

Joshua Tree National Monument
Twentynine Palms, California 92277

A2621

May 31, 1967

Memorandum

To: Director
Attn: Information Officer, WAGO

From: Superintendent, Joshua Tree

Subject: Annual Narrative Report for Fiscal Year 1967

Enclosed is report on the following areas of interest for the 1967 fiscal year, at Joshua Tree National Monument.

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(Sgd.) Wm. R. Supernaugh
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Enclosures

In duplicate
cc: Regional Director, WRO

WRSupernaugh:a1

I. PUBLIC INFORMATION AND RELATIONS

The 50th Anniversary of the National Park Service celebration provided an opportunity to further public relations throughout surrounding communities. United Chambers of Commerce, which includes Twentynine Palms, Joshua Tree, Yucca Valley, Morongo Valley, Palm Wells, and Landers, sponsored the program, which was held at Jumbo Rocks Campground on August 21. This was climaxed by the Marine Corps Band, and program presented by members of the National Park Service.

II. ADMINISTRATION

Major personnel changes during the year were: Transfer of Park Ranger Aisen E. Inman to Point Reyes National Seashore; transfer of Park Naturalist Alan D. Eliason to Curecanti National Park; District Ranger Charles M. Horvik resigned in August, 1966, and was replaced by James E. Lynch by transfer from Great Smoky Mountains National Park in April, 1967. Park Naturalist Elden Wanrow entered on duty 12/18/66, and Park Rangers John Wise and Gary Hoyer entered on duty 9/25/66. All three were assigned here from the Albright Training Center at Grand Canyon. Donald R. Pettitt transferred from the Marine Corps Base to enter on duty 8/14/66 as Maintenance man.

A management survey was conducted at Joshua Tree by the Western Regional Office Management Survey Team.

A driver training course, conducted by General Services Administration, was sponsored and included all local Government Agencies on July 28 and 29.

Another important training course was given by the Federal Bureau of Investigation representatives to National Park Service, members of the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Office, the California Highway Patrol, and the Marine Corps Base.

III. OPERATIONS

The occurrence which caused the greatest publicity was the landing of three balloons on the Monument during the balloon contest sponsored by the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway. The warning citations given by the ranger caught the fancy of the press, and items appeared in newspapers throughout the United States.

Travel to the Monument in 1966-67 set a new record of 408,577 visitors. Camping in the Monument continued to be popular, and increased 11% over the previous year, with a total of 89,761 camper days.

During the 1967 fiscal year, 40 conducted trips were attended by 1800 visitors. The majority of these trips were scheduled in the Indian Cove area on Sunday mornings. The 130 live talks were attended by more than 7,000 special groups and campers. These talks were, in the main, campfire programs held in the four major camping areas of the Monument. More than 60,000 visitors were contacted at the Oasis Visitor Center, and the Cottonwood and Lost Horse stations. More than 6,000 members of civic, educational and military groups attended the fifty off-site programs. Although no accurate figures are available, it is estimated that as many visitors made use of self-guiding facilities as were contacted by the visitor center and ranger station combined. The estimate was based on trail booklets sold, weather conditions and the average travel figures.

IV. DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

Work continued from previous start on Indian Cove Campground, and twelve group camp sites were constructed with tables, fireplaces, and toilets. This will replace the former seven group sites and will allow them to be converted to day-use picnic sites.

Bids are out for construction of comfort station, campfire circle, shelters and utilities, to complete the Cottonwood Springs development. Additional bids are out for the Ranger Station and Residence at the entrance to the Indian Cove Campground, which will give greater protection and service at this isolated area.

Engineering is being conducted for proposed construction, next year, of Route 2 through Pinto Basin.

V. LANDS

One of the most important developments on the Joshua Tree National Monument during the year was the acquisition of two very critical inholdings. 133.5 acres, owned by Mrs. Ryan, containing Lost Horse Well #1, was purchased to supplement our critical water supply.

Another very important inholding was the 878.86 acres, which was formerly Keys property, was exchanged through General Services Administration by Henry Tubman for other surplus Government lands.

Exchanges through Bureau of Land Management progressed very slowly, and though several applications are pending, little was accomplished during the year.

VI. RESEARCH

Research Biologist James K. Baker was assigned by the Washington Office to Headquarters at Joshua Tree National Monument to conduct research in the southwest area. Nearly the entire year has been spent on investigation of proposed landmark sites, and on investigations on Channel Islands and in Death Valley.

A small archeological research project was conducted by George Kritzman in the Indian Cove area. Several sites were located and one cave of probable importance was discovered.

Plans were made for further archeological investigation with Dr. Makoto Kowta, University of California at Riverside, to be conducted the coming year.