Sequoia National Park

The discovery of a large limestone cave was the most striking event of the year in the Sequoia National Park, striking because of the cave’s immense size, the magnificence of its passages and chambers, and the mystery of its unsuspected existence only a short distance from well-patronized trails. It is remarkable indeed that a gaping entrance 15 feet high and 27 feet wide should never have been seen by mortal eye until two anglers, A.L. Medley and C.M. Webster, accidentally passed it on a late April trouting trip.

The cave became the sensation of the season, and justly so because of the size and richness of its limestone decorations and the fantastic quality of its formations. It penetrates a mountain of white limestone. Explorers have entered 4,000 feet so far, and it is evident that there is much yet to see after certain openings have been enlarged; in fact, we may find a mountain of caves.

A personal investigation of the cave during the summer determined me to take immediate precautions for its preservation. Arrangements are being made to build a gate which can not be passed without a Government guide., who shall protect not only the visitors against losing their way in the cave, but also the cave against the memento habit of many visitors. It is our purpose to see that it retains its wonderful pristine beauty to the full.

One of the many wonders is the so-called organ room, which contains formations giving out a full range of resonant notes when struck, so that a musician can easily play a tune after a little selection of the proper stones. Because of the rich quality of its walls, the cavern has been named Crystal Cave.

A beautifully illustrated article from the pen of Assistant Attorney General Huston Thompson, who accompanied me through this cave in September of this year, will appear shortly in the National Geographic Magazine.

Valuable road improvements

The season has left roads considerably improved both without and within the par. Tulare County is to be warmly congratulated on the public spirit and energy which resulted in the building of a new concrete road from Visalia to Three Rivers. This in itself will guarantee a very large increase in travel next season to the Sequoia National Park. From Three Rivers up the road will need considerable improvement, but by a careful handling of the traffic it can be made to answer for the present or until the end of the war gives opportunity to go ahead with the regular road improvement.

Naturally extensive repairs to these approach roads resulted in lessening travel during the summer just past, but the nature of the improvement probably will more than compensate for the loss next summer alone, to say nothing of the many seasons of the long afterlife of the concrete surfacing.

Within the park the principal improvement was the extension of the end of the road leading from the Giant Forest to the Marble Fork, a distance of about a mile and three quarters. This enabled us to open up a new automobile camp where good fishing was available, relieving the pressure on the Giant Forest camp. A 16 foot bridge with an 80-foot span was built to carry this road over the Marble Fork.

This road is a section of the proposed highway extension between the Sequoia and General Grant National Parks which when completed, will penetrate a magnificently scenic part of the High Sierra, passing through exceptional forests, even for this country, and making many camp sites available where excellent fishing may be found. The area lying between the parks, of course, can not be crossed under national parks appropriations. We are depending upon the county to construct this connecting link.

Many miles of existing roads were resurfaced.

Nearly every future visitor to the Giant Forest will profit by the wooden stairway which was raised 346 feet to the top of Moro Rock, where a magnificent view is obtainable of the High Sierra on the one side, and the Sierra foothills on the other. Hand rails will help the climbing of a summit which was heretofore accessible only by well accustomed mountaineers. Other improvements included the building of a large stable garage and the fencing of five meadows for the use of trail horses for park visitors.

Time also was found for much clearing up of forests for fire protection, including many acres of heavy sequoia growth in the Giant Forest. The splendid sequoia groups which have come under the ownership of the park by purchase out of congressional appropriations and the gift of the National Geographical Society were specially safeguarded. A hundred miles of trail, including the long South Fork trail across the park to the eastern boundary cleared up and repaired. All this was additional to the insect-control work, under the supervision of the Bureau of Entomology, which obliged us to sacrifice 52 yellow pines and 27 sugar pines in the Middle Fork Valley of the Kaweah River for the better protection of the forest generally.

It was, indeed, a busy season.

Continued on page 3………..
With every issue I go looking through all kinds of books and documents to put a story on our front page. When I found the story about Sequoia Park and Crystal Cave I knew it had to be in this issue. I was taken back by how much was done and/or proposed during the parks fiscal year of July 1917 to June 1918, which was also the middle of WW1. In my 27 years in Three Rivers I thought I had learned a lot of facts about the parks but this only told me that you are always learning. Hope you have a chance to read the article.

Have you looked at Facebook recently, and who hasn't, and seen our request for an old BIG phone book.

The photo will show you the recent donation of a 50-60 year old (complete) phone booth given to the museum. The old phone booths had a big phone book hanging inside so we are on the hunt.

This was a wonderful donation from Corky Dreo of Woodlake. He is a retired Pacific Bell lineman that worked our area in the 65-85 time period.

When does the restroom project start building? The answer is mid-October with completion in late February. That’s the latest from Tulare County. They are working out some details with SCE and CALTRANS.

I went back into our newsletters and found the following note about restrooms and a museum project. Very interesting.

At the September board meeting, Janine Chilcott told board members that the society will soon have a sign in front of the property on Highway 198 explaining the rest stop/museum project. What’s interesting is this statement was in the Museum newsletter in September 1996.

In all fairness that was a project that involved Tulare County and State government at developing a full rest stop with restrooms, but it does show that the concept of restrooms on the property has been a project with the Historical Society for over 23 years. Thanks for listening

Have you thought about that donation to add to our “Double Your Dollars” campaign. A generous benefactor has challenged us to double our dollars (up to $5,000) through Nov 30.

We could end up with over $10,000 by just coming up with $5,000 or more.

HELP WANTED

Shed cleaning:
Wed., Oct 16, 9am
Organize and clean shed out back door of museum

Pond Cleaning:
Wed., Oct 30, 10am
Moving plants, catching fish, empty pond & clean.
By way of beginning the new order, the installation of Yosemite’s new, power plant offers an excellent opportunity to supply one expensive need to Sequoia at small cost, for the old Yosemite plant, if brought to the Giant Forest, will meet its needs for years to come. This plant is now useless. Congress no doubt will see the advantage of appropriating the necessary funds for its movement and installation.

Possibly some of the surplus power from this plant may be diverted for the lighting of Crystal Cave. A system of indirect lighting by electricity, if properly worked out, will avoid the use of candles and torches, which can in time seriously mar the glorious freshness of the cave’s white beauty.

The Greater Sequoia

During the summer I took occasion for the fifth time to enter the supreme region north and east of the Sequoia National Park which we call “the Greater Sequoia” because nature manifestly intended the two regions to be necessary parts of one whole. My visit this time to the top of Kearsarge Pass, where the scenery is as inspiring as any in the world, has enabled me to cover with some completeness the entire region involved.

Let me therefore say right here that every visit has tended to convince me the more thoroughly that this proposed addition is surpassed in nobility and grandeur by the “show scenery” of no other accessible part of the world. Let me say that the more extensive my knowledge of scenery of the sublime quality becomes, the more clearly I see the superlative quality of “the Greater Sequoia.” Let me express the belief that no local consideration whatever should be allowed to prevent the addition of this wonderful area of the Sierra’s climax to the group of the Nation’s greatest spots, for, in addition to the national and international fame it would bring to California as a national park, it would surely bring new business which would quickly amount to very many times the local losses, if local losses should follow.

National interest is growing slowly but surely in this great plan, which some day is bound to be realized. William E. Colby’s testimony before the subcommittee of the Public Lands Committee of the House last June, which will shortly be published, is especially valuable as being the opinion of an accomplished mountaineer who is thoroughly familiar, with the Sierra. Mr. Colby, who is a distinguished specialist in mining law, was in charge of the summer tours of the Sierra Club for many years before assuming, a year ago, the presidency of the club.
Established - December 1991
Museum Opened
October 2000
501(c)3 Non-Profit
Organization

Board of Directors

Tom Marshall,
President
Nancy Brunson,
Vice-President
Dody Marshall,
Treasurer/Secretary
Susan Wolff,
Docent Coordinator
Rusty Crain,
Director
Bob Burke,
Director
Jackie Tuttle,
Director/Facebook
Kim Kauling,
Director
Louise Jackson,
Director
Julie Britten-Bruns
Director
Daryl Bruns
Director

Finance Committee
Nancy Brunson
Rusty Crain
And another
community leader
to be announced

2019 IMPORTANT DATES

Oct 5, 4pm to 7pm
Drive Thru BBQ at the Museum
See page 2 AD

Oct 8-9-10, all day each day
California Native-American Days. 4th Grade field trip

Nov 21
Festival of Trees
Auction, Silent Auction and Dinner

Nov 23, 9am to 4pm
Holiday Bazaar
We'll be there!

Dec 7, 5pm to 7pm
Community Caroling at the museum.

Gift Shop

Time to start thinking about those gifts for parties and upcoming holidays with a gift or local book from the gift shop or on line. Maybe a gift membership for a family member, friend or employee.

https://squareup.com/store/3rmuseum

New & renewal memberships and donations can be done on line, also!