



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
Death Valley National Monument  
California

IN REPLY REFER TO:

September 3, 1937

The Director,  
National Park Service,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Director:

Submitted herewith is report for Death Valley National Monument for the month of August, 1937:

000-GENERAL

010-Introductory The month was not conspicuous for any incidents of note. Steady progress was made on all work projects and routine work was carried on in a most satisfactory manner. As is shown in the travel section, the summer traffic is nearly doubling each year, a result, no doubt, from the continuous road improvement both within the Monument and on the adjacent approach roads.

021-Weather Weather typical of August prevailed, being hot and clear. There follows a summary of climatological data as collected at the Cow Creek cooperative weather station:

Mean maximum	113
Maximum	124
Mean minimum	85
Minimum	76
Mean	99
Precipitation	None
Clear days	31

Temperature this year, while not reaching any unusual heights, has remained at a high level throughout July and August with no cool periods for relief.

100-ADMINISTRATION

126-Inspection by Congressional Committees The Sub-Committee of the Congressional Appropriations Committee headed by Congressman Scrugham of Nevada and consisting of Congressmen Fitzpatrick of New York and O'Neal of Kentucky, visited the Boulder Dam Recreational Area on August 25th and 26th. Due to the hot weather the committee did not visit Death Valley National Monument, but the writer drove over to Boulder on instructions from Superintendent White and spent the two days with the party. Congressman Scrugham stated that the other members of the committee would make the western trip late in September

in connection with an inspection of Hawthorne, Nevada. Naval Stores Depot, and that the entire party would spend one or more days in Death Valley.

### 200-MAINTENANCE, IMPROVEMENTS AND NEW CONSTRUCTION

210-Maintenance The weather has been so favorable thus far this summer that maintenance of roads has been an easy problem.

220-Improvements The new storehouse at Wildrose Summer Headquarters was completed and occupied during the month to the great advantage of having supplies concentrated in an orderly manner and protected from the weather. The summer residence for the Chief Ranger is complete except for painting and installing of plumbing and lighting fixtures.

230-New Construction The road oiling program under the 1937 allotment has been practically completed and gives the Monument practically 150 miles of oiled surfaced roads. Much still remains to be done on this program, but the improvement in safety and comfort with lowered maintenance costs, is very apparent.

240-Improvement of Approach Roads The new section of the Death Valley-Mt. Whitney highway promises to be completed this fall. The new link will be opened with suitable ceremony the last of October and will no doubt become one of the most popular entrances to the Monument.

260-Landscape Work Steady progress has been made in landscape improvements along roadsides and in the areas at Emigrant Springs and Wildrose Springs. Plans have been prepared for a complete revision of the layout of the residence area at Wildrose, and while not a great deal can be accomplished until the portable cabins are moved to Death Valley, it is expected that a start can be made on this much needed improvement this Fall.

### 300-ACTIVITIES OF OTHER AGENCIES IN THE MONUMENT

311-Public Operators Word has been received that the Stovepipe Wells Hotel plans no expenditures on their present plant other than usual maintenance works. They have, however, purchased the Hells Gate property and plan to test for water, with an eye to developing that site for hotel and camp.

The Death Valley Hotel Company is making improvements in the store and dining room facilities at their Furnace Creek Ranch property, and are remodeling the Furnace Creek Inn, providing for a new cocktail lounge underneath the dining room. Plans are also being drawn up for new buildings across the highway from the Inn to house the liquor store and barber shop, as well as fountain and gift shop. Word is also at hand concerning plans for keeping open all season, the hotel at Ryan. This latter has not been confirmed.

400-FLORA, FAUNA AND NATURAL PHENOMENA

410-Ranger Service Two Rangers were on duty this month, occupying the Emigrant and Wildrose stations. The usual routine patrols of the main highways were carried on as well as numerous patrols of lesser used roads. Several trips were made into various parts of the Monument to survey wildlife and numerous bighorn sheep were observed, as well as other life. Ranger Doudna spent five days escorting Cora Vernon Lee, representative of Federal Writers Project, about the valley as she gathered data for a guide book of Death Valley. Several days were given to research work in connection with the route of the Bennett-Arcane party through the Valley in 1849. Several canyons were found that partially answered the descriptions, but it is believed that South Park Canyon is the most likely of those inspected.

Checking Station at Emigrant Junction was manned by CCC enrollees under Ranger supervision. Signs are being constructed and painted under the direction of rangers. A man and woman, hitch-hikers, were picked up in Death Valley and transported to cooler climate, where arrangements were made for their transportation to civilization. The man claimed to be visiting the area on research work in connection with perpetual motion. No mention was made as to the success of the expedition. Numerous visitors were contacted and given aid, three cars being towed out of the Valley. Acting Chief Ranger Williams was in Los Angeles for three days on official business.

460-Birds The CCC swimming pool is being put to good use by some of our feathered friends this summer. Lesser Scaup and Greater Scaup as well as Bluewing Teal have been observed enjoying the pool. On August 26th a female Widgeon was found dead near the Sand Dunes. On the 31st, a Bluewing Teal was found dead near the same vicinity. Pools at the Eagle Borax Works are dried up, eliminating this place as a rest stop for waterfowl. Two pairs of Golden Eagles have been observed this month. Five Redtail Hawks were observed at Warm Springs.

470-Animals Over 30 individual Bighorn Sheep were observed at Quartz Spring early this month and signs of numerous other sheep were seen at far distant places throughout the Monument. It is believed that the sheep population is far larger than heretofore estimated. A Mexican Badger was observed at very close range near Ubehebe Crater, proving to be as curious about the observer as the observer was about him.

500-USE OF PARK FACILITIES BY THE PUBLIC

510-Travel This month with a travel registration of 647 people was an increase of 78% over August, 1936. Total visitors to date this year is 47,675, an increase of 10.6% over the same period in 1936. Following is a summary of travel distribution for the month:

Southern California	85 cars	195 people
Northern California	24	56
Out of State	134	386
Foreign	4	10
Totals	<u>247</u>	<u>647</u>

Cars and visitors were registered from 37 states, the District of Columbia, England, Phillipine Islands, Panama and the West Indies

530-Important Visitors Cora Vernon Lee, Federal Writers Project, San Francisco, August 10th to 17th.

#### 600-PROTECTION

610-Police Protection Complaint was lodged with Acting Chief Ranger Williams by a Mexican employee of the Furnace Creek Ranch against one Charlie Shoshone for breaking and entering unlawfully. When Williams picked up the miscreant, the Mexican refused to prosecute or to appear as witness against the Indian. The Indian was reluctantly released, because he is one that has been a constant source of trouble, but never has there been sufficient evidence upon which to base a case.

650-Signs Signs were painted by CCC enrollees under Ranger supervision.

#### 900-MISCELLANEOUS

The writer made several official trips during the month. The first was to CCC District Headquarters at Van Nuys on August 7th and 8th to attend the District Meeting. As a guest of the District Commander, Major Louis H. Thompson, he remained over for the District dinner and dance. On August 9th and 10th at invitation of the Grand Canyon, Boulder Dam Tours, Inc., a trip was made by airplane from Boulder City to Grand Canyon and return. Only a very short time was allowed at the Grand Canyon, but an old friendship with Victor Patrosso, manager for the Harvey interests, was renewed. The air trip was not only most enjoyable but very instructive.

On the 16th, 17th and 18th a trip to Sequoia National Park was made to attend the CCC Vocational Training conference.

On August 20th a meeting of the Mount Whitney-Death Valley road celebration committee was attended at Lone Pine.

By order of Superintendent White the writer drove to Las Vegas on August 24th and met Congressman Scroggins at his hotel, and contacted Regional Officer Kittredge. The morning of August 25th was spent with the Congressman, who is an old friend both of the writer and of Death Valley. At noon the train from Cedar City was met in company with Regional Officer Kittredge and Acting Supervisor of Boulder Dam area Rose and many officials of the U. S. Reclamation Service and the Las Vegas business men's association. A very interesting Kiwanis Luncheon was held immediately after the arrival of Congressman Fitzpatrick and Congressman O'Neill and their families. Following the luncheon the official party of twenty-four were conveyed by auto to Hemenway Wash and boarded the new power cruiser recently built for the Grand Canyon, Boulder Dam Tours, and a fast run was made to Fierce's Ferry. The party

spent the night there and the writer had the opportunity of making a wonderful midnight best trip up into the Grand Canyon with a small party . The following day the official party were taken up about thirty miles into the Grand Canyon and returned to Boulder Dam in the early afternoon where an inspection was made of the dam. The writer returned to Death Valley that afternoon and did not remain for the public dinner given the official party that evening at Las Vegas. Having now made the trip over Lake head and Lower Grand Canyon by air, boat and land, previous impressions of the remarkable possibilities of this region as a winter recreation area are completely confirmed.

Respectfully submitted,

T. R. Goodwin  
Senior Project Superintendent, in charge