

June 12, 1922.

NATURE GUIDE SERVICE
at
Giant Forest.

Mr. Stephen T. Mather, Director of the National Park Service, has ordered the organization of a free Nature Guide Service in Sequoia National Park. This service will be started in a small way this season as a basis for studying the movement and organization for full operation next year, when an effort will be made to obtain the cooperation of the California Fish and Game Commission and other scientists and naturalists of California and the United States.

The Nature guide movement was first started in Europe and was introduced by the World Recreation Survey. The experiment commenced with lectures at Lake Tahoe resort in California during the summer season of 1919.

It was while passing through Lake Tahoe during the process of these lectures that Director Mather conceived the idea of expanding the work into the National Parks, with the result that through his efforts over 27,000 park visitors in 1920, and some 50,000 in 1921 were given free nature guide service in Yosemite National Park.

The object of the Park Service is to conduct an educational campaign on the flora and fauna of the parks; thus making these fabulously rich treasures of nature a school of education through which our citizens may come to a better understanding of wild life and what it means to Americans and to American ideals.

Mr. Walter Fry, U.S. Commissioner for Sequoia and General Grant, will be in direct charge of the Nature Guide Service at Giant Forest and all who are interested in cooperating in the splendid work of familiarizing park visitors with the rich faunas and flora of the parks should address Judge Fry at Giant Forest.

As a beginning this season, it is hoped to have campfire talks and lectures with walks through the forests conducted by Judge Fry or others who are interested and competent to point out the natural objects of the mightiest forest in the world.

Giant Forest is now taking on its summer appearance as a busy camp. Over 40 guests were registered at the Giant Forest Lodge this week-end and despite the cold weather of early June public campsites are filling up. The weather has now turned warm and fine, the dogwood is in bloom, the first spring flowers, the yellow violets, are appearing in the meadows and nature is cooperating with the Park Service and concessioners in preparing for a record season.

A herd of 15 or 20 deer are wandering around the Giant Forest camps and are seen every evening and morning on Round Meadow within a few yards of the hotel and administration buildings. Campers who love the wild animals put salt on rocks near their camps when the deer become regular visitors.

The roads to General Sherman Tree and Moro Rock are open. From Moro Rock the construction on the new Middle Fork Road is plainly seen and visitors may get an idea of the marvellously scenic route to Giant Forest which should be open during the summer of 1923.

By an arrangement with the Kings River Parks Company, all stock will be kept off Circle and Crescent Meadows, so that the hiking trails around these glorious forest oases will be more than unusually attractive to visitors; the trails are now being cleared and re-signed by rangers.

Fishermen report good catches of rainbow and eastern brook trout in Suwanee Creek, Wolverton Creek and the Marble Fork, all within easy hiking distance of Giant Forest. The trail to Twin Lakes should be open by the end of June when the Loch Leven trout will be ready for the spoon bait.

The Giant Forest branch of the Tulare County Library will open on June 15, with a complete line of books on nature subjects as well as popular fiction and general reference works. Miss Fowler, the County Librarian, is making a special effort to see that summer visitors have all the library facilities afforded in the valley. Mrs. Guy Hopping is the librarian at Giant Forest.

Floyd Carter is preparing Log Meadow for his dairy herd and promises an increased supply of fresh milk at Giant Forest this season.

Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Sorter expect to conduct a day nursery at Giant Forest where, for reasonable rates, mothers may leave babies and small children while they themselves go a-hiking or a-fishing.