

207-023

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

-----Arches----- NATIONAL MONUMENT

-----Moab, Utah-----

-----April, 29, 1944----- 19-----

Memorandum for the Regional Director:

Total visitor for the month 72: Travel year todate 434:

The month of April here at Arches has been pretty wet and prospects of good growth of all types of vegetation during this coming growing season. There was 1.68 of an inch of rain reported by the weather reporter at Moab. A good deal of fell on me during my horse-back trip down to the junction of the Colorado and Green rivers.

Nine days were spent with the noted Life magazine photographer, Mr Dimitri Kessel who has been and is still makeing pictures of the Colorado river from where it heads to the end. Mr Kessel plans to finish some time about the first of June. He certainly was an interesting person in many respects and I certainly enjoyed being with him and helping him with his photographing. He made several pictures out in the Monument, but we were unable to get to Delicate arch as we planned, because of rain and bad roads. Mr L.L. (Bish) Taylor, Mr Kessel and myself spent several hours trying to get through to the Arch but had to give it up and go elsewhere for pictures. Mr Frank O'Brien with the Publicity and Industrial Developements Commission of the state of Utah was with us several of the trips we made. Mr Charles A Rivhey was with us one day and parts of two other days.

We had a little hard luck on our way down to Salt Creek where we started from on our three day horse-back trip to the Needles and the River Junction. I managed to run over a small stick, it flipped up, caught the battery on

the car and broke into several pieces. We were on miles from the Ranch headquarters, and had to return on foot there for another battery. Mr Kessel, Mr O'Brien and myself spent three days on this trip and I hope secured many wonderful photographs. While Mr Kessel was taking pictures of the junction of the two rivers and also waiting for the weather to clear I managed to work my way down to the junction from the cliffs above. I have been told that this couldn't be done and if it has, I'd like to meet the person. I'll never try it again, even in my second childhood.

Several wonderful things were seen on this trip and also our second trip to Grand point that I've never heard mentioned before and which I think are among the most wonderful sights that I've ever seen. I took a few colored shots, and hope they turn out, so I can show you guys something that will make you sit up and take notice.

Quite a bit of trouble has been had with the water well and pumping system during the past three weeks and is still giving trouble. The Monument roads are in pretty poor condition due to so many hard showers.

Mr Richey was a Monument Visitor, and was certainly welcomed, even though I was pretty well tied up with other duties that were pretty important. I hope he can return soon so we might go over more of the Monument problems that we couldn't get to during this trip.

Respectfully

Lewis T. McKinney
Custodian

NATIONAL MONUMENT
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
UNITED STATES

207

Arches

Moab, Utah

September 25,

44

MEMORANDUM for the Regional Director, Region Three:

The following is a narrative report for Arches National Monument for the month of September, 1944:

GENERAL: This Acting Custodian reported for duty at this area on the night of August 30th to relieve Custodian McKinney who submitted his resignation to be effective August 31st at 5 p. m. Most of the time between September 1st and 22nd was spent commuting between this area and Aztec Ruins National Monument.

TRAVEL: We had a total of 57 visitors at the Windows section this month. This was very good considering the condition of the road between the main highway and the Windows. No contacts were made at this point due to lack of time.

NEWSWORTHY VISITORS: Ted Phillips, photographer for Burton Holmes travel pictures was in Moab from September 1st to 5th and I accompanied him to the Windows section on the 2nd where he took color movies and stills of Double Arch, Balanced Rock, North and South Windows, Parade of the Elephants and Turret Arch. On Sept 5th McKinney and myself accompanied him to Delicate Arch, via Salt Valley, and he was very much impressed with this outstanding arch. These shots are to be used in a film covering the Colorado River from its source to the ocean.

MAINTENANCE: "PLENTY". The water pump has been broken down for some time. McKinney and I borrowed equipment and pulled the 100' of pipe from the well and found that the lower part of the pump had stripped out and fallen to the bottom of the well. No success in trying to fish it out. No parts list or operating instructions were available so we are marking time until we can order the correct parts. Hauling water in 500 gal. tank from Moab.

The electric system is just about as bad as the water system. There are three plants available, one 5 KW borrowed from the Grazing Service and two 2 KW plants. The 5 KW plant had a loose connecting rod and was taken to Moab Garage for repairs. One of the 2 KW plants slipped a valve on the 18th and it is also at the Moab Garage for repairs. The other 2 KW plant functions part of the time, if you are right there to coax it along, otherwise you use a kerosene lamp.

PERSONNEL: Custodian McKinney continued on duty until 5 p. m. of September 7th, at which time he entered on terminal leave and I took over as Acting Custodian, on temporary assignment.

Lewis T. McKinsey, Jr. entered on duty as Caretaker on September 10th, to take over the care of the area during my absences at Artec Ruins National Monument.

Russell L. Mahan
Acting Custodian

207-02.3

Arches

Moab, Utah

October 24,

44

MEMORANDUM for the Regional Director, Region Three:

The following is narrative report for Arches National Monument for the month of October, 1944:

GENERAL: This section of Utah received its first rainfall since early June on October 1st when about one half inch of rain fell. It was certainly appreciated by the stockmen in this area.

Wilbur Long, District Conservationist for the Soil Conservation Service and former CCC Technician in Zion National Park during 1935, died suddenly of a heart attack at Moab on October 19th. He had been stationed at Moab for only about six weeks.

I had the privilege of witnessing a very interesting and unusual sight on two occasions in the last month. The movement of two herds of Hereford cattle, about 1000 head to the herd, to the railroad for shipment by the Scorup-Somerville Cattle Company, one of the largest of the old time cattle companies still in existence in the United States. It is a rare sight to see that many good quality stock in one herd and they were in excellent condition.

TRAVEL: People continue to visit the Windows despite the very poor condition of the road. We had a total of 36 people who made the 9 mile trip to the end of the road.

PERSONNEL: Relief Ranger Harry Reed arrived on October 21st, for a long stay, we hope, to help this Acting Custodian on the maintenance of roads, buildings and equipment and also to help me learn something about this very extensive area.

MAINTENANCE: The water pumping system has claimed most of the attention this month. Parts list for the Peerless Gearturbo pump was received and quotation for new pump section was requested. After receiving the quotation, and what a quotation, the working parts must be gold plated, it was decided to install a simpler water pump for the small quantity of water required at this time. A used pump jack and working barrel were shipped to us from Aztec Ruins. A

A 5 h. p. Fairbanks-Morse gasoline engine, which was here at the area, was reassembled, and a trip was made to Grand Junction, Colorado to secure pump rods, pulley, drive belt and have pump jack worked over. These parts are expected in the next two days and we hope to have our well functioning within the next week.

Made patrol to the Windows Section and tried to repair the worst places in the road. It will take a week or two of steady work to put this road in any kind of shape.

(in trip.)

Russell L. Mahan
Acting Custodian

Arches

Moab, Utah

November 28, 1944

MEMORANDUM for the Regional Director, Region Three:

The following is narrative report for Arches National Monument for the month of November, 1944:

TRAVEL: Relief Ranger Reed made a trip to the Windows Section on the 23rd to pick up the travel figures from the visitor register and found that no one had registered during the month despite the evidence of cars having driven to the parking area so the travel for the month was estimated as 5 cars and 21 people.

MAINTENANCE: Installation of the water pump and engine was completed on November 3rd and pumping was started on November 4th. Trouble was experienced with the engine but finally all the kinks were ironed out and at this writing we have about 15,000 gallons in the storage tanks. I contacted the Utah State Board of Health while on leave in Salt Lake City and have submitted sample of water for analysis.

Work has been started on the re-roofing of the utility building and with good luck and good weather we should have this completed before the end of November.

WEATHER: The weather has turned cold and the La Sal's have a heavy blanket of snow. We had rain on two occasions during the month and light snow fell on the night of November 23rd but it did not lay.

PERSONNEL: Relief Ranger Reed contracted a cold during the latter part of October and was on sick leave from October 26th to 29th. He was off duty again from November 5th to November 19th on annual leave.

The custodian was on annual leave from November 21st to 27th.

GRAZING: There is no evidence of any stock near the boundaries of the area. I made a trip with Assistant Grazer Worthington and Jim Westwood, the only permittee on the monument, out through Salt Wash and Lost Spring Canyon during the month and received a fair idea as to that section. The sheep belonging to Elizando, which range near the northeast boundary of the monument, have not come into the country as yet. I hope to make a

trip out with the Grazing Service officials at the time these sheep are checked into their allotment and will try to have an understanding with him. As near as I can now determine he is the only one of the stock men who does not seem to know just where the monument boundaries are.

(in trip.)

Russell L. Mahan
Custodian.

Arches

Moab, Utah

December 26, 1944

MEMORANDUM for the Regional Director, Region Three:

The following is a narrative report for Arches National Monument for the month of December, 1944:

GENERAL: Relief Ranger Reed is still on deck and during the month we accomplished much of the essential work which has been hanging fire. At this writing he is packing in preparation for his move to Tumacacori National Monument on the 28th.

From December 18th to 23rd I accompanied Ranger Reed on picture taking expeditions to various sections of the monument. We visited the Windows, Courthouse Towers, Devil's Garden and Klondyke Bluffs sections and black and white and color shots were made of the interesting features in each of these areas. It was certainly a great benefit to me to be able to visit these areas with Reed, who had visited every nook and cranny of this monument while he was Custodian in the early days.

TRAVEL: There are still a few stragglers that are able to find their way out to the Windows Section and the register showed a total of 5 cars and 15 people for the month, all of whom came from Utah and Colorado.

WEATHER: It has been an unusually cold December for this section with the mercury dropping to a low of 11 degrees above zero on one night and hovering between the low and 20 degrees above for a good part of the month. We had light rains on two occasions and a light snow fell on December 26th and it is still threatening.

MAINTENANCE: The roofs of the utility and office buildings were covered with a 15 lb. felt and completely mopped with a heavy coat of tar which was then sanded. The cold weather made it a tough job as we could not keep the tar at the proper temperature for best results.

On December 4th and 5th the Windows Section road was given a face lifting, with the welcome cooperation of the Utah State Highway maintenance crew stationed at Moab. The road was bladed for its entire length and shale was hauled to repair washed out portions, putting it in good condition.

A temporary corral has been built north of the qu

eliminate the necessity of keeping the horse, when we get it, too close to the utility and office buildings, where the present corral is located.

GRAZING: I made two trips out into the Yellow Cat section, north of the monument boundary along the Devil's Garden and Delicate Arch sections, to check on grazing. Contacted Henry Revoir and Emmet Elizando, whose herds of sheep graze in this section, and discussed the monument boundaries with them. They both assured me that they never let their herds cross into the monument. We shall see what we shall see.

NATURAL BRIDGES NATIONAL MONUMENT: No inspection was made of this area during the month due to the fact that the road over the Elk Mountains is closed for the winter months due to snow.

(in trip.)

Russell L. Mahan
Custodian