

**JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL MONUMENT
Twentynine Palms, Calif.**

June 9, 1952

207-01

Memorandum

To: The Director
From: Superintendent, Joshua Tree
Subject: Annual Report of Officials in Charge of Field Areas

The following subjects, which may be of sufficient importance for inclusion in the Director's Annual Report, are submitted:

1. Lands
2. Travel
3. New Developments

**Frank R. Givens
Superintendent**

cc: Regional Director, Region Four (2)

Lands

During this fiscal year deeds have been received, or information indicates that they are about to be received, to 88,822.08 acres of privately owned land within the monument.

Deed #11	3255.60	acres	State School Exchange
12	2240.00	"	" " "
	14473.61	"	Ritter Bros. "
	3193.44	"	Nelson "
	2240.00	"	Bishop "
	<u>27002.65</u>	"	acquired by exchange
	<u>11819.43</u>	"	" " purchase
	<u>38822.08</u>	"	acquired during 1952 f.y.

Land exchange applications now filed will, if approved, eliminate all of the Southern Pacific holdings in the monument except section 17, T.23., R.6E. which the S.P. company will not sell probably because of a belief that the section contains valuable minerals.

It is fortunate that the acquisition program has progressed so rapidly during the last three years because the Southern Pacific Company recently advised that if any applications defaulted the land must be returned to the company and it will not be made available to the Federal Government. This decision undoubtedly stems from the realization that their land is far more valuable than the prices which they established many years ago.

Travel

During the first eight months of this travel year the visitation was 108,887 whereas the previous visitation for an entire travel year was 90,860. The increase to date is 44.4% and was only partially due to an outstanding display of desert wildflowers.

The large increase in travel has far surpassed our ability to adequately care for the public and protect the area. With an annual appropriation of only \$6000 in the combined water system and sanitation accounts it was necessary for the rangers to devote most of their time to garbage cleanup. This reduced the time which they could devote to protection of the area and public information.

New Developments

Oiled footpaths and a parking area were constructed in the Twentynine Palms Oasis and an attractive adobe type wall was erected around the area. Probably no other development has done as much to improve the appearance of an area as well as our public relations.

Extremely heavy travel necessitated closing the Cottonwood Spring Oasis to automobile travel due to inadequate space for vehicles and the heavy damage to ground cover. Since the cars are required to park on the outer edge of the campground the oasis is recovering rapidly and is greatly improved in appearance.