

Joshua Tree National Monument
Twenty-nine Palms, California 92277

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May 27, 1965

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Western Region

From: Superintendent, Joshua Tree

Subject: Fiscal Year Annual Report

Enclosed is report on the following areas of interest for the
1965 Fiscal Year at Joshua Tree National Monument.

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Wm. H. Superbaugh
Superintendent

/Enclosures

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I. PUBLIC INFORMATION/RELATIONS

Public Relations were extended, particularly on the south side of the Monument, due to personnel stationed in the Cottonwood District and special efforts to meet with organizations in the Indio-Palm Springs area.

II. ADMINISTRATION

Personnel: A number of changes in personnel took place during the last year. The accessions filling vacancies created by transfer were: Roman F. Bott, Foreman III, James B. Johnson, Maintenanceman, Charles N. Norvik, District Park Ranger, Richard T. Wilburn, District Park Ranger, William F. Dengler, Park Ranger, and Alan D. Eliason, Park Naturalist. Stanley W. Zauscher, Landscape Architect, transferred to WODC. The position of landscape architect was then abolished. A new position of Maintenance Superintendent was established. It was filled by the transfer of Herbert J. Quick from WODC.

Training: In addition to training sessions held locally, employees attended training programs as follows: Superintendent, "Personnel Management for Executives", at Pasadena, given by the Army; Administrative Officer, "FERGIEP Procedures", at San Bernardino, given by General Services Administration; Secretary, "Secretarial Institute", at Los Angeles, given by the Civil Service Commission; Chief Park Naturalist and Park Naturalist, "Interpretive Methods", at Stephen T. Mather Interpretive Training and Research Center, Harpers Ferry, West Virginia; Park Ranger, "Introduction to Park Operations", at Horace M. Albright Training Center, Grand Canyon, Arizona; Administrative Aid, "Regulations and Procedures

II. ADMINISTRATION (cont.)

Work Shop (processing personnel actions) at Los Angeles, given by the Civil Service Commission.

All supervisory personnel attended a training session on "Employee Performance Evaluations and Actions", given at the Marine Corps Base, Twentynine Palms.

Three rangers attended a "Criminal Law" course, for three credit hours, at College of the Desert at neighboring Palm Desert.

In cooperation with other agencies, the rangers received specialized training as follows: "Camp Operations" (fire), by the California State Department of Education; "DCE-DCF Communications", by the California Division of Forestry and California Defense Office; "Building Fires" and "Automobile Fire Control", by the Twentynine Palms Fire Department; "Arson Investigation", by the California Association of Arson Investigation; and "Alcoholic Beverage Control Laws", by the California ABC Enforcement Agents.

II. ADMINISTRATION (cont.)

Land and Water: During the year, the land exchange program advanced materially, with final acceptance by Bureau of Land Management, of several exchanges which have been under way, some extending more than two years. A total of 3,533.92 acres have been completed within the last year. 660 additional acres are under application, and which we are assured will go through. Many parties are interested in securing lands for exchange, and we have hopes of exchanging one ownership of 3,596 acres, some of which are located in very strategic sections of the Monument.

Failure of some wells in the Monument has caused a critical situation in supplying needed water for visitor use and the ranger stations. Test wells in the Cap Rock area were unsuccessful, which leaves only the purchase of the Ryan Property as a solution to our situation.

Master Plan: The new Master Plan, though drafted the latter part of last year, was approved and finalized during this year.

III. OPERATIONS

The opening of a new information station on the south end of the Monument gave visitors entering from Interstate 10, a major entrance, an opportunity to receive orientation and information which was not available heretofore.

Talks reached 90% more people in widespread locations within the Monument. Newly scheduled campfire talks in Cottonwood Spring and Indian Cove, and evening programs in the new Visitor Center at Headquarters accounted for the marked increase.

In a further effort to improve the quality of interpretation, both permanent naturalists attended the Interpretive Methods course at the Stephen T. Mather Interpretive Training and Research Center.

Traffic violations and vandalism continue to be major protection problems. Rangers investigated 206 reported offenses, and 97 court cases were heard before the U. S. Commissioner and in State Court. Fines totaling \$1,250. and nine days in jail were given offenders by the two courts.

Campground use increased by 13.5% over the previous year, creating increased visitor services and protection responsibilities.

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IV. DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

The Jumbo Rocks Campground, which had been under construction over an extended period, was opened in November following installation of toilets, which are being tried, apparently very successfully, with pre-fabricated fiberglass units installed on concrete tanks.

Construction continued on Oasis Trail as far as was possible to avoid later destruction by flood water, which has yet to be controlled, across the Oasis area.

V. RESEARCH STUDIES

The continuing use of the Monument for research resulted in the publication of a comprehensive work on the Monument Flora and Fauna, by Drs. Miller and Stebbins of the University of California at Berkeley.

Continued Bighorn Research was carried on by Ralph Welles on a cooperative basis. This will extend another year before conclusions can be drawn.

A study of Geological Faulting was carried on by Roger Hope for thesis work at UCLA.

VI. COOPERATIVE ACTIVITIES

In cooperation with the Marine Corps, six groups of from 30 to 60 marine personnel were brought to the Monument during the year, as a part of their desert survival training; the naturalists instructed these groups in the use of desert plants and the character habits of animals, snakes, etc. The use of Monument personnel and facilities is becoming a recognized part of the Marine Corps training at this base.