



Landscape Arch—Devil's Garden Section.

trance road that goes from monument headquarters to Balanced Rock. However, as in most National Parks and Monuments, leisurely travel through parts of the area which cannot be reached by automobile yields much in the way of interest that is missed by motorists. Trails lead to most scenic points, and the hiker is well rewarded for his efforts.

There are no food or lodging facilities in the monument, but several restaurants and auto courts and hotels are located in Moab.

If you plan hiking trips, rock climbing, or if you want to camp in the monument, you should first report to the superintendent. Lack of drinking water, the possibility of getting lost, and sudden storms that wash out part of the road present real hazards. To be able to help when needed, the superintendent must know where you are going to be in the monument area. The superintendent's office is at monument headquarters.

To protect the natural features of the monument, and for your comfort and convenience, please note:

This is a sanctuary for wildlife. Hunting or the use of firearms is not permitted.

Flowers, shrubs, and trees should not be disturbed; initials or names should not be

carved on rocks; and natural objects or artifacts should not be defaced, destroyed, or removed.

Fires may be built within the monument in designated areas only.

The Monument

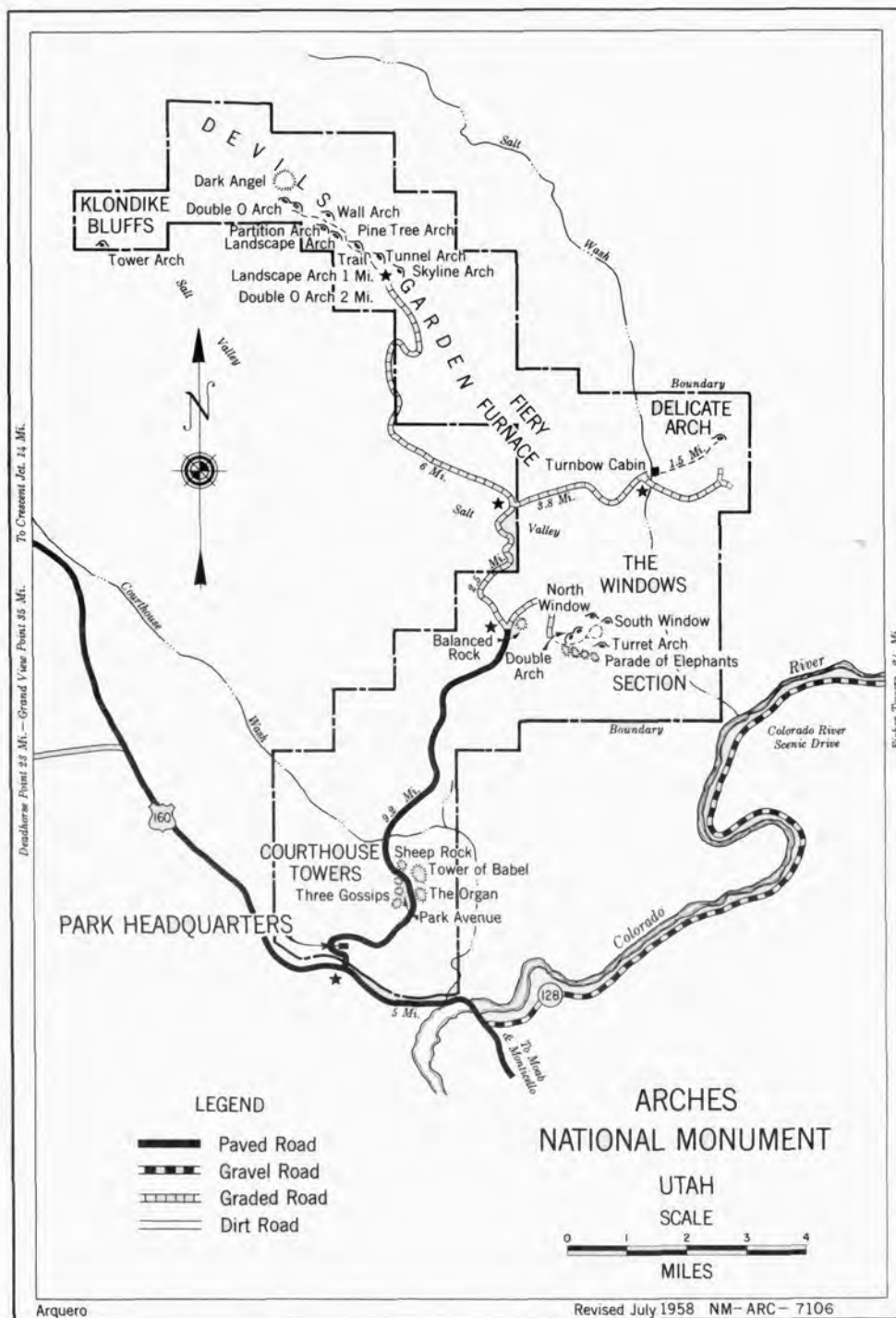
Arches National Monument was established by Presidential proclamation on April 12, 1929. The present area is 53 square miles.

Administration

Arches National Monument is administered by the National Park Service, U. S. Department of the Interior. A superintendent, whose address is Box 98, Moab, Utah, is in immediate charge.

Mission 66

Mission 66 is a program designed to be completed by 1966 which will assure the maximum protection of the scenic, scientific, wilderness, and historic resources of the National Park System in such ways and by such means as will make them available for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.



REVISED 1959

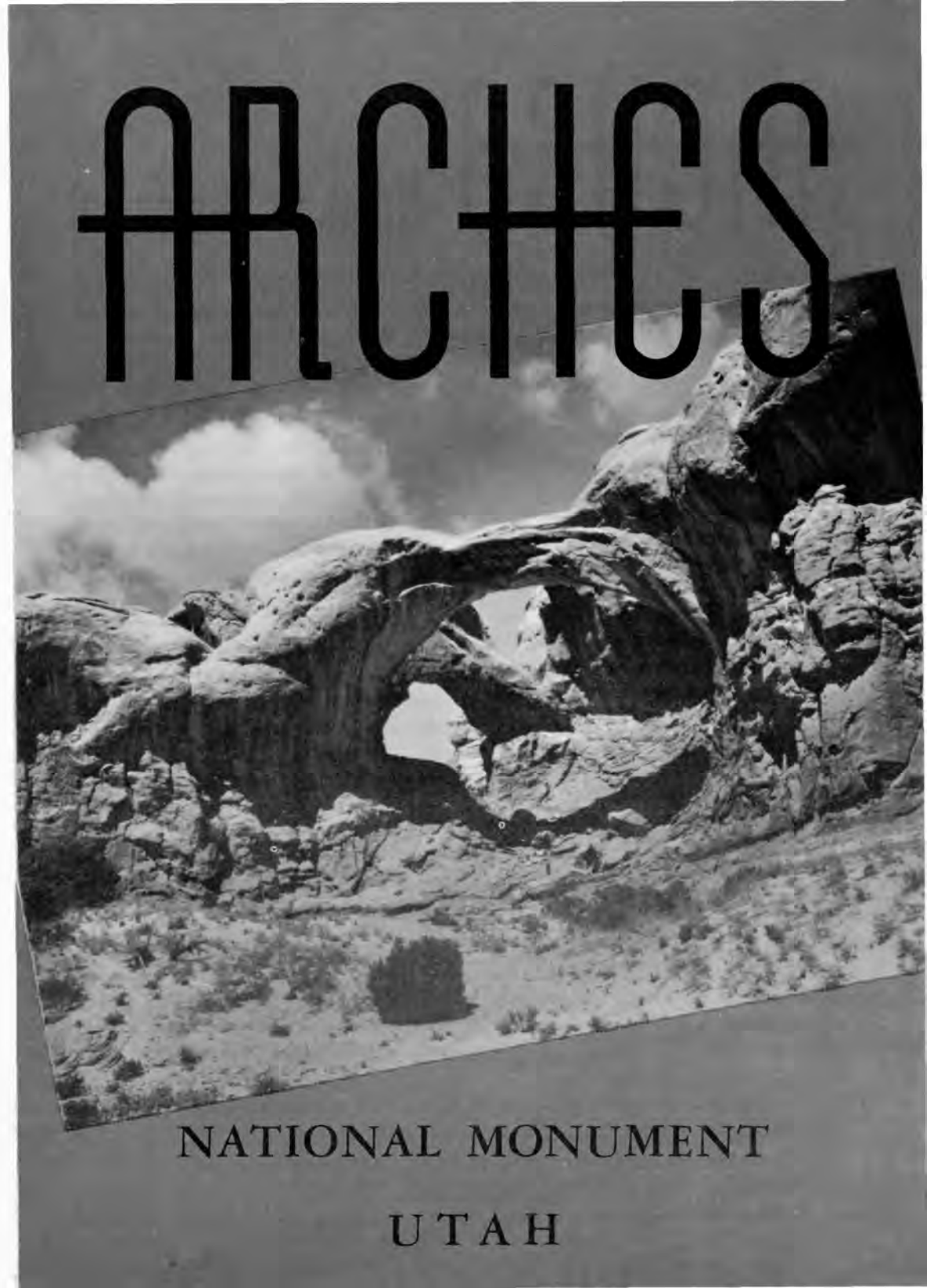
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United States Department of the Interior
 FRED A. SEATON, Secretary
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, Conrad L. Wirth, Director



ARCHES



NATIONAL MONUMENT

UTAH

ARCHES National Monument

Gigantic but graceful arches and immense windows perforate vertical fins of dull red sandstone in Utah's "slickrock" country overlooking the deep gorge of the Colorado River

In the heart of the famed red-rock country of southeastern Utah, north across the Colorado River from the picturesque old Mormon pioneer town of Moab, lies Arches National Monument. It contains more natural stone arches, windows, spires, and pinnacles, which are carved in great buff-colored sandstone cliffs and fins, than any other known section of the Nation. Natural windows, enlarged and smoothed by weathering, have been carved in the hundreds of vertical slabs that were cut by erosion from a 300-foot layer of sedimentary rock called the Entrada sandstone.

Eighty-eight openings that are large enough to be classed as arches have been discovered within the boundaries of this National Monument, hence the origin of its name. Other arches are probably hidden away in remote and rugged parts of the area. Spectacular towers, sweeping coves, shapes resembling figures of men and animals, balanced rocks, and other weird forms resulting from the combined action of running water, wind, rain, frost, and sun form a setting to which the arches themselves are a majestic culmination.

Courthouse Towers

A paved entrance road leaves State Route 160 at monument headquarters, 5 miles north of Moab. The entrance road, completed in 1958, climbs the sandstone cliffs behind headquarters and passes through the Courthouse Towers section on its way to a junction with the graded road system at Balanced Rock.

You may want to take the 1-mile hike along Park Avenue, an orderly array of towers and spires that top sheer walls and resemble the skyscrapers of a great city. As there are parking areas at each end of the trail, one member of your party can drive around to pick up the hikers. Exciting views of the La Sal Mountains, the Three Gossips, Sheep Rock, the Tower of Babel, the Organ, Courthouse Canyon, and The Windows section may be enjoyed from the parking areas and pullouts.

The Windows Section

Within the east-central, and most readily accessible, part of the monument, a great mass of the Entrada sandstone towers over

the surrounding plain, which is dotted with pinyons and junipers. In these massive walls the forces of nature have carved eight immense arches and many smaller windows, passageways, coves, pinnacles, spires, and balanced rocks. Here are the famous Double Arch, Parade of the Elephants, Cove of the Caves, North and South Windows, Balanced Rock, and other erosional features. You can reach this part of the area by automobile over a 2-mile graded road which leaves the new entrance road at Balanced Rock. A foot trail will enable you to approach closely to all the things you will want to see.

Devils Garden

You can reach the Devils Garden section along a good graded road continuing 8½ miles north and west from The Windows junction. From the end of this road near Skyline Arch, trails lead to Landscape Arch (1 mile), to Double O Arch (2 miles), and also to Fin Canyon, Tunnel Arch, and the many other arches found in this part of the monument.

Landscape Arch, 291 feet long, is believed to be the longest natural-stone span in the world. Prehistoric Indians used part of the Landscape Arch area, perhaps as a winter campground. They made arrow points and

other stone implements from the chips of agate and chalcedony that litter the ground.

The Fiery Furnace in the Devils Garden is so rugged that it has not yet been fully explored. Its name comes from the fact that in the light of the setting sun this great jumble of vertical slabs of red rock appears to glow as if from the heat of a furnace.

Klondike Bluffs

Another area which has not been adequately investigated because of the difficult terrain is Klondike Bluffs, which is west of the Dark Angel part of Devils Garden. It has long parallel rows of immense upright sandstone fins and grotesque rock forms. The 1-mile trail trip to Klondike Bluffs is well worth while.

Delicate Arch

The scenic features of the monument are climaxed by the impressive grandeur of Delicate Arch, with its unsurpassed setting of cliffs and massive "slickrock" domes, and with the gorge of the Colorado River beyond and the snowcapped peaks of the La Sal Mountains in the distance. A graded road leads within 1½ miles of Delicate Arch, and there is a foot trail the rest of the way.

How the Arches Were Formed

To those interested in earth structure and the power of erosion, Arches National Monument is a great outdoor museum. Rocks of the area are predominantly sedimentary; originally, they were sands deposited in ancient seas. Some have been altered by heat and pressure to form metamorphic rocks. Geologists explain that the Entrada sandstone was deposited during the Jurassic period—125 to 150 million years ago. The Entrada sandstone is cut by two series of cracks, called joint systems, which cross each other at right angles. Minor parallel cracks, about 20 feet apart, extend through the entire thickness of the formation. For untold centuries, water entering these joint systems has dissolved the cementing substances in the sandstone, carrying away the loosened materials. This progressively enlarged the parallel cracks of the series of master joints which follow the slopes. During thousands of years, these parallel cracks have been gradually enlarged to form wide, deep fissures between which rise huge separating slabs of the dull red sandstone. Some of these slabs, or fins, are less than 20 feet thick and more than 100 feet high.

It is in these remaining fins that arches have been formed. Here, "quarrying" is done largely by water entering the secondary sets of joints at right angles to the slab faces, gradually loosening blocks of sandstone, or, lacking joints, loosening disks and shell-shaped chunks. These are removed by water and wind and by freezing and thawing, aided by gravity, and thus holes, or windows, are developed in the great fins. The persistent agents of weathering enlarge the windows, smoothing their contours to form large graceful arches.

However, the process of weathering does not confine itself to such activity. It also removes other parts of the fins, leaving some arches isolated, such as Delicate Arch that is pictured here. Becoming so thin from the

ceaseless attacks of the elements that they can no longer support themselves, the spans of the arches eventually fall, and the remnants remain in place as buttresses or pillars. All stages in the development and decay of arches are to be seen in the monument.

Wildlife

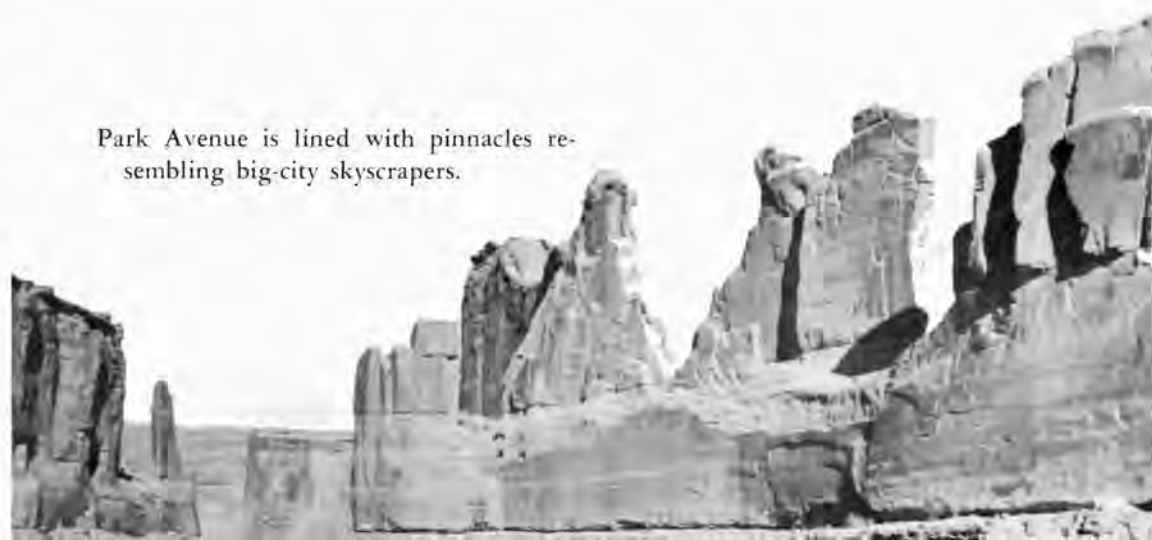
Native plants and animals found in the monument are protected by the National Park Service against activities of man that might reduce their numbers or alter their habitats. The local species are characteristic of the sparse pinyon and juniper forest communities of the Great Basin Desert. The larger mammals, such as deer, coyotes, and foxes, are present but are rarely observed. Birds of many species, numerous small rodents such as ground squirrels, rabbits, and kangaroo rats, and, occasionally, small reptiles may be seen. From May to August, except in abnormally dry years, colorful displays of wildflowers carpet moist locations, particularly in the Salt Valley.

About Your Visit

You can easily get to all the major scenic features of the monument from the new en-

Delicate Arch—notice the figure of a park ranger under it.

Park Avenue is lined with pinnacles resembling big-city skyscrapers.



The National Park System, of which this area is a unit, is dedicated to conserving the scenic, scientific, and historic heritage of the United States for the benefit and enjoyment of its people.

Cover: Double Arch in the Windows Section.