

Sons of Norway

Fraternal Benefit Society with Life Insurance

District Lodge No. 6
CALIFORNIA

MRS. JANE N. NORE, SECRETARY
6725 COLBATH AVENUE
VAN NUYS, CALIFORNIA

February 28, 1957

Senator William F. Knowland
Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Knowland:

As Secretary of Sons of Norway, District 6, which at present represents the state of California - some 4500 members, I sincerely request your attention to the enclosed resolution which was first of all presented to the delegates of District 6 assembled in Eureka, California, in the spring of 1956 and after adoption there was presented to the delegates of the Supreme Convention assembled in Duluth, Minnesota in August, 1956. These latter delegates represented the entire United States, Canada, and Alaska.

It is believed that John A. (Snowshoe) Thompson is a man who needs honoring and particularly in the western area of these United States because of his impressive service to the early pioneers in carrying the United States mail across the mountains in all kinds of weather with practically little or no remuneration. In the winter season by the use of skis he pointed the way to the pleasurable winter sport which is enjoyed by so many in this country. The skis he hand carved from green live oak planks may be seen today at Sutter's Fort, Sacramento.

For four years Thompson carried the mail to miners working in Gold and Six Mile Canyons and other little mining settlements - Johnstown, Silver City, and Ophir diggings - forerunners to the mining metropolis of Gold Hill and Virginia City. The mailbags he carried often weighed 60 to 80 pounds, but not all of it was mail. He made many purchases of small notions for women on his route, often carried medicine, and when the first press was set up in Genoa in the fall of 1858 on which to print the first issue of the "Territorial Enterprise", he packed part of the machinery over the mountains on his back. Printing paper for this firm was often included in his cargo.

For many years - 1856 to 1876 - Thompson kept the line of communication open without a contract, delivering mail which otherwise would not have reached California in winter, across the Sierra Nevada mountains from Placerville, California to Carson Valley, Nevada, covering the 90 miles on skis. He was told that Congress would make an

OLE KEMMEN, JUNIOR DIRECTOR
1715 HART ST., NORTH HOLLYWOOD, CALIF.
JOHN KJOL, ASSISTANT JUNIOR DIRECTOR
1001 E. 10TH ST., STOCKTON, CALIF.
MRS. CAMILLE RONNEBERG, PUBLICITY DIRECTOR
4326 PACHECO ST., SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.
DON G. ANSOK, SPORTS DIRECTOR
20344 ZORRA AVE., CUPERTINO, CALIF.
CHRIS SANNUM, SPORTS DIRECTOR
2841 S. REDONDO BLVD., LOS ANGELES
ARNT HAUGERUD, DISTRICT ORGANIZER
4236 MASTERSON ST., OAKLAND, CALIF.
JACOB JACOBSEN, DISTRICT ORGANIZER
2534 11TH AVE., OAKLAND, CALIF.
MARCUS KARLSTAD, DISTRICT ORGANIZER
1201 NORFOLK, WEST SACRAMENTO, CALIF.
ARTHUR O. MOCKRUD, DISTRICT ORGANIZER
2813 W. 182ND ST., TORRANCE, CALIF.

Senator William F. Knowland

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appropriation to pay him. For services extending over twenty years he asked the modest sum of \$6,000. A petition which he drew up was signed by Nevada state officials and hundreds of citizens. In 1874, he went to Washington, D.C., to present his claim to Congress in person, miners and settlers contributing funds to defray the cost of the trip. His train stalled in the deep snow in the Wyoming mountains and four locomotives were unable to break their way through the drifts. Impatient over the delay, Thompson struck out on foot. Three days later he arrived in Cheyenne, 100 miles away, just in time to catch another train for the east. His trip proved fruitless and the congressional appropriation did not materialize.

The Sons of Norway as a whole and particularly the District 6 organization for which I am writing earnestly desire your attention to this subject and, if possible, hope that some action can be taken toward achieving a suitable memorial in the state of California for John A. Thompson - a park for the many outdoor enthusiasts of this area would seem indeed suitable.

May we hear from you on this matter?

Sincerely yours,

District Lodge No. 6,
Sons of Norway

Jane N. Nore

(Mrs.) Jane N. Nore, Secretary

Snowshoe Thompson Resolution

Adopted at Supreme Convention Sons of Norway, Duluth, Minnesota - August, 1956

"WHEREAS, we believe all Americans should seek to perpetuate the memory of those who have, by self-sacrifice, deed and example, helped to make this country great, and

WHEREAS, We as members of Sons of Norway take pride in the accomplishments of those of our ancestors who have contributed toward that greatness, and

WHEREAS, John A. (Snowshoe) Thompson, mail-carrier, a human link between the East and West before the coming of the railroads and adequate roads across the Sierras, and

WHEREAS, John A. (Snowshoe) Thompson, Soldier, was the first person to enlist in the Piute Indian Wars of 1860, and

WHEREAS, John A. (Snowshoe) Thompson, skier, the first white man to create a pair of skis used in the State of California and who, by their use, was the forerunner of winter sports in the West, and

WHEREAS, John A. (Snowshoe) Thompson, humanitarian, argonaut of the plains and hills, who by his undaunted courage, self-sacrifice, and courageous devotion has forever earned an honored place in the pages of history,

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the District 6 Convention instruct its officers and all local lodge secretaries of the District to communicate with their Federal Representatives urging that machinery be set in motion for a suitable recognition of the heroic feats and devotion of Snowshoe Thompson, such as a National Park bearing his name in the locale in which he made history."

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MAR 18 1957

Sadsby
K. O. L.
R. J. L.
MAR 15 1957

Hon. William F. Knowland
United States Senate
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Senator Knowland:

We have your inquiry of March 6 regarding the letter of February 28, that you received from Mrs. Jane H. Nore, Secretary, District Lodge No. 6, Sons of Norway. Mrs. Nore's letter and the copy of the resolution adopted at the Supreme Convention of the Sons of Norway in August 1956, which she enclosed, concern a proposal to memorialize John A. (Snowshoe) Thompson by establishment of "a national park bearing his name in the locale in which he made history."

There is no doubt that the feats accomplished by "Snowshoe" Thompson and his devotion to service to his fellow man deserve to be long remembered. One of the fundamental criteria for establishment of national parks and monuments, however, is the element of national significance. In this case, it appears that Thompson's exploits, however interesting, affected only a small portion of this Country and its citizens. Proposals of this kind are usually more suitably considered by the States, Counties or communities, but this Service is always ready to assist with technical advice to the limit of available funds and personnel.

Mrs. Nore's letter is returned herewith as you requested.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd) E. T. Scoyen

Acting Director

Enclosure

Copy to: Regional Director, Region Four (2) w/c inc.
NPS Planning, w/c inc.

JHGadsby:jag
13 March 1957

Hlabrand Lodge No. 24

WINGS
Wednesday
1041 Gaffey Street
San Pedro, California



Sons of Norway

San Pedro, California

DANCE
1st Saturday of each month at
Women's Club, 1041 Gaffey Street
San Pedro, California

San Pedro, Calif.
March 19, 1957

Dear Representative

As Secretary of the Lodge I have
been asked to write you about a
suitable recognition of the heroic feats
and devotion of "Svaenhoel Thompson"
such as a National Park bearing his
name in the locale in which he made
history

Sec. of Lodge Hlabrand
Oleg Synsthem