

Clark University

Clark Digital Commons

Wallace W. Atwood Papers

Scanned Documents

1931

B4-8-1 Albright, Horace M., 1931

Wallace W. Atwood

Follow this and additional works at: https://commons.clarku.edu/archives_scanned_documents_atwood

S I E R R A C L U B

402 HILLS BUILDING
SAN FRANCISCO.

January 7, 1931.

Horace M. Albright, Director,
National Park Service,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Horace:

Mrs. Huber and I, with two friends, again enjoyed the hospitality of the Rangers' Club House at Yosemite over New Year through the courtesy of Colonel Thomson. When we entered the Valley on December 28th we found no snow, although it could be seen in patches on the high places. This was a disappointment, but not a keen one since we had been forewarned.

However, I soon began to appreciate having just the conditions we encountered. It gave a chance to observe conditions now existing in the Valley. I did not enter with any thought of inspection, but merely to enjoy a rest in pleasant surroundings. I fear the park superintendents will begin regarding me as a semi-official visitor, but their problems are so interesting that I cannot help speaking out at times. In the case of Yosemite, my feelings have gone through various stages. In twenty-four years I have made many visits. The first one (1907)

was when few people were in the Valley, when the falls were at their height in a year of abundant run-off and, too, when all the impressions I received were those of youth and before I became much accustomed to wonderful scenery. The impression and a love of the Valley has remained with me. After these early impressions I have had to view the concessionaires running wild for a time and then the later invasion of the automobile hordes. I think the peak of my disappointment was reached on a visit during the September holidays following the opening of the All Year Highway. Since then I have kept to the wilder parts of the park except during off season periods.

With this preamble you can imagine my pleasure in finding existing conditions. Everything is being quietly placed in order. Automobiles are not tracking up all the meadows. Yet there are no "Verboten" signs, nor do the automobilists feel disciplined. They note a ditch beside the road, do not even question why it is there, but just don't try to drive over it to the precious meadows beyond. Tree stumps or down timber are nowhere in evidence. I could go on at much greater length. A feature of this accomplishment which I wish you would bear in mind is that not only the casual visitor, but those more accustomed to visiting such places are inclined to take it all for granted. They do not appreciate the great amount of quiet work which has been done without show of any kind. Just so much more credit is due to Colonel Thomson and

the force which is so loyally working under his direction. To accomplish these things without having the public feel the force directing the task is a real achievement. I presume it has required a considerable expenditure for day labor -- contract work on these myriads of odd tasks would be utterly impossible -- but I can assure you the expenditure is fully justified.

This splendid work has a tendency to accentuate further tasks remaining for attention. For instance, approaching the old village from the west along the south drive, the group of awful shacks opposite the church cannot help but jar on the sensibilities of even the ordinary visitor. The concessionaire also has some garage structures tacked in the rocks to the right of the road leading to Camp Curry just beyond the old village which are certainly not a credit to Yosemite National Park. Then, too, the elk and their high fenced paddock should go at once.

After three wonderful days on the valley floor, we climbed to Glacier Point. By the time we reached the hotel a snow storm had begun and during the afternoon we went to Sentinel Dome in a blizzard. We were on the point as the first fall went over at midnight to usher in the New Year, but did not tarry long thereafter in the snow storm. By morning we had the fun of breaking through snow drifts waist deep to get back down the new four mile trail. That, by the way, is a magnificent bit of trail work. Except for winter use, it is a perfect job. For winter use some portions of it along the cliffs a short distance below Glacier Point

Hotels are dangerous when drifted with snow after it is frozen. Here there should be a supplemental winter route worked out up over the point to the west. Not an expensive trail, but one which would afford a route for winter visitors when the other trail is blocked. Then visitors would not be tempted to try the other trail when it is really dangerous. This is a relatively short stretch -- most of the new four mile trail is all that one can ask even for winter use. Certainly all of it is, as I have noted, perfect for all use except a short season in the winter when it is blocked. This is so much used that the high standard is fully justified and billing too. Some of these Yosemite trails modified are also almost unappealable.

Very sincerely,

(SGT.) WALTER L. HUBER

cc - Col. Thomson
cc - F. L. Kittredge

WLN:IK

ADDRESS ONLY
THE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

January 12, 1931.

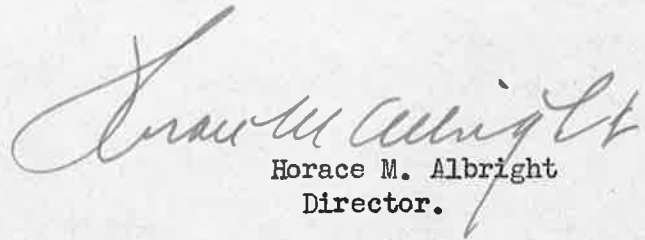
Dr. Wallace W. Atwood,
President, Clark University,
Worcester, Massachusetts.

Dear Doctor Atwood:

I am sure you will be interested in reading the attached copy of letter from Mr. Walter L. Huber, who has been visiting the Yosemite National Park for many years and who has just spent the recent holidays in the Valley.

Mr. Huber is a former President of the Sierra Club and is now on the Board of Directors of the Club.

Sincerely yours,


Horace M. Albright
Director.

Inc. 13372.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON

January 12, 1931.

Dr. Wallace W. Atwood,
President, Clark University,
Worcester, Massachusetts.

Dear Doctor Atwood:

I am sure you will be interested in reading the attached copy of letter from Mr. Walter L. Huber, who has been visiting the Yosemite National Park for many years and who has just spent the recent holidays in the Valley.

Mr. Huber is a former President of the Sierra Club and is now on the Board of Directors of the Club.

Sincerely yours,

Horace M. Albright
Director.

HMA-EG

Inc. 15372.

January 14, 1931

Mr. Horace M. Albright, Director
National Park Service
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Albright:

I thoroughly enjoyed reading Mr. Huber's letter. It reflects efficiency and vision in the administration of the Parks, which naturally must give you a great deal of satisfaction.

Mr. Huber naturally and rightly gives Colonel Thomson much credit, but he also recognizes that the improvements could not have been made had there not been a strong, far sighted policy in the general administration of the Parks backing all of these changes.

I know as a fellow administrator that much of our work goes unnoticed and unappreciated, at least for long periods, and I am delighted that you have had such a fine letter coming from one who can understand and appreciate changes which are taking place in the administration of the Parks.

My dear Albright I am sometimes quite disturbed with little echoes that reach me that seem to indicate that the National Parks Association is not working cordially and helpfully with the National Park Service. If little things happen which make you think that way, I wish you would just throw them aside and look upon them as little things. In that organization, which now has the active interest and support of a large number of the best friends of the National Parks in the country, there is no desire to handicap you or the other officers of the National Park Service. We are organized to help to support the National Park movement and to be of service in every way we can to maintain through one administration after another a consistent policy for the development and appreciation of these Parks.

Sometimes I think that as a young vigorous administrator you will naturally be annoyed by the caution and delay which is naturally and necessarily associated with the deliberations of a large organization of citizens scattered throughout this country. Remember, also that many of these interested people

Mr. Albright

- 2 -

January 14, 1931

are academic in their point of view. I can sympathize with an efficient administrator who wants to do things quickly, and who sees clearly through his own problem, but in all democratic countries we are coming to recognize that public sentiment, or public opinion, which is a slow thing to mould and direct, must be with us in any great national move. Look upon the National Parks Association as your very strongest support. I am trying to help that organization so that it will function more and more effectively each year. The processes of reorganization are well advanced, and I hope at our coming spring meeting we will come out with some worth while statements or resolutions.

Perhaps you have heard that I am looking forward to a visit in February to the Big Smokies and to the Everglades. I have told my son about how my schedule will be made out. I expect to motor south with several members of the family. I am leaving time to see something of the Big Smokies and of the Everglades. I certainly hope I shall have a chance for a good visit with you as I pass through Washington.

I have just received word from Mr. Colby that I have been elected to life membership in the Sierra Club in recognition of my services to the National Parks. That pleases me very much indeed.

With kindest personal regards and best wishes, and with the most sincere desire for your greatest success as Director of the National Parks, I am

Cordially yours

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

January 17, 1931.

Dr. Wallace W. Atwood,
President. Clark University,
Worcester, Massachusetts.

My dear Dr. Atwood:

I was just on the point of congratulating you on your election to life membership in the Sierra Club, which I noticed in one of the recent bulletins, when your letter of January 14 came to me.

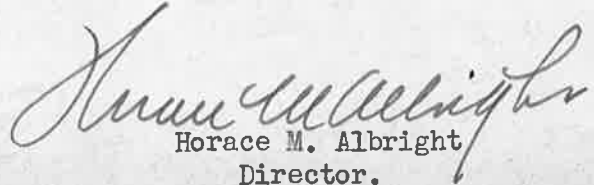
It certainly was a fine recognition of your national park work and your interest in the Sierra that was accorded you when you were unanimously voted life membership in that fine club of mountaineers. As I happen to have had the same honor conferred upon me some years ago, I realize what happiness it gave you.

You don't need to worry about my attitude toward the National Parks Association. I just felt that I ought to let myself get stirred up a little at Bob Yard's conduct here and I did write him a pretty strong letter. I was also provoked at his conversation with Secretary Wilbur in regard to the Everglades. It was a wholly unnecessary discussion to have and only emphasized more than ever the inconsistency of the National Parks Association's attitude on these Eastern park projects.

You will be interested to know that the Everglades bill was reported favorably from the House Committee this morning and will doubtless pass the House next Wednesday. I am attaching a copy of the hearings on the bill which I hope you will get a chance to read quite carefully. I have just sent a copy over to Mr. Yard and have called him on the phone to tell him that I hope he will take this report home and read it two or three times if necessary in order to see that this project has been handled on a very high plane, with the utmost regard for the principles and policies that should and do govern the establishment of new national parks.

With all good wishes and looking forward to seeing you again before long, I am

Faithfully yours,


Horace M. Albright
Director.

Inc. 17826.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON

JAN 22 1931

Dr. W. W. Atwood,
President, Clark University,
Worcester, Massachusetts.

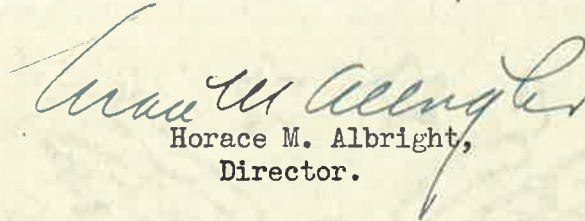
Dear Dr. Atwood:

It is important that the reorganization of the Advisory Board be consummated as soon as possible. I tried to get the Board together for a meeting in December but found it impossible to get more than two who could come on the day set.

A meeting of the Educational Committee has been called by Chairman Merriam for the morning of Saturday, February 21, 1931. It seems advisable to have this meeting followed by one of the Advisory Board. I am therefore calling a meeting of the Advisory Board for the afternoon of February 21, at 2.30 o'clock, in the offices of the National Park Service.

After the Advisory Board has been organized, Dr. Bryant will give a brief report on accomplishment, and discussion will follow on important problems now before the National Park Service.

Sincerely yours,


Horace M. Albright,
Director.

ADDRESS ONLY
THE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON

JAN 22 1931

Dr. W. W. Atwood,
President, Clark University,
Worcester, Massachusetts.

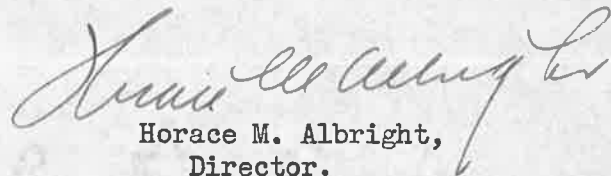
Dear Dr. Atwood:

Dr. John C. Merriam, Chairman of the Committee on Educational Problems in National Parks, has asked that a meeting of the Committee be called for February 21, 1931, at 10 A. M., in the offices of the National Park Service.

The official report of the Committee will be ready, and certain other important matters will be brought up for discussion. Of the questions left over for discussion, one concerns the Committee on Publications, and the other relates to the Committee on Endowments of which Dr. Vernon Kellogg is Chairman.

I hope that even though expense money is no longer available you will be able to attend this important meeting.

Sincerely yours,


Horace M. Albright,
Director.

January 24, 1931

Mr. H. M. Albright, Director
National Park Service
Washington, D. C.

My dear Albright:

I hope everything is moving along nicely now. I have written a good many letters and I am trying to have a wholesome influence in smoothing out some things that have worried both of us. But I am not going to write about them now.

I expect to be in Washington on the 5th of February. Perhaps you will have a minute so that we can sit down together. I think you know of the general plans which I have for going south and visiting the Big Smokies and the Everglades before returning north.

The letters regarding the meetings on February 21st have just come in. I think I can be present.

Cordially yours

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

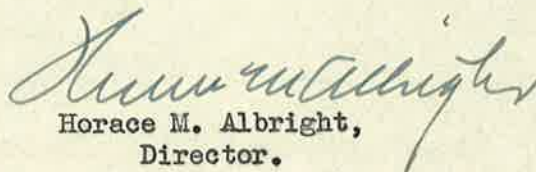
JAN 26 1931

Dr. Wallace W. Atwood,
President,
Clark University,
Worcester, Mass.

Dear Doctor Atwood:

Thanks for your letter of January 24th. I am looking forward to seeing you February 5th. I wish you would put down a note in your book that you will take lunch with me unless you are already dated up.

Sincerely yours,


Horace M. Albright,
Director.

January 29, 1931

Mr. Horace M. Albright, Director
National Park Service
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Albright:

I now wish that I had made no arrangements for luncheon on the 5th of February, but a few days ago, when I realized the acuteness of some of the problems which I have in the National Parks Association, I asked Mr. Yard to get together a small group of the officers of that organization to take lunch with me. So, I have extended the invitation, and I must certainly be there.

My plans could be worked out best if I could have a visit with you in the morning before I go to that conference. It may drag on pretty long in the afternoon, so I would prefer seeing you early in the day if that is convenient. I shall probably come over to the office.

Cordially yours

April 10, 1931

Mr. Horace M. Albright, Director
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Albright:

Most of the definite suggestions which I had to make after visiting the Parks last summer have been presented to you verbally, or in letters, but I have prepared a formal report in which I have incorporated suggestions which occurred to me relative to each of the ten Parks which I visited last year. I have added some suggestions which I think are important, and I hope you will have time to look over this material yourself. I trust that increased familiarity with the Parks, and with the areas proposed as additions to the Parks, may prove of value later in cooperating with you in the promotion of the National Park system. I am particularly anxious to help in the establishment of a High Sierra Park, or the incorporation of much of the High Sierras in the present Parks. That is one of the most wonderful regions in the United States, and I am convinced it should be set aside as a National Park. It is virtually no good for anything else, but it will be of very great value in our chain of National Parks.

The members of your organization in the several Parks which I visited were extremely courteous and helpful to me. I have never had a more enjoyable summer season. It was a pleasure to cooperate with them in little ways, which may have helped in their plans for the entertainment of visitors, but it was a still greater pleasure to become personally acquainted with so many of the Superintendents and their associates. I feel very much indebted to each of the Superintendents, but especially so to Col. White, who did so much to help me carry out the pack train trip through the High Sierras. Col. Thomson was also very courteous and helpful. It was of great value to have him with me during the latter part of the journey through the High Sierras.

The days with Major Tomlinson were intensely interesting, and I shall never forget my experiences with Sam Woodring. He is doing a very excellent piece of work in the Tetons.

Sincerely yours

enclosure

ADDRESS ONLY
DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON

APR 21 1931

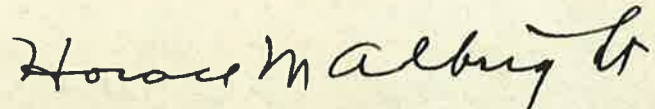
Dr. W. W. Atwood,
President, Clark University,
Worcester, Mass.

Dear Doctor Atwood:

I know you will be interested in the attached copy of a booklet just issued by the National Park Service for distribution at the International and Colonial Exposition soon to open at Paris.

As you will note from page 2 of the booklet, it was prepared by us in cooperation with various railroads and steamship lines serving the western national parks, these agencies bearing the cost of printing.

Sincerely yours,



Horace M. Albright,
Director.

Inc. 54620

Apr 11 23, 1931

Mr. Horace M. Albright, Director
National Park Service
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Albright:

The National Park Bulletin,
prepared for the international exposition,
is very attractive. Thank you for forward-
ing a copy to me.

Cordially yours

May 20, 1931

Mr. Horace M. Albright, Director
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Albright:

Yesterday was a terribly crowded day, and Dr. Merriam asked me to take dinner with him so that we could talk over a few things before he left for Europe. I am sorry I did not have a little conference with you, but I am planning to be in Washington on the 2nd of June on my way to Asheville, and I hope I shall have the pleasure of a conference with you at that time.

We are trying hard to get the National Parks Association well organized and working together in good form, so that it will be a really helpful organization. The more I study the National Park problems the more I appreciate the difficulties that you are confronted with in an endeavor to carry out the highest ideals for these wonderful reservations.

Cordially yours

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

May 22, 1931.

Dr. W. W. Atwood,
President, Clark University,
Worcester, Massachusetts.

Dear Dr. Atwood:

Thanks for your letter of May 20, which reached me this morning.

I wish I could have had a visit with you when you were down the other day but I suppose most anything we had to discuss can keep a while. Unfortunately, I will not be here when you come down June 2. I am going to St. Louis to the State Park Conference next week and will then go to Hot Springs, Arkansas, not returning here until June 8.

Sincerely yours,

Horace M. Albright
Horace M. Albright
Director.

