

U. S. National Parks—Continued

General Science

learning where short hikes will carry him into the most advantageous regions available. If one goes out by rail and undertakes to go through an entire park on foot—a most worthy way to travel, if you really want to see things—two things must be borne in mind: First, don't carry too much equipment, and what you do carry, organize into a back-pack, leaving your shoulders and arms free. Second, have sufficient money in your pocket to assure you of supplies, and of a bed indoors in case of a heavy rain or snowstorm. The National Park Service regards empty-pocketed wanderers, who may think it a lark to depend on others for food and a bed, as hoboes—and they are right. Automobile tourists also should hold bedding and tentage down to a minimum. About a third of the things one considers necessary at first can be dispensed with. One article, however, may very advantageously be added, even though it is not indispensable. That is a portable gasoline stove. In many of the more frequented camps in the parks firewood is provided, but sometimes the supply runs short. And when it rains, a wood fire is decidedly the opposite of the cheerful creature we usually conjure up in its name. Moreover, use of such a stove will reduce the forest fire risk, for which the rangers will call you blessed.

A Few Don'ts

Don't take any chances with fire! Rangers, whether National Park, Forest Service, or State, are convinced believers in Hell. Many of them have seen it. Don't just throw your cigarette butt down and grind your heel on it; unroll it and rub out every spark with your fingers. Don't throw away a burned match until it is dead cold; the rangers' rule is to break every match in *three* pieces. Best swear off smoking altogether while you are in the woods if you can stand it. Don't build a fire on "duff," or where there are any roots around; bare sand or earth or bald rock are the only suitable places for fires. Don't leave your camp until at least a half hour after you are sure the fire is completely out. Drench it with buckets of water, or if water is not available, bury it under plenty of dirt.

Don't carry any firearms. They'll only be sealed at the park entrance, and you lose the gun and a stiffish fine besides if you tamper with the seal.

Don't bring your dog. Loose dogs would chase the native animals; and if one of the animals happened to be a bear you might be minus a dog. Park rules, therefore, require all dogs to be kept on a leash during every minute of their stay, and for a decent dog that's a dog's life. So leave him at home.

Don't fraternize with bears. Most of the bears are quite amiable and harmless—if you toss your candy or other tidbit to a safe distance. Bears, as a rule, mean no mischief, but they are exceedingly stupid and gigantically strong, and a mere gesture of impatience on their part can easily cripple or kill a man.

Don't call a National Park Ranger a Forest Ranger, or *vice versa*. They are two quite distinct services, and each man is proud of his own "outfit," like the U. S. Army and the U. S. Marines.

Reading Up on the Parks

A literature of considerable size has grown up around our national park system, and it will be profitable for the prospective visitor to acquaint himself with such parts of it as have to do with the particular parks he intends to visit. The U. S. National Park Service issues a booklet about each of the parks. These are formally styled *Rules and Regulations*, but in reality are brief guides and general information books as well as compendiums of the rules governing the parks. They are distributed free of charge. To obtain the desired copies, one writes to The National Park Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C., naming the parks one intends to visit and requesting copies of *Rules and Regulations* for those particular parks. Each of these Rules and Regulations booklets contains, in its back pages, a complete bibliography of the literature on its own particular park as well as on the national parks in general, listing both government and privately printed books and articles.

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A "Little Yellowstone"

Volcanology

The geysers of an almost unknown "Little Yellowstone" are wasting their spouting on the desert air of Nevada, according to Mrs. Beirne B. Brues of Boston. In company with her husband, Prof. C. T. Brues of Harvard University, Mrs. Brues last summer motored over much of the desert and semi-arid country in Utah, Nevada and California, and in the course of their travels they came upon this little patch of erupting hot springs, which she states resemble the geysers of Yellowstone National Park in their action and in the geological formation of their craters.

The geyser area lies a little distance off the Victory Highway (U. S. 40) between Salt Lake City and Reno. Leaving the highway at Dunphy, Nevada, a small railroad section station 56 miles west of Elko, Nevada, one travels south for a few miles along the Humboldt river to the town of Beowawe, Nevada. The geysers are situated a few miles south of that town, on a shelf on a mountain side. The white patch made by their deposits is visible from Emigrant Pass, 35 miles west of Elko, and remains in sight practically all the rest of the way to Beowawe.

The geyser shelf on the mountain-side is part of a private ranch, but visitors are welcome. The formation totals about half a mile in length. In the course of half an hour several of them will erupt, some to a considerable height.

So far as is known, these are the only geysers in the United States outside of Yellowstone National Park, which contains more active geysers than all the rest of the world put together. Other famous geyser regions are found in Iceland, where these peculiar erupting hot springs received their name, and in New Zealand.

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A newspaper printed in the native language of Hawaii since 1861 is now about to be discontinued.

The return of salmon to their home waters can be predicted almost to a day for years in advance.

Chicago's new aquarium is to have salt water sent from the sea for its salt-water fishes to swim in.

Beaver liver is almost as good for eating purposes as the liver of chickens, a biologist states.