

Joshua Tree National Monument  
Twenty-nine Palms, California 92277

A2621

June 10, 1966

**Memorandum**

**To:** Director  
Attn: Information Officer, WABO

**From:** Superintendent, Joshua Tree

**Subject:** Annual Narrative Report for Fiscal Year 1966

Enclosed is report on the following areas of interest for the 1966 fiscal year, at Joshua Tree National Monument.

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Wm. E. Supernough

Enclosure (Pictures included)

In duplicate  
cc: Regional Director, WRO (2)  
A2621 file

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**I. PUBLIC INFORMATION AND RELATIONS**

Administrative, Protection, and Interpretive Division personnel assisted as called upon to present programs or represent the National Park Service at various functions throughout the high desert and this area of southern California.

Participation in county and community fairs and shows offered the best opportunities outside of our regular interpretive program for public information and relations through fiscal year 1966. Examples of the aforementioned are the San Bernardino Orange Show, the Twentynine Palms Gem and Mineral Show, the Joshua Tree Garden Club Show, and the annual High Desert Wood Show.

Important opportunities in public relations and information were taken advantage of due to the fact that the Headquarters and principal visitor center Joshua Tree National Monument are within the unincorporated bounds of the community of Twentynine Palms. Special programs on history, and subjects of particular interest to the local residents were advertised and presented throughout the winter months. Civic clubs in Twentynine Palms, Banning, Eureka, Palm Wells, Joshua Tree, Eagle Mountain and other communities, were presented programs on the Monument and other National Park Service areas.

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Considerable interest was generated among the local residents with the installation of the museum exhibits in January of this year. The museum exhibits were featured over radio and in the press.

Writers from a number of southern California communities and organizations throughout the county were extended plentiful opportunities to see the resources of the Monument, research the Monument library, and get acquainted with our personnel and the general operation.

Plans were made to celebrate the 50th Anniversary, and Chambers of Commerce of Twentynine Palms, Joshua Tree and Yucca Valley will assist in the celebration.

## **II. ADMINISTRATION**

Major personnel changes during the year were: Herman W. Schmidt Administrative Officer, transfer and promotion to Mesa Verde, replaced by Ray C. Teter; Herbert J. Quick retired, replaced by James Chilcoat, formerly at Carlsbad; James R. Youse, Supervisory Park Naturalist, transfer and promotion to Ozark Riverways, replaced by Donald M. Black, formerly at Shenandoah. Maintenancemen James B. Johnson transferred to Carlsbad recently, and we are waiting for a replacement on that position.

One especially good training course on Driver Safety was conducted by H. E. Archer, GSA, San Francisco. Other training sessions conducted during the year were: Public Relations, Correspondence Management, Planning and Programming, and Policies.

Quarters were appraised and re-evaluated by an F.H.A. representative in September 1965.

### III. OPERATIONS

A new 8 kw power plant was secured for Lost Horse Ranger Station.

The Western Tree Crew spent November 29 through December 8 on the area, pruning and removing hazardous trees.

Travel for the year showed a steady increase; however, conditions caused quite a few variations from other years. More than normal snows caused roads to be closed in the area and prevented travel for some periods. These times were off-set by better than normal flower displays which caused increases during spring months. Camping increased steadily.

Entrance fees were charged for the first time in Joshua Tree National Monument; however, are applicable only to the Cottonwood Campground. This is the only area under the established standards as fee areas.

The Protection Division investigated 243 reportable offenses and arrested or cited 110 persons; all of whom appeared in the U. S. Commissioner's Court, Twentynine Palms Judicial Court, or were processed as juveniles. A total of \$1,822.00 was assessed in fines and five days in jail were given offenders. Traffic offenses, preservation of natural features, and hunting and firearms violations continue to be the major protection problems.

There were five statistical fires requiring suppression during the year, four were Class A and one was Class B. Cooperative assistance was received from the California Division of Forestry on two of the fires.

Resources Management and Visitor Protection personnel received 258 man-days of training in Law Enforcement, Fire, Mountaineering, and Management. All permanent rangers have received training in Forest Fires from the U. S. Forest Service, and in Structural Fires from the California State Department of Industrial Education. The following outside agencies contributed 174 class hours of instruction: U. S. Forest Service, California Division of Forestry, California State Department of Industrial Education, San Bernardino County Sheriff's Office, California Highway Patrol, U. S. Marine Corps, General Services Administration, and the College of the Desert in Palm Desert.

A program of seasonal orientation training was initiated with cooperative efforts of the Protection and Interpretive Divisions.

IV. DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

Design and Construction, this year, consisted of improvements in Indian Cove Campground, where an additional 100 tables and fireplaces are being installed, and the fiberglass toilets installed over concrete vaults following a design originated at Joshua Tree National Monument.

**V. SPECIALIZED SERVICES**

Although exchanges under the Taylor Grazing Act were slowed due to Bureau of Land Management's reclassification of lands, several important exchanges from previous applications were completed, which totaled 1,829.13 acres, valued at \$300,000.00 during the fiscal year.

One important exchange is being processed through General Services Administration for surplus lands. This exchange is the original Keys Property, totaling 878.96 acres. Options and Title Investigation were secured on Ryan Property through Water Rights Acquisition, to supplement our diminishing water supply in Lost Horse Wells.



**VI. RESOURCES STUDIES**

Roger Hope completed his study of Faults in the Monument and nearby areas as related to the San Andreas Fault.

An archeological survey was made by George Kritzman prior to construction in the Indian Cove Campground. Several small sites were found but none of great significance.

Bighorn Research studies were conducted by contractors, Ralph and Buddy Welles.

James K. Baker was assigned to several southwestern areas, being stationed at Joshua Tree National Monument where he will continue the research of Bighorn and other desert animals.

**VII. COOPERATIVE ACTIVITIES**

Cooperative Agreement between Joshua Tree National Monument and the Mohave Desert Soil Conservation District was completed in April, 1966, supplementing the Departmental Agreement with this District.