



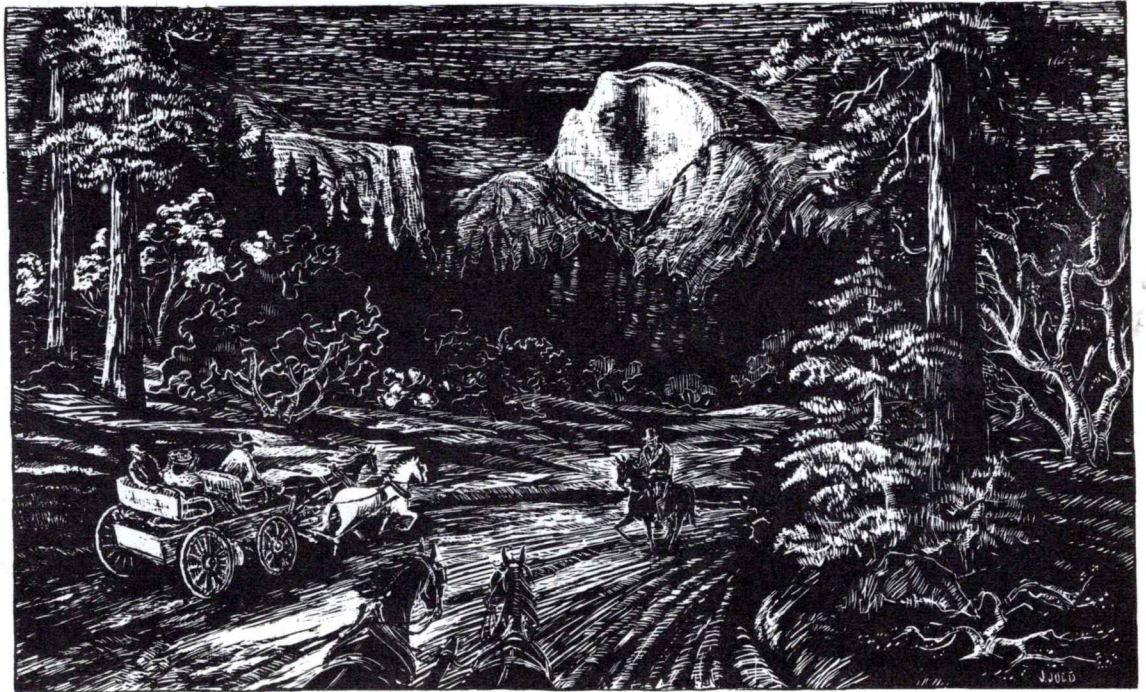
A Message from Yosemite Supt. John M. Davis

In this, its 50th Anniversary year, the National Park Service welcomes you to Yosemite National Park.

We hope that your visit will be a most enjoyable experience, and we are sure that it will be if you will but take the time to explore its many wonders.

While you are in Yosemite Valley, visit the Yosemite Museum and the Happy Isles Nature Center. Spend at least a day in the high country around Tuolumne Meadows, hiking or riding on the many trails that emanate from there, or fishing in one of the nearby lakes and streams. Drive up to the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias at the south end of the Park, visiting the Pioneer Yosemite History Center at Wawona en route. As you return, make a side trip to Glacier Point for a spectacular view of Yosemite Valley and across into some of the High Sierra beyond.

This is your National Park. Use and enjoy it, but please leave it as you found it so that those who come later may share its beauties.



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE MARKS 50th BIRTHDAY

The National Park Service welcomes the people of the nation to visit their parks during 1966, the 50th Anniversary of the Park Service. You may enjoy your visit more if you know of the history and the objectives of the National Park Service. The 226 areas administered by the Service include 32 national parks,

77 national monuments, 6 national seashores, 4 national recreation areas, as well as historic sites, battlefields, parkways, and other areas. This System embraces a vast variety of areas ranging from the rock-bound coast of Maine, to the Olympic rain forest in Washington, to Hawaii and Alaska.

The National Park Service was established on August 25, 1916, to manage the national parks and monuments which had been established by the Congress and by executive action of the President. They were then being administered by a number of bureaus throughout the Government, some by the Department of

the Army, some by Agriculture, and some by the Department of the Interior.

HIGH STANDARDS SET

Stephen Mather, the Park Service's first director, created the conceptual framework of the Park Service. He established the code and criteria of the high standard of service which has marked the National Park Service as a key Bureau of the Federal Government since its inception in 1916.

Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall has identified three principal categories
(Continued on page two)

EARLY DAYS



Camp Curry, opening this season its new and improved food service and expanded gift shop areas, has a history that began before the turn of the century. Through the years, the functional aspects of Camp Curry have been changed to keep pace with the increase in visitors and the "changing times" in general, though the attitude of friendliness and relaxed com-

fort spreads through Camp Curry as it did in earlier times.

The following account of the early days is from a piece written by Jennie Foster Curry prior to her death in 1948.

"In the summer of 1899, we, my husband David A. Curry and myself, both In-

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Nat'l Park Service

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of areas now included within the National Park System. They are: Natural; Historical; and Recreational Areas.

NPS CATEGORIES

The first category includes the national parks and monuments which were created because of their outstanding natural values -- geological, biological, and scenic. The second includes these units of the System which were created to preserve historic and archeological structures and sites. The possibilities of the third major category, recreation areas, are myriad and include not only recreation based on nature and appropriate to it, but is being extended to include many kinds of wholesome outdoor recreational activities.

From parks of history and prehistory, Americans young and old can gain a deeper understanding of the great events which have influenced the history of the United States. In natural parks, visitors are inspired by the superlative beauty and scenic grandeur of the land, and in the recreational areas of the park system there are growing opportunities for healthful outdoor recreation.

Working with the Service in providing for the needs of the more than 117 million visitors expected in the National Park System in 1966,



Sketch of the 'gift tree' and mural decorations in the new Camp Curry Gift Shop.

there are 195 concessioners who have invested more than \$73 million of their private capital to provide for food, lodging, and other visitor services.

The national parks can be established only by congressional enactment. The national seashores, the national riverways, and national monuments have been established by the Congress and also by the President through Presidential Proclamation.

CLARIFY GOALS

Sometime a confusion arises on the difference between the recreation areas and the national parks administered by

the National Park Service. The national parks are set aside primarily to preserve a part of America's scenic and scientific heritage. The National Park Service has a mandate from the Congress to make them available for use and to leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations. This poses some very delicate decisions from time to time as to what public use should be allowed consistent with preservation.

Secretary of the Interior Franklin K. Lane in 1916 set out the management principles for national parks:

1. The national parks must be maintained in an unimpaired form for use of future generations as well as those of our own time;
2. They are set apart for use, observation, health, and pleasure of the people;
3. The national interest must dictate all decisions affecting public or private enterprise.

On the other hand, the national recreation areas are set aside and are managed for outdoor recreation, including public hunting, consistent with the maintenance of a quality natural environment. Quality is the key word. . . the National Park Service does not want a recreational area to become a natural slum, in a manner of speaking, because then it

NEW CAMP CURRY GIFT, SPORTS SHOPS

As a part of the renovation program at Camp Curry, there are two fine new shops, a new gift shop and a sporting goods shop. These are located on the meadow side (north) of the boardwalk with access, as well, through the Nawasa Dress Shop to the west.

As interesting as the assortment of souvenir merchandise, in the gift shop, is its decoration, particularly the mural on the south and east walls. Adding to the attractiveness is the indirect ceiling lighting, the suspended spherical lighting fixtures and the "gift tree", a section of an old oak tree placed in the center of the shop.

Adjoining the gift shop is the sports shop where campers' supplies, sleeping bags, lanterns, stoves, etc. are displayed. Also available are fishing tackle, camping clothes and shoes.

The Nawasa Shop, while in its same location, has been refurbished and offers selections of women's sportswear, bathing suits, beach togs.

does not contribute to continuing outdoor recreational opportunities. There is considerably more flexibility in the management policies and the kinds of development that would distinguish a recreational area from a national park. But both kinds of areas serve the broad purposes of preservation and recreation.

Men of vision are coming to believe that necessary progress does not require the destruction of every last vestige of the natural world. Or as President Johnson said in his landmark message on Natural Beauty, February 8, 1965: "The beauty of our land is a natural resource. Its preservation is linked to the inner prosperity of the human spirit."

The National Park Service extends to you a cordial invitation to visit your National Park System -- whether it be the natural, historical, or recreational areas.

Stephen T. Mather, Parks' First Chief

In 1915 there were 13 national parks - or preserves - in the United States but no central bureau existed to administer them. Army troops were stationed in them, but only as protectors, to keep out miners, woodchoppers, cattle and sheep raisers. Washington had made several unsuccessful attempts to create a national park bureau, but the preserves were regarded somewhat as orphans and federal attention was badly lacking.

Meanwhile, out west, Stephen T. Mather, a Californian, U. C. graduate and Si-



STEPHEN T. MATHER

erra Club member, after numerous pack trips into the Sierra, Yosemite, Sequoia and Kings Canyon regions, complained to his college friend Franklin K. Lane, Secretary of the Interior, that things were badly run in Yosemite and Sequoia. To which Lane replied "Steve, if you don't
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Yosemite's Mariposa Big Trees Grove First Park in U.S.

President Lincoln's Proclamation

On June 30, 1864 President Lincoln signed a proclamation which affected and will affect every American from that day on. It said, in part

"Be it enacted. . . . That there shall be, and is hereby, granted to the State of California the "Cleft" or "Gorge" in the granite peak of the Sierra Nevada mountains, situated in the county of Mariposa. . . . and known as the Yosemite Valley, . . . with the stipulation, nevertheless, that the said State shall accept this grant upon the express conditions that the premises shall be held for public use, resort, and recreation; shall be unalienable for all time, . . .

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That there shall likewise be, and there is hereby, granted to the said State of California the tracts embracing what is known as the "Mariposa Big Tree Grove," . . . with the like stipulation as expressed in the first section of this act.

INSPIRED NAT'L. PARKS

That act, now called the Yosemite Grant, was most significant because it was the first Federal authorization to

preserve scenic and scientific values for public benefit. The grant constituted the first State Park in America; the act was the basis for the later State and National Park Systems.

Administered by the State for 42 years, the grant sites were returned to the Federal Government in 1906 and became part of the Yosemite National Park which had been

EARLIEST SIERRA SKI DEVELOPMENT IN YOSEMITE

Badger Pass, Yosemite's ski area, is the oldest modern ski development in the Sierra Nevada. While there were certain earlier primitive efforts along the Donner Summit in the '20s, Badger Pass, starting operation with a ski lodge, lifts, ski school in 1935, is the first, in the current concept. Popular with beginners and

established in 1890 to preserve outstanding portions of the adjacent Sierra wilderness. Today the Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove are the most popular and heavily used areas in the Park.

FIRST IN WORLD

There had been other grants of Federal lands to the State, but the Yosemite Grant was notable in that it marked the first time that specific conditions had been imposed which stated that the lands were to "be held for public use, resort, and recreation . . . inalienable for all time."

intermediate skiers, Badger offers an outstanding ski school, five lifts, complete ski rental and sales shops, a variety of eating facilities.

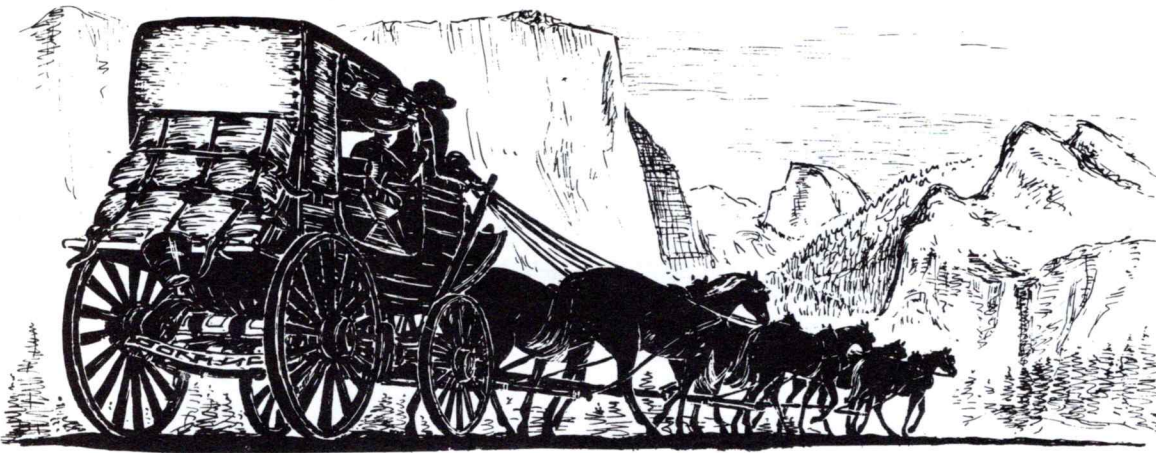
Badger customarily opens in early December and operates until mid-April. It is located a few yards off the Glacier Point Road, 22 miles from the Valley.



And, while the Senate action of 1864 did not create a national park, the concept of use which was dictated, and the implied admonition to preserve the natural wonders for the use and enjoyment of future generations, did give Federal recognition to the importance of natural reservations in our cultural scheme. That concept has prevailed through the years, serving as a basis for policies of preservation and use which have governed the establishment and administration of our system of National Parks.

ARMY ADMINISTRATION

In 1890, 26 years after the Yosemite Grant, and again by Act of Congress, Yosemite National Park was established (Continued to page five)



EARLY DAYS

(Continued from page one)

diana school teachers who had come west on the installment plan and finally landed in California, came to Yosemite and established a small camp for the visitors to the newly popularized Yosemite. We had formerly taken parties through Yellowstone with a movable camp. Each of us had an unusual love for nature and the out of doors through our training in nature lore under Dr. David Starr Jordan at Indiana University where we were members and graduates of the class of '83.

MODEST BEGINNING

"We secured from the Guardian of the Valley (which was then a state park) permission to use the site of the present camp where, with our first purchase of seven tents, we began our enterprise. As everything had to be transported by wagon from Merced, a hundred miles away, our equipment was scanty... tents with burlap floors, bed-springs on wooden legs, mattresses, clean bedding, wash stands made from cracker boxes with oilcloth covers, a few chairs, and tables. The dining tent seated twenty. The only paid employee was the cook; the remainder of the duties about camp we performed, assisted by two or three Stanford students who worked a certain number of weeks in return for room and board and a week's free vacation... The seven tents grew during the first season to twenty-five and the number

of guests reached almost three hundred which we considered a good beginning.

"When the railroad reached El Portal in 1907, it greatly increased travel to the park and made possible many camp improvements. No longer was everything used in camp brought in mule wagons from Merced, but came by train to El Portal only fifteen miles away connected with Yosemite by a good road.

"When in 1913 automobiles were admitted to the park another impetus was added to travel. The 1915 Fair in San Francisco brought more than the usual number of eastern visitors and in that and the following year, Camp Curry reached the gratifying number of over 5,000 guests."



(The narrative here is continued by her daughter, Mary Curry Tresidder).

"As I was a child of five when we first came in, my recollections of those first days are necessarily rather limited and chaotic. I remember the wild ride down the old Coulterville Road on our first trip in, and I remember how the four-horse stages used to wheel into the turnaround at the front of camp with a crack of the driver's whip out of a cloud of dust. My father, a porter or two and a handful of interested guests would assemble for the big event of the day, and there would be a warm wel-

come for the travelers, with much flourishing of feather dusters. Ladies had their hats tied down with heavy veils, and unfortunate was he who didn't sport a linen dustcloth, for even in 1915 there was only one mile of hard-paved road in the Valley.

FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE

"Visitors stayed longer in Yosemite in those times, when reaching it took a couple of days by horse stage. It was a very friendly place, with many families spending their summer vacations there. Nightly there was a campfire, where people brought their own small bundles of wood to feed the flames, and told a story, sang a song or entertained in some other way while their twigs burned.

After the first year, with increasing frequency, there was a "Firefall" from Glacier Point during which everyone sang "America". This event was initiated by James McCauley, who built the hotel there in 1878.

INDIANS HELP IN CAMP

There were still a number of Indians living in Yosemite part of the year, I remember particularly a couple of the women, Mary, and Lucy who used to take my sister and me to pick wild strawberries in the meadows. They were plentiful in those days, and the women used to bring heaping cans of them to camp and sell them for "wild strawberry sundaes." Sometimes, too, "Cap'n Sam or "Cap'n

Tom" would come across the Sierra crest from Mono through Bloody Canyon with trout in willow creels, packed with ferns and almost icy cold, which, at that time, they were allowed to sell to us.

STENTOR OF YOSEMITE

"A day at Camp Curry started early, breakfast hours were six to eight, and by seven-thirty my father would be calling, in a voice to rouse the Seven Sleepers. "At eight o'clock... the cooks get hot... and burn the breakfast!" He took great pleasure in the resonance and carrying power of his voice, and his evening call for the Firefall, and liked to recite the Homeric source for his appellation, "The Stentor of Yosemite"... Stentor was that famous Greek of antiquity who could command 10,000 troops without a megaphone.

"Daddy" Kussman, was the chef for many years, and his wife ran the pantry and dining room. The waiters and waitresses, as well as the porters (who in addition to their routine duties, wrapped hot rocks in thick layers of paper and put them in the beds of those with enough forethought to order them), were a fine group of independent students, eking out their finances for college.

"MOTHER CURRY"

"My mother - "Mother Curry" as she was known fondly throughout the Valley for years - meanwhile was the power behind the throne, the Court of Last Appeal for the employees. She used to say that she had done every job around camp except that of porter, from supervising the hundreds of lunches that were put up daily to making soap with lye from wood-ashes in a huge open kettle in the backyard, or baking dozens of pies or loaves of bread. She stayed out of the public eye as completely as my father filled it, but was always at one with him in their devotion to Camp Curry and to Yosemite."



MATHER

(Continued from page two)

like the way those parks are run, run them yourself". "Mr. Secretary, I accept the job", Mather replied. With these brief preliminaries, Mather assumed the directorship of the parks and was instrumental in establishing a system of parks, monuments and historical sites, that sees more than 100 million visitors each year. He long had envisioned a plan to weld the parks into a great system and to make them accessible to all the people.

PERSONAL FUNDS USED

Many of the existing parks were difficult to get to and provided few or no facilities for the accommodation of visitors. Government red tape stood in the way of action. This Mather cut resolutely. When government appropriations couldn't meet the situation he produced "appropriations" of his own — for when he accepted public office he possessed a considerable fortune from mining interests. Little by little, Mather's convictions, vision and determination convinced the congress of the value of his efforts and larger appropriations were made available.

In Yosemite, during Mather's fourteen years of service as Director, much progress was made toward providing proper roads and trails, accommodations and transportation and other visitor facilities. He was responsible for formulating the policy, still effective, whereby government contracts were arranged with well-operated and financed park concessioners rather than with several of shaky caliber. The Tioga toll road was purchased from the



Great Sierra Co. and made a public road (Mather paid half the bill). The first part of the John Muir Trail was undertaken, the Cascades power plant was built, Highway 140, the first auto road into the park, from Merced, was completed.

When Mather assumed the directorship of the national parks in 1916, he determined at the outset to provide park visitors with the information on the natural and historic features which they wanted. Educational endeavors were made a part of his projected program even before a staff had been organized.

INTERPRETIVE PROGRAM

Mather, on a trip to Lake Tahoe, was fascinated by the interpretive work instituted and financed by Dr. and Mrs. C. M. Goethe of Sacramento. He persuaded the Doctor (and shared his expenses) to transfer their activities to Yosemite. Park Service money eventually became available, and an interpretive program was developed here. The success of the Yosemite installation developed into a national program that carried interpretive activities throughout the park and monument system.



Two stage coaches speed down the grade on the Wawona Road into Yosemite Valley.

WAWONA OFFERS RICH HISTORY

In the Wawona area, 30 miles from the Valley on the Fresno Road, the Wawona Hotel, the Pioneer History Center, the Thomas Hill Studio represent interesting historical features of Yosemite. The hotel once was a stage stop, in the 1860s. Thomas Hill, among the best-known Yosemite painters maintained

a studio there which is now being reconstructed to its original condition by the National Park Service. In the History Center, there are several authentic early-day buildings, a display of stages and carriages, typical of the type used for horse-drawn transportation to Yosemite.



Yosemite's Mariposa Big Trees

(Continued from page three)

around the State-administered lands as a means of conserving the adjacent Sierra wilderness. The new park was placed under the guardianship of the U. S. Army. The Cavalry came in the spring and left in autumn. During the winter, two civilian rangers patrolled the area as best they could.

The dual administration of the adjoining State and Federal areas created many problems. It was the feeling of many Californians that the lands which had been granted to them would better be administered as a part of the National Park. Others were resentful of that attitude, but eventually their opposition was overcome and in 1906

the grant lands were receded to the Federal government.

Civilian supervision over the combined areas became effective in 1914, and two years later, when the National Park Service was established, Yosemite National Park became a part of the National Park System, along with other established areas.



YOSEMITE OPEN ALL YEAR

While Yosemite receives its heaviest visitation during the summer months, more and more Californians, particularly, are finding it just as attractive in the months of

spring, fall and winter. Highways 140 from Merced and 41 from Fresno as well as the Big Oak Flat Road 120 from Manteca on Highway 50 are kept open year 'round.

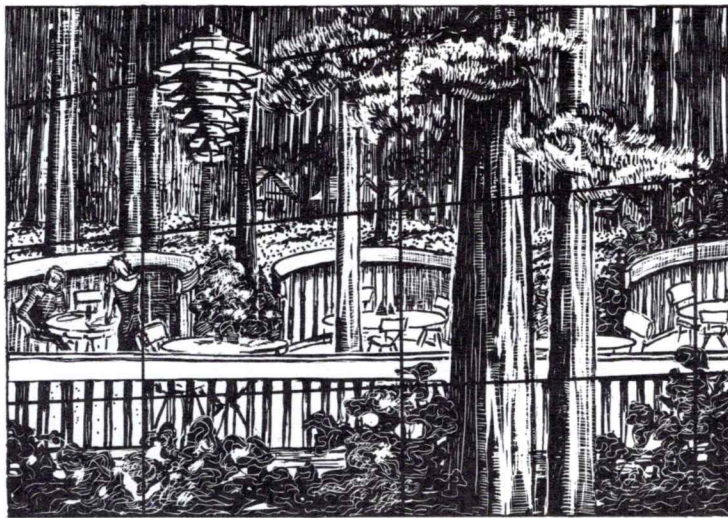
NEW CAMP CURRY EATING FACILITIES

Camp Curry is "home-in-Yosemite" to a good many thousands of park visitors. Over the 67 years of its operation, Curry has gained the reputation for extending a warm and friendly welcome to all vacationers, tourists and sightseers.

This season, park visitors are especially invited to Camp Curry to see the extensive improvements to the shops and eating facilities completed in June at a cost of \$400,000.

PAVILION CAFETERIA

Of first interest is the new Pavilion Cafeteria located within what was formerly the dining room. In addition to the cool and spacious interior dining area there is, on the south side, an outdoor section, the tables arranged with-

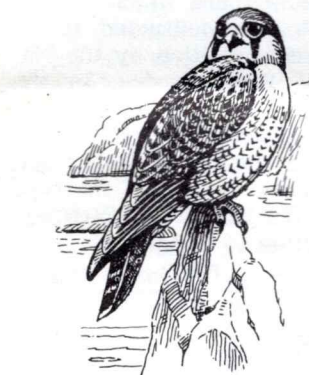


View through window of the new Camp Curry Pavilion Cafeteria toward the outdoor dining patio.

Riding Popular

With 420 head of stock, the four park stables comprise the largest livery operation in the U. S.

From the Valley stable guided rides around the Valley, trips to Vernal and Nevada Falls, Half Dome and Glacier Point are offered daily. For the youngsters there are the pony ring, the Burro Picnic, and donkeys to be lead on the bridal paths. The Valley stable is located near Camp 12. Others are at Wawona, Tuolumne Meadows and White Wolf.

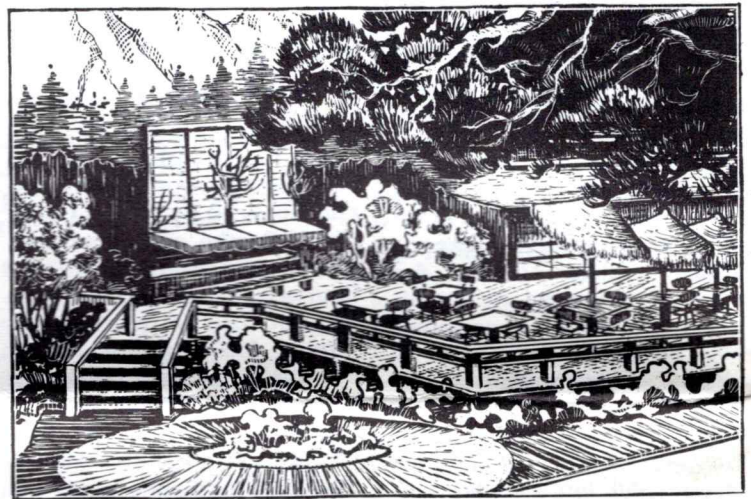


coves.

The all-new and spotless food service counters provide a great variety of dishes at each meal, be it breakfast, lunch or dinner.

Breakfast service commences at 7 a.m. and runs until 9 a.m. In general, and depending on one's appetite, of course, breakfast will cost between about \$.55 for juice, roll or toast and coffee to about \$1.50 for a hearty ham-and-egg breakfast.

For lunch, served between 11:45 a.m. and 1:15 p.m. there's a wide choice of cool salads, an assortment of cold sandwiches, plus hamburger sandwiches or hamburger steaks from the broiler, the latter a special feature of the cafeteria. Hamburgers are



The new Mall Snack Bar at Camp Curry serves breakfast, lunch and dinner; meals may be eaten on the terrace or can be packed 'to go'.

\$.60, hamburger steaks, \$1.35; a soup and salad lunch will cost about \$.85, one with hot entree, about \$1.50.

There is, for dinner, served between 5:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. a variety of entrees, chicken, chops, turkey, etc.; soup, salads, desserts. An average dinner check for a full meal will run about \$2.50. Children's portions are served at half rate, and the youngsters are, of course, most welcome. And, from the broiler, steaks cooked to order are available at reasonable prices; a New York cut is \$3.00, a top sirloin is \$2.75, a hamburger steak \$1.35.

OUTDOOR SNACK BAR

Other additions to the Camp Curry eating facilities are the two outdoor snack bars -- the Meadow Snack Bar on the north side and the Mall Snack

Bar opposite the lounge building.

The Meadow Snack Bar provides hamburgers, milk shakes, ice cream cones, soft drinks, etc. between 10 a.m. and 10 p.m. A continental breakfast . . . juice, rolls, coffee is served at the Mall Snack Bar throughout the morning; between 4 and 10 p.m. it offers hot, freshly roasted chicken, fried potatoes, salad, hot biscuits and honey for \$1.80. The chicken dinner can be packed "to-go" or may be eaten on the tree covered dining deck.

Published in Yosemite by Yosemite Park and Curry Co. in commemoration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the National Park Service.



Camp Curry, 1904. David Curry standing in center.