

Joshua Tree National Monument
Twentynine Palms, California 92277

June 5, 1964

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Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Western Region

From: Superintendent, Joshua Tree

Subject: Fiscal Year Annual Report

Enclosed is report, with pictures, on the following areas of interest for the 1964 Fiscal Year at Joshua Tree National Monument.

I. Public Information/Relations.	Page 1
II. Administration.	" 2
III. Operations.	" 3 & 4
IV. Design and Construction.	" 5
V. Specialized Services.	" 6
VI. Resource Studies.	" 7 & 8
VII. Cooperative Activities.	" 9

(Sgd.) Wm. R. Supernaugh

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Superintendent

Enclosures

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I. PUBLIC INFORMATION/RELATIONS

With the close proximity of the Monument to a number of towns and cities, we are often asked to present a program to various service clubs, school classes and other organizations. During the 1964 fiscal year, 26 programs were presented to a total of 907 persons.

These programs include slide talks on the Monument and movies, as well as talks and demonstrations before elementary school classes. The very popular movies, which we have shown a number of times, are The Eruption of Kilauea Iki, and The National Parks, Nature's Last Frontier.

The organizations range from service clubs to rock-hound and garden clubs. Good relations with the local schools have provided many opportunities to contact the children, especially in the elementary and junior high schools.

In addition to these program presentations, members of the staff occasionally are interviewed on the local radio station on matters concerning the Monument.

II. ADMINISTRATION

Personnel: Important changes in personnel were promotion and transfer of Administrative Officer James Hardie to Zion National Park, and accession of Herman W. Schmidt by promotion from Sequoia-Kings Canyon to fill this vacancy.

Chief Ranger Hessel L. Earenfight retired on April 25th with 27 years of government service.

Rothwell F. Broyles was promoted from Yosemite National Park to Chief Ranger, Joshua Tree National Monument.

Stanley W. Tauscher was promoted from GS-9, Eastern Office of Design and Construction to Landscape Architect, GS-11, Joshua Tree National Monument to fill position vacated by resignation of Leroy S. Augden.

Chief Ranger position was reclassified from GS-9 to GS-10, and three district ranger positions raised to GS-8.

III. OPERATIONS

The completion of the new Visitor Center Addition to the Monument Headquarters in Twentynine Palms has measurably enhanced interpretation and orientation services. We have received many very favorable comments from visitors, especially from those who remembered the old quarters. It is still necessary to utilize the old, and temporary displays.

A variety of interpretive services were scheduled during our season of heaviest use, from October through May. Typically these include at least two guided nature walks each weekend. Campfire programs and conducted nature walks were also provided, upon request, for the many organized groups camped in the Monument. The campgrounds receive heavy use from Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, church groups, as well as other organized groups.

In November, 1963, a campfire program was inaugurated in the Hidden Valley campground, which is open to the public and presently received the heaviest overnight use. While there are no seating facilities or provisions for audio-visual aids, attendance has been very gratifying at these talks. The average is 69 persons, with 235 being present on the Saturday evening of the Memorial Day weekend.

III. OPERATIONS (continued)

145 interpretive programs were presented to a total of 7,054 persons in the 1964 fiscal year.

The greatest improvement in the visitor services and protection of the area is the physical development at Cottonwood Springs. Visitors entering the south entrance can now receive orientation and information. The new, small contact station on the road will supply the previously needed service.

IV. DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

The Visitor Center Addition to the Oasis Headquarters, completed this year, was a major improvement for visitor services and relieving our over-crowded conditions in offices. An additional office was constructed on the Administration wing.

Development of the Cottonwood District gives service and protection to this remote section of the area and control of visitors from U. S. Highway 60-70. Three residences were completed under one contract. A Contact Station, maintenance building, and two comfort stations, plus power generators, are 95% complete under a second contract.

We will now be able to open the new campground, and remove all camping from the Cottonwood Oasis which is being badly over-used.

V. SPECIALIZED SERVICES

Land: Realty Specialist Johnson continues cooperation with Bureau of Land Management on land exchanges. During the year, four exchanges were completed and deeds issued on 1,200 acres valued at \$153,000. 120 acres were in one of the most critical sections in the area.

Thirteen additional exchanges are being processed for 3,313 acres totalling \$417,650. Some of these are awaiting only issuance of patent.