

Death Valley

NATIONAL MONUMENT

CALIFORNIA

NEVADA





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Douglas McKay, *Secretary*

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE • Conrad L. Wirth, *Director*

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Historic Events

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| 1844 Fremont party, following old Spanish Trail, camped within sight of south end of Death Valley. | 1871 Further explorations for Government by Wheeler and Lyle. |
| 1849 Jayhawkers, Georgians, Bennett-Arcane party, and others entered the valley through Furnace Creek on Christmas Day. | 1872 Panamint mines discovered. Panamint booms in 1874. |
| 1856 First General Land Office survey of Death Valley. | 1873 First borax discovered in Death Valley. |
| 1860 Darwin French and S. G. George prospecting parties explored Panamints and parts of the valley, giving many place names still in use. | 1875 Further exploration by Lt. Rogers Birnie. |
| 1861 Lieutenant Ives explored region for California Boundary Commission, using camels as pack animals. Prospecting parties active. | 1880 Aaron Winters sold borax claims for \$20,000. Borax industry in Death Valley started. |
| 1864 Jacob Breyfogle lost the famed Breyfogle mine. | 1891 Biological expedition by Merriam, Palmer, Coville, and others. |
| 1870 Bellerin Tex Bennett started Furnace Creek Ranch. | 1904 Goldfield mining boom, resulting in mining to camps such as Rhyolite, Skidoo, and Greenwater. |
| | 1908 |
| | 1926 Stove Pipe Wells Hotel and Furnace Creek to Inn established. Eichbaum toll road built from Darwin. Beginning of tourist traffic to the valley. |
| | 1927 |
| | 1933 Death Valley National Monument established. |

DEATH VALLEY

NATIONAL MONUMENT

Open all year • Regular season, October 15 to May 15

DEATH VALLEY National Monument, embracing nearly 2 million acres of primitive unspoiled desert country, was established by Presidential proclamation on February 11, 1933. Famed as a scene of suffering in the gold-rush drama of 1849, Death Valley has long been known to scientist and layman alike as a region rich in scientific and human interest. Its distinctive types of scenery, its geological phenomena, flora, fauna, and climate are unique.

The monument is situated in the rugged desert region lying east of the Sierra Nevada in eastern California and southwestern Nevada. The valley itself is about 140 miles long, with the forbidding Panamint Range forming the western wall and the precipitous slopes of the Amargosa Range bounding it on the east. Running in a general northwesterly direction, the valley is narrow in comparison to its length, ranging in width from 4 to 16 miles. Nearly 550 square miles of the valley floor are below sea level. The area in the vicinity of Badwater is 282 feet below sea level—the lowest land in the Western Hemisphere. Telescope Peak towers 11,331 feet above the lowest point.

The maximum air temperature of 134° F. in the shade recorded in Death Valley was a world record until 1922 when 136.4° F. was reported from Azizia, Tripoli. Temperatures near Badwater have probably been even hotter. These extreme temperatures are known only during the summer months.

Through the winter season, from late October until May, the climate is usually ideal. The days are generally warm and sunny and nights are cool and invigorating. The valley is famous for its consistently fair weather, minimum rainfall, and extremely low relative humidity. The average number of clear days in a calendar year is 283, although in 1 year 351 clear days were recorded. The average annual precipitation at headquarters during the past 15 years is 2.03 inches.

Before the White Man Came

For centuries, the Death Valley region has been inhabited by the Panamint Indians, a small offshoot of the Shoshone Nation. Driven from their homes in the North many generations ago, these Indians migrated to Death Valley where they were

least subject to molestation by their more warlike brothers. Capable of great endurance, ingenious in the utilization of every edible or otherwise useful plant, eating any animal they could catch, following the seasons in incessant migration from valley floor to mountain crest, they managed to persist. They called Death Valley "Tome-sha," which means "ground afire." Since the coming of the white man, their numbers have greatly diminished and their old customs and arts have been largely lost. A few of these Indians still live in a small village on a reservation in the Furnace Creek neighborhood. Their baskets are sold at Furnace Creek Inn and Ranch.

The Historical Drama

There is no record that the early Spaniards, or John Charles Fremont, who probably saw the southern end of Death Valley in 1844, entered and explored the region. The first scene in the recorded drama of the valley was written in 1849.

It remained for a band of half-starved emigrants, pushing westward on a supposed shortcut to the newly discovered gold fields, actually to enter Death Valley in the winter of that year. They were lost in the wilderness, hungry and tired, and the wide salt floor of the valley, with the towering Panamints beyond, was the last blow to their morale. Losing all semblance of order, the train separated into seven groups, each seeking its own escape. One group, known as the Jayhawker party, abandoned almost all of its equipment, made its exit through a canyon later named Jayhawker Canyon, and crossed Panamint Valley and the Mojave Desert. After suffering tremendous hardships, they finally reached Sutter's Fort.

Another group, the Bennett-Arcane party, crossed the salt flats. They camped for 26 days at Tule Spring and nearly

starved. William Lewis Manly and John Rogers were sent ahead in a desperate attempt to find a way to civilization and to bring aid if possible. After a trip of terrific hardship, they finally returned and led their group to safety. Pausing on the crest of the Panamint Range, the weary emigrants looked back across the valley—the tremendous barrier that had caused so much privation and suffering—and cried, "Good-by, Death Valley." While many lives were lost along the trail, a "Captain" Culverwell was the only emigrant of 1849 to die within Death Valley.

In the next few years some of the "Fortyniners," undaunted, returned as guides or on their own to prospect and search for the Lost Gunsight silver lode. Gradually the country became better known. Panamint City and later Skidoo, Greenwater, Rhyolite, and Chloride City lived their short lives and died, leaving only tumbled shacks, weathered timbers, and broken bottles to mark their sites.

Occasionally, the prospectors struck it rich in the rugged peaks and barren canyons which isolated the valley from the surrounding, less-forbidding desert. Itinerant prospectors prodded their burros from one waterhole to the next, following Indian trails or beating out new tracks, and crossed and recrossed the ranges from one end of the valley to the other. Some of them were careless or unacquainted with the country—they missed springs, lost their burros, or lingered too long on the floor of the valley in summer. Their remains, dried and picked clean by kit fox and raven, were eventually found and buried beside the trail.

Borax was finally responsible for the partial taming of the valley. In the 1880's, "cottonball" borax (ulexite) was refined at the Harmony Borax Works and freighted over agonizing miles of desert in huge high-wheeled wagons drawn by 20-mule teams. In 1907, the Tonopah and Tide-

water Railroad was built to the edge of the valley to carry out colemanite borate, but was abandoned when a richer deposit of borax (kernite) was discovered on the Mojave Desert. Death Valley was also brought to the attention of the public through the exploits of Walter Scott, ex-cowboy of Buffalo Bill fame, who became known as Death Valley Scotty. In time, adventurous visitors drove their cars into the valley, cursed its then abominable roads, but came again. With better roads, and all America on wheels, it was inevitable that Death Valley would come into its own as a national playground.

Tales Written in Rock and Landscape

Death Valley has often been described as a vast geological museum, with only a small

portion of its exhibits cataloged. Although studies have been made, it will probably be many years before more than a superficial understanding of its complex geology can be obtained. Enough is known, however, to show that a remarkable story of its origin can eventually be told.

A tremendous span of geological time is indicated in the exposed rocks in the monument. All of the great divisions of geological time, called eras, and nearly all of their subdivisions, or periods, are represented. If the layers of rocks were pieced together and restored to their proper sequence, their total thickness would probably exceed 12 miles. However, the strata have been so greatly distorted, broken, and jumbled that the story is far from being complete and is difficult to read. Much of the mixed record has been buried beneath lava flows and under rain-

20-Mule Team.

Frascher's Photos, Pomona, Calif.



washed mud, sand, and gravel, called sediments. Much of the story told concerns this sedimentary mask that veils many of Death Valley's secrets. A glimpse into the remote past will facilitate an understanding of how Death Valley was formed.

Over a period of time nearly as old as the earth itself, rocks have been deposited by wind, water, and volcanoes, or by masses of molten magma forced upward into older rock. Rocks of the oldest geological era (Archeozoic) have been so greatly changed by heat, pressure, and deformation that little can be learned about their original form. The somber-colored rocks of this era are exposed in the Black Mountains east of Badwater where they are in contact with the more highly colored rocks of the second era (Proterozoic).

The alternating layers of light and dark rock, exposed particularly well in the Funeral and Grapevine Mountains, belong to the third geological era (Paleozoic). During this era, seas intermittently covered the land and deposited great thicknesses of limestone and other water-laid sediments.

Granites, thought to have been formed during the next era (Mesozoic), are important as a source of the quartz grains which form the sand dunes.

Movements of the earth's crust during the first period (Tertiary) of the present era (Cenozoic) formed undrained basins that were filled intermittently with water, indicating a more humid climate. Animals, many species of which are now extinct in North America, came to these lakes to feed and drink. The tracks of mastodons, camels, llamas, horses, cats, peccaries, and birds were made in the lake mud possibly as long ago as 10 million years. The tracks, covered with mud and other sediments since transformed into stone, are now being exposed again as erosion strips away their cover. Located in an area difficult to reach, the tracks will remain inaccessible

to visitors until they can be given proper protection. Federal laws provide heavy penalties for the disturbance of such exhibits.

Late in the Tertiary Period, Death Valley and its adjacent mountains were formed. Its geological history is complicated, and studies already made disclose a series of events nowhere duplicated on earth. Folding, or bending, faulting, or breaking, and slipping of the earth's crust are primarily responsible for the origin of the valley. It appears that a tremendous block of rock sank, leaving an elongated fault basin rather than a valley such as is formed by erosion. Sinking of this basin continued to deepen Death Valley, even in recent years. A fault scarp (cliff) that can be seen on the gravel slopes below Hanaupah Canyon is the result of faulting which has taken place during the last century.

Molten volcanic materials often force their way upward through deep fractures in the earth's crust. The appearance of recent lavas in several places, apparently near the lines of fracture, adds favorable evidence to the theory that the Death Valley depression is due to the sinking of a block of rock. Lava is most plentiful in the southern part of the monument and is also present, in the form of two dark ridges, west of Furnace Creek Ranch and in the vicinity of Mushroom Rock. Ubehebe Crater, on the western fault, is the result of a series of explosive eruptions which made a crater one-half mile wide and 800 feet deep. The eruptions, believed to have occurred from 1,000 to 2,000 years ago, scattered volcanic ash for a radius of 3 miles from the crater. The smaller craters just south of Ubehebe are younger—perhaps 200 or 300 years old.

The Ice Age (Pleistocene) is represented at high elevations and latitudes by glaciation. However, no glaciers existed, as far as known, on the mountains of Death Valley.

The climate of the world during the Ice Age was cool and moist, and prevailing westerly winds carried moisture into this region over the crest of the Sierra Nevada, then only about 7,000 feet in elevation. Three rivers flowed into the undrained fault basin and filled it with water, creating a lake 100 miles long and 600 feet deep. The shorelines of ancient Lake Manly can be seen at various places, particularly south of Badwater, and on the north slopes of the Avawatz Mountains, south of Ashford Mill.

As the Ice Age drew to a close, the climate of the world gradually became drier and warmer. The Sierra Nevada had been thrust upward to near its present elevation, forming a barrier to wind-carried moisture. As the lake water slowly evaporated, its salts became more concentrated.

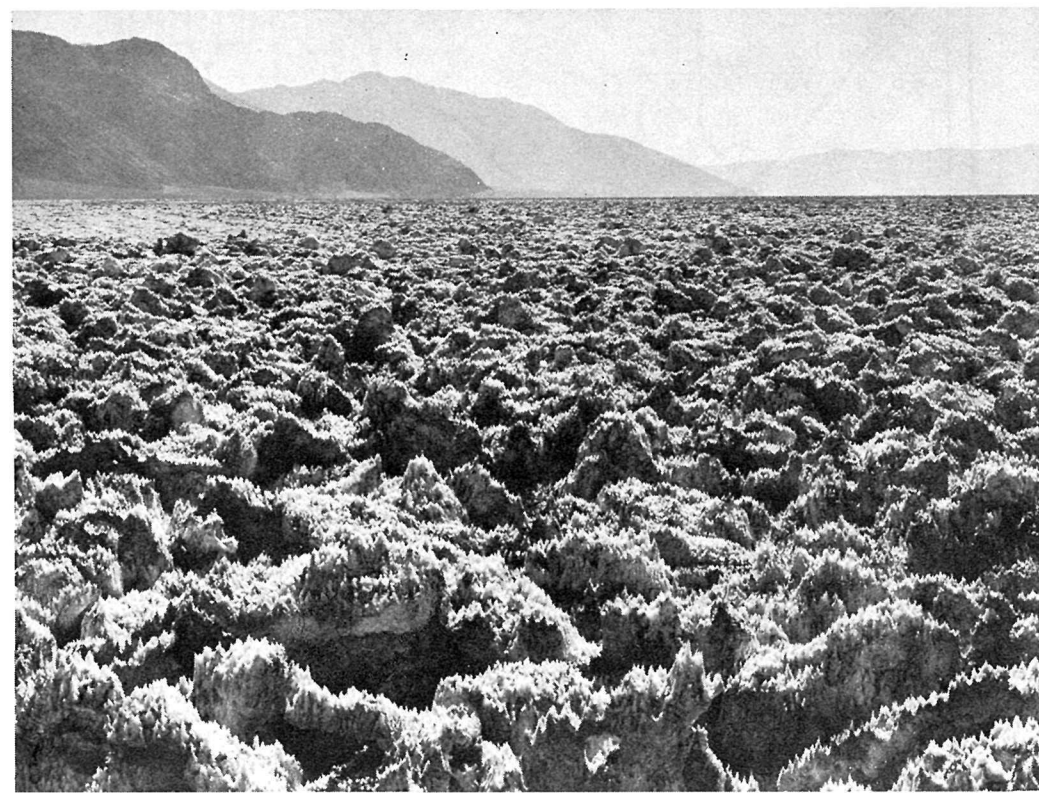
Salt, more than 1,200 feet deep on the Devils Golf Course, probably cracked into irregular blocks during the drying process. The blocks were tilted and raised by the

force of recrystallizing salt; wind-driven rains eroded them into sharp ridges, peaks, and pinnacles. Although these irregularities are only a few feet high, the roughness is so harsh as to present an almost impregnable barrier to man or beast.

The short but violent thundershowers which occur during the summer months are largely responsible for the sedimentary cover that has greatly modified the appearance of the original fault basin. Moisture brought in by winds is borne upward by hot air currents, where it cools, condenses, and then falls rapidly. It should also be explained that the rainfall is much greater in the mountains than in the valley. Sand, gravel, and boulders, washed from slopes at the wide upper ends of canyons, are funneled through deep constricted gorges in raging torrents. As the water breaks out of the confines of these "hourglass" canyons, it spreads out, loses speed and volume, and deposits the rock debris (allu-

The Devils Golf Course.

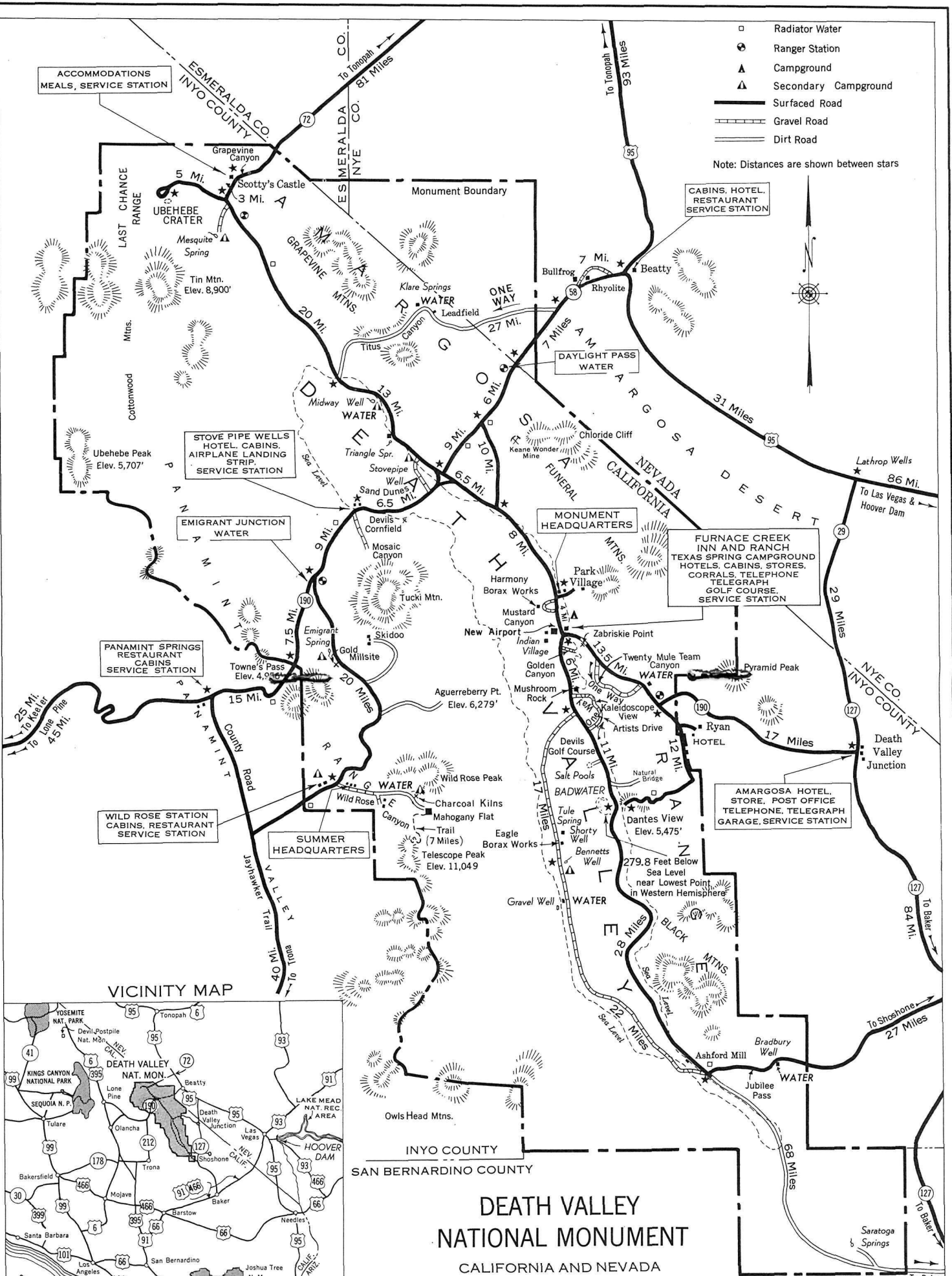
Ansel Adams Photo.



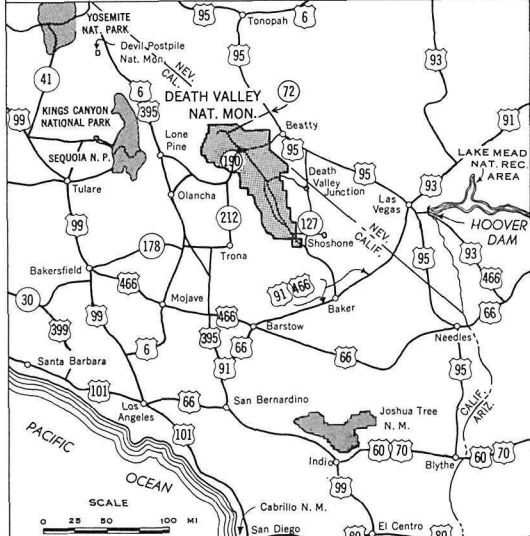
ACCOMMODATIONS
MEALS, SERVICE STATION

- Radiator Water
- ⊙ Ranger Station
- ▲ Campground
- △ Secondary Campground
- Surfacted Road
- Gravel Road
- ≡≡≡ Dirt Road

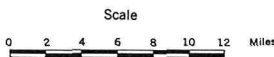
Note: Distances are shown between stars



VICINITY MAP



DEATH VALLEY
NATIONAL MONUMENT
CALIFORNIA AND NEVADA



vium) it is carrying into Death Valley in the shape of a fan. In this manner the large, gently sloping alluvial fans that flank the valley's sides have been formed.

The striking badland topography at Zabriskie Point and in Golden Canyon was caused by cloudbursts on Tertiary lake beds. The surface of these deposits, once soft, has become claylike again by weathering. Clay, being nearly impervious to water, allows much of the rainfall to run off immediately, eroding small rivulets which have finally grown into deep gullies. The more resistant layers of gravel and lava have not eroded as rapidly and stand out prominently as ridges and layers of contrasting color.

Wind, as well as water, has been active in producing some of Death Valley's scenic features. The quartz, which forms the sand in the dunes, originated in granite now exposed in various places throughout the monument. Flowing water has carried the weathered granite particles from the mountains and spread them out on alluvial fans. As the softer material eroded away, the resistant quartz, left exposed to the wind, was reduced to sand particles and then blown into piles that eventually became large dunes. With every wind the contour of the sand dunes is changed and the footprints of man are erased. Winds deflected by mountain ridges blow the sand in one direction, then another, trapping the dunes in their individual localities.

Death Valley, as we know it today, unique and beautiful, represents only one stage in the intricate geological story whose beginning was in the dim remote past. The varied geological forces, relentless in their action, but scarcely perceptible in the short span of man's lifetime, are still at work, writing the present chapter of a narrative whose end may be as far in the future as its beginning was in the past.

Desert Wildlife

Animal life is common in the monument, despite the popular belief that little lives or grows in Death Valley. A variety of habitats exist between Badwater and Telescope Peak, a vertical distance of more than 2 miles. True, few animals are seen by the casual visitor because almost all of them are shy and come into the open only after dark. Many are so adapted to desert conditions that they obtain from their food all the moisture they need; consequently, only the central salt flats, without vegetation, are barren of life.

Twenty-six species of mammals have been recorded on the valley floor and others live at higher elevations. The most commonly seen rodent is the antelope ground squirrel, but kangaroo rats, Thomas wood rats, and rabbits inhabit the mesquite thickets and even the scantily vegetated alluvial fans. The desert kit fox, desert coyote, and Bailey bobcat are occasionally seen along the roads in the evening. Inhabiting the rocky slopes and gorges are about 300 Nelson bighorn. Their number seems to be gradually decreasing because of competition with burros which were first introduced into this region by prospectors. The burros have long since gone wild and have increased in numbers.

Lizards of a dozen species are seen often, except for a short period of hibernation in winter. They range in size from the large but harmless chuckwalla to the tiny banded gecko. Snakes are comparatively rare, the valley floor being too hot for them during the summer.

The checklist of birds contains 232 species which have been recorded in the monument. Many are migrants or winter visitors and include a number of water birds. Fourteen species make the valley floor their permanent home and others live



Charcoal Kilns in Wildrose Canyon.

Fraser's Photos, Pomona, Calif.

all year in the adjacent mountains. The big black American raven is most frequently seen.

Insects, though present, almost never prove annoying. Even fishes are not left out of the faunal picture as three species of cyprinodonts, or "desert sardines," exist in the waters of the monument. Their ancestors lived in Lake Manly during the Ice Age.

Desert Plant Life

Within the boundaries of Death Valley National Monument, 615 species of plants have been identified. Only the Devils Golf Course and other salt flats are barren of plants. Even there, at the very edge of the salt, is found the light-green pickleweed, a

plant that is resistant to salts and alkali. This region, with adverse growing conditions, is famous for its number of new and rare species of plants.

The most common plants in the low country are deservingly saltbush and spreading creosotebush. These drought-resisting shrubs are widely scattered on the gravelly alluvial fans so that they may conserve the small amount of water they receive. The beautiful Death Valley sage, known only in this region, grows in shady, dry canyons. A dozen species of cacti include the beaver-tail pricklypear, cottontop echinocactus, and holycross cholla. Their flowers add tones to the symphony of color in the spring. Among the herbaceous perennials are the rare desert bearpoppy, which has peculiar bluish foliage covered with long

white hairs, and the wetleaf spiderling, whose leaves are always moist, even in the burning summer sun. Several species of mariposas bloom in the high country, along with mallows, lupines, and daleas, providing a flower show that lasts well into summer.

The most interesting things about Death Valley plants are the strange provisions by which they keep alive in the burning heat and dryness of summer. Evaporation of moisture from their leaf surfaces is reduced by their having no leaves; leaves reduced to spines, as in cacti; very small leaves; leaves reduced to scales; leaves that are varnished; leaves that drop off with the coming of summer; and leaves that have a dense covering of scales as in the desert-holly saltbush and Death Valley sage. Some plants combine two or more of these adaptations, and almost all of them have long roots that penetrate deep into the soil in search of life-giving moisture.

When winter rains have been sufficient and the temperatures are favorable, the Death Valley spring flower show is superb. Myriads of desert flowers transform the alluvial fans, washes, and canyons from dull gray and somber brown into a riot of color. Desert sunflowers rise gracefully from burned rocks and turn their golden heads to the sun; white and yellow primroses paint colorful patterns on the browned surface of the fans spreading lazily from mountains to salt beds; splashes of purple enhance the magnificence of the spring picture. Of breathtaking beauty are the poppy fields shining like minted gold, and the brilliantly colored blossoms of the cacti delight the visitor's eye. Sturdy blossoms stand for days, but some fragile plants burst their buds in a blaze of splendor and are gone with the setting sun. Scattered seeds lie in the dust-dry soil to await the favoring rains of some following year.

Among the dozens of varieties of annuals to be seen are 14 species of astragalus, 16 evening primroses, 17 phacelias, 24 eriogonums, desertgold, and the exquisite desert fivespot.

Interpretive Services

Illustrated talks on the history and natural phenomena of the monument are given at the hotels and at Texas Spring Campground. Special programs may be arranged. Inquire of a park naturalist or park ranger, or consult Government bulletins at these places for schedules. Upon request, organized groups are conducted on caravans.

A small library is maintained in the workshop at headquarters for the use of those pursuing research problems in Death Valley. Assistance from the naturalist staff is also available.

What To See and Do While in the Monument

Below are listed a few interesting trips starting at Furnace Creek, which are arranged to permit the visitor to see the most in a limited amount of time. These trips may be made in one's own car or by the sightseeing service from the hotels.

Dantes View.—½-day trip, preferably in the morning. *Mileage:* 3.3, Zabriskie Point; 7.3, 20-Mule Team Canyon (one way); 13.5, Ryan Road; 24.4, Dantes View.

Badwater.—½-day trip, preferably in the afternoon. *Mileage:* 2.0, Golden Canyon; 4.6, Mushroom Rock; 8.5, Artists Drive (one way); 11.2, Salt Pools Road; 13.3, Natural Bridge Road; 16.8, Badwater.

Eagle Borax Works.—½-day trip. *Mileage:* 6.0, Devils Golf Course Road (turn right); 15.5, Tule Spring (Bennett's Long Camp); 22.3, Eagle Borax Works.

Sand Dunes and Mosaic Canyon.—½-day trip. Sand Dunes are best at sunrise or sunset. *Mileage:* 2.6, Harmony Borax Works and Mustard Canyon Road; 4.3, monument headquarters; 19.0, Sand Dunes; 27.0, Mosaic Canyon.

Rhyolite (Ghost Town), Titus Canyon, Ubehebe Crater, and Scotty's Castle.—1-day trip. Titus Canyon is one-way road from east to west. Inquire about condition at monument headquarters. *Mileage:* 11.7, junction road to Beatty (turn right); 34.7, junction Titus Canyon Road; 37.0, Rhyolite. Return to Titus Canyon Road; 49.7, Leadfield, ghost town; 52.2, Klare Springs; 60.8, main road (turn right); 80.4, Scotty's Castle-Ubehebe junction. Left, 6 miles to Ubehebe Crater; right, 3 miles to Castle. Direct route to Scotty's Castle from Furnace Creek, 53 miles.

High Panamint.—1-day trip. *Mileage:* 17.0, junction California 190 and road north (keep left); 34.0, Emigrant Ranger Station; 44.3, Skidoo Road; 45.3, Aguerreberry Point Road; 54.0, Wild Rose Canyon; 61.2, charcoal kilns; 62.5, Mahogany Flat; 7-mile trail to Telescope Peak.

How To Reach Death Valley

By Automobile.—From the south: U. S. 6 or U. S. 395, then northeast to Death Valley through Trona; or from U. S. 66 at Barstow, northeast to Baker on U. S. 91, north on California 127 to Shoshone and Death Valley Junction, then west on California 190 to Furnace Creek. Alternate: turn west at Shoshone through Jubilee Pass.

From the north: via U. S. 395 to Lone Pine and east on California 190 through Townes Pass; or from U. S. 95 via Nevada

Ubehebe Crater.

Fraser's Photos, Pomona, Calif.



72 to Scotty's Castle, or south to Beatty and west on Nevada 58 through Daylight Pass.

From the east: Las Vegas via U. S. 95 to Lathrop Wells, south on Nevada 29 and California 127 to Death Valley Junction and west on California 190.

By Airplane.—A good gravel-surfaced airport with cross runways is maintained at Furnace Creek. Hangar space, gasoline, and oil are available. There is also an 1,800-foot, CAA-approved landing strip at Stove Pipe Wells Hotel.

Regular limousine service from Las Vegas is available through connections from Western, United, and Bonanza Air Lines.

By Railroad.—A combination rail and motor tour is available for Union Pacific passengers, leaving the train at Las Vegas, Nev., and reaching Death Valley by Riddle, Tanner, and Death Valley Tours.

Monument Season

Death Valley National Monument is open to travel all year. The regular season is from about October 15 to May 15.

Caution should be exercised in summer travel through the monument. Automobiles should be in good mechanical condition, and gasoline, oil and plenty of extra water should be obtained before entering the valley. National Park Service rangers patrol only the main roads in summer.

What To Wear

In the winter everyone should bring clothing warm enough to withstand chilly night temperatures. Practical clothes and shoes are recommended for campers and hikers.

Accommodations

Free Public Campground.—The Texas

Spring Campground is located in a side canyon and may be reached by surfaced road one-quarter of a mile south of Furnace Creek Ranch. Sanitary facilities, running water, stone tables and benches, campsites and parking places for trailers provide accommodations for several hundred people. Visitors should provide firewood before entering the monument or, preferably, carry gasoline or oil camp stoves. Firewood and other supplies may be bought at Furnace Creek Ranch.

Hotels and Cottages.—Facilities at Wild Rose Station are operated under franchise from the Government. It is a year-round operation and consists of a store, service station, meals, and cabins. Information as to rates, etc., may be obtained by writing Wild Rose Station, Trona, Calif. *All other hotels are situated on private land, and the National Park Service exercises no control over them.*

Death Valley Hotels, 630 South Shatto Place, Los Angeles 5, Calif., owns Furnace Creek Inn, a luxurious hotel, American plan, and Furnace Creek Ranch, European plan, with cabins, store, service stations, grass golf course, and photographic shop. Horses may be rented nearby. Open October to May.

Stove Pipe Wells Hotel, near the famous sand dunes, is operated on the European plan, with comfortable cottages and hotel rooms. The service station is open all year for petroleum products and water. Address: Death Valley, Calif.

Scotty's Castle has overnight accommodations, American plan. Open all year. Service station. Guide fee charged for tour of castle. Address: via Goldfield, Nev.

All-year accommodations are also available outside the monument at the Amargosa Hotel in Death Valley Junction, at Panamint Springs, Calif., and at Beatty, Nev.



Looking northwest from Dantes View.

Ansel Adams Photo.

Telephone and telegraph services are available at Furnace Creek Inn and Furnace Creek Ranch, but not at Scotty's Castle, Stove Pipe Wells Hotel, or Wildrose Station.

Administration

Death Valley National Monument is administered by the National Park Service of the United States Department of the Interior. A superintendent, whose winter address is Death Valley, Calif., and summer address, Trona, Calif., is in immediate charge of the monument.

Please Help Protect This Monument

Death Valley National Monument belongs

to you and future generations. Use it wisely and protect it so that everyone may enjoy its beauty as you have.

Please do not disturb, destroy, or deface the ruins, relics, geological formations, buildings, and signs.

Picking or injuring plants detracts from the natural beauty of the monument and is not permitted. Please leave all living things for everyone to enjoy.

Camp in designated localities. Receptacles are provided for the disposal of refuse; please use them. Trees planted in the campground are for shade and are not to be cut for campfires. Firewood may be bought at Furnace Creek Ranch.

Please carry refuse you may have in your car to a disposal can. Help keep the roadsides beautiful.



A park naturalist explains natural phenomena to motorists on conducted caravan.

The area is a sanctuary for wildlife; therefore, carrying firearms, other than cased, sealed, or broken down, or otherwise packed to prevent their use, is not permitted in the monument, except upon written permission from the superintendent.

Private notices or advertisements may not be posted or displayed in the monument, unless authorized by the superintendent.

Vehicular and other traffic within Death Valley National Monument is governed by the current State of California Vehicle Code.

Drive carefully. Report all accidents to the nearest ranger station.

A complete set of rules and regulations may be seen at monument headquarters.

Penalties are provided for the violation of any National Park Service regulation.

Rangers are stationed at various points throughout the monument for the purpose of protecting it and giving information. They patrol the roads, enforce the rules and regulations, and render all possible aid to visitors.

The National Park System, of which Death Valley National Monument is a unit, is dedicated to the conservation of America's scenic, scientific, and historic heritage for the benefit and enjoyment of the people.

