

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
ARCHES NATIONAL MONUMENT  
MOAB, UTAH

January 24, 1953

Memorandum

To: General Superintendent  
From: Superintendent, Arches National Monument  
Subject: Monthly Narrative Report for the month of January, 1953  
Arches National Monument

WEATHER: Intermittant light rain and snow fell during the first three weeks of the period, but the last week was clear and unreasonably warm.

TRAVEL: A total of 158 people entered the area in 50 cars and we note an increase of 57% over the same period last year.

INTERPRETIVE SERVICE: Only 14 contacts were made at Headquarters and none were made in the monument. The register at the Wayside Exhibit was signed by 98 people and we estimate the same number used the Cove Nature Trail. Twelve requests for information were answered.

ROADS: No maintenance has been done on our roads in the monument. The State road crew has repaired a few washouts and made one alignment change on approach road #93.

SIGNS: Maintenance man Winbourn has almost completed the design and color conversion of all signs. Ranger Morris was found to be an expert in letter-routing and has been a great assistance on this project.

EQUIPMENT: The front-end loader was given a complete motor overhaul in Grand Junction and Mr. Winbourn installed a rebuilt hoist pump. This unit is now in top shape.

GENERAL: The annual inventory was taken and all unservicable equipment surveyed. Ranger Morris is more than half through the rehabilitation job on our files and all office work has been brought up to date.

Bates E. Wilson  
Superintendent

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
ARCHES NATIONAL MONUMENT  
MOAB, UTAH

February 24, 1953

Memorandum

To: General Superintendent  
From: Acting Superintendent, Arches National Monument  
Subject: Monthly Narrative Report for the Month of February, 1953

WEATHER: Extremely mild weather and warm sunny days prevailed throughout most of the month. There were two light snows and the latest big storm consisted of nothing but cold wind.

TRAVEL: A total of 640 people entered the area in 200 cars, an increase of 236% over the same period last year.

INTERPRETIVE SERVICE: 30 contacts were made at headquarters and most of these over the three day holiday. 195 people signed the register at the Wayside Exhibit.

TRAILS: Since we have the Schramm tractor which was obtained from Tonto, construction of the new Delicate Arch trail is well underway. Mr. Carl Alleman of the Regional Office revised the final approach of the trail when he was here February 13 - 17.

GENERAL: In our spare time we are constructing a loading platform in the utility yard.

ADMINISTRATION: Superintendent Wilson went to Tonto National Monument to pick up the Schramm tractor and enroute stopped at the SWM Headquarters at Globe to transact monument business. Also, a trip was made to Grand Junction for supplies and a 1 1/2 KW light plant that was overhauled. It will have to be returned and rechecked since it does not operate properly.

MAINTENANCE: A new oil pan and pump was installed on the Schramm tractor. The oil pressure is now consistent regardless of the grade the tractor is operated on.

SIGNS: The new signs are nearly completed. Some have been set up at the beginning of Courthouse Towers trail.

N.P.S. VISITORS: Carl Alleman, Region III Office, February 13, 14, 16 and 17.

PERSONNEL: Sup't. Wilson and family are visiting friends and relatives in New Mexico. He is on annual leave from February 16 to March 3.

Robert L. Morris  
Acting Superintendent

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
ARCHES NATIONAL MONUMENT  
MOAB, UTAH

March 25, 1953

Memorandum

To: General Superintendent  
From: Superintendent, Arches  
Subject: Monthly Narrative Report for March, 1953

WEATHER: Continued mild, warm weather prevailed throughout the month. Only one light snowstorm occurred.

TRAVEL: A total of 960 people entered the area in 300 cars, an increase of 325% over the same period last year. Twenty-five states and four foreign countries were represented.

INTERPRETIVE SERVICE: Sixty-five contacts were made at Headquarters and 350 people apparently made use of the Wayside Exhibit, as this number signed the register. We estimate the Cove Nature Trail was used by 300 visitors. Twenty-seven requests for information were answered.

PERSONNEL: Merle Winbourn has resigned from his position as Maintenance man effective April 1. We all regret his departure, for his shoes will be hard to fill, but apparently he has been offered a business proposition which he cannot afford to turn down. We wish him all the luck in the world.

TRAILS: The Delicate Arch Trail project has been discontinued pending further field study by Regional and SWNM Headquarters personnel.

SIGNS: The Change over of our sign system is almost complete.

N. P. S. VISITORS: Ranger and Mrs. Ray Dobbins, Supervisory Ranger Monte Fitch, Colo. Nat'l. Mon; Supervisory Ranger Worthington, Mesa Verde.

GENERAL: Except for backfill the construction of the loading platform has been completed.

LOCAL NEWS: Loren L. (Bish) Taylor, a real amigo of the Nat'l. Park Service, especially Arches Nat'l. Mon., left Moab March 8, to accept the appointment as a member of the Industrial Commission of the State of Utah. Although the appointment is not a permanent one, 6 yrs., he will be missed by everyone in Moab.

Bates E. Wilson

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
Arches National Monument  
Moab, Utah

April 26, 1953

Memorandum

To: General Superintendent

From: Superintendent, Arches National Monument

Subject: Monthly Narrative Report for the month of April, 1953  
Arches National Monument

WEATHER: The mild warm weather of last month continued through April except for five days of high winds and a definite drop in temperature.

TRAVEL: As usual the big day of the year was Easter Sunday when 1680 visitors entered the area in 336 cars. Sometime between 1:30 PM. and 3:00 PM., the peak time of travel, the batteries in the traffic counter gave out and an undetermined number of cars were not counted. By actual count, for four hours, the average number of people per car was 5. During the rest of the month 1731 visitors entered the area in 539 cars and our total for the month was 885 cars and 3411 visitors. This is an increase of 31 % over the same period last year. Thirty-one states, one territory, and four foreign countries were represented.

INTERPRETIVE SERVICE: Approximately 50 % of the total visitors were contacted at the Wayside Exhibit and Headquarters. The register at the Wayside Exhibit was signed by 1720 people and we estimate that 1691 people used the Cove Nature Trail. Twice the Nature Trail cash box was robbed and as near as we can determine about \$12.00 taken. The first haul was made by ripping off the hasp and the second by prying up the front top.

PERSONNEL: Merle Winbourn, who recently resigned his position as Maintenance man, was reemployed on April 20, in the same position. We regret that his private business venture did not work out, but are mighty glad to have him back.

PUBLICITY: Life Magazine's April 13 issue featured a beautiful <sup>COVER</sup> picture, by Josef Muench, of the Delicate Arch. We understand that this is the first time that an attraction in one of our areas has appeared on the front cover of a magazine with the widespread circulation that Life has. <sup>which</sup> This front cover splash seems to have set off an Atomic Chain reaction, for in the past week a number of calls have been received from other national publications requesting detailed information on Delicate Arch and other points of interest both in and outside of the monument.

In the Travel section of Sunset Magazine, May issue there appears an article entitled, "Utah's famous rock windows" with pictures of Double Arch, The Windows Section, and Headquarters.

TRAILS: Progress on the Delicate Arch Trail has been better than we had even hoped for, since work was started again, after the method of realignment was agreed upon by Messes. Castellum, Alleman, and Van Pelt. We estimate that it is almost 2/3 complete and another two weeks will see the shooting job finished.

ROADS: Our roads, within the monument are in worse shape than they have ever been, due to lack of moisture and practically no maintenance during the last three months.

N. P. S. VISITORS: Assistant Superintendent, Luis Castellum, and Architects Carl Alleman and David Van Pelt.

GRAZING TRESSPASS: Due to very little precipitation during both winter and spring, all catchbasins, waterholes have dried up in the last month and stock from all directions are converginh on Salt Wash for water. By April 30 all stock is supposed to be taken off the adjacent BLM grazing land which will end this use in the monument. Little can be done except constant riding, for which funds are not available; however some control should be worked out for future dry years.

GENERAL: Ranger Morris has cleaned out and remodled all storage rooms. He has also placed all outside storage on the newly constructed dock which is completely hidden by the utility yard fence. Nothing can change the "Old CCC " look of the place, but atleast the visitor is not greeted by an oil barrel and a coal pile.

*Bates E. Wilson*  
Bates E. Wilson  
Superintendent

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
ARCHES NATIONAL MONUMENT

May 24, 1953

Memorandum

To: General Superintendent

From: Superintendent, Arches National Monument

Subject: Monthly Narrative Report for the month of May, 1953, Arches National Monument

WEATHER: One rain fell at headquarters, but high winds caused it to make a detour of the rest of the monument. This is the second month without a measurable amount of precipitation and the high winds during the passed month have added to the extreme dryness.

TRAVEL: A total of 979 cars entered the area carrying 3105 visitors. This is an increase of 21 % over the same period last year. Thirty-two states and six foreign countries were represented.

INTERPRETIVE SERVICE: Work on the Delicate Arch trail and signs has taken up most of the time of all three of us, however we did manage to personally contact 190 people at headquarters and 182 at the Wayside Exhibit. The register at the Wayside Exhibit was signed by 1100 visitors and we estimate that the same number used the Cove Nature Trail. One guided tour was made with 40 in attendance. Twenty-seven requests for information were answered.

PUBLICITY: Delicate Arch's cover-page-appearance seems to be catching, for this month we find it on the cover of the Utah Oil Co's "Torch" and also on the magazine section of the May 17 issue of the Salt Lake Tribune.

DELICATE ARCH TRAIL: The new approach trail was made passable during the first week in May and was inspected by Landscape Architect Van Pelt on May 11, at which time he suggested widening in a few places. Work was held up by complications in purchasing dynamite and caps, but was today resumed and it is hoped that the blasting job will be completed very soon.

ROADS: During the last two weeks, Maintenance man Winbourn has done as good a job as possible in smoothing our roads. Lack of moisture and maintenance during the winter has severely handicapped him on this job. Approach road # 93 has been turned over to Grand County for maintenance and the county crew has already done a very good job on about two miles of shale plating and drainage.

SIGNS: Ranger Morris has almost completed the Informational sign for Headquarters and good progress is being made on the similar one to be erected on State Route #93, by the Moab Lions Club. This sign will answer many questions the visitor would like to and should have answered before he heads for the monument, Dead Horse Point, etc.

COMMERCIAL POWER: The Utah Power & Light Co. started construction of their high-line from Crescent Junction to Moab, during the first week in May. At the moment the poles are strung the entire length of the line and are a very comforting sight.

PERSONNEL: James L. Bonham has accepted the Seasonal Ranger position at Arches and will report for duty on June 17.

NPS VISITORS: Landscape Architect, David Van Pelt, May 11.

OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES: The Superintendent made a four day ruin-mapping trip into the middle Salt Creek section of the Needles area with Jack Rudy, Archaeologist, University of Utah, and the local Explorer Scout Post. Under Dr. Jesse D. Jennings, Jack Rudy will do a number of salvage excavations this summer.

*Bates E. Wilson*  
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Superintendent

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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ARCHES NATIONAL MONUMENT  
MOAB, UTAH

June 25, 1953

Memorandum

To: General Superintendent  
From: Superintendent, Arches National Monument  
Subject: Monthly Narrative Report for the month of June, 1953

WEATHER: Winds have died down, but still no precipitation and the summer heat has definitely been turned on.

TRAVEL: In spite of the 100 degree temperatures our travel continues to climb. The 5259 visitors arriving in 1015 cars gives us an increase of 34% over the same period last year. Forty-six states, two territories and three foreign countries were represented.

INTERPRETIVE SERVICE: With one weeks constant contact by Seasonal Ranger Bonham and four weekends by Ranger Morris, 1013 visitors were contacted at the Wayside Exhibit. At Headquarters 789 people were contacted. The register was signed by 2,250 people and we estimate that at least that number used the Cove Nature Trail.

PUBLICITY: The Double Arch appears on the cover of Utah's 1953 Official Highway Map.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES: Director Douglas Sirk, Universal Pictures Co., Inc., plans to film a motion picture, "THE SON OF CHOCHISE", in the Moab vicinity. He was greatly impressed with the Windows Section and the Court House Towers sections of the monument. But, since there are no roads into these sections, it would be impossible to move their equipment to the selected areas. Although, no decision has been reached, they may use the mouth of of Courthouse Wash just off of Highway 160.

COMMERCIAL POWER: On June 11, the Utah Power and Light Company's Division Engineer, Mr. Packard spent half a day working out the construction plans for the power line into headquarters. The exact route of the line was designated and a plan giving location and cost will be submitted to this office as soon as it is completed by their engineers.

PERSONNEL: Seasonal Ranger James L. Bonham was transferred to Aztec Ruins on June 23 and Seasonal Ranger Nick R. Miller who was at Aztec was transferred to Arches.

SIGNS: Ranger Morris completed the informational sign for Headquarters and it is serving as an excellent "Lone Ranger" during our absence from Headquarters. We find that most visitors will take time to read the information if there is no one around to give it to them verbally. A similar sign will soon be completed by the Moab Lions Club and be erected on State Route #93. This will be of help for the people who come from the North and drive out into the monument expecting to find motels, cafes and etc.

GENERAL: Ranger Morris made a trip to Globe to return the Schramm Trail Tractor; also the trip to Aztec for the exchange of seasonal rangers. Three days were spent by my son Tug and me at Natural Bridges installing the light plant, refrigerator and radio. Three previous attempts to put this radio in operation during the last three years were complete failures; however, Tug seems to have solved all the problems, for it worked perfectly from the moment he turned it on. I don't think I will worry about his future.

LOST VISITOR: Mr. W.S.T. Smith, an 84 year old man was lost for 7 hours south of the Windows Section on June 24. After 4 hours of tracking, made difficult by large areas of "slick-rock", we finally caught up with him. He had traveled approximately 3 miles in a very irregular circle and when found was only a mile from the parking area. When found he was completely exhausted and we carried him out on a stretcher. His daughter, Dr. Ruth T. Smith, took him to Grand Junction for a checkup.

TRAILS: The new portion of Delicate Arch Trail was completed on May 27. It has been signed and the old hand rail removed. We have gotten many favorable compliments on the new and safe approach; especially from older people who have attempted to make the trip before and were unable to reach their destination.

*Bates E. Wilson*  
Bates E. Wilson  
Superintendent

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
ARCHES NATIONAL MONUMENT  
MOAB, UTAH

July 24, 1953

Memorandum

To: General Superintendent  
From: Superintendent, Arches  
Subject: Monthly Narrative Report for July, 1953

WEATHER: High temperatures ranged from 91 to 111 for the month of July. It rained all around us but only a trace fell on the monument.

TRAVEL: A decrease of 330 visitors as compared to July of last year. There were 4,292 people in 1,353 cars representing 41 states, Australia, and Egypt visited the area.

INTERPRETIVE SERVICES: 1,599 people were contacted at the Wayside Exhibit by Rangers Morris and Miller, 1800 signed the register. 632 people were contacted at the Headquarters office and an estimated 1807 used the Cove Nature Trail.

INTERPRETIVE DEVICES: The Cove Nature Trail is in extremely poor condition. Due to the dry weather, no rain this year, the Green Ephedra is brown and all specimens are poor. The Whipple Fish Hook Cactus has been transplanted several times, but within a few days it disappears. Evidently some people take the name of the cactus literally and hook on to it. The Gallata, Needle-and-Thread and Indian Rice grasses are still dormant and most of these specimens have been tramped out or covered with blowing sand. Even the Rabbitbrush is in sad shape. The stakes have been moved to better specimens but it is doubtful that the common person can tell one type of brown, probably dead, grass from the other.

NOTEWORTHY VISITORS: Members of the National Parks Advisory Board,  
Mr. Turpin C. Bannister, July 3, 1953  
Mr. Bernard de Voto July 5, 1953

ROADS: State Route #93 is rough, but the county maintenance crews can't or won't work on it until it rains. The roads in the monument are in fair shape, but very dry and it is a full time job keeping the dust pockets, chuck holes, filled with shale.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES: The Universal International Pictures Co., Inc. picked a more accessible location, than the monument, for filming "The Son of Chochise." The Twentieth Century Fox Film Corp. is studying the possibilities of shooting some sequence shots in the monument, but as yet no definite decision has been made.

COMMERCIAL POWER: The power line from Crescent Junction to Moab is nearing completion. The Utah Power and Light Co. is drawing proposals for the payment of commercial power to our headquarters. This is one project that we hope can be completed in the very near future.

SIGNS: An informational sign, similar to the one that was installed at headquarters last month, was placed just off of Highway 160 on State Route 93, the entrance to the main section of the monument. The sign is sponsored by the Moab Lions Club, but was constructed by Ranger Morris during his free time; the Lions Club paid for all materials. Although it has been in service for only two weeks its use has passed all expectations. People coming from the North can now get an idea of what to expect before driving to the Wayside Exhibit. All comments have been favorable and when the visitor reaches the contact point in the monument he already knows what he wants to do. Several cars turn around at the sign and save themselves the drive into the monument, where they would turn around at the Wayside Exhibit when told about the area, no facilities and etc., and the life of the contact man is much easier. Explanations are now about the points of interest in the monument.

COOPERATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES: Two men held on suspicion of car theft overpowered the Moab City Marshal and escaped the evening of July 21st. Road blockwere set up and Superintendent Wilson was called to man a road block south of Moab. The men were caught Wednesday afternoon about 3 miles south of Moab.

Bates E. Wilson  
Superintendent

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

August 25, 1953

Memorandum

To: General Superintendent  
From: Superintendent, Arches National Monument  
Subject: Narrative Report for the month of August, 1953, Arches

WEATHER: During the first half of the month we received two torrential rains, one at headquarters and one in the Windows Section. Two other lighter showers fell over the entire area. With this badly needed moisture came a drop in temperature, from 111 degrees down to a cool 90 degrees. In the last week temperatures have climbed back into the low 100 range.

TRAVEL: In spite of another motion picture group taking over most of the accommodations in Moab, we show an 13% increase in travel over the same period last year, with 6713 visitors entering the area in 1803 cars and 20 busses. Forty-seven states (South Carolina absent), D. of C., two territories, and ten foreign countries were represented.

INTERPRETIVE DEVICES & SERVICE: Rangers Morris & Miller contacted 2088 visitors at the Wayside Exhibit. We estimate that 3134 people used the Cove Nature Trail, as this is the number of people who signed the register. Information was given to 986 visitors at headquarters and 24 written requests for information were answered.

NPS VISITORS, Region III: George D. Smith, Highway Maintenance Engineer  
George J. Johnson, " " "  
Paul L. Balch, Soil Conservationist  
Harold M. Batoliff, Forester

ROADS: Although one serious washout occurred on the Windows road the long awaited moisture was welcomed by Maintenance man Winburn, as it enabled him to do a good blading job on all the roads in the area. State Route # 93 was washed out badly once, but the County Road Crew repaired it very quickly.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES: Universal Pictures Co. changed their location for the main battle in the "Son of Chochise", from an island in the river, which disappeared with the high water, to the Devil's Garden. They filmed for five days and were exceedingly considerate of the area, much more so than our regular visitor. The picture was directed by Douglas Sirk and the leads were played by Rock Hudson and Barbara Rush. Filmed in color and 3-D it should afford some very spectacular scenery.

NEW EQUIPMENT: The new Chevrolet Coupe Pickup was received and rides like a Cadillac compared to the 1947 Dodge it replaced. We are not used to such luxury, but certainly appreciate it. We also received two badly needed tools, i.e., Acetylene Welding outfit and a drill stand which converts our portable drill into a drill press.

GENERAL: One trip to Natural Bridges was made and the area found to be in excellent hands. Bob Sundwall has done a very good job this summer as seasonal ranger. We are sorry he is unable to stay on the job longer. The return trip from Natural Bridges was made via Hite & Hanksville and I learned, first-hand, just how to advise the many visitors who inquire about this route. One night was spent on a point between two of the 60 crossings in North Wash while a roaring flood ran its course to the Colorado River. Four hours were spent the next morning working through the remaining six miles of the canyon. My wife and two little daughters are now experienced road builders. It is a beautiful trip, but I don't advise taking it if there is a sign of a cloud over the Henry Mountains.

*Bates E. Wilson*  
Bates E. Wilson  
Superintendent

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
ARCHES NATIONAL MONUMENT  
MOAB, UTAH

September 24, 1953

Memorandum

TO: General Superintendent  
From: Superintendent, Arches National Monument  
Subject: Narrative report for September, 1953

WEATHER: Temperatures were unusually low for September and an above-normal amount of moisture was received in one rain storm.

NPS VISITORS: General Superintendent Davis  
Asst. Chief Naturalist Gregg and Mrs. Gregg  
Naturalist Arnberger  
Asst. Regional Director Patraw  
Regional Chief of Lands & Recreation Planning McCalm

ROADS: Approach road #83 was washed out at every culvert and a heavy flow down Court House Wash held up eleven cars from 5 PM until midnight on August 28. Two gallons of hot soup, prepared by the HSWP, was carried across the wash and drained to the last drop by over 30 hungry people. No cars were damaged, although it took 2 hours to dig, push and pull out one car which was hopelessly wedged in a cut of a 36" culvert washout. The attached clippings from the Times Independent is a good example of what happens to the visitors car if he is not advised when it is safe to cross Court House Wash. The county maintenance crew was unable to work the road immediately and it remained passable only to experienced drivers for five days. One serious washout occurred on the Windows road which took a full day to repair. Water out at every crossing, but in three days Maintenance man Winbourn had all our roads in good shape.

NEW EQUIPMENT: Two power supply units were obtained from Mesa Verde National Park and installed to operate both the Arches and Natural Bridges radios. These units are very convenient, being actually a small DC generator, the output of which can be regulated to 12 Volts, eliminating the use of batteries. The Generator is driven by a 1/4 HP motor which operates on 110 Volts AC.

TRAVEL: Due to our approach road being closed for 5 days and the discontinuance of counting visitors at Headquarters our travel count shows a decrease of 63% from the same period last year. During this month 2,976 visitors were counted by the traffic counter entering the area in 930 cars.

PERSONNEL: Seasonal Ranger Wick Miller was terminated at 5:00 PM on September 30. It was intended to send Wick to Natural Bridges for the first week in Sept., but heavy rains made the roads impassable.

OIL WELLS: Two wells are being drilled in the vicinity of the Monument. An oil well rig was set up in the Salt Valley Section 31, T. 25S, R. 21E and T. 25S R. 20E Section 11 is a large rig to drill for ~~gas~~.

INTERPRETIVE SERVICE: With the new definition of an "Attended Interpretive Station", our interpretive contacts at Arches will, for this month and through June of 1954, drop to Zero, for the Headquarters, where most of our contacts are made from September through June is now classed as only an informational station. This also affects our travel count, for now no count is being made of visitors stopping at Headquarters.

The register at the Wayside Exhibit was signed by 1937 people and we estimate that the same number used the Cove Nature Trail. For the third time the leaflet box was broken into. This time the top was pried off with a screw driver and approximately \$2.75 was taken.

WATER DEVELOPMENT: Mr. Ben G. Lafgren, Ground Water Division, USGS, Salt Lake City, spent September 21 in the area and plans to also visit Natural Bridges. As far as he knew his office had not received the request for a water survey of these two areas; but was glad to know that a survey might be requested. He went over both areas with the project in mind.

REHABILITATION PROGRAM: Notice that \$150.00 has been allotted for replacing the cover on our water reservoir and \$200.00 for the replacement of five picnic tables has just been received. The job on the reservoir will be done immediately and we understand the tables will be purchased along with those for other areas.

Bates E. Wilson  
Superintendent

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
ARCHES NATIONAL MONUMENT  
MOAB, UTAH

October 23, 1953

Memorandum

To: General Superintendent  
From: Acting Superintendent, Arches  
Subject: Narrative Report for October, 1953

WEATHER: Warm sunny days prevailed during the first of the month, but since the 19th it has been raining intermittently. Cloudy skies prevail. A very heavy rain in the Klondik Bluff area caused the Courthouse Wash to run for several hours on October 12.

ROADS: The much needed moisture has made it possible for us to put the monument roads in good condition. Route #93, the approach road to the monument, was washed out in places and repaired by the county, but continued rains have made Courthouse Wash and smaller wash crossings difficult. The occupants of 5 cars, stranded on the wrong side of Courthouse Wash on October 12, were hauled into Moab for the night. On the morning of the 13th the water had gone down enough for them to drive their cars across and go their respective directions.

TRAVEL: The wet and cloudy weather and muddy roads caused our travel to decrease 103% as compared with October '52. 1,439 visitors in 409 cars came to Arches this month. 1,030 people signed the register at the Wayside Exhibit and we estimate that the same number used the Cove Nature Trail.

MAINTENANCE: On October 12 the head on the motor of the light plant was removed to grind the valves. Not only the valves needed grinding, but all four pistons were broken. The motor was taken into Moab for a complete overhaul. After five days the job was completed - except that when it was all put back together, the rear main seals were left out. Another full day was required to partially remedy the bad oil leak, and we hope that we can use the plant without more expense, until the Utah Power & Light Co. will tie us on to that great big, beautiful power line that is running right past our front door. Such an agreement is being considered and all we want for Xmas is real store bought electricity.

Floods during September and October deposited rocks and sediment in the center of the Moab Wash just above the bridge here at hdq. This caused the later floods to undermine the bank on the highway side and eventually the bridge abutment may have been damaged.

The State Highway Dept. brought in a D-3 Caterpillar Bull Dozer to remedy a similar condition where the wash crosses under Highway 160 below our headquarters. They also cleaned the center of the channel just above our bridge and restored the bank to its original palce.

ADMINISTRATION: On October 5, 6 and 7 Superintendent Wilson and Ranger Morris went to Natural Bridges to install new road and trail signs. Temp. Ranger Stanley is completing the trail sign project.

NOTE WORTHY VISITORS: Congressman D. R. Stringfellow, Utah  
William Vandivert, Photographer for Colliers

NPS VISITORS: Dudley C. Bayliss, Chief, Parkways Branch and wife;  
Edwin C. Kenner, Chief, Architectural Standards and Maint.  
Branch.  
Both of Washington Office.

Robert L. Morris  
Acting Superintendent

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
ARCHES NATIONAL MONUMENT  
MOAB, UTAH

November 23, 1953

Memorandum

To: General Superintendent  
From: Superintendent, Arches  
Subject: Monthly Narrative Report for November, 1953

WEATHER: Unusually stormy weather prevailed during the month and a two day snow storm laid down three inches of snow in the monument on the 13th, and 14th. Courthouse Wash ran again and at many of the smaller washes the crossings were also washed out.

TRAVEL: In spite of stormy weather and the road conditions which go with it, travel this month shows an increase of 15% over the same period last year with 1397 people entering the area in 437 cars.

INTERPRETIVE SERVICE: At Headquarters 37 people were contacted who were not going into the monument or who were taking the trip to Courthouse Towers. This number amounts to 10 % of the total contacts at this station. Due, I suppose, to the cold weather, only 287 people signed the register at the Wayside Exhibit. We estimate that not quite this many used the Cove Nature Trail. Ranger Morris remodeled the Cove Trail coin deposit box by installing a heavy metal welded box which he bolted firmly to the frame of the stand. We hope this will discourage those cheap needy souls who have broken into the wooden box three times. He also placed instructions on the use of the booklet which may cut down our loss of leaflets.

ROADS: All wash crossings were out by the last storm and two days were spent in repairing them. Due to damaging storms in the last four months and a substantial increase in the equipment rental rates on our D-12 Patrol & Dump Truck, more money has been expended on the 211 account than was budgeted for this  $\frac{1}{2}$  year. In order to have a working balance for next spring our planned shaling and graveling job for the winter will have to be abandoned. Maintenance man Winbourn will work on jobs where equipment operation is not so heavy for the next four months.

State Route #93 was bladed by the County once this month; however one week later the heavy storm made a mess of it again. Maintenance man Winbourn has made it passable with pick & shovel fill-ins.

UTILITIES: The 10 KW light plant is now back at the Moab Garage for a re-overhaul job to remedy the oil leak which developed soon after the First overhaul. Satisfactory mechanical work is a rare thing in Moab. We are still hoping that Santa Claus will give us a light Christmas.

All outside hydrants, tanks and water lines, subject to freezing have been drained and all heating units were inspected and installed. Fire extinguishers, both in buildings and equipment were tested and refilled.

AUTOMOTIVE EQUIPMENT: All equipment was serviced for the winter. USDI-31792, Didge Pickup was surveyed and put up for sale to the highest bidder, Lewis T. McKinney was the successful bidder.

NPS VISITORS: Superintendent and Mrs. Homer Hastings, Aztec Ruins, Nat'l. Monument  
Superintendent and Mrs Charles Kelly, Capitol Reef Nat'l. Monument  
Supervisory Park Ranger Earl Worthington and family, Mesa Verde National Park.

LOCAL ACTIVITIES: The Moab Chamber of Commerce will be reorganized on December 9. With the terrific influx of Uranium and Oil people an efficient organization of this type is certainly needed. The Moab Lions Club has again undertaken the project of signing the outlying roads in the vicinity of Moab. This will be a great help to the tourist in finding his way to Dead Horse Point, etc., through the maze of AEC Access roads.

NATURAL BRIDGES: The area was closed for the season on October 30 and all equipment transported to Arches for storage. Jack Stanley, who was employed as Truck Driver, was also terminated on this date. Ranger Morris constructed and installed a new register stand which contains a map and instructions on how to see the Natural Bridges. I regret to report that the sign job was not completed and will have to wait until next spring.

*Bates E. Wilson*  
Bates E. Wilson  
Superintendent

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
ARCHES NATIONAL MONUMENT  
Moab, Utah

December 23, 1953

Memorandum

To: General Superintendent  
From: Superintendent, Arches  
Subject: Monthly Narrative Report for December, 1953

WEATHER: Only one light snowstorm occurred during the month; however it has been unusually cold with temperatures staying below freezing even during the day.

TRAVEL: In spite of the cold weather skies have been clear and roads passable, all of which accounts for the 200% increase in travel over the same period last year. During the month 503 visitors entered the area in 157 cars. Our annual travel of 30,853 visitors and 9,118 cars shows an increase of 14% over last year. The Natural Bridges annual travel of 3268 visitors and 1112 cars is a 5% increase over last year; however this is not a true comparison, as these totals are only up to October 23, 1953.

INTERPRETIVE SERVICE: At the Wayside Exhibit 134 people signed the register and we estimate the same number used the Cove Nature Trail. Ranger Morris has been working on plans for the construction of a Laymans Herbarium. The plant specimens will be supplied by the Brigham Young University, through the kindness of Dr. Bertrand F. Harrison. The framing of the specimens and the construction of the display case will be done this winter along with our proposed book & slide display. We may be scratching for funds for material, but believe the whole display will add a great deal to the visitors enjoyment of the area. Negatives for the Delicate Arch Nature Trail have been submitted to your office.

ROADS & TRAILS: Our road maintenance program came to a necessary (financial) halt last month and Maintenance man Winbourn has been doing various jobs on buildings, grounds, equipment, and trails. He will complete the re-signing of the Courthouse Towers trail this month. The monument roads are in fair condition although muddy and snowy in spots.

REHABILITATION PROJECTS: The overhaul job on our light plant seems to be a satisfactory one. The cover for the reservoir was finally received and installed by Merle Winbourn. This completes one project.

ADMINISTRATION: The big job of the month in the office has been the conversion of our files to the new filing system. We found this an excellent time to dispose of a mass of obsolete material. The job is about 75% complete. Ranger Morris went on annual leave December 14 which will allow him to use up his leave for this year.

" MERRY CHRISTMAS "

Bates E. Wilson