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JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL MONUMENT

A HISTORY OF
JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL MONUMENT

by
Samuel A. King

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A HISTORY OF JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL MONUMENT

Geographical Setting

Joshua Tree National Monument is located in south central California, just north of 34° latitude and is west of the 115th meridian. The area forms an ecotone or transition area between California's two great deserts, the Colorado and the Mohave.

A major portion of the Little San Bernardino Mountains lies within its boundaries, starting in the northwest corner of the Monument with a spur extending southeast for 30 miles. The Cottonwood Range is in the southwest corner of the Monument. The spectacular Eagle Range stretches along the southern boundary east from the Cottonwood Range almost to the Coxcomb Range. Another spur of the Little San Bernardino extends east from the northwest corner. The Desert Queen Mountains are a part of this spur southeast of the town of Twentynine Palms. The Pinto Mountain Range parallels the east half of the north boundary. The Coxcomb Mountain Range, mostly inside the Monument, makes the east boundary. The Hexie Mountains are in the center of the Monument.1/

The rocks of Joshua Tree National Monument provide an ideal opportunity for the professional geologist to study processes which have occurred at depths perhaps as great as 20 miles below the surface of the earth. These rocks afford a rare chance for man to learn something of the interior of this planet.2/

The mountain ranges within the Monument are of old rock but are recently formed. It is probable that at least part of the area was once covered with fresh-water lake deposits of the Miocene era.

(Marginal notes made on original manuscript by James E. Cole).

You have not discussed faulting. Geologically this is significant. The Little San Bernardino are certainly on the San Andreas rift, and other faults account for many physical features, including Twentynine Palms Oasis.

(Ref. paragraph 2) I am a little confused! Are the Eagle Mountains, Coxcomb Mts. and Hexie Mts. affiliated with the Little San Bernardino Mts.? Certainly the Coxcombs and Hexie Mts. are not, and the Eagles are questionable.

(Ref. paragraph 3 - line 4) I have not seen Rogers geology report, but granite is not rare. (Ref. paragraph 3 - line 5) Even 20 miles deep would not approach the interior of the Earth. All rocks we recognize must have come from the Earth's crust, not the interior.

(A question mark over 3rd word, first line, 4th paragraph).

(Ref. paragraph 4 - line 2 - phrase "are recently formed") Recent movements along fault-lines has produced the various mountains.

However, as molten masses of rock pushed up from below they often lifted the original surface far above where it had been, breaking and cracking it in the process. For this reason, the original surface was more vulnerable to erosion so that in places it has disappeared entirely. Hundreds of light to pinkish-grey rock formations are scattered over a large portion of the monument, stamping it with a beauty of its own.

Transcontinental highways U.S. 60, 70 and 99 skirt the monument on the south, making the area accessible to all of Southern California and the country at large.

The Southern Pacific Railroad passes through Indio, Palm Springs, and Banning to the South of the monument. These cities are all within two hours drive from Twentynine Palms.

No airline or waterway facilities are available near the area, although a transcontinental air route passes over the southern portion of the monument.

The most important population center near the monument is Los Angeles and environs. Communities adjacent to the area are relatively small; the most important being Twentynine Palms, Indio, Palm Springs, and Banning.

The bulk of the population is Anglo-American with the usual mixture of races in the metropolitan districts. Comparatively large numbers of Spanish-Americans reside in the area immediately south of the area.

Population in the Los Angeles area engages in the usual commercial types of work. The people to the west and south are principally agrarian.

(Marginal notes made on original manuscript by James E. Cole).

(Ref. paragraph 1) Lost Horse Valley granite formations are significant as by-products of erosion.

The people of Southern California are noted as travelers and due to favorable climatic conditions, outdoor activities probably rank first in recreational pursuits. Extended weekend motor trips are the rule rather than the exception. In the Los Angeles area auto ownership per capita ranks with the leading cities of the world and is undoubtedly the highest in the Western United States. 3/

With the inception of the Marine Corps Training Center at Twentynine Palms in 1953, the use of the Monument for outdoor activities has increased greatly.

(Marginal notes made on original manuscript by James E. Cole.)

(Ref. paragraph 1 - line 2) rank first is probably high

(Ref. paragraph 2) The influences of the military may not be a part of this history. General Patton training center south of the monument; others to the east; army glider school and Navy airplane school at 29 Palms, all had some effects on the monument.

Prehistoric Study of the Area

Man's story in the Monument begins with a mystery tale of "far away and long ago". It is based on odds and ends which prehistoric man left behind. These are faint clues which may be variously interpreted; and the version which will not disappoint the imagination of the layman may not sustain the approval of the archeologist.

In 1935 investigators of the Southwestern Museum, under permit from the Secretary of the Interior, collected, preserved and prepared literally thousands of artifacts. In the southeast corner of Pinto Basin Mr. and Mrs. William H. Campbell noted three important facts: (1) scattered about were flint points, bits of pottery, parts of matates, etc.; (2) the topographical features suggested that a lake had once filled this part of the basin; (3) in the clay beds there were fossilized bones of extinct animals such as primitive camels and horses. If these artifacts were directly related to the shoreline of this lake, then the lake and the man who left the artifacts must have been contemporaneous. Geological opinion was that the lake was of the Pleistocene era. Thus Pinto Man would have lived there probably 15,000 to 20,000 years ago. Further, if the artifacts could be positively associated with the fossilized bones, Pinto Man might well be even older than 20,000 years.

For several seasons, the Campbells worked on these theories with the aid of technical experts. They checked the shore-lines of other Pleistocene lakes in Southern California. In the end, neither correlation could be absolutely established, although neither could be definitely ruled out. Subsequently, specialists of the Southwest Museum developed the Campbell

(Marginal notes made on original manuscript by James E. Cole).

(Ref. paragraph 2 - line 9 - the word "lake") As I recall Betty Campbell was not sure it was a lake - may have been a broad sluggish stream.

theories. Notably, they amplified the possibilities of the Pinto type of projectile point to which the Campbells had called attention. This is a distinctively shaped, crude, flint point found on the Pinto site. It has a basic resemblance to the famous Folsom Point found in Colorado and elsewhere in the western high plains in direct association with the bones of an extinct type of bison. This resemblance and the crudity, the Campbells suggested, must indicate great antiquity.

This theory and Pinto points and Pinto culture have found acceptance among some archeologists. Such a culture is deemed to have been so primitive that pottery was unknown as were bows and arrows. The Pinto point is supposed to have tipped a dart hurled by means of an atlatl or throwing stick. And these darts were hurled by very primitive men living on the shores of a fresh-water lake in a country amply able to sustain life with weed and game.

The time at which some such people may have lived in Pinto Basin may be subject to adjustment, as may be the exact nature of their culture, for other archeologists, including those of the Anthropology Department of the University of California at Berkeley, find objections to the acceptance of the above version. (a) There are not enough artifacts to account for the very long-time residence to the site which the theory demands. (b) An artifact is not old because it is crude or has a certain type of crudity. Also at the Pinto site good points are found on the same surface as the crude ones. (c) A lack of pottery need not indicate antiquity. For example, the Apaches, with no pottery, appeared many centuries after peoples of the Southwest who were skillful potters.

(Marginal notes made on original manuscript by James E. Cole).

(Ref. paragraph 2 - line 6 "amply") There are few areas in North America amply able to furnish food for pre-Columbus civilization. These areas were fertile and produced crops. The Great Plains produced ample game but most Indians dependent on game alone starved at times.

(Ref. paragraph 3 - line 6) I don't see how the theory necessarily demands "very long-time residence"?

(d) A radio-carbon test devised by atomic research workers has greatly reduced pre-historic ages reasoned out by other methods. This Carbon 14 test cannot be applied to the lithic materials of the Pinto site, but the general pre-historic age reductions make the early estimates of Pinto Man's age unreasonable.

Are there other sites in the Monument of the Pinto Man type? None have been found, but research has been too limited to make this answer conclusive. It is possible for example, that the site at Copper Mountain, just outside the northern boundary, is the Pinto type.1

(Marginal notes made on original manuscript by James E. Cole).

I gather you expect to find other Pinto Man sites. This may not be the idea you convey. If Pinto Man lived on the shores of ancient lakes, what possibility exists of there having been more such lakes in the monument?

Aboriginal History of the Area

Dr. A. L. Kroeber in his "Handbook of the Indians of California" states that the Serranos, Cahuillas, Piutes, and Chemehuevis lived all within the territory of the Shoshoneans to which family they belong. He says:

"Actually this group is only part of a larger one -- the Uto-Aztekan family. This mass of allied tribes, which extended from Panama to Idaho and Montana is one of the great fundamental families of aboriginal America, of importance in the origins of civilization, politically predominant at the time of discovery, and numerically the strongest on the continent today. This association of our Shoshoneans of east and south California with this aggregate at the centers of native culture opens a far prospective. The lowly desert tribes...are seen in a new light, as kinsmen, however remote, of the famous Aztecs... Of course, any recent connections are out of the question. It was the ancestors of the Mexican Nahuatl and the California Shoshoneans of some thousands of years ago who were associated, not their modern representatives; and, as to the former association, no one knows when it occurred." 4/

Probably not less than two centuries ago the ancestors of the Serranos, Chemehuevis, and Piutes entered the great range of territory still occupied by their descendants. They came from the deserts north of San Bernardino Range and the stock to which they belong is a desert people. 5/

(Marginal notes made on original manuscript by James E. Cole.)

(Ref. paragraph 2, indentation) If you indent for quotations you should be consistent and do the same for all. Actually, modern printers do not indent.

The Chemehuevis. The age of Pinto Man and the details of his culture are the means by which specialists would relate him to other men of other places. However, too little is known of the adjoining areas in his presumed era to permit helpful statements here. Our first story postulates that Pinto Man did not know pottery. Since pot-sherds are found at the site, we must presume that the postulate is in error, or that he was replaced by another Early People who knew pottery. The last assumption is the least controversial. If the totality of Pinto site archeology be assigned to Pinto Man, it then appears probable that these Early People were related to the Chemehuevi Indians, or were the ancestral Chemehuevis. The name Chemehuevis is used because this group of Indians were living along the Colorado River only some fifty miles east of Pinto Basin when Lieutenant J. C. Ives, in 1857, reported them as a wandering race which traveled great distances. Since they were blocked to the south, east and north by the Yumas, Yavapai and Mohaves respectively, it seems highly probable, aside from archeological evidence, that they ranged in Pinto Basin. How long prior to 1800 they may have been doing this cannot be stated.

Serrano. Looking to the western part of the Monument in this same dim light before history's dawn, a different group of Indians, which may be called the ancestral Serrano, is discerned. Again, it cannot be said how long they were in the region. When W. H. (Bill) McHaney arrived at Twentynine Palms Oasis in 1879, Serrano Indians were living there. Dr. William Duncan Strong has determined from Indian sources that these were of the Wildcat and Coyote clans, but that their

(Marginal notes on original manuscript by James E. Cole).

(Ref. paragraph 1 - line 6) Pots may have been trade items which Pinto Man imported. Copper knives from Lake Superior, for instance, were dispersed all over the U.S. and Canada.

(Ref. paragraph 1 - line 14) When you rely upon historical information it is customary and fair to give the citation. This could be Ives, J. C. 1857:96 in the text. The date in the bibliography would identify the reference and the number following the pagination. I might like to read this myself and I could if you gave citations.

(Ref. paragraph 1 - line 18) It can be assumed that these Indian tribes were not stable as to locality. The influences of European culture which preceded white man by many years materially changed Indian tribe locations. When Indians obtained horses and guns, their ability to displace neighboring tribes who had less, trade goals, etc.

aboriginal social organization had been well broken down. The ancestral home of the Serrano was in the San Bernardino Mountains, and their cultural affiliations were west rather than with the Chemehuevis. Thus, the western part of the Monument was probably the hunting ground, if not the home, of a group different from those in Pinto Basin. These western people left pictographs, bed-rock mortars, pot-sherds, trails, camp-sites, and other evidence of their presence. At Coyote Holes a recent living site is strongly suggested.

Piutes. The Piute story in the Monument would belong to history were it not for the lack of regional records. In 1868 McNaney saw Piutes arrive to mix with the Serrano already at the Oasis. But it seems highly probable that this was not the first visit of the Piutes. Lieutenant Ord reported them in Cajon Pass forty years before. They were noted as horse thieves about the same time and would have had to have waterholes where the stolen horses could be hidden. And the existence of a trail probably even earlier from the Providence Mountains to the Oasis strongly suggests a Piute travel route. At any rate, these Indians, displaced by white pressure in the north, were no longer true aborigines having taken on many white customs and equipment. Yet they retained enough of the aboriginal to confuse the Indian evidence left in the Monument. For example, some of the pictographs are almost certainly piute, as may be the wooden bow, etc. It is these Piutes that were the Indians best known to the early whites coming to the Monument.

There were about forty Indians at the Oasis in McNaney's time; and 50-60 graves in the cemetery nearby. His story of them told in 1933 is this: "They were friendly and uninspiring. They lived on mountain

(Marginal notes made by James E. Cole on original manuscript).

(Ref. paragraph 1 - line 7, Coyote Holes) In the monument?

(Ref. paragraph 2 - line 5, Lieutenant Ord) citation

(Ref. paragraph 3 - line 2) Hint: Did the Chemehuevis and
Serranos bury their dead? I don't know.

sheep, rabbits, mesquite beans and seed. They sold sheep to travelers, and in hunting them had discovered many of the old mines." Among those whom Bill knew were the following: Old Jim Boniface who is buried locally; Captain Jim Pine who made the first local collection of "Indian relics"; Jim Waterman, who, exasperated by his father's death, killed the attending shaman (medicine man), and the shaman's wife, horse, and dog and burned his house; Captain Pacheco, the best liked of the local Indians, whose son Joe married Piute Jim's eldest daughter, Annie, and was the last Indian to leave the Oasis; Old Chepeven who was over 100 years old; and finally, Willy Boy who shot Indian Mike Boniface (Jim's brother) to death when Mike refused to give his sixteen year old daughter ("not beautiful but big and fat", said McHaney) to him in marriage, and who subsequently was an historic figure because he was hunted down over the desert by a white posse. 1/

According to McHaney the Indians knew the locations of all the available water in the district and had many quarrels among themselves over these water-holes. The history of desert people the world over:

The Indians fought over other things too. With the advent of the white man and his liquor, life became more troublesome. Quarrels arose, not only among the Indians themselves, but between them and the whites. Such is the story of "Bad Boy Willie" as told Hazel M. Spell:

"Willie was of the Piute tribe, of which the Chemehuevi is said to be an offshoot. He had recently come from Nevada to visit an old aunt living in Twentynine Palms. In October of 1909, when some of the Twentynine Palms Indians were following their annual custom of migrating

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(Ref. paragraph 1 - line 9) reputed to be (over 100 years old)

(Ref. paragraph 3 - line 5) date published, page: L.E. (1927:26)

to Banning for the fruit season, Willie also happened to be there, where he was plied with too much liquor brought from San Bernardino by a white friend. After his friend's departure for San Bernardino, Willie, sodden with whiskey, staggered to the nearby camp of Mike Boniface where he found Mike sound asleep under a tree. With no warning at all, Willie pulled his gun and shot Mike, killing him instantly. Then, yelling to others of Mike's family that he would kill them if they aroused the authorities, he grabbed their fourteen-year-old daughter, Lolita, dragging her after him. He then struck out on the trail for Twentynine Palms, forcing his poor little captive to carry the food he had stolen from different camps. The sheriff, notified by Mike's family, formed a posse and gave chase, hoping to save the girl from harm. Willie and the exhausted Lolita were overtaken some miles west of Twentynine Palms and a running battle ensued. In his desperation Willie first shot the girl in the back and then turned the gun on himself, using his last cartridge to end his life. During the battle between the drink-crazed Indian and the posse, Charles Reche, an early day freighter of this district who had joined the posse, was struck by a bullet from Willie's gun, the bullet entering his side, following around his belt and finally lodging near the spine. Mr. Reche, a man

now in his nineties, lives in Banning at present. During a visit here several years ago he told the story of the wild chase and even offered to show the scar encircling his waist, but the tragic story was enough for me without visual confirmation.

With the coming of the white men and the gradual encroachment of the Indian's camp at the oasis, the Indians moved farther south into the hills. The tragedy of Willie Boy further hastened their departure. Some later went to the reservation at Palm Springs and others to the Morongo Reservation near Banning. Thus again the age-old story of the whites displacing the Indians was repeated. An Indian graveyard at the corner of Adobe and Sullivan roads (in Twentynine Palms), and the many Indian artifacts found in the hills are all that remain of the first known inhabitants of their peaceful land of Mar-rah, our Twentynine Palms of today." 6/

Coming of the White Man

The early story of the Joshua Tree National Monument region that can be founded on written words is brief; and the events are of little apparent importance. No record of a traverse of it by the pathfinders has been found. Father Garces (1776), Fremont (1844), and Jedediah Smith (1826) tell of trails 100 miles to the north along the Mohave River. DeAnza (1770s), Emory (1846), Cooke (1847), Whipple (1849) were far to the south in Imperial Valley. Blake (1853) and Williamson (1853) recorded details of Coachella Valley. Not until 1853 do we have a written word concerning the region. It is the remarkable guess of Lieutenant R. S. Williamson of the United States Railroad Survey, who in reporting to the War Department, wrote: "A mountain range extends from San Bernardino Mountain in a southeasterly direction nearly, if not quite, to the Colorado River. Between these mountains and the mountains of the Mohave Desert nothing is known of the country. I have never heard of a white man who had penetrated it. I am inclined to the belief that it is ... mountainous desert composed of a system of basins and mountain ranges. It would be an exceedingly difficult country to explore on account of the absence of water and there is no rainy season of any consequence."

The next reference to the region is not until 1855 and it is a most exasperating one. The map recording Col. Henry Washington's Land Office survey of that year shows a road leading east from the Twentynine Palms Oasis. It is labeled: "Old road to the Providence Mountains". Who made this road? Was it a horse trail? Or a route where wheeled-vehicles had been? One can only speculate. Perhaps

(Marginal notes made by James E. Cole on original copy.)

(Ref. paragraph 1 - line 10) citation

(Ref. paragraph 2 - line 2) Doubtlessly Col. Henry Washington kept field notes of his survey. These notes must be on file in Washington. One time I made some efforts to get copies. There may be some good historical data in them.

the trappers of the 1820s came this way. Or maybe the horse-traders of the 1830s started their horses towards Santa Fe along this route. Or some of the boys of the Mormon Battalion may have headed home along this road in the 1840s. Probably before, and certainly after, any of these, the Piute Indians came down thus from their Nevada ranges.

On June 29, 1855 Col. Washington made this entry in his notes:

"From this corner an Indian Wigwam (near a spring of good water, supposed to be permanent) bears N51 W, and a small cluster of Cabbage Palmettos * bears N 27W." Such is our first view of the Twentynine Palms Oasis. In 1856, A. P. Green's surveying party ran the interior lines for Washington's township corners. About this same Oasis, Green recorded: this:

"In Section Thirty-three there are a number of fine springs. There are some large palm trees from which the springs take their name, Palm Springs. Near the springs the land has the appearance of having been cultivated by the Indians. There are Indian huts in Section Thirty-three. The Indians use the leaf of the palm tree for making baskets, hats, etc. Around the springs there is a growth of cane of which the Indians make arrows for their bows. There is some mesquite and a considerable quantity of greasewood bush ** in this township. The mesquite...is said by the Indians to be always a good indication for water, which generally can be obtained in a pure state by digging a short distance, say four to twelve feet."

* A misnomer. It was in reality a new species now called *Washingtonia felifera* in honor of George Washington.

** Also a misnomer. It was Creosote Bush. Greasewood grows many miles to the north.

(Marginal notes made by James H. Cole on original manuscript.)

(Ref. paragraph 1 - line 1) seems far-fetched to me.

(Ref. paragraph 1) Practically every part of the country has had its parade of unknown explorers, many of whom could not write, or died in the wildernesses.

(Footnote *) Was it a new species in 1855? I don't know. It was apparently first mentioned in the literature 86 years before 1855 so I expect it was named by 1855.

On the map accompanying these surveys is shown a "Road to the Palm Springs" (i.e. to the Oasis from the west), as well as the road to the Providence Mountains above mentioned.

Some of the implications of Green's words may be mentioned.

(1) The place had a name in English which indicates that people whom we cannot now discern were familiar with the region. (2) The 1856 name of Palm Springs persisted until well into the 1880s being so designated on a county map of that period. However, the name Twentynine Palms was in common enough use by 1872 to be used in describing a mining claim by McKenzie and Germain. This McKenzie was witness to the sale of a nearby mine in 1861. In these early days, the now famous Palm Springs in Riverside County was known as Agua Caliente. 1/

Perhaps the Forty-niners themselves did not get in here during the first gold rush but certainly their kind did arrive a few years later. Then followed, at intervals, several mining booms with gold mines opened and hundreds of people in the mining camps. After each boom operations ceased and most of the mining camps were entirely deserted.

1860s - 1870s. During these two decades unknown men continued to acquire unrecorded knowledge of the region. Many of these men were not Americans. At that time there were booming gold camps in the San Bernardino Mountains, along the Colorado River (as at La Paz), and further east in Arizona. Indians of various tribes, Mexicans and Chinese worked in these camps and traversed the roads to them. Much trucking to the eastern camps went from the Coachella Valley via Dos Palmas to Ehrenburg (i.e. via the Bradshaw Trail). At times the teamsters returned by more northerly routes. For example, "Cluck Warren, of

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(Ref. paragraph 3 - line 3, mining booms) in the Mohave Desert?

(Ref. paragraph 4 - line 5, various tribes/_____ Mexicans) with

Warren's Well in Yucca Valley, once returned via Clark's Pass and Twentynine Palms Oasis where he found no Indians living. At another time he returned as far north as Kelso where he found his future wife and family stranded in the sand dunes. The information gained in such traverses led to the filing of land and mining claims. A few typical claims are listed below. First it may be well to explain that in this era, all mines were gold mines.

In 1865, M. Brown filed on the "Jeff Davis" claim in Rattlesnake Canyon, then known as Lone Valley and now confused with Indian Cove. This is the earliest claim we have located in the Monument. A guess might be made as to why the owner of a "Jeff Davis" mine was in so remote a spot. An old Mexican type smelter was in this same area in 1870. And J. W. Wilson had a claim there in 1873.

In 1870, there existed a Cottonwood Station for truckers at Cottonwood Spring. This unusually good water supply must have been a focal point of the region. Indian trails, mine workings, a long pipe line, and adobe house long gone--all confirm a relatively great interest and activity. Unfortunately we have no record whatsoever.

In 1889, the "Lelia Dale" claim was a relocation on the "Santo Domingo de Lopez". The date of the original location and the Spanish names involved seem significant.

On March 17, 1873, J. Boshay (sic) filed on the Twentynine Palms Oasis as a homestead. This French-Canadian name is suggestive both with reference to the early trappers (the father might well have

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(Ref. paragraph 1 - line 1) Where in Clark's Pass? Sheep Hole Mtns.

(Ref. paragraph 2 - line 6) Rattlesnake Canyon?

(Ref. paragraph 3 - line 2) Better tie this Cottonwood Spring down as being in the monument. There are so many Cottonwood Springs in the desert.

(Ref. paragraph 5) After the British captured Canada, numerous Frenchmen went to St. Louis, then in Louisiana--Spanish territory. Spain was desperately trying to protect its silver mines around Sante Fe and many Frenchmen traveled to the southwest.

come south with them), and to the existence of Foshay Spring in the Providence Mountains. 1/

Bill McHaney came to the region at that time, made firends with the Indians and soon learned of water holes and trails, also where the Indians were finding their gold. No doubt some of it came from one of the canyons leading from 49 Palms Canyon to the Desert Queen Mine, which was developed later on. But the place Bill seemed to be interested in was Gold Park. Gold Park is about 10 miles southeast of Twentynine Palms. He found some very rich gold float there and until a short time before he died was still searching for its source. At one spot he dug hundreds of feet of trenches across the side of a hill seeking this source.

Bill McHaney was a very likeable little fellow, and, characteristic of most of the oldtime prospectors, was courteous, sincere, serious, and knew how to take care of himself. He learned much about the Indians who lived in the area; how they lived; what they used for food and clothing; and his knowledge was a great help to Mrs. Elizabeth Campbell when she wrote her book, "An Archeological Survey of the Twentynine Palms Region."

McHaney came from Davis County, Missouri. He brought cattle up the Santa Ana River, down Mission Creek, and on to Twentynine Palms Oasis. Thereafter, he lived in or near the Monument for 58 years, and died in 1937 at the ranch of Bill Keyes who himself first came to the region in the fall of 1910. McHaney did enough work for others to support his mining ventures. Part of the time he lived at

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(Ref. paragraph 2 - line 4) Does any canyon lead from 49 Palms Canyon to the Desert Queen Mine? I have forgotten my Joshua Tree topography, but as I recall the canyons around Desert Queen Mine lead to 29 Palms.

(Ref. paragraph 2 - line 10) the lode vein

(Ref. paragraph 4 - line 1) driving (cattle)

(Ref. paragraph 4 - line 6) like most miners put more gold into the ground than he took out.

the Oasis, or as he called it "The Palms". Part of the time he lived in a most unusual edifice he called a wickiup in upper Musick Valley. Here on a May day in 1933 Mr. Walter E. Ketcham and Egbert Schenck took down a rather exhaustive account of Bill's life. This story checks reasonably well with data acquired from other sources and as corrected furnishes the thread upon which to string some early names and events.

1880s - 1890s. In the 1880s, Lou Curtis (who first discovered placer mines near Old Dale on Dale Dry Lake, first known as Burts Dry Lake), C. A. Finkham (who had many claims in the Monument), Alfred G. Tingham (Southern Pacific Railway Agent at Indio with mining fever), Ed Holland, and others began to interest themselves in claims within the present Monument boundaries. So did Johnathan (Dirtyshirt or Hard-rock) Wilson, one of the most vivid and energetic of the old timers. In 1883, he came to live in Wilson's Cove (or Cave or both) which is the present headquarters section of the Joshua Tree National Monument at the Oasis. He also gave his name to the Wilson Mountains, now the Pintos, and to Wilson Wash--the big wash below Stirrup Tank. 1/

The most historical building in the area was the Old Adobe which stood at the Oasis from 1890 until 1947 when it was removed because its condition created a hazard to visitors.

The Old Adobe was reportedly built in 1890 by a Mr. Aldridge of Santa Ana with Billy Neaves and Jack Hankins doing the work.

During 1890 another adobe building was erected about 150

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(Ref. paragraph 1 - line 1, the Oasis) The Oasis had a definite name--Oasis of something which slips me just now. You could tie down the oasis by introducing and using that name.

(Ref. paragraph 1 - line 2, Musick) I know where Musick Valley is but I wonder how many other readers will?

(Ref. paragraph 1 - line 4, account) Where can this data be obtained. McHaney or Keyes?

(Ref. paragraph 2 - line 1, the word "first" is scratched out.)

(Ref. paragraph 2 - line 3, Burts Dry Lake) and now Bush's Lake?

(Ref. paragraph 2 - line 3, C. A. Pinkham) Chester Pinkham's name was given to a well whose location was shown on the early maps west of Cottonwood Spring. Many people, including me, tried to find the well, but no one succeeded. By accident I got in touch with Pinkham and he came out to the monument and located his well, miles from the locality shown on the map. He also led me to Hidden Springs, long lost whose location was unknown then. Likewise, he took me to Lost Indian Tanks. The significant point is that Chester had not been in that area for 40 years or so, but knew exactly where these water-holes were located. Quite a chap.

feet west of the other one by a Mr. Parks of Santa Ana. Mr. Ben deCrevecoeur, then about 15 years old and living with his family who were grazing sheep and cattle near Warren's Ranch in Morongo Valley, was employed to make the adobe bricks and help in the construction. The building apparently disappeared at an early date and little is known of its use.

The Old Adobe, being the only building in the area for many years, was occupied for short periods by a great number of people. Mr. Aldridge, the builder, spent short period at the Oasis because of poor health. Many miners lived in the building at different times. Riders for cattle outfits used the hut as a base of operations. Homesteaders usually stopped here until they could survey and locate their 160 acres. About 1898 the Old Adobe was used as a "horse changing station" for the stage line which ran from Garnet (formerly Palm Springs) to Dale. At one time a real estate salesman used the building as an office--he had great plans to build a Temple to the Sun, a wonderful building in Arabian style of architecture. In 1928 the building was used as an office of the Pinto Basin subdividers.

Probably no place of free public hospitality ever entertained so many varied guests, through so many years, and in such limited space as the Old Adobe. It meant rest, and shade, and water at the end of many a toilsome journey where all comers were welcome.

Billy Neaves, who helped build the Old Adobe, also planted the fig tree, the large willow and the cottonwoods in Wilson Cove. The willow came out from Covington's Ranch as a teamsters whip. The Serrano Indians planted the trees near the present Twentynine Palms Inn. McHaney by direct assertion and Washington and Green by

(Marginal notes made by James. E. Cole on original manuscript.)

(Ref. paragraph 1 - line 5, the building) latter

(Ref. paragraph 3, line 1) I doubt this statement! Some of the buildings along the Oregon Trail doubtlessly housed scores of thousands of guests nearly half a century before the Old Adobe was built. The President's House in Santa Fe is another example.

(Ref. paragraph 4) Cottonwoods were certainly endemic to oases in the desert. Seems unusual that they and palms were not there in earliest times unless Indians destroyed them. Fires could do this and not kill palms.

inference indicate that only mesquite and palm trees were pre-white at the Oasis. 1/

Early in the 1880s two partners found gold bearing ledges in the barren hills to the southeast of the Oasis, locating the Virginia Dale and Oro Fino Claims.

Nearest point to the new district where water was near the surface was a dry lake about 15 miles east of Twentynine Palms. There an arrastra was built to mill the ores of the district, and around it the village of Virginia Dale grew up. When serious development of the Virginia Dale started, about 1896, a five stamp mill which had been operating at Twentynine Palms was dismantled, freighted over to the Dale district and set up.

Later Virginia Dale, by the dry lake, found itself in a predicament as old as the history of Western mining. Water was piped from the lake directly to the operating mines and mills set up at them. Miners were following a new strike deeper into the desolate mountains which lie between the valley of Twentynine Palms and the great grey-green Pinto Basin. The village had outlived its usefulness.

If the miners could follow the "lead", so could the town. So everything that was portable was moved. No one knows for sure the number of times the town moved. But when death by abandonment finally caught up with the nomadic town, it was forty years in time and eight miles in space from the ruins of the first Dale by the dry lake.

(Marginal notes made by James E. Cole on original manuscript.)

- (Ref. paragraph 3 - line 1) with
(where water was)
- (Ref. paragraph 3 - line 2) the
(a dry lake)
- (Ref. paragraph 3 - line 7) (up) re-assembled
- (Ref. paragraph 5 - line 5) (space) distance

Government reports give the total production of the district as close to a million, most of it recovered between 1900 and 1915. But they do not tell how much money went into the ground to bring that million out. The area always has been isolated, with food, supplies, equipment and labor costly. The ore beneath the oxidized zone has been difficult to mill, and litigation at the Virginia Dale and other properties added to the operators' troubles.

Dave Poste, mining man most of his life, was Justice of the Peace at Twentynine Palms for many years, until his retirement in 1951. He was personally acquainted with many of the boom camps of the early part of this century. He states:

"Water was the problem. We brought it four miles and had to use a force pump and a large engine to pump it up the hill. At that time, two inch pipe cost 50 cents a foot on the ground. We sunk all the money we had, then sold everything we could. We had that lease (Virginia Dale) 18 months and lost our shirts."

John Lang (whose grave is on the road to Salton View) discovered the Lost Horse Mine in 1894. He made and lost three fortunes in this mine. Lang left his mine of January 10, 1925 and tacked a note on the door of his cabin saying that he was going to town for grub. He was burried where found on March 25, 1925. The road from Lost Horse Valley to the mine turned at grave site and William Keyes and another man went to that point to start a road to the View Point in order to transport ore from the Hidden Gold Mine to a mill at Keyes Ranch. Keyes was riding in the back of a spring wagon driven by the other man and when they arrived

Marginal notes made by James E. Cole on original manuscript.

(Ref. paragraph 3 - line 3) During World War II this pipe line was taken up and sold for junk.

(Ref. paragraph 4 - line 5) (He) He never made it, and

(Ref. paragraph 4 - line 6) (st) east where Johnie Lang's body was found.

(Ref. paragraph 4 - line 7) (grave site) It wasn't a grave site when Keyes found Lang's body!

(Ref. paragraph 4 - line 8) Start building a road southerly

(Ref. paragraph 4 - line 8) (~~te-the-View-Point~~) The overlook was called Keys View not View Point--a sore point with Bill Keyes.

at the turn Keyes saw Lang wrapped in a canvas on the ground. They notified Deputy Coroner Wiefels of Banning and Constable Samuels. When they had inspected the body they instructed Keyes to bury him where found. Lang had a sister in Texas and she was notified. She was said to have sent \$150 for a funeral, but Keyes claims that he was given only \$10 for his work. Keyes dug the grave and put Juniper boughs under and over the body which was still wrapped in the canvas. Mr. Keyes says that the date of 1926 on the marker was furnished by Jep Ryan, but that the death occurred in 1925. Mr. Keyes used a plough and two horses to open the road to Salton View.

In 1897 John Lang's father (also called John) had a saloon near Wilson's house. The whiskey was brought in. But at "Sneak eye Spring" (a spring at the west end of the Indian Cove region) was a still run by John Stull. Stull used crutches and was a graduate of the Colorado School of Mines.

In the 1890s, a few of the many claims became small-scale mines. Dutch Frank Diebold filed on the Lost Horse in 1893; Jim McHaney (brother of Bill) on the Desert Queen in 1894. Tingman and Holland operated the Homestake and Dewey in the Pinyon Mountains using water from Pinyon Well (originally a spring). This region--Pinyon Mountains, Pleasant Valley, Fargo Canyon, Berdoo Canyon--saw a considerable proportion of the activity of this time and a little later.

Coincident with this interest in gold was an interest in pasturage. Owners ranged their cattle further and further into the

(Marginal notes made by James E. Cole on original manuscript.)

(Ref. paragraph 1 - line 3) (they) these officials

(Ref. paragraph 1 - line 4) (and-she) who

(Ref. paragraph 1 - line 8) (furnished) made

(Ref. paragraph 1 - line 10) the overlook now called

(Ref. paragraph 2 - line 1) In my time John Lang was always called Johnie Lang.

(Ref. paragraph 2 - line 2) (near Wilson's house) where is or was this?

(Ref. paragraph 2 - line 3) (spring) small seep (region) John Stull is reported to have operated a (still run-by-John-Stull) Unless you know positively he ran a still, better be careful.

(Ref. paragraph 4 - line 1) (Coincident) Contemporaneous (interest in gold) gold mining activity (pasturage) ranching

(Ref. paragraph 4 - line 2) (further and further) don't you mean farther = more distant

desert. Possibly because it took so many acres to support one cow, such business was early monopolized by a few large cattlemen, namely; Gram, who operated from the Hayfields in the Cottonwood Spring area; Talmadge Brothers and Barker and Shay who operated out of Whitewater Ranch on Highway 99. The cattlemen dug wells, built dams and improved springs. Time has wrecked some of these, as at Ivanpah Tank, Live Oak Tank, Squaw Tank, Rattlesnake Tank. Others are good monument watering places: Barker's Dam, Willow Holes, Stubby Spring, and White Tanks. 1/

On November 9, 1954, Superintendent King interviewed Mr. William Keys, long time resident of the monument. The following is taken from notes taken at this time. The notes are Superintendent King's since Mr. Keys relied upon memory to furnish these facts.

According to Mr. Keys the first man to introduce cattle in what is now Joshua Tree National Monument, was Oliver Smith. He brought cattle into the Quail Springs area in the year 1870 and was in business until 1876. The cattle were Texas Longhorns of mixed origin. Mr. Smith branded his cattle with a five pointed star thus: ☆

Bill McHaney started running cattle in the area now comprising Keys Ranch in the year 1879. These were also Texas Longhorns and ranged over Queen and Lost Horse Valleys. Mr. McHaney was engaged in the cattle business until about 1894; his brand is not known.

George Meyers bought the McHaney cattle interests in 1894 and continued his operation until 1905. His brand was C H.

Mr. Meyers sold his interests to C. O. Barker in 1905 and the latter continued in the cattle business through the late 1920's. Mr. Barker later merged with Shay (long time sheriff of San Bernardino

County) and they continued to run cattle in the vicinity until about 1940. They branded their cattle C O. Mr. Barker and Mr. Shay improved their herds until they were predominately the Hereford strain.

The firm of Carpenter and Hamilton ran cattle in the vicinity of Stubby Springs from 1896 to about 1899, when they sold their interests to J. D. Ryan. The latter was the man together with his brother who developed the Lost Horse Mine. What brand they used on their cattle is not known.

Bill Keys also related that John Lang Sr. once traded 100 head of cattle for the small spring at Lost Horse.

The Talmadge Bros. of Whitewater also ran cattle in the western part of the Monument through the late 1920's. Their brand was I S.

Cattle from other ranges adjacent to the Monument sometimes strayed over on what is now the Monument as the whole area was unfenced open range. Included among the latter were the Swarthout cattle from the Old Women Springs area. These cattle were branded with a heart - Bar thus: 

Bill Keys indicated that the grazing ratio was considered to be about one adult animal to 17 acres. In favorable years when grasses were abundant, less acreage would suffice. On the other hand during drouth periods it would require more acres per animal. Likewise when grazing conditions were optimum, fat cattle were produced and sold directly to the meat packing firms. Some years however when grazing was reduced to a minimum, the cattlemen were forced to sell their cattle as "figeders".

(Marginal notes made by unknown person on original manuscript.)

(Ref. paragraph 2) Ryan at one time stated that he had the tunnel dug at Stubby Springs. This tunnel was 100 feet long. He said that Barker built Quail Spring Tank and Tunnel, Barker Dam, White Tanks, Squaw Tanks, and Ivanpah Tanks.

(Marginal notes made by James.E. Cole on original manuscript.)

(Ref. paragraph 6 - line 2) He once told me 1 to a section! I doubt this ratio. Certainly fewer cattle than 1 to 17 acres overgrazed the range during my time. Actually, the poor distribution of water-holes was the control, not vegetation.

(Ref. paragraph 6) According to Mr. Ryan, of Lost Horse Wells, Bill Keys started ranching with one black cow and a white-faced steer. In a few years he had quite a herd! Told to me by Mr. Ryan.

Where does Jim Stocker come into this picture? He was running cattle in the monument when I got on the job in 1940 and was there when I left.

In 1896, Billy Neaves, and John Thurston built the rock house near Wilson Cove at the Oasis. This rock house later became the first school. Mrs. Tucker (ex Mrs. Norman Donnell, ex Mrs. Ballou) brought out the first teacher who had a row with Mrs. Tucker and left.

1900s - 1910s. Mining was then at its peak in the Dale District and to a lesser degree in the Eagle Mountains and Pleasant Valley. The size of the operations is attested by the census figures for Dale Township, the scene of the greatest activity: population 1900 was 60; 1910, 120; 1920, 1. The one was Sam Joyner who had once been a bar-tender at Dale and who, in 1933 was called the mayor of New Dale.

On March 10, 1903, Maria Eleanor Whallen died at the Oasis while enroute to Eaton's Camp where her mother worked. Eaton's Camp was near the present Iron Age Mine south of Dale. Hers is the grave seen at the Oasis. 1/ Mrs. Whallon's 18 year old daughter was in poor health and it was hoped that living on the desert would restore her health. The hard, wearisome trip was being made in a horse-drawn freight wagon. Upon arrival at this Oasis the daughter passed away and was buried at

(Marginal notes made by James E. Cole on original manuscript.)

(Ref. paragraph 1 - line 2, Oasis) Which one?

(Ref. paragraph 2 - line 9, south of Dale) in the Eagle Mountains.

and was buried at that spot. The Mexican freighter prepared the grave. Afterward Mrs. Whallon often remarked that "the Mexican teamster was truly a friend in need, comforting and caring for her and digging the grave." At that time only a few miners and Indians inhabited this district. Many years later the headstone was erected, and the fence of ocotillo was placed around the grave for protection and memorial services were held.

The old well at the Oasis probably played a more important part in the early development of this area than the Old Adobe. This was the only water for many miles and water was absolutely necessary for survival. It is believed that the well was dug about 1900 by employees of the Barker and Shay cattle outfit which grazed cattle in this area. The well was dug to supply water for human consumption. Livestock drank from the spring which was in the sunhole nearby.

At one time the well was about 16 feet deep and held about 600 gallons. When all the water was dipped from the well about twelve hours were required to refill it. For many years miners and homesteaders for many miles around hauled water from the well which was their only supply. The water was hauled in barrels with teams and wagons.

1920s - 1930s. During the 1920s many veterans and their friends, began to homestead in the area just north of the Monument. The story of the activities in the Monument becomes blended and lost in the current history of this larger community which would later be the town of Twentynine Palms.

(Marginal notes made by James E. Cole on original manuscript.)

(Ref. paragraph 1 - line 2) citation

(Ref. paragraph 3 - line 1, probably) certainly did--the old adobe would not have been built without the water.

It was around 1922, in the post-war era following World War One, that the Pasadena American Legion selected Twentynine Palms as the outstanding spot where health could be restored to our boys who had been gassed/ⁱⁿthe war and in later years developed respiratory troubles. Among the many reasons for the selection of this spot by the medical men sent out from Pasadena was that it has an elevation of 2,100 feet and complete absence of fog.

In telling the story of these veterans, Mrs. Spell says:

"Homesteading was given added impetus by Dr. James B. Luckie of Pasadena when, following our first world war he felt a strong obligation to alleviate the suffering of veterans afflicted with arthritis, asthma and other pulmonary ailments. With this in mind he made an exhaustive study of the arid climates of Southern California selecting Twentynine Palms as being most ideal from the standpoint of elevation, aridity and availability to the metropolitan area.

"He interested Pasadena Legion Post #13 in forming a committee to encourage homesteading and settlement in this region. Their first Commander, Joe Davis, suffering from tuberculosis, was one of the first to file on a homestead under this regime. Legion comrades formed a caravan to Twentynine Palms, where they built a home for Davis with labor and materials furnished free of charge.

(Marginal notes made by James E. Cole on original manuscript.)

(Ref. paragraph 1 - line 4, our boys) soldiers

(Ref. paragraph 2 - line 1) citation, don't indent

Unfortunately Joe was caught in a bad storm on the way to Banning, became seriously ill and did not recover. Frank Mathys, another disabled veteran from San Diego, filed on and patented the Davis homestead. He, feeling extremely grateful for the climate's beneficial help, thereafter deeded one hundred acres of land and the Davis cabin to the local post #334 of the Legion." 6/

In these early days of the homesteaders a school was started in the rock house near the Oasis. After this building was torn down the school moved to a cabin of the Gold Park Hotel, a group of buildings built by a Mr. Chapman and used as a hotel. School was held here until the number of pupils dwindled to less than six, the required number for the county to furnish a teacher.

An early homesteader tells the story of a sign posted on the Old Adobe: "Do not kill the pet red racer. He is harmless". It seems that the racer, a colorful, swift-moving snake, had decided that he too could make a home in the adobe. One newcomer was standing in the doorway of the hut when he felt a gentle tap on his boot. Looking down, he was horrified to find that he was standing on the snake's tail and the pet was politely asking him to move.

One of the early comers to the desert was Louis Jacobs, who made his first trip to Twentynine Palms Oasis in 1909. In 1919, being interested in mining, he filed on a millsite, and then in 1923 came to homestead in the area. "Louis", as he is known today, was instrumental in organizing the first Chamber of Commerce in 1928, serving as its first president, with Mrs. Sherman Clark, another new comer, as secretary.

(Marginal notes made by James E. Cole on original manuscript.)

(Ref. paragraph 2) How about the school at Key's Ranch? This has monument history. As I recall, Mrs. Keys was one of the first teachers and Key's married her. They had a tough time maintaining the minimum number of kids, so imported some. Mrs. Keys could give you the information.

Hazel M. Spell came to Twentynine Palms Oasis in 1929 with her husband Les and two small children. In speaking of the hardships of the period she says:

"The group of buildings at the Gold Park Hotel, the rockhouse school and the adobe hut comprised the center of Twentynine Palms, with the pure sparkling water of the Oasis proving all too welcome. Water, the most precious commodity of the desert, was hauled away in cans, bottles and barrels to be used most sparingly. Modest little homes were built and rough roads hacked out between the various homesteads. My first winter, that of 1929-30, was a memorable one. Even the road in from the main highway was only a couple of ruts winding between rocks and greasewood bushes. When meeting a car the driver who had the better turning out place with the least deep sand, turned aside for the other to pass. A shovel and a few old burlap bags to use in "digging out" was standard equipment for the car." 6/

Among the other early homesteaders to camp at the Oasis until building a shelter on their homestead, were Mr. and Mrs. George Michels, Sr. George later erected a small mill to care for the ore of the miners.

The story of this period would not be complete without the story of William Q. (Bill) Amith, who came in 1923, liked the looks of the country and decided to stay. It was not long until he had drilled a well on his homestead and then he, too, provided a

(Marginal notes made by James E. Cole on original manuscript.)

(Ref. paragraph 1) no indention

source of water for the needy. For the few living in the north end of the valley it was much handier. The crude shower bath Bill fixed was a favorite spot during the heat of the summer. Bill was helped on his ranch by his younger brother Harry, who also homesteaded a quarter section. Later a swimming hole was dug, as Bill's well proved to be an unusually deep flowing one.

The list of homesteaders to make the Old Adobe their temporary headquarters is long and includes: Mr. and Mrs. William Campbell of Pasadena, who pioneered archeology of the area; Mr. and Mrs. Hassell Donnell and daughter Elise, who built the second hotel in the area and, due to a roaming cow that was a prolific milk giver, dispensed not only water to the needy, but milk; Walter (Ketch) Ketcham, whose map of homestead locations is still being used; "Ben" Benioff, who was so helpful in the surveying of the first roads of the community; the Hockett family; the Stoneciphers; "Dad" Foley; the Tom Martins; the Shelton family; Krushat family; "Bill" Underhill, who had the first theater; Egbert and Sarah Schenck; the Earenfights; and many others.

Mail service in the early days was sporadic. In the days of the first homesteaders, incoming travelers would stop at White-water and pick up the mail for Twentynine Palms. It would be brought to the Gold Park Hotel and there Frankie Roberts served as postmistress. For a time Ed Bixby, another early homesteader, carried the mail. He was paid his expences by the homesteaders. Then Charlie Stead of Morongo carried it for six months, bringing it in three times a week. Prentiss Shaffer followed Miss Roberts as postmaster after

(Marginal notes made by James E. Cole on original manuscript.)

(Ref. paragraph 1 - line 6) Bill's ranch never produced any produce, so far as I can tell.

(Ref. paragraph 2 - line 5, Ketcham) a faithful monument employee during World War II

(Ref. paragraph 2 - line 9, Underhill) and newspaper?

(Ref. paragraph 3,- line 4) unofficial?

the Gold Park Hotel was taken over by the Twentynine Palms Inn Corporation. Shaffer was succeeded by Frank Bagley and the postoffice was moved to the Plaza, at which time Mr. and Mrs. Clovis Benito, early homesteaders in the Monument, were carrying the mail. Daily mail started in 1931.

About another early settler, Mrs. Spell relates:

"Among others coming in 1927 was Frank Bagley in search of health. He built a garage, in which the family lived after joining him a year later. Part of this garage was used for a small grocery store and thus was our first grocery store established. Previous to that the Gold Park Hotel, which had been by then moved from Utah Trail west of the Oasis where it now stands as the Twentynine Palms Inn, had stocked a small supply of staples for sale. The Bagley store soon became a busy place for Frank handled supplies of every kind for the needs of the miners and homesteaders, from dynamite to diapers. If the wanted article was not onhand it was ordered for the next load from town. It was surprising what a number of activities could be housed in this small building. In addition to her home and store duties, Mrs. Bagley found time to install a small branch of the county library, which then replaced the small lending library Frankie Roberts had maintained at the Twentynine Palms Inn and which had to be discontinued due to the failure of borrowers to return the books lended to them. Mrs. Bagley later served as

(Marginal notes made by James E. Cole on original manuscript.)

(Ref. paragraph 2) no indention

clerk of the school board, a task fraught with many difficulties. A gasoline pump was soon installed and a service station then in operation.

"Thus was the Plaza business center inaugurated.

Later, when the postoffice was moved there, it was busier than ever. No matter how busy, Helen and Frank always found time to listen to the difficulties of other and lend a helping hand where possible." 6/

After Frank Bagley drilled his well and a tankhouse was erected on the hill, the Plaza became a more popular place than ever. The tankhouse was simultaneously used as a "city hall", bathhouse and barber shop with smiling Johnny Keys presiding over the barber chair. Public notices were posted therein; a wedding later actually staged in front of it when Justice of the Peace Louie Jacobs performed the ceremony uniting in marriage Harry Godwin and Jean Harmon. Later on this building was moved to another location where it now serves as living quarters.

By 1928 the number of children had increased so that a regular school building was built at the corner of Utah Trail and Two Mile Road, on a site donated by Mr. and Mrs. Campbell. The school was built and financed by the homesteaders. In November of 1928 the school was opened with Mrs. Hammond as first teacher. In 1929 the school enrollment was twelve. However, the number of pupils steadily increased due to the constant influx of homesteaders. Sunday School and Church services were also held in the schoolhouse under the supervision of Mr. and Mrs. William Carle, other early day

(Marginal notes made by James E. Cole on original manuscript.)

(Ref. paragraph 3 - line 5) (~~later-actually~~) was

(Ref. paragraph 3 - line 8) (~~to-another-location~~)

(Ref. paragraph 4 - line 4) (~~built~~) financed (~~financed~~) erected

(~~In-November~~) The school opened in November

(Ref. paragraph 4 - line 5) (~~was-opened~~)

(Ref. paragraph 4 - line 6) (~~However~~)

(Ref. paragraph 4 - line 9) (~~Mr.~~) Rev? He was an ordained
minister, as I recall.

(Ref. paragraph 4 - line 9, ~~other~~) another

homesteaders. The Saturday night dances were held there also. It was the duty of the late dancers to clean the premises in readiness for the next morning's services.

In the 1930s there was a flurry of mining activity in the monument due to the depression of those years. No mine resulted that has continued to operate.

(Marginal notes made by James E. Cole on original manuscript.)

(Ref. paragraph 1 - line 1) homesteaders

(Ref. paragraph 1 - line 2) Throw out the bottles, I presume.

The Establishment of Joshua Tree National Monument

Among the homesteaders of the 1920s and their friends and visitors were many who quickly perceived the unusual character of this region. Discussions and plans for the protection of the area resulted. This interest and agitation produced the passage of bills by both houses of the California Legislature creating a State Park. This was never signed by the then Governor, James Rolph, Jr., largely because Mrs. Sherman Hoyt intervened with the plea that time be given for the Federal Government to act in establishing a national monument.

Mrs. Hoyte was the wife of Albert Sherman Hoyte, of New York, a physician and financier. She lived in Pasadena, California. Mrs. Hoyte early learned the beauties of the desert, its peace and restfulness, and it became one of her main interests through the years. As she saw the plant life being carried away in truck loads she became conservation-minded. It was from a long association in the desert that she decided to campaign for the preservation of the desert fauna and flora. In the 1920s she organized the International Desert Conservation League of which she remained president to the day of her death in 1945.

Mrs. Hoyte was passionately fond of the Twentynine Palms region; and her vigorous advocacy of its protection was a major factor in the creation of the monument. She devoted time, thought and money to the project. She kept interest alive, and secured the assistance of able and influential people. She inspired the production of descriptive articles (Notably one on botanical

resources by Dr. Philip A. Munz). She got together albums of pictures and exhibits.

With all this she demonstrated to proper authorities the desirability of preserving this remarkably characteristic desert region for the enlightenment and enjoyment of generations to come. While historically the monument was not of great interest, with the exception of the Twentynine Palms Oasis (added in 1950), it was recognized in Washington, that as a scientific exhibit it was outstanding and that aesthetically it offered a wide variety of unique natural features. Time has endorsed this recognition. The influx of population into the desert has emphasized the need for protection. And the scenic attractions have enjoyed a tremendous increase in popularity with each passing year. No one could have predicted in 1930 this great increase in popularity and population. Starting in 1941 with a few thousand visitors, the monument attracted over 200,000 visitors in 1954.

The end result of Mrs. Hoyte's efforts was an Executive Order dated October 25, 1933, withdrawing from entry approximately 1,136,000 acres of Federal Land in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, California. Then on August 10, 1936 a Presidential Proclamation established a Joshua Tree National Monument of 838,258 acres. On September 25, 1950 Congress revised the boundaries of the monument reducing it to a gross acreage of 557,934. 1/

Organized efforts to reopen the preserve to mining activities were launched in September, 1945, when a Riverside County Chamber of Mines was organized. Elmer Dunn was chairman. The

(Marginal notes made by James E. Cole on original manuscript.)

(Ref. paragraph 1) Also took an exhibit of desert plants to a horticultural exhibition in England (Drew? Gardens, I believe) at her own expense.

(Ref. paragraph 2) Newton Drury, then director, was not in favor of it. He was still more interested in Borego State Park which he helped establish. JTM was another and desert park.[?] Better not put this in your report--but you may be interested.

(Ref. paragraph 2 - line 8, endorsed) ?

(Ref. paragraph 2 - line 9, has)

(Ref. paragraph 2 - line 10, the) (enjoyed) induced?

final reduction of acreage was largely the result of agitation and arguments sponsored by the Western Mining Council and allied interests. They insisted that much of the area included in the eastern and northern portions of the Monument contained valuable minerals that should be made available to the mining fraternity.

With passage of the Phillips Bill in 1950 some 289,000 acres were deleted and returned to the public domain, since these portions contained the only areas where minerals in commercial quantities might be developed. However, there has been relatively little mining activity in the deleted portions through 1954.

Almost the day President Truman signed the Phillips Bill, looping off a portion of the Monument, National Park Service officials announced addition to the Monument of famed Twentynine Palms Oasis itself.

The group of native *Washingtonia filifera* palms for which the town was named and 58 acres of land immediately surrounding it were given to Joshua Monument by the Twentynine Palms Corporation. Principal stockholders in the corporation were Mrs. Helen Faries, H. G. Johnsing, C. G. FitzGerald and Mrs. W. A. Kingston.

Enactment of the Phillips Bill was expected to end the long battle between mining groups and the Park Service, both sides expressing themselves as satisfied with the compromise. However, a proposal to open the entire Monument to prospecting and mining was again raised early in 1954, again as a result of agitation by the Western Mining Council. This group was instrumental in having a resolution adopted by the Riverside County Board of Supervisors

(Marginal notes made by James E. Cole on original manuscript).

(Ref. paragraph 2) Has the Kaiser iron mines folded up?
Actually, but you would have to be diplomatic to record the facts,
Congressman Sheppard's interest in the Fontana Iron processing plant was
the prime-motivation. He wanted iron ore from the Eagle Mtns and didn't
want monument status of lands adjoining the patented mines to interfere.
The war was also an influence.

(Ref. paragraph 4 - line 3, Joshua-Monument) the Federal Government

proposing that the mining laws of the United States be extended to Joshua Tree National Monument. In July of the same year the Mining Council endeavored to influence the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors to make an identical resolution. The Board rejected the proposal by unanimous vote.

The U. S. Bureau of Mines, the U. S. Geological Survey and the Atomic Energy Commission have corroborated the findings of a previous intensive investigation made by the former Division of Investigations, General Land Office, the National Park Service. The report stated in part:

"...based upon the evidence and recommendations submitted in the survey reports, Joshua Tree National Monument as reduced by the act of September 25, 1950, is of primary importance for National Monument purposes, and that the mineral values remaining therein are of little significance..."

(Marginal notes made by James E. Cole on original manuscript.)

(Ref. paragraph 2) citations here are important

(Ref. paragraph 3) no indention. This statement is of great importance in that it documents the opinion of other Federal Agencies. Preservation of the monument is substantially strengthened against minority groups interests by the position taken by these agencies.

Early Administration

Headquarters for Joshua Tree National Monument was established in Twentynine Palms on September 19, 1940, under the general supervision of Coordinating Superintendent Laurence Merriam of Yosemite National Park. The first superintendent for local administration was James E. Cole who entered on duty September 19, 1940.

Local support for the establishment of the monument was met by mixed reactions at the outset on account of Service policies and the enforcement of applicable rules and regulations. Some of the local people were quite perturbed on account of the regulation prohibiting the removal of wood from the monument for fuel. Another complaint was the rule prohibiting mining and prospecting. The latter complaint was to be heard many times from the mining fraternity and "old time" prospectors. It was still a controversial subject as late as 1954.

A proposal to construct a road through the Monument between Indio and Twentynine Palms was advocated as early as October 1940 by the Chambers of Commerce of both cities.

Again in 1953 the Coachella Valley Advisory Planning Commission of Indio proposed that the road be constructed via the "Blue Cut". This proposal was rejected by the Park Service on the ground that such development was not contemplated in the Master Plan Development for Joshua Tree National Monument. Furthermore, such a road would largely duplicate the existing road through Pinto Basin which is a year-around route on good gradient.

(Marginal notes made by James E. Cole on original manuscript.)

(Ref. paragraph 4) As i recall, the Blue Cut road was considered impracticable because of the expense of construction and maintenance. Of course, I have no knowledge of what happened in 1953.

It should be pointed out here that much was accomplished by Superintendent Cole during his administration to reconcile the conflicting interests of local people in their attitude toward the monument and the National Park Service.

Superintendent Cole was called to the colors by the United States Army on October 30, 1942 and was replaced by Walter G. Atwell. Mr. Atwell served until December 8, 1942, when he was replaced by Duane Jacobs who served as Acting Superintendent until December 2, 1943, when he was called to service with the United States Navy. Mr. Walter E. Ketchum succeeded Mr. Jacobs as Acting Superintendent until he was relieved by Superintendent Frank Givens who served until March 5, 1944. Mr. Givens was replaced by Superintendent James Cole on May 6, 1944 on the latter's return from military service. Mr. Cole was again replaced by Mr. Givens on March 4, 1947 and the latter served as Superintendent until replaced by Superintendent Samuel King on April 12, 1953.

First-Ranger

The first Park Ranger appointed was Harold S. Hildreth who served from January 20, 1941 to July 19, 1941, when he resigned. Next came John W. Stratton who served as Clerk-Ranger from October 1, 1941 to March 12, 1942, when he was called to military service. He returned after the war to serve from May 9, 1946 to November 11, 1948 in the same capacity.

Hesmel L. Earenfight succeeded Mr. Stratton on April 1, 1942 and served until August 13, 1942, when he was called to the colors. Walter E. Ketchum replaced Mr. Earenfight as Clerk-Ranger and served from October 5, 1942 to August 4, 1945, when the latter

(Marginal notes made by James E. Cole on original manuscript.)

(Ref. paragraph 2, was-called-to-the-colors) enlisted in [Thanks]
Atwell just held down the fort until Duane could get away from Yosemite.

returned from the service on August 6. Ranger Earenfight was subsequently promoted to the position of Supervisory Ranger, which position he holds today.

The personnel roster in the appendix shows all personnel who have served in various capacities from inception of active administration to date. However it should be recognized that Robert Lake who transferred to Joshua Tree National Monument from Yosemite National Park on March 1, 1941, as equipment operator, did a tremendous job in the early development of the road system. He was in turn replaced by Alva Connor, Mixed Gang Foreman, who has carried on the maintenance program in an admirable manner.

Roads and Trails

The development of the road system was initiated early in 1941 with the appointment of Robert S. Lake as Grader Operator. The program thus initiated has progressed with remarkable results through the years, culminating in a road system comprising some 93 miles. Of this total some 75 miles are dust palliative treated and the remainder is gravel. A rather remarkable achievement in view of the fact that it has been accomplished with maintenance funds, except for a \$10,000 allotment in 1949 for construction of dikes and dykes to prevent flood damage.

Weather conditions in the Monument greatly hampered the early development to the road system. The following is a report made by Superintendent Cole in 1940:

"Due to a cloudburst on September 17, during which five inches of rain fell in thirty minutes, parts of the road between

(Marginal notes made by James E. Cole on original manuscript.)

(Ref. paragraph 2, personnel) monument employees

(Ref. paragraph 2, line 2, in-various-capacities)

(Ref. paragraph 3) The history of the development of monument roads is this. When I went to Joshua Tree, I was authorized to improve the existing roads only. Reason--they were partly on private land and Federal government had no authority to build roads or expend government funds on private lands--every other section. The existing roads by virtue of their long use were considered public roads and as such could be improved. There were literally hundreds of trails in the monument, many of which you might have a hard time finding now because improved roads concentrated use. My problem was to determine which roads to improve. The evidence is probably no longer or only dimly visible, but the trails made by the desert rats and homesteaders ducked down into washes when the going got rough. Spending money on wash roads was foolish so I looked and looked, by driving a truck, until I could find a road around the washes! The reason the monument roads wind around so much was essentially delineated by the old system of trails. Of course we changed things. Ask Les Earenfight about the Cottonwood wash road, but better not put it in writing.

Old Dale and Cottonwood Spring were completely washed out. Riverside County road crews worked on the road in the Monument for twodays and hired resident miners to continue the work."

Early travel

Consistent with this development has been the ever increasing use of the monument by the public as indicated by the travel figures. Starting with some 27,364 visitors in 1941, substantial increases have been reflected nearly every year, with an all-time record of over 200,000 in 1954.

Important Visitors

The year 1941 saw the arrival of the first official government visitor. In January of that year, Senator Charles L. McNary of Oregon who convalesced at Twentynine Palms for nearly two weeks enjoyed an afternoon in the Monument. He was outspoken in his praise for the conservation work of the Park Service and expressed a desire to see Joshua Tree National Monument developed.

Dr. John C. Merriam, President Emeritus of the Carnegie Institute and Mrs. Merriam visited the Monument on March 1 and 2, 1941. Dr. Merriam was pleasantly surprised at the possibilities of the Monument and expressed the opinion that the panorama from Salton View is one of the outstanding views of the world. His reaction to the Pinto Basin was that this section is a remarkable desert landscape. Dr. Merriam visited the area again a few months later.

Senator Thomas of Utah visited friends in Twentynine Palms, from December 16 to 21, 1941. He had been here before and seemed quite favorably impressed by road improvements made since his previous visit.

(Marginal notes made by James E. Cole on original manuscript.)

(Ref. paragraph 1) Also ask Les about summer we had cloudbursts on seven consecutive weekends. As I recall we had \$500 for road maintenance that year so he and I kept the roads open. We both learned to be fair grader operators, and we maintained the roads which otherwise we would have lost.

In October, 1946, Dr. Loye Miller, Professor Emeritus of the University of California at Los Angeles, arrived with two assistants to study bird life in the Monument.

Dr. F. W. Went of the California Institute of Technology and Dr. M. Westergaard of the University of Copenhagen visited the Monument on November 25, 1946.

Director Olaus J. Murie and Executive Secretary Howard Zahniser of the Wilderness Society made one of their many visits in 1947. In February of the same year Mr. Ansell Adams was engaged in taking pictures of the Monument for the Guggenheim Foundation.

In February, 1948, Dr. N. M. Penzer of Cambridge University, England visited the Monument. Dr. Penzer was deeply interested in the National Park Bibliography and expressed a desire to secure a copy for presentation to the Cambridge Library.

The State Senate Interim Committee on Public lands visited the Monument on November 30, 1950. The committee was composed of three Senators, one Assemblyman and their assistants. They were met at the town of Joshua Tree and were conducted through the Monument.

Former Director and Mrs. A. E. Demaray made one of several visits to the Monument in 1952. Mr. Demaray expressed pleasure at the development of the area.

Other important visitors who made frequent visits to the Joshua Tree National Monument were: Mr. Charles A. Harwell and Mrs. John Baker of the National Audubon Society; Mrs. Sherman Hoyte and her sister Alice Hamilton; Lloyd Wright, architect; Congressman Harry Sheppard; Dr. Edmund Jaeger, noted naturalist; and Lloyd Mason Smith, curator of the Desert Museum in Palm Springs.

(Marginal notes made by James E. Cole on original manuscript.)

(Ref. paragraph 2) Dr. Went first became interested in the germination of some desert seeds. Annuals sprout in spring, but seeds of shrubs, etc. only sprout in middle of summer--need hot days and hot nights plus moisture. Seedling survival is low because they need continual moisture which seldom occurs.

(Ref. paragraph 1) If you want to get some humor in this--On one trip I asked Dr. Leye Miller how pack rats made nests of cholla stems. He prefaced his reply by stating he was now Professor Emeritus. He said it was a very simple matter. Pack rats get in front of a segment of jumping cactus, teased it until it jumped and then the rat quickly moved to one side. By repeating the performance another cholla joint was added to the nest!

(Ref. paragraph 7) Misses Harwell and Smith conducted auto caravans from Coachella Valley.

Flora and Fauna

Botany

Over 550 species of native plants have been identified from Joshua Tree National Monument. Of these, 60 are rarely found in California except in the Monument or the nearby area. No equal area of our Western deserts has a richer representation of families, or species, or produces finer individual examples of these relatively rare plants. The flora is typical of an extremely arid country. Two life zones are represented. The Lower Sonoran, ranging from 0 to 3,000 feet altitude contains such plants as mesquite, encelia, and ghost flowers. In the Upper Sonoran Zone, 3,000 - 5,000 feet, are found pinon pines, blackbrush, and Mohave Desert Star. Further, the Monument is a transition area between the Colorado Desert and the Mohave Desert so that plants characteristic of each desert are present. For example: ocotillo, border palo verde and frost-mat belong to the Colorado Desert, while Joshua Tree, cheesebush and desert mariposa are typical of the Mohave. 1/

As previously mentioned, the area was one of interest to such men as Dr. Philip A. Munz and Dr. Edmund Jaeger. These men and others did much to identify and class the plants of Joshua Tree National Monument. Mrs. Sara M. Schenck collected much data of the flora and fauna of the region.

It was Superintendent James Cole that started the first herbarium at the Headquarters of the Joshua Tree National Monument. This excellent collection is still being used by Monument personnel.

(Marginal notes made by James E. Cole on original manuscript.)

(Ref. paragraph 1 - line 15) Isn't Washintonia Palm worthy of inclusion with this group? How about Nolina?

(Ref. paragraph 1) You are sure about this? Better quote an authority!

(Ref. paragraph 1) As I recall there is also an influx of plants in the extreme western part of the monument from the trans-mountain range; possibly deletion of part of this area has eliminated the flora from the San Bernardino Mts., but I doubt it.

It was Ranger Charles F. Adams Jr. who first compiled a master check list of flowering plants of Joshua Tree National Monument. *

* This project is still being prepared at the time of this publication.

Wildlife

W. B. Johnson (subsequently famous as "Pussyfoot Johnson") was Indian Agent for a region which included part of Twentynine Palms Oasis. About 1909 driving across Fried Liver Wash in Pinto Basin with an Indian, they jumped a jack rabbit. When Johnson reached for his gun, the Indian put out a restraining hand and asked, "Why?". In relating this, Johnson added, "I laid aside my rifle then and many times later was ashamed of such a silly impulse."

The Monument has more animals to "not-kill" but to enjoy than a newcomer might suspect. Early white explorers, remembering their greener lands, reported the desert as the home of only rattlesnakes and noxious reptiles. This reputation has been as enduring as it is false. The per square mile population of animals in the desert is indeed less than in areas of greater rainfall; but there is a definite population both as regards species and individuals.

How can animals live in a land of little food and no apparent water? Part of the explanation lies in the fact that some animals eat others; and that nearly all plants are food for something. Given suitable rains, the plant-eating animals increase; and the following year the carnivorous animals prosper. Thus the key to the animal population is the condition of the flora. Of this flora only a few species are avoided by animals. Some of the most forbidding plants are eaten. For example, certain pack-rats depend on cholla cacti; rabbits eat creosote; deer browse on yucca.

However, water is the determining factor. There is generally enough food present to support a larger population than the supply of

available water permits. The ability of desert animals to get along on the water available is dependent on several factors not readily perceived. (1) More water is actually present than is apparent. Aside from known springs there are hidden tanks and remote seeps. Also there are pools on the tops of rocks that contain water for a month or so after rains. And, at places in stream beds, underground water exists. Holes, made by coyotes in digging for such water, are frequently observed. (2) Desert animals require less water. Their habits of life conserve their bodily water; i.e. they spend much of their time underground, or out of the sun, and are most active in the coolest hours--not unlike some experienced human dwellers of the desert. (3) Certain animals get water from eating succulent plants. (4) Other animals obtain needed water through metabolic processes; i.e. through chemical reactions in digestion. Kangaroo rats can live indefinitely with no water and only dry seed for food.

All mammals of the Monument are shy and wild and natural. Therefore, quietness, patience, perseverance and some luck, are required in meeting them. Remember, the right place and the right time depend on the habits of the animals and not those of the visitor. 1/

In April 21, 1941 a special report on wildlife problems was released by Joseph S. Dixon, Field Biologist for the National Park Service. This was the first government survey made.

C. A. Harwell of the National Audubon Society visited the Monument in April, 1942 to make a check list of the birds to be found there.

Mrs. Elizabeth Campbell visited the Monument in 1946 to make a study of the many birds.

Two years later in May and June of 1948, Mr. Thompson of the California State Fish and Game Division made the first study of the snakes of the area.

Collections and observations were made by Alden H. Miller, Loye Miller and Virginia D. Miller of the University of California Museum of Vertebrate Zoology upon many occasions. They visited the region in 1945, 1950, 1951, and in November, 1953 made the observations that led to the publication of a paper entitled Endemic Birds of the Little San Bernardino Mountains, California.

Another regular visitor of the monument is Dr. Edmund C. Jaeger, Dr. Jaeger had done much to increase our knowledge of wildlife in the Monument.

Physical Improvements.

Campground facilities were gradually expanded over the years until a total of seven were established at suitable places in the Monument. These are all equipped with concrete tables and fireplaces. Pit type latrines with open tops were installed throughout the various campgrounds. One area at Sheep Pass has been designated as a "group camp" to accommodate the large organizations.

Probably the greatest single problem confronting the Service through the years has been the matter of acquisition of private lands within the exterior boundaries of the Monument. Much has been accomplished in acquiring private lands until at this writing some 80,000 acres remain in private ownership, as compared to an original total of approximately 265,000 acres. This has been achieved through the combined efforts of the field personnel and the Regional and Washington Offices.

A substantial amount of tax-deeded lands in Pinto Basin will probably be acquired through condemnation proceedings and reimbursement to the State of California in 1955. It is hoped however that the Congress will one day appropriate sufficient funds so that the remaining private lands may be acquired by purchase.

In 1950 some 289,000 acres of lands were deleted from the Monument under the Philips Bill H. R. 4116 and returned to the public domain. These deleted lands were thought to contain large deposits of valuable minerals. Subsequent activities in the deleted lands do not substantiate this contention, as only two claims have been filed up to 1954.

(Marginal notes made by James E. Cole on original manuscript.)

(Ref. paragraph 3 - line 4) Congress does appropriate funds, allocation is made by the Washington Office.

(Ref. paragraph 3 - line 3, ~~it-is-hoped-however-that-the-Congress will-one-day-appropriate-sufficient-funds-so-that-the~~) The remaining private lands probably may be acquired only by purchase when government funds are provided.

(Ref. paragraph 4) But gold mining is at a low ebb now. When gold increases in value (or commodities decrease) mining will pick up.

Another important land transaction transpired in 1950 when the National Park Service acquired 58 acres of land including the Twentynine Palms Oasis by donation. This valuable area played an important part in the pre-history of this region and was likewise important during historic times as a source of water for early explorers and settlers. Early in 1954 a modern administration building was erected at the eastern extremity of the Oasis which is a credit to the Service as its design has been heralded with acclaim by everyone. The largest room in the building was designated for display of natural history materials and as an information center for Monument visitors. The building was formally dedicated on April 8, 1954, with a crowd of over 500 people in attendance. Dr. Philip Munz, eminent botanist and Director of the Santa Ana Botanic Garden at Claremont, gave the dedication address. Many civic leaders and scientists were also in attendance and each contributed appropriate remarks. It also marked the occasion when John Hilton, famous painter of desert scenes, contributed an inspiring painting depicting a scene in Lost Horse Valley to the National Park Service.

Interpretive Services

During the early period of the Joshua Tree National Monument, all interpretive services were performed by the Superintendent. The program consisted mainly of talks to the tourists at the Monument office. When the staff became larger and a Park Ranger was added, talks were given at the campsites.

With the addition of the Oasis to the Monument, a series of nature trails was born. Now, in addition to the trail at the Oasis, the Monument boasts five such trails: Cap Rock, the Cholla Garden, Indian Cave, Salton View and Indian Cove.

The outstanding animal of Joshua Tree is the Desert Bighorn. During the year many inquiries are received about this animal and many visitors are afforded the opportunity of seeing these mammals in their natural surroundings. The visitor is directed to Stubby Spring over a one and one quarter mile trail from the Juniper Flat Road and many times are successful in observing sheep and in getting good pictures.

Water has also been made available at Cottonwood Spring for the birds and animals and the visitors and campers enjoy the many birds resident to that area, and also observe gray and kit foxes, badger, and Desert Bighorn. Water has been developed at Black Rock Spring and the occasional visitor there sees Desert Bighorn, deer and quail in that area.

In addition to all of this two fine trails exist over which visitors may visit desert oases, such as Forty-nine Palms and Lost Palms Canyon.

(Marginal notes made by James E. Cole on original manuscript.)

(Ref. paragraph 2 - line 2, bern.) established

(Ref. paragraph 3 - line 6, times)

(Ref. paragraph 4 - line 1) To my knowledge water always has been available at Cottonwood Spring.

Miscellaneous

Fires

The greatest fire loss in the history of the Monument was experienced June 23, 1948 when flames ravaged the 49 Palms Oasis. Although the fire encompassed little more than an acre, no greater damage could have resulted from a fire several times that size in any other portion of the Monument. Forty-four of the large Washingtonia palms were entirely consumed, except for their trunks, six were partially burned and only three were untouched.

This fire was fought by National Park Service, State Division of Forestry and volunteer personnel. Two teen-age boys picked up near the fire admitted their guilt. *

Attention was given at an early date to the protection of the vegetative cover from fire; since the botanical display was considered to have no equal in the high desert terrain of Southern California. In fact the whole area is truly a magnificent plant sanctuary.

Beginning in 1942 Fire Control Aids were assigned to duty during the hazardous part of the summer season. Many small fires have occurred, but none of major proportions except the one mentioned above and another in July of 1942. Approximately 165 acres were burned over at the western extremity of Lost Horse Valley on Southern Pacific Railroads lands. This fire was man-caused and unfortunately was responsible for the death of Road Foreman Pete Mahrt, who succumbed to acute pulmonary edema while suppressing it.

(Marginal notes made by James E. Cole on original manuscript.)

(Ref. paragraph 4 - line 6, was) doubtlessly

Death Caused by Shooting

The shooting and killing of Worth Bagley, Monument resident landowner, by his neighbor, William F. Keys, on May 11, 1943 caused much agitation in the monument area. Mr. Keys was held on a murder complaint and the case was handled by Riverside County authorities.

Mr. Keys stated that he had gone to his well to pump water. Something went wrong with the magneto and he was returning home to get a new one. He saw Bagley coming toward him over the rise in the hill, and Bagley fired a shot at him. Keys got his rifle from his car and fired three shots. The first one struck Bagley in the gun arm. When the third shot was fired Bagley fell. Keys told the officers that he did not go to the body.

After the shooting he went to his well, replaced the old magneto and pumped water for two hours. Then he went to his home, got something to eat and went to Twentynine Palms and gave himself up to Justice of the Peace David M. Poste.

Mr. Keys said that there were no words spoken before the shooting started. He also stated that the reason he did not go to the body of the dead man was that he "was afraid he was not dead and would start shooting."

Attorneys for Keys during the lengthy trial were Paul Barksdale D'Orr and Thomas Reynolds of Los Angeles.

The jury returned a verdict of manslaughter. Motion for a new trial was made and a hearing held on August 3, 1943. Motion was denied and the defendant was sentenced to San Quentin penitentiary by Superior Judge G. R. Freeman.

Mrs. Keys' case was taken by writer Earl Stanley Gardener

(Marginal notes made by James E. Cole on original manuscript.)

(Ref. paragraph 2 - line 3, get a new one) across the corner of Bagley's property on a trail he had been warned not to use.

and other members of the now famous "Court of Last Resort." It was proven that most of the evidence produced against Mr. Keys was circumstantial. Mr. Keys was paroled from San Quentin after serving nearly five years of a nine year sentence and is now back at his home in the Monument.

Traffic Deaths

The first person killed in the Monument by traffic accident after active administration by the National Park Service was a young girl. Carol Anne Privatt, age nine, was killed on November 2, 1952 when she fell out of her father's pick-up truck while traversing the Pinto Basin Road.

On June 21, 1954, Sgt. John A. Wing, United States Marine Corps, was killed when the car in which he was a passenger failed to negotiate a turn near Sneakeye Spring and over-turned.

Air Crash

On July 4, 1944, eight men were killed in a mid-air collision of two Liberator bombers. Seven men bailed out of one of the crippled planes, the pilot and co-pilot having landed it at the Palm Springs Airbase. The pilot of the other plane was the only survivor of that ship.

Suicides

On October 27, 1954, two sisters, Edna and Clara Walsh committed suicide near the south boundary by use of carbon-monoxide gas from their automobile.

(Marginal notes made by James E. Cole on original manuscript.)

(Ref. paragraph 5) Pete Mahut?

Publications

The August 1954 issue of Le Vie del Mondo, printed in Milan, Italy, contained an article on Joshua Tree National Monument written by W. Egbert Schenck and Samuel A. King.

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