

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY REPORT

FOR

FEBRUARY, 1929

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

CALIFORNIA

March 6, 1929.

The Director  
National Park Service  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Director:

I am transmitting herewith report on Yosemite National Park for the month of February, 1929.

000 General

Ideal weather conditions prevailed during the greater part of the month, bringing record crowds to the Valley each weekend. The weekend of February 2-3 brought a steady downpour of rain, but this did not in the least dampen the spirits or lessen the enthusiasm of park visitors. It was a ludicrous sight to come upon groups of persons trying out snow shoes and skis on the open, snow-covered meadows in the heavy rain.

The minimum temperature was 10 degrees, on the 9th; mean minimum, 24.57 degrees. The maximum temperature was 67 degrees, on the 22d; mean maximum, 52.68 degrees. Total precipitation amounted to 3.21 inches, and there was a total of seven inches of snow during the month.

While records kept on the floor of the Valley show a total of 37.5 inches of snow for the season, some four inches more than for the same period last year, official state records show a serious shortage of snow in the higher mountains. According to the records of the State Division of Water Rights, there was less snow in the mountains this year on March 1 than at any time during the past fifty years. The Sacramento River had a flow of 5.1 feet on March 1, while the normal flow at this period is 18 feet. It is predicted that unless heavy snows follow in March the state faces a greater water shortage than it had in 1924.

100 Administration

110 Status of Work

All work has been kept up to date.

120 Park Inspections By:

121 Park Superintendent

Colonel C. G. Thomson arrived in the park on February 19, with the idea of making preliminary studies of park problems before officially taking up his duties as superintendent. He left for Medford on March 1, in company with Mr. E. C. Solinsky, newly appointed superintendent of Crater Lake National Park. They plan to return to Yosemite about the middle of the month to meet the Director.

\* \* \* \* \*

Acting Superintendent Leavitt was on annual leave from February 10 to 16, during which time Mr. Solinsky was Acting Superintendent in charge.

\* \* \* \* \*

On February 26, Mr. Leavitt, Mr. Lloyd, and several officials of the Yosemite Park and Curry Company made a trip to Sacramento to attend a meeting of the Regional Advisory Council of the California Development Association to participate in a discussion of a plan to secure the winter sports competitions of the Olympiad for California in 1932 and the requirements that would have to be met if they were held in Yosemite National Park.

\* \* \* \* \*

While in Sacramento, I took opportunity to visit Governor Young and to contact a good many of the State officials. It is felt that report of these contacts will be of interest to the Service.

I talked with Senator Dan Williams regarding the two bills he has introduced, one authorizing the relocation of the Big Oak Flat Road and the other for the construction of the Mother Lode Highway from Sonora to Mariposa. Senator Williams stated that the bill authorizing the relocation of the Big Oak Flat Road from Buck Meadows to Crane Flat was likely to be passed, inasmuch as neither Director Meek of the Department of Public Works, nor Governor Young especially objected to it, for the reason that it does not add a new road to the State Highway System. He felt that there was little chance of the Mother Lode Highway bill being passed at this session.

\* \* \* \* \*

I made it a point to call on Senator Garrison to explain the stand of the Park Service in the matter of the game refuge bill, which, by the way, was introduced by him in the legislature. It was thought that, in view of the strong opposition of Messrs. Best and O'Connor and the support they have been able to enlist, the bill will probably die in committee.

At a luncheon with Mr. Fred G. Stevenot, Director of the Department of Natural Resources, Col. Charles B. Wing, Chief of the State Division of Parks, and Mr. Newton Drury, Executive Secretary of the Save-the-Redwoods League, I explained to Mr. Stevenot the position of the Park Service on the game refuge bill (which he had been good enough to endorse), and on his advice it was agreed that we would let the bill die in committee, so as to leave the way clear to reintroduce the bill at some future time, should opportunity arise.

Later, I met Mr. Charles G. Dunwoody, Director of the Conservation Committee of the California Development Association. He was quite incensed by the attitude of Messrs. Best and O'Connor and recommended that the Conservation Committee carry their fight to a finish. But since there seemed no possibility of success and to continue the fight would only be harmful to the whole plan, I persuaded him to let the matter drop for the present.

\* \* \* \* \*

At Mr. Stevenot's request, I stayed over an extra day for a discussion of state park problems with him and Colonel Wing, as Mr. Stevenot felt that the result of our experience in national park administration would be very helpful to the State department.

\* \* \* \* \*

On calling at the office of State Forester N. B. Pratt and finding him out, I had a pleasant visit with Assistant Forester Rider. We discussed at length forestry and firefighting problems and methods by which the State and Park Service might better cooperate in handling fires.

\* \* \* \* \*

I sat in at a session of the Governor's Council and at its conclusion met and chatted with most of the council members. Mr. Meek, Director of the Department of Public Works, invited me to attend a hearing to be held by the Highway Commission on the following day on the matter of controlling the "hot-dog" stand nuisance and objectionable signs on the State Redwood Highway. At this meeting Colonel Wing (Division of Parks) and Mr. Newton Drury (Save-the-Redwoods League) urged the state to cooperate in controlling these evils and were assured of the hearty support of the members of the Commission.

\* \* \* \* \*

On my return, I stopped in Merced to discuss with Mr. Archie Stevenot the status of the Curtin lands at Crane Flat and Gin Flat, for which the Yosemite Park and Curry Company had submitted a bid. We also had

some discussion on the matter of future action by the Conservation Committee of the San Joaquin Valley Regional Advisory Council, which originated the plan of establishing the proposed game refuge for park deer.

\* \* \* \* \*

In Merced, I met Mr. S. S. Crowley, manager of the new Yosemite Lumber Company, who informed me that Messrs. Fleming and Gillis, principal owners of the Sugar Pine Lumber Company, had purchased the stock of the Yosemite Lumber Company, thereby assuming all of its assets and liabilities, and that the company would be operated this summer under its old name but with an entirely new organization, with the exception, possibly, of Mr. MacPherson, who is in charge of the yards at Merced Falls. They plan to ship all of their logs directly to Pinedale and will not operate the mill at Merced Falls. He said that the work of getting ready for lumbering operations was progressing slowly, in view of the fact that they had not yet definitely signed the agreement of sale, making it necessary to secure permission from the officers of the old Yosemite Lumber Company for every step they take. He assured me that they had definitely acquired the lands of the White and Friant Lumber Company.

#### 123 National Park Service Officials

On February 9 Junior Landscape Architect Wosky to make inspection of work in progress and to make some suggestions in regard to power line changes and company garages and a culvert in Tecoya.

#### 125 Other Governmental Officers

A. C. Swanson, engineer from the Geological Survey, Water Resources Branch, spent several days in the middle of the month on stream gauging work.

#### 130 Finance and Accounts

The status of appropriations is as follows:

<u>Appropriation</u>	<u>Allotment</u>	<u>Expended &amp; Obligated</u>	<u>Unencumbered Balance</u>
National Park Service, 1928-9	\$ 426,875.00	\$ 332,257.00	\$ 94,618.00
Roads and Trails, N.P.S.	1,711,052.43	1,539,425.91	171,626.52

#### 140 Labor Situation

A total of 85 employees was carried on park rolls in February.

Formal appointments were received by four of the twenty per diem employees whose names were submitted by us.

#### 170 Plans, Maps, and Surveys

In addition to giving supervision to the regular work of the Engineering Department and special construction plans, Resident Engineer Taylor was called to San Francisco to confer with Mr. Hommon, Sanitary Engineer of the Public Health Service on: (1) design for settling tanks for water system; (2) auxiliary pumping equipment for sewer system; (3) redesign and location of sewage disposal system; and (4) sales rates for water at Glacier Point.

#### 200 Maintenance, Improvements, and New Construction

##### 210 Maintenance

Extreme changes in temperature from cold nights to warm, sunny days caused slippery pavements. It was necessary to sand the El Portal Road several times. A line of boulders was placed along the road for a distance of 150 feet between the two bridges at Cascades; this work was commenced on the east side of the dam during the latter part of the month and will be completed in a few days.

##### 230 New Construction

Two Employees' Cottages: One cottage is completed except for exterior staining. This house has been assigned to Electrical Engineer Emmert, and will be ready for occupancy soon after the first of March. The second cottage has been enclosed, wall have been constructed, wiring and plumbing has been roughed in, and it is ready for finished floor and finish carpentry.

#### 300 Public Service Contractors

Work has continued on construction at Camp Curry. The Yosemite Park and Curry Company expects to have all construction work completed in time for the camp's opening on May 1.

An average of 750 guests were accommodated at Yosemite Lodge and 225 at The Ahwahnee over each weekend during the month.

At the request of Dr. Tresidder, president of the company, a Mr. Ernst, engineer for the Adolf Bleichert Company, came into the park on February 16 to investigate the possibility of installing passenger ropeway systems from Yosemite Valley to Glacier Point and from Tenaya Creek valley, above Mirror Lake, to some point easily accessible to Tenaya Lake. On February 16-18 Mr. Ernst made studies of the lower termini of these proposed systems. On February 19, Resident Engineer Taylor accompanied him to Glacier Point, where he investigated the various directions of approach. He did not like the line of Gutleben's survey on account of the distance from the upper terminus to the hotel; otherwise it was feasible. Neither did he favor a line from the vicinity of Happy Isles to Glacier Point on account of (1) the very sharp change in profile for the line necessitated by the very steep lower slope and the more gentle upper slope, and (2) the necessity for the line appearing in all good views from the hotel. He suggested a line from a Valley point just west of Le Conte Memorial Lodge to an upper terminus immediately west of Overhanging Rock, the upper terminus to be housed below the surface on the face of the cliff. Engineer Taylor discouraged any further consideration of a terminus at this point. He next investigated for a line farther to the west, with the Valley terminus a short distance east of the Sentinel Hotel and the upper terminus between Glacier Point and the Ledge Trail ravine; this terminus location would be out of view and not visible from the hotel or Glacier Point. This last line is probably the one he will recommend and give estimate on.

On February 20 Mr. Taylor accompanied Mr. Ernst to the top of Mt. Watkins. Mr. Ernst says they do not recommend any single system much longer than two miles, on account of economy of operation and speed of moving passengers. To reach any point easily accessible to Tenaya Lake there would be need of two systems, with a change of passengers at some mid-point, as the total distance is about four miles. He suggested two systems with the change point on the ridge of Mt. Watkins at a distance of about 1100 feet north of the B.M. 8235; the lower terminus of the lower system to be located near the foot of the Tenaya zigzags. These two systems would necessitate road connections above Mirror Lake and to Tenaya Lake.

Mr. Ernst showed three reels of motion pictures of construction and operation of European systems. From information gained from these and through discussions with Mr. Ernst, the suggested locations in Yosemite do not seem to offer any unusual construction or operating difficulties.

\* \* \* \* \*

On two weekends, February 16 and 23, carnivals were staged on the company's ice pond for the enjoyment of visitors. The presence of three

movie companies added much to these gala occasions. Great flood lights were installed at the lower end of the pond, and five or six cameras were in use all evening.

Inter-collegiate hockey games were played in Yosemite for the first time over the week-end of February 16 by teams from the University of California (Berkeley) and the University of Southern California (Los Angeles). Much interest was evinced by local residents and visitors, and there was a large attendance at each of the games.

#### 400 Flora, Fauna, and Natural Phenomena

#### 420 Museum Service

Complete report on educational activities is sent to the Washington Office through Chief Naturalist Hall.

Park Naturalist Russell has been detailed to Educational Headquarters in Berkeley throughout the month, engaged on Yosemite Educational Department administrative problems and, notably, preparation of the Yosemite Ranger-Naturalist Manual.

Though the present size of the staff will not properly permit, the requests for evening lectures could not be ignored. Consequently, half-hour lectures were offered on Friday evenings at Yosemite Lodge. Two were illustrated with lantern slides. Ranger-Naturalist Godfrey and Acting Park Naturalist Wright participated in this work, and it is estimated that 245 people were reached. The Ahwahnee, also, has asked for lectures, but at present it seems impossible to extend the service. It is a real need, and provision should certainly be made to offer this service.

#### 500 Use of Park Facilities by the Public

18,756 persons visited the park during February, an increase of 18% over last February's total of 14,895. Over the Washington's Birthday weekend, 42 camping parties occupied Camp 20, and hotel accommodations were overtaxed, so that many people left the park to return to resorts along the highway. Eight people who came into the park late at night were allowed to sleep in the Administration Building, being provided with mattresses from the Rangers Club.

#### 520 Weather Conditions

Frequent patrol trips have been made into the high country throughout the season. The following snow measurements were taken during the



middle of the month:

Glacier Point .....	36"
Gentry .....	24"
Inspiration Point .....	26"
Fort Monroe .....	32"
Grouse Creek .....	18"
Chinquapin .....	36"
Alder Creek .....	12"
Wawona .....	Hard snow. Patches only
Valley Floor	
North side .....	Patches only
South side .....	6" to 8"

General weather conditions are reported on Form 1009, attached.

540 Visitors

Mr. John Mims of the Mansion Inn, Luray, Virginia, came into the park on February 26 with a letter of introduction from Associate Director Cammerer.

Mr. Robert H. Brockhagen, business manager of the Sacramento Union, accompanied by Mrs. Brockhagen, visited the park from February 3-5.

600 Protection

610 Police Protection

There were no commissioner's cases during the month.

900 Miscellaneous

Medical Service

Dr. Hunt handled 156 cases, answering 286 office calls and 8 house calls, a total of 294 calls.

Publicity and Public Relations

At the request of Mr. Charles Forbes, Mr. Lloyd, Assistant to the Superintendent, exhibited several reels of Yosemite motion pictures in conjunction with a brief talk before the Manteca Lions Club on February 14.

On February 15 Mr. Lloyd accompanied four Bay Region society editors on a motor tour to Yosemite,- the Yosemite Park and Curry Company kindly donating the services of a car and driver for the occasion. The ladies remained in the park two days and were delighted with every feature of the trip.

At the request of Mr. H. Wingate Lake, manager of the Californian Hotel, Fresno, Mr. Lloyd attended a meeting of the San Joaquin Valley Hotel men and witnessed the formation of a San Joaquin Valley Hotelmen's Association.

Upon invitation, he also attended a meeting of the Yosemite-to-Morro Bay Highway Association in Fresno on February 20, where plans for county highway districts were discussed in connection with the building of the proposed road extending from Yosemite to the sea.

Respectfully submitted,

E. P. Leavitt  
Acting Superintendent

RN

cc Yellowstone  
San Francisco Office

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

TRAVEL REPORT

YOSEMITE National Park for the Month of FEBRUARY, 1929

	This Month	This Travel Year To Date	This Month Last Year	Last Travel Year To Date	Increase for Travel Year	
					Number	Percent

PRIVATE TRANSPORTATION:

Cars first entry .....	4,239	11,419	3,055	9,720	1,699	17
Cars reentry .....	798	6,182	714	4,880	1,302	27
Motorcycles .....	5	30	2	18	12	67
Total motor vehicles .....	5,042	17,631	3,771	14,518	3,113	21
Persons entering via motor vehicles .....	17,678	58,667	13,774	49,565	9,102	19
Persons entering via other private transportation .....	0	2	0	12	-10	-83
Total persons entering via private transportation .....	17,678	58,669	13,774	49,577	9,092	19

OTHER TRANSPORTATION:

Persons entering via stages ..	301	1,607	314	1,790	-183	-10
Persons entering via trains ..	777	2,263	807	1,767	496	29
Persons entering otherwise ....						
Total other transportation ..	1,078	3,870	1,121	3,557	313	9
GRAND TOTAL ALL VISITORS ..	18,756	62,539	14,895	53,134	9,405	18

**Increase for month of February only 3,861 people or 27%**

	This Year	Last Year	Increase	
			Number	Percent

Automobiles in public camps during month .....

Campers in public camps during month .....

10-159  
UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

STATUS OF PERSONNEL

Yosemite National Park for the Month of February, 1929

	This Month	This Month Last Year
Number of employees beginning of month,	85	96
Number of additions, . . . . .	25	42
Total, . . . . .	110	138
Number of separations, . . . . .	3	8
Number of employees close of month, . .	107	130
<hr/>		
Number of promotions during month	0	0
<hr/>		
Aggregate amount of annual leave taken,	15 <sup>2</sup> <sub>4</sub> days	90 <sup>1</sup> <sub>2</sub> days
Aggregate amount of sick leave taken,	40 days	9 days
Aggregate amount of leave without pay,	0	0

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

REPORT OF PARK REVENUES

Yosemite National Park for the Month of February, 1929

	This Year	Last Year
Park revenue on hand beginning of month, . . . . .	\$ 38.26	
Received, . . . . .	10,431.23	
Total, . . . . .	\$ 10,469.49	
Remitted, . . . . .	10,409.34	
On hand close of month, . . . . .	\$ 60.15	

Park revenues received this year to date, . . . . .	\$149,170.39
Park revenues received last year to date, . . . . .	178,664.74
Increase, . . . . .	29,494.35
Percent of increase, . . . . .	16.5%

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

REPORT OF SALES OF PUBLICATIONS

February, 1929

	Number	Value
<u>GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS:</u>		
On hand beginning of month, . . . . .	6,017	\$618.10
Received during month, . . . . .	100	100.00
Total, . . . . .	6,117	\$718.10
Sold during month, . . . . .	20	11.00
On hand at close of month, . . . . .	6,097	\$707.10

NON-GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS:

On hand beginning of month, . . . . .		
Received during month, . . . . .		
Total, . . . . .		
Sold during month, . . . . .		
On hand at close of month, . . . . .		

Cash on hand beginning of month, . . . . .	\$ 6.35
Sales during month, . . . . .	11.00
Total, . . . . .	\$17.35
Remitted during month, . . . . .	-
Balance, . . . . .	\$17.35

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

REPORT OF TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH BUSINESS

Yosemite National Park for the Month of February 1929

	This Month	This Month Last Year	Increase	Percent Increase
<u>LOCAL BUSINESS.</u>				
	1928			
Miles of circuit maintained, . . . . .	179	170	9	5
No. of telephones connected, . . . . .	223	221	2	1
No. of measured service calls, . . . . .	237	119	118	99
No. of other local calls, . . . . .	29679	22493	7186	32
Total No. of local calls, . . . . .	29916	22612	7304	32
Peak load in calls per day, . . . . .	1647	1128	519	46
<hr/>				
Receipts from measured service calls, . . . . .	25.80	11.35	14.45	127
" " coin boxes, . . . . .	3.00	1.90	1.10	58
" " telephone rental, . . . . .	489.05	411.90	77.15	19
TOTAL RECEIPTS	517.85	425.15	92.70	22
<hr/>				
<u>LONG DISTANCE BUSINESS</u>				
No. Outbound calls, . . . . .	720	553	167	30
No. Inbound calls, . . . . .	735	570	165	29
	1455	1123	332	30
<hr/>				
TOTAL LONG DISTANCE CALLS				
Peak load in calls per day, . . . . .	94	63	31	49
Receipts from Long Distance business, . . . . .	407.40	314.44	92.96	29½
<hr/>				
<u>TELEGRAPH BUSINESS</u>				
Messages via Western Union, . . . . .	1205	979	226	23
Messages via . . . . .	25	13	12	92
TOTAL MESSAGES	1230	992	238	25
<hr/>				
Receipts from telegraph business, . . . . .	312.34	237.40	74.94	31
No. of money transfer messages, . . . . .	21	14	7	50
" " " " receipts, . . . . .	13.78	8.64	5.14	59
TOTAL RECEIPTS TELEPHONE & TELEGRAPH DEPTS.	1,251.37	985.63	265.74	27

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

\*ELECTRICITY GENERATED, SOLD, USED, ETC.

Yosemite ..... National Park for the Month of February 1929

	This Month	This Travel Year To Date	This Month Last Year	Last Travel Year To Date	Increase for Travel Year	
					Number	Percent
Current generated, . . . . .	611,680	4008060	1586455	5904510	-1896450	- 32
Sold to park operators, . . .	142,520	937914	441759	2536318	-1598404	- 63
Sold to others, . . . . .	1,400	1342000	720800	1147490	+ 194510	+ 17
Furnished to other Governmental agencies, . . . . .	17,211	79753	18925	76707	+ 3046	+ 4
	450549	1648393	404791	2143995	495602	- 23
Used by National Park Service, lost in transit, etc., . . .	611,680	4008060	1586455	5904510	-1896450	- 32
Total current generated, . .						

Amount receivable from the sale of electricity, . . . . . 1929 . \$ 1,451.14  
 1928 4,701.04

\* Indicated by K. W. H.

Purchased from S. J. Light and Power Corp. 459.175 K.W.H.,  
1/15 to 2/15/29 \$4,963.81 Cost.

Peak 1600 K.W. - 8:30 A. M. 1/28/29



COOPERATIVE OBSERVERS' METEOROLOGICAL RECORD:

Month of       , 192; Station,       ; County,       ; Latitude, 24; Longitude, 119; Hour of Observation,       ; Time used on this form, Pac.

DATE.	TEMPERATURE.				PRECIPITATION.					PREVAIL- ING WIND DIRECTION.	CHARACTER OF DAY SUNRISE TO SUNSET.	MISCELLANEOUS PHENOMENA.
	MAX. MIN.	MAX. MIN.	RANGE.	* SET MAX.	TIME OF BEGINNING.	TIME OF ENDING.	AMOUNT.	SNOWFALL, IN INCHES.	DEPTH OF SNOW ON GROUND AT TIME OF OBSERVATION.			
1.	45	33	12		4 am		.43	Trace	Spots		Cloudy	Snow melted as it fell
2.	44	31	13				.79	1"	"		"	
3.	42	31	11		10 am		.62		"		"	
4.	41	32	9			1 pm	1.05	3"	1 1/2"		P.C.	
5.	49	27	22								"	Cloudy Snowing
6.	51	29	22				.17	2"			Cloudy	
7.	38	18	20				.08	1"	1"		Clear	
8.	41	12	29						1"		"	
9.	44	10	34						1"		"	
10.	50	15	35						Spots		"	
11.	52	22	30						"		"	
12.	54	26	28						"		"	
13.	56	24	32						"		"	
14.	54	23	21						None		"	
15.	56	22	34						"		"	
16.	58	26	32						"		"	
17.	57	25	32						"		"	
18.	48	31	17		6:30am	11:30am	.87	Trace	Trace		Cloudy	
19.	54	25	29						None		Clear	
20.	59	24	35						"		"	
21.	62	25	37						"		"	
22.	67	28	39						"		"	
23.	62	25	37						"		P. Cloudy	Clear
24.	58	27	31						"		"	
25.	56	24	32						"		"	
26.	54	26	28						"		"	
27.	60	22	38						"		"	
28.	63	25	38						"		"	
29.												
30.												
31.												
SUM.	1475	688										
MEAN.												

\*Reading of maximum thermometer immediately after setting.  
†Including rain, hail, sleet, and melted snow.  
‡Thunderstorms, fairs, auroras, etc.

(IN TRIPPLICATE.)

See cover for instructions.

Mean maximum,       

Mean minimum, 24.57

Mean, 38.53

Maximum, 67; date, 22d

Minimum, 10; date, 9th

Greatest daily range, 39 - 22nd

PRECIPITATION.

Total, 3.21 inches.

Greatest in 24 hours, 1.05; date, 4th

SNOW.

Total snowfall, 7 inches; on ground 15th, spots inches;  
at end of month, none inches.

NUMBER OF DAYS—

With .01 inch or more precipitation, 7

Clear, 20; partly cloudy, 3; cloudy, 5

DATES OF—

Killing frost,       

Thunderstorms,       

Hail,       

Sleet,       

Auroras,       

REMARKS: