

10-23  
(May 1920)

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

JOSHUA TREE----- NATIONAL ~~PARK~~ MONUMENT

FILE NO. 901

PART I

JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL MONUMENT

~~CONCESSIONS~~

PRIVILEGES & PERMITS

LAST DATE ON TOP  
IMPORTANT

This file constitutes a part of the official records of the National Park Service and should not be separated or papers<sup>4</sup> withdrawn without express authority of the official in charge.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.

ARNO B. CAMMERER,  
*Director.*

March 18, 11 .

191. COMMONWEALTH AVENUE.

Mr. A. E. Demaray,  
Washington, D. C.,

My dear Mr. Demaray:

At the suggestion of my brother, William A. Delano, who promises to hand you this note, I am enclosing a letter written by Professor Munz; he is Professor of Botany and was much interested in the establishment of the Joshua Tree National Monument; he corresponded with Mr. F. A. Delano about that, as did I.

It certainly seems a pity, since the desirability of protecting the tree has been recognized by the establishment of this monument of approximately one million acres, to have them destroyed for the benefit of a private concern. I have been told that plastic splints are more satisfactory.

In a magazine (Land of Sunshine, 10:3 figs., 1898) which is undoubtedly in Washington, a Mr. Densmore of Hesperia, California, advertised the value of Yucca splints and apparently had a patent to control their manufacture. Whether this is a new version of the same concern I do not know. After attempting to push his product Mr. Densmore stressed the fact that "the supply of yucca is limited," and that the plant was "a unique feature of the Mojave Desert," both of which are definitely true. I suppose that the Paxton Box Company feels that they have the opportunity of a lifetime to put such a product on the market.

That they should be desirous of cutting these trees from public lands seems very presumptuous to me. The trees are slow growers and already the finest specimens have been destroyed wantonly or for purposes equally well or better served by less valuable products.

I do hope that you may be able to foil their plans for I cannot believe that they are merely actuated by a desire to contribute to the war effort.

Very sincerely yours,

(Mrs.)

Susan Delano McKelvey

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON

*Thompson*  
*Wirth*  
*Cahalane*  
*Coffman*  
*Jelson*  
*330*

ADDRESS ONLY  
THE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

March 25, 1942.

Mrs. Susan Delano McKelvey,  
191 Commonwealth Avenue,  
Boston, Massachusetts.

*Joshua Tree*  
*SGH 901*

Dear Mrs. McKelvey:

Mr. William A. Delano has handed me your letter of March 18 and Professor Philip A. Muns' letter of March 12, concerning the request of the Paxton Box Company to obtain from the public lands Joshua trees for use in making surgical splints.

The Paxton Box Company communicated with the Department of the Interior and their request is now being considered. The whole question concerning the use of Joshua trees on the public lands during the war emergency is now being studied by the Department, and it is probable some general policy relative thereto will be adopted. I do not anticipate, however, that there will be any necessity for the use of the Joshua trees in existing parks and monuments.

Dr. Willis Jepson in his "Silva of California" says: -

"The wood is very light and will not split and is highly adapted for surgeon's splints. Immersed in tepid water and bandaged to the limb, the splint retains the form thus given it. Moreover, its porous character allows free circulation of air. The pulp of the trunks was at one time manufactured into paper but the project proved unprofitable and was abandoned."

My personal feeling is that if the military forces require surgical splints made from Joshua trees, the use of this resource, outside of State and national park areas, would be justified in the present emergency, if properly regulated and supervised.

I shall be glad to keep you posted on any further developments in the case.

Professor Muns' letter is returned for your records.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD) A. E. Demaray  
A. E. Demaray,  
Associate Director.

cc: Mr. William A. Delano  
126 East 38th Street,  
New York City, N.Y.

BHT-fmd

cc: Region Four  
cc: BR&LP Room 5211  
Enclosure 2535929.

cc: GLO w/c  
corres.

cc: Supt. Joshua Tree