

appreciate their true size. Members of a genus that in the geologic past populated much of the northern hemisphere, this species now is found in separated groves only along the western slope of the Sierra Nevada. Another species, the coast redwood, grows near the coast in central and northern California.

After you have studied these trees for size, meditated on their great age, and enjoyed their beauty of color and form, other features will be noticed.

A MIXED FOREST. Growing in association with the giant sequoia in General Grant Grove are the magnificent sugar and ponderosa pines, along with white fir and incense-cedar.

SEEDS AND CONES. The egg-shaped, thick-scaled, rather small cone produces many seeds.

YOUNG SEQUOIAS. The seeds germinate only in exposed mineral soil in open places, not in the shaded forest. Look for young trees near General Grant Tree, along the highway, and in General Grant Village.

THE CROWNS. Young sequoias are sharp spires in silhouette, with dense foliage down to ground level. In early maturity, the lower branches are lost. Later, most of the upper branches drop away, leaving a few to grow larger, branch out, and lift up. These form the typical domelike crown of older trees.

SNAG TOPS. Severe injury to the base may cause dead tops.

FIRE SCARS. Repeated lightning fires caused these black scars and hollows. Fire rarely kills the larger trees, because they are protected by thick, fire-resistant bark.

RECUPERATION. Notice how the bark grows around and over the fire scars.

DEATH OF A SEQUOIA. The giant sequoia resists death by fire, lightning, insects, and disease. Death occurs most often when erosion softens the earth causing the tree to lose its balance and fall.

REDWOODS AND SEQUOIAS. Giant sequoia is the common name of *Sequoia gigantea*. It may also be called big tree or Sierra redwood. *Sequoia sempervirens* of the coast is called the coast redwood. They are two different species of sequoia.

THE NAME OF SEQUOIA. Named by a European botanist in honor of Chief Sequoyah who, though lacking a formal education, devised a remarkable phonetic alphabet for the Cherokee Indian Tribe.

IS IT THE OLDEST LIVING THING? Cypress, juniper, cedar, and bristlecone pine are other long-lived trees. The oldest sequoia on authentic record was 3,226 years old, but John Muir reported counting 4,000 rings on one sequoia stump. The General Sherman

and General Grant Trees probably exceed 3,500 years in age. Certainly of all living things, the giant sequoia can be considered among the oldest.

Points to Visit

RANGER STATION. We suggest you plan your visit by consulting the park rangers or ranger naturalists and by obtaining maps and literature.

CAMPFIRE PROGRAMS, CONDUCTED TRIPS. The bulletin boards will give you the daily schedule of these free activities.

GENERAL GRANT TREE. Second largest sequoia—volume 45,232 cubic feet, height 267 feet, circumference 107.6 feet.

CENTENNIAL STUMP. From this tree a section was hollowed out and displayed at the 1876 Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia.

FALLEN MONARCH. This once served as a stable for cavalry horses when the United States Army patrolled these parks.

GENERAL LEE, CALIFORNIA, AND FALLEN MICHIGAN TREES are of interest in the vicinity of the General Grant Tree.

NORTH GROVE. An unimproved road leads into another fine section of giant sequoias, many of which formerly were named for States.

PANORAMIC POINT. This and nearby overlooks open up excellent views into Kings Canyon to the north and east. Beyond, at the end of a narrow road, is Park Ridge Fire Lookout. Here, you will be shown how fires are located, and many features visible from the station will be identified for you.

FORESTS THAT WERE. The devastation in Big Stump Basin, Hoist Ridge, and Converse Basin, resulting from early logging, is dramatic, but many young sequoias may be seen. Please consult a park ranger before visiting these areas.

REDWOOD MOUNTAIN GROVE. One of the most beautiful of all the giant sequoia groves—almost a pure sequoia forest. Please consult a park ranger before making this trip.



Revised 1957

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fred A. Seaton, *Secretary*
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Conrad L. Wirth, *Director*



U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1957—O-437434

Seeing

GENERAL GRANT GROVE

KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARK CALIFORNIA

GENERAL GRANT GROVE once was a part of the most extensive of all giant sequoia forests. Of the original forest, little more than this 4-square-mile area was saved from lumbering when it became a national park in 1890. The General Grant Tree was discovered in 1862 by Joseph Hardin Thomas, and named in 1867 by Mrs. Lucretia P. Baker. For 50 years this area was known as General Grant National Park. The act establishing Kings Canyon National Park in 1940 made General Grant Grove a part of that park. The area containing the magnificent Redwood Mountain Grove was added a short time later. Today, the centrally located General Grant Grove serves as an excellent base for drives into Kings Canyon, along the Generals Highway to Giant Forest, or for back-country trail trips.

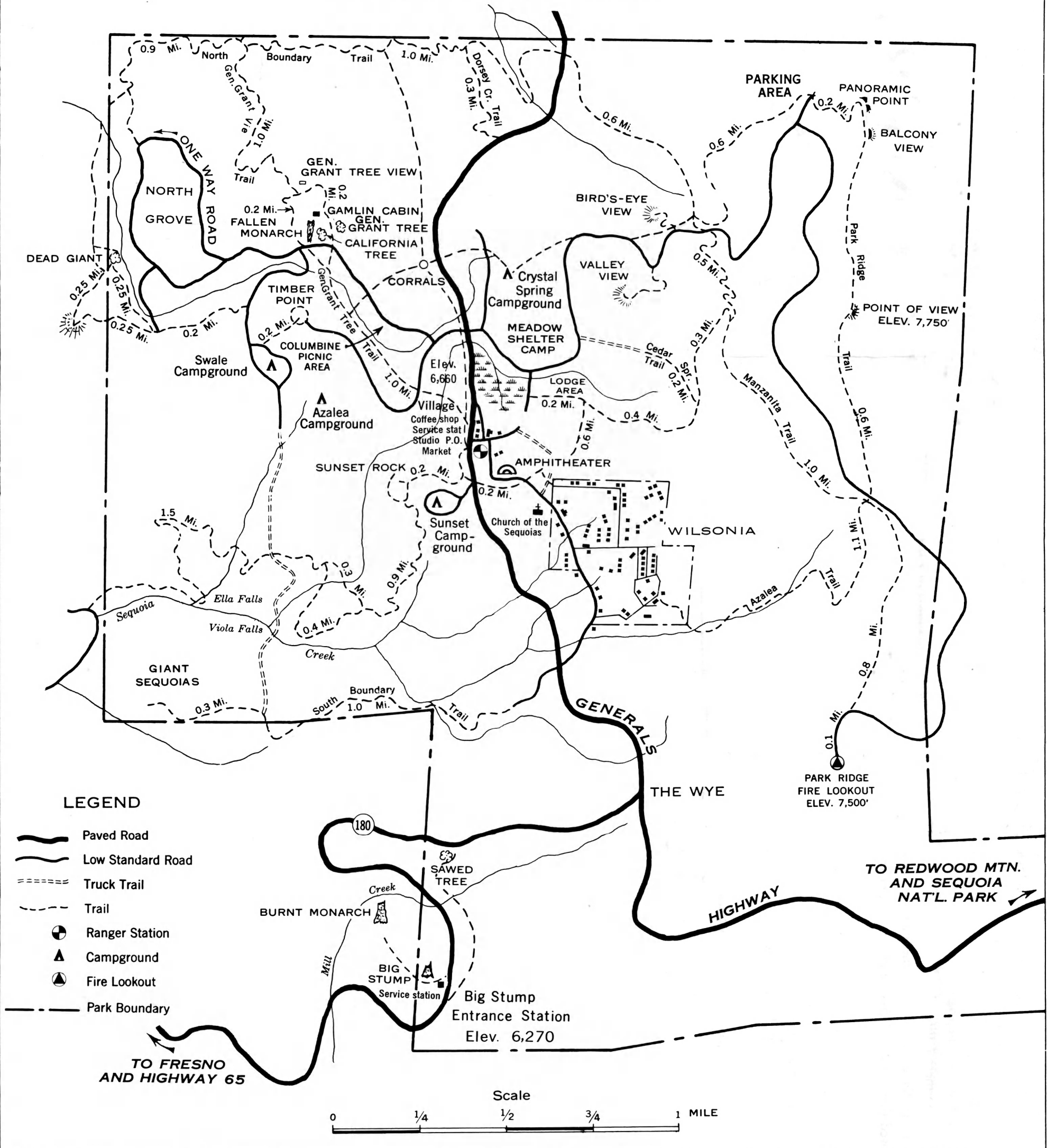
About the Giant Sequoias

These largest of living things are so well proportioned, and display such symmetry and balance, that often it is difficult to

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.

GENERAL GRANT GROVE AREA

KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARK



The purpose of the national parks and the responsibility of the National Park Service are defined by Federal Law. Quoting from An Act to Establish a National Park Service, approved August 25, 1916, that purpose and responsibility are:

TO CONSERVE the scenery and the natural 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.