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

FILE NO. 0-32
PART 1

PROPOSED PARKS
SPA

LAST DATE ON TOP

IMPORTANT
This file constitutes a part of the official records of the National Park Service and should not be separated or papers withdrawn without express authority of the official in charge. All files should be returned promptly to the File Room. Officials and employees will be held responsible for failure to observe these rules, which are necessary to protect the integrity of the official records.

ARNO B. CAMMERER,
Director.
PROPOSED SPA NATIONAL PARK - NEVADA

REVIEW:

This area is located in Washoe County, 9½ miles south of Reno, Nevada, adjoining the main highway between Reno and Carson City.

The characteristics of this area are numerous steam jets and hot springs. There are several establishments within this area at present which offer hot baths.

Mr. Toll investigated this area on December 11, 1931, and submitted an adverse report in which he states that the area under consideration is all in private ownership. Even if the springs were offered to the Government, there does not seem to be any sufficient reason why the Government should undertake their operation or control. The scenic, prehistoric and historic features in the area under consideration are of negligible importance or practically absent. It does not seem to be a suitable or desirable project for a national park.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that this area be disapproved as a national park and dropped from our list of proposed parks and monuments.

C. L. Wirth

APPROVED:

FEB 1 1933

Director.
The Director  
National Park Service  
Washington, DC  

December 11, 1931  

Dear Mr. Director:

Herewith is the report on the Proposed Spa National Park, Nevada.

Your file of correspondence on the subject, which was sent to me, is returned herewith.

It does not seem to me that either the Comstock Lode or the Spa Springs are desirable for national park or monument purposes, but that does not eliminate the possibility of national park operation in Nevada. A large part of the area that has been withdrawn from entry for development in connection with the Hoover Dam is located in Nevada and is receiving consideration at the present time. Pyramid Lake, Nevada, which is now a part of the Paiute Indian Reservation, is noted for its scenic and recreational features and is said to be the most beautiful desert lake in the United States. Both of these areas seem to have much bigger possibilities for national park development than either the Comstock Lode or the Spa Springs.

Mrs. L. Inman Samuels wrote for copies of the photographs that I took at the Steamboat Springs area and I recently sent them to her. Her last letter stated that she planned to leave Reno December 11, for Hot Springs, Arkansas, and thence for Washington, DC, and New York City. It seems probable that Mrs. Samuels will make an active campaign in Washington for this project. She interested one of the property owners, whose land is included in the project, to the extent of paying her $100 per month as part compensation for the time she put on the project, but I believe this arrangement was to expire December 1 of this year. The campaign will probably be continued as long as any hope remains that the Government may be persuaded to buy the land.

As requested in your recent letter, the report on Carlsbad extension will be taken up next.

Very truly yours,

Roger W. Toll

Inc.
The Director  
National Park Service  
Washington, DC  

Dear Mr. Director:

In accordance with your instructions, I submit the following data with reference to the proposed Spa National Park, Nevada.

**Inspection.** The area was visited on November 3, 1931.

**Location.** The thermal area is located 9½ miles south of Reno. It immediately adjoins the main highway connecting Reno, the largest city in Nevada, with Carson City, the state capital. Most of the area lies to the west of the highway, but a part of it lies east of the road. It is located in Washoe County. The elevation is approximately 4,600 feet. The area is shown on the US Geological Survey topographic map of the Carson quadrangle.

**Accessibility.** The thermal area is conveniently reached by automobile from Reno. The Virginia & Truckee Railroad parallels the highway and also passes through the area under consideration.

**Character.** In a part of the area, steam issues from crevices in the formation. Springs of hot water also come to the surface at a number of places. Wells drilled in the vicinity produce steam and hot water.

**Development.** There are now three establishments within the area under consideration that offer hot baths. The Reno Hot Springs is the nearest to Reno and probably the newest of the three. This development has an unusually large warm plunge, 100 by 250 feet, varying in depth from two to 14 feet. It also has ten individual cottages, each equipped with a steam bath and a warm bathing pool. The Reno Hot Springs operate with steam and hot water derived from three drilled wells, approximately 200 feet deep.

The next establishment is the Radium Steam Baths. The development is very primitive. This property seems to be on the hottest part of the formation. The steam crevices are parallel, extensive and active. A crowbar, driven to a depth of ten feet is said to produce a steam jet, and the small bath-house derives its heat from such a jet.
The farthest south of the three establishments is the Steamboat Springs Bath House, which offers steam baths, hot tub baths, a warm and also a cold plunge. On the opposite or eastern bank of a small creek is a frame hotel, with detached cabins, operated in connection with the bath house.

History of the Project. The idea of securing a national park to develop and utilize these hot springs seems to have originated with Mrs. L. Inman Samuels, or at least she is the one who is now most active. She was formerly in the real estate business in La Jolla, California, but when real estate became inactive she moved to Reno, about a year ago. She has a realtor's license but is devoting the greater part of her time to this project, rather than to a general real estate business. She has a room in the suite of Mr. Charles L. Richards, attorney. Mr. Richards is interested in seeing the project succeed. He was a Representative in Congress, from Nevada, in 1923 and 1924.

Mrs. Samuels is acquainted with Senator Borah and wrote to him for advice on how to start a proposal for a national park. He advised her to secure a petition signed by a number of influential people, and to submit it to Congress through one or both of the Nevada Senators, both of whom are members of the Public Lands Committee. Accordingly Mrs. Samuels has toured the state and has already secured some fifteen hundred signatures to the petition. She says that about ninety nine people out of a hundred readily sign the petition upon request. Various chambers of commerce, posts of the American Legion, fraternal organizations and service clubs have been solicited and have been getting further signatures so that some three to five thousand names will ultimately be obtained. A copy of the form of petition is attached. It is planned to ask Senator Oddie to present this petition, which will be ready in December. Additional data on the springs will also be furnished to him.

Knowing that Hot Springs, Arkansas, is a national park, it is desired to secure a similar development for Reno. It seems to have been Mrs. Samuels' hope that the government would buy the land, build the hotels and operate the entire project.

There is no government land in the area under consideration. The land is in private ownership, although I understand that final patent has not yet been secured on one or two of the tracts. Mrs. Samuels has secured five "options" covering 513 acres, more or less, for a total purchase price of $160,000. In addition to these tracts, it will be necessary to purchase the land and developments owned by the three operating establishments referred to above, and probably one or more other tracts. The total project includes about 1,650 acres and the total purchase price is estimated at $780,000. The options referred to are not true options, but are agreements to pay Mrs. Samuels the commission of 5% of the purchase price if sold through her efforts.
If the government will not buy the land, the Rockefeller Foundation will be approached. The government is expected to aid the project, financially or otherwise, as far as possible. The state legislature is another possible source of funds. Apparently local donations are not being counted on to put the project across. If the land is acquired, it would be hoped that the government would build hotels; if not, then an effort would be made to interest some large hotel syndicate. Mrs. Samuels expects to make a trip to Washington and New York this winter to further the program.

Conclusions. While the Hot Springs National Park is one of the national parks, it was originally set aside as a "reservation" and was not called a "national park" until 1921. Neither Hot Springs nor Platt are representative national parks, and it does not seem desirable for the National Park Service to add other parks of this type to the national park system.

The springs are now in private ownership, and it does not seem probable that Congress will appropriate funds to purchase them. Even if the springs were offered to the government there does not seem to be any sufficient reason why the government should undertake their operation or control. If they are purchased with funds raised by local effort, the management of the springs might well be handled as a community or private enterprise.

The motives prompting this project seem to include:

A desire to alleviate the sufferings of mankind.
A hope to bring outside revenue to Nevada and to Reno.
A prospect of making a substantial profit for the owners of the land and their agents.

The commercial aspects of the proposal seem to have received full consideration along with the philanthropic and public-spirited aspects. The proposal has features resembling a real estate promotion.

The scenic, prehistoric and historic features in the area under consideration are of negligible importance or practically absent. It does not seem to be a suitable nor desirable project for a national park.

Photographs and supplementary data are attached hereto.

Very truly yours

Roger W. Toll
Supt. Yellowstone Natl. Park

Inc.
Reno Hot Springs, general view.

Reno Hot Springs well and cooling plant.
Reno Hot Springs guest cabins.

Reno Hot Springs Pool, 100 x 250 ft. Cabins and Casino in background.
Steamboat Springs Bath House and hotel.
Hot Springs in General. Hot springs are common throughout the United States. Many of them are used for hot baths and medicinal treatments. Those and others that are not now in use are believed to possess curative properties. The relative value of the various hot springs for effecting cures is difficult to estimate. I know of no basis for making such a rating. Possibly the Public Health Service, or some other competent authority might be able to determine the relative curative value of the many hot springs of the country.

Until recently the government has not undertaken to control or regulate the use of hot springs, except in the case of Platt, Oklahoma, and Hot Springs, Arkansas. Title to hot springs has passed into private ownership with the title to the land upon which they are located. At present, applicants for public domain must certify that the land does not contain curative mineral waters. If the land applied for does contain such springs, the right to their use is reserved to the government for leasing. See the attached Act of March 3, 1925 and Executive Order of July 7, 1930.

In the case of hot springs that have passed into private ownership it does not seem that the government has any obligation nor interest in re-acquiring them by purchase. The operation of such springs and the building of bath houses, plunges, hotels, etc., seems to be a field for private capital and enterprise. If such springs were offered to the government, and accepted, they would probably be leased to an applicant and not made a national park or monument.
Curative Power. These springs are said to be among the most curative in the country, if not in the world. The list of diseases that are said to have been cured or benefited by the use of these waters is remarkable, and includes tuberculosis, rheumatism, hay fever, cancer, ulcer, shell shock and nervous diseases, arthritis, catarrh, anemia, stomach trouble, diabetes, sciatica, neuritis, high blood pressure, infantile paralysis, and so forth.

It is said that there are seventy five springs which will show varying analyses, and that when the most suitable waters are used for treating various diseases the possibilities of effecting more cases will be enhanced.

One property has a spring containing arsenic, and also a spring that will cure the habit of alcoholism and of smoking. The owner has been equally cautious regarding the use of both springs.

Analyses of several of the springs, which were furnished by Mrs. Samuels, are attached.

Dr. Thomas W. Bath, surgeon, says that the springs are the only ones in this country that contain gold in solution. They also contain mercury which adds to their curative power in certain diseases. They are said to contain copper and in fact nearly all known minerals, but not radium.
## Land Valuation

So-called options have been obtained on the following tracts:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Owner</th>
<th>Approximate Area</th>
<th>Valuation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>James S. Lyons</td>
<td>260 acres</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carl Senger</td>
<td>40 &quot;</td>
<td>$40,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mortimer E. Nichol</td>
<td>120 &quot;</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florence E. Nichol</td>
<td>53 &quot;</td>
<td>$30,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Otto F. Herz</td>
<td>40 &quot;</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H.J. Neumarker</td>
<td>40 &quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>513 acres</strong></td>
<td><strong>$160,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following tracts are considered for inclusion in the area, and the probable amount for which they could be purchased is indicated:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tract</th>
<th>Approximate Area</th>
<th>Valuation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Steamboat Springs</td>
<td>400 acres</td>
<td>$150,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilcox</td>
<td>620 &quot;</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reno Hot Springs</td>
<td>60 &quot;</td>
<td>$200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radium Steam Springs, Christiansen</td>
<td>36 &quot;</td>
<td>$150,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,136 acres</strong></td>
<td><strong>$600,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The total for project is 1,649 acres, $760,000.

The acquisition of cold water and irrigation rights would be desirable for development purposes.

I understand that one or two of the above tracts are not yet patented.

The Rainbow Garden dance hall is on the Herz property.

The price of the Reno Hot Springs property is not definitely known. It is owned by Mr. John Canson, of Manila. It is said that $50,000 has been invested in improvements at the Reno Hot Springs, and that figure does not seem excessive. He has priced the property at various times from $150,000 up, and recently priced it at $400,000, but would probably take less, since Mr. Canson lives in Manila, where he operates the Santa Anna cabaret, "the world's largest dance hall."

The Reno Hot Springs has ten guest cabins, each with a steam bath and a warm pool bath, which may be rented for $1.50 for two hours, or for $6.00 per day, or $125 to $150 per month, each. The other improvements include the large pool, dressing houses and a gaming casino, which is operated during the season. The attendance reaches more than 200 visitors on a good day in summer.
Estimated Revenue. The revenue that results to the people of the state as a result of the liberal divorce laws is variously estimated at two or three million dollars per year. The laws permitting gambling are also believed to bring considerable outside money into the state. It is computed that if the Reno Spa can be established and secure a volume of travel approaching that of Hot Springs Arkansas, say about 150,000 persons per year, and if the visitors spend an average of $30 each for baths and general expenses, a total of four or five million dollars per year would result. It is hoped to build up a resort comparable with Saratoga, New York, Hot Springs, Arkansas, or some of the foreign spas.

It is reported that 100,000 people go to Europe every year in order to take bath treatments at health resorts, and that 450,000 people a year visit similar resorts in this country. It is believed that a part of this travel and the resulting revenue could be attracted to Reno.

General. The Veterans Bureau is considering the construction of a veterans' hospital at Reno, but the location that is favored is in the city, rather than at the hot springs.
UNITED STATES SENATE

Committee on Foreign Relations

Boise, Idaho. July 11, 1931

Mrs. L. Inman Samuels,
#60 Boyd Place,
Reno, Nevada.

Dear Mrs. Samuels:

I am in receipt of your letter of recent date.

My idea is that your procedure would be to present this matter in the nature of a petition, giving a definite description of the proposition to the Secretary of the Interior through your Senators, Pittman or Oddie, or both. You would have no trouble in getting a hearing if the matter were thus presented.

I am very much interested in the mineral springs as you describe them. Undoubtedly, they ought to be taken up and developed.

With very best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

Wm. E. BORAH
PETITION

TO THE HONORABLE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

We, the undersigned citizens of the State of Nevada, do hereby respectively petition your Honorable Sir that your Department consider the advisability of purchasing those mineralized Hot Springs at Reno, Nevada, particularly known as the Reno Hot Springs; that the same be placed under reservation requirements and developed into a Government Spa where its mineralized waters might be made use of by the citizens of our country because of the unequaled curative powers and consequential benefits.

Respectfully submitted,
UNITED STATES SENATE
Committee on Appropriations

Reno, Nevada,
October 2, 1931

Hon. Horace N. Albright
Director of National Parks,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Albright:

Mrs. L. Inman Samuels, Room A, 140 N. Virginia St., Reno, Nevada, has circulated a petition very extensively among our leading officials and citizens, requesting the Secretary of the Interior to consider the advisability of purchasing certain mineralized hot springs near Reno, Nevada, and that the same be placed under reservation requirements and developed into a Government Spa where its mineralized waters might be used by the citizens of our country because of their unequalled curative powers and consequent physical benefits.

I know that the statements made to the Secretary are true and that these springs are remarkably valuable for such a purpose. I know nothing of the cost to the Government of the lands under contemplation, but would suggest that you send a representative here to investigate the matter. I advise his getting in touch with Mrs. Samuels before he arrives, in order that she may explain the work she is doing in this connection to him.

With my best wishes, I remain

Very sincerely yours

/s/ Tasker L. Oddie
ACT OF MARCH 3, 1925; U.S. STATUTES, VOL. 43, p.1133

Chapter 458. An Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to lease certain lands.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Interior, upon such terms and under such regulations as he may deem proper, may permit responsible persons or associations to use and occupy, for the erection of bath houses, hotels, or other improvements for the accommodation of the public, suitable spaces or tracts of land near or adjacent to mineral, medicinal, or other springs which are located upon unreserved public lands or public lands which have been withdrawn for the protection of such springs: Provided, that permits or leases here-under shall be for periods not exceeding twenty years.

Approved, March 3, 1925.

Circular No. 1231

REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO THE WITHDRAWAL OF LANDS CONTAINING HOT SPRINGS OR SPRINGS THE WATERS OF WHICH POSSESS CURATIVE PROPERTIES.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
General Land Office
Washington

August 16, 1930.

Registers.

U. S. Land Offices.

Chiefs of Field Divisions.

Gentlemen:

By Executive order of July 7, 1930, No. 5389, the following order of withdrawal was issued:

"Under authority of the act of Congress approved June 25, 1910 (36 Stat. 847), as amended by the act of August 24, 1912, (37 Stat. 497), it is hereby ordered that every smallest legal subdivision of the public land surveys which is vacant unappropriated unreserved public land and contains a hot spring, or a spring the waters of which possess curative properties; and
all land within one-quarter of a mile of every such spring located on unsurveyed public land, exclusive of Alaska, be, and the same is hereby, withdrawn from settlement, location, sale, or entry, and reserved for lease under the provisions of the act of March 3, 1925 (43 Stat. 1133), subject to valid existing rights.

This order shall remain in full force and effect unless and until revoked by the President or by act of Congress."

The above order was designed to preserve for general public use and benefit the unreserved public lands, exclusive of Alaska, containing hot springs or springs the waters of which possess curative properties, in order that they might be leased under the provisions of the act of March 3, 1925 (43 Stat. 1133), and the regulations issued thereunder, Circular No. 1934, approved October 6, 1925 (51 L. D. 221)."
UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA

Public Service Department

Reno, Nevada

RENO HOT SPRINGS WATER

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Parts Per Million</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Solids</td>
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<tr>
<td>Silica</td>
<td>323</td>
<td>18.73</td>
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<td>Iron &amp; Aluminum</td>
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<td>Trace</td>
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<tr>
<td>Calcium</td>
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<tr>
<td>Magnesium</td>
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<td>Sodium &amp; Potassium</td>
<td>864</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carbonic Acid Radical</td>
<td>Trace</td>
<td>Trace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bicarbonate Acid Radical</td>
<td>363</td>
<td>22.21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sulphuric Acid Radical</td>
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<td>.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chlorine</td>
<td>1084</td>
<td>82.38</td>
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Hypothetical Form of Combination:

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<th></th>
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<tr>
<td>Hardness</td>
<td>83.7</td>
<td>.54</td>
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In addition to the above, the U. S. Geological Survey is authority for stating that the waters of this district carry small amounts of antimonious anhydride (51 parts per million), and traces of rubidium and caesium oxides. The water shows radio active emanations, especially gases from the springs.

S. C. Dinsmore
State Food and Drug Commissioner
### UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA

Public Service Department  
Reno, Nevada

#### STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
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<tr>
<td>Silica</td>
<td>332</td>
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<tr>
<td>Iron &amp; Aluminum</td>
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<td>Trace</td>
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<tr>
<td>Calcium</td>
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<tr>
<td>Magnesium</td>
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<td>Carbonic Acid Radical</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nitric Acid Radical</td>
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#### Hypothetical Form of Combination:

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<td>Mercuric Sulphide</td>
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<tr>
<td>Caesium &amp; Rubinium Oxide</td>
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<td>Trace</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Alkalinity</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hardness</td>
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Well 2000 feet N. W. of Dance Hall - Otto Herz

**Total Solids**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Parts Per Million</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Silica</td>
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<tr>
<td>Iron &amp; Aluminum</td>
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<tr>
<td>Calcium</td>
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<tr>
<td>Magnesium</td>
<td>Trace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sodium &amp; Potassium</td>
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<tr>
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<td>158</td>
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<td>129.5</td>
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**Hypothetical Form of Combination:**

<table>
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<th>Component</th>
<th>Per Million</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sodium Chloride</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Sodium Bicarbonate</td>
<td>109.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calcium Bicarbonate</td>
<td>120.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Large amounts of suspended and colloidal silica, sample filtered through Berkfeld filter. Determinations made on water-white filtrate.
Chicken Soup Springs -- Steamboat Springs, also Radium Springs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Parts Per Million</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Solids</td>
<td>2240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silica</td>
<td>236</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iron &amp; Aluminum</td>
<td>Trace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calcium</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magnesium</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sodium &amp; Potassium</td>
<td>722</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carbonic Acid Radical</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bicarbonic Acid Radical</td>
<td>432</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sulphuric Acid Radical</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chlorine</td>
<td>860</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alkalinity</td>
<td>354.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hardness</td>
<td>123.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hypothetical Form of Combination:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Parts Per Million</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sodium Chloride</td>
<td>1425.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calcium Sulphate</td>
<td>112.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magnesium Sulphate</td>
<td>51.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sodium Bicarbonate</td>
<td>571.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hydrogen Sulphide Gas Present
UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA

Public Service Department

Reno, Nevada

Well South of Reno Hot Springs, -- Carl Senges

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Solids</th>
<th>Parts Per Million</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Silica</td>
<td>252</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iron &amp; Aluminum</td>
<td>Trace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calcium</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magnesium</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sodium &amp; Potassium</td>
<td>832</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carbonic Acid Radical</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bicarbonic Acid Radical</td>
<td>373</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sulphuric Acid Radical</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chlorine</td>
<td>1044</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alkalinity</td>
<td>305.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hardness</td>
<td>102.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hypothetical Form of Combination:

| Sodium Chloride                   | 1720.0            |
| Calcium Sulphate                  | 95.0              |
| Sodium Sulphate                   | 85.0              |
| Sodium Bicarbonate                | 433.1             |
| Magnesium Bicarbonate             | 46.1              |

Insoluble matter present in water composed mainly of silica and sulphides of mercury, lead, antimony, etc.
UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA

Public Service Department

Reno, Nevada

Geyser, Steamboat Springs Basin
Otto Herz

Total Solids

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Parts Per Million</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Solids</td>
<td>2787</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silica</td>
<td>323</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iron &amp; Aluminum</td>
<td>Trace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calcium</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magnesium</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sodium &amp; Potassium</td>
<td>864</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carbonic Acid Radical</td>
<td>Trace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bicarbonic Acid Radical</td>
<td>383</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sulphuric Acid Radical</td>
<td>121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chlorine</td>
<td>1084</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alkalinity</td>
<td>314.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hardness</td>
<td>93.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hypothetical Form of Combination:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Parts Per Million</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sodium Chloride</td>
<td>1082.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calcium Sulphate</td>
<td>88.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sodium Sulphate</td>
<td>105.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sodium Bicarbonate</td>
<td>364.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magnesium Bicarbonate</td>
<td>42.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
This one has already been removed from the list in previous disapproval.

INSPECTOR'S REPORT
ON
PROPOSED
SPA NATIONAL PARK
NEVADA
Index to Inspector Mott's Report on Proposed Spa National Park
Nevada

Part I  General Report, Form #100532  . . . . . . . Page 1
Part II  Photographs and Location Map  . . . . . . . Page 5
Part III  Summary and Recommendations  . . . . . . Page 9
PART I

General Report
Form #100532
UN I TED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
BRANCH OF PLANNING
EXTENSION DIVISION

PROPOSED NATIONAL PARKS & MONUMENTS
(From of report from Regional Officers)
To be typed throughout.

Letter of transmittal: To be attached (summary and recommendation)
Name of Project: Spa National Park
Location - (state, county, distance and direction from known city)
Nevada, Washo County, 10 miles south of Reno, Nevada.

Area - Total approx. 560 Acres 9 Square Miles.

Boundaries - (description, reference to maps to be attached)
Proposed: The land proposed as Spa National Park includes a strip
of land approximately ½ mile wide on each side of the Reno--
Carson City Highway extending from the settlement of Steamboat
north along the highway approximately 1200 feet and south 300 feet.
Recommended:

Accessibility:
Railway: Virginia City-Truckee R.R. connects with Southern Pacific R.R.
Highway: 10 miles to Reno over concrete paved at Reno.
Airline: Reno.
Waterway: No.
Buses: Two lines of stage over Lincoln Highway to Reno.

Major characteristics - (Indicate those which are outstanding and
attach additional information if necessary)

1. Scenic features - (topography, elevation, plant cover,
water, etc):
None.

2. Historical or prehistoric features:
Visited by Mark Twain in his frequent travels throughout California
and Nevada.

3. Geological features:
Fissure from which steam and hot water emanates. Intermittant gey-
sers that spout forth hot water and steam at infrequent intervals.
4. Recreational possibilities (if compatible with project)

National:
Trivial.

Local:
Slight.

Estimated population within a radius of 50 miles:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Distance</th>
<th>Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>25,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200</td>
<td>35,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. Biological features:

Vegetative: Insignificant.

Wildlife: Limited.

Need for conservation: Not important.

Relative importance in comparison with areas of similar nature elsewhere: Paltry.

Possible development -

Recreational facilities (if compatible with project):
Swimming in warm medicated mineral water from hot springs.

Utilities -

Water supply: Limited.

Parking space, capacity: 1000 cars

Campground sites, capacity: 1000 people.

Light and power facilities: Unlimited.
Sewerage disposal facilities:  

Stone tanks.

Capacity for handling of visitors:  

None.

Practicability of administration and protection:

Other land uses - 

Mining resources:  

Quick silver.  

Quartz sand for glass.

Agricultural resources:  

Insignificant.

Grazing:  

Limited.

Cultivated crops:  

Vegetables and alfalfa.

Timber:  

None.

Hunting & Fishing uses:  

None.

Power Resources:  

None.

Irrigation Resources:
Ownership:

Railways: ____________________________
State: ____________________________
Municipalities: ____________________________
Private: ____________________________

Total alienated lands: 480

Mining claims: ____________________________
Grazing permits and withdrawals: ____________________________
Power permits: ____________________________

Total permit acreage: ____________________________

National forest lands: ____________________________
Public domain: 100
Reclamation projects: ____________________________
Indian lands: ____________________________

Total public lands: 100
Total acreage: 580

Land values: Because of a speculative value that is attached to the land, the local value is unquestionably high at 10-15 dollars per acre. It is felt that 3.00 to 5.00 dollars per acre would be reasonable.

History of project: On Nov. 3, 1931, Mr. Toll inspected this area and submitted a report dated 12/11/31 in which he stated that he did not think it desirable to add another park of the same type as Hot Springs National Park to the system. Being privately owned, the Government has no funds to purchase the springs.

Disapproved by the Director on Feb. 1, 1933.

Local attitude: Disinterested.

Persons interested:

Dr. Edna Jackson
J. Cicchese

Itinerary (Sheet to be attached)

Bibliography:

List of photographs, maps and printed information submitted:
(Sheet to be attached)

Note: All maps which are specially prepared by the Regional Offices should conform to one of the following standard sizes:

Letter size - 18" x 24" - 24" x 36"
PART II

Photographs and Location Map
View of private commercialized development in conjunction with one of the hot springs located on the proposed site of Spa National Park.

Another view of the same development showing small cabin, individually equipped with swimming pools filled with warm mineral water from the hot spring.
Large fissures in the earth from which steam and hot water occasionally gush forth.

One of the many now extinct geyser cones.
Looking west from the hot springs, the snow covered Sierra Nevada Mountains loom up in the distance.

Looking east over the fissured ground from which steam occasionally escapes. After the San Francisco earthquake the hot springs and geysers became practically extinct.
PART III

Summary and Recommendations
SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The geyser-hot spring area south of Reno, Nevada, that has been proposed as a site for a park to be known as the Spa National Park does not possess any outstanding or unique feature sufficiently important to justify the selection of this area as a national park or recreational area. It is recommended, for the following reasons, that further consideration of this area as a national park or recreational area be dismissed.

I

The area does not possess any unusual or unique features that warrant its consideration as a National Park.

II

The proposed site of Spa National Park does not possess any outstanding historical, archeological, scientific or scenic qualities.

III

Since the San Francisco earthquake of 1906 the degree of activity of the geyser and hot springs in this area has diminished to the point of extinction. Furthermore, private interests endeavoring to commercialize on the supposedly medicinal value of the hot mineral water from the springs and geyser have drilled numerous wells, releasing the internal pressure to such an extent that even the mile long fissure which gushed forth great quantities of hot water and steam is no longer active except for an occasional wisp of steam. Thus, nature and commercial vandalism have destroyed the only feature that this area ever possessed.

IV

From existing evidence it is extremely doubtful whether this area even when the geyser and hot springs were active, was of more than local significance.

Respectfully submitted

William P. Mott, Jr.
Inspector, Region VIII
State Park ECW, California and Nevada
Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt  
Lake Tahoe  
Nevada  

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

My purpose in writing to you is to suggest that while you are in Nevada you make a personal investigation of Reno Hot Springs and learn for yourself what a wonderful place it is for all who are afflicted with infantile paralysis, pernicious anemia and other physical ailments for which water treatments are efficacious.

These springs are the only natural waters in the world, with the exception of one in Africa, with mercury in solution. They are located nine miles north of Reno on the Carson Highway. They are now being operated by foreign-born relatives of the principal owner of the property who probably would not recognize you if you came to make an investigation.

May I suggest that you drive through these springs and take the dirt road to the right, then turn to the left for a quarter of a mile to the Radium Springs which have the most interesting formations, including the famous "chicken soup" waters, and the clay beds for packing.

There are some seventy-five surface springs in all and a veritable "ocean of hot water" underneath, with unlimited healing possibilities. In my opinion, some thousand to fifteen hundred acres surrounding these unexcelled mineral springs ought to be set aside as a National Park under Federal supervision.

Two years ago, I circulated a petition asking that this be done. This petition was signed by hundreds of business and professional people in Reno and surrounding towns.

I hope eventually to assist in establishing this National Park as the "Roosevelt Western Foundation" to do for the Far West what is being done for the East by the Warm Springs project.

Reno is really at the door of California to which the invalids of America come in countless thousands, and Los Angeles alone has had over two thousand cases of infantile paralysis since the first of last May to whom such a project could have been of inestimable benefit.
Los Angeles

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt Sept. 15/35
Hyde Park, New York.

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt,

I wrote you regarding the curative virtues of Peñuelas Spring when you came here last year, but think my letter reached too late for you to look thereover as you drove from Minden to Peñuelas nine miles south of Peñuelas and Linchburg Highway.

Recently wrote to President Roosevelt asking him to revisit all the springs, as a "Wildwood Memorial." Dawn enclosing a statement of facts errors.
As officer, Wheelock Mr. Wilkins will take to the conference of the national committee which, with soon, also enclosed as a copy of the analysis of the waters of the different springs, or a part of them. I know from the generous response the Rooted Foundation receiving, that funds for this kind a memorial would run into millions, and that its profits for the CPA would provide funds for many a free bed in the hospitals for infantile paralysis.

Los Angeles and Seattle have the greatest number of infantile cases of any place in the world, and is only a short distance to rear these wonderful waters. There is the hope and possibility that with work they will discover which
Here for combinations of medicinal waters, the one who had done any work with these waters from a research standpoint, he in Europe, but he, in a technical and practical sense, has been in his Friday. These waters are 2/2 February. I know for miles and circulate for the petition which one signed, I have continued to work and pray for their development.

My object in writing you this is that hope you might view this as a memorial, and Mrs. John A. Hull a member of the national committee. Thank you.

Yours for the good of humanity (Mrs.) A. Insmael Samuel, Irvine Dee 1365
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON

October 17, 1935

Mrs. L. Inman Samuels,
1723 West 9th Street,
Los Angeles, California:

Dear Mrs. Samuels:

Your letter of September 15 to Mrs. Roosevelt, regarding the building of a spa as a memorial to Will Rogers at the Reno Hot Springs, has been referred to the National Park Service.

The National Committee which was recently reorganized to consider the analysis of the natural waters at the Reno Hot Springs, has been established to preserve areas which are universally recognized as outstanding examples of major types of American landscape, or as sites of great historic or scientific value to the American people.

National parks are established through the action of Congress, while national monuments may be set aside by Presidential Proclamation. In any case, areas chosen for administration by this Service should be free from private ownership as the Government has no funds for the purchase of lands for national park purposes.

The Reno Hot Springs were under consideration for establishment as a national park in 1931 when they were investigated by a representative of this Service. It was apparent that these springs had considerable value; but, as there was already a hot springs park under this Service, it was not in conformity with national park standards to administer another park of the same type. It was also found that the springs were all privately owned, which conflicted with the requirement that areas administered by this Service should be free from private ownership.

It is sincerely hoped that the springs may be developed for medicinal use through some other channels. A copy of your letter is being referred to the United States Public Health Service with a copy of this reply.

Your subject in writing you is in the hope you might discuss this with Mrs. John A. Hall, a member of the National Committee.

Thank you.

Yours for the good of humanity,

(SGD.) A. E. DEMARAY
Acting Director.

cc Mr. Cammerer
U.S. Public Health Service
(as enclosure)
Mr. Walton
Mr. Allen

hse: rhw:ej
aed:mfs