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THE SOUTHWESTERN MONUMENTS.

Frank Pinkley, Superintendent, Blackwater, Arizona.

Nothing spectacular has been done in the work among the south-western monuments in the last year, nevertheless some real progress is to be noted.

Reports on the various monuments in this district follow:

Astec Ruin National Monument is located in northwestern New Mexico near the Colorado-New Mexico line and is under the charge of Custodian Earl Morris who is serving at a nominal salary. Mr. Morris was again give a leave of absence during the year to supervise excavations in Central America. Mr. O. O. Owens acted as ranger in charge while Mr. Morris was away.

The American Museum again furnished the salary to protect this monument. I have included a salary in the 1927 estimates and, since the American Museum has more than fulfilled its promise made when it donated this ruin to the government, it is essential that we get the salary and assume this obligation. The ruin is a 800 room communal house of the well known pueblo type. It is in a thickly settled country and has thousands of visitors each year. Untold damage could be done by vandals in a few weeks should the American Museum decide to discontinue its allotment for a salary and we not be prepared to take it up.

Capulin Mountain National Monument, lies in northeastern New Mexico and is under the charge of Custodian Hoxer J. Parr of Capulin, who serves at a nominal salary. The reservation was made to protect the magnificent example of a recently extinct volcano which rises about 5,000 feet above sea level and stands about 1,500 feet above the level of the surrounding plain.

No expenditures, other than the nominal salary, were made during the fiscal year 1925, but allotments have been made and road and trail work have been outlined for 1926.

Carlsbad Cavern National Monument, in southeastern New Mexico, is under the charge of Custodian W. F. Melvain, of Carlsbad, New Mexico, who serves at a nominal salary.

Further explorations were conducted in the cavern during the year with funds granted by the National Geographic Society and we are now more certain than ever that this is one of the great caverns of the world.

The appropriation in the 1928 bill amounting to \$6,000 was expended and encumbered to the amount of about \$4,100. Purchase included one lighting unit, and a pump, tank and galvanized pipe for a water system. Funds were not available out of the appropriation for installation and that had to await the next fiscal year.

The Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce constructed a stairway through the natural portal of the cavern at an expense of \$1,600, thereby eliminating the former method of ingress by way of an iron bucket and cable to a depth of 175 feet.

A new road is being built from the Carlsbad-Van Horn highway to the cavern on an easy grade so that all cars can reach the portal of the cavern. Heretofore only high powered cars could negotiate the old hill with its 28% grade.

Casa Grande National Monument, in south-central Arizona, has been my headquarters during the year. During my absence on work at other monuments, which amounted to some four months, Mr. George H. Boundey was in charge.

During the year we expended \$1314.47 in repair and protection work at Casa Grande.

The prehistoric ruins which cover this reservation are notable as the last standing ruins of the type in the United States and it is important that they be protected and handed down to future archaeological research in as complete state of preservation as possible.

Visitors have come in increased numbers and have taken more of our time. Two of us have been trying to give the same service here that is given in Mesa Verde National Park to a smaller number of visitors by six or seven employees.

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Chaco Canyon National Monument. in northwestern New Mexico, is under the charge of Custodian C. A. Griffin who receives a nominal salary.

As examples of prehistoric architectural skill, the Chaco Canyon ruins are without an equal in the whole United States. The ruin of Pueblo Bonito alone contained between 800 and 1,000 rooms and has walls standing at present to a height of nearly 40 feet. There are 40 major ruins on the monument of which Pueblo Bonito is the best known because of the four seasons of excavation which have been carried on under the grant of \$75,000 from the National Geographic Society. The expedition is headed by Doctor Neil M. Judd and is now in the field for the fifth and last year of work.

During the year we expended \$1,305.04 in repair and preservation work at Pueblo Bonito ruin, beginning a campaign which must necessarily last over several years.

By all means we should have a full paid man in charge of this monument and I have again included the salary in the estimates for 1927.

El Morro National Monument lies 82 miles southeast of Gallup, New Mexico, and is under the charge of Custodian H. L. Vogt, of Bannah, New Mexico.

On the smooth face of the sandstone cliff of El Morro are the inscriptions of five of the early Spanish governors of New Mexico, as well as of many intrepid padres and soldiers who were among the first Europeans to visit this part of the world.

We expended \$149.06 at El Morro for signs, toilets and minor repairs. Protection for the inscriptions themselves is planned for next year.

Gran Quivira National Monument, in central New Mexico, is under the charge of Custodian W. H. Smith, of Gran Quivira.

This monument is of special interest because the ruins lap from the prehistoric down into the historic times. The pueblo was inhabited long before the coming of the Spaniards, and the two mission churches were erected, one in 1628-30, and the other after 1650.

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The American School of Archaeology, of Santa Fe, New Mexico, expended about \$600 in excavation in the summer of 1924 and we expended \$433.75 in repair and protection during June, 1925. Further work at this monument is planned for next year.

Governors National Monument is located on the line between Colorado and Utah and contains many stone walled ruins of great interest to both the casual visitor and the archaeologist.

Owing to a lack of funds we have no custodian and have never done any repair work at this monument.

Montezuma Castle National Monument, lying in central Arizona, under the charge of Custodian Martin L. Jackson, of Camp Verde, is the most easily accessible cliff dwelling in a good state of preservation in the southwest.

We expended \$333.47 in repairs at the Castle in July, 1924, and will continue the work in the summer of 1925.

Mr. Jackson is paid a nominal salary and is rendering excellent service, but it is absolutely imperative, if we wish to preserve this ruin, to put a full paid man in charge.

Natural Bridges National Monument is in southern Utah, under the charge of Custodian Eke Johnson. This monument is reached by trail only, from Blanding, Utah, and lack of funds has prevented any improvement of the trail. No money was expended at the monument during the past year.

Havasupai National Monument, in northern Arizona, is under the charge of Custodian John Wetherill and the three fine cliff dwellings form an interesting exhibit.

This monument has not yet come into its own, being far back from the regular lines of travel, but a great increase of visitors is to be expected within the next two years and a summer resident custodian should be planned for by 1926. Mr. Wetherill receives only a nominal salary and cannot be expected to devote the time which will be necessary for the proper protection as the number of visitors increases.

Saguaro Saguaro National Monument, located in southern Arizona, is under the charge of Custodian J. B. McClain, who receives a nominal salary.

Here we have removed a typical section of desert bushery which forms a wonderful contrast with the waving alfalfa fields and beautiful orange groves which surround it under the Roosevelt irrigation project.

Petrified Forest National Monument, in northern Arizona, is under charge of Custodian Mr. Nelson.

Mr. Nelson has spent a very busy year guarding his monument against the vandal and souvenir hunter. We have not had funds enough to furnish him with complete ranger service and he has been overworked most of the time.

During the year he has erected many signs warning and guiding visitors, has improved the camp ground and water supply, and has added greatly to the collection of beautiful specimens in his museum.

Next year we plan the erection of a ranger cabin and further improvement of the water supply.

Mr. Nelson's greatest need is additional ranger service.

Pipe Spring National Monument, in northern Arizona, has no custodian due to a lack of funds. We were able to spend \$152.10 in repair and restoration at Pipe Spring during the year and plan further expenditures in the summer of 1926.

Rainbow Bridge National Monument, in southern Utah, the largest natural bridge in the world, has no custodian, and none is really needed as yet. It is reached only by trail with a pack outfit, and no money has been expended on the monument.

Prescott National Monument, in southern Arizona, touches the mission period in the history of the southwest. This mission was first visited by Padre Kino in 1691 and the present walls were erected about 1800. It is one of the most charming and interesting of the ruined missions in the United States.

We expended \$499.73 in repair and restoration during the year and have further work planned for the winter of 1926.

Kupatki National Monument, in northern Arizona, is the most recent addition to our family of southwestern monuments and is under the charge of Custodian J. M. Clarke, of Flagstaff, Arizona, who serves for a nominal salary.

We expended no funds on Kupatki but expect to put up signs, a register box, and make minor improvements during the coming year.

The interesting stone walled ruins on this monument make the side trip from Flagstaff well worth while to the tourist who is interested in the prehistoric cultures of the southwest.

Yucca House National Monument, in southwestern Colorado, has no custodian and few visitors. It contains prehistoric ruins which will be of great value for future research workers in aiding to establish the limits of the Mesa Verde culture.