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This file constitutes a part of the official records of the National Park Service and should not be separated or papers withdrawn without express authority of the official in charge.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.

Newton B. Drury,

Director.
The Honorable,  
The Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington, D.C.

Sir:

Replying further to your letter of December 13, 1915 and your letter of January 21, 1916, relative to certain land near Needles, California, on which a Mystic Maze is located, I have the honor to state that I find that this particular piece of land is unsurveyed. The nearest public survey is at Topock, Arizona, about four miles from the land upon which the maze is located.

The location of the maze could be described as being on the National Highway about 15 miles south-east of Needles, California and four miles north-east of Topock, Arizona. Signs could be posted that it is a National Monument, which would serve as sufficient protection until such a time when a public survey is made. If I can serve you any further in this matter, I shall be very glad to do so.

Very respectfully,

Superintendent.
The Honorable
The Secretary of the Interior.

Sir:

The attention of the Department is respectfully invited to the enclosed correspondence relative to a "Mystic Maze" located on the national highway about 15 miles southeast of Needles, California, and four miles northeast of Topock, Arizona.

This matter was taken up with the Department on December 3, 1914, by Representative William Kettner, and was referred to this Office for investigation and reply. Upon consulting the records of the General Land Office it was found that Township 7 N., Range 24 E. S. B. M., wherein the maze is located, is unsurveyed and is covered by first and second form withdrawals for reclamation purposes under the act of June 17, 1902 (32 Stat. L., 388).

From the enclosures received with Mr. Kettner's letter it appears that this maze is connected with the religious rites of the Mojave Indians, the legend running that it was constructed by them many years ago. The Superintendent of Colorado River School, however, reported on January 17, 1916, that this maze was not in any way connected
with the religious rites of the Mojave Indians, who know nothing of its origin. He states that it is one of the prehistoric ruins, such as the cliff dwellings, etc., and that in view of the fact that it is of historical value and accessible from the National Highway he believes it should be preserved as a National Monument.

The Office therefore submits all the correspondence with the recommendation that it be referred to the Chief Clerk of the Department for such action as may be deemed appropriate looking toward reservation of the lands as a National Monument under the Act of June 8, 1906 (34 Stat. L., 225), Section 2 of which reads as follows:

That the President of the United States is hereby authorized, in his discretion, to declare by public proclamation historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest that are situated upon the lands owned or controlled by the Government of the United States to be national monuments, and may reserve as a part thereof parcels of land, the limits of which in all cases shall be confined to the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected: Provided, that when such objects are situated upon a tract covered by a bona fide unperfected claim or held in private ownership, the tract, or so much thereof as may be necessary for the proper care and management of the object, may be relinquished to the Government, and the Secretary of the Interior is hereby authorized to accept the relinquishment of such tracts in behalf of the Government of the United States.

Respectfully,

Chief Clerk.

2-JM-26
Mr. Carter:

There does not appear to be much knowledge about the place. Maybe it should be a test Mon. It appears of no value for any thing else.

Therefore, let it be from the Mon. If we find it is no good after investigation, it can be restored to the public trust.

June 29th

[Signature]
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

ADDRESS ONLY
THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

WASHINGTON

MAR 2 1916

The Commissioner of the General Land Office.

Sir:

I transmit herewith a letter from the Chief Clerk of the Indian Office, dated February 28, 1916, and accompanying enclosures, calling attention to what is known as the "Mystic Maze" located in Township 7 N., Range 24 E., S. B. M., along the national highway about 15 miles southeast of Needles, California, and four miles northeast of Topock, Arizona, and suggesting that the same be set aside as a national monument under the Act of June 8, 1906 (34 Stat. 225).

I have to request that you will look into this matter, and if, in your judgment, the lands described should be set aside as a national monument, the necessary form of proclamation be prepared and forwarded the Department for consideration with the return of these papers.

Cordially yours,

[Signature]

Assistant to the Secretary.

Enclosure 7893.
Mr. E. H. Gibbs,
Chief, Field Division,
Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Dear Sir:

I have received from the Secretary correspondence which indicates that near Topock, Arizona, a station on the Santa Fe Railroad, located on the Colorado River, there are evidences of early Indian or prehistoric peoples of a peculiar character that are not Pueblo or Cliff Dweller Ruins, but some scheme of stone configuration on the surface, locally called the "Mystic Maze" which possibly may be of sufficient interest and value to warrant government protection under the provisions of the Act of June 2, 1906. Letters from the Bureau of Indian Affairs state that the "Mystic Maze" is on unsurveyed land and about four miles northeast of Topock, and also that it is located in Sec. 7 T. 14 S., R. 36 E., S.B.M.

One or the other of these descriptions, of course,
incorrect, since surveys under the San Bernardino
Meridian and Base do not extend across the Colorado
River into Arizona and Twp. 7 N., R. 24 E. is survey-
ed and is in California.

You are, therefore, directed, at as early a
date as practicable, to have a competent special agent
locate the so-called "Mystic Maze" with reference to
the public land surveys, and determine whether the same
is upon government or railroad land. The character
of the "Mystic Maze" and its extent is also desired.
I do not wish to recommend the creation of a National
Monument unless the objects to be preserved are really
worthy of government protection under provisions of the
act above referred to.

You will please report in full hereon to
this office.

Very respectfully,

[Signature]

Assistant Commissioner.

wrp
The Secretary of the Interior.

Sir:

I have the honor to advise that this Bureau does not appear to have on file any information relating to the so-called "Mystic Maze", which from the papers forwarded by you appears to be some form of artificial surface configuration made by unknown Indian tribes or prehistoric peoples near Topock, Arizona. I have directed the Chief of Field Division, at as early a date as practicable, to have a competent Special Agent locate the so-called "Mystic Maze" with reference to the public land surveys and to report fully as to its character and extent. The papers in the case will be retained until such report is received.

Very respectfully,

[Signature]

Assistant Commissioner.
The Commissioner,
General Land Office,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

Letter "A" of March 4, 1916, signed by C. M. Bruce, stated that there had been received from the Secretary correspondence indicating that near Topock, Arizona, "are evidences of early Indian or pre-historic peoples of a peculiar character that are not Pueblo or Cliff-Dweller Ruins, but some scheme of stone configuration on the surface, locally called the "Mystic Maze" which possibly may be of sufficient interest and value to warrant government protection under the provisions of the Act of June 8, 1906." Field examination was directed and same was made by me on June 20, 1916.

The Mystic Maze is located 100 feet south of the Old Trails continental automobile highway paralleling the Santa Fe Railroad. It lies 13 miles southwest of Needles, California, and one mile northwest of the highway and railroad bridges across the Colorado at Topock, Arizona, the Maze being in California. It is situated in the extreme south part of the S½ SW½ Sec. 5, T. 7N, R24E., San Bernardino Meridian.

The Maze lies in rough hills of wash overlooking the bottom land of the Colorado river and is four acres in extent. The wash is mainly of angular rock and pebbles one to three inches long. The Maze consists of parallel rows or windrows of these rocks and pebbles, the rows being one foot wide, six inches high, and from 100 to 400 feet long. They lie 5½ ft. apart. The main series of windrows run east and west, with an additional north-south series on the north and another one on the south. A stranger would say that someone within recent years had taken a rake and raked the loose rock into windrows. The Maze looks like the hilled rows of a dead potato patch or the little levees in an irrigated field. The term Maze is a misnomer as the windrows are parallel and straight. They suggest that someone was trying to represent...
the stripes of the American flag. Each row looks like the windrow of pebbles raked off of a newly built auto road.

A large sign has been built at the Maze within 25ft of the auto road. The same reads "Mystic Maze. Pre-historic. Proposed government reserve. Park cars here. Needles L V M Club." The Maze is said to have been in existence before the advent of white men. The Indians, as usual, have no legends about it. Local people speak of it as a Mystic Maze built by the Indians in the belief that evil spirits would be entrapped in it and rendered powerless to do evil through being unable to get out of the Maze. The weakness in this plot for a legend is that the rows are straight and open, except where the north and south series butt at right angles against the main series.

Outside of the legends or tales that a powerful imagination could weave as a plausible excuse for these rock windrows, there is nothing more than the most fleeting interest connected with the Mystic Maze. There is far more of interest to be seen on a circus lot the day after the circus has gone away.

Recommendation :- The Mystic Maze contains nothing of sufficient interest to warrant its creation into a National Monument, and as it is located on a railroad section this case should be closed without further action.

Very respectfully,

Mineral Inspector, G L O.

APPROVED: JUL 27 1916

Chief of Field Division.
The Secretary of the Interior.

Sir:

With the file and correspondence relating to the proposed "Mystic Maze" National Monument, located in California, near Topock, Arizona, concerning which this office, by letter of March 4, 1916, requested an investigation and report of the Chief of Field Division at Santa Fe, I inclose for your consideration report thereon which has just been received. It would appear therefrom that the so-called "Maze" is located upon a railroad section of land and that the same is not of sufficient importance to warrant the creation of a National Monument or other reservation for the protection thereof. I recommend no action in the case except that the same be closed and the papers kept on file for future reference. Kindly have the papers returned to this office if this recommendation meets your approval.

Very respectfully,

[Signature]

Commissioner.
August 8, 1916.

Dear Mr. Kettner:

With further reference to your letter of December 3, 1915, addressed to the Secretary of the Interior, with which you transmitted communication to you by Elizabeth L. Blandy under date of November 9, 1915, relative to what is known as the Mystic Maze, located in California, near Topock, Arizona, I am sending you the attached copy of a report by a mineral inspector of the General Land Office, from which it appears that no sufficient interest attaches to this land which would warrant its reservation through the creation of a national monument.

I find further that this land was patented to the Southern Pacific Railroad on April 1, 1909.

Cordially yours,

(Sgd) JOS. J. COTTER.

'Acting Superintendent.'

Hon. William Kettner,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D. C.

Inc. 15282.
Mystic Maze at Needles.

November 22, 1920.

Mr. J. F. Buckel:

With reference to the attached: Mr. Betts made this painting while he was at Needles, having made it from personal observation of the same.

We did not like the composition of the background of Mr. Betts' painting and we had Mr. Berninghaus make it over. Mr. Berninghaus has changed the maze somewhat. It is possible that his conception of the maze is not correct.

As for the location of the maze, I do not know. There is nothing in the file bearing on the matter.

I should suggest that the best thing to do would be to write our manager at Needles to get a photograph of the maze and the location of the same.

I am attaching hereto two photographs of the two paintings above mentioned.

The papers are returned herewith.

(Sgd) M. J. Williams.
Mystic Maze at Needles.

Kansas City,
Nov. 8, 1920.

Mr. J. F. Huokel:

Referring to attached from Acting Director Cam­
merer about "Mystic Maze at Needles": Will you please give
me your judgment on the subject with return of papers?

(Sgd) Ford Harvey.

Kansas City,
Nov. 9, 1920.

Mr. M. J. Williams:

Please let me have report on the attached today.
We had a painting made of same. Please give me any data you
have from your library.

(Sgd) J. F. Huokel.
Mystic Maze at Needles.

Kansas City, Mo.,
Nov. 26, 1920.

Mr. F. F. Harvey:

The day after receipt of your letter regarding the Mystic Maze of the Mohave Indians I had our people look into the matter. There has been a delay in answering the memorandum as our people have been trying to get information from our files and records.

I recall that some years ago I sent a photographer to the Maze to get a picture of it. The photograph was not satisfactory, and I sent Betts to make a picture of it; his picture was not altogether satisfactory and we then arranged for Berninghaus to make another picture. We have printed a great many thousand postcards of this Maze since that time.

I have written Mr. Broady, our manager, at Needles, asking him a number of questions and asking that he write me fully by return mail, if possible. As soon as I hear from him I will give you any further information.

I am attaching two photographs of the paintings mentioned.

(Sdg) J. F. Huckel.
Dear Mr. Cammerer:

Referring to your letter November 2nd about "Mystic Maze" near Needles, California: I enclose memoranda that have passed between Mr. Huckel, myself and others on the subject, also photographs of the paintings mentioned therein. I cannot at the moment say how accurate these paintings are and suggest you await further advice before forming an opinion. Will you please return enclosures after noting.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours truly,

P. S.

I expect to leave for New York tomorrow night and will try to get over to Washington for a day before returning, when I hope to see you.

Mr. Arno B. Cammerer,

Acting Director National Park Service,

Washington, D. C.
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON  

December 6, 1920.  

Dear Mr. Harvey:  

Thank you very much for your letter of November 27 regarding the "Mystic Maze" near Needles, California, together with the interesting memoranda you inclosed. We will be pleased to receive further advice before forming an opinion as to the desirability and availability of preserving this maze within the limits of a national monument.  

We are returning the inclosures as you requested, but are retaining the photographs for a short time.  

Cordially yours,  

[Signature]  

Arno B. Cammerer  
Assistant Director.  

Mr. Ford Harvey,  
Union Station,  
Kansas City, MISSOURI.  

Inclosure 6380.  

ASD: FBC
Mr. J. F. Huckel  
Needles California,  
December 11, 20

Kansas City Missouri.

Dear Sir:,

Refering to your letter of November 26-th, with reference to Mystic Maze located near Needles.

I have delayed answering your letter, trying to secure some information on this Maze, but regret to advise that I have not been able to secure much information on it.

I have talked to a Mr Root, who has long been a resident here, who is also editor of our local paper, and a man well posted on affairs here, he tells me that the Mystic Maze is prehistoric, that the Mojave Indians here, have no history on it, that it was here when they came to this country, there is also two other Mazes within about fifty miles of here, very similar to this one.

This Maze is in very good state of preservation and understand that some Society recently took steps to have it preserved, but do not know at this time the outcome of their efforts, from what I can learn it is Government land.

The picture of this Maze in the booklet "The Great Southwest, is more interesting than the Maze itself, and I do not believe that it would be of enough interest to the traveling Public to advertise it, as I believe that they would be disappointed if they invested much to see it, it is located on the "Old Santa-Fe Trail" highway, and is well posted, and all Motor tourists have the
opportunity of seeing it, but I never hear any comment on it from Motor parties, so it is apparent that it does not attract much interest.

It is about 15 miles from here, about one mile from Topock where the Santa-Fe Railroad Co crosses the Colorado river, and is situated on a high plateau.

Mr Root tells me that he has made two trips to it, with a representative from the Smithsonian Institute, and perhaps you might secure some information from them on it.

Yours truly,
Mystic Maze at Needles.

Kansas City, Missouri
December 16, 1920.

Mr. F. F. Harvey:

Before replying to Mr. Camмерer's letter in reference to the Mystic Maze near Needles, I am attaching herewith a letter from Mr. Broady, just received, in reference to same, together with the file of correspondence.

The painting made of this Maze had some color in it by introducing horses, Indians, etc. I imagine the Maze itself must be like the desert, brown, gray, etc., but Mr. Broady's information, however, seems to me quite interesting.

I will be glad to follow up the matter with Mr. Hodge, or Mr. Wm. H. Holmes, head of the Smithsonian Institute. Do you wish me to send this information to Mr. Cammerer, or will you?

J. F. Huckel.

JFH-D
December 17, 1920.

Mr. A. B. Cammerer,
Assistant Director, National Park Service,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Referring again to your inquiry about "Mystic Maze" near Needles: I enclose a memorandum to me from our Mr. Huckel, attached to which is a letter from our Manager at Needles.

Apparently the best information on this subject can be secured through the Smithsonian Institute, and you are in better position than we to obtain same from that source. However, please command us if you feel we can serve you further.

Yours truly,
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON

December 22, 1920.

Dear Mr. Harvey:

Thank you for your letter of December 17 and for the memorandum inclosed regarding the "Easter Rise," near needles.

We will pursue our quest for information on this subject from the Smithsonian Institution, but we want you to know that we appreciate your kindness in following this subject up so closely for us.

Cordially yours,

(Sgd.) ARNO B. CAMMERER

Arno B. Cammerer
Assistant Director.

Mr. Fred Harvey,
Union Station,
Kansas City, MISSOURI.
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON

December 27, 1920.

Dear Dr. Holmes:

Sometime ago our attention was called to the Mystic Masa near Needles, California, and the suggestion was made that this interesting Masa be preserved by the establishment of a national monument. There is a very interesting picture of this Masa in the booklet that is issued by the Santa Fe Railroad entitled, "Along the Santa Fe Trail" and when this subject was called to our attention we inquired of the Fred Harvey Company whether they could give us any information in regard to it. We have had some correspondence with the Harvey Company, and are in receipt of a letter from them, enclosing a memorandum from a Mr. Hookal, the Harvey Manager at Needles, which gives some information regarding the Mystic Masa. It appears that this information was gathered from a Mr. Root, who is editor of one of the Needles newspapers, and who states:

The Masa is prehistoric and the Mojave Indians of Needles have no history on it; it was in existence when they came into this country.

He also states that the Masa is in a very good state of preservation and that it is thought to be on Government land. It is also understood that some Society recently took steps to have it preserved, but nothing other than the letter bringing it to our attention has come to us. The Mr. Root referred to also states that he made two trips to it with a representative from the Smithsonian Institution, and for this reason we are addressing you in the hope that you may be able to furnish us with some additional information regarding it. The most important question is whether this ruin is worthy of preservation as a national monument, and if so, whether the land on which it is situated is public land and could be reserved for this purpose.
We have no knowledge of the definite location of the Maze.

We will appreciate it if you can advise us on this subject.

Cordially yours,

Arno B. Cammerer
Acting Director.
National Gallery
Jan 13, 1921

Dear Mr. Commoner,

I have asked Mr. Harringon of the Bureau of Entomology to write for what he knows about the moths.

Yours truly,

[Signature]

[Signature]
Mr. Judd
Can you help me on this?

Mr. W. H.

Mr. Fewkes—
Do you know anything about this? Who was the S.I. represent- 
ative referred to? Kindly return letter to me.

Mr. Judd

We know about this case and can alert you or Mr. Cammerel of 
whatever Mr. Know-Harington was S.I. representative.

J. Walter Hughes.
January 18, 1921.

Dear Mr. Cammerer:

Your letter of December 27th to Dr. W. H. Holmes, asking for information and suggestions regarding the Mystic Maze near Needles, California, has been referred to me and I have asked one of my staff, Mr. John P. Harrington, to give me a report on the subject which is enclosed. His suggestions seem to me to be very good and in line with the policy of the National Park Service.

Very cordially yours,

Walter F. Jones
Chief.

Mr. Arno B. Cammerer,
Acting Director,
National Park Service,
Department of the Interior,
Washington, D. C.
The Maze is a couple of miles above Topak on the California side and the Santa Fe railway and automobile highway pass by it. I have always understood that it is on Government land. It covers more than 5 acres, and is one of the most impressive as well as ancient monuments in the United States. It should be established as a national monument, fenced in, and preserved for future generations to see and study.

I also want to mention again my project of having a Mohave house constructed at the Maze. There are only four or five of these houses of the old type now left in the Mohave Valley, and the preserving of one of them for the people of the future to see is even more important archaeologically than the preservation of the Maze. I would suggest that the Indians (and there are only a few old Indians who still know how) be employed to build one of these semi-subterranean dwellings at the site of the Maze. The primitive Mohave house and the maze would form one of the "sights" of southeastern California, and would be visited by hundreds of automobile travelers and others annually. I may add that the making of a minature model of a Mohave house is of little or no scientific value, since the details of construction cannot be faithfully reproduced except in natural size and with the native materials.

J. P. H.
January 24, 1921.

Dear Dr. Fewkes:

We have your letter of January 18 regarding the "Mystic Maze" near Needles, California, and we are more than glad to have the information which it contains. Mr. Harrington's suggestion is indeed very interesting.

In our quest for information regarding the "Mystic Maze" we have been unable to find any one who could give us a definite location of the Maze in reference to township and range lines so that we could go through the records of the General Land Office to determine whether the land covered by the Maze was vacant public land. We would like to presume on your kindness again by asking whether Mr. Harrington could give us the approximate location of the Maze, or furnish us a map showing its approximate location.

Cordially yours,

(Sgd.) ARNO B. CAMMERER

Arno B. Cammerer
Assistant Director.

Dr. J. Walter Fewkes, Chief,
Bureau of American Ethnology,
Smithsonian Institution,
Washington, D. C.
January 26, 1921.

Dear Mr. Cammerer:

In regard to your inquiry of January 24, Mr. Harrington tells me that he cannot give the exact location of the "Mystic Maze" with reference to township and range lines; neither does he know any one at Needles who would be very reliable for this information. If you are not in any great hurry for this data Mr. Harrington will most certainly be in the region again and would be glad to look the matter up in detail.

Very truly yours,

Mr. Arno B. Cammerer,
Assistant Director,
National Park Service,
Washington, D.C.
January 31, 1931.

Dear Dr. Fewkes:

We have your letter of January 26, and as there is no special hurry to take up the question of reserving "Mystic Maze" near Needles by the creation of a National Monument, we would indeed very much appreciate it if Mr. Harrington, while he is in the region of the Maze this summer will look into the location of the Maze. We would also appreciate it, if Mr. Harrington would submit a report regarding the Maze, and whether in his opinion it would be desirable to establish a National Monument.

Cordially yours,

Arno B. Cammerer
Assistant Director.

Dr. J. Walter Fewkes
Bureau of American Ethnology
Smithsonian Institution
Washington, D. C.

Hon. Stephen T. Mather,
Director of National Parks
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Mather,

I have read with great pleasure your interesting and well written and valuable reports for the years 1920 and 1921. Will you kindly send me a copy of your report for 1922 when printed?

When in Arizona and California in 1920 I visited the Indian Maze, a very valuable relic of the Spirit Dreaming Cult, between Needles, California and the Border of Arizona. I found that automobiles and their drivers were rapidly destroying this. The chief of the Bureau of Ethnology agrees with me that the Government should protect it. Could it not be arranged to extend your jurisdiction over this?

Very truly yours,

You have performed a great public service by the construction of the suspension bridge across the Grand Canyon.
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON

March 17, 1923.

Dear Mr. Foster:

In the absence of Director Mather, I have to acknowledge your kind letter of March 9, and take pleasure in sending to you the inclosed copy of our annual report for 1922.

With regard to the Indian Mace, near Needles, California, this Service has had some correspondence with various persons relative to the establishment of it as a National Monument in order to bring it under the protection of the Government but from what we can learn regarding it, the Mace is located on land which was patented to the Southern Pacific Railroad in 1909, and being on land in private ownership, it does not available for reservation under the American Antiquities Act.

Your words of commendation for the public service performed by the construction of the Suspension Bridge across the Grand Canyon and for our annual reports are sincerely appreciated.

Cordially yours,


Arno B. Cammerer,
Acting Director.

Mr. Roger Foster,
69 West 55th Street,
NEW YORK CITY.

Inclosure 3965.
March 31, 1925.

Mr. William Sproacle  
President Southern Pacific Company  
65 Market Street  
San Francisco, California.

Dear Mr. Sproacle,

For several years I have been interested in preventing the destruction of the Indian Maze. A valuable relic of the Spirit Dreaming Cult of Indians covering a few acres near Needles, California. A picture of this is published on one of the postcards sold on the Santa Fe road. The Maze is being rapidly destroyed by the incursions and barbarisms of the chauffeurs and owners of automobiles. The Chief of the Bureau of Ethnology of the Smithsonian Institute agrees with me that it should be preserved as a National Monument by the United States. I have just been informed by the acting Director of the National Parks that the Maze is located on land which was patented to the Southern Pacific Railroad in 1900.

I am the owner of 300 shares of the Southern Pacific and am interested in the company's doing all it can to placate the feelings of the public which has never regarded the company with a favorable eye.

The land produces no revenue for the railroad at the present time. It is desert land of little or no value. I believe that if arrangements could be made to donate this to the National Government the Company would be the gainer and not the loser although it received no consideration for the transfer. I do not believe that a bill authorizing its purchase is likely to be passed by Congress.

When I last saw the Maze, the two nearest stations were on the Santa Fe route. If the Southern Pacific Company has a station in the neighborhood, I believe that by the expenditure of a small amount for advertising, fencing and arrangements so that tourists could visit the Maze and receive intelligent information concerning its history a considerable amount of tourist traffic could be encouraged.

In any event, if the Maze while owned by the Southern Pacific is allowed to be destroyed, I believe that the company will suffer from the consequent charges of neglect and vandalism.

Hoping that you will think it worth while to take this matter into consideration, I remain,

Very truly yours,

[Signature]
NEW YORK. March 22, 1923

Hon. Arno B. Cammerer
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Cammerer,

Your favor of the 17th inst. concerning the Indian Maze near Needles, I have received. Enclosed is copy of a letter by me to the President of the Southern Pacific Company upon the subject. If you share my interest in the preservation of the Indian Maze from destruction, I hope you will communicate with him upon the subject. It is not impossible that the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Ry Co. the track of which runs through the Maze might be able to do something for its preservation. It would be a disgrace for the United States should the automobiles be allowed to complete its destruction.

Very truly yours,

ROGER FOSTER
COUNSELLOR AT LAW
69 WEST 55TH STREET
TELEPHONE CIRCLE 2461
April 12th
1 9 2 3

Dear Dr. Foskes,

Reference is made to your letter of January 26, 1921 in which you advised that Mr. John P. Harrington of your staff would probably be in the region of the "Mystic Maze" near Needles, California and could obtain data on it for the purpose of submitting a report as to the desirability of creating a national monument to preserve it. Did Mr. Harrington ever have an opportunity to gather this material?

Cordially yours,

[Signature]

Acting Director

Dr. J. Walter Foskes,
Chief of the Bureau of American Ethnology,
Smithsonian Institution,
Washington, D. C.

AND/N
Dear Doctor Fewkes:

Referring to previous correspondence with you in regard to the Mystic Maze region near Needles, Calif., I would appreciate it if you would let me know whether or not Mr. Harrington or any other member of your staff ever made the proposed investigation of this region. The Service would like to obtain information as to the desirability of establishing the Mystic Maze National Monument.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Assistant Director.

Dr. J. Walter Fewkes,
Chief of the Bureau of American Ethnology,
Smithsonian Institution,
Washington, D. C.

IPS:L
March 1925.

Dear Mr. Cammerer:

It pleased me very much to learn that you might ask the President to elevate the Mystic Maze, near Needles, California, into a national monument. Its position, unique character, and vicinity to a well-traveled road into Southern California are all in its favor, and would make it ideal for a monument. There are near it, I am told, many old huts of the Mohave Indians which could be put in such condition as to attract a great many visitors and teach them a lesson on Indian habitations. I have no hesitation in recommending this Maze for a national monument, under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service.

It would be well to have aero-pictures made of it, as the pictures we now have do not convey the best view of its intricate character. It undoubtedly figured in Mohave ceremonial life, and was one of the few localities of this character in the United States.

I have just been studying the typical mazes which we find remaining in our country, depicted as pictographs or on basketry, pottery and stone, and am preparing a paper on those of Europe, which are among the most interesting. In that article I am including the Mohave Maze.

Mr. Harrington, one of my staff, has made two visits to the Maze and collected much new material, but for lack of time was not able to work out all details of this interesting structure. I hope later to give you the metes, bounds and other data necessary for the President's proclamation, should you so desire, and also send you photographs for your examination. I hope you will add this Maze to the other educational monuments in the Southwest under control of the National Park Service.

Remember me to friends in the Park Service.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Mr. A. B. Cammerer,
National Park Service,
Washington, D.C.
Dear Doctor Fewkes:

It was good to hear from you with your letter of March 9 regarding Mystic Maze, near Needles, California. We will give this matter careful consideration when you give us the data, including the photographs that you referred to in the next to the last paragraph of your letter.

With kindest personal regards and all good wishes,

believe me

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Assistant Director.

Dr. J. Walter Fewkes,
Chief, Bureau of American Ethnology,
Smithsonian Institution,
Washington, D. C.

ABC;L
POW Allen LODGE
Mesa Grande, California.

February 29, 1928.

Dear Frank:

I am enclosing prints of part of the mystic maze situated 12 miles south of Needles, called 'Mystic Maze of the Mohaves,' although they claim no authorship or ownership in it; that their ancestors found it when they entered into the country many years ago. It is of unknown age or origin and is an unsolved problem to the archaeologists and ethnologists. I have just come from there where I made a superficial study of the wonderful enigma of a prehistoric race and am writing to you to have it brought to the favorable attention of Mr. Stephenather with the idea of having it made into a National Monument for the preservation and study. These photos will give you some idea of the general conformation and extent, but the whole area of ridges and spaces would cover probably 6 acres, as some of these stony ridges extend for 2,000 ft. These stony ridges average about 5 ft apart on centers, absolutely parallel and about 5" to 6" high and each ridge 12' wide at the base. The small stones forming the ridges are uniformly black or very dark and the spaces swept clear of stones, except at certain monuments. The aracosaic bushes are evidently an intrusion of recent growth. Action on this is imperative to save it from destruction by touring autoists driving recklessly over and leveling the ridges and ruining the continuity. It is adjoining a national highway and easy of access and it is heedlessly being ruined. A five wire barbed fence 1,000 ft. long stretched between two deep canyons would save this wonderful maze, the only one in existence of its kind--the only other is in Casa Grande. A small gate to admit the public would be all that is necessary and a notice not to desecrate with lunch papers and egg shells or make a play ground of it. It lies on a mesa intersected by deep arroyos or barrancas in a barren and desolate region adjoining the Colorado River about two or three miles from the bridge at Topock crossing the Colorado. I do not think it is privately owned as it is dry, waterless and sterile. A few hundred dollars for fencing would save this archaeological mystery and a tract of 20 acres would embrace it and its protecting canyons. It would not require a resident keeper, as the fence would be sufficient to safeguard the property. A Mr. Jerome Booth of Needles, a well known old timer at Needles, would be glad to look after it occasionally to see the privileges would not be misused. He is deeply interested in its preservation and was my guide and informant and if you go to Needles please hunt him up. He is interested in a school hall and is somewhat lame. Kindly give this your earnest and immediate attention.

With best regards to Mrs. Pinkley and your family, in which Mrs. Davis joins.

Very sincerely,

(Signed) Ed. H. Davis.
March 3, 1928.

Mr. Ed. H. Davis,
Mesa Grande, California.

Dear Mr. Davis:

I have your very good letter of February 29, with its inclosed photographs, regarding the reservation of the so-called maze along the Colorado River below Needles.

I have visited this 'maze' two or three times and have examined it pretty closely but did not take any photographs.

So far as I could see it is not a true maze. I could not see that its passages led into each other or that there was any common center. It seemed to me to be several series of parallel lines, each group or series running at random to the other groups. You speak of the whole thing covering six acres, but I think you must have meant sixty acres for I believe it is that extensive.

You speak of the lines of stones running absolutely parallel and I noticed that myself and wondered if they could have been formed in recent times by means of a V shaped drag. From a rather superficial look over the place I could not see positive evidence of antiquity. For instance, if the lines had been formed several hundred years ago, small arroyas must have necessarily cut through them since formation and we should find places where the series of lines would come up to the edge of such arroyas and continue in the same number and the same direction on the far side. While such cases may be there I did not notice one.

Another thing which made me a little sceptical was a story I picked up in Needles to the effect that the man who had charge of the construction work on the bridge when the Santa Fe was built through there, upon revisiting Needles a few years ago, said his gang had made those lines at that time by running a go-devil around over that ground and throwing the stones into winrows which they gathered up and used in the bridge construction. Having pushed up more rows than they needed, they left the remainder, which is what we see today. This needs a little checking up, for the joke would be on us if we reserved the place and then discovered this origin of it.

I will of course put your letter before the Service for its decision and in the meantime let us gather better evidence of its antiquity. I will study the place more closely when I come in past there this summer from my summer work and wish you would look it over again if you get in that neighborhood.

Cordially yours,

Supt. Southwestern Monuments.
March 8, 1928.

Dear Mr. Director:

The enclosed copies of letters speak for themselves and I am sending the photographs of Mr. Davis along with them.

I am putting the matter up to you so that you may take any action you see fit.

Cordially yours,

[Signature]

Supt. Southwestern Monuments
Mr. Frank Pinkley,
Superintendent of Southwestern Monuments,
Coolidge, Arizona.

Dear Mr. Pinkley:

The Service has received your letter of March 8 with the inclosed copies of correspondence you have had with Mr. M. H. Davis, of Mesa Grande, California, and the photographs of the "Mystic Maze of the Mohave." This correspondence is interesting, but from your letter I am sure the Secretary would not be in favor of creating a national monument to include this maze. As you know, he is opposed to the creation of further national monuments except in very outstanding cases.

Sincerely yours,

(Aga) A. E. DEMARAY

Acting Director.
My dear Ed:,

Pursuant to our conversation regarding the formation of a Federal Monument Of The Maze Of The Mojavies, I have concluded not to write to them, even with your kind endorsement for the reason that I have already written to Frank Ginkley, enclosing photographs, and these with my letter he has already forwarded to Dr. Stephen Mather for consideration. I wrote to Dr. Mather over Frank Ginkley's head now, wrote from very officious in me and would feel thank in a rather humiliating position, as if I doubted his ability in attending to the matter. Thus he had promised to do a little later and make a personal report. Thank you for your interest in the matter, and hard I put written to Frank first, I would have been only too glad to do as you suggested and secure your endorsement. However there is one other way...
in which you can assistance, and that is, write to Mr. Mather yourself. That I have talked to one of the Mose, located 12 miles north of the Needles, California and urged the necessity of protecting it and forming a National Monument of it. That for 10 years I have been connected with the Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation, New York, as field collector and concerned among the Siks for 20 years, and that this so called Mose is one of the most unique and singular archaeological remains of a prehistoric race. This is merely a suggestion.

Very sorry to have missed you for Rodriguez the other morning. Was waiting for you near the club's country in the city.

We wish to thank you for Mrs. Fletcher's visit and please tell Mrs. Fletcher that I am having her hat repaired by an expert. Very sincerely, Ed.
Mr. Stephen Mather, Director
National Parks
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Mather:

Enclosed find letter from my old friend, Ed Davis, a very responsible chap, together with photos that may be of interest. After reading, let me know what you think of the advisability of making this into a National Park or Monument. He is very anxious to show you the two tracts of land.

Governor Rodriguez was here and I showed him all over the country for a couple of days. He is going to be with us on a trip down the peninsula next September or October.

Is it possible for you to be here this fall and make the trip with us? A bunch of us, including Attorney General Webb, B. B. Meek, Director State of California, Gov. Rodriguez, Mr. Seavey of the State Railroad Commission, and one or two others from Los Angeles are going. Can give you plenty of notice.

With kindest regards.

Yours very sincerely,

(Signature)

EF:GMF
Encls.
Mystic Maze
(1 mile)
12 miles S of Needles. "A couple miles above Yippee," etc.
(See Ed Hefling, 920 8th St., San Diego.)
See Ed H. Davis, Museum of the American Indian, Los Angeles
in Marea Grande, Calif.

Dr. Jerome Booth, Needles (Port Hall)
Port, Marea, Needles.

Look up Dr. Fenker printed article.
Refere questions to Jesse Mabara.
Arrange for aerial photographs.
When was the Santa Fe bridge built? Extents from?
Is there evidence of rock having been removed?
One ridge made of rock a mixed material?
Land covered by so far P.E. Co.?
Santa Fe RR track goes through the maze.
also auto highway passes it.
Havre to reconstitute monument & bring to the Modern
times, semi-antiquarian. Only a few Indians left
who know how to build them.

Get photo from "Along the Santa Fe Trail" by AT & SF RR.
or "The Great Southwest."
See under "Great Photographs" article in Tommy's Topics referring to
Mystic Maze, with首创 photography.
601 Highland Avenue
San Bernardino, Calif.
January 27th, 1933

Mr. Phil Townsend Hanna
Editor, "Touring Topics"
9626 Wilshire Boulevard
Beverly Hills, California

Dear Sir:

Reading "Mystic Maze - Unmasked," in the January Touring Topics, I should like to again mask the maze, unmasked by a letter from Engineer H. W. Dennis of Los Angeles.

When the State took over the county road between Needles and Topock about eight years ago, a very old sign, said to have been erected by the county, marked the site of the maze. It is my recollection that this sign consisted of a piece of sheet metal fastened to metal posts. It could be read only with difficulty, but designated the Indian maze and referred to its antiquity. The State replaced the sign, as the maze was considered to be an interesting feature to the tourist traveler.

A number of years ago a young engineer in the State service ran across the technical article from the "Transaction of the American Society of Civil Engineers", written in 1891, and called it to the attention of the Department. The article mentions the raking of rocks on a mesa near the bridge into windrows to be used in construction of the railroad bridge crossing the Colorado River near Topock.

The matter was investigated at the time. It was thought that the existence of the maze, being noticed by the contracts when they built the bridge, suggested to them the raking of rocks near the bridge site for use in the bridge building; close examination of the maze indicated the unreasonableness of a supposition that the contractors would have raked up the many acres of rocks in the maze at points not accessible for bridge construction. It was also thought unreasonable to suppose that the contracts would have raked up the great quantities of rocks in the maze and not have used them. There is also no indication of any roads leading to the maze over which the rocks might have been hauled to the bridge.

Old residents of Needles when interviewed, are unanimous in testifying that the maze existed many years previous to the construction of the bridge.
Mr. Fred M. Kelly has lived in Needles a great many years. He was Postmaster in the early days and recalls the construction of the "Red Rock Cantilever Bridge." He says that in 1892 he personally inspected both the maze and a large figure of a man outlined on the ground to one side of the maze. He says the figure was destroyed, as well as part of the maze, when the railroad was relocated.

Mr. Kelly recalls that when the railroad contractors undertook to remove some of the rock from a part of the maze, he telegraphed his Congressman and succeeded in stopping the removal of the maze. Mr. Kelly reports that when he first inspected the maze, there was a dark coloring on the topy surface of the rocks which he calls "desert varnish." Authorities estimate such weathering of rocks takes at least 200 years. While tourists have turned over some of the rocks in the maze, practically all rocks on the ridges still present the weathered surface to the upper side.

About 1900 Mr. Phillips, Collaborator with Mr. Curtis in his study of North American Indians, spent much time around Needles making a complete investigation of Indian history, traditions, writings, etc. Edward S. Curtis, in his "North American Indians", (Vol. II, 1908, Page 55), illustrates the stone windrows and refers to their use as a maze into which to lure and escape from evil spirits.

A mound to the south of the image discovered by another old time resident, Mr. William Lubeck, contained arrowheads, spear-heads, pottery, and other articles of Indian workmanship.

Mr. Jerome Booth, another old time resident of Needles, came there in 1887. He inspected the image with Mr. Lubeck and recalls Mr. Lubeck finding the arrowheads and other relics. Mr. Booth recalls inspecting the maze in 1888. He is able to fix the date, as he distinctly recalls it was the year after he came to Needles. It is to be noted that this date is prior to the date of the construction of the bridge. He recalls the maze in 1888, as being more extensive than at present and of its being partly destroyed by the railroad relocation. He also recalls the figure outlined on the ground.

I am still to be convinced that the maze is a hoax and will be glad to receive any real evidence before changing my opinion that this interesting place is both of great age and of Indian origin.

Yours very truly,

E. Q. Sullivan
February 15, 1933

Mr. Roger W. Toll
Superintendent Yellowstone National Park
515 Customs House
Denver, Colo.

Dear Sir:-

At the request of Mr. M. C. Hoppin, of the Department of Commerce, I am sending you aerial photographs of the "Indian Maze" near Needles, California. I hope these photographs will answer your needs.

Yours very truly,

E. R. Peterman
Major, Air Corps, C. N. G.,
Commanding.

1 Incl. In quint.
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Major E. A. Peterman,
Headquarters 40th Division Aviation,
Los Angeles Airport, Griffith Park,
Los Angeles, California.

February 20, 1933.

Dear Sir:

I have received your letter of February 15 with the excellent aerial photographs of the Indian Maze near Needles, and I certainly appreciate your cooperation which evidently extended to the point of having these photographs taken for this particular purpose.

If it were practicable to have an additional copy of prints (01-159.T-115)(2-12-33-1p)(12-2000) of Topock, Ariz., (03-159.T-115)(2-12-33-1p)(12-2000) Indian Ruins - Needles, Calif., and (V2-159.T-115)(2-12-33-1p)(12-3500) Indian Ruins - Needles, Calif., I should be very glad indeed to have them, but in any case I am very deeply indebted for your kindness.

The photographs are excellent and I should like to extend my congratulations to the officer of your service who took them.

Sincerely yours,

Roger W. Toll
Superintendent
Yellowstone National Park.

Envelope inclosed.

Mr. Toll:

Photographs are inclosed herewith.

Glad to have been of service to you.

E. A. P.
Major E. A. Peterman,
Headquarters 48th Division Aviation,
Los Angeles Airport, Griffith Park,
Los Angeles, California.

Dear Sir:

I have received your letter of February 15 with the excellent aerial photographs of the Indian Maze near Needles, and I certainly appreciate your cooperation which evidently extended to the point of having these photographs taken for this particular purpose.

If it were practicable to have an additional copy of prints (OE-156J-11S)(12-12-33-1P)(12-2000) of Topock, Ariz., (OE-156J-11S) (12-12-33-1P)(12-2000) Indian Ruins - Needles, Calif., and (OE-156J-11S)(12-12-33-1P)(12-2000) Indian Ruins - Needles, Calif., I should be very glad indeed to have them, but in any case I am very deeply indebted for your kindness.

The photographs are excellent and I should like to extend my congratulations to the officer of your service who took them.

Sincerely yours,

Roger W. Toll
Superintendent
Yellowstone National Park.

CC Major Hoppin

Envelope inclosed.

Dear Major Hoppin:

Major Peterman had seven views taken of this Indian Maze and they are exactly what I wanted to get.

With kindest regards and trusting you are having a successful trip,

Sincerely yours,
Touring Topics,
9626 Wilshire Boulevard,
Beverly Hills, California.

Gentlemen:

If you have available copies of the issue of Touring Topics for November, 1932, and also for December, 1932, I should be very glad indeed to receive them. I am interested in the article on the Giant Pictographs in the November issue and in the article on the Mystic Maze near Needles in the December issue.

With reference to the Mystic Maze, I expect to get additional data from archaeologists but, from my own examination of this area, I am convinced that the work is that of Indians probably at a prehistoric date, although it is altogether possible that the Santa Fe Railroad used some of the rock that they found in windrows during the construction of the bridge. The work was certainly done by hand and not by machine and I do not believe that the construction crew had anything to do with the origin of these windrows.

The inclosed frank may be used without payment of postage.

Very truly yours,

Roger W. Toll
Superintendent

RWT/MFS

Yellowstone National Park.

Inclosure
March 3, 1933

Mr. Roger W. Toll,
515 Custom House,
Denver, Colorado

Dear Mr. Toll:

We are sending you separately today copies of the November and December, 1932 issues of Touring Topics. There has developed considerable controversy as to whether the Mystic Maze near Needles is of prehistoric origin or a construction development of the Santa Fe railroad. I must confess I haven't seen it, but I aim to in the immediate future and I am going to have with me when I do Frederick Webb Hodge who, I think, may be able to throw some light on the matter. I am disposed to concur with you and others that it is prehistoric but documentary evidence, so far at least, points to the contrary.

Thanking you for writing us, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Phil Townsend Hanna
Editor and General Manager
Dr. Arthur Woodward,
Curator of Archaeology,
Los Angeles Museum,
Los Angeles, Calif.

515 Custom House,
Denver, Colorado,
March 22, 1933.

Dear Dr. Woodward:

In January I had an opportunity of seeing the rock maze or Indian maze south of Needles, California, close to the western end of the bridge over the Colorado River.

This area had been suggested as a possible national monument, but it seemed to me more suitable for a state reservation than a national reservation.

Touring Topics for December, 1932, carried an article by Mr. H. W. Dennis of Los Angeles, which quoted the transactions of the American Society of Civil Engineers to the effect that, in the construction of the concrete for the bridge piers, the volcanic rock with which the nearby mesas are strewn was collected by raking into windrows and then hauling them away. The article states that Indian labor was used in gathering this rock. From what I could see of the rock maze, I did not believe that it was made by a construction crew. It certainly was done by hand work and not by machine work. It seems quite possible that the railroad construction crew utilized some of the rock that had previously been gathered into windrows, but I am inclined to think that most of the work antedates the construction of the railroad bridge. At one point I noticed a design that certainly looked like Indian work.

In case you have visited this area, I would appreciate it if you would let me know what your conclusion is regarding its origin and purpose and whether or not there is any similar work elsewhere in the United States.

In February I visited the Giant Pictographs on the west bank of the Colorado River near Blythe, California. These are certainly very interesting and should be given all possible protection, but there again it seemed to me that it was rather a matter for the state than for the Federal Government to assume. These pictographs need the protection of a custodian in order to prevent damage by motorists.

If you can refer me to any published accounts of either of these two areas (aside from the accounts published in Touring Topics), I would greatly appreciate it.

Sincerely yours,

Roger W. Toll
March 28, 1933

Mr. Roger W. Toll  
National Park Service  
515 Custom House  
Denver, Colorado  

Dear Mr. Toll:

Your letter of March 22 is just at hand. It so happens that I have not visited the "maze" near Needles, but I think, from all I have heard concerning it, that it is of aboriginal construction and that the engineers raked up their rocks elsewhere.

However I am referring your letter to Mr. Arthur Woodward of the Los Angeles Museum who has made a recent study of the subject and is better prepared to give you detailed information off hand.

Sincerely yours,

M. R. Harrington  
Curator
Dear Dr. Woodward:

I want to thank you very much for your letter of April 3 with the information regarding the Indian Maze and the Giant Pictographs.

In view of the conflicting data that had been published in Touring Topics, I wanted to get an expert opinion and wrote to Dr. Harrington and yourself. Dr. Harrington replied that he was sending the letter to you as you had the best information on the subject.

What you write is very interesting and I certainly appreciate your letter. I wish I could make some suggestion about the use of the Army planes for the inspection of the Gila River area. If the Army regulations make arrangements difficult, would it not be possible to secure the aid of the California National Guard? I asked one of the Army officers about getting airplane photographs of the Mystic Maze and he referred the request to the California National Guard who very promptly had some photographs taken.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,

Roger W. Toll
Dear Mr. Hanna:

On March 3 you wrote that you expected to visit the Mystic Maze near Needles in the near future with Frederick Webb Hodge.

In case your trip has been made, I would be interested in knowing Mr. Hodge's opinion of the maze and would be glad to secure a copy of any article that he may write for publication descriptive of the maze.

I wrote to Dr. Arthur Woodward of the Los Angeles Museum and he replied under date of April 3 that he is satisfied that this Mystic Maze is an aboriginal product and not one constructed by the Indian workmen nor by machinery for the purpose of obtaining rock for the bridge piers. I am enclosing a copy of Dr. Woodward's letter, but I wish you would consider it as personal and not make any use of it for publication without Dr. Woodward's permission.

The sign at the road junction near the Mystic Maze says that the land is the property of the State of California, and I hope that this is the case. The signs erected by the Department of Public Works are certainly of value in preventing action that would tend to injure the maze.

Sincerely yours,

Enclosure

Roger W. Toll
Chief,
Smithsonian Institution,
Bureau of American Ethnology,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

In going over some files of the National Park Service, I find a letter from Dr. Fewkes to Mr. Cameron, Associate Director, National Park Service, dated March 9, 1925, a paragraph of which reads as follows:

"I have just been studying the typical mazes which we find remaining in our country, depicted as pictographs or on basketry, pottery and stone, and am preparing a paper on those of Europe, which are among the most interesting. In that article I am including the Mohave Maze."

I would appreciate it if you could give me the reference to the published article by Dr. Fewkes which he speaks of as being in preparation or to any other similar article on the Indian mazes of this country.

Very truly yours,

Roger W. Toll

Address after April 25

Roger W. Toll, Superintendent,
Yellowstone National Park,
Yellowstone Park, Wyo.
April 24, 1933

Mr. Roger W. Toll  
National Park Service  
515 Custom House  
Denver, Colorado  

Dear Mr. Toll:

I have been trying to get out to see the Mystic Maze ever since I wrote you in March, but, alas, I haven't been able to assemble the individuals I wanted to take with me, namely, Hodge, Sullivan (district engineer for the California Highway Commission) and East, our own chief engineer. I am very much inclined to believe that Woodward is correct and Dennis is wrong, though I don't want to print anything more about this curiosity until I have had a chance to inspect it critically.

I am very grateful to you for sending me the copy of Woodward's letter. I'll not print it nor use it in any way without consulting him, of course. I have in hand a letter from Sullivan containing very much the same information that is to be found in Woodward's communication and inasmuch as you have such an interest in the matter I am taking the liberty of sending you a copy of this particular communication for your information and your files.

Sullivan, as you know, has been charge of highway construction and maintenance in the region about Needles for many years and he not only knows the country very well but he likewise has a scholar's interest in this problem.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Phil Townsend Hanna  
Editor and General Manager  
TOURING TOPICS
May 3, 1953

Mr. Phil Townsend Hanna,
Editor and General Manager,
Touring Topics,
9626 Wilshire Boulevard,
Beverly Hills, California.

Dear Mr. Hanna:

I have received your letter of April 24, and thank you very much for sending a copy of Mr. Sullivan's letter regarding the Mystic Maze.

I feel sure that Mr. Newton B. Drury of the California State Park Department will also be interested in further developments regarding the Mystic Maze. I am forwarding your letter to Director Albright.

Sincerely yours,

Roger W. Toll
Superintendent

CC The Director
RWT: WR
May 3, 1933

The Director,
National Park Service,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Director:

Attached is a letter from Mr. Phil Townsend Hanna, Editor and General Manager of Touring Topics, dated April 24 and a copy of a letter from Mr. E. Q. Sullivan, District Engineer for the California Highway Commission.

These letters relate to the proposed Mystic Maze National Monument, California and are submitted for your files on that subject.

Very truly yours,

Roger W. Toll
Superintendent

Incl.losures.

H.T.VR.
Proposed Mystic Maze National Monument
California

Report to Horace M. Albright
Director, National Park Service

By
Roger W. Toll
April 30, 1933
The Director,
National Park Service,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Director:

On December 18, 1932, I visited the proposed Mystic Maze National Monument, California.

An area of some thirty or forty acres is covered with windrows of small stones. The ridges are some six to nine inches in height, from one and one-half to two feet in width at the base, and the distance between ridges varies from four to eight feet, the average being about six feet.

This system of ridges is not a maze since they do not form a labyrinth, but in general the ridges are parallel to each other.

It has been recently stated that this work is not that of prehistoric Indians, but was done by the Santa Fe Railroad crew during the construction of the bridge at Topock. I believe this is a mistake; the bridge crew worked in this vicinity and may have hauled away stone from the maze but I am convinced that the work is that of Indians and that it is probably ancient.

Assuming that the maze was constructed by prehistoric Indians, it has considerable archaeological importance. It should be protected from injury such as would be caused by automobiles being driven indiscriminately over the area.

The character of the ridges or maze is not such as to excite very much interest in the average visitor and it is believed that the value of the area lies in its archaeological interest rather than in its popular or recreational interest.

This area is now more or less under the protection of the State and it is believed that it can be adequately cared for without Federal aid. It has archaeological value and is a feature of importance to the State, but it does not seem to be of national interest sufficient to warrant its consideration as a national monument.

Your file on the proposed Mystic Maze National Monument is returned herewith.

Very truly yours,

Roger W. Toll

Inclosures
General view, looking north, showing Colorado River.

A design, evidently hand made.
Location

The area known as the Mystic Maze, Indian Maze or Rock Maze is located ten miles southeast of Needles, California. It is on the western or California side of the Colorado River within about half a mile of the river and near the west end of the Santa Fe railroad bridge over the Colorado River at the small town of Topock, Arizona.

It is located in Township 7 North, Range 24 East, Santa Barbara Meridian. Judging from the topographic map of the Needles Quadrangle which is attached hereeto, it would seem that the maze is near the northwest corner of Section 8 in this township.

The maze is approximately a quarter of a mile across and its area is estimated at from thirty to forty acres.

Accessibility

The main highway U. S. 66 from Kingman, Arizona, to Barstow, California, passes within less than a quarter of a mile of the Mystic Maze.

This highway crosses the Colorado River by a bridge a short distance down stream from the bridge of the Santa Fe Railroad. The highway as well as the railroad passes through the town of Topock, Arizona.

The distance from the center of the highway bridge over the Colorado River to the junction point of a side road leading to the maze is one and one-half miles. The length of the side road leading to the maze is approximately one-quarter of a mile.

A sign at the junction reads "Rock Maze. This is the property of the State of California. Its purpose and origin are unknown. Your cooperation is requested in preserving the paths of the maze. Vandals will be prosecuted. Department of Public Works." Another sign erected by the Automobile Club of Southern California refers to the area as "Prehistoric Indian Maze".

A parking place for automobiles is provided at the northerly edge of the maze.
Portion of Map of California
General Land Office
Scale: 1" = 12 miles
Portion of map of Southern California
Pub. by National Automobile Club
Scale: 1" = 10 miles
A Modern "Marvel"

To the Editor:

I am fascinated by the story in Touring Topics for November captioned "Who Drew These Giants Along the Colorado?" by H. H. Arnold, and desire to call your attention to the reference therein to the Indian maze. Mr. Arnold refers to it as follows:

"Equally as perplexing is the so-called Indian maze which was photographed several miles northward along the river. It looks as though some giant had worked on the ground with an enormous rake."

Mr. Arnold is not the first author who comparatively recently has featured the Indian maze. (See Los Angeles Times, Automobile Section, December 27, 1931, and variant of February 19, 1932.)

As a matter of fact the Indian maze, so-called, is merely a ten-acre area involved in the construction of the Santa Fe bridge over the Colorado River at Topock and I refer you to a technical article relative to that construction as written in 1891 in Transactions of the American Society of Civil Engineers under the caption, Redrock Cantilever Bridge. In describing the preparation of concrete the article states as follows (pages 692 and 693):

"The broken stone as at first supplied from the debris of the Chiniqu quarry and from the volcanic rock found in the vicinity of the bridge, but it was found that the broken volcanic rock with which the mesas were strewn, could be collected at less cost, and being of the same character, was substituted in the caisson work at a saving of nearly $1 per cubic yard. The process of gathering was to rake these fragments of stone into windrows and haul them by wagon to a pile where convenient to load into a car when needed. An inclined screen was erected to separate the dust from the stone while conveying it to the car. Indian labor was used very successfully for this as well as for labor about the caisson."

The Department of Public Works authorized and constructed a sign some time prior to the publication of the article in the Los Angeles Times, above mentioned, and I called the matter to the attention of the State Engineer, Mr. Hyatt, on December 28, 1931. 1, subsequently, on July 3, 1932, observed that the main part of the sign had been changed from "Prehistoric Indian Maze" to "The Rock Maze", although the wording of the description on the sign, namely, "its purpose and origin are unknown" had not, on that date, been changed. Many of the old relics have been glorified so as to make them national monuments, and it is quite fitting that this should be done. Likewise, there have been many incidents that have been deliberate hoaxes in archaeology. The so-called Indian maze is not entitled to be classified as a national monument, nor is it any deliberate hoax, but on the contrary, it is a relic of comparatively recent construction and doubtless there are individuals still residing in Needles who are able to verify the technical article of the American Society of Civil Engineers insofar as it affects the so-called maze.

Yours very truly,

H. W. Dennis

Los Angeles, Calif.

[To Touring Topics thanks Engineer Dennis for correcting so neatly what might well become, in time, an unfounded legend. Elsewhere on this page appears a photograph of the "Maze", now no longer a mystery, made by the U. S. Army Air Service. —Ed.]

This "mystic maze", photographed from the air by the U. S. Army Air Service, it is said, has little mystery attached to it. Instead of being a pattern incised on rock, as it appears from the air, it is a series of windrows of rock, piled up during the construction of the Topock bridge across the Colorado River, as Engineer Dennis points out in the accompanying letter. Thus a misconception is cleared.
There is attached hereto a letter from Dr. Arthur Woodward, Curator of History, Los Angeles Museum, dated April 3, 1933, in which he says that he is satisfied that this maze is an aboriginal product and not constructed in connection with the building of the bridge. Dr. Woodward also says that he knows of no similar rock maze in the United States, although there have been rumors of somewhat similar formations in the California desert north of Barstow and near Yermo.
Roger W. Toll, Esq.,
515 Custom House,
Denver Colorado.

Dear Mr. Toll:

It so happens I have visited the maze to which you referred in your letter of March 22. I have examined it from the ground and from the air. In my own opinion, quotations of Mr. H.W. Dennis to the contrary, I am satisfied that this particular maze is an aboriginal product and not one constructed by either the Indian workmen or machinery for the purpose of obtaining rock for the concrete bridge piers.

I rather suspect that Mr. Dennis is confused with a smaller "maze" on the Arizona side of the river near the bridge which has obviously been made by scrapers and the material used in some construction work. This patch of scrapered rocks is piled in neat windrows, scraper width and is on the south side of the highway just east of the bridge. It is quite visible from the air (I first saw it at about 3000 feet and we then dropped down to about 1200-1500 feet to get a better view. It is my humble opinion that it was from this mesa top that the workmen obtained their rock, not from the extensive aboriginal maze on the California side.

In 1907 Edward Curtis visited the Indian maze, photographed it and described it in his Vol. II of *The North American Indian*, there are three excellent photographs of the maze in that work, one facing p. 54, the others on pp. 124-126. In writing of the maze, Curtis said: "In southeastern California along the Colorado river south of the Needles are many mesas, the loose surface stones on the summits which cover hundreds of acres have been gathered by a prehistoric people into long parallel rows about 6 inches high and four feet apart, broken here and there by rectangular spaces. The Mohave Indians nearby utilize the area so named, in recent years, as a maze into which to run and escape evil spirits for it is believed that by running in and out through one of the immense labyrinths one haunted with a dread may bewilder the spirits occasioning it and thus elude them." (Foot note p. 55)

Thus it would seem that if this maze had been constructed in 1889-1892, certainly some of the people in the neighborhood of the Needles would have known about its origin. As a matter of fact, there is a gentleman, a Dr. Kelly living in Needles who was on the ground when the construction work was done and he assured me that the maze was already in existence at that time. Furthermore there were human figures in a portion of the maze near the river (California side) which were destroyed.

In a note from G.W. Simpson, Superintendent of Santa Fe R.R. in Needles, dated May 12, 1932, he quotes Mr. Fred Kelly saying: "There were two human figures and they formed a part of the Mystic Maze. One of the figures was destroyed by the construction gangs in 1888 and the other figure and a portion of the Mystic Maze was destroyed about 1894 during change of line and construction of the Colorado River bridge at Topock, formerly Mellon."
Pictures were taken around 1892 of the human figure that was destroyed in 1894. The figure sprawled out with outstretched arms and legs and was outlined by a ditch about two feet wide and one and one-half feet deep dug through hard material known as shale and cemented gravel. This figure was about two hundred feet tall and seventy five feet across. On the left arm was almost a perfect hand. On the right arm was a tail that extended down the side of the figure. The figures lay head to the north and feet to the south and in each instance there was a trail showing signs of much use, came up to the figure, turned and back trailed.

"The figures were no doubt pre-historic and constructed at the same time the Mystic Maze was built and both the figures and the Mystic Maze are believed to have been a religious rite of some pre-historic race."

This, from a man described by Mr. Simpson as "Mr. Fred Kelly who claims to have arrived in this country in 1892 and was associated with the firm of Monaghan & Murphy, and Postmaster for a number of years. He is a geologist, mineralogist and assayer and a graduate of a Medical College, therefore the story which follows seems to be authentic in every way." would appear to have some foundation. Also, I interviewed Mr. Kelly personally and he told a straightforward story about the maze being in existence at the time so I am convinced that the rows of rock were scraped together by Indians and had nothing to do with railroad or bridge construction work.

As far as I know there are no similar rock mazes of this sort in the United States (with the possible exception of other similar formations in the California desert which may not have been discovered. I have had rumors of others north of Barstow and near Yermo. There is a "rock medicine wheel" in Wyoming a huge circle of stones with radiating "spokes", described a number of years ago by G.B. Grinnell (I believe) in a number of the American Anthropologist. Of the giant figures the only other reference I have to a similarly constructed figure is that described by Russell in the 26th Annual Report, Bureau of American Ethnology on p.254. (This is a report on the Pima Indians of the Gila Valley, Ariz. and describes a "crude outline of a human figure situated about 5 miles north of Sacaton. It was made by scraping aside the small stones with which the mesa is there thickly strewn to form furrows about 50 cm. wide. The body furrow is 35 m. long and has a small heap of stones at the head, another at a distance of 11 m. from the first, and another at the junction of the body and legs. The latter are 11 m. long and 1 m. apart. The arms curve outward from the head and terminate in small pyramids." This figure is known to the Pima as Haak Vaak. I tried to locate it, on foot, one very hot June day but didn't succeed.

I am of the opinion that there may be some connecting link between the figure in the Gila and all of the works on the Colorado. We know definitely that certain cultural influences, spread from the Gila and Salt river valleys down the Gila into the Colorado basin and thence across the desert to the mountain region of San Diego, San Bernardino and Riverside Counties in California. Consequently I do not think we are too far wrong in assuming a theory of a Gila origin for the maze and the figures. When or by what particular tribe I do not know.

I agree with you, the figures and the maze should be protected but whether by state or national government I could not say. My judgment would be that since the human figures are unique and encompassed within a rather small area, they might be worthy of a National Monument designation and give my good friend Frank Pinkley something else to worry about. However, I rather believe the citizens of Blythe should keep a weather eye on the figures since it would be to their benefit particularly to see that they were not destroyed. Perhaps with the figures under government control and a delegation of self-appointed watch dogs from the little desert city, the traveling public would be a bit more careful. Those green and white government signs do induce a certain amount of respect from even the most calloused.

One of these days I hope to get a look at the Gila River figure, from the air, if possible. I had hoped to be able to go as passenger sometime in one of the U.S. planes from March Field when a flight is being made in that direction but so far have failed to cut the red tape. Do you know of any good pair of shears that might be used in the interest of science? I am certain if I could see the terrain from the air I could make better observations, not only of these particular figures but possibly others as well.

Trusting this information will be of some service to you and wishing to apologize for my tardiness in replying, (having this day returned from a two weeks "enforced" vacation, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Arthur Woodward,
Curator of History
Los Angeles Museum
General Characteristics

The windrows of the maze somewhat resemble the lines on the palm of one's hand. The total area is made up of a number of individual areas in which the windrows are approximately parallel. Sometimes one of these areas will blend into another and at other times one series will terminate when it reaches an adjoining system running on a different angle. The photographs show the nature of the windrows better than it can be described.

The windrows somewhat resemble a field that has been prepared for the planting of some crop. In some cases the windrows follow along contour lines, but in other cases they run up and down hill regardless of changes in elevation.

The windrows are made up of rock of assorted sizes. Most of the rocks are small. Practically all of them could be lifted easily with one hand. They run in size all the way from the larger pieces down to small gravel and sand. It is possible that the windrows were formed by hand and that the small sand has been mixed in since by wind and water, but it seems more probable that the windrows were formed by some hand tool such as a rake, which collected material of varied size including sand. The space between windrows usually follows the slope of the ground without any indication of being lower in the center of the space than it is close to the windrow. On side hills the windrows have evidently acted as dams to hold rainfall and in some cases sediment has been deposited up to the top of the windrow. The windrows cross some of the smaller gullies without interruption, but where the gullies are larger the ridges do not run across the gulch.
Aerial Photographs

In Tucson I met Major M. C. Hoppin of the Aeronautics Branch of the Department of Commerce and asked him if he knew of any airplane photographs that had been taken of the Mystic Maze. He kindly wrote to Major E. A. Peterman, Commanding Officer of the Air Corps of the California National Guard at Los Angeles. Major Peterman had the accompanying aerial photographs taken for this particular purpose.
Various References to the Mystic Maze

(From the National Park Service File.)

Mr. Ed. H. Davis, for more than ten years connected with the Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation, New York, as field collector, and who has lived among the Indians for forty years, said in a letter to Mr. Ed Fletcher of San Diego, California, dated March 19, 1928: "This so-called maze is one of the most unique and singular archaeological remains of a prehistoric race."

Attached hereto is a copy of a letter dated February 29, 1928, from Mr. Davis to Superintendent Frank Pinkley and also Mr. Pinkley's reply to Mr. Davis, dated March 8, 1928.

Also attached is a copy of a letter from the late Dr. J. Walter Fewkes to Mr. Cammerer, dated March 9, 1925, recommending the establishment of this area as a national monument.

Also attached is a memorandum prepared by Mr. John P. Harrington, of the Bureau of American Ethnology, for Dr. Fewkes in January, 1921.

Mr. Roger Foster, 69 West 55th Street, New York, in a letter to Mr. William Sproule, President, Southern Pacific Company, dated March 21, 1923, refers to the maze as "A valuable relic of the Spirit Dreaming Cult of Indians."

Attached is a copy of a report by Mr. H. W. Mac Farren, Mineral Inspector, General Land Office, to the Commissioner of the General Land Office, dated July 10, 1916.
Dear Frank (Pinkley):

I am inclosing prints of part of the mystic maze situated 12 miles south of Needles, called 'Mystic Maze of the Mohaves.' although they claim no authorship or ownership in it; that their ancestors found it when they came into the country many years ago. It is of unknown age or origin and is an unsolved problem to the archaeologists and ethnologists. I have just come from there where I made a superficial study of the wonderful enigma of a prehistoric race and am writing to you to have it brought to the favorable attention of Mr. Stephen Mather with the idea of having it made into a National Monument for the preservation and study. These photos will give you some idea of the general conformation and extent, but the whole area of ridges and spaces would cover probably 6 acres, as some of these stony ridges extend for 2,000 feet. These stony ridges average about 5 ft. apart on centers, absolutely parallel and about 5" to 6" high and each ridge 12" wide at the base. The small stones forming the ridges are uniformly black or very dark and the spaces swept clear of stones, except at certain monuments. The creosote bushes are evidently an intrusion of recent growth. Action on this is imperative to save it from destruction by touring autocists driving recklessly over and levelling the ridges and ruining the continuity. It is adjoining a national highway and easy of access and it is heedlessly being ruined. A five wire barbed fence 1,000 ft. long stretched between two deep canyons would save this wonderful maze, the only one in existence of its kind - (the only other is in Casa Grande). A small gate to admit the public would be all that is necessary and a notice not to desecrate with lunch papers and egg shells or make a play ground of it. It lies on a mesa intersected by deep arroyaas or barrancas in a barren and desolate region adjoining the Colorado River about two or three miles from the bridge at Topock crossing the Colorado. I do not think it is privately owned as it is dry, waterless and sterile. A few hundred dollars for fencing would save this archaeological mystery and a tract of 20 acres would embrace it and its protecting canyons. It would not require a resident keeper, as the fence would be sufficient to safeguard the property. A Mr. Jerome Booth of Needles, a well known old timer at Needles, would be glad to look after it occasionally to see the privileges would not be misused. He is deeply interested in its preservation and was my guide and informant and if you go to Needles please hunt him up. He is interested in a pool hall and is somewhat lame. Kindly give this your earnest and immediate attention.

Very sincerely,

(sgd) Ed. H. Davis
Coolidge, Arizona.

March 8, 1928.

Mr. Ed. H. Davis,
Mesa Grande, California.

Dear Mr. Davis:

I have your very good letter of February 29, with its inclosed photographs, regarding the reservation of the so-called maze along the Colorado River below Needles.

I have visited this 'maze' two or three times and have examined it pretty closely but did not take any photographs.

So far as I could see it is not a true maze. I could not see that its passages led into each other or that there was any common center. It seemed to me to be several series of parallel lines, each group or series running at random to the other groups. You speak of the whole thing covering six acres, but I think you must have meant sixty acres for I believe it is that extensive.

You speak of the lines of stones running absolutely parallel and I noticed that myself and wondered if they could have been formed in recent times by means of a V shaped drag. From a rather superficial look over the place I could not see positive evidence of antiquity. For instance, if the lines had been formed several hundred years ago, small arroyas must have necessarily cut through them since formation and we should find places where the series of lines would come up to the edge of such arroyas and continue in the same number and the same direction on the far side. While such cases may be there I did not notice one.

Another thing which made me a little sceptical was a story I picked up in Needles to the effect that the man who had charge of the construction work on the bridge when the Santa Fe was built through there, upon revisiting Needles a few years ago, said his gang had made those lines at that time by running a go-devil over that ground and throwing the stones into winrows which they gathered up and used in the bridge construction. Having pushed up more rows than they needed, they left the remainder, which is what we see today. This needs a little checking up, for the joke would be on us if we reserved the place and then discovered this origin of it.

I will of course put your letter before the Service for its decision and in the meantime let us gather better evidence of its antiquity. I will study the place more closely when I come in past there this summer from my summer work and wish you would look it over again if you get in that neighborhood.

Cordially yours,

Supt., Southwestern Monuments
Dear Mr. Cammerer:

It pleased me very much to learn that you might ask the President to elevate the Mystic Maze, near Needles, California, into a national monument. Its position, unique character, and vicinity to a well-traveled road into Southern California are all in its favor, and would make it ideal for a monument. There are near it, I am told, many old huts of the Mohave Indians which could be put in such condition as to attract a great many visitors and teach them a lesson on Indian habitations. I have no hesitation in recommending this Maze for a national monument, under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service.

It would be well to have aero-pictures made of it, as the pictures we now have do not convey the best view of its intricate character. It undoubtedly figured in Mohave ceremonial life, and was one of the few localities of this character in the United States.

I have just been studying the typical mazes which we find remaining in our country, depicted as pictographs or on basketry, pottery and stone, and am preparing a paper on those of Europe, which are among the most interesting. In that article I am including the Mohave Maze.

Mr. Harrington, one of my staff, has made two visits to the Maze and collected much new material, but for lack of time was not able to work out all details of this interesting structure. I hope later to give you the metes, bounds and other data necessary for the President's proclamation, should you so desire, and also send you photographs for your examination. I hope you will add this Maze to the other educational monuments in the Southwest under control of the National Park Service.

Remember me to friends in the Park Service.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd) J. Walter Fewkes

Mr. A. B. Cammerer,
National Park Service,
Washington, D. C.

Chief.
The following memorandum was prepared for Dr. J. Walter Fewkes in January, 1921:

"The Maze is a couple of miles above Topak on the California side and the Santa Fe railway and automobile highway pass by it. I have always understood that it is on Government land. It covers more than 5 acres, and is one of the most impressive as well as ancient monuments in the United States. It should be established as a national monument, fenced in, and preserved for future generations to see and study.

"I also want to mention again my project of having a Mohave house constructed at the Maze. There are only four or five of these houses of the old type now left in the Mohave Valley, and the preserving of one of them for the people of the future to see is even more important archaeologically than the preservation of the Maze. I would suggest that the Indians (and there are only a few old Indians who still know how) be employed to build one of these semi-subterranean dwellings at the site of the Maze. The primitive Mohave house and the maze would form one of the "sights" of southeastern California, and would be visited by hundreds of automobile travelers and others annually. I may add that the making of a miniature model of a Mohave house is of little or no scientific value, since the details of construction cannot be faithfully reproduced except in natural size and with the native materials."

John P. Harrington
The Commissioner, 
General Land Office, 
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

Letter "A" of March 4, 1916, signed by C. M. Bruce, stated that there had been received from the Secretary correspondence indicating that near Topock, Arizona, "are evidences of early Indian or pre-historic peoples of a peculiar character that are not Pueblo or Cliff-Dweller Ruins, but some scheme of stone configuration on the surface, locally called the "Mystic Maze" which possibly may be of sufficient interest and value to warrant government protection under the provisions of the Act of June 8, 1906." Field examination was directed and same was made by me on June 20, 1916.

The Mystic Maze is located 100 feet south of the Old Trails continental automobile highway paralleling the Santa Fe Railroad. It lies 13 miles southwest of Needles, California, and one mile northwest of the highway and railroad bridges across the Colorado at Topock, Arizona, the Maze being in California. It is situated in the extreme south part of the S\(\frac{1}{2}\) SW\(\frac{1}{2}\) Sec. 5, T. 7 N, R 24 E., San Bernardino Meridian.

The Maze lies in rough hills of wash overlooking the bottom land of the Colorado river and is four acres in extent. The wash is mainly of angular rock and pebbles one to three inches long. The Maze consists of parallel rows or windrows of these rocks and pebbles, the rows being one foot wide, six inches high, and from 100 to 400 feet long. They lie 5\(\frac{1}{2}\) ft. apart. The main series windrows run east and west, with an additional north-south series on the north and another one on the south. A stranger would say that someone within recent years had taken a rake and raked the loose rock into windrows. The Maze looks like the hilled rows of a dead potato patch or the little levees in an irrigated field. The term Maze is a misnomer as the windrows are parallel and fairly straight. They suggest that someone was trying to represent the stripes of the American flag. Each row looks like the windrow of pebbles raked off of a newly built auto road.
A large sign has been built at the Maze within 25 ft. of the auto road. The same reads "Mystic Maze. Pre-historic. Proposed government reserve. Park cars here. Needles L V M Club." The Maze is said to have been in existence before the advent of white men. The Indians, as usual, have no legends about it. Local people speak of it as a Mystic Maze built by the Indians in the belief that evil spirits would be entrapped in it and rendered powerless to do evil through being unable to get out of the Maze. The weakness in this plot for a legend is that the rows are straight and open, except where the north and south series butt at right angles against the main series.

Outside of the legends or tales that a powerful imagination could weave as a plausible excuse for these rock windrows, there is nothing more than the most fleeting interest connected with the Mystic Maze. There is far more of interest to be seen on a circus lot the day after the circus has gone away.

Recommendation:—The Mystic Maze contains nothing of sufficient interest to warrant its creation into a National Monument, and as it is located on a railroad section this case should be closed without further action.

Very respectfully,

(Sgd) H. W. MacFarren

Approved: July 27, 1916

B. H. Gibbs

Chief of Field Division.

Mineral Inspector, G L O.