

May 26, 1951

**Memorandum**

**To:** The Director  
**From:** Superintendent, Joshua Tree  
**Subject:** Annual Report of Officials in Charge of Field Areas  
and of the Regional Directors

This is the Superintendent's Annual Report for the 1951  
fiscal year.

The following topics are presented on the sheets attached  
hereto:

1. Lands
2. Travel
3. Public Relations
4. Wildlife
5. New Development
6. Vandalism

Frank R. Givens  
Superintendent

cc: Region Four (2)

*Mailed*  
5-28-51

## **Land**

The very valuable Twentynine Palms Oasis, containing 57,559 acres, was acquired by donation on August 16, 1950. This acquisition solved the difficult problem of Headquarters Site and also provided the Service with a unique geological feature and nature area. Locally, the area is very important historically.

A decision was issued, in connection with the Devoe exchange, whereby 1925.60 acres of Southern Pacific land will be acquired by the Service. To date, a copy of the deed has not been received.

On September 25, 1950, the President of the United States approved Public Law 537, 81st Congress revising and reducing the size of the monument from 838,560 acres to 558,549.78 acres. This ended, temporarily at least, the miners intensive efforts to get the entire monument opened to prospecting.

**TRAVEL**

To date, travel for the year shows a 57% increase over the corresponding period of 1950.

Visitor days use shows a 46% increase over the corresponding period of 1950. The establishment of developed campgrounds undoubtedly caused most of the increase.

April, 1951 is the only month which showed a decrease and this was because of widespread information that the wildflower display was poor.

### Public Relations

The Superintendent gave a two-night program for the purpose of acquainting the local businessmen with the monument to enable them to better 'sell' the area to the visitor. The future development plans were of great interest to the businessmen. The program was under the sponsorship of the Twentynine Palms Rotary Club. About 180 persons were present each night. The Rotary Club has requested that this be a yearly event.

Our public relations have improved as a result of new directional signs, the development of campgrounds, oiling of a number of miles of roads, installation of viewfinders at Salton View, and for various other reason reasons.

**Wildlife**

All wildlife are in a very satisfactory condition. The bighorn sheep are seen much more frequently than at any time in the history of the monument.

**New Development**

Four impressive entrance pylons were constructed at the main entrances.

Twentyfour road dips and protective dykes were constructed to protect the roads during periods of flash floods.

Sixteen frams and sheet iron toilets were constructed and placed in the campgrounds.

Thirty-eight concrete camptables and twentyfour fireplaces were constructed and placed in the six newly developed campground areas.

Our water exploration operations proved fruitless. Both wells stopped in solid granite and no water was encountered.

The construction of the low decorative and protective wall around the newly acquired Twentynine Palms Oasis is nearing completion. The oiled footpaths, the new parking area, and the temporary interpretive station should be completed in July, 1951.

Vandalism

Everything connected with the use of this area is on the increase but we believe that vandalism leads the list.

A concrete vault was demolished and the mechanical traffic counter was taken, 50-gallon garbage cans were taken from the camp-grounds, many signs were shot at and frequently hit, and a 16 foot Joshua-tree with a 9" trunk was felled by severing the trunk with, according to the number of cartridge boxes, about 550 shots.

Two men were arrested and sentenced to pay \$100 each for the digging up of Joshua-trees for transplanting.

Since this area has no clerical staff, one of our two rangers must do only clerical work which leaves one ranger to devote only 40 hours per week to patrol 870 square miles. During the fire season, the two fire control aides render excellent protective assistance.