

ARCHES-NATURAL BRIDGES NATIONAL MONUMENTS
MOAB, UTAH

A-2831

January 4, 1962

Memorandum

To: Superintendent

From: Supv. Ranger

Subject: Monthly Narrative Report for December 1961

General.

Weather Conditions: There were 17 clear and 14 cloudy, overcast, or stormy days during the month. In general it was a cold, wet month with the average temperature 4.2 degrees below normal. Snow fell on the 9th which remained on the ground throughout the month, reaching a maximum depth of 2.5" at Headquarters and about 4" at Devil's Garden on the 18th.

A weather summary follows:

<u>December</u>	<u>1961</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>5 Year Average</u>
Maximum Temperature	62°	51°	60.4°
Minimum Temperature	4°	12°	13.8°
Precipitation	0.32"	0.09"	0.13"
Snowfall	2.75"	0.28"	0.41"

Increase in Travel: New travel records were set at Arches as the monthly travel increased 81% over last year and the travel year ended 26.6% ahead of 1960.

Natural Bridges was closed throughout the month. A travel summary follows:

<u>Dec.</u>	<u>Visitors</u>	<u>Variation</u>	<u>Cumulative</u>	<u>Variation</u>
<u>Arches</u>				
1961	3,523		90,673	
1960	1,946	+81%	71,597	+26.6%
<u>Natural Bridges</u>				
1961	0		7,689	
1960	192	-	6,499	+18.3%
<u>Total Travel, Both Areas</u>				
1961	3,523		98,362	25.9
1960	2,138	+64.8%	78,078	+13.2%

Visitors: Superintendent Bill Krueger and family, Capitol Reef, visited the area on the 26th.

Special Activities: Inventories of government owned equipment were made by Administrative and Maintenance personnel on December 13-14 & 15.

The library stock was inventoried on the 20th.

Miscellaneous: In this space I wish to express my thanks and appreciation to the entire staff for their efforts and interest in assisting me in becoming oriented and acquainted with the area and my duties.

The Shoemaker and Yardic families moved into their new quarters on the 9th.

Administration.

Personnel: Supv. Park Ranger Roby R. "Slim" Mabery EOD from Crater Lake effective December 3.

Operator General Harold Shoemaker was on annual leave December 26 thru January 4.

Safety and Health: No accidents were recorded within the Monument during the month. However, Monument personnel were called upon to assist at the scene of an accident on U. S. 160 near the monument entrance on the 29th. The Superintendent rendered first aid and transported the accident victim to the I. W. Allen Hospital in Moab.

Several cases of flu made the rounds among monument personnel during the week of the 11th.

Building Fire Protection: New, dry-chemical fire extinguishers were installed in new quarters, # 5 - 6 & 10, prior to occupancy.

Caretaker Bervil Rose assisted me with an inspection of fire protection equipment on the 7th.

Sanitation: No water samples were sent in for inspection during the month due to a shortage in sample bottles.

Cooperative Activities.

Cooperation With Other Agencies: Total sales of Southwest Monuments Association publications for the year ending December 19, amounted to \$3,608.46. Inventories have been completed and special reports submitted.

Interpretive Activities.

Interpretive Services: The Arches Visitor Center was open to the public daily throughout the month. It was manned on an 8 hour schedule, daily excepting for Christmas Day. A total of 446 visitor center contacts were made and 32 audio visual programs were shown to 136 visitors. The Wayside Exhibit register was signed by 336 visitors from 23 states plus Canada, France, Iran, Japan, and Thailand.

General Publicity: The Dec. 28 issue of the Salt Lake Tribune carried an article on the Secretary's meeting with Senator Moss and others concerning the proposed Canyon Lands Park Project on Dec. 27.

The Dec. 28 issue of the Moab Times-Independent carried an article pertaining to the Superintendent's trip to WASO on Jan. 2, in connection with the NPS development planning for the proposed Canyon Lands National Park.

The December 7 issue of the Times-Independent published an article announcing the addition of Ranger Mabery to the Arches staff.

Public Relations: Ranger Mabery showed movies and gave an illustrated talk for 34 members of the Moab Rotary Club on the 11th.

The Superintendent and Park Ranger assisted with maintaining order during the Lion's Club free Christmas show at the Holiday Theater in Moab on the 23rd.

Operations.

Protection and Ranger Services: Several head of stray cattle have been noted at Courthouse Wash and in Cache Valley from time to time due to the lack of adequate boundary fencing.

D.&R.G.W. railroad construction crews set off a blast ^{Dec. 22} in the cut in the ridge across the highway from the visitor center that lifted the top of the ridge and gave the visitor center a severe shake but no apparent damage was done.

Boundary signs were replaced by Bervil Rose in Courthouse Wash early in the month after they had been destroyed by vandals.

As a "get-acquainted" routine I made the following patrols and inspection trips during the month. December 4, to Kibonkye Bluffs; December 6, to Cache Valley and Delicate Arch; December 7, west boundary; December 9, I visited Dugout Ranch and Indian Creek; December 14, Devil's Garden; December 28, Sleepy Hollow; and December 30, to Fresh Water Spring.

I paid visits to the State Highway Patrol and Chief of Police offices on the 30th and made arrangements for police training rides with the Highway Patrol officers and to attend the Police Training School which will begin on January 8.

Wildlife Activities: A considerable amount of fresh beaver activity has been noted in Sleepy Hollow and along Fresh Water Creek. A trip was made to Sleepy Hollow on January 1 when it was noted that two trees had been felled since a previous visit there on December 28. Three beaver dams and a hut were noted on Fresh Water Creek on the 30th as well as very fresh cuttings and fresh tracks in the snow.

A peregrine falcon was observed in Salt Valley on the 4th. Maintenance personnel have reported several head of deer in the Windows area on several occasions. A flock of about 40 brown cap rosy finches were seen at Headquarters on the 21st. A raccoon was killed on the highway between Ureco and Monument Headquarters and two kit foxes were observed north of the monument on the 29th.

Maintenance: Due to snow storms, maintenance personnel removed snow from monument roads and the Delicate Arch trail on the 18th and 19th.

Water pipes under some of the residence trailers became frozen on the 10th which required thawing and minor repairs.

Complaints and Visitor Comments: No complaints were received during the month.

Many favorable visitor comments were found in the Wayside register such as: "Well maintained area", "Beautiful scenery", "Wish we had more time", "Different from anything we've seen", and many others.


Roby R. Mabery
Supv. Park Ranger