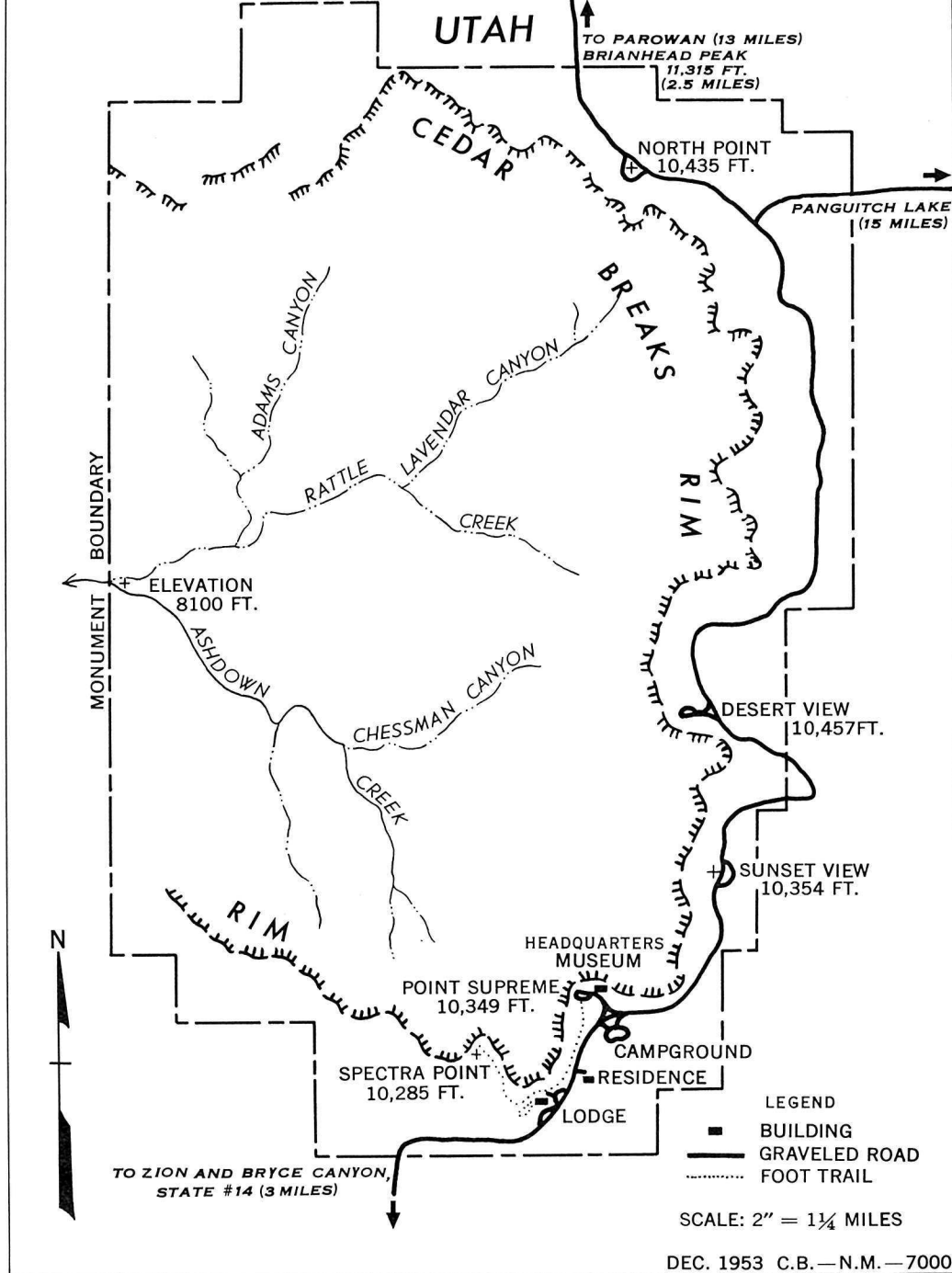


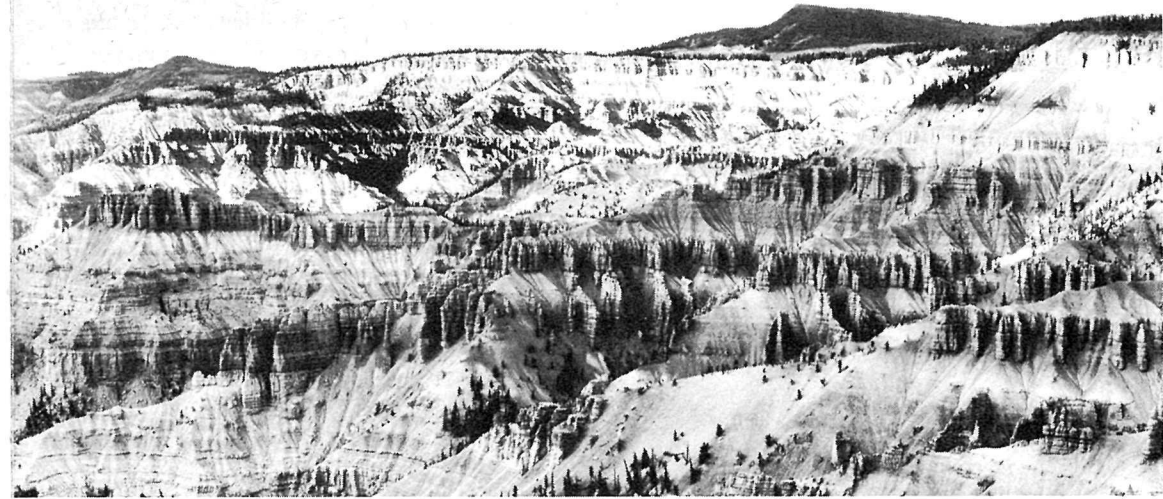
CEDAR BREAKS NATIONAL MONUMENT



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CEDAR BREAKS

National Monument • Utah



SITUATED HIGH ON the Markagunt Plateau in southwest Utah at elevations reaching 10,700 feet, the monument contains a gigantic multicolored natural amphitheater. The Pink Cliffs, a part of the Wasatch formation, have a thickness here of nearly 2,000 feet. They are eroded into fantastic shapes and display an amazing variety of color, 47 different shades having been recognized. With everchanging lighting accentuating tints of the vividly colored rock formations, sweeping vistas, and attractive wildflowers, Cedar Breaks National Monument offers superlative scenic values. One of the most spectacular views is from nearby Brianhead, which has an elevation of 11,315 feet.

The monument is roughly 4 miles long by 2 1/2 miles wide, covering an area of almost 10 square miles. It is surrounded by Dixie

National Forest. Two-thirds of the area is high cliffs and steep talus slopes.

The name "Cedar Breaks" is confusing to many visitors since cedar trees are not evident in the area. Junipers, which the early settlers called "cedars," grow nearby, but at elevations considerably below the rim of the amphitheater. The settlers also referred to the canyons and cliffs as "breaks" or "badlands."

HISTORY

Early exploration of the Markagunt Plateau began in 1851 when the Mormons settled in Parowan and Cedar City, in the valley to the west. In 1852, church leaders explored the headwaters of the Sevier and Virgin Rivers, which rise on the plateau, but made no report concerning the cliffs known today as Cedar Breaks.

Photo: Amphitheater from Point Supreme (Courtesy Union Pacific R. R.)

It was 20 years before anyone described the colorful amphitheater at Cedar Breaks. Both the Wheeler and Powell Surveys of 1872 made extensive topographic records, as well as observations of flora, fauna, and geology.

For more than three decades following these scientific surveys, use was made of the grazing and timber resources of the area as need developed. The first protection afforded this unique area was in 1905 when it was included as part of the Sevier (now Dixie) National Forest, and was administered by the Forest Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The area was established as a national monument by Presidential proclamation on August 22, 1933, and was placed under the administration of the National Park Service of the U. S. Department of the Interior.

GEOLOGY

The layers of rock making up the Wasatch formation at Cedar Breaks had their origin about 55 million years ago as limy ooze deposited in shallow lakes on a land surface near sea level. About 13 million years ago the land was uplifted to its present height and gradually eroded into canyons, spires, and cliffs. Some of the surrounding region was raised in separate blocks. The landscape at Cedar Breaks and eastward remained as one large plateau, with only minor breaks at its weaker points. As this plateau lifted, it produced a very steep escarpment facing westward while the plateau surface tipped eastward. Rain and snow water rushing down the escarpment cut canyons into the soft limestone. Oxidation of impurities in the limestone—iron in particular—gives the cliffs their color.

Lifting of the land was accompanied by volcanic eruptions. Lava from the more recent eruptions appears to be only a few thousand years old. Many of these lava beds are fresh in appearance and remain without vege-

tation. They are widely distributed over the plateau.

FLOWERS, TREES, AND WILDLIFE

Throughout the monument, as soon as the snow melts in the spring, the meadows and slopes become resplendent wildflower gardens. Good moisture conditions and fertile soil encourage the growth of such flowers as the marshmarigold, green-gentian (*swertia*), mountain buttercup, Indian paintbrush, lupine, larkspur, white columbine, monkshood, and bellflower (*bluebells*).

Of much interest is the bristlecone (*fox-tail*) pine, which ekes out an existence on the poor and scanty limestone soil.

The higher portions of the rim of the Cedar Breaks amphitheater are dotted with subalpine meadows and clumps of dwarfed fir and spruce.

The area is a favorable wildlife habitat. Mule deer may be found grazing in the meadows almost any morning or evening. Marmots make their dens among the rocks. Ground squirrels, chipmunks, and red squirrels find the cones of the spruce a good food—ideal for winter food caches.

HOW TO REACH THE MONUMENT

Cedar Breaks National Monument can be reached by paved road from either U. S. 89 or 91 by traveling on State Routes 14 and 55. It is 26 miles from Long Valley Junction located on U. S. 89, and 21 miles from Cedar City on U. S. 91. The monument is 62 miles from Zion National Park and 64 miles from Bryce Canyon National Park.

ABOUT YOUR VISIT

The travel season extends from early June to late October, depending on weather conditions.

At Point Supreme, only 1 mile by paved road from the south entrance of the monument, is the building which houses the Administrative Office and the museum. A naturalist provides interpretive and informational service. Informal talks on plants, animals, history, and geology of the area are given several times each day at Point Supreme.

Viewpoints offering varied scenes can be reached by driving the 6 miles of unimproved road along the rim of Cedar Breaks. On this drive, many flowers are seen, particularly during July and August.

Regulations have been designed for the protection of the natural features and for your safety and convenience. Park rangers will help and advise you, as well as enforce regulations.

Natural features. Please help us preserve the wildlife, shrubbery, trees, and other natural features. The use of firearms is not permitted.

Picnicking. Picnic only in the established picnic area. Keep your fire small and within the fireplace.

Hiking. Refrain from shortcutting trails. For your safety, seek the advice of a ranger concerning climbing or hiking.

Driving. Please drive only on the established roads and use the parking areas.

Pets must be under physical restrictive control at all times.

If you need information or are in any difficulty, see a park ranger. Please help us keep your monument clean.

ACCOMMODATIONS

In the monument, a concessioner operates a lodge with snack bar, dining room, and cabins with bath. For reservations and rates write to the Utah Parks Co., Cedar City, Utah.

A free picnic area is maintained near Point Supreme, with water and sanitary facilities. Groceries, gasoline, and oil cannot be obtained within the monument.

ADMINISTRATION

Cedar Breaks National Monument is administered by the National Park Service of the United States Department of the Interior. The superintendent of Zion and Bryce Canyon National Parks, whose address is Springdale, Utah, is in charge of the monument, and all inquiries should be addressed to him. An acting superintendent resides in the monument during the summer.

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



United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

