

**Joshua Tree National Monument
Twenty-nine Palms, California**

A 2623

June 1, 1962

Memorandum

To: The Director
From: Superintendent, Joshua Tree
Subject: Annual Report - 1961

**Attached are subjects covering the most important items for 1962
Fiscal Year in Joshua Tree National Monument.**

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Wm. R. Supernough
Superintendent

LANDS

Private ownership and lack of funds for purchase continue to be the greatest threat at Joshua Tree. One application for subdivision was made to the San Bernardino County Planning Commission but, with their full cooperation, the application was refused and the appeal upheld.

One important exchange was made through GSA for 990 acres belonging to Mr. George Willett. Purchase of 5 and 10 acre tracts in the Pinto Basin continue as opportunity arises.

The 57 acres, comprising the Twenty-nine Palms Oasis, was officially made a part of the Monument by Act of Congress signed by the President on June 30, 1961.

Following the long moratorium of exchanges under the Taylor Grazing Act, we are again informed that full cooperation will be given to exchange of monument inholdings. There are 10 to 15 applications now being submitted to the Bureau of Land Management.

Work continued on investigation of old mining claims by BLM. This has resulted in the clearing of several abandoned properties and advising one or two very critical claims. The Winona Pacer Claim adjoining our Cottonwood Springs Development was advised, thus clearing a very important property and allowing for the proper development of the district.

PROTECTION

Protection of the area received its greatest boost by the installation of radio. Special equipment was designed and installed on a rental basis by Motorola Corporation. This is the first time communications have been possible with outlying districts or with patrols.

RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION

Cooperative research was continued by Long Beach State College and the work expanded to cover other aspects of the Joshua Tree Woodland Association. "Records of Snakes from Joshua Tree National Monument, California" by Richard B. Loomis and Robert C. Stephens, a by-product of this study, was published in the Bulletin of Southern California Academy of Sciences, Volume 61, 1962.

The Archaeological work previously carried out in the Squaw Tank area by Dr. William Wallace and Edith Taylor of the University of Southern California was reported and the findings published during this year. Their survey of the archaeological sites in the Monument continued with work being completed at Sheep Pass.

Field work was completed on a ground water resources study of the Monument by the Ground Water Branch of the U. S. Geological Survey.

The California Division of Mines finished their investigation of the mines located in Joshua Tree National Monument.

COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATIONS

The Joshua Tree Natural History Association printed the Cap Rock Trail Guide, reprinted the Cholla Cactus Garden Trail Guide and purchased the film "Let's Talk About Wildlife" to aid the interpretation program at Joshua Tree.

DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

The first development under MISSION "66" got under way this year. A contract of nearly \$300,000. was let for construction of Jumbo Rock Campground, Ryan Water development and pick up station in Lost Horse Valley and a campground, water development, sewers and roads for the district headquarters and contact station at Cottonwood Springs; work is now progressing on all sites.

Master Planning is current and up to date.