beyond Cedar Grove.

**VISITOR-USE FEES**

Vehicle permit fees are collected at entrance stations. If you arrive when an entrance station is unattended, you must obtain a permit before leaving the park. Fees are not listed herein because they are subject to change, but the information may be obtained by writing to the superintendent. Fee revenues are deposited in the U.S. Treasury; they offset, in part, the cost of operating and maintaining the National Parks.



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

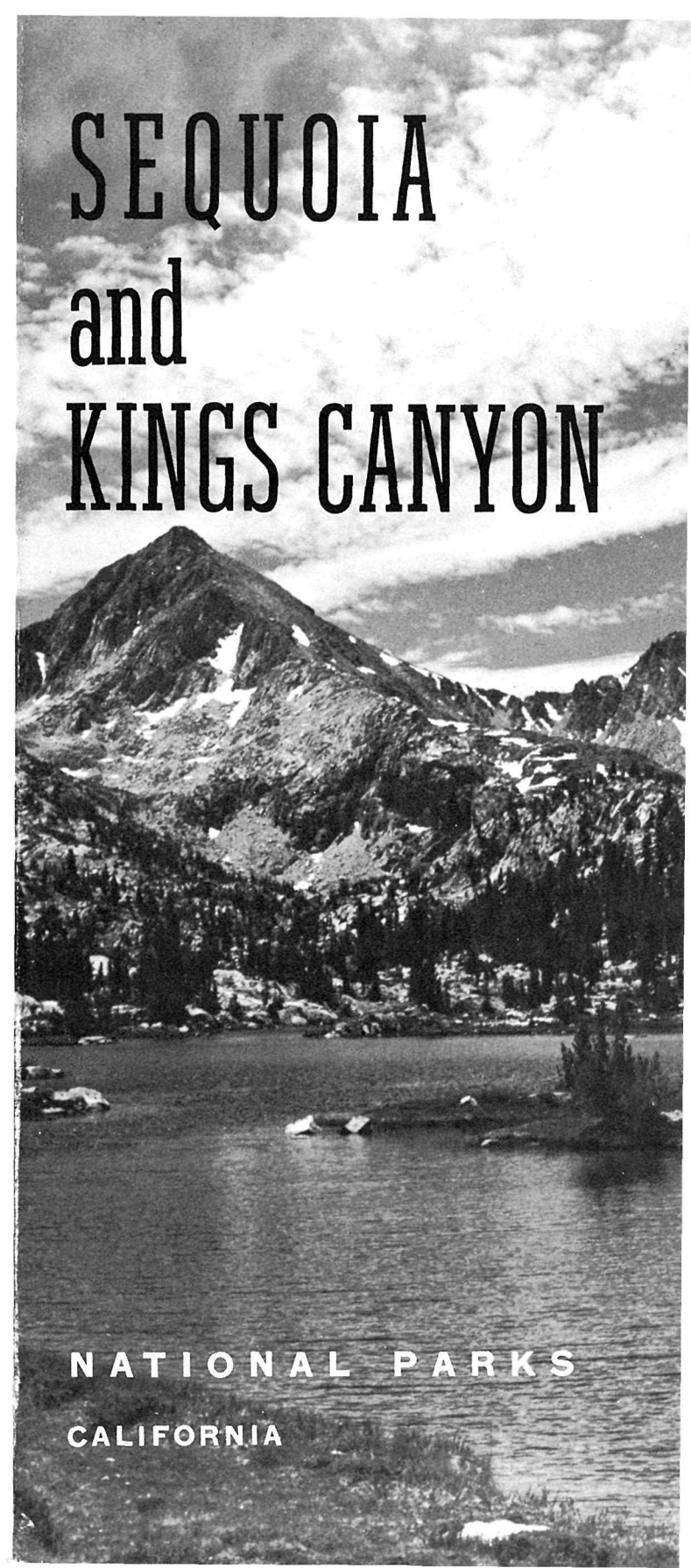


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