

GUIDE
TO
SEQUOIA
& GENERAL
GRANT

NATIONAL
PARKS...

By **ANSEL F. HALL**
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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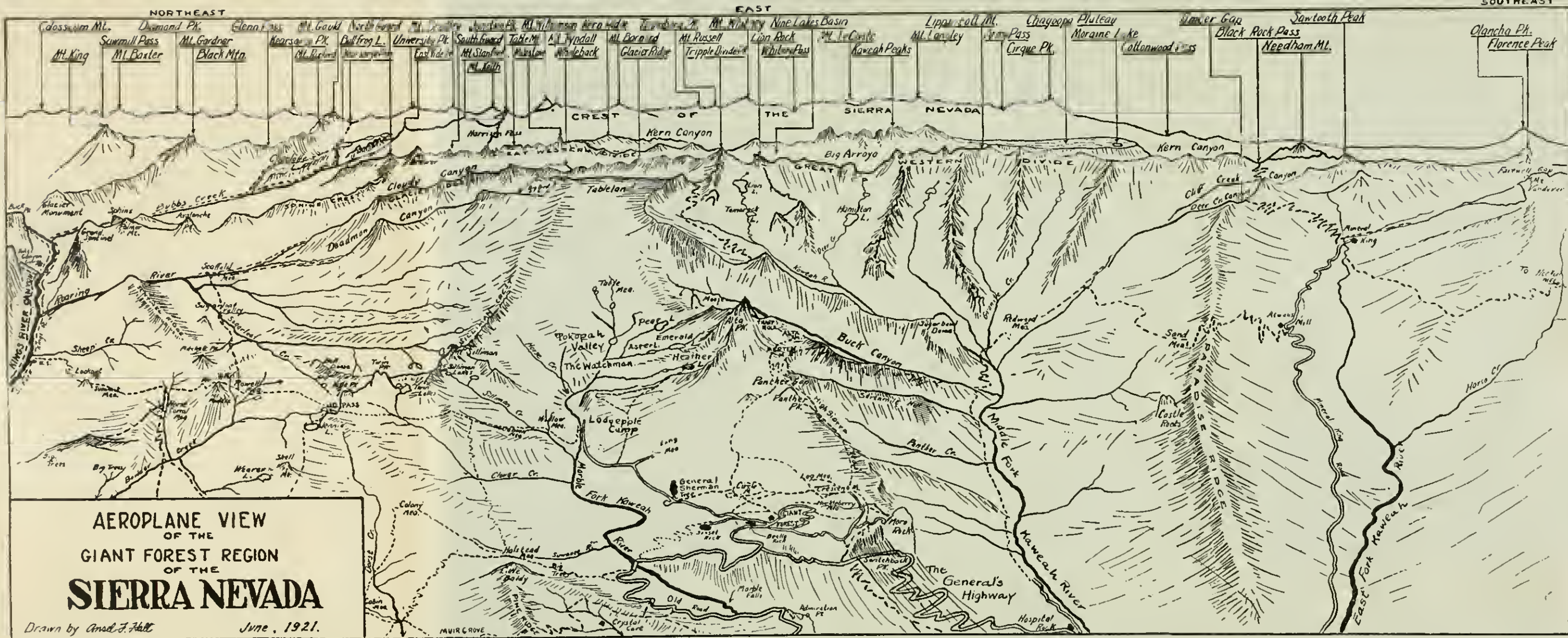
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AEROPLANE VIEW
OF THE
GIANT FOREST REGION
OF THE
SIERRA NEVADA

Drawn by Ansel J. Hall

June, 1921.



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A Guide to
SEQUOIA
and
GENERAL GRANT
NATIONAL PARKS

By ANSEL F. HALL
Chief Naturalist, National Park Service

Illustrations by Donald G. Kelley



National Parks Publishing House
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EDGE POLE PINE OR TAMARACK

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INTRODUCTION

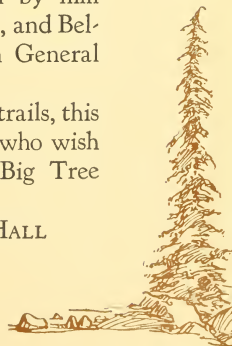
THE first edition of this guide and trail companion, which was started while the author was on duty in Sequoia as a ranger in 1917 and was completed in 1921, has proven of great interest and use to visitors during the past decade. In this period, however, Sequoia National Park has been enlarged to almost three times its former size and many new roads and trails have been constructed in both Sequoia and General Grant. This booklet has therefore been brought up to date by complete revision and by the inclusion of numerous maps, illustrations, and other data which make it even more conveniently useful as a pocket guide than before.

The author gratefully acknowledges the generous help of Messrs. Guy Hopping, Frank Been, Walter Fry and other members of the National Park Service staff in supplying and checking data on trails and roads. Most of the sketches were made in the field by Mr. Donald Kelley; some, however, were drawn by him from the photographs of Messrs. Roberts, Eddy, and Belden whose artistic pictures are to be seen in General Grant and Sequoia National Parks.

If used as one actually follows the roads and trails, this little volume will prove indispensable to those who wish to become intimately acquainted with the "Big Tree National Parks".

ANSEL F. HALL

Berkeley, Calif., July 1, 1930



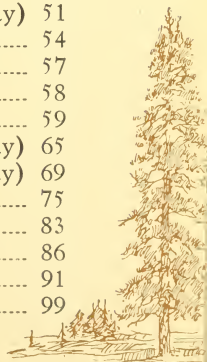


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WESTERN YELLOW PINE

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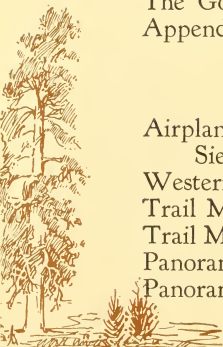
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SUGAR PINE.

THE BIG TREE NATIONAL PARKS



SEQUOIA and General Grant National Parks owe their very existence to the ancient groves of Giant Sequoias found within their boundaries. In the last few decades of the 19th century, when timber land of the West was being rapidly acquired, there was every evidence that these great trees would soon pass out of the

hands of the Government and be exploited for private gain, as had most of the other big tree groves from the Tule River region in the South, almost to Tahoe at the North. Fortunately there arose a few champions to fight for the preservation of these venerable forest monarchs, and so vigorously was the cause pressed that in 1890 Congress set aside Sequoia and General Grant National Parks—primarily to preserve the finest remaining stand of *Sequoia gigantea*.

Not only did these two "Big Tree Parks" contain the finest forest groves of the Sierra. They also had within their boundries scenic upland meadows, mountain lakes, vast panoramas of jagged crests—in short a veritable

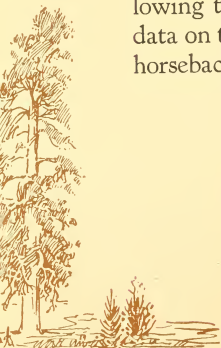


SEQUOIA AND GENERAL



mountain paradise. The highest peaks and canyons, however, were not included within the Sequoia National Park until recent years, when it became generally known that the marvelously sculptured glaciated gorges of the southern High Sierra were surpassed nowhere in the world. With the extension of Sequoia National Park to include Mt. Whitney, the highest peak in the United States, and the beautiful and spectacular Kern Canyon, with the surrounding lakes, peaks, and meadows, we now have a mountain recreation reserve, which could be duplicated nowhere in this country or abroad.

The interesting story of how the Giant Sequoias were discovered, and how they were preserved, in this, their last stronghold, will so greatly add to ones enjoyment of both General Grant and Sequoia National Parks, that we present in the following pages a brief account of the history of the region and the story of the birds, trees, flowers, and other living things which dwell together in the many interesting types of natural communities. Following this introductory section will be found detailed data on the many fine trips which can be taken afoot, on horseback, or by auto in the two parks.



LOGS POLE PINE OR TAMARACK.



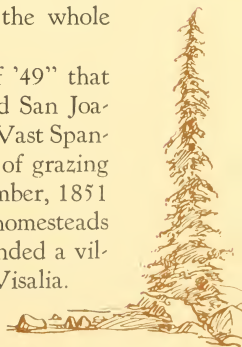
THE STORY OF SEQUOIA & GEN. GRANT NATIONAL PARKS



EARLY DAYS IN THE KAWEAH REGION

DURING the first decades of the 19th Century, the southern San Joaquin Valley was visited by several Spanish exploratory expeditions. The commanders of these field parties brought back to the Presidio of San Francisco such glowing accounts of the fertility of this southern region that plans were laid which would have made Visalia the center of a new province. A number of international difficulties prevented immediate accomplishment of this scheme, and suddenly—some 30 or 40 years later—the discovery of gold changed the whole history of the West.

It was not long after the "Golden Days of '49" that the fertile bottomlands of the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys were claimed by the newcomers. Vast Spanish haciendas, each with its thousands of acres of grazing lands, soon gave way to farms. It was in December, 1851 that Nathaniel and Abner Vise established homesteads in the southern San Joaquin Valley, and founded a village which later became the thriving city of Visalia.

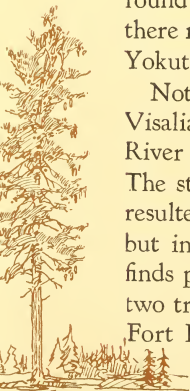


SEQUOIA AND GENERAL



The Vise Brothers found the land populated by a primitive, but friendly, tribe of Indians known as the Yokuts. As in other parts of California these aborigines were contemptuously called "Diggers" because they obtained part of their food from roots and bulbs. With the advance of the whites these first inhabitants were gradually forced back to the less fertile foothill region, where they might still obtain what to them was the staff of life—the acorn—but where it was much more difficult to eek out an existance. It is said that in the early 50's there were about two thousand Indians dwelling along the Kaweah River between what is now Lemon Cove and the foothills. It was not long, however, before the tribe began to fade away. Nowhere in California have the Indians withstood the encroachments of the white man's diseases, whiskey, and aggression. Up to a few years ago an occasional *rancheria*, or group of lodges, might be found hidden away in the lower canyons—but today there remains but a handful of surviving members of the Yokuts Tribe.

Not long after the establishment of Visalia, gold was discovered at Kern River by D. B. or "Brigham" James. The stampede of 1853 which followed resulted in nothing but disappointment, but in the following eight years other finds proved to be more substantial and two trails were cut across the Sierra to Fort Independence and Lone Pine in



SUGAR PINE

GRANT NATIONAL PARKS



the Owens Valley. One of these, the Hockett Trail, crossed the high plateau which forms the southwestern part of Sequoia National Park approximately on the route of the present trails. Both followed old Indian trails for the greater part of the distance.

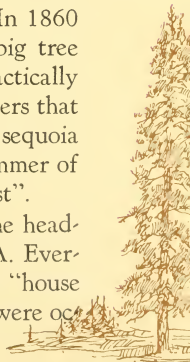
The Three Rivers district was settled in 1856 by Hale D. Tharp who was followed by several families of pioneers.

'Ranching' in those days meant more than farming; it meant exploring for summer grazing country, hunting, trapping—in short, taking from Nature the greater part of one's living.



Hale Tharp explored the high mountains in 1858 searching for summer pasture land for his stock and for the big trees which the Indians had described to him. It was during this trip that he discovered the Giant Forest and carved the record of his visit on the great hollow sequoia log which he later used as a dwelling. In 1860 he returned and constructed his picturesque "big tree cabin" which we find today at Log Meadow practically as it was when he used it during the many summers that he grazed his cattle in this region. It is in this sequoia cabin that John Muir was a guest during the summer of 1879 when he proposed the name "Giant Forest".

The Forest figures in the next few years as the headquarters of but one or two solitary woodsmen. A. Everton, a trapper, lived for five winters in another "house tree" and Cahoon, Palmer, Blossom, and others were oc



SEQUOIA AND GENERAL



casional visitors. James Wolverton spent much time in Giant Forest and it is claimed that he discovered the General Sherman Tree on August 7, 1879 and named it after his commandant of the Civil War.

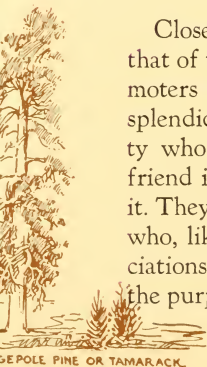
THE MINERAL KING MINES

In the early 70's great excitement was again stirred up by the discovery of gold- and silver-bearing mineral near the source of the East Fork of the Kaweah. Operations were started at the Mineral King, White Chief, and other mines, and a town of about 500, called Beulah, sprang up. A road was built from Three Rivers at a cost of over \$100,000, but the decline started in 1879 and the mines, having proved unproductive, were abandoned.

The next decade was one of gradual development in the foothills and of the partial realization on the part of the settlers that the forests of the mountains had a value and would someday be exploited.

THE KAWEAH COLONY

Closely linked with the history of the Giant Forest is that of the Kaweah Colony which was organized by promoters mainly for the purpose of acquiring title to that splendid body of timber. Two residents of Tulare County who had become acquainted with that area, and a friend in San Francisco, planned to secure possession of it. They induced a number of people from San Francisco who, like themselves, had belonged to co-operative associations, and a few local residents, to visit the Forest for the purpose of applying to enter the land under the Tim-



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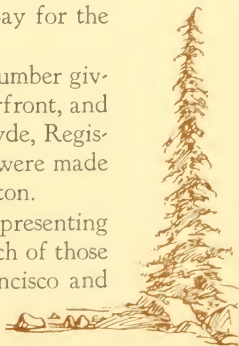


ber and Stone Act. On four dates in October, 1885, a total of 55 persons filed in the U. S. Land Office at Visalia "Sworn Statements" under that law by which they were each permitted to initiate claims to 160 acres of land. Under the regulations it was necessary to publish for sixty days notices of intention to enter the land and thereafter on a specified date present evidence, supported by that of two witnesses in each case, that the land was of more value for its timber or stone than for any other purpose, and at the same time to pay the purchase price of \$2.50 per acre, or \$400 for each quarter-section. It was only by the presentation of acceptable proof and payment of the purchase price that a vested interest in the land could be acquired.


Fourteen of those presenting Sworn Statements were not citizens of the United States and so each filed a declaration of intention to become a citizen in order to initiate a claim; and seven of them gave the same address, No. 217 Broadway, San Francisco. It was stated by one of the number that not more than six of those coming from San Francisco had sufficient funds to pay for the land.

Because of the large number of aliens, the number giving a single address on the San Francisco waterfront, and for other reasons, it did not appear to J. D. Hyde, Registrar of the Land Office, that the applications were made in good faith, and he so reported to Washington.

On returning from the Forest and before presenting their Sworn Statements at the Land Office, each of those who were "induced" to come from San Francisco and



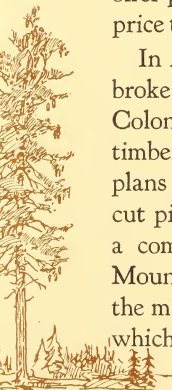
SEQUOIA AND GENERAL



elsewhere, was given a slip of paper at a certain tailor shop in Visalia, on which was written the description of the land for which he was to apply. At the same time each one signed an agreement to devote fifty percent of the proceeds of the sale of timber for socialistic propaganda.

On the evening of the first day on which the applications were filed in the Land Office, the Tulare Valley and Giant Forest Railroad Company was organized and in the succeeding weeks various methods of perfecting a timber pool were discussed. It was proposed to mortgage the land after paying for it at the Land Office and with the money thus procured pay for the lands of later applicants, all of which was contrary to law.

During the period of publication the Commissioner of the General Land Office suspended the land from entry pending investigation. When the applicants appeared to offer proof, the same was not accepted and the purchase price tendered for each tract was refused.



In August the following year the timber pool scheme broke up and the Kaweah Co-operative Commonwealth Colony was organized. Forty-two of the applicants for timber land became members of the colony. Extensive plans were projected. A sawmill in the mountains was to cut pine and fir timber which would be hauled out over a community-built road and later a railroad. Marble Mountain was to yield the finest quality of marble for the market and for the building of the town of "Avalon" which would stand in the midst of orchards and vine-

GRANT NATIONAL PARKS

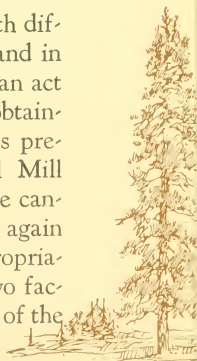
yards at the mouth of Cactus Creek. They planned for schools—and a magazine—and a university.

The first road to Giant Forest was started in 1886 and completed as far as Colony Mill in 1890. A small sawmill was there installed and cutting began on John Zorbrist's claim. During most of the time that the road was under construction the main townsite was at "Advance" in the canyon of the North Fork, about four miles below the old park entrance. Since lumber was more expensive than canvas, the "city" was made up largely of tents and cloth shelters and was known to the neighbors of Three Rivers as "Ragtown". In 1891 a tract of land about a mile below the present Kaweah Post Office was leased and the town of Kaweah, which at one time numbered about three hundred inhabitants, was founded. The proposed magazine became a reality, for someone turned in a printing press and soon the subscriptions to "The Kaweah Commonwealth" were numbered in the hundreds.

But the activities of the colonists were beset with difficulties. The Colony had never held title to any land in Giant Forest and when, in 1890, Congress passed an act creating Sequoia National Park all possibility of obtaining ownership of that wonderful timberland was precluded. The commonwealth next leased Atwell Mill which stood on private land within the Park in the canyon of the East Fork and cutting operations were again started. Soon dissention arose over alleged misappropriation of funds and the community was split into two factions. Gradually the failure of the hopes and ideals of the



*Black-headed
Grosbeak -
Long Winged Bird*



WESTERN YELLOW PINE



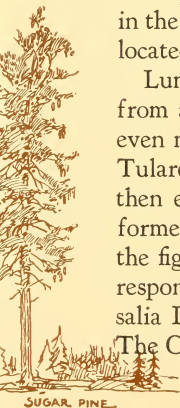
SEQUOIA AND GENERAL

colonists was realized and one by one its members moved away, most of them impoverished and embittered against the men and institutions which seemed to have conspired against them.

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK

The creation of Sequoia National Park is an example of what a few enthusiastic public-spirited men may accomplish by persistent effort. In 1885, following the attempts of the Kaweah Colonists to obtain ownership of timber claims in Giant Forest, eighteen townships of land in the mountains had been suspended from entry by Commissioner Sparks of the General Land Office. On May 31, 1890, the Secretary of Interior released one of these townships. Telegraphic notice was sent to interested parties even before the news arrived officially and in the next six weeks' scramble for land, 2500 acres were located.

Lumbermen now sought to have restrictions removed from another fine block of timber, a region containing even more giant sequoias than the first. John Tuohy of Tulare, F. J. Walker of Hanford, George W. Stewart, then editor of the Visalia Delta, and Tipton Lindsey, formerly Receiver of the U. S. Land Office, now started the fight to save the Big Trees. As a result of their correspondence and the editorials which appeared in the Visalia Delta, the New York Times, the New York Post, The Century Magazine, and other journals, the lands in



GRANT NATIONAL PARKS

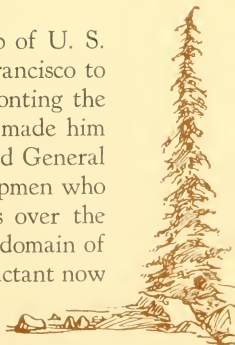
question were withheld from entry and the sequoias were saved for the time being.

On July 28, 1890, Gen. Vandever introduced a bill in the lower house of Congress setting aside one township and a few odd sections in the south part of what is now Sequoia National Park. Dr. Gustav Eisen secured the enthusiastic interest of the California Academy of Sciences and, with what other influence was brought to bear by the originators of the park idea the measure passed through both House and Senate. On September 9, 1890, the fortieth anniversary of the admission of the State into the Union, the news was received with joy in California.

The new reserve was christened "Sequoia National Park" by Secretary Noble on September 26, 1890. A few days later, by a section in the bill creating Yosemite National Park, the boundries were enlarged to include seven townships and General Grant National Park, four square miles in area, was created.

THE MILITARY REGIME

About the first day of May, 1891, a troop of U. S. Cavalry marched from the Presidio of San Francisco to the newly created park. The problems confronting the commandant, Captain Dorst, whose position made him the first Acting Superintendent of Sequoia and General Grant National Parks, were formidable. Sheepmen who for many years past had driven their herds over the high mountain meadows, stripping the public domain of every green blade of grass, were extremely reluctant now



SEQUOIA AND GENERAL

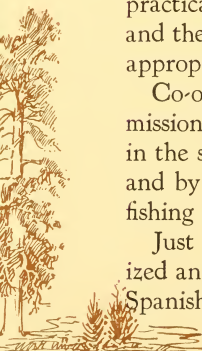


to give up their fancied "privilege" at the invitation of Congress. No penalties had been provided for the infraction of rules, and the sheepmen expected only to have their herds driven from the Park every time they were discovered. Captain Dorst, however, adopted the ingenious scheme of scattering the sheep and driving them from the Park at different places, then escorting the herders to the farthest boundary and setting them free without food or horses. A few heavy losses through this vigorously enforced policy soon taught trespassers to respect the edict of the military and the control of the grazing menace was thereafter a simple matter. The frequent patrols of the large protective force soon reduced hunting in the Park to a minimum.

The pioneering of the first few years was largely in the nature of exploration for practicable natural routes from canyon to canyon and from one mountain chain to another. No money was available for the building of roads or trails, and the old Colony Mill Road became practically impassable. Captains Dorst, Parker, Lockett, and their followers appealed in their annual reports for appropriations, but all to no avail.

Co-operation with the State Fish and Game Commission and with the Visalia Sportsmen's Club resulted in the stocking of many of the Park streams with trout, and by 1896 superintendents were able to report good fishing and in an increase of game.

Just as park administration was becoming standardized and the troopers were becoming more efficient, the Spanish-American War was declared, and a few civil-



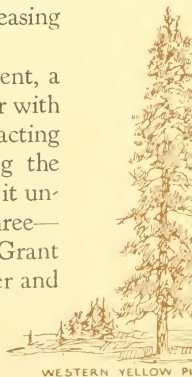
SEPOLE PINE OR TAMARACK.

GRANT NATIONAL PARKS

ians were engaged to take the place of the soldiers who normally protected the Park from May to October. There was immediately a rush of poachers and a slaughter of deer. Sheep roamed at will in the Park and a destructive fire in Giant Forest threatened some of the finest sequoias. The First Utah Volunteer Company spent a month "guarding" the reserve, but were accused of killing even more game than the civilians. In 1899 a detachment of a battery of artillery under Lieutenant Henry B. Clark again started the enforcement of rules, and in November of that year the Park was committed for the winter to the charge of a newly appointed "Forest Ranger".

The real development of the Park began in 1900 with an appropriation of \$10,000. A like amount was made available each year, the greater part being spent for the repair of the old Colony Mill Road and its extension toward Giant Forest. The Forest was finally reached in the latter part of 1903 and a transportation system operated by Broder and Hopping brought in an ever-increasing number of visitors.

The next decade was one of gradual development, a few permanent improvements being made each year with the very limited amount of money available. The acting superintendents realized the futility of guarding the Park for a few months each year and then leaving it unprotected, so two permanent rangers—and later three—were appointed. Entire administration of General Grant National Park was placed in the hands of one ranger and the military outpost there was discontinued.





SEQUOIA AND GENERAL

THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

In 1914 a civilian organization consisting of a superintendent, three permanent rangers, and eight summer rangers was formed to replace the military force which had hitherto been used. The formation of the National Park Service by an act of Congress in 1915 provided the frame-work for the efficient organization which has since grown up. From the time of the troopers the Park made a steady advance under the able leadership of Superintendent Walter Fry who, in recognition of his long public service, was appointed in 1920 as United States Commissioner for Sequoia and General Grant National Parks. The place left by Judge Fry was then filled by Colonel John R. White, whose service in many parts of the world fits him exceptionally well for the great task of carrying the Park through its period of maximum development.



SUGAR PINE.





THE GIANT SEQUOIA




THE great size and the beauty of the Big Trees present a first impression which is nothing short of startling to the visitor beholding them for the first time. To beauty of form must also be added beauty of setting, for these great fluted columns are surrounded by a coniferous forest which John Muir pronounced to be the most magnificent in existence—White Fir, Red Fir, Incense Cedar, Western Yellow Pine, Jeffery Pine, and Sugar Pine—each under its optimum growing conditions.

It is hard indeed to realize the great size of these majestic trees, so wonderfully symmetrical are they; but as you stand at the margin of Crescent Meadow, or at the summit of Moro Rock, or at some other point which gives you a distant perspective, notice how they stand head and shoulders above the surrounding mature pines and firs. Even when at the base of one of these beautiful cinnamon-brown trunks can one scarcely believe its measured size. The mere statement that you have seen a tree thirty-six feet in diameter at the ground can mean little without some basis of comparison. You will surprise yourself if you try the following simple experiment: Stretch a string around the base of one of the larger sequoias, then take it to a clearing—or to your home—and again form the circle, realizing that within it stood the forest

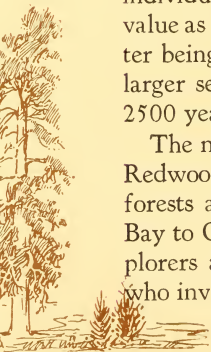


SEQUOIA AND GENERAL



giant which you measured. Figures themselves are less convincing, but for purposes of comparison the measurements of a number of the largest trees are given in the appendix of this small volume.

What inspires one even more, perhaps, than the great size and symmetrical beauty of these forest patriarchs, is the contemplation of their great age. They are closer to eternal life than any known thing. Many of these trees were already giants when Alexander conquered the world, and a few of them probably reach back to the fall of Babylon. Preserved within their great trunks is a remarkable climatic record. A careful study of the growth rings on the stumps of trees which were cut in nearby privately owned forests has yielded an accurate measure of rainfall and of good and bad growing seasons for the past 3200 years; and John Muir states that he once counted more than 4000 annual rings on a single stump. Growth depends largely upon available moisture, plant food, and sunlight and therefore varies greatly between individual trees. Because of this, relative size is of little value as an indicator of age, some trees ten feet in diameter being older than others twice as large. Most of the larger sequoias in Giant Forest are between 1000 and 2500 years in age.



The nearest relative of the Giant Sequoia is the Coast Redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*) which forms dense forests along the California coast from the Monterey Bay to Oregon. It was discovered by early botanical explorers and named after Sequoiah, a Cherokee Indian who invented an alphabet for his tribe. We have records

GRANT NATIONAL PARKS

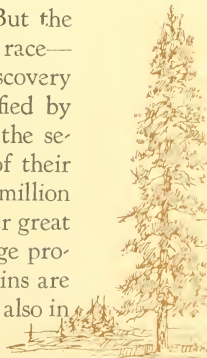
of the Big Trees of the Sierra Nevada being seen by the members of the Walker Expedition as early as 1833, but the effective discovery dates to 1851 and 1852 when the Calaveras Grove was discovered independently by John Bidwell and by A. T. Dowd of Murphys.



Black-headed Grosbeak - Brown Note, F. Black

The reproduction of the Giant Sequoia is poor in the northern groves which consist almost entirely of huge mature specimens. It was therefore first supposed that these few giants were the last survivors of an ancient and dying race. Subsequent exploration disclosed more groves, all of them on the western slope of the Sierra range between altitudes of 4000 and 8000. Small groups of trees were found almost as far north as Tahoe, but in the southern part of the range several magnificent stands were discovered, one of the finest of which is the Giant Forest.

It is now known that the Giant Sequoia is holding its place in the forest community by natural reproduction and, if protected by man from its enemies, is safe from extinction and will probably extend its range. But the earlier idea that the tree is the survivor of a dying race—an idea thought to have been disproved by the discovery of the southern groves—has recently been verified by Science. A study of fossils reveals the fact that the sequoias are really of very ancient origin. Traces of their ancestors are found in rocks fully one hundred million years in age. During the era of dinosaurs and other great reptiles great sequoia forests flourished over a large proportion of the Western Hemisphere. Their remains are found on this continent from Texas to Alaska and also in



WESTERN YELLOW PINE

SEQUOIA AND GENERAL

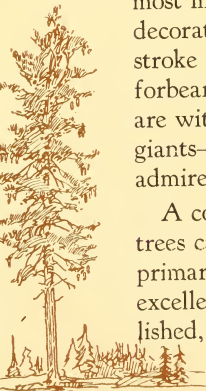


Mongolia, Greenland, Spitzbergen, and in many places in Europe. Visitors to Yellowstone National Park will see some of these trees, still standing but turned to agate—many of them ten feet in diameter. Fully twelve species of sequoias finally developed from the earlier ancestors



and these seem to have been the dominant trees of the world. Then came far-reaching changes which severely altered the mild climate and the earth passed through several periods of extreme snowfall and glaciation. It is probably during these times that the sequoias were all but exterminated. At any rate when, during the past century, civilized man explored his new-found western domain, he found on the Pacific slope of the Sierra Nevada and also along the north-western coast of California what is in very fact the surviving remnant of what must once have been one of the most magnificent and extensive forests which have ever decorated the face of the earth. By what fortunate stroke of circumstance they escaped the fate of their forbears nobody knows; but the fact remains that they are with us today—magnificent reminders of a world of giants—our heritage from past ages. Well may they be admired and revered and protected!

A comprehensive story of the life of these wonderful trees can scarcely be outlined in a small volume written primarily to serve as a guide and field companion. Two excellent books on the Big Trees have recently been published, however, so that the intimate and detailed stor-



SUGAR PINE.

GRANT NATIONAL PARKS

of the sequoias is now available to all. One of these volumes is the collective work of Commissioner Walter Fry, who has lived with the sequoias for decades, and Colonel John R. White who has served as the Superintendent of the two parks since 1920. The second book is by George D. Stewart who thoroughly knows the Big Trees and who was largely responsible for the establishment of Sequoia National Park in 1890. Also, visitors to Sequoia and General Grant National Parks are fortunate in being able to command the services of government ranger naturalists who are available to personally introduce them to these noble trees and to interpret the secrets of their interesting life. By all means follow at least one woodland trail with a government ranger naturalist while you are in the park.





WILDERNESS COMMUNITIES

DID you notice when you approached the Sierras that you seemed occasionally to pass from one type of woodland or forest into another that was totally different as you motored swiftly up into the mountains?

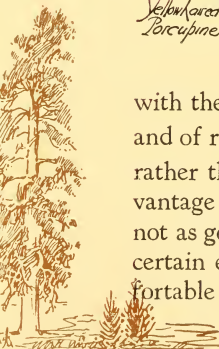
Climbing from the foothills to the summits of the Sierra Nevada is like making a journey from Mexico to the Arctic Circle. It is said that each thousand feet that you climb is roughly the equivalent of traveling four hundred miles northward. Dwellers in the hot California valleys are blessed with the opportunity of selecting any climate they wish and of reaching it within a few hours by moving upward rather than northward. Nature's other citizens take advantage of the same opportunity, but most of them are not as good travelers. A few of them, like man, prefer a certain environment but *may* occupy another less comfortable niche when the business of food getting demands



Yellowback Porcupine



Red Shafted Flicker



DGEPOLE PINE OR TAMARACK

GRANT NATIONAL PARKS



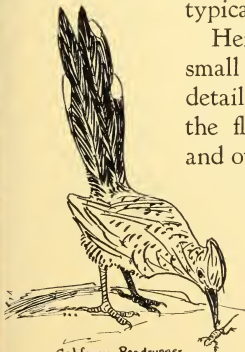
Western
Tanager
Head Red Body
Yellow & Black

These few may be widely spread, but the vast majority of animals and plants live in the environment which best suits their needs for a happy life. And so one finds very definite natural communities at different altitudes and on different warm and cold slopes. This is one of the facts that helps to give unending variety to the marvelously attractive vacation-land of the Sierra. So definite are the likes and dislikes of plants and animals, each for their favorite environment, that one soon learns to recognize those which live together, and to estimate quite accurately the altitude at which he finds himself. Even the newcomer will know in which of the five life zones he stands if he but take the trouble to become acquainted with a few of the typical inhabitants of each.

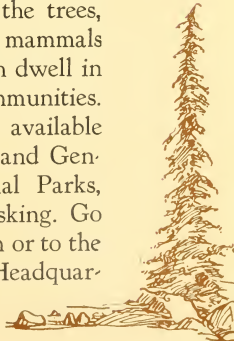


Mariposa
Lily.

Here, again, it is impossible in this small volume to give all the intimate details for identification of the trees, the flowers, the birds, the mammals and other living things which dwell in these natural communities. This information is available to in both Sequoia and General Grant National Parks, however, for the asking. Go to the Park Museum or to the Ranger Naturalist Headquar-



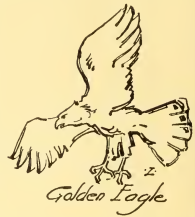
California Roadrunner



SEQUOIA AND GENERAL



ters and there you will find displayed specimens of a number of the most interesting plants and animals which you will want to recognize for yourself out-of-doors. Then, too, you will be glad to know that your government provides nature guides who will help you to become personally acquainted with the many living inhabitants of forest and meadow and mountain slope. Be sure to take advantage of this free service which will so greatly add to the enjoyment of what you see. Inquire about the Ranger Naturalists' field trips; short walks are conducted daily from all the main centers and you can go with a government nature guide on many of the interesting trips described in this little guide.



Golden Eagle

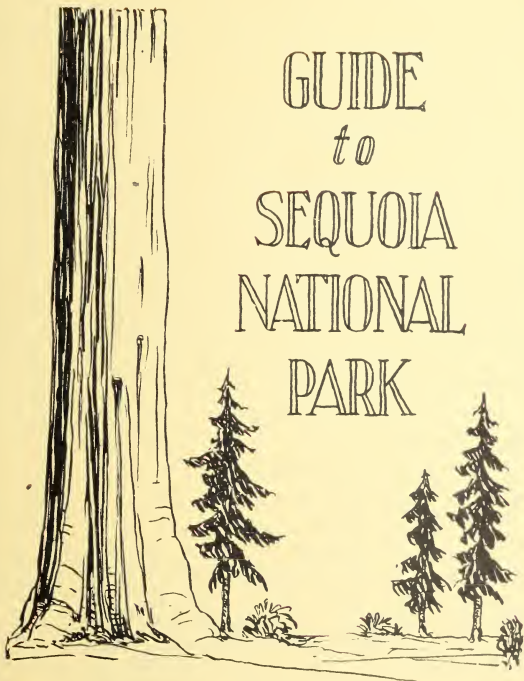


SUGAR PINE



Sierra Chickaree

GUIDE
to
SEQUOIA
NATIONAL
PARK





SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK

WEEKS, or months—several seasons in fact—might be spent by the mountaineer setting out to explore the hundreds of miles of High Sierra trails within Sequoia National Park. Obviously, it is impossible to include complete data on all these trails in a volume small as the one which you are now reading. Therefore, in order to make this book a most useful pocket companion, the author has given most attention to the more accessible regions, and has treated in detail all of the excursions which can be conveniently made afoot, by horseback, or by automobile from Giant Forest and other important centers. This information will be found in the following pages.



Kaweah Peaks from Little Five Lakes

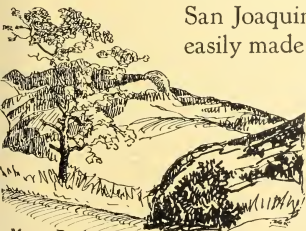


THE APPROACH TO SEQUOIA

THE GENERALS HIGHWAY

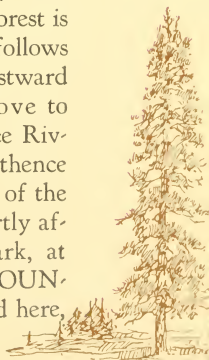
ULTIMATELY the Generals Highway will connect Sequoia with General Grant National Park, making it possible to visit magnificent sequoia groves and high mountain forests in a continuous excursion, having as its terminals the cities of Fresno at one end and Visalia at the other. At the time of writing, the highway had extended from the latter city to Giant Forest—the living heart of Sequoia National Park—and was being pushed north-westward toward General Grant at the rate of several miles each year.

The motor journey from Visalia, in the San Joaquin Valley, to Giant Forest is easily made in three hours. One follows the paved road eastward through Lemon Cove to the Village of Three Rivers (30 miles) and thence up the main canyon of the Kaweah River. Shortly after entering the Park, at



Moro Rock from Ash Mountain

an altitude of about 1500 feet, one passes ASH MOUNTAIN, the park headquarters. Cars are registered here,

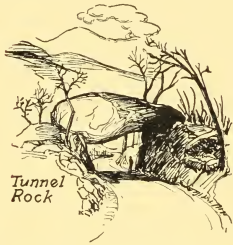


WESTERN YELLOW PINE



and it is advisable to secure from the ranger in charge copies of the circular of general information which is available free to the public.

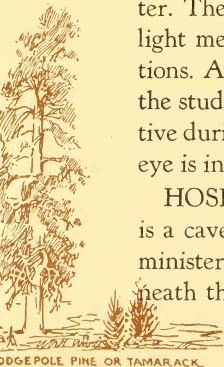
Two miles above Ash Mountain Headquarters is **CAMP POTWISHA**, where conveniences are provided by the Government for those who have their own camp equipment. On this flat once stood a large Indian village. The grist mills in which they ground their acorn flour—



mortar holes in the solid granite—are numerous near the borders of the level area below the road. Also on the rock cliffs near these grist mills may be seen several well preserved pictographs which the Yokuts claim were placed there by an earlier tribe.

Two miles above Potwisha, at an elevation of 2700 feet is **HOSPITAL ROCK RANGER STATION** and tourist center. The Buckeye Store sells general supplies, furnishes light meals and is equipped for overnight accommodations. Also photographic supplies may be obtained from the studio at this point. The region is particularly attractive during the spring months when the California Buckeye is in bloom and wildflowers are abundant.

HOSPITAL ROCK is a huge boulder beneath which is a cave in which the Indians stored their food and administered to the sick and injured of the tribe. Also beneath the overhanging cornice of this great boulder are



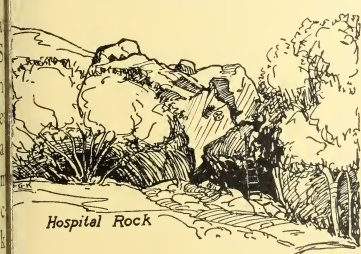
EDGEPOLE PINE OR TAMARACK

NATIONAL PARK

some well preserved pictographs painted with red pigment. It is a peculiar fact that these pictographs have never been interpreted, as the Indians who inhabited this region, when first known to the whites, steadfastly maintained that they had no knowledge of how these marks came to be made.

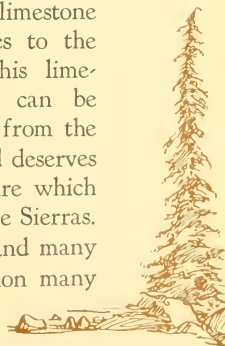
MORO ROCK towers more than 4000 feet above this picturesque spot. There are several interesting short trail trips in the vicinity, to Red Rock Gorge, Buckeye Flat, the Giant's Rock Pile, the Big Pool, etc. Fishing is excellent in the Kaweah River which here descends in foaming cascades from one large pool to another.

The main highway now turns abruptly and begins the long one-hour ascent to Giant Forest. In early spring the great cream-colored spikes of Yucca blossoms are a most



spectacular feature of the lower canyons particularly in the region where an enormous limestone ledge comes to the surface. This limestone belt can be recognized from the

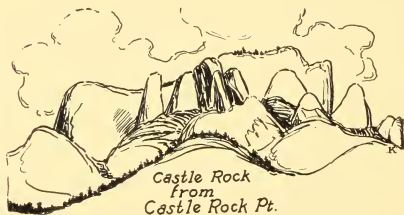
soft gray appearance of its surface rocks, and deserves special mention, as it is a characteristic feature which runs for many miles through the foothills of the Sierras. Palmer Cave, Clough Cave, Paradise Cave, and many other grottos were discovered in this formation many





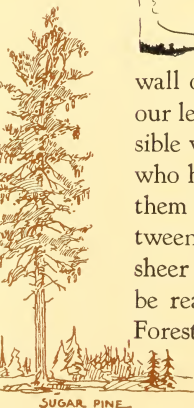
years ago, but it is only during recent years that the first of all, Crystal Cave was found.

As our road climbs through the open park-like forest of Oak, Buckeye, Western Sycamore, and California Laurel, new vistas continually open before us, especially at the points where the road reverses its direction to continue its ascent along the slopes below Moro. From CASTLE ROCK POINT there is a particularly fine view of the crags on the south side of the Kaweah Canyon. Some 2000 feet higher is AMPITHEATRE POINT with an exceedingly wide and spectacular panorama. After additional climbing the road finally tops the



ridge which terminates at our left in a prominence called SWITCHBACK PEAK. We now climb more gently along the ea

wall of Marble Fork Canyon, which drops abruptly to our left. There is a series of seven beautiful but inaccessible waterfalls in this deep canyon; the few individuals who have made the dangerous climb necessary to reach them have reported splendid fishing in the deep pools between. On the opposite side of the canyon may be seen sheer cliffs below ADMIRATION POINT, which can be reached in an interesting half-day trip from Giant Forest (see page 103).



NATIONAL PARK

Our road now plunges abruptly into a beautiful dense forest of pine and fir, and it is not long before the first Giant Sequoias are seen. These become more and more numerous. The large, white "blossoms" of the Western Flowering Dogwood are abundant on the moist slopes. In springtime this tree produces a wonderful floral display, and in the autumn is equally attractive because of its flaming colors—the most brilliant in the western forests.



Road to Giant Forest

settlement. But a short distance farther is ROUND MEADOW where comfortable cabins are provided at Giant Forest Lodge. Also housekeeping cabins are available, and there are several fine camps maintained by the Government for those who have their own equipment.

At an altitude of 6450 feet we reach a summit, and discover that we have arrived at Giant Forest Village and are surrounded by what John Muir claimed to be the finest coniferous forest in the world. A general store, studios, service station, and other conveniences are to be found at this small



WESTERN YELLOW PINE



Band-tailed Pigeon

WHAT TO SEE AT GIANT FOREST

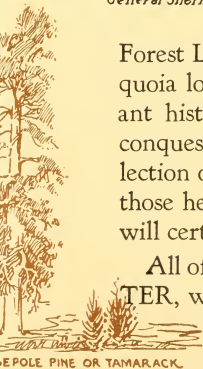


General Sherman Tree

SPEND at least two or three days in Giant Forest—more if possible. There are so many things to see that you must carefully plan your program so as to make the best use of your time. If you wish to gain the most satisfying enjoyment from the outstanding features of the Forest, leave your machine in camp and follow the well marked woodland trails. Only by following the trails can one feel he has really become acquainted with the Giant Sequoias.

Before you walk or ride to the many points of interest in and around Giant Forest you should visit the Museum which is half way between the Village and Giant Forest Lodge. Here you will find a cross section of a sequoia log showing a growth of 2000 years with important historical dates indicated far into the past as the conquests of Alexander the Great. A specially fine collection of plants enables the visitor to learn the names of those he is most likely to see along the trailside, and he will certainly want to return later to identify others.

All of the longer foot paths start at the TRAIL CENTER, which will be found adjacent to the main road at



POLE PINE OR TAMARACK

NATIONAL PARK



*Black-headed
Grosbeak -
Group with Black*

the base of the hill a few minutes walk to the east of the Village. Here signs will indicate the direction of trails to Huckleberry Meadow, Crescent Meadow, Alta Peak, Bear Hill, and other points of interest.

The following few paragraphs briefly outline the most interesting trips which one may take from Giant Forest as a headquarters. In the later sections of the book each of these excursions is described in detail, so that by following the directions one may explore the trails without the need of a personal guide and without fear of becoming lost.

GENERAL SHERMAN, the world's largest — and possibly oldest—living tree is, of course, one of the main features of Giant Forest. The round trip from the trail center is a leisurely two-hour walk by road or trail or a few minutes ride to the north via the Generals Highway.



*The Two-thousand year old Section
of Sequoia at Giant Forest Museum*

BEETLE ROCK and SUNSET ROCK are two promontories at the west edge of the Giant Forest Plateau. Being within easy walking distance, they form favorite objectives for short after-dinner strolls, the view to the west, across the San Joaquin Valley, being especially good at sunset.

The ROUND MEADOW TRAIL provides a short but very beautiful walk and serves as a splendid introduction to those just becoming acquainted with Giant

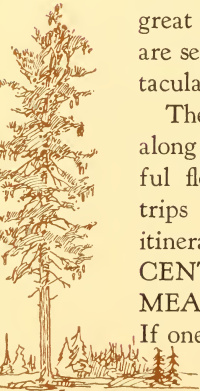




Forest. The circuit can be accomplished in a leisurely half-hour stroll through forest and meadows abounding with wild flowers.

The BEAR HILL TRAIL provides another interesting one-hour walk to a point where bears can almost always be seen. They are fed here each afternoon. A short lecture is given at this point at 3:45 daily by one of the Rangers.

There are several half-day and full-day circuits within Giant Forest, and the adjacent mountain region. Probably the most spectacular of these is the excursion to MORO ROCK, a great monolith of granite at the rim of Kaweah Canyon. The base is reached by both road and trail; and a stairway leads to the top, which is the best lookout point in the region. A high power telescope at the summit brings the far distant panorama of the Great Western Divide with great vividness into the foreground. Near Moro Rock are several other view points offering unique and spectacular outlooks.



SUGAR PINE

The very spirit of the Giant Forest is to be found along its woodland trails. These lead to several beautiful flower-carpeted meadows and provide interesting trips for which one might well allow two days of his itinerary. HUCKLEBERRY MEADOW, CRESCENT MEADOW, LOG MEADOW, and CIRCLE MEADOW can each be visited during a half-day walk. If one is hard pressed for time, it is possible to visit a

NATIONAL PARK

of these points and Moro Rock as well during a long full day's walk.

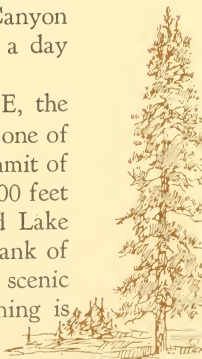
ADMIRATION POINT is a promontory on the ridge west of the Giant Forest Plateau. From this point one looks across the deep chasm of the Marble Fork to a comprehensive panorama of upland forests and the high Sierra summits. A sheer thousand feet below plunge the Seven Falls, the roar of which echoes like the steady beat of great drums. The round trip is best made by auto via the old road to Colony Mill, and thence by trail to Admiration Point, the round trip usually taking about one-half day.

TOKOPAH VALLEY is a glaci-



ated granite gorge a few miles north of Giant Forest. To reach it one drives four miles to Lodgepole Camp, and from this point follows a good foot-trail which parallels the Marble Fork two miles into the Box Canyon and terminates at Tokopah Falls. At least half a day should be allowed for a leisurely trip.

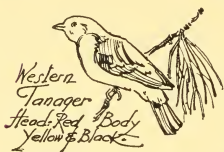
The full-day walk to HEATHER LAKE, the WATCH TOWER, and EMERALD LAKE, is one of the most popular trips with hikers. From the summit of the Watch Tower the cliff descends vertically 1500 feet to Tokopah Valley. Heather Lake and Emerald Lake lie in picturesque glacial cirques at the north flank of Alta Peak at an altitude of about 9250 feet. The scenic features of this trip are especially fine, and fishing is





usually good in the lakes and in the nearby Aster Lake.

Another popular full-day trail trip is that to ALTA MEADOW via Panther Gap. Combined with the ascent of Alta Peak this makes a very strenuous one-day trip of twenty-two miles—a trip which is nevertheless enjoyed by many who are hardened to the strenuous exercise of following mountain trails. Others prefer to bivouac at Alta Meadow, taking a day and one-half or two days for the trip.

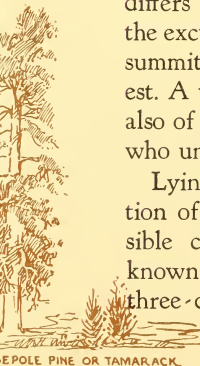


Rivaling the Alta Trail in popularity is that to TWIN LAKES, with the ascent of MT. SILLIMAN as a side trip. By driving as far as Lodgepole Camp the round

trip to Twin Lakes can easily be made in one day by seasoned hikers. It is advisable, however, to camp at the lakes as the fishing is usually good, both here and in Silliman Lakes, which are not far southeastward.

Another interesting full-day walk from Giant Forest differs in character from those outlined above. This is the excursion to the FIRE LOOKOUT TOWER at the summit of ASH PEAK, several miles west of Giant Forest. A vast panorama, not only of the high Sierras, but also of the western part of the park, rewards the visitor who undertakes this unusual trip.

Lying northwest of Giant Forest is a picturesque section of the park—a wonderfully fine and easily accessible camping country—which is comparatively unknown and is seldom visited by the tourist. A two- or three-day round trip through this country over the



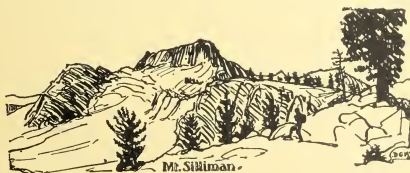
LODGEPOLE PINE OR TAMARACK

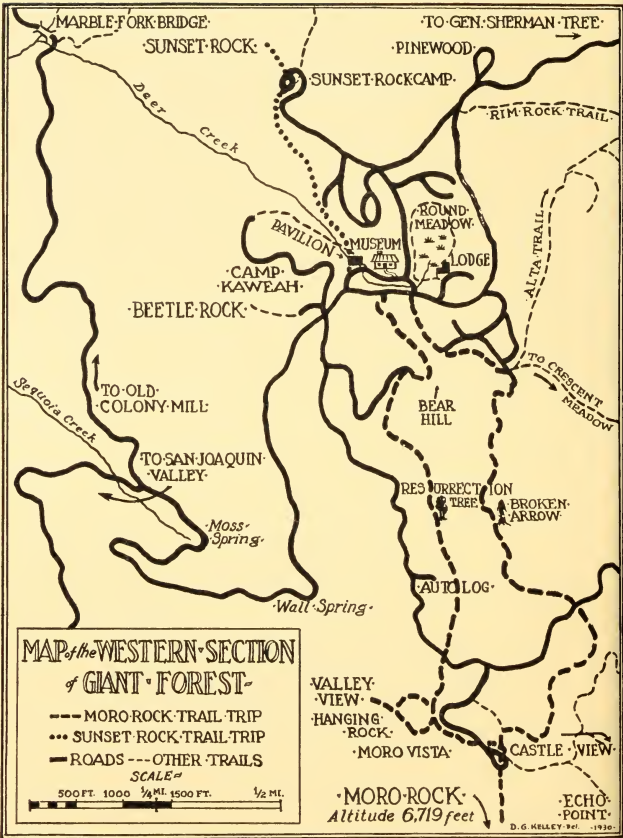
NATIONAL PARK

BLACK OAK TRAIL takes one to Muir Grove, Dorst Creek (famous for Golden Trout), Halstead Meadow and the Suwanee River Grove of Big Trees.

Kings River Canyon lies two days to the north of Giant Forest by trail, and to the east are the marvelously sculptured peaks and gorges in the vicinity of Mt. Whitney and the Kaweah Peaks. Big Arroyo, Kern River Canyon, The Five Lakes Basin, Black Rock Pass, and hundreds of other intriguing objectives beckon to those who have the leisure to follow the high mountain trails with pack-train or knapsack.

One of the shorter high mountain trips which offers a great variety of spectacular scenery is the five-to seven-day trip to the rim of the Kings River Canyon, to Roaring River, through Deadman Canyon and over Elizabeth Pass. This trip was the subject for Stewart Edward White's book *The Pass*.





SUGAR PINE



GENERAL SHERMAN TREE

— Map on Page 64 —



THE pilgrimage to the base of the venerable General Sherman Tree is, of course, the first objective of all visitors to Giant Forest. Not alone for its size is this—the greatest sequoia—famous, but also for the rugged beauty of its strong outlines which are enhanced by its perfect sylvan setting, in which even the six- and eight-foot Pines are dwarfed to insignificance.

General Sherman stands about two miles north of Giant Forest Village at a point not far from the Generals Highway. Trails parallel the roads, and hikers have the pleasing alternative of returning by another scenic route.

From Giant Forest Village we follow the main road past the Lodge. Walkers may prefer to use the old road which skirts the western border of Round Meadow and intersects the main route at the corral some distance beyond. At this latter point, where the two roads join, the Rim Rock Trail leads off to the right and climbs gradually to the eastward about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile, joining the Alta Trail at Lincoln Tree.

About two miles from Giant Forest the Generals Highway crosses Sherman Creek and we are suddenly



WESTERN YELLOW PINE



confronted with a vista of General Sherman Tree about 100 yards distant.

General Sherman Tree was discovered by James Wolverton, a hunter and trapper, on August 7, 1879, at which time he named it in honor of General Sherman, under whom he had served as a captain during the Civil War. The socialists of the Kaweah Colony renamed the tree "Karl Marx" in the 80's, but as soon as the soldiers undertook to guard the newly formed Sequoia Park, this name seems to have disappeared. The following are some of the dimensions of the General Sherman Tree:

	FEET
Greatest diameter at base.....	37.3
Average diameter at base.....	32.7
Circumference at base.....	102.7
Diameter 8 feet above ground.....	27.4
Circumference 6 feet above ground.....	86.0
Diameter 100 feet above ground.....	18.7
Height	273.9



GPOLE PINE OR TAMARACK.



Green Sequoia
Cone & branchlet

≡ MORO ROCK ≡



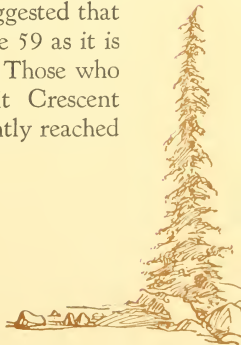
MORO ROCK is a prominent granite dome jutting out from the north rim of the Kaweah Canyon at the edge of the Giant Forest Plateau. The view from the summit is superb—the finest obtainable anywhere in the immediate vicinity of the Forest—and the trip to Moro by road or trail should be taken by every visitor.

From the terminus of the road the ascent is made via a good trail and stairs built up the north shoulder of the Rock. The climb is thrilling, but not dangerous, and is recommended to all visitors.



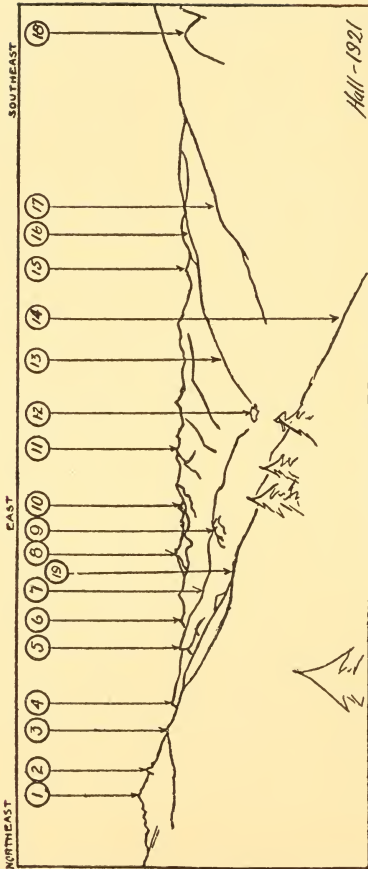
Moro Rock from Moro Vista

The two-mile trip to the Rock will be enjoyed by those who go afoot or by those who drive. It is suggested that walkers follow the trail trip outlined on page 59 as it is shorter and leads to more points of interest. Those who drive to Moro should by all means visit Crescent Meadow on the return trip, as it is conveniently reached by a short branch road.





SUGAR PINE



PANORAMA FROM MORO ROCK

- | | | | |
|----|------------------------------|----|---------------------------|
| 1 | Alta Peak (Alt. 11,211) | 14 | Middle Fork Kaweah River |
| 2 | Tharps Rock (10,654) | 15 | Needham Mountain (12,470) |
| 3 | Panther Peak (9,044) | 16 | Deer Creek |
| 4 | Bearpaw Peak (11,093) | 17 | Paradise Creek |
| 5 | Triple Divide Peak (12,651) | 18 | Castle Rocks (9,150) |
| 6 | Lion Rock (12,400) | 19 | Buck Canyon |
| 7 | Hamilton Lake (8,300) | | |
| 8 | Black Kaweah (13,752) | | |
| 9 | Sugarbowl Dome (7,657) | | |
| 10 | Big Kaweah (13,816) | | |
| 11 | Lippincott Mountain (12,263) | | |
| 12 | Redwood Meadow (6,000) | | |
| 13 | Cliff Creek | | |

MORO ROCK AND CRESCENT MEADOW BY ROAD

— Map on Page 46 —

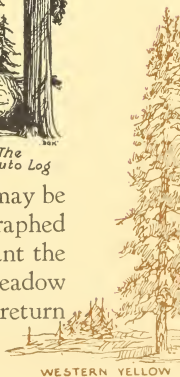
THE road to Moro Rock turns south from the west end of Giant Forest Village. As it follows southward around the well-wooded hillside on easy grades, vistas of the foothill country now and then open up through the trees to the right. The first road entering ours from the left is the BEAR HILL ROAD which offers an interesting half-mile side trip. Bears may best be seen at feeding time in the afternoon. A ranger lectures at this point each afternoon at 3:45.

About a half mile beyond this junction the THREE GRACES are seen at the left of the road. A turn-off to the left a few hundred feet beyond leads to the AUTO LOG, a fallen sequoia 22 feet in diameter, which was blown down during the winter of 1916-17. Cars may be driven out on the log from the rear, and photographed from the road. Half a mile beyond this fallen giant the road to the Parker Group and Crescent Meadow branches to the left—a side trip best taken on our return



The
Auto Log

Black-headed Grosbeak - Along West of Blue





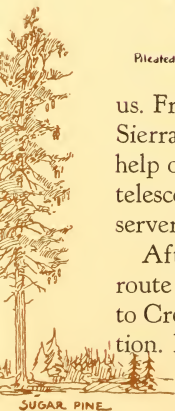
from Moro. At the right of the road near this junction is an interesting group of three sequoias, the bases of which have grown together to form a hollow much like the famous Bears' Bath Tub (see page 70), but larger and without water. About 150 yards farther the trail to Moro Rock via Roosevelt and General Wood Trees takes off at the left. This trail offers a scenic short-cut to hikers.



Pileated Woodpecker

The distance to Moro Rock from this point by road is a short $\frac{3}{4}$ mile. About $\frac{1}{3}$ mile from our destination a short subsidiary trail turns off to the right, leading to MORO VISTA, HANGING ROCK, and VALLEY VIEW. It takes but a few minutes to walk to all three points and it is a good plan to do so before visiting Moro. Arriving at the base of MORO ROCK we find a large parking space for machines. The ascent is made by stairway, which is seen directly before us. From the summit is a magnificent panorama of High Sierra peaks which can readily be identified with the help of the outline drawing on page 50. A high powered telescope at the top brings distant peaks close to the observer.

After climbing to the summit of Moro we retrace our route for $\frac{3}{4}$ mile, thence turning to the right on the road to Crescent Meadow, which lies $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles from the junction. If, for any reason, the trip must be shortened, one



SUGAR PINE

NATIONAL PARK

should at least visit the PARKER GROUP, which is but a few hundred yards from the junction. This beautiful cluster of large and symmetrical sequoias was named after Captain James Parker, Acting Superintendent of the park in 1893-94. A short distance farther along the road is the site of the "Soldiers Camp", which was formerly occupied by a troop of United States Cavalry when the park was administered under the military regime.



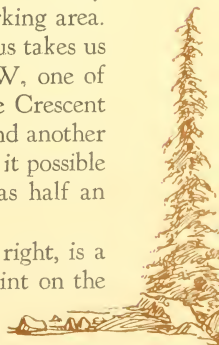
The Parker Group

At this point a trail to the left (see page 60) leads to the Giant Forest via the Broken Arrow. We now cross a small creek and continue eastward about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile through a magnificent Sugar Pine forest to HUCKLEBERRY CREEK, where a trail to Giant Forest via Huckleberry Meadow (see page 68) leaves the road at the left. About $\frac{1}{4}$ mile farther is the termination of the road. The HIGH SIERRA TRAIL, which will lead to Mt. Whitney when completed, starts at the right of the parking area. A short walk eastward from the road terminus takes us to the lower end of CRESCENT MEADOW, one of the most beautiful spots in Giant Forest. The Crescent View Trail leads around its western border and another path follows around the opposite side, making it possible to completely encircle the meadow if one has half an hour at his disposal.

Just beyond the creek, and bearing to the right, is a trail leading to Kaweah Vista, an outlook point on the



Gabbeo La





rim of the Kaweah Canyon. The trail which turns to the left at the farther side of the meadow and parallels its border for a short distance, soon branches to the right to Log Meadow (see page 78). Hikers will find that the trails offer a shorter and more scenic route to Giant Forest Village than does the return road. To motorists who have not already visited Bear Hill it is suggested that this side trip be taken on the return to Giant Forest.



BEEBLE & SUNSET ROCK

— Map on Page 46 —



California Woodpecker

AT the western edge of the Giant Forest Plateau are two rounded granite outcrops, the lookout points of Beetle Rock and Sunset Rock. Each offers a wide view westward beyond the timbered ridges, which flank the Marble Fork Canyon, and to the hot foothills and plains of the San Joaquin Valley. On clear days a silhouette of the Coast Ranges can be seen from both, and generally a small portion of this mountain chain stands out in relief just at the moment the sun sinks below the horizon. Each of these lookouts is reached by both road and trail. Being so



EPOLE PINE OR TAMARACK

NATIONAL PARK

close to the village, they are favorite points from which to view the sunset following a short after-dinner walk. Neither, however, offers a view of the High Sierra.



BEETLE ROCK

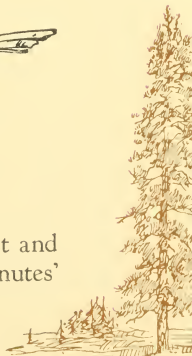
From the museum we follow the main road westward to Giant Forest Village. Here we turn to the right on the Kaweah Camp road, from the end of which a short trail leads westward to Beetle Rock. Tables and fire places are to be found at this favorite lookout point.

This section is especially noted for its rugged Western Yellow Pines, many of which have been so admirably pictured by the Giant Forest photographer. At the summit are several basins in the solid granite, which are supposed by some observers to have been excavated by Indians; possibly, however, they may be due to differential weathering. The Rock was named in 1905 when a new species of beetle was there discovered by Ralph Hopping, a Government entomologist. Beetle Rock is about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile from the center of Giant Forest and can be reached in a ten or fifteen minute walk.



SUNSET ROCK

This point is about one mile from Giant Forest and can be reached in a half-hour walk, or in a few minutes' walk from the end of the subsidiary road.



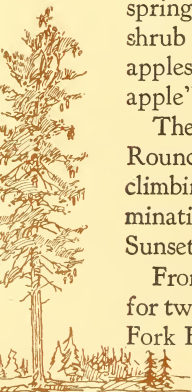


Sierra Junco

From the Museum we follow westward along the service road about 150 yards to the beginning of the trail, which is marked on the sign. Following down the small canyon of Deer Creek we traverse a beautiful forest of Incense Cedar, Yellow Pine, and Sugar Pine. The Sierra Junco may almost always be seen feeding on the ground in this vicinity, and may be recognized by the white flash of his tail when he flies. Also the Sierra Creeper may often be observed foraging in crevices of tree trunks for insects. In spring there is a specially fine display of Yellow Throated Gillia in bloom along the trail, and later the Wild Rose is abundant on drier sites. As the path gradually climbs, it crosses granite outcrops where exfoliation from granite boulders demonstrates the way in which extremes of heat and cold cause the rounding of boulders, as well as granite domes. The contorted shrub with a beautiful red bark is the Manzanita. Its beautiful pink, wax-like flowers are abundant in spring and resemble tiny bells. Later this interesting shrub produces small fruits which look and taste like apples—hence its Spanish name, which means “little apple”.

The road to Sunset Rock skirts the western margin of Round Meadow and, 200 yards beyond, turns to the left, climbing gradually thru the pine and fir forest and terminating about 100 yards from the edge of the plateau. Sunset Rock is reached from here by very short walk.

From Sunset Rock a trail descends steeply to the west for two miles, reaching the Colony Mill Road at Marble Fork Bridge.

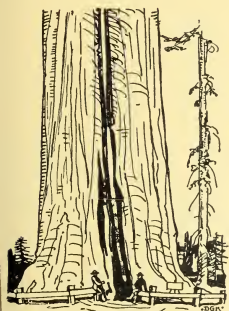


SUGAR PINE

ROUND MEADOW



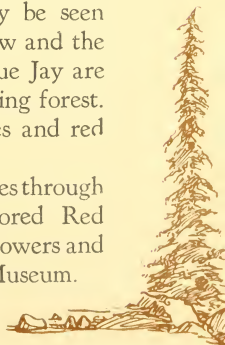
Black-headed
Grosbeak—
Along West of Black



THIS lovely woodland trail encircles Round Meadow, partly passing through forests and partly along the meadow's edge. One may enter the trail at the Museum or at the Giant Forest Lodge, and may follow the circuit in either direction.

The visitor is treated to many charming vistas of the Meadow as he follows around its western border. In early spring the Shooting Star or Cyclamon (*Dodocatheon Jeffreyi*) is extremely abundant. Later it is replaced by the golden blossoms of the Senecio and the brown cushions of the Cone Flower. Also, as the season develops, large plants of the False Hellebore (*Veratrum Californicum*) raise their flower clusters to a height of four feet or more. Fly Catchers can usually be seen foraging for insects at the edge of the meadow and the Western Grosbeak and Crested Mountain Blue Jay are often seen in both the Meadow and surrounding forest. The delicate shrub with brilliant green leaves and red stems is the Creek Dogwood.

North and east of the Meadow the trail passes through the woods. Occasionally the brilliantly colored Red Shafted Flicker may be seen. Other species of flowers and birds can be identified from specimens at the Museum.





BEAR HILL TRAIL

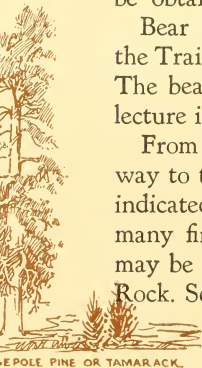
— Map on Page 46 —

BLACK, cinnamon, and brown bears are common in the Park. They are all color phases—the blondes and the brunettes—of the American Black Bear. Adaptable and intelligent, Bruin has thrived in Sequoia and has greatly increased in numbers. You will probably see several bears while you are in the Park; in fact they will visit your camp or your car if you leave tempting morsels of food where it can easily be reached. If you *never feed the bears!* There is always danger of being bitten or scratched and a probability that you will later be sorry if they be obtained in your camp.



Bear Hill is about one-half mile from the Trail Center and offers an interesting one-hour walk. The bears are fed between 3:00 and 4:00 P. M. and a lecture is given by a Ranger at this point at 3:45 daily.

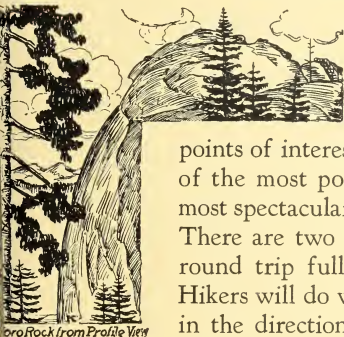
From the Trail Center follow the path westward half-way to the village, branching to the left at the junction indicated by signs. During the gradual half-mile climb many fine specimens of Western Flowering Dogwood may be seen. From Bear Hill the trail continues to Moro Rock. See page 59).



MORO ROCK TRAIL



THE GIANT FOREST TO MORO ROCK VIA
THE PARKER GROUP AND RETURN
VIA BEAR HILL



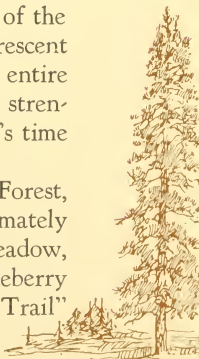
Moro Rock from Profile View

THE half-day or full-day trip to Moro Rock and the many

points of interest in its vicinity, is one of the most popular, and one of the most spectacular of Giant Forest walks. There are two trails, which make the round trip full of continual interest. Hikers will do well to follow the trails in the direction outlined, rather than the reverse direction on account of the

grades. The trip may be combined with those to Crescent Meadow, and Circle Meadows (see page 75), and the entire circuit of Giant Forest accomplished in one day's strenuous walk . . . but this is not advised unless one's time is extremely limited.

Starting from the TRAIL CENTER in Giant Forest, we follow the main trail southeastward approximately 1/2 mile to a junction where the trail to Alta Meadow, Circle Meadow, Crescent Meadow, and Huckleberry Meadow turns left. We turn right on the "Soldier Trail"



WESTERN YELLOW PINE



which ascends a low ridge and bears southward. For the first 200 yards the trail climbs rather abruptly but the remainder, for the most part, gradually descends. Shortly beyond the summit is the **BROKEN ARROW**, the shattered remains of a sequoia at the right of the trail. The next fifteen minutes' walk through the pine, fir, and sequoia forest takes us to the junction with the **CRESCENT MEADOW ROAD** which is intersected at the

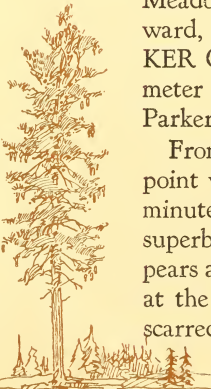


former campsite of the troop of U. S. Cavalry which guarded the Park until 1914 when entire administration was assumed by the Superintendent and a body of civilian rangers. Good water will

be found just below the road as well as an inviting place to lunch.

To the eastward (left) the road leads to Crescent Meadow, about one mile distant. Turning to the westward, a short walk along the road, takes us to the **PARKER GROUP**. This cluster of sequoias ranging in diameter from 10 to 15 feet was named after Capt. James Parker, Acting Superintendent of the Park in 1893-94

From the Parker Group return along the road to the point where the Moro Trail bears to the south. A few minutes climb takes us to the **TRIPPLE TREE**—three superb sequoias fused so perfectly at their base as to appear as one immense tree. The **ROOSEVELT TREE** is at the summit of the trail. This sequoia is almost unscarred by fire and is noted more for its beauty than for



NATIONAL PARK

ts size. Comparatively few trees are so evenly rounded or have such a soft-textured bark. The GENERAL WOOD TREE is of much the same character and on the opposite side of the trail. The trail now descends rapidly $\frac{1}{4}$ mile to the base of MORO ROCK.



A very impressive silhouette of the summit of Moro Rock can be obtained from PROFILE VIEW which is only 100 yards eastward along the Rim Trail. Visitors are urged to make this five minute side trip to obtain an impressive view of Moro before making the ascent. Also by continuing a short distance further down this trail one can follow a spur to the southward to ECHO POINT, opposite the sheer eastern face of Moro, the vertical face of which returns a perfect echo.

The ascent of MORO ROCK is more fully described on page 49, and the information there will help you to locate the peaks and other points of interest in the magnificent panorama. By all means do not fail to climb to the summit, as the stairway is perfectly safe and the panorama from the crest is magnificent.

After returning again to the base of the rock we set out on the return trail to Giant Forest via Moro Vista, Hanging Rock, Valley View, the Auto Log, and Bear Hill. We first walk westward along the road, or have





the alternative of following a trail which climbs above the road to its right. At a point about 200 yards from the beginning we turn left on the trail which soon takes us to MORO VISTA, from which is obtainable what is said to be the finest view of Moro Rock. At its left is a distant view of a section of the Great Western Divide.

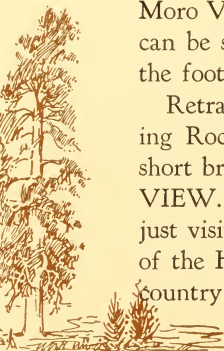


Moro Rock from Moro Vista

Just to the left of the summit, across the canyon are the Castle Rocks, and further westward is the lower Kaweah Canyon and foothill country.

We now climb about 200 yards farther to HANGING ROCK, a huge granite erratic which is supposed to have been left stranded here by an ancient glacier. It gives one the impression of being unstable and of being ready to slide off at the least provocation. The view is almost the same as that from Moro Vista except that a little less of the high country can be seen, and to the west is a wider sweep toward the foothills.

Retracing the short spur trail which took us to Hanging Rock we now turn left and soon follow another short branch trail to the left, which leads to VALLE VIEW. This point is somewhat higher than the two just visited, but does not present a comprehensive view of the High Sierra, offering instead a panorama of the country to the south and west. From the rocky extremity



EDGEPOLE PINE OR TAMARACK

NATIONAL PARK



of this point an old trail descends steeply and joins the Hospital Rock Trail at Deer Ridge.

Returning now to the main trail we find that it bears northward and soon crosses the Moro Road near the THOMAS JEFFERSON TREE. The trail now parallels the road on the hillside to the right, and after about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile passes above the Auto Log, which may be seen to the left about 100 feet distant; those interested can easily make the detour necessary to visit it. Another $\frac{1}{4}$ mile along the trail takes us to the RESURRECTION TREE—a sequoia about 18 inches in diameter, growing from a dead snag some 50 feet above the ground.

from here a ten-minute walk takes us BEAR HILL. It is well to plan, if possible, to reach this point in mid-afternoon, as a lecture is given by a ranger daily at



Hanging Rock - Giant Forest

3:45 just after the bears are fed. Bears are likely to be seen, however, at almost any time of the day. Park rules strictly forbid the dangerous practice of feeding bears from the hand.

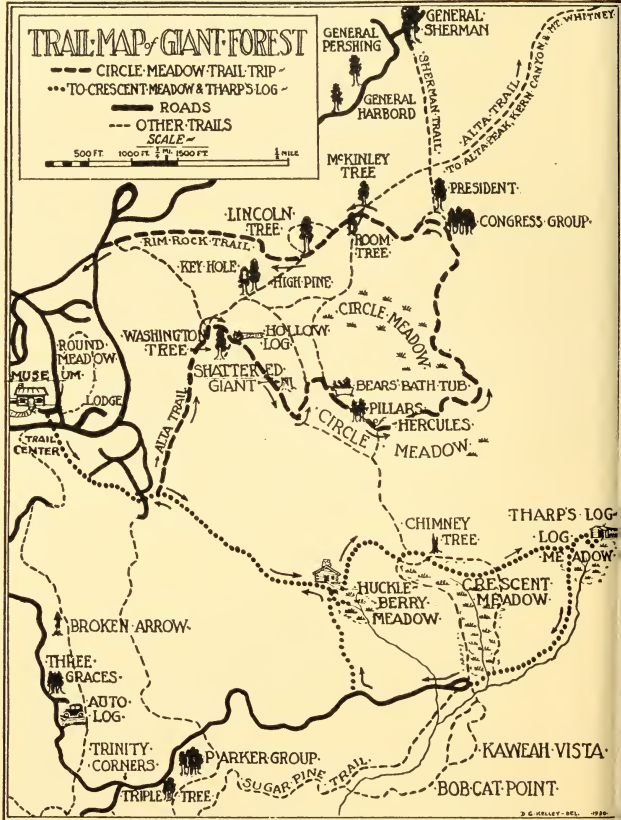
From Bear Hill the trail descends gradually about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile to Giant Forest. To return to the point of beginning turn right where the trail approaches the road.





TRAIL MAP of GIANT FOREST

--- CIRCLE-MEADOW-TRAIL TRIP
 ... TO CRESCENT-MEADOW & THARP'S LOG
 ——— ROADS
 - - - OTHER TRAILS
 SCALE
 500 FT 1000 FT 1 1/2 MI 1500 FT 1 MILE



SUGAR PINE

D. G. KELLEY - DEL. 1920

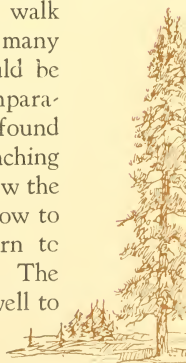
THARP'S LOG AND CRESCENT MEADOW


— Map on Page 64 —



The Giant Forest Museum

AMONG the many fine by-ways of Giant Forest, the Crescent Meadow Trail is one of the most attractive, and should be included in everyone's itinerary. The following round trip takes the visitor to Huckleberry Meadow, to the upper end of Crescent Meadow, and to Tharp's Log in Log Meadow. From here another trail leads back to Giant Forest, via the lower end of Crescent Meadow, and around the southern portion of Huckleberry Meadow. The walk can be accomplished in half a day, but there are so many points of interest en route that a full day should be allowed for the trip if possible. The trail is comparatively level and walking not strenuous. Water is found frequently and the meadows offer many fine lunching places. If a longer walk is desirable, one may follow the Sugar Pine Trail from the foot of Crescent Meadow to Moro Rock, a distance of $1\frac{3}{4}$ miles, and return to Giant Forest via Bear Hill Trail (see page 61). The Circle Meadow Trail (see page 64) leads itself well to

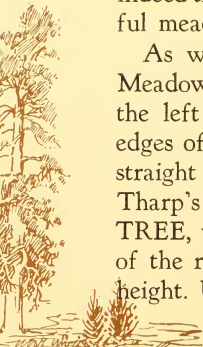




the combination with Crescent Meadow trip described below.

The CRESCENT MEADOW TRAIL starts in Giant Forest at the Trail Center. Our route first lies along the Alta Trail. Approaching a trail junction we turn to the right, where a sign indicates "To Huckleberry Meadow". During the next half mile the trail ascends abruptly to the summit of a ridge, and then descends a short distance to HUCKLEBERRY MEADOW. Here it is joined from the right by the trail over which we will return to Giant Forest. We turn left, however, and soon pass an old cabin which was erected here many decades ago, by one of the squatters who sought to claim a portion of the Giant Forest.

Our route now bears to the left, around the north side of the meadow, and in about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile approaches CRESCENT MEADOW. The alpine gardens of this beautiful grassy opening surrounded by giant sequoias makes this spot one of the most beautiful in Giant Forest—indeed there are many who claim it to be the most beautiful meadow in the Sierras.



As we follow around the north edge of Crescent Meadow, we find several branch trails, one leading to the left to Circle Meadow, and others following the edges of Crescent Meadow to the right. We continue straight ahead to the sign which indicates the route to Tharp's Log. Soon, at the left, we see the CHIMNEY TREE, which was formerly one of the chief attractions of the region, being at that time hollow for its entire height. Unfortunately it was almost entirely destroyed

NATIONAL PARK



by a careless camper's fire in 1919. A short distance farther along the main trail, the Crescent View Trail skirting the east edge of the meadow joins ours from the south. We continue straight ahead for about one-third of a mile to THARP'S LOG, at Log Meadow. This unique and interesting dwelling was constructed in the base of a single fallen hollow sequoia. It was built by Hale D. Tharp, who discovered Giant Forest in 1858, and was used by him when he annually pastured his herds in the surrounding meadows. John Muir stopped here several nights, during his visit in 1879, when he proposed the name Giant Forest.

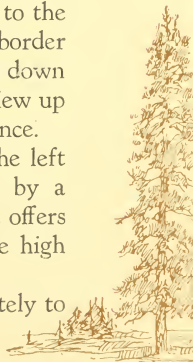


Tharp's Log

From Tharp's Log we retrace our way a few steps, and now turn southward, obtaining occasional glimpses of the LOG MEADOW, and the huge fallen sequoias in it. We swing westward across a gravelly slope to the lower end of CRESCENT MEADOW at the border of which our trail is joined by the one following down its eastern margin. From this point is a splendid view up the meadow with CRESCENT LOG in the distance.

After crossing the creek a subsidiary trail to the left leads to KAWEAH VISTA which is reached by a short climb to the southward. This vantage point offers a vast outlook over the Kaweah Canyon and the high country to the east.

We now return to the creek, crossing immediately to





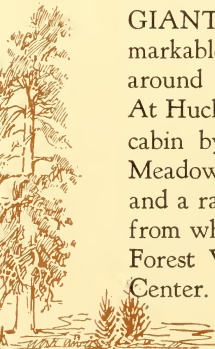
the westward and soon emerging at the terminus of the Crescent Meadow Road, which may be followed to the Moro Rock section if one wishes to extend his trip by several miles.

In returning to Giant Forest by trail we have the choice of two routes which join after the first mile. We may follow the CRESCENT VIEW TRAIL around the western edge of the meadow, rejoining our former main trail near Crescent Log, following it back for a short distance then turning to the left on the old trail which leads in $\frac{1}{4}$ mile to the log cabin at Huckleberry Meadow.



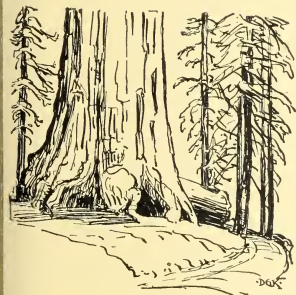
The other trail is somewhat the shorter. From the foot of Crescent

Meadow we follow the road westward for about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile to HUCKLEBERRY CREEK. The road continues westward to the Parker Group and Moro Rock, but we turn to the right just beyond the crossing on the direct trail to HUCKLEBERRY MEADOW via the DEAD GIANT. As the meadow is approached there is a remarkable sequoia to the left of the trail. This has grown around a huge boulder which it has apparently split. At Huckleberry Meadow our trail is joined near the log cabin by the path from the north end of Crescent Meadow. We veer to the left retracing our former route, and a rather steep climb now takes us over a low ridge from which is the gradual descent of $\frac{2}{3}$ mile to Giant Forest Village where our trail emerges at the Trail Center.



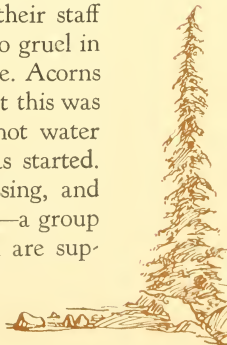
LOGPOLE PINE OR TAMARACK

CIRCLE MEADOW AND THE CONGRESS GROUP



THIS interesting half-day round trip takes us to many of the finest sequoias of Giant Forest, passing the Washington Tree, Hollow Log, Bears' Bath Tub, Congress Group, Lincoln Tree, etc.

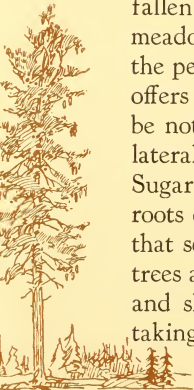
We start from TRAIL CENTER in Giant Forest, following the Alta Trail, which climbs steadily for about one mile. Near the point where our trail approaches a small creek, is an interesting INDIAN GRIST MILL, just to the left of the trail. In these mortar holes in the solid granite, the aborigines ground acorns—their staff of life—into flour, which they later cooked into gruel in baskets, by dropping hot rocks into the mixture. Acorns contain tannin, which is a bitter astringent, but this was eliminated by the Indians by leaching with hot water over a bed of sand before cooking process was started. Only a short distance beyond the creek crossing, and again to the left, is another interesting feature—a group of large pot holes in the solid granite, which are supposed to have been used by the Indians.





We continue along the main trail about 100 feet farther to a junction where we branch to the right on an interesting two-mile circuit. Soon we approach the **HOLLOW LOG**, a prostrate sequoia. The tunnel-like interior can be penetrated for a long distance. Nearby stand the enormous and rugged **WASHINGTON TREE**.

Farther along the trail is the **SHATTERED GIANT** which was struck by lightning in 1926. Close observation will demonstrate why many of the largest sequoias take on such a rugged appearance. Two hundred feet farther the main trail continues southeast to **Crescent Meadow**, but we branch abruptly to the left, and soon approach the **BEARS' BATH TUB**. This hollow formed by the growing together of the bases of two living sequoias, is about three feet deep. It is usually filled with water and there has been considerable speculation as to the cause of this phenomenon. A few feet farther to the right in the **GIANT'S CAUSEWAY**, a fallen sequoia upon which the foot-trail crosses the meadow. This tree is noted not only for its size, but for the perfect preservation of its complete root system and offers an exceptionally fine opportunity for study. It will be noted that the Giant Sequoia develops a system of lateral roots in contrast to the deep tap root of the Sugar Pine and the four or five moderately deep heart roots of the Western Yellow Pine. In spite of the fact that sequoia roots do not penetrate to great depths the trees are remarkably windfirm, standing as they do head and shoulders above the other trees of the forest and taking the full force of the wind.



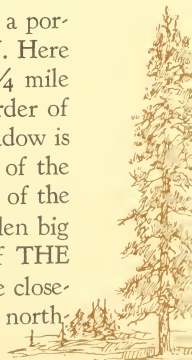
SUGAR PINE.

NATIONAL PARK

At the Giant's Causeway, the trail bearing to the right is the direct route to Crescent Meadow. We now follow up the length of the log and, just beyond, find a cross trail. By the left hand trail the log cabin of Circle Meadow is a short $\frac{1}{2}$ mile distant, and the junction with the Alta Trail at McKinley Tree about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile farther.

We turn to the right which is the far more interesting route. Soon we pass between the PILLARS OF HERCULES, noting at the right and below the trail a fine stand of young sequoias from six to fifteen feet in height.

Immediately to the left of the trail and just beyond the Pillars is a stand of seedling sequoias. Leaving these, the trail passes through the heart of a living Big Tree. A short distance down the slope and at the left of the trail is an immense old root known as CAMP COMFORT, the remains of which form a shelter which was used as a cabin in the days of the hunter and trapper. Crossing a stream, we see to our left a portion of the eastern part of CIRCLE MEADOW. Here a trail to the right leads to Crescent Meadow, $\frac{3}{4}$ mile distant, but we turn to the left following the border of Circle Meadow. Halfway to the head of this meadow is a huge black snag, reminder of the arch enemy of the forest, FIRE. Bearing to the left around the head of the meadow, we pass close to the root of a huge fallen big tree and soon afterward enter the first group of THE CONGRESS which is assembled in two very fine closely set clusters. A short distance up the slope to the north-





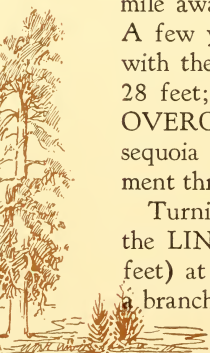
ward (no trail) from this first group is a magnificent stand of very large sequoias which have especially rugged crowns. A short walk toward the northwest takes us through the aisles of The Congress to the SENATE GROUP.

Not far away is an enormous sequoia, known as the PRESIDENT TREE. From the President Tree a trail leads northward, with easy grades, to General Sherman Tree, about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile distant.

At the Congress Group we turn to the left, soon passing "THE BEARS' MANICURE," a sequoia, the bark of which has been severely clawed by the bears. A little farther along the trail is the ROOM TREE, with a chamber in its base and a high window to which one may climb by ladder on either outside or inside. The outside ladder is removable for convenience of photographers.

At the Room Tree a trail joins ours from the south, leading to the log cabin of Circle Meadow a short $\frac{1}{4}$ mile away and passing through a fine Big Tree group. A few yards northward now takes us to the junction with the Alta Trail at MCKINLEY TREE (diameter 28 feet; height 291 feet). Near the crossing is THE OVERGROWN STUMP, the living base of a small sequoia which bears no foliage, but obtains its nourishment through a natural root graft.

Turning to the left toward Giant Forest, we soon see the LINCOLN TREE (diameter 31 feet; height 270 feet) at the left of the trail. Before reaching it we find a branch trail to the right which leads to several points

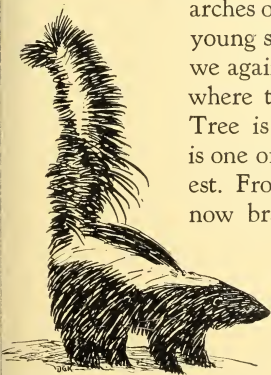


NATIONAL PARK



of interest and rejoins the main trail about three hundred yards westward. A few steps along this by-trail is the STRICKEN TREE, the top of which has been shattered by lightning and scattered broadcast by its terrific force. Despite this calamity it still grows thriftily. Nearby and to the right is TOADSTOOL ROCK and toward the north one may see the gnarled and rugged top of the General Lee. We now pass thru a fine group of medium sized sequoias known as THE CLOISTER. Next visited is the WINDOW TREE, an enormous burned snag which is honeycombed with holes. One may crawl directly into the heart of the tree, and looking up, see the burned-out interior lighted through the windows. Our trail now bends sharply to the left and in about one hundred yards passes the NURSERY TREE, a great sequoia supported on five columns, beneath the

arches of which is a natural nursery of young seedling firs. Fifty yards farther we again join the Alta Trail at a point where the full height of the Lincoln Tree is seen to best advantage. This is one of the finest sequoias in the Forest. From the Lincoln Tree we may now branch to the right and follow the Rim Rock Trail direct to Giant Forest. This gently descending trail leads to the corrals, from which one may follow down the old road to the starting point.



Striped Skunk



If one prefers, however, he may return to Giant Forest via the Alta Trail. Turning southwestward, we soon pass to the left of the HIGH PINE, which is best seen from Pine View near the beginning of the Circle Meadow Trail. A stone's throw farther and also at our right is the KEYHOLE TREE, which takes its name from the two openings in its great burned shell. The base of the tree—although much has been burned away—is 33 feet in diameter. Our trail is now joined from the left by the Circle Meadow Trail which marked the beginning of our trip. Retracing our way toward the village, we soon pass the junction where the Crescent Meadow Trail (see page 65) branches to the left. A descent of $\frac{1}{2}$ mile takes us to the Trail Center in Giant Forest where we started our trip.



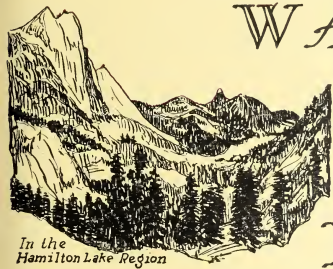
SUGAR PINE



Mountain Beaver
Giant Forest - SNP



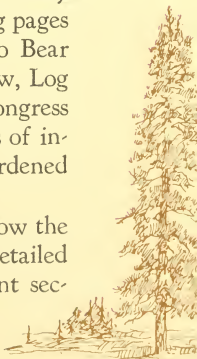
A ONE DAY
WALKING
TOUR
OF
GIANT
FOREST



— Map on Page 64 —

IT is recommended that, if possible, visitors spend at least two or three days on the woodland trails of Giant Forest. If one has but little time at his disposal, however, and is a seasoned walker, it is possible to visit almost all points of interest in a somewhat strenuous ten-mile circuit which combines the outstanding features of many of the trails previously described in the preceding pages of this volume. The following tour takes one to Bear Hill, the Auto Log, Moro Rock, Crescent Meadow, Log Meadow, Tharp's Cabin, Circle Meadow, the Congress Group, General Sherman, and many other points of interest. Do not attempt the trip unless you are hardened to strenuous exercise!

From the Giant Forest TRAIL CENTER follow the footpath to BEAR HILL. Turn to page 58 for detailed directions thus far, referring again to the present section from that point on.



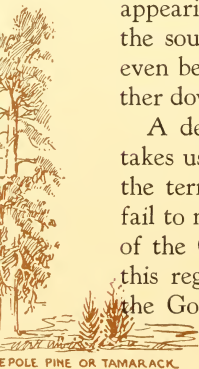


From Bear Hill the Moro Trail follows a southeasterly direction, along a beautifully forested hillside. A ten-minute walk from Bear Hill takes one to a unique curiosity called the RESURRECTION TREE—a sequoia approximately eighteen inches in diameter, growing out of an old snag some fifty feet above the ground.

Continuing southward we soon observe the AUTO LOG below and to the right; we can, if we wish, make a short detour to it without much additional effort. Returning to the trail we continue southward, and soon cross the Moro Road near the THOMAS JEFFERSON TREE. Our trail now approaches the rim of the plateau; here we branch to the right on a subsidiary trail which climbs a short distance to VALLEY VIEW (see page 62). One looks out to the south and west over a broad panorama of mountains and foothills.

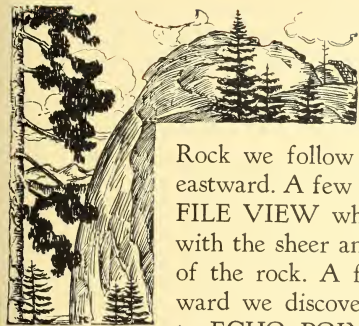
Retracing our path a short distance and bearing to the right we soon approach HANGING ROCK, a large granite boulder perched precariously at the rim, and appearing to be in unstable equilibrium. The view to the southeast from this point is especially fine, and is even better from MORO VISTA, a short distance farther down the rim (see page 62).

A descent of a few hundred feet from Moro Vista takes us to the base of MORO ROCK, where we find the terminus of the Moro Road. By all means do not fail to make the ascent to the summit, for the panorama of the Great Western Divide is the best obtainable in this region. Also a high power telescope, provided by the Government, offers one the opportunity of closer



POLE PINE OR TAMARACK

NATIONAL PARK



Moro Rock from Profile View

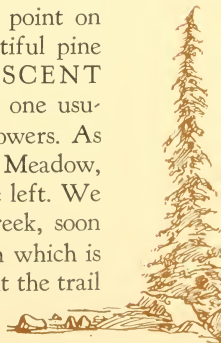
The short walk to the Point will well repay visitors, as it offers a view of Moro from an entirely new angle. The Point gains its name from the sharp echo which is flung back from the overhanging face of Moro just opposite.

Returning again to the Sugar Pine Trail we make our way northeastward, and soon find another spur trail branching to the right to CASTLE VIEW, which is a short distance below, and is another lookout point on the rim. Our trail now passes through a beautiful pine and fir forest, gradually descending to CRESCENT CREEK, which is crossed in a region where one usually finds an especially fine display of wild flowers. As one approaches the creek, a trail to Crescent Meadow, which is about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile distant, branches to the left. We keep to the right, however, and cross the creek, soon finding ourselves at BOB CAT POINT, from which is another fine view toward the south and east. At the trail

observation of the distant points. (For details see page 49).

Returning again to the base of Moro

Rock we follow the Sugar Pine Trail eastward. A few steps takes us to PROFILE VIEW where one is confronted with the sheer and impressive east face of the rock. A few steps farther eastward we discover the short spur trail to ECHO POINT leading off to the

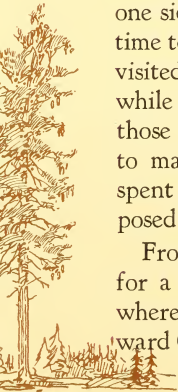




junction, shortly beyond, we keep to the right, soon arriving at KAWEAH VISTA, which offers a spectacular panorama of the Great Western Divide and the Kaweah Peaks beyond. Our trail now climbs to the northward and soon crosses the HIGH SIERRA TRAIL near the foot of Crescent Meadow.

We now have the alternative of following up either side of Crescent Meadow, or of turning to the right on a trail which leads to Log Meadow and Tharp's Cabin. The latter route is recommended, as the trail touches the upper end of Crescent Meadow in returning toward Giant Forest. We therefore turn right, cross a gravelly slope, and follow a small creek to its source, soon obtaining our first glimpse through the forest to the right of LOG MEADOW and its many fallen sequoias. Near the north end of the meadow is a huge hollow sequoia log, which was converted into a cabin by Hale D. Tharp, the pioneer who discovered Giant Forest in 1858. On one side of the log is an inscription carved by him at the time to preserve the record of his first exploration. Tharp visited the Giant Forest annually and lived in this cabin while he pastured his cattle in the nearby meadow. In those days the interesting old cabin served as a hospice to many other pioneers of the mountains. John Muir spent several nights here in 1879, at which time he proposed the name "Giant Forest".

From THARP'S LOG we retrace our former route for a distance of about one hundred yards to a point where the trail forks, and here we turn to the right toward Crescent Meadow, which is a short $\frac{1}{2}$ mile distant.



SUGAR PINE.

NATIONAL PARK



Skirting the northeastern margin of CRESCENT MEADOW we soon pass the CHIMNEY TREE. This was once hollow for its entire height, and was one of the chief attraction of the region, but unfortunately it was almost ruined by a careless camper's fire in 1919. Our main trail now veers to the westward, passing around the head of Crescent Meadow. A side trail to the left leads to Crescent Log, upon which it crosses the meadow to the Crescent View Trail from the farther margin.

At another trail junction, one hundred yards farther westward along our main trail, the route to the left leads to Huckleberry Meadow, which is



about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile distant, and to Giant Forest, one mile farther. We turn to the right, however, on the trail marked "To Circle Meadow", and climb to the northward for $\frac{1}{2}$ mile. Near the summit, a trail branches to the left, leading to the Shattered Giant, Washington Tree, and Hollow Log. We bear to the right, however, and soon join the Circle Meadow Trail. The path to the right passes east of the meadow, and after a short climb reaches the Congress Group and President Tree, about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile distant. We turn to the left on the more interesting route; very shortly passing between the two PILLARS OF HERCULES, and soon observing a huge

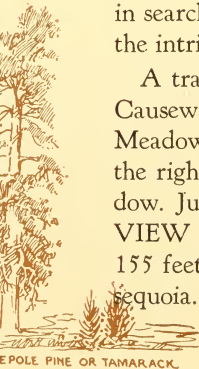




fallen sequoia in the meadow to the left. The trail which continues northwestward leads to the log cabin of Circle Meadow, a short $\frac{1}{2}$ mile distant. Choosing the more scenic route we cross the meadow on the prostrate trunk which is known as the GIANT'S CAUSEWAY because it forms a perfect passage over the moist meadow. This fallen giant offers an exceptionally good opportunity for the study of a typical Big Tree root system. It will be noted that the Giant Sequoia develops a system of lateral roots in contrast to the deep tap root of the Sugar Pine and the four or five moderately deep heart roots of the Western Yellow Pine. In spite of its comparatively shallow root system, the Big Tree is remarkably wind-firm and withstands well the great force of the wind due to its overtopping the neighboring pines and the firs.

A few feet from the Giants' Causeway is the BEARS' BATH TUB, a water-filled hollow formed by the bases of two growing sequoias. There has been considerable speculation as to the cause of this phenomenon, but bears in search of a refreshing plunge are not concerned with the intricacies of Nature.

A trail passing the Bears' Bath Tub and the Giant's Causeway bears southeastward to join the Crescent Meadow Trail, about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile distant, but we turn to the right, rounding the western portion of Circle Meadow. Just after crossing a small stream we reach PINE VIEW from which the HIGH PINE can best be seen 155 feet above the ground growing in the top of a dead sequoia. The visible height is $6\frac{1}{2}$ feet.



NATIONAL PARK



A trail to the eastward (right) leads to the log cabin of Circle Meadow about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile distant, from which it turns northward to join the Alta Trail at the McKinley Tree.

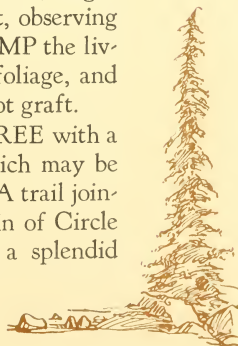
At Pine View is the junction with the Alta Trail, which, to the left, leads back to Giant Forest about 1 mile distant. We turn in the opposite direction, however, and after a climb of about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile, observe the LINCOLN TREE (diameter 31 feet, height 270 feet)

ahead, and at the right of the trail. Here the Rim Rock Trail, branches to the left, terminating at Giant Forest about one mile distant. Our route, however,

continues straight ahead to a short loop-trail leading to the left to the WINDOW TREE, the CLOISTER, the STRICKEN TREE, the GENERAL LEE TREE, and TOADSTOOL ROCK. Then we return to the Alta Trail just beyond the Lincoln Tree.

Shortly after rejoining the Alta Trail we approach the base of MCKINLEY TREE (diameter 28 feet; height 291 feet). At this point we turn to the right, observing near the junction the OVERGROWN STUMP the living base of a small sequoia, which bears no foliage, and obtains its nourishment through a natural root graft.

A few steps now take us to the ROOM TREE with a chamber in its base and a high window which may be reached from both inside and out by ladders. A trail joining ours from the south leads to the log cabin of Circle Meadow, a short $\frac{1}{4}$ mile distant, passing a splendid group of closely massed sequoias.





A short walk to the south takes us through the CONGRESS GROUP, a fine body of sequoias assembled in two clusters, known as the House and the Senate. Nearby stands an enormous specimen, known as the PRESIDENT TREE. The main trail continues toward the southeast, circling the meadow.

If one is pressed for time he can retrace his route to the Lincoln Tree, and thence follow the Alta Trail back to Giant Forest; as an alternative he may bear westward at the Lincoln Tree on the Rim Rock Trail, which also leads to Giant Forest via the corrals.

At the Congress Group we turn northward toward the climax of our day's trip. GENERAL SHERMAN TREE, which lies about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile distant by easy grades. We again cross the Alta Trail and continue northward, soon reaching the base of the world's largest living tree (see page 47).

In returning to Giant Forest, 2 miles distant, follow the main road southwestward. If you have walked thus far you have earned the right to "hitch hike" the remainder of the distance to the Forest.



SUGAR PINE.



Snow Plant

TOKOPAH VALLEY

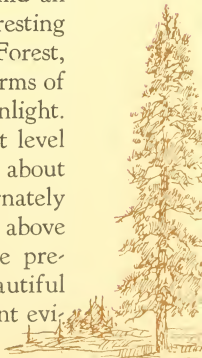


NOT far from Giant Forest is the glaciated granite gorge called Tokopah. So spectacular are its almost sheer 2000-foot cliffs that it has often been compared with the Yosemite. The

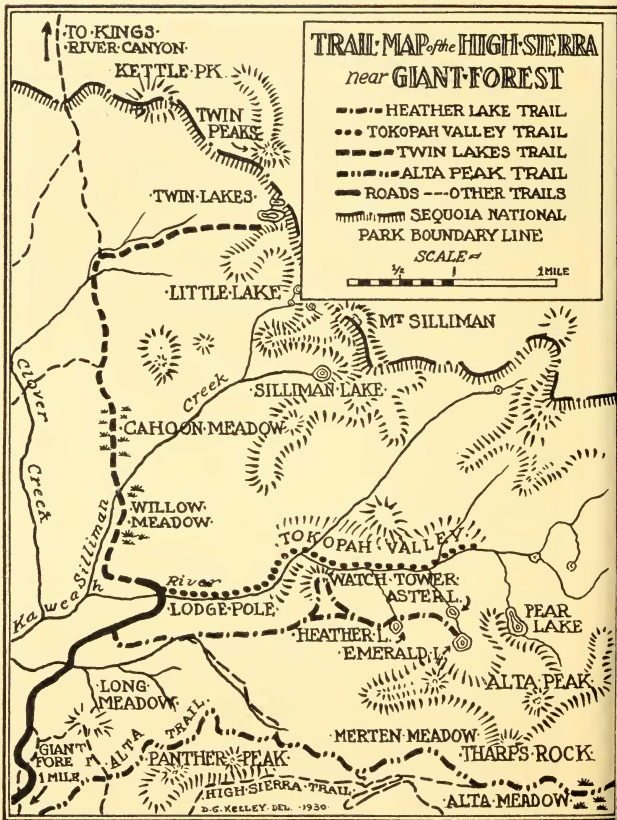
name is said to mean "High Valley" in the language of the Yokuts Indians who formerly hunted there.

The round trip, partly by automobile and partly by trail, offers a most interesting half-day or full-day excursion from Giant Forest. Follow the Generals Highway to GENERAL SHERMAN TREE, 2 miles north of the Village, and continue northward two miles more to LODGEPOLE CAMP on the banks of the Marble Fork of the Kaweah River. This beautiful campsite amid an open park-like forest of pine and fir offers an interesting contrast to the deeply shaded camps within Giant Forest, and is frequented by campers who prefer the charms of a mountain trout stream and the uninterrupted sunlight.

From Lodgepole Camp an excellent and almost level trail follows up the canyon of the Marble Fork for about 2½ miles to TOKOPAH FALLS, passing alternately through meadows and forests. About one mile above Lodgepole Camp the walls of the gorge become precipitous and offer a perfect example of the beautiful "U" shaped profile of a glaciated valley. Abundant evi-



GUIDE TO SEQUOIA



NATIONAL PARK

dence of glaciation is also found in the glacial polish and striæ and in the erratic boulders left by the ice as it melted back to its sources. Some of the many beautiful flowers which will be found in the meadows are the Shooting Star, the Cornflower, the Meadow Sweet, the Blue Gentian, the Yellow Throated Gillia, the Larkspur, and the blazing Fire Weed. There are many birds, most interesting of which is the Water Ouzel—a typical land bird, but as much at home in the water as a duck.

As one approaches the upper end of the Box Canyon the WATCH TOWER rises impressively to the right; its summit can easily be reached from the Heather Lake Trail (see page 86). Tokopah Falls plunges into the valley from the *cul-de-sac* at its head. The canyon above is impassible, and the picturesque lakes at the sources of the Marble Fork can only be reached by circuitous trails descending from the upper elevations.

Fishing is good in Tokopah Valley—if you are an expert.





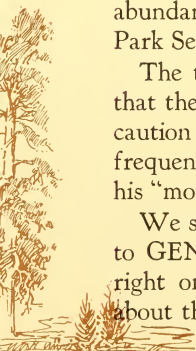
THE HEATHER ≡ ≡ LAKE TRAIL

— Map on Page 84 —

THE walk to Heather Lake, Emerald Lake, Aster Lake, and the Watch Tower is a most popular one-day trip. It offers one the opportunity of exploring the beautifully carved glacial cirques on the north slopes of Alta Peak and of visiting several of the exquisite little high mountain lakes nestled in their depths. The trail also leads to the summit of the Watch Tower, a great granite monolith flanking the entrance of the glaciated gorge of Tokopah Valley. This is a typical high mountain trip, and the greater part of the day is spent in sight of gleaming slopes of gray granite and amid timberline forests of gnarled and wind-twisted trees. Be sure to take your swimming suit and your fishing rod. These lakes are abundantly stocked with trout each year by the National Park Service.

The trail crosses a number of small watercourses, so that there is no need to carry a canteen. One must use caution not to drink unwisely, however, as he will be frequently tempted to overindulge, to the detriment of his "motive power."

We set out from Giant Forest by automobile, driving to GENERAL SHERMAN TREE and there turning right on the old Lodgepole Camp road. At a point about three miles from Giant Forest we cross Wolver-



POLE PINE OR TAMARACK

NATIONAL PARK

ton Bridge and leave our car just beyond, where the Heather Lake Trail takes off from the right of the road. Heather Lake lies $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles distant and 2400 feet above the beginning of the trail, and Emerald Lake lies a half mile farther.



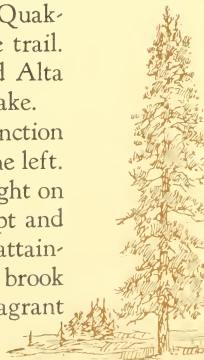
The trail ascends very gradually and passes through forests of Red Fir which indicate that we are at a higher altitude than at the Giant Forest. The stream we approach is WOLVERTON

Little Moose Lake



CREEK, along the banks of which are growing Lodgepole Pine, a thin-barked two-needled pine typical of moist spots in the high mountains. From here the trail gradually becomes steeper but not uncomfortably so. We soon pass a second stream which is delightfully banked with Lupine, Baby's Breath, and Brown-eyed Susan growing beneath a murmuring canopy of Quaking Aspen, and shortly we approach a fork in the trail. The right hand branch leads to Panther Gap and Alta Peak, but we turn left on the route to Heather Lake.

In about half a mile we come to another trail junction where the trail to the Watch Tower leads off to the left. As we will return by way of its summit we turn right on the direct trail to the lakes. Now follows an abrupt and sustained ascent which makes progress slow and attainment a matter of effort. We cross another small brook and then, about twenty minutes later, come to a fragrant



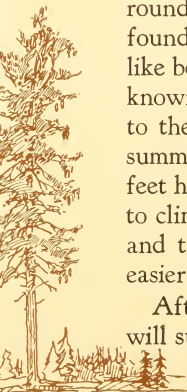


thicket of Labrador Tea which lines the banks of a cool mountain stream. The blossoms of the Marsh Marigold and the Shooting Star are abundant and one can scarcely help noticing the fuzzy ball-like flowering heads of the tall Wild Onion. The Foxtail Pine now becomes the predominant tree, showing that we have gained a high altitude and are approaching timberline.

It is well to rest in this vicinity, for there is a stiff half-hour climb ahead. Once we top the ridge, however we stand at an altitude of 9,500 feet and find unfolded before us a spectacular panorama of high summits and deep gorges. To the north lies the impassible and dangerous upper canyon of the Marble Fork, while to the south the ridge on which we stand rises toward the summit of Alta Peak.

A ten-minute descent now takes us to HEATHER LAKE which lies in a beautiful glacial amphitheatre at the north flank of Alta at an altitude of 9250 feet. Surrounding it are great masses of purple heather which is found only at these high levels. The beautiful little wax-like bell-shaped flowers closely resemble those of its well-known relative from Scotland. Above Heather Lake and to the south, the walls of the cirque rise direct to the summit of Alta Peak which looks close but is really 200 feet higher than the point where we stand. It is possible to climb from ledge to ledge until one reaches the ridge and thence eastward to the summit, but the ascent is easier from the south and east of the mountain.

After a rest and possibly a swim in Heather Lake we will surely want to push on to Emerald Lake which lies



SUGAR PINE

NATIONAL PARK

in another beautifully sculptured cirque $\frac{1}{2}$ mile to the east. We bear to the left, crossing the outlet of Heather Lake and then following along its shore about 150 feet farther. From here a faint trail bears off to our left and up over a low ridge to Emerald and Aster Lakes. Follow the "ducks"—rocks piled in twos and threes which help to mark the route. We top the ridge in a few minutes and find a wonderfully impressive high mountain panorama before us. **ASTER LAKE** can be seen in the canyon below us and to the left. As fishing is said to be excellent there we may wish to descend.

EMERALD LAKE nestles into the very head of the canyon and farther to the right. To reach it we make our way through tiny meadows studded with Shooting Stars and Purple Asters, through spicy willow thickets, and over granite talus slopes, in the crevices of which blaze the red and yellow Columbine.

In returning we revisit Heather Lake and thence go to the top of the ridge from which we enjoyed our first high mountain panorama. Here the trail to the **WATCH TOWER** branches to the right. At first it ascends for a short distance toward the north, but then drops steadily for about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile to the summit of the Tower. As we approach our objective the trail bears to the left, but we will want to tarry long enough to climb



GUIDE TO SEQUOIA



to the top to experience the thrill that comes with looking into the sheer depths below and at the vast panorama of ice-carved granite crags toward the north and east.

From the Watch Tower we again turn our faces westward toward the lowering sun and towards camp. The well constructed trail descends gradually through dense forests of Red Fir. Crossing Hanging Meadow, we may stop to slack our thirst and rest at its cool borders. A mile and a half brings us back to the trail over which we traveled to Heather Lake. We bear to the right here, and after two miles more are back to our autos at the road.



*Kern Canyon—View down from above
Funstan Meadow*



GEPOLE PINE OR TAMARACK.

THE ALTA TRAIL



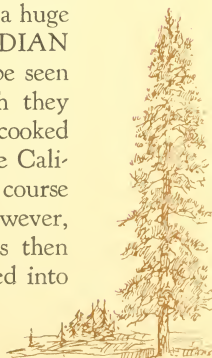
— Map on Page 84 —



THE round trip to the summit of Alta Peak is too long and strenuous to be enjoyed by any but the most hardened walkers if taken in one day. The better plan is to allow a day and a half or two days, camping at Alta Meadow and making the final ascent in time for the sunrise over the Great Western Divide. By riding to Alta Meadow and return, making only the

final climb afoot, the round trip may be accomplished in one long day.

The Alta Trail starts at the TRAIL CENTER in Giant Forest. After an ascent of about 400 yards, the trail passes between a big sequoia at the left and a huge boulder at the right. Near this point is an INDIAN GRIST MILL. Just to the left of the trail will be seen the mortar holes in the solid granite, in which they pounded their acorns to flour, from which they cooked their chief food—acorn gruel. The acorns of the California Black Oak contain tannin, and are of course extremely bitter. This tannin was removed, however, by leaching with hot water, and the mush was then cooked in baskets by means of hot rocks dropped into the mush.

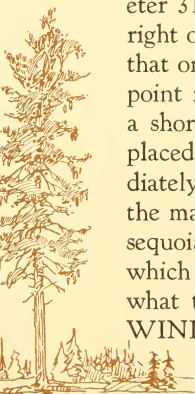




There is a spring about 100 feet farther up the trail and, a short distance beyond, we approach a junction where the trail to Washington Tree, Hollow Log and Circle Meadow branches to the right. Continuing along our route we soon pass the KEYHOLE TREE, the silhouette of which is seen about 50 yards to the left. The tree takes its name from the two openings in its great burned shell which resemble key-holes when viewed against the sky. The base of the tree is 33 feet in diameter and much of it has been burned away.

A stone's throw beyond the Keyhole Tree and also at our left is the HIGH PINE, a small Western Yellow Pine growing 155 feet above the ground in the top of a dead sequoia. It is best seen from the Circle Meadow Trail a short distance to the southeast. The tree seems to have sprouted in a hollow, and the visible height is $6\frac{1}{2}$ feet.

About $\frac{1}{4}$ mile farther the LINCOLN TREE (diameter 31 feet; height 270 feet) is seen ahead and at the right of the trail. A strip of timber has been cleared so that one may see the entire height of the tree. From this point near where the best view of the tree is obtained a short loop trail leads to the left to several closely placed points of interest, rejoining the Alta Trail immediately beyond the Lincoln Tree. About 50 yards from the main trail we find the NURSERY TREE, a giant sequoia supported on five columns, beneath the arches of which is a natural nursery of young firs. Bearing somewhat to the right for about 100 yards, we reach the WINDOW TREE, an enormous burned sequoia snarled



SUGAR PINE.

NATIONAL PARK

honeycombed with holes. It is possible to crawl directly into the heart of this tree and, looking up, see the burned-out interior lighted through the windows. Our trail now bends sharply to the right, passing through a very fine group of four sequoias called THE CLOISTER. The STRICKEN TREE, a short distance farther, illustrates vividly the destructive force of lightning, huge frag-



Pentstemon

ments of its former top being scattered broadcast in the vicinity. Although greatly maimed it still maintains a healthy existence. It might be well to state here that almost every ancient sequoia has at one time or another been struck by lightning, sometimes even being badly shattered, but that during the period of white man's observation not one has been killed by this agency, although the pines and firs often succumb at one stroke. Looking north from the Stricken Tree one may see the gnarled branches and rugged top of the GENERAL LEE. To the left is TOADSTOOL ROCK.

A few steps take us again to the Alta Trail. The MCKINLEY TREE (diameter 28 feet; height 291 feet) is soon seen at the left and at this point is a trail crossing. Turning to the left is the General Sherman Trail (see page 47), while to the right is the trail to Circle Meadow (see page 69). About $\frac{1}{4}$ mile beyond the McKinley Tree stands the GOTHIC ARCH at the left of the trail. A flying buttress on the farther side gives the tree its name.

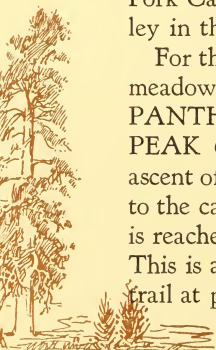




We now suddenly leave the sequoia belt, but the wild flower gardens, natural ferneries, and small meadows found among the pine forests of the next two miles make this one of the most delightful stretches of the trail. We next pass a homesteader's cabin which was abandoned unfinished many years ago.

A small stream is soon crossed, and within the next half mile we pass LOG SPRING which may be found below the trail. We now mount a steep pitch and soon get our first glimpse of Mt. Silliman (altitude 11,188 feet) through the trees ahead. At the top of the rise is CANYON VIEW, the nearly level crest of a ridge five miles from Giant Forest. The best view may be obtained from a point a short distance to the north (left) of the trail. To the north MT. SILLIMAN is the dominating summit. The bare granite peak immediately at its right is SILVER PEAK (altitude 10,237 feet). The forested slope at the right is the western termination of Altitude Ridge. To the west is a wide sweep toward the Marble Fork Canyon with the foothills of the San Joaquin Valley in the distance.

For the next mile our trail slopes more gradually. The meadow to the right soon after leaving Canyon View is PANTHER MEADOW and the tip of PANTHER PEAK (altitude 9,044 feet) may be seen beyond. The ascent of the latter is best made by following southward to the canyon rim from a point just before the meadow is reached, thence turning eastward toward the summit. This is an easy climb of about a half hour. There is no trail at present and one must make his way through the



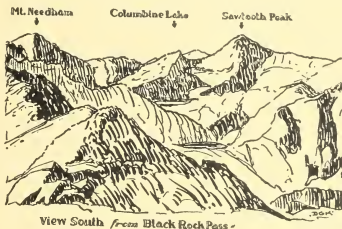
LOGPOLE PINE OR TAMARACK

NATIONAL PARK

forest, preferably to the base at the west side. From here a short rock climb leads to the summit, from which is a superb view.

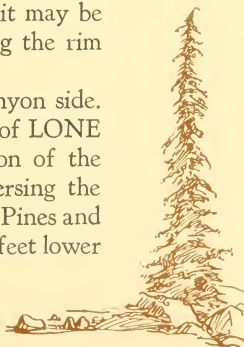


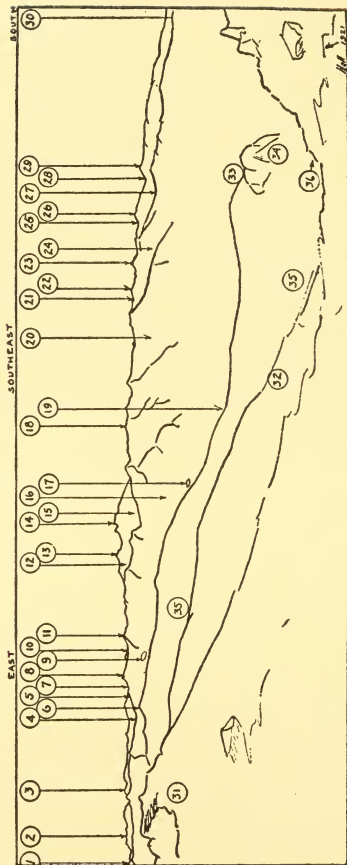
From Panther Meadow is a comparatively easy walk of $\frac{3}{4}$ mile to PANTHER GAP (altitude 8,600 feet). There is an excellent viewpoint a short distance to the right of the trail as it nears the canyon rim. The canyon of the Middle Fork of the Kaweah drops precipitously to the south, and to the southeast are the ragged summits of the Great Western



Divide. The prominent notch is Farewell Gap between Florence Peak (altitude 12,405 feet) at the left and Vandever Mountain (altitude 11,800 feet) at the right. Down the canyon Moro Rock is seen at the right and across from it Castle Rocks. The tip of Panther Peak juts out above the tree tops to the westward; it may be reached from this point by a long climb along the rim (no trail).

From Panther Gap the trail follows the canyon side. A quarter mile below stands the watch tower of LONE ROCK. An abrupt change in the composition of the forest may be noticed, for we are now traversing the warm southern exposure. The trees are Jeffrey Pines and their associates which are found two thousand feet lower on other slopes.





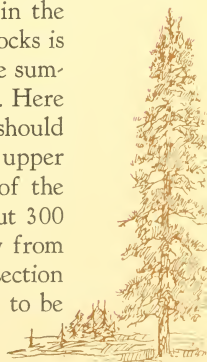
GREAT WESTERN DIVIDE FROM ALTA PEAK


- | | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 Thunder Mountain (Alt. 13,578) | 13 Black Kaweah (13,752) | 25 Franklin Pass (11,800) |
| 2 Table Mountain (13,646) | 14 Red Kaweah (13,754) | 26 Florence Peak (12,405) |
| 3 Milestone Mountain (13,643) | 15 Big Arroyo | 27 Timber Gap (9,450) |
| 4 Turtle Pass (11,400) | 16 Deer Creek | 28 Farewell Gap (10,588) |
| 5 Copper Mine (12,330) | 17 Hamilton Lake (8,400) | 29 Vandever Mountain (11,800) |
| 6 Bearpaw Mountain (11,093) | 18 Lippincott Mountain (12,263) | 30 Hockett Meadow (8,400) |
| 7 Elizabeth Pass (11,600) | 19 River Valley (6,600) | 31 Portion of Alta Peak (11,211) |
| 8 Triple Divide Peak (12,651) | 20 Granite Creek | 32 Bearpaw Meadow (7,900) |
| 9 Lion Lake (10,950) | 21 Black Rock Pass (11,600) | 33 Redwood Meadow (6,100) |
| 10 Mount Whitney (14,501) | 22 Needham Mountain (12,470) | 34 Sugarbowl Dome (7,657) |
| 11 Lion Rock (12,400) | 23 Sawtooth Peak (12,340) | 35 Buck Canyon |
| 12 Nine Lake Basin (11,000) | 24 Cliff Creek | 36 Direction of Alta Meadow (9,100) |

NATIONAL PARK

In a few hundred yards our trail branches. To the right the Redwood Meadow Trail continues to descend into the canyon of the Kaweah. We turn to the left and soon approach a small stream. From here on water is plentiful. Bearing to the left and gradually climbing, we soon sight the promontory of THARPS ROCK (altitude 10,654 feet) directly ahead on the southwest slope of Alta. A good camp site will be found at the crossing of Merten Creek; MERTEN MEADOW may be seen below. As we approach the base of the rock our trail traverses a sloping open bench from which a greater expanse of the meadow may be seen to the right. To the left rises an immense rock slide or talus slope. This is the southwest flank of Alta Peak, the summit of which lies about 300 yards beyond the top of the slide out of sight from the trail.

ALTA PEAK (altitude 11,211 feet) may be climbed from here or from Alta Meadow. The latter route is the easier, but if it is one's desire to go up one route and down the other, the rock slide should be taken in the ascent, for a steep downward climb over talus blocks is always to be avoided if possible. From the trail the summit is usually reached in two hours (carry water). Here and there will be signs of other ascents and these should be followed. The gnarled and twisted trees on the upper slopes are dwarfed Foxtail Pines. As the top of the rock slide is reached the summit may be seen about 300 yards ahead across a grassy sand slope. The view from Alta is conceded first place among those of this section of the Park; indeed, many mountaineers claim it to be

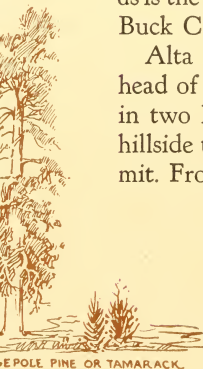




one of the best in the whole Sierra. Alta Meadow lies to the southeast and the descent can be made in that direction in thirty minutes.

From the bench below Tharps Rock the trail bears to the right through the timber and crosses a spur ridge which descends from the Rock. From here it continues around a side-hill, crossing a small stream just before coming into view of Alta Meadow (altitude 9,300 feet). There is a good camp on the sandy flat near the stream at the head of the meadow. Water will also be found at the lower end of the meadow and the several good campsites there are much warmer than at the head. The trail follows eastward near the north border of the meadow. One of the most magnificent views from this section may be had from PANORAMIC POINT. To reach this viewpoint leave the main trail and follow the gravelly ridge toward the right to the edge of the bluff. The horizon is cut at the east and southeast by the serrated crest of the Great Western Divide; immediately below us is the granite dome of Little Blue and opposite it across Buck Canyon is Sugarbowl Dome.

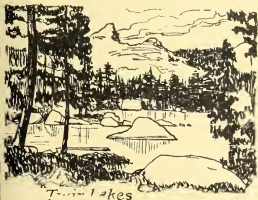
Alta Peak is best climbed from the sand flat at the head of the meadow and the ascent can easily be made in two hours. One should bear to the right along the hillside toward the saddle in Alta Ridge east of the summit. From here the climb is westward to the top.



POLE PINE OR TAMARACK

THE TWIN LAKES
TRAILWhite-throated
Swift

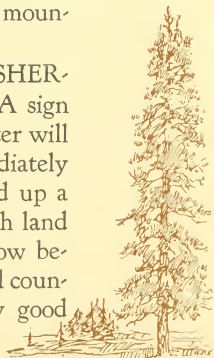
— Map on Page 84 —



Twin Lakes

ONE of the best trail trips in the Giant Forest region and one which should be much better known is the excursion to Twin Lakes. Good hikers make the round trip in one day from Lodgepole Camp, four miles by road north of Giant Forest on the Marble Fork, but from Giant Forest proper the round trip is too fatiguing to be attempted afoot between sunrise and sunset. If Mt. Silliman is to be climbed, two or two and one-half days should be allowed. There are several good camp sites en route and at the lakes, where fishing is sometimes excellent and at other times doubtfully so—a characteristic of all mountain lakes.

From Giant Forest we follow GENERAL SHERMAN ROAD four miles to Lodgepole Camp. A sign indicates the best place to cross the river. No water will be found for the next $1\frac{3}{4}$ mile. Our trail immediately starts a long hot ascent, bearing to the westward up a brushy slope, then swinging northward to a bench land near Silliman Creek. The fir and pine forest now becomes more dense and our trail crosses a more level country to WILLOW MEADOW. This is a fairly good



WESTERN YELLOW PINE



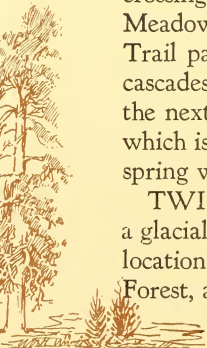
camp site. SILLIMAN CREEK which is crossed about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile farther offers a fair camp site.

We now cross Silliman Creek and start the hot and dusty one-hour climb up Manzanita Hill by short switch-backs. Soon we pass to the right of CAHOON MEADOW. This is a beautiful garden spot nestled in a miniature canyon. The two best camp sites are at the point where the trail approaches nearest the meadow and at its extreme head.

Skirting to the east of the meadow, our trail continues to climb the western side of a ridge from which may be seen glimpses of Mt. Silliman (altitude 11,188 feet) toward the east. Crossing a flat divide at the head of the 900-foot ascent, we soon descend through the Lodgepole Pine forest to the EAST FORK OF CLOVER CREEK. There are many good camp sites and abundant forage in the vicinity.

The trail to "J. O." Pass and Kings River Canyon continues northward, but we bear eastward without crossing the stream. A trail to the west leads to Colony Meadow, two and a half miles distant. The Twin Lakes Trail parallels the main branch of Clover Creek which cascades beautifully at the left. A 1500-foot climb in the next two miles leads through a picturesque country which is especially noted for its fine wild flowers. A cool spring will be found near the end of the climb.

TWIN LAKES, lying at an altitude of 9,900 feet in a glacial cirque beneath Silliman Crest offer an excellent location for a fixed camp away from the crowds of Giant Forest, and this is the best location for a base camp from



LODGEPOLE PINE OR TAMARACK.

NATIONAL PARK

which to ascend Mt. Silliman. The smaller lake lies just north of the one which is first reached by the trail.

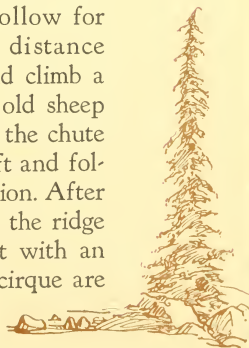
Fishing is sometimes very good, but is exceedingly variable on different days as is the case with most Sierra lakes. To the north, TWIN PEAKS (altitude 10,501 feet) rise 600 feet above. They may be ascended without special difficulty by following around the upper end of the smaller lake and bearing northwestward, finally turning abruptly to the north toward the base of the highest peak. From here is a difficult rock climb to the summit from which is obtained a splendid view. Another route to the summit is to follow up the canyon from the larger lake, then through the timber of the east base of the larger peak.

MT. SILLIMAN lies to the southeast and is not visible from the lakes.



The summit can be reached by a reasonably easy three-hour climb. One should follow for a short distance

around the south shore of the lower lake and climb a steep chute to the right where traces of an old sheep trail may still be discerned. From the top of the chute where the ridge is reached, we turn to the left and follow up Silliman Crest in a southeasterly direction. After $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of easy climbing along the granite of the ridge we obtain our first good view of the summit with an impressive amphitheatre at its west. In this cirque are

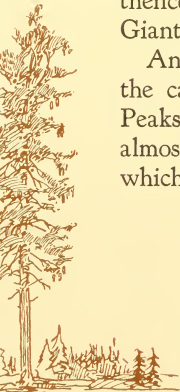




nestled the two little SILLIMAN LAKES 1,300 feet below the summit. They may be best visited on the descent from the peak. Continuing our climb, we make our way along the western base of a sharp ridge which juts out to the northward. This takes us to a point a little south to west from the summit, from which place several chimneys lead upward in the direction of the top. Selecting one of these, we turn sharply to the left and climb 400 feet up the talus slope to the summit.

In descending we bear for the saddle between the main peak and the lower peak to the westward. At a very decided notch we turn to the right and descend a long steep snow slope which early in the season offers a splendid slide for several hundred feet. From the base Silliman Lakes (altitude 9,700 feet) are easily reached. Fishing is reported excellent. It is advisable for hikers to descend Silliman Creek (no trail) keeping on the east side for one mile, thence on the west side for one mile, thence again on the east side for three miles, joining the Giant Forest Trail at a point near Willow Meadow.

Another route in climbing Mt. Silliman is to follow the canyon from the lower lake to the base of Twin Peaks, thence bearing southward along a rough but almost level granite stretch to the foot of the final climb which has already been described.



ADMIRATION POINT

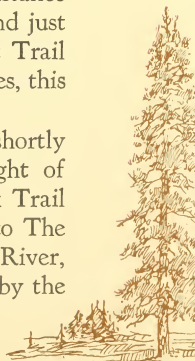


*Yucca
Sequoia N.P.*

THE excursion to Admiration Point provides an interesting half-day trip to a spectacular lookout point west of the Giant Forest, from which is a comprehensive view of Giant Forest Plateau and a portion of the High Sierras, as well as a glimpse into the deep chasm of the Marble Fork Canyon. The trip is made by automobile, except for the last half mile, which is by trail.

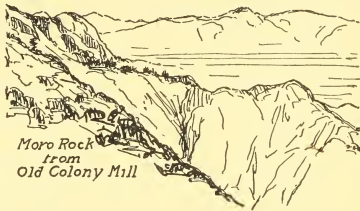
From Giant Forest we follow the main road westward. Shortly after passing Moss Spring, we turn right on the Old Colony Mill Road, which leads northward into the canyon of the Marble Fork of the Kaweah. At a distance of four miles, shortly after crossing Deer Creek and just before reaching Marble Fork Bridge, the Sunset Trail enters the road from the right. Climbing two miles, this trail leads to Sunset Rock.

We now cross Marble Fork Bridge, and very shortly observe the Halstead Meadow Trail at the right of the road. Some two miles farther, the Black Oak Trail likewise branches to the right. This trail leads to The Muir Grove of Big Trees, Dorst Creek, Suwanee River, and many other interesting points seldom visited by the tourist (see page 107).





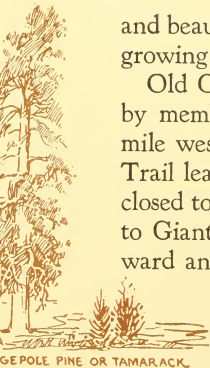
At a distance of about 10 miles from Giant Forest, the road rounds a promontory, from which is a splendid view to the east. Here one leaves the automobile and descends a half mile by good trail to Admiration Point, at the rim of an almost vertical western wall of the Marble Fork Canyon. As will be noted from the gray appearance of the rock, the canyon has been carved in solid limestone and marble. In the gorge below may be seen THE SEVEN FALLS. On account of the southern exposure, the plant life at this point is unique for this altitude, being typical of what one might expect to find several thousand feet below, in the Upper Sonoran



Zone. The holly-like shrub, which late in the season bears blue berries, is the Oregon Grape. During the spring-time visitors cannot but be astonished to find the huge

and beautiful cream-colored flower clusters of the Yucca growing at this altitude.

Old Colony Mill, once the site of a sawmill operated by members of the Kaweah Colony, lies about half a mile west of the junction where the Admiration Point Trail leaves the road. Below this point the road is now closed to traffic as it is steep and dangerous. In returning to Giant Forest from Admiration Point we turn eastward and retrace our former route.

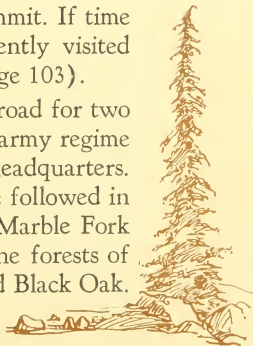



ASH PEAK FIRE LOOKOUT



AN excursion which offers an interesting contrast to the woodland walks of Giant Forest and the alpine ascents to more eastern heights is the one-day trip to the summit of Ash Peak to visit the fire lookout tower. The peak lies about eight miles in an air line southwest of Giant Forest and is reached by a drive of 12 miles down the Old Colony Mill Road, followed by a two-mile climb by trail. The summit is not extremely high—in fact its altitude of 5,821 feet shows it to be considerably lower than Giant Forest. Being in an isolated position, however, it commands an uninterrupted panorama of distant mountain summits, of nearby forested middle altitudes, and of brush-covered lowlands farther westward. Do not fail to carry a canteen, as no water is to be found during the warm two-mile climb to the summit. If time allows, Admiration Point can be conveniently visited during the return trip to the Forest (see page 103).

From Giant Forest we descend the main road for two miles to an old building erected during the army regime and used in connection with the military headquarters. Here we turn to the right on the same route followed in going to Admiration Point. We cross the Marble Fork Bridge and continue to descend through fine forests of Sugar Pine, Yellow Pine, Incense Cedar and Black Oak.



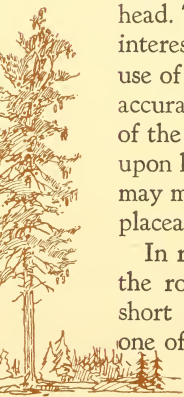


The undergrowth is of Flowering Dogwood, Hazel, and Coffee Berry, with here and there the fresh green of the Big-leaf Maple.

The trail begins at the left of the road at a point 12 miles from Giant Forest. From here we walk two miles up a steadily ascending trail, passing amid the Live Oak, Blue Oak, Mountain Mahogany, California Laurel, Manzanita, and Chamise—all vegetation of the Upper Sonoran Zone and entirely different from the species found at higher and cooler altitudes. We shall want to stop frequently to rest and to observe the unique and unfamiliar plants, many of which can later be identified by a visit to the Giant Forest Museum.

After about one hour of climbing we come suddenly upon the Lookout Tower at the summit of ASH PEAK. We have climbed 850 feet and now stand at an altitude of 5,821 feet above the sea. The view is superb, and even finer from the tower 30 feet overhead. The observer on duty will be glad to point out the interesting features of the landscape and will explain the use of maps and instruments which are essential for the accurate reporting of forest fires. This man is the "eye" of the park fire suppression organization. Much depends upon his constant vigilance, as a delay of a few minutes may mean thousands of dollars loss in the value of irreplaceable timber and cost of fire fighting.

In returning to Giant Forest it is necessary to follow the route by which we came, possibly stopping for a short side-trip to Admiration Point or for a swim in one of the fine big pools near the Marble Fork Bridge.



SUGAR PINE.



THE BLACK OAK TRAIL

THE trail through the unfrequented northwest corner of the Park offers an especially good two- or three-day round trip from Giant Forest. It traverses the Muir Grove and the Suwanee group of Big Trees. Good camp-sites are numerous and several good fishing streams are passed. Golden Trout may be taken in Dorst Creek.

The main road and the Old Colony Mill Road are followed westward from Giant Forest to MARBLE FORK BRIDGE, 4 miles, but the Sunset Rock

Trail will cut the distance to two and a half miles. A short half-mile beyond the Marble Fork Bridge the Halstead Meadow Trail by which we will return enters the road at the right. Continuing two and a half



Black-headed Grosbeak - Brown White & Black

miles along the road, we find the BLACK OAK TRAIL leading off to the right. By this, a short climb takes us to the crest of a low ridge which is followed up a gradual ascent to a junction. The trail to the left joins the road at a point nearer Colony Mill. Passing through THE DEEP SADDLE 1/2 mile from the road, the trail now descends for one mile to a small stream immediately beyond which is a good camp-site. The trail to the left a little farther on leads to Cactus Creek.

We continue northward one mile to the crossing of



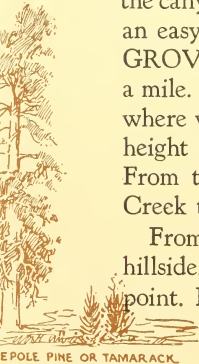
WESTERN YELLOW PINE



CACTUS CREEK. There is here a good camp-site and fishing is good early in the season; late in the year forage is somewhat scarce. We now bear northwest, following a practically level route along the mountainside one mile to CAVE CREEK. At the crossing is a good camp-site for hikers but no grass for animals. Fishing is good. We soon round another ridge and beyond it is a long descent to CASCADE CREEK. No good camp-site will be found here. From the crossing the trail climbs upward by switch-backs through the heavy timber. Just beyond the first ridge a trail will be noticed leading downward toward the left. About 300 yards down this path is HIDDEN SPRING and a good camp-site. This subsidiary trail leads by way of Cow Creek to the old Giant Forest Road just below the Park line.

The main trail continues a short distance by very easy grade to the summit of PINE RIDGE (altitude 5,900 feet). A little farther is a good camp ground at a small stream crossing. A series of zig-zags now takes us up the canyon side and over a ridge to the north, from which an easy descent is made to the beginning of the MUIR GROVE through which we now follow for more than a mile. Then follows a short climb to another ridge crest where we find the DALTON TREE (diameter 27 feet; height 292 feet) immediately at the right of the trail. From these heights we obtain a wide view up Dorst Creek toward the high country to the eastward.

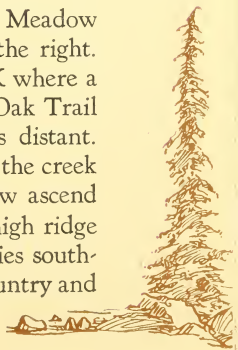
From the Dalton Tree the trail passes along a steep hillside, crosses a small stream, and surmounts a gravelly point. From here an easy grade, passing an occasional



NATIONAL PARK

meadow, leads to the crossing of DORST CREEK and the junction with the Halstead Meadow Trail which will form our homeward route. In the vicinity are many good camp-sites with several meadows within a short distance. In addition to other species the creek is stocked with Golden Trout and the fishing is usually good. From the opposite bank of the stream a trail crosses Cabin Meadow Creek and then branches to the right and leads to Cabin Meadow Ranger Station, one mile distant, where telephone connections may be had with Giant Forest. CABIN MEADOW offers many good camp-sites and excellent feed for stock. The left fork of the trail beyond Cabin Meadow leads to General Grant National Park via the following route: Dorst Creek to Stony Meadow $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles; Beartrap Meadow 6 miles; Rabbit Meadow $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles; Quail Flat $10\frac{1}{2}$ miles; and General Grant National Park $16\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

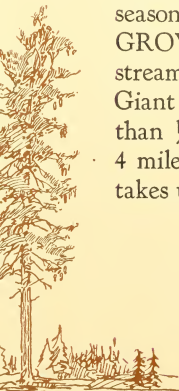
At the Dorst Creek crossing, the Halstead Meadow Trail, our homeward route, turns sharply to the right. In $\frac{3}{4}$ mile we cross LITTLE BALDY CREEK where a short-cut trail to the right leads to the Black Oak Trail which it joins near Cactus Creek, $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles distant. Another trail branching to the left just beyond the creek leads to Colony Meadow, $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles. We now ascend eastward and southward to the summit of a high ridge (altitude 7,900 feet). From here our course lies southward, passing downward through a forested country and





occasional small meadows to HALSTEAD MEADOW (altitude 6,900 feet). This is a fine camp-site with a fenced pasture for the use of tourists. The fishing is usually good in Halstead Creek. The dome of LITTLE BALDY (altitude 8,043 feet) is one mile westward and may easily be reached by a moderately steep climb through the timber. From the summit is a wide panorama. An old trail leaving the east side of Halstead Meadow follows northward, connecting in $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile at the top of the ridge with the Cabin Meadow-Clover Creek Trail. At this junction the trail to the left leads to Colony Meadow, $\frac{1}{4}$ mile, and across the canyon of Dorst Creek to Cabin Meadow, $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles. The right-hand trail connects with the Kings River Canyon Trail at Clover Creek, $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles distant.

From the lower end of Halstead Meadow our main trail continues southward, crossing SUWANEE RIVER after one mile. Good fishing is to be had here early in the season. Another $\frac{1}{2}$ mile takes us to the SUWANEE GROVE of Big Trees. Soon after the crossing of a small stream, a long moderately steep descent leads to the Giant Forest Road, which is joined at a point a little less than $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from the Marble Fork Bridge. Another 4 miles by road or $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles by the Sunset Rock Trail takes us to Giant Forest.



SUGAR PINE.

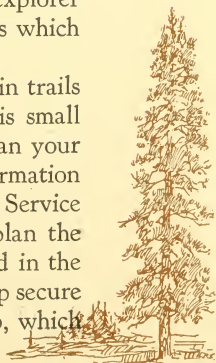


THE HIGH SIERRA TRAILS



IN the vast alpine wilderness east of Giant Forest lies an almost unexplored region of magnificently sculptured peaks and canyons—the superb climax of the highest mountain range in the United States, culminating in Mt. Whitney, the crest of the continent. There are literally thousands of picturesque mountain lakes, beautiful upland meadows and fantastically carved canyons to entice the mountaineer who has the courage and initiative to penetrate their fastness. From June to September this attractive upland region is a camping country *par excellence*. The brilliant, sunny days are interrupted only by an occasional thunder shower, and the initiated explorer plans to sleep in the open without carrying tents which would be necessary in other regions.

There are many hundreds of miles of mountain trails in this region which cannot be described in this small volume. It will therefore be necessary, as you plan your trip into the High Sierra, to secure detailed information as to passable routes, campsites, etc., from Park Service rangers or packers, who will gladly help you plan the most interesting itinerary which can be followed in the time you have available. Before planning your trip secure a large-scale Geological Survey topographic map, which



WESTERN YELLOW PINE



will be indispensable during your travels. Next, if time allows, refer to the files of the *Sierra Club Bulletin*, where you will find invaluable detailed information regarding the many trails and campsites.

You must first decide *how* you will travel. It is possible to go afoot, carrying enough supplies for a ten-day trip; but knapsacking is at the best a strenuous sport which should be undertaken only by those hardened

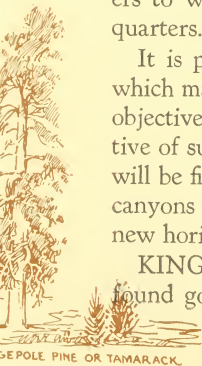


Mt. Brewer and Bullfrog Lake.

individuals who have great physical endurance. The better plan is to secure a burro or mule to bear the burden of your camp outfit and supplies. Whether you elect to walk or go by saddle is a matter of your own preference; if you decide upon the latter, you can easily arrange the details of your trip with one of the several reliable packers to whom you will be referred at the Park Headquarters.

It is possible here to offer only a few random notes which may be of some assistance in planning the general objectives of your high mountain trip. The major objective of such a trip, however, is but the climax. Each day will be filled with intimate glimpses of small unexplored canyons and hidden lakes and well earned vistas of vast new horizons.

KINGS RIVER CANYON, one of the most profound gorges in America, lies adjacent to Sequoia Na-



NATIONAL PARK



tional Park at the north. Carved a mile deep in solid granite, it is rugged beyond description and is as wild as was the Yosemite three-quarters of a century ago. It is easily reached by two days trail travel from either Sequoia or General Grant National Park and should by all means be visited if possible.

Farther north is TEHIPITE VALLEY, another deep glacial trough flanked by one of the most perfectly formed domes in the Sierra and carpeted by exquisite flower-starred meadows. Tehipite is difficult of access and is therefore known only to a few mountaineers.

At the headwaters of the Kings lies a region of high rugged peaks with hundreds of picturesque lakes which offer unending variety to those who penetrate this alpine paradise. North Palisade, Middle Palisade, Split Mountain, and many other peaks push their summits to altitudes well over 14,000 feet at the main Sierra crest, while to the east a sheer 10,000-foot precipice drops appallingly to the Owens Valley. Trails cross the divide at Kersage Pass, Bishop Pass, and other places, and offer access to the east. Rae Lake, Evolution Basin, Glenn Pass, Simpson Meadow, Cartridge Creek, Woods Lake, Muir Pass, and Sixty Lake Basin are but a few of the points you will explore if you can plan for a month's trip through this alpine upland of the Kings.

East of the Great Western Divide lies a mountainous section which is the climax of the Sierra. MT. WHITNEY, the highest peak in the United States, is but one of the many 14,000-foot summits. Throughout the entire upper watershed of the Kern region are myriads of



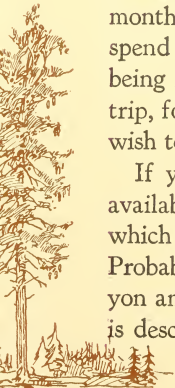
canyons and lakes which offer campsites nowhere to be surpassed in scenic beauty and intimate loveliness.

KERN CANYON bisects the region from north to south; its impressive sheer cliffs and meadowed floor make this gorge one of the finest features of the great mountain chain—a place so ideally beautiful that it will tempt you to tarry for days.

Near the Kern are Cottonwood Lakes, Siberian Outpost, Golden Trout Creek, Sky Parlor Meadow, Moraine Lake, Chagoopa Plateau, the Kaweah Peaks, Big Arroyo, Nine Lake Basin, and many lakes, canyons and meadows nestled at the foot of the Great Western Divide. These and other equally attractive objectives can be visited during a month or six weeks spent in the upper Kern.

In planning your high mountain trip do not attempt to cover too much territory. There is so much to be seen in the Mt. Whitney and Kern country that at least one month should be devoted to this trip; or, if you prefer, spend an equal time in the upper Kings. Above all, avoid being rushed; save half of this country for your second trip, for once you have been initiated, you will certainly wish to return.

If you are in Giant Forest and have but one week available, there are several short high-mountain trips which will serve as your introduction to the High Sierra. Probably the finest is the expedition to Deadman Canyon and Cloudy Canyon and over Elizabeth Pass. This is described in detail in the following section.



SUGAR PINE.



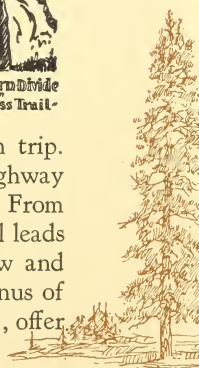
DEADMAN CANYON AND ELIZABETH PASS

NORTH and east of Giant Forest, in the country beyond Mt. Silliman and Tableland, lies a region surpassingly rugged and beautiful but withal quite accessible from Giant Forest. It offers a splendid opportunity for a packtrain or knapsack circuit of five to seven days. Stewart Edward White has written a fascinating book, *The Pass*, telling of his adventures in pioneering over this very route some decades ago. The trip is commended to Giant Forest visitors, especially if they have but a few days for a high mountain trip.



Great Western Divide
from
Elizabeth Pass Trail

From Giant Forest one follows the Generals Highway northward four miles to LODGEPOLE CAMP. From this point at the banks of the Marble Fork the trail leads northward to Willow Meadow, Cahoon Meadow and J. O. PASS. Twin Lakes, which lie at the terminus of a two-mile spur trail to the eastward (see page 99), offer

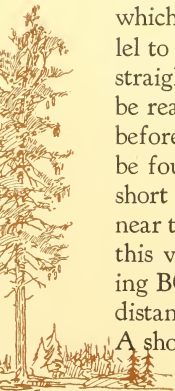


GUIDE TO SEQUOIA



a fine camp-site for the first night, or one may push on to J. O. Pass and just beyond the summit follow a trail two miles westward to Jenny Lake, where good fishing is reported. A third alternative is to continue on the main trail three miles north from the pass to ROWELL MEADOW, which lies at an altitude of 8,800 feet and is picturesquely surrounded by a Lodgepole Pine forest.

From Rowell Meadow trails lead westward to General Grant National Park (23 miles) and northward to Kings River Canyon (19 miles). We turn to the right (southward) at the cattleman's cabin beside the stream. A gradual climb of 500 feet in $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile through open pine and fir forests takes us to the summit of a ridge from which is a fine panorama of the high mountains to the east. Descending 1,400 feet in the next $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles, we find COMANCHE MEADOW at an altitude of 7,950 feet on a small northern tributary of Sugarloaf Creek. Near the creek is a junction with the Marvin Pass Trail, which descends from the north. We bear southeast parallel to Sugarloaf Creek and soon see the SUGARLOAF straight ahead. Sugarloaf Meadow (altitude 7,358) may be reached by taking a short branch trail to the left just before crossing the small stream. A better camp-site will be found $1\frac{1}{4}$ mile farther along the main trail where a short spur leads steeply down to a fine little meadow near the main stream. Fishing is everywhere excellent in this vicinity. The main trail continues eastward, crossing BOG CREEK in $1\frac{3}{4}$ mile. Bog Meadow is a short distance upstream but not an especially good camp-site. A short distance now takes us to FERGUSON CREEK



NATIONAL PARK

(good fishing), from which is a sharp climb of about 300 feet over a spur of MORAINE RIDGE with a fine panorama of the Great Western Divide. To the left are Palmer Mountain and Avalanche Peak, while straight ahead is Mt. Brewer (altitude 13,577 feet) with its North Guard (altitude 13,304 feet) and South Guard (altitude 13,232 feet). To the southeast is Table Mountain (altitude 13,646 feet) with the Milestone (altitude 13,643 feet) at its right.

There now follows a sharp zig-zag descent to ROARING RIVER (fine fishing), which is ascended for about



a mile to the bridge near SCAFFOLD MEADOW. The meadow is downstream and on the opposite bank. There are here several good camp-sites in the

vicinity of the bridge, among which is the one occupied by Edward Stewart White when he wrote *The Pass*.

About two miles above Scaffold Meadow the canyon divides. To the left (southeast) is CLOUDY CANYON, which is remarkably scenic. The trail follows up the east side of Roaring River. At least one or two days should be spent in exploring up the stream to its source at Triple Divide Peak. From this canyon the Colby Pass Trail to Kern River Canyon branches to left, following around the northern base of the prominent landmark



GUIDE TO SEQUOIA

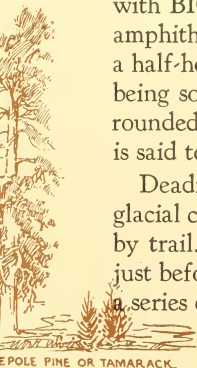


called the Whaleback. Fishing is good and Golden Trout are abundant.

The trail to DEADMAN CANYON follows up the west bank of Roaring River from Scaffold Meadow, and bears to the right into the mouth of this exceedingly picturesque gorge. As we ascend the canyon the forests become more and more sparse and the walls become more and more rugged until we are finally in as fine a U-shaped glacial trough as can be found in all the Sierra Nevada. At a point about four miles above the mouth of the canyon the trail passes the lone grave of "The Deadman," a sheepman who was murdered here in 1887. The upper portion of the canyon descends in a series of terraces, each with its little mountain meadow and small groves of Red Fir, Lodgepole Pine and Quaking Aspen. Many good camp-sites will be found and fishing is excellent.

Near the head of the canyon and to the right is the prominent BIG BIRD PEAK (altitude 11,600 feet) with BIG BIRD LAKE nestled in a precipitous glacial amphitheatre at its right. The lake may be reached by a half-hour scramble over granite terraces, the best route being some little distance south of the outlet. It is surrounded by exceedingly rugged and picturesque cliffs and is said to contain some of the largest trout in the region.

Deadman Canyon terminates in a huge high-walled glacial cirque with apparently no possibility of an outlet by trail. At the last meadow our trail bears to the left just before reaching a point where the creek descends in a series of cascades and from here it follows a rough and



NATIONAL PARK



rather poorly marked route across the talus to the right, following the stone "ducks" or monuments. At a point about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile beyond the creek a branch trail is monumented to the left. This leads to the Copper Mine at the summit of Glacier Ridge just opposite, where the red color of the ore-bearing rock may be observed. Passing through Miners' Pass the trail follows a knife edge for some distance and then descends into Cloudy Canyon at a point near The Whaleback. On the descent a glacier-polished slope of great extent is passed.

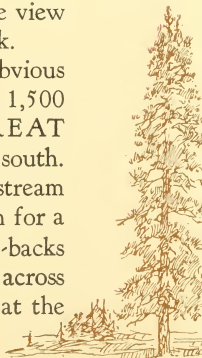


ELIZABETH PASS

Our main trail turns to the right from the junction; it is poorly marked in some places but in no place is it dangerous. The route followed by White and the *col* which he named ELIZABETH PASS are directly at the head of the canyon, but we bear farther to the west and pass over the divide at an

altitude of 11,400 feet. From the summit is a wide view westward across Buck Canyon toward Alta Peak.

The route followed in the descent is perfectly obvious after the first rocky stretch near the top. About 1,500 feet below the pass a magnificent view of the GREAT WESTERN DIVIDE opens up toward the south. Timberline is reached just before crossing a small stream where there is a possible camp with forage enough for a small party. Now follows a steep descent by switch-backs through the Red Fir forest with many fine views across the mighty canyon of the Kaweah. A sandy flat at the



WESTERN YELLOW PINE

GUIDE TO SEQUOIA

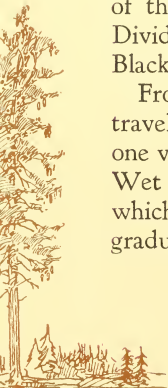


bottom of the gorge is reached at an altitude of about 8,100 feet. From this point on the trail is easily followed.

If one has a day to spare he can do no better than to follow up the canyon which shows well the evidences of glacial sculpture and polish. LONEPINE MEADOW (altitude 8,800 feet), 2 miles above, is reached by a fairly good trail and is a good camping place. TAMARACK LAKE (altitude 9,250 feet) is 2 miles farther by a poor trail which crosses to the south side of the stream. It is a particularly fine camp-site and fishing is good. LION LAKE (altitude 11,000 feet) lies at the head of the canyon at the foot of Triple Divide Peak (altitude 12,651 feet). It can be reached by a 2½-mile scramble over the granite south of the stream (no trail).

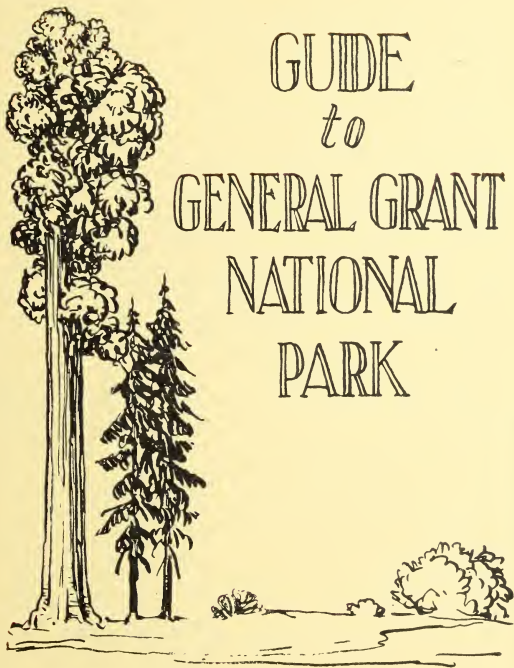
Our main trail follows down the Middle Fork of the Kaweah and bears southwest along the canyon wall to BEARPAW MEADOW. This portion of the trail passes through a beautiful forest and commands some of the most magnificent views of the Great Western Divide. At the head of Deer Creek Canyon opposite, Black Kaweah is seen beyond the Big Arroyo.

From Bearpaw Meadow Giant Forest lies one day's travel to the westward. There are two alternative trails, one via Buck Canyon and Alta Meadow; the other via Wet Meadow and River Valley to Redwood Meadow, which is a good camp-site. From the latter point is a long gradual ascent via Seven-Mile-Hill Trail to the Forest.



SUGAR PINE.

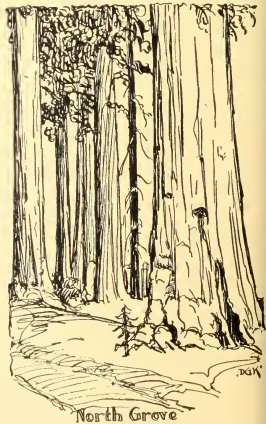
GUIDE
to
GENERAL GRANT
NATIONAL
PARK



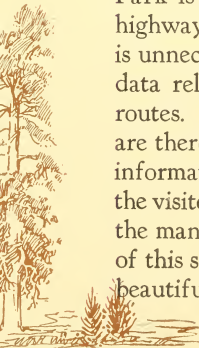
GEN. GRANT NATIONAL PARK

THE outstanding magnificence and great beauty of General Grant Tree and of its surrounding groves of sequoias, pines, and firs have long been recognized. Almost half a century ago—in 1890, to be exact—an area of four square miles was set aside by the Federal Government so that this great tree might always remain in its beautiful sylvan setting. Woodland trails and roads make it possible for us now to enjoy not only the majesty of the Big Trees but also the intimate beauty of flower-starred meadows and the thrilling grandeur of granite High Sierra panoramas.

General Grant National Park is so easily reached by highway from Fresno that it is unnecessary here to present data relative to the entrance routes. The following pages are therefore devoted to such information as will enable the visitor to thoroughly enjoy the many interesting features of this small, but surpassingly beautiful, national park.



North Grove



POLE PINE OR TAMARACK

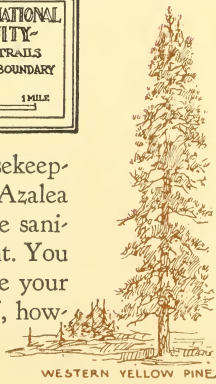


WHAT TO SEE

PLAN, if possible, to spend at least two or more days in the restful forest atmosphere of General Grant National Park. Enjoy the informal hospitality and comfort of



General Grant Lodge or of Meadow Camp (housekeeping) or establish your own temporary home at Azalea Camp, Columbine Camp or Cedar Spring, where sanitary conveniences are provided by the Government. You will more thoroughly enjoy the Park if you leave your car in camp and explore afoot or on horseback; if, how-



WESTERN YELLOW PINE

GUIDE TO GENERAL GRANT



ever, you are greatly pressed for time, many, if not all, of the following trips can be accomplished in one day with the help of your automobile:

1. General Grant Tree and the Grant and North Groves of Big Trees: Round trip $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles; time 1 to 2 hours; no visitor should miss this trip (see page 126).

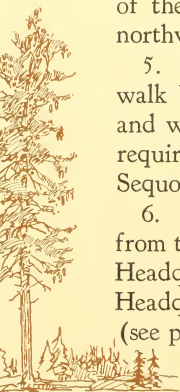
2. The Panoramic Point Trip: To Round Meadow, Rocking Rock, and Panoramic Point; an interesting six-mile round trip through the forest and to the summit of Park Ridge, just east of the boundary; "Hundred-Mile Panorama" of the High Sierra; time 2 hours, walking or riding (see page 130).

3. Sunset Rock: A leisurely one-hour walk by trail to a promontory one-half mile southwest of Park Headquarters; offers a good view of the sunset over the Great Valley (see page 129).

4. Timber Point: A two-mile round trip by road or trail to a prominence which offers an especially fine view of the forest and of the Kings River foothills to the northwest (see page 133).

5. Ella Falls and Laughing Waters: A three-mile walk by trail to Sequoia Creek in the region south and west of the administrative center. Two hours are required for the round trip which can be extended to Sequoia Lake if desirable (see page 132).

6. North Boundary Trail: A walk of about one mile from the Round Meadow Road. A half-mile from Park Headquarters or from Round Meadow (1 mile from Headquarters) to the Kings River Canyon Highway (see page 134).



SUGAR PINE.

NATIONAL PARK



7. Hume: A picturesque sawmill town, is 12 miles distant; at Hume Lake are boating, swimming, and fishing (see page 135).

8. Sequoia Lake: Four miles from Headquarters by road, or 2 miles by trail; on the Happy Gap Road to the San Joaquin Valley; Boy Scout and Y. M. C. A. camps, boating, fishing, and swimming. Can be visited as one leaves the Park (see page 136).

9. Big Stump Meadow: Adjacent to the main road one mile south of the Park entrance; exceedingly large sequoia stumps, one of which was used as a dance floor and another of which is said to be that of a tree bigger than any alive today (see page 137).



PICKET PIN



GENERAL GRANT -TREE AND THE- SEQUOIA GROVES



General Grant

THIS 3½-mile circuit takes one through the heart of the sequoia groves which should, by all means, be visited by everyone who enters the Park. From the Park Headquarters take the road to the north, bearing to the left at the junction near the service station. Follow the main road westward about ¾-mile, passing the entrances to Azalea Camp and Columbine Camp.

The first big outstanding sequoia is the TENNESSEE TREE which stands at the right of the road. Supported on a base consisting only of five huge buttresses, it remarkably demonstrates the tenacity of life which enables these great trees to survive through the centuries. Since the entire heart has been burned out by fire, visitors may stand directly beneath its base and look out through the arches which support its great weight.

Before reaching this point on the road there is a splendid vista of the CALIFORNIA TREE straight ahead—probably the best full-length view of a sequoia in the en-

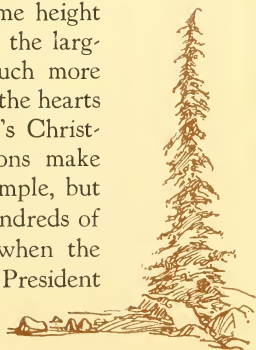
NATIONAL PARK

tire Park. Leave your car at the parking space just above the checking station. The trail to General Grant passes the base of the California Tree. Not far beyond is the huge stump of a tree cut for exhibition at the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia in 1876. A portion of the trunk still lies on the ground.



We now approach the mightiest giant in the Park —GENERAL GRANT TREE. Many claim that this old veteran of three or four thousand years should be ranked first in size among the trees of the world because it actually

measures 40.3 feet in greatest diameter at its base. This measurement is somewhat misleading, however, as it is taken at the extremes of the buttressed base. The diameter 50 feet above the ground is 17.3 feet, which is 6 inches greater than the Boole Tree at the same height and only 4 inches less than General Sherman, the largest tree in Sequoia National Park. How much more important than its size, however, is its place in the hearts of the American people; this is The Nation's Christmas Tree. Each Yuletide hundreds of persons make the pilgrimage to its base to take part in a simple, but impressive, ceremony at high noon. Other hundreds of thousands are now enabled to participate, when the entire program, including a message from the President





GUIDE TO GENERAL GRANT

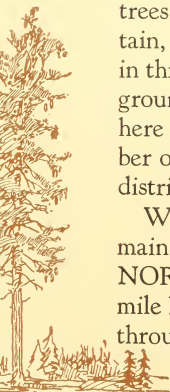
of the United States to the People of the Nation, is sent out by multiple broadcast throughout the country.

Some 50 yards northeast of General Grant stands the **DELAWARE TREE**. Delaware Spring comes from beneath its base and supplies a nearby drinking fountain.

In returning to the road we follow the trail southward to the **FALLEN MONARCH**. Early pioneers found its great hollow interior most useful. It is said that a shepherd once saved his entire flock during a violent snow-storm by confining them here. At a later period an enterprising lady put up a few canvas partitions and for a while it served as a boarding house. Perhaps it was most used during the time when it housed an establishment where old fashioned "hard" liquid refreshments were dispensed.

At the Fallen Monarch we are again at the road. Just to the west are two large sequoias growing from a single base and 40 yards beyond, at the bases of five fine large trees one may see the tables, fireplaces, drinking fountain, and other conveniences for those who wish to lunch in this beautiful spot. This group of trees forms the background for the annual historical pageant which is enacted here on Independence Day of each year by a great number of artists from Fresno and Sanger and the mountain districts, assisted by the National Park Service.

We now return to our car and continue along the main road, passing the West Ranger Station. To visit the **NORTH GROVE** take the road to the right. This $\frac{3}{4}$ -mile loop passes some of the fine large sequoias and leads through a forest carpeted with flowers and ferns which



SUGAR PINE

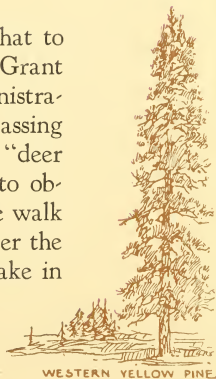
NATIONAL PARK

are especially attractive where we cross Millwood Creek. If this route is closed to traffic, you will enjoy the half-hour walk around this circuit. Returning finally to the main road, turn left if you wish to go to the General Grant Lodge and Park Headquarters.



SUNSET ROCK

AN attractive one-hour after-dinner walk is that to **SUNSET ROCK** which is but $\frac{3}{4}$ -mile from Grant Lodge. A trail bears southward from the Administration Building, the greater part of its length passing through the fir and pine forest. As there are "deer icks" not far from the trail, one is quite likely to observe a doe and her fawns or other wild life if he walk noiselessly. Sunset Rock offers a wide outlook over the San Joaquin Valley, with glimpses of Sequoia Lake in the foreground through the trees.





THE PANORAMIC POINT TRIP

TO ROUND MEADOW, PANORAMIC POINT,
AND ROCKING ROCK

— Map on Page 64 —

THIS is one of the most interesting trips in the Park offering as it does a vast panorama of the High Sierra and a fine view of the Kings River Canyon. The round trip of 6 miles can be accomplished in three hours, walking or riding. Pending road reconstruction, the route is controlled for safety, automobiles being allowed to go up during even hours and down during odd hours. Follow the "Rocking Rock" signs.

Our road starts at Park Headquarters, passes GENERAL GRANT LODGE, and climbs gradually toward the northeast. At a distance of $\frac{3}{4}$ -mile a trail to the left leads to VALLEY VIEW which may be reached easily afoot in five minutes. This point offers a fine outlook to the westward over the San Joaquin Valley.

At a point $\frac{1}{4}$ mile farther along the road, a parking space will be found where cars can be left while visitors take the short walk to BIRD'S EYE VIEW, another prominence which affords an opportunity to scan a wide sweep of foothill country and of the San Joaquin Valley.

We now approach the beautiful little ROUND MEADOW. Surrounding springs provide abundant moisture for a perpetual flower display. Early in the sea-

NATIONAL PARK



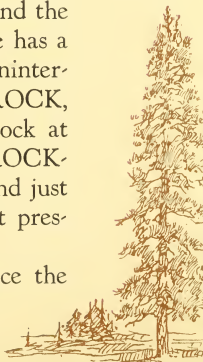
son Cyclamon, or shooting star, grows profusely; later the colorful Little Leopard Lilly and the Blue Lupine are more commonly seen; giant plants of the False Hellebore are also conspicuous as the season advances, and one can often find the delicate spikes of the white Rhein Orchids. The flowers in all National Parks are rigidly protected by government regulations.



From Round Meadow our road ascends through the forest for almost a mile, finally leaving the Park and entering the Sierra Na-

tional Forest. The road terminus is but one hundred yards from the PANORAMIC POINT the summit of Park Ridge, along which the footpath leads for another 200 yards to ROCKING ROCK. Before us lies the magnificent "Hundred-mile Panorama" with the most spectacular peaks of the Great Western Divide and the main Sierra crest on the skyline. To the left one has a glimpse into the Kings River Canyon. A more uninterrupted view can be obtained from BALCONY ROCK, only a few steps distant. The large balanced rock at Panoramic Point should not be confused with ROCKING ROCK, a massive erratic which will be found just across the trail from Balcony Rock. Only a slight pressure is necessary to move its 20-ton weight.

In returning to Park Headquarters we retrace the route by which we came.



WESTERN YELLOW PINE

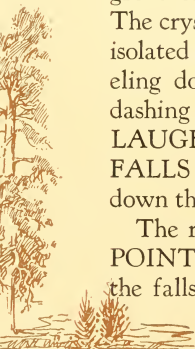


ELLA FALLS AND LAUGHING WATERS

ELLA FALLS and the many other beautiful cascades known as Laughing Waters make this a most attractive two-hour walk. The trail passes through the Sequoia Creek region south and west of the Giant Forest Lodge, and the distance for the round trip is about three miles.

Traveling along SEQUOIA LAKE TRAIL directly west from the administrative center for about one mile, one reaches an old road built by the soldiers during the early military regime; later it was reconstructed by the Park Service as part of the fire protection system. This road turns south (left) from the trail and passes through a stand of beautiful pines and firs, leading finally to a grove of Giant Sequoias seldom seen by park visitors. The crystal-clear SEQUOIA CREEK flows through this isolated grove, making it exceedingly attractive. On traveling down the canyon, one first discovers a series of dashing cataracts and falls, appropriately named LAUGHING WATERS, while $\frac{1}{4}$ mile farther ELLA FALLS plunges into a deep pool. The trail continues down the creek to Sequoia Lake, but is rather rough.

The return trip may be made by way of SCENIC POINT which is on the brow of the hill to the north of the falls. It offers a beautiful unobstructed view of Se-



POLE PINE OR TAMARACK.

NATIONAL PARK

quoia Lake and much of the surrounding area. Scattered through this section of the Park are many hidden caves, the location of which can be disclosed only through exploration away from the trails.



TIMBER POINT

TIMBER POINT lies less than $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Grant Lodge and is reached by both road and trail. It offers an intimate glimpse into a beautiful forest of Sugar Pine and Western Yellow Pine and a more distant view of the Kings River foothills toward the northwest.

From the Lodge or Park Headquarters, take the road toward the Big Tree groves, but soon turn to the left at the entrance of Camp Azalea. Follow the main camp road to a parking space in the saddle at the foot of the Timber Point Trail. A short walk of about 200 yards takes one to the Point.



Sequoias - Gen. Grant NP



NORTH BOUNDARY TRAIL

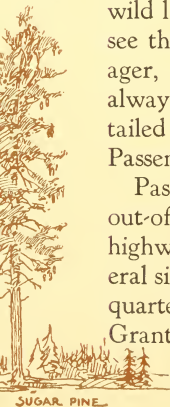


Sunshine Falls

WHILE not a trip of major importance, this delightful woodland trail connecting Round Meadow with the Kings River Canyon Highway, about one mile distant, offers an enjoyable walk to those who have time for intimate exploration. From Round Meadow (see page 130) the trail descends toward the westward not far from the north boundary of the Park. For the greater part of

its length it passes through forests of pine and fir where wild life is particularly abundant. Quite often one may see the beautiful black, yellow, and red Western Tanager, and the songs of several species of warblers can always be heard. Occasionally one may see the Band-tailed Pigeon, western counterpart of the exterminated Passenger Pigeon of the East.

Passing through a beautifully timbered canyon in this out-of-the-way section of the Park, the trail crosses the highway and continues along the north boundary. Several side trails at intervals turn southward toward Headquarters or connect with the Sequoia Lake Road at the Grant Grove of Big Trees one mile from the Lodge. The



SUGAR PINE



western terminus of the trail is near the northwest corner of the Park, whence return to the center of activities may be made by any of several trails reached by retracing the route for a short distance and turning right.



HUME



Kings River Canyon
View from road
near General
Grant National Park

THE old sawmill town of HUME lies eleven miles northeast of Park Headquarters. The drive is well worth while as it offers some exceedingly fine views of the Kings River Canyon. The route of the old road is being paralleled in part by the



new Kings Canyon Highway, parts of which are being opened as the construction of the road progresses. Below the road can be seen the old flume which formerly carried lumber from Hume to Sanger, a distance of 65 miles.

At Hume, the terminus of the road, is a sawmill, a forest ranger station, and a lake which is being developed as a boating, swimming, and fishing center.



SEQUOIA LAKE

SEQUOIA LAKE lies just west of General Grant National Park, and about 4 miles distant by road from General Grant Lodge. Near its wooded shore are two summer camps of Boy Scouts of America and a Y. M. C. A. camp. Boating, fishing, and swimming make this spot especially attractive to those who have time to tarry. From Sequoia Lake one can follow the Happy Gap Road to Pinehurst (6 miles) on the main road to the west, or it is possible to turn right and follow the shorter but steeper road through Millwood to Dunlap and on to the San Joaquin Valley where the main highway is reached at a point near Fresno.



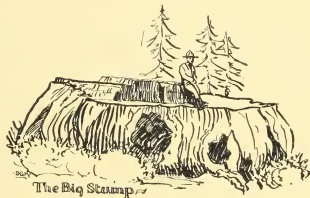
POLE PINE OR TAMARACK



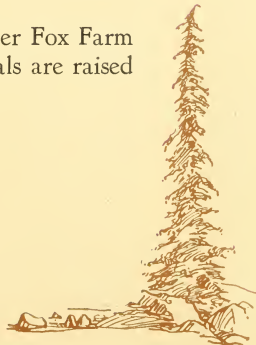


BIG STUMP MEADOW

ADJACENT to the main road about one mile south of General Grant National Park is a meadow where once stood one of the finest sequoia forests in this region—as attested by the size of the many charred stumps left after logging. One of the stumps, formerly called the Mark Twain Tree, is 28 feet in diameter and was once used as a dance floor. Also, nearby, is “Old Adam,” a burned snag, the base of which is of enormous size. It seems to have been larger than any tree alive today, not even excepting General Grant and General Sherman.



Near the Big Stump Meadow is the Silver Fox Farm where these interesting and valuable animals are raised to produce pelts for the fur market.



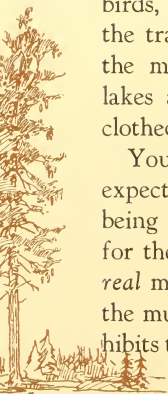
THE GOVERNMENT NATURALIST SERVICE



Do not fail to take advantage of the guide and lecture service provided for you free by the Government. In both Sequoia and General Grant National Parks ranger naturalists lead field trips daily from

each of the main tourist centers. Not only are there many short walks of one to three hours each for the purpose of introducing to you the trees, the flowers, the birds, and the many other interesting living things along the trailside, but there are also longer full-day trips to the most spectacular scenic spots—to high mountain lakes and meadows where trails follow granite slopes clothed with picturesque timberline forests.

You will, of course, visit the Park Museum. Do not expect too much, for the museums in both parks are just being established. All national park museums are small for the reason that each is but a key, as it were, to the *real* museum which is the park itself. Therefore within the museum building are only a sufficient number of exhibits to outline the general story of the park and to make



SUGAR PINE.

NATIONAL PARK



it possible for you to observe other interesting facts for yourself in the field.

Adjacent to the Giant Forest Museum is the Wildflower Garden where some two hundred species of the most attractive flowers and shrubs of the region are labeled so that you may learn to recognize them under growing conditions.

You will certainly want to attend at least one evening campfire while you are in the Park. As part of the informal program, the park naturalist or one of the ranger naturalists gives a short talk on the Giant Sequoia or the history of the region or some phase of its interesting natural history. Besides these evening lectures there is, in Sequoia National Park, a short talk on bears each afternoon at Bear Hill. Also the ranger on duty at General Sherman Tree frequently tells the story of the Big Trees.

All of this service is offered to you free by the Government in order to help you more thoroughly enjoy the Park through an understanding of the many things which lie hidden to the casual visitor.



WESTERN YELLOW PINE



POLE PINE OR TAMARACK.

APPENDIX





SEQUOIA AND GENERAL

TABLE OF MEASUREMENTS OF LARGEST BIG TREES IN OR NEAR SEQUOIA & GENERAL GRANT NATIONAL PARKS, CALIFORNIA

	Gen. Sherman	Gen. Grant	Boole
Greatest apparent base diameter, horizontal.....	37.3	40.3	36.8
Mean base diameter.....	32.7		
Diameter at angle base bulge with stem.....	19.6	21.0	18.9
Height top of bulge above mean base.....	22.1	20.7	25.6
Diameter at height of 50 feet.....	17.6	17.3	17.0
“ “ 100 “	18.7	15.6	15.0
“ “ 150 “	15.3	15.5	13.4
“ “ 200 “	4.6	12.4	10.2
Height above assumed mean base, feet.....	273.9	266.6	272.8
Height of largest branch above ground.....	130.0 (est.)	165.3 (meas.)	
Greatest diameter of branch above base.....	7.3	4.9	
Diameter Sherman perpendicular branch.....	5.7		

NOTE: The above measurements were made by transit by Asst. Supt. Guy Hopping.

The height of Sherman Tree is measured to the top of the big branch extending above the top of the main, badly damaged and very blunt stem.

The height of Grant Tree is measured to a projection upon the top of the main stem.

The Boole Tree has a nearly perfect stem, although dead at the top, and the height is determined by the apex of this. This tree has no exceptionally large branches, is rather sparsely covered with foliage, and the branches extend from rather close to the ground to near the top.



GRANT NATIONAL PARKS

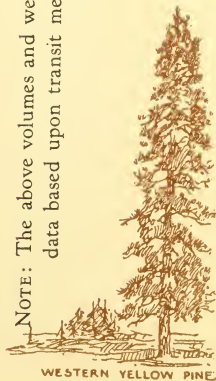
VOLUMES OF THE LARGEST SEQUOIAS

	Gen. Sherman	Gen. Grant	Boole
Butt Swell.....	14,274.3 cu.ft.	12,420.4 cu.ft.	15,286.0 cu.ft.
25 ft. — 50 ft.....	7,501.7	8,157.8	6,202.1
50 ft. — 100 ft.....	12,313.5	10,541.0	10,039.7
100 ft. — 150 ft.....	11,363.7	9,388.0	7,904.1
150 ft. — 200 ft.....	4,931.0	7,640.0	5,543.6
200 ft. — top.....	406.5	2,677.3	1,980.2
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Volume.....	51,290.8	50,824.4	46,956.6

Weight of trunk
(approximate)..... 3,692,937 lbs. 3,654,356 lbs. 3,380,875 lbs.

Weight of branches
(estimated)..... 100,000 lbs. 80,000 lbs. 50,000 lbs.

NOTE: The above volumes and weights were computed by Chief Ranger L. F. Cook from data based upon transit measurements by Assistant Superintendent Guy Hopping.



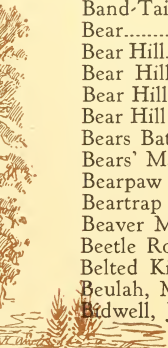
WESTERN YELLOW PINE



White-throated Swift

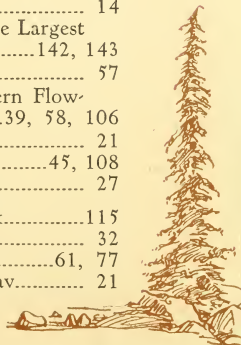
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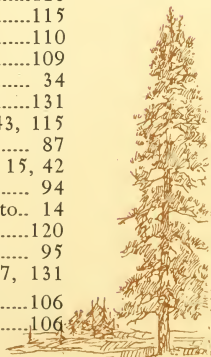
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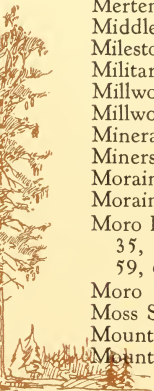


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R. PINE.

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Long Hill, B.C.



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• Bockbrot
Grosbeak
Long & We P.S.



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