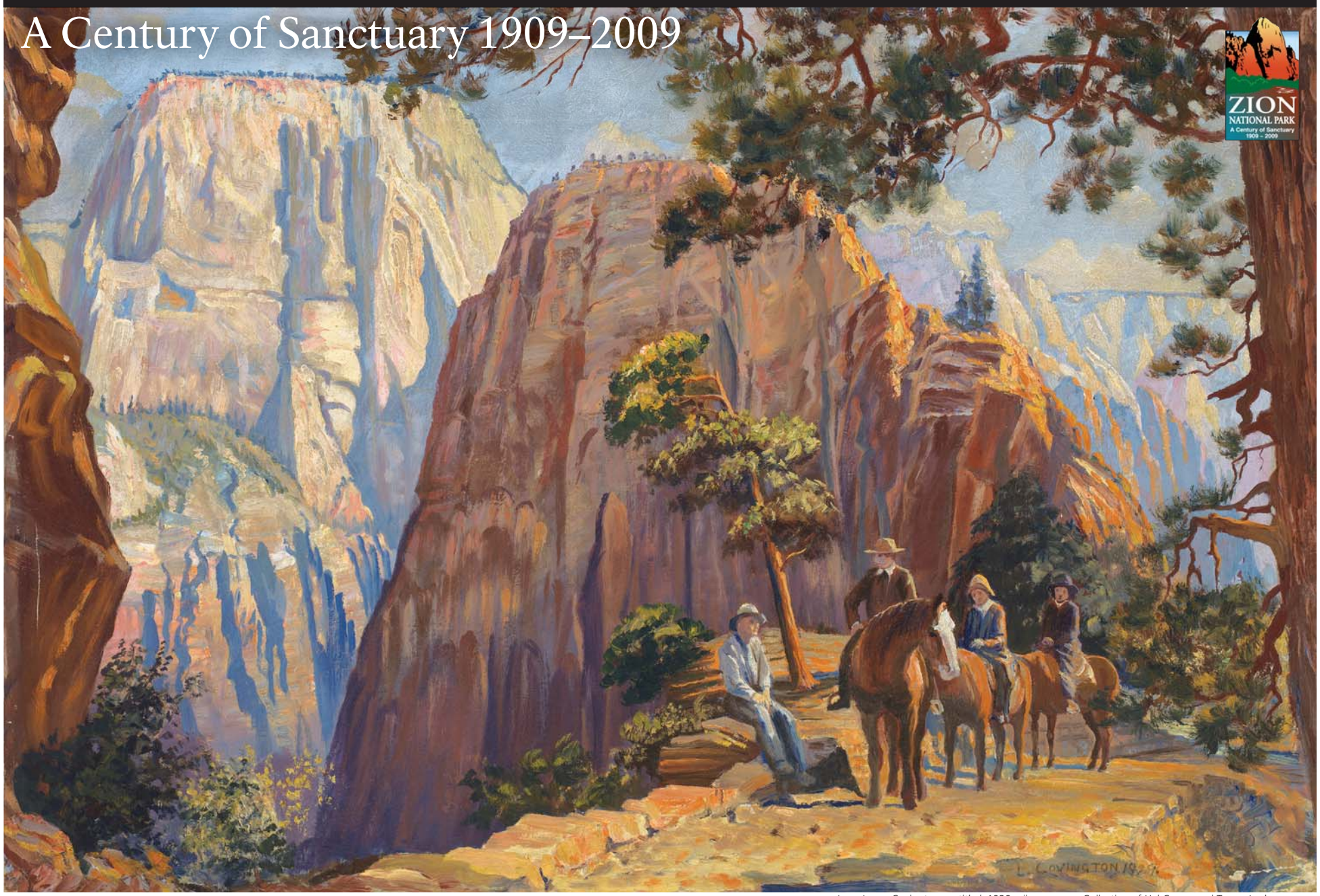
Zion National Park
Official Centennial Newspaper

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

A Century of Sanctuary 1909–2009



Isaac Loren Covington, *untitled,* 1929, oil on canvas. Collection of Hal Canon and Teresa Jordan

This special edition newspaper highlights the last 100 years of events, people, and places of Zion National Park, but the timeline of Zion began much earlier.

Humans, who have inhabited southern Utah for over 10,000 years, continue to visit this mysterious canyon. Why? Originally it wasn't to hike or take pictures, rock climb or rest. Food and water. . .it was as simple as that. Human survival meant gleaning from the land its scant harvests. Archaic peoples, Ancestral Puebloans, and Southern Paiutes, the latter inhabiting this area for the last several hundred years, had extensive and intuitive knowledge of the plants, animals, and seasons. Homes were temporary brush shelters used for sleeping or to escape the heat. As they observed their surroundings, they knew they could "make a living." They would hunt, fish, gather, and grow modest crops. Whatever was necessary to ensure their survival was used, but the harvest did not begin until asking and thanking the generous bounty.

This ancient way of life is gone now. Today, when traveling through on vacation, our temporary home isn't a brush shelter but a tent or motel. We graze on granola rather than rice grass. Our water source comes from a tap, not the natural springs in the rocks. We don't need to forage in order to live. But what may not have changed is a deeply felt, personal experience after we set foot here: the sound of the song of a river; a canyon wren scolding us; the subtle perfumery of sagebrush and juniper; the sight of cliffs that make us think big and feel small. Yet here we stand, mouths agape, eyes wide.

What will your harvest be? Joy, relief, excitement, challenge? Unlike our earliest visitors, we come to collect not things but knowledge, not resources but memories, not trophies but satisfaction.

Zion National Park has shed its winter whites, brushed off the dry remains of last season's display, and opened its arms to you. The sun warms the ground. Buds and birds return once more. A quiet liveliness rustles and shuffles through the park. This year is special. We have the chance to reflect on the last century of what it has meant to come to this place. A Century of Sanctuary—1909 to 2009—includes the millions of people who have made their journey to Zion and, in many ways, made their mark. From the initial establishment of Mukuntuweap National Monument in 1909 to this year's gala packed with events, dedications, and programs; we can know, always, that we have an unchanging landscape to visit. With all the changes in the world, we can take comfort in returning to this spot. We can believe that, even though our personal world may be unsettled, sitting and gazing deep into the soul of this canyon, we might find contentment— we might find peace. John Muir suggests: "Keep close to Nature's heart... and break clear away, once in awhile, and climb a mountain or spend a week in the woods. Wash your spirit clean."

May your spirit be renewed and soar as high as the highest cliffs. May this visit to your park be a remarkable experience.

To conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.

National Park Service
Organic Act 1916

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Zion National Park

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ZNP 3-24-09

What's in a Name? History.

Altar of Sacrifice
Part of the Towers and Temples of the Virgin, behind the Human History Museum, this distinctive cliff was named for the red iron oxide streaking down its front. The streaking of minerals washed down the cliff confers the appearance of blood on a sacrificial altar.

Angels Landing
Named by Methodist Minister Frederick Vining Fisher during an excursion up Zion Canyon in 1916. Fisher was accompanied by two Rockville boys acting as guides, Claud Hirschi and Ethelbert Bingham. After Fisher praised the striking presence of the Great White Throne he turned toward what would soon become Angels Landing and stated "The Angels would never land on the throne, but would reverently pause at the foot [of Angels Landing]."

Behunin Canyon
Above Lower Emerald Pools; named for Isaac Behunin, the first settler who had a farm near the present day Zion Lodge.

Bridge Mountain
Formally referred to as Crawford's Peak because of its location near the Crawford family homestead. Later the cliff was renamed for a long narrow arch or "flying buttress" found near the top of the cliff.

Cable Mountain
Named for the cable works structure at its top. The cable works were implemented in 1901 by young pioneer David Flanigan. His hope was to fulfill Brigham Young's prophecy that one day timber would come down from the cliffs of Zion Canyon "like a hawk flies." The cable works proved to be a success. The system was used to provide building timber for the pioneers around Zion Canyon. The cable works and a sawmill were in place for over 20 years. Wood for the Zion Lodge came down the cable works.

Checkerboard Mesa
Found near the east entrance. The name stems from the cliffs distinctive checkerboard pattern. The horizontal lines are caused by crossbedding, a remnant of ancient sand dunes. The vertical lines formed because of the contraction and expansion of the sandstone. This peak was originally named Checkerboard Mountain by the third superintendent, Preston P. Patraw.

Coalpits Wash
In the southwestern corner of the park, it was named for the "flowing" black lava rock that had the appearance of coal.

Cougar Mountain
Located off of the Kolob Terrace Road between North Creek and Coalpits Wash, this cliff formation was named for the abundance of cougars found in the area.

Deertrap Mountain
This cliff is found near Cable Mountain and accessible off the East Rim Trail. It is believed that Paiute Indians drove mule deer onto the mesa here, trapping them for food.

Emerald Pools
Located across from the Lodge and within Heaps Canyon are a series of three pools: the lower, middle, and upper Emerald Pools. These pools were named for the emerald green tint of the water, caused by the algae that grows in it.

The Great White Throne
Named by Methodist Minister Frederick Vining Fisher while he was accompanied by Claud Hirschi and Ethelbert Bingham. Fisher was noted as saying: "I have looked for this mountain all my life but never expected to find it in this world. This is the Great White Throne."

Kolob
The name of the major star in Mormon cosmography—the star nearest to the throne of God.

Mukuntuweap
This is the name originally given to Zion Canyon by Major John Wesley Powell. The name was believed to be a Paiute name meaning "straight canyon."

The Narrows
Named for the narrowest section of canyon of the North Fork of the Virgin River. Grove K. Gilbert named this section on an 1872 expedition of southern Utah. It's

1858
With a Southern Paiute guide, Nephi Johnson becomes the first Anglo to enter Zion Canyon.

1864
Isaac Behunin homesteads in the canyon, settling at what is now the Zion Lodge. He refers to it as a place of sanctuary and calls it Zion.

1872
Explorer John Wesely Powell visits what is now Zion Canyon and names it Mukuntuweap, thinking it a Paiute word meaning "straight canyon."

Yellowstone becomes the first national park.

1873
Thomas Moran visits and makes the first paintings of Zion Canyon.

Yellowstone NP YELL 23063

1879

Courtesy J.L. Crawford

William L. Crawford grows up in a home at the site of the Human History Museum and takes hundreds of photographs of the area.

1880
A rock fall at The Grotto creates Great Red Arch and buries the Gifford farm in rubble. It was a Sunday and the family was in church.

1896
Zion settler John Winder begins building what is now the East Rim Trail to get cattle to the high country.

Zion NP

A Tunnel Through Time

believed he was the first Anglo to explore this far up canyon noting, "the narrows… the most wonderful defile [gorge] it has been my fortune to behold."

Orderville
During the time of Mormon pioneering, an economic system was in place in Orderville known as the United Order. The town was named after this system; however, the system was eventually abandoned.

The Organ
Formally named "the Great Organ." It is believed to have been named by Claud Hirschi and Ethelbert Bingham, residents of Rockville, on their 1916 trip with Methodist Minister Frederick Vining Fisher.

Refrigerator Canyon
This cool canyon brings a breath of fresh, crisp air as one ascends Angels Landing in the heat of the summer. Refrigerator Canyon is just before the famed Walter's Wiggles and was named for the surprisingly cool breeze. It receives very little sunlight.

Scout Lookout
A viewpoint 1,000 feet above the canyon floor, on the way to Angels Landing. The origin is unknown, but possibly named for John and Barney Gifford who first "scouted" the route for the West Rim Trail.

Walter's Wiggles
Refers to a short section of the Angels Landing Trail with twenty-one short switchbacks leading from Refrigerator Canyon to Scout Lookout. It was named in honor of Walter Ruesch, first custodian of the park around the time of construction in 1925. Ruesch not only conceived the idea for this section of trail, but was active in the engineering and building.

The Watchman
It is believed to be named for its location watching over the entrance to the canyon. It is unclear where the name may have originated; some believe it was Methodist Minister Frederick Vining Fisher. Early pioneers referred to this peak as Flanigan Peak because the Flanigan family homestead sat at the base of this cliff.

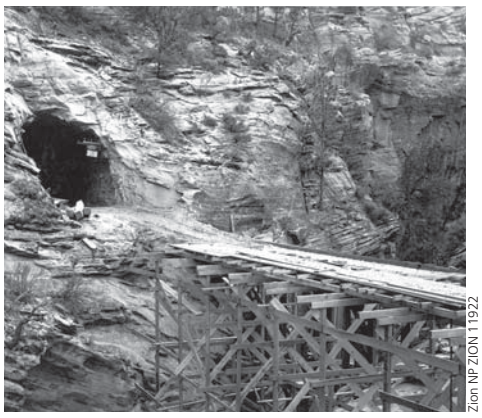
West Temple
The highest feature in Zion Canyon. Called "Temp-o-i-tin-car-ur" meaning "Mountain without a trail" by the Paiute, "Steamboat Mountain" by the local Mormons, and "West Temple" by John Wesley Powell on his explorations in 1872.

Zion
Mormon pioneer Isaac Behunin is credited with naming Zion Canyon: "These are the Temples of God, built without the use of human hands. A man can worship God among these great cathedrals as well as in any man-made church—this is Zion." Zion is a Hebrew word, later interpreted by Mormons to mean a place of safety and refuge.

Beautiful and inhospitable — two adjectives that describe travel from the floor of Zion Canyon, up precipitous ledges and through slot canyons, to reach Zion's east side. Early Native Americans established a treacherous foot trail to hunt and gather food. Springdale resident, John Winder, decided to improve this trail in 1896 to move livestock. Winder's knowledge laid the groundwork for the state and federal governments and several contractors to build a 24-mile road from Canyon Junction, up Pine Creek, through 1.1 miles of sandstone, to end at Mt. Carmel.

By the mid-1920s, interest in Zion National Park as a vacation spot was growing. This monumental project was proposed to make Zion more accessible and to allow tourists to make their way around the Grand Circle of parks (Zion, Bryce, and Grand Canyon). The project created hundreds of jobs and men worked round-the-clock on three crews: the switchbacks, the tunnel, and the east highway.

The Zion Tunnel took eleven months and twelve days of blasting, cutting, carving, and hauling to make a passageway through the cliff. First, six galleries, or windows, were blasted out of the side of the cliff. A pilot tunnel was then drilled and the debris dumped out of the galleries. Finally, a ring of holes were drilled into the pilot tunnel at regular intervals, the holes filled with dynamite, and the full 22-foot bore of the tunel was blasted out. It was the longest tunnel of its kind when it was completed. It also held the dubious distinction of being the most expensive mile of road ever built — costing $503,000. July 4th, 1930 was dedication day with dignitaries and hundreds of well-wishers.


Zion NP ZION 11922

The east entrance bridge during construction.

Zion NP ZION 10188

Drilling in the tunnel was grimy work.

1903

Zion NP ZION 38105

Frederick S. Dellenbaugh's paintings of Zion Canyon are exibited at the World's Fair. People don't believe the scenery is real.

1904

Frederick S. Dellenbaugh writes articles about Zion Canyon for the widely read *Scribner's Magazine.*

Weather station established in Zion Canyon, possibly the longest continuosly operating station in Utah.

July 31, 1909

President Taft uses the Antiquities Act of 1906 to proclaim Zion Canyon as Mukuntuweap National Monument.

The price of gas is 12½¢ a gallon.

1908

Leo A. Snow, of the U.S.Geological Survey, maps the area and is struck by its wild beauty. He states that Zion Canyon ought to be made a national park.

Grand Canyon National Monument is set aside by President Theodore Rosevelt.

1914

The first automobile enters Zion Canyon.

The first free travel map is given away at gas stations.

1916

Methodist Minister Frederick Vining Fisher and local boys Claude Hirschi and Ethelbert Bingham explore Zion Canyon and name many of the features. Most of the names stick.

August 25, 1916
The National Park Service is created by act of Congress to manage the parks and monuments in such manner as to leave them unimpaired for future generations.

1917

William Wylie establishes a tent camp as the first tourist accomodations in the park.

A road is improved into Zion Canyon as far as Weeping Rock.

Annual visitation reaches 1,000.

NPS uniform, based on that of the U.S. Cavalry, is introduced.

Yosemite NP YOSE RL-9429

1919

Congress redesignates Mukuntuweap National Monument as Zion National Park. Walter Ruesch is the first custodian.

Visitation is 1,814 people.

The Golden Age of the Loop Tour

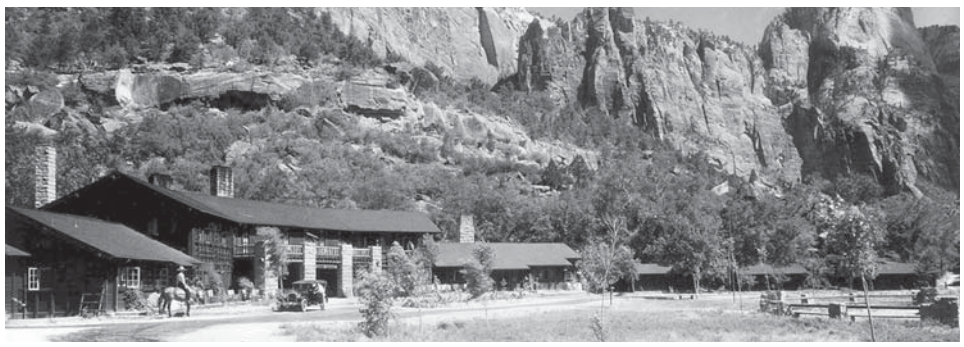
The decade was unmistakably the 1920s. The distinctive sound of jazz oozed through the radio and into the homes of millions of Americans. Emily Post defined what was considered proper and polite within her book *Manners*. Meanwhile, in cities throughout the East, flappers perfected their stylish moves and hairdos for the dance floor. This post-war period proved a prosperous, inventive time in the United States. Many congregated within cities and took interest in the stock exchange, while new inventions like penicillin and television would shape the country well into the future. This decade marked the first time in the history of the nation that the number of people residing in urban areas surpassed those who called rural surroundings home. As cities grew, architecture evolved and skyscrapers—complete with high style furnishings, became the new fashion. Travel, too, became a luxury that more and more people could indulge in. By 1921, more than ten million automobiles existed in the United States. For longer travel, railroads sprawled like vines across the countryside. Rail travel reached its peak in the 1920s and became an integral part in the promotion of tourism, including visitation to America's scenic wonders—its national parks.

Throughout the West, writers vividly described magical places of unfathomed beauty. Meanwhile artists coated canvases with rich colors—composing a myriad of stunning landscapes. Amongst these were images of striking red rocks, deep cliffs, canyon walls, spires, spines, and hoodoos. Each was an impressive "skyscraper," providing a one-of-a-kind view. These were portraits of the American Southwest.

Found within the states of Utah and Arizona and carved deep within the Colorado Plateau, one would find some of the most awe-inspiring places in the West: the Grand Canyon, a canyon plummeting to one mile in depth from the rim down toward the mighty Colorado River; Bryce Canyon, a mystical maze of whimsically sculpted spires and hoodoos; and Zion Canyon, where a deceptively small river had uncompromisingly fashioned some of the world's tallest sandstone cliffs and contributed to a landscape of remarkable diversity.

By the mid-1920s, curiosity was peaked about the sublime beauty of the Southwest and the promotion of travel to America's National Parks was in full swing. Union Pacific Railroad travel brochures raved of a place "…where everything is on a gigantic scale and color has been splashed around so extravagantly that artists despair of ever catching the brilliance of such flashing colors. No process yet devised by man can faithfully bring to you the beauty of these supreme achievements of Nature. You must see them for yourself!" They did. Travelers embarked via railway to Cedar City, Utah, from such far-reaching locations as Chicago, Salt Lake City, and Los Angeles.

What awaited travelers was a vacation of a life time: a comprehensive "Loop Tour" of the American Southwest by motor coach, complete with luxury lodging, and high-caliber entertainment. Points of interest upon this journey included: Zion and Bryce Canyon National Parks, Cedar Breaks National Monument, and the North Rim of the Grand Canyon. Along the way tours would sojourn and a comfortable stay was afforded within the lodges at Zion (1925), Bryce Canyon (1925), and the North Rim of the Grand Canyon (circa 1928). These newly built, high-style accommodations were funded and run by the Utah Parks Company, a subsidiary of the Union Pacific Railroad. Hired to design these three prominent lodges was architect Gilbert Stanley Underwood. Underwood brought to the parks a design style with a classic rustic appeal, which allowed the buildings to blend seamlessly with the grandeur of the skyline. Meanwhile, the design of the interiors was complete with a lavish lounge,



Zion Lodge, and the others on the Loop Tour, provided a comfortable and affordable way to visit the parks.

Coaches line up to meet the train in Cedar City.

Coach drivers were referred to as "gear jammers."

1921

A bridge is built over the Virgin River at Canyon Junction as part of the Floor of the Valley Road. It is washed away by a flash flood a few years later.

Courtesy Eleanor Warriner

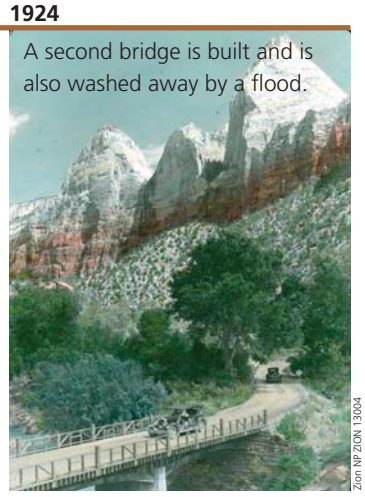
1924

Under the direction of Walter Ruesch construction begins on the West Rim Trail, including the 21 switchbacks know as "Walter's Wiggles."

The park's first visitor center and museum opens at The Grotto adjacent to North Campground. It is being restored in 2009.

Visitation to Zion is 8,400 people.

A second bridge is built and is also washed away by a flood.



Zion NP ZION 13004

1925

The road into Zion Canyon is extended all the way to the Temple of Sinawava.

Zion Lodge opens, operated by the Utah Parks Co., a subsidary of the Union Pacific Railroad.

Angus Woodbury is hired as the first Ranger Naturalist.

16,817 people visit Zion.

Gasoline is 29¢ per gallon.

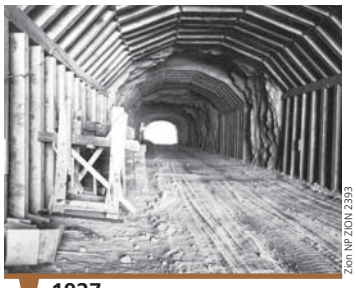
1926

Daily bus service takes tourists from the train depot in Cedar City along the "Grand Circle Tour" of Zion, Bryce Canyon, and North Rim of the Grand Canyon.

An annual park permit costs 50¢.

1927

Construction begins on the Zion-Mt Carmel Highway, including the 1.1 mile long tunnel and 3 miles of switchbacks.

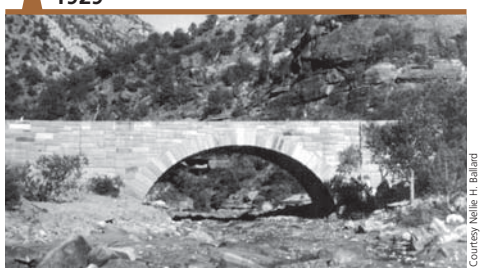


Zion NP ZION 2393

1928

Bryce Canyon National Park is created.

1929



Courtesy Nellie H. Ballard

The beautifully crafted Pine Creek Bridge is built. Its stones include every type of rock found in Zion.

First woman ranger, Herma Albertson, works in Yellowstone National Park.

1930

A third bridge over the Virgin River is built and is still in use today.

The cost of an annual park permit goes up to $1.

delicious dining, a barbershop, and a bar. Undisputedly, time spent in the great outdoors was the draw to these National Parks, but as it turned out, time spent indoors was incredibly posh!

Once travelers arrived at their respective destinations, they could challenge both courage and curiosity on the Grand Canyon's Bright Angel Trail or travel a narrow spine out to Angels Landing in Zion. If hiking alongside vertical cliff walls didn't sound enjoyable, one could allow a horse to take them instead. Horseback riding tours within the parks were exceedingly popular, and would take visitors along some amazing trails between narrow canyon walls and to the top of high plateaus. After a hard day, visitors were tempted by the luxurious swimming pool set within the quiet sanctuary of the canyon. As evening would draw near, a day's entertainment had only just begun. Women waitresses, outfitted in crisp white, would serve up a delicious dinner prepared by the men who ran the kitchen. However, soon after dinner was finished, staff would quickly assume a new role as entertainers. Lodge staff proved to be multi-talented. An evening in the desert would come alive with dancing, vaudeville and variety shows, including, musicians, singers, comics, and acrobats. National Park Service Ranger Naturalists also delivered slide programs in the evenings. Once the time arrived for a tour to depart toward a new destination, the staff would gather in front of the respective lodge and bid adieu with a "sing-a-way."

High quality lodging, entertainment, and loop tours to some of the most impressive wonders of the West, allowed visitation to slowly grow throughout the 1920s. However, travel on many roads was still rough and arduous. It wasn't until 1930, which saw the completion of a major road construction project, that visitation and tourism would truly take off. This was the completion of the Zion-Mt Carmel Highway and tunnel. Said to be the most extensive road project in the nation, with 24-miles of roadway over incredibly rough terrain and two tunnels (the longer 1.1 miles in length) through thick sandstone cliffs . The construction of the Zion-Mt Carmel Highway opened up access to the east, providing a more direct loop between Bryce Canyon, Zion, and the North Rim of the Grand Canyon.

As time marched on, travel to America's National Parks was more popular than ever. In 1920 Zion received 3,692 visitors; by 1930 nearly 55,000 would witness the drama. Across the nation, word got out about the grandeur of America's own National Parks and the unrivaled skyscrapers of the West. Men would gather their best travel suit and women their favorite dress and kerchief and would eagerly venture off on a grand, "loop tour."

Courtesy Sherratte Library, Southern Utah University

A guided horse tour ascends Walter's Wiggles.

Courtesy Sherratte Library, Southern Utah University

Zion Lodge maids (and friend) in their crisp uniforms.

Courtesy NPS Harpers Ferry Center

Employees singing farewell to a departing tour bus.

Utah Parks Company Motor Bus Tours 1948

The all-expense rates included standard cabin accommodations. If "de luxe" cabins were desired, the additional charge per day was $4.25 for one person or $2 each for two people.

Tour No. 1A—Five Days
Zion, North Rim Grand Canyon, Bryce Canyon, and Cedar Breaks.

1st day	Lv. Cedar City
	Ar. Zion Natl. Pk.
2nd day	Lv. Zion Natl. Pk.
	Ar. Grand Canyon
3rd day	At Grand Canyon
4th day	Lv. Grand Canyon
	Ar. Bryce Canyon
5th day	Lv. Bryce Canyon
	Ar. Cedar Breaks
	Lv. Cedar Breaks
	Ar. Cedar City

All-expenses: including motor bus transportation and three meals and one lodging at Zion Lodge, six meals and two lodgings at Grand Canyon Lodge, two meals and one lodging at Bryce Canyon Lodge and one meal at Cedar Breaks
$58.75

The Zion-Mt Carmel Highway, 1.1 mile-long tunnel, and the Pine Creek Bridge are opened to the public, allowing travelers to tour the "Grand Circle" of national parks.

1930

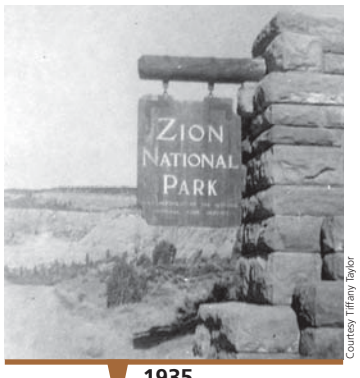
1933

Zion NP

Two Civilian Conservation Corps camps are established in Zion. Over 9 years, hundreds of enrollees build levees, trails, and buildings that are still used today.

Cedar Breaks National Monument is proclaimed.

Stone entrance sign constructed.



Courtesy Tiffany Taylor

1935

1934

The Zion Inn, later known as Camp Center and now the Zion Nature Center, is built as a cafeteria with adjoining cabins, to provide less expensive lodging.

The Kolob Canyons and Kolob Terrace sections of the park are added.

Lowest recorded temperature in Zion Canyon: 15°F below zero, January 21.

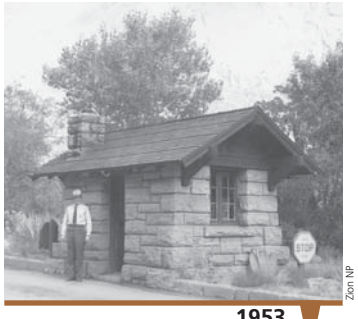
1937

1943–46

Zion Lodge closes during World War II as gas rationing reduces travel. The park remains open with a small staff. Visitation drops 75%.

The entrance fee is $2 per car and doesn't change again until 1987, when it increases to $5.

389,000 people visit.


Zion NP

1953

1946

Zion NP ZION 10340

An 880 ton boulder falls on a park truck, crushing it.

Caretakers and Colorful Characters

Walter Ruesch

In 1917, acting director of the National Park Service Horace Albright was introduced to Springdale resident Walter Ruesch. After spending time with him, Albright learned, from local Bishop David Hirschi, that Ruesch used "colorful" language and might not be the best candidate to deal directly with park visitors. But Albright was impressed and chose him to be the first custodian of the monument. Since that time, millions of visitors have hiked the 21 switchbacks known as "Walter's Wiggles" on their way up to Angels Landing. Ruesch lent his skill and passion toward the building of that most popular trail. Undoubtedly, some of those hikers have uttered similar colorful phrases on their way up that steep incline.

Courtesy Flora A. Ruesch

Sketch from the 1923 superintendents conference.

William Wallace Wylie

William Wylie, founder of the "Wylie Way," began his summer tours in 1880 bringing visitors to Yellowstone National Park. By 1893 his Wylie Camping Company was offering week-long park tours using moveable camps. Travelers could save money and did not have to "dress up", unlike their vacationing counterparts who stayed at the more expensive hotels. A 7-day Wylie tour cost $35, while a 6-day tour at the hotels was $50. In Zion Canyon, the first Wylie Way Camp was erected in 1917 at the current Zion Lodge site. With the coming of the Lodge, the camp was moved near the South Campground. Each candy-striped canvas tent contained board floors with rugs, a wood stove, beds with good mattresses, and "good clean sheets." Meals were served on white dishes in large dining tents. Thus began the colorful and much-loved tradition of affordable, comfortable travel in Zion National Park.

NPS Harpers Ferry Center

William Wylie and his wife, Mary Wilson.

Gilbert Stanley Underwood

By the early 1920s, visitors to national parks expected arduous travel conditions in order to reach sublime destinations. The Union Pacific Railroad and its touring division—the Utah Parks Company—aimed to give guests more elegant accommodations. Gilbert Stanley Underwood, a Harvard educated architect, was tapped to design the now much admired lodges at Zion, Bryce Canyon, and other national parks. Underwood's concept for Zion Lodge "borrowed from nature" in both its design and building materials. His creation of a main lodge with surrounding cabins characterized the NPS-Rustic architectural style he successfully refined. It set the direction for park architecture for years to come. Drawing from the Arts and Crafts movement, Underwood gave voice to the natural materials in and around Zion by combining stone, timber, and time in a gracious arrangement befitting a wondrous landscape.

Gilbert Stanley Underwood

J.L. Crawford

When all of Utah was rural and rugged, J.L. Crawford enjoyed modern marvels as they made their way to the family farm on the present site of the Human History Museum. He remembers the first graded road into Zion Canyon (1924), when running water arrived (1926), and the day electricity was wired (1927). One of his favorite memories was trying, with his brother, to recognize the sound of different makes of cars. When these autos drove by the farm, they would run to the road to see if they had guessed right. He led a colorful life that included working for Zion Lodge, the Civilian Conservation Corps, and the National Park Service. Now, at 95, J.L. continues to offer the park his expertise as a historian providing priceless information, photographs, self-authored books, and personal recollections. When listening to his gentle reflections of an age long ago, time collapses and history is alive once more.

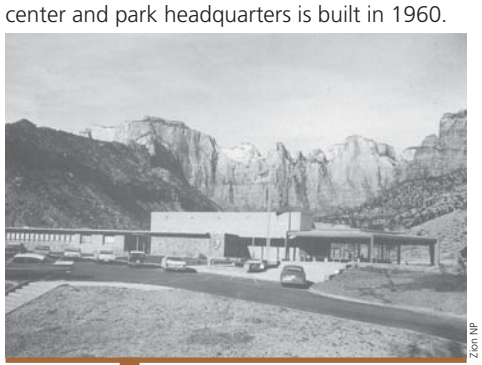
Zion NP ZION 12409

J.L. Crawford (right) on a family picnic, circa 1918.

1954

National Park Service arrowhead logo is introduced.

"Mission 66" begins, a program to improve facilities in national parks. Zion's second visitor center and park headquarters is built in 1960.



Zion NP

1956–1966

60,000 tons of rock fall from above the tunnel; some goes into gallery #3.

Zion NP

1958

1966

Zion NP

The Zion Lodge burns down. 108 days after the fire a quickly constructed replacement opens to the public.

The largest recorded flood roars down the Virgin River at 9,150 cubic feet per second.

1968

Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid is filmed in the park and the ghost town of Grafton.

Women Rangers get a new polyester uniform.

Roads are chipped-sealed in red cinders, now a park tradition.

NPS Harpers Ferry Center HFC 70-253-96

1970

Twenty desert bighorn sheep are released to replace those last reported in 1953. Today's population is estimated at 188.

1978

1984

The Kolob Canyons Visitor Center opens.

Growing Up In Zion

After Zion was designated a national monument in 1909, life in the canyon remained a wilderness of sorts, while civilization and modern life changed outside its boundaries. For the families who made their home in Zion, nature still played a major role. For children brought up here, their first recollections, and the landscape that is etched in their minds as home, is a wild, open and unchanged one.

Living in a national park also means living with the mandate of a conservation agency. There are guidelines and rules to contend with. Lorna Jolley Kesterson, daughter of the park's chief ranger in the 1920s, remembers they were not allowed to eat Sego lilies as other settlers did. "My dad was pretty strict about what we were doing." He would not cut down even one branch of a tree while some Hollywood filmmakers were making a movie in the park. "That's the way he was: very strict, strict with regulations."

The rules about pets were interpreted differently then. Since domesticated animals were disruptive to the natural environment, families inside the park could not keep them. But, as Lorna tells, "we had one mountain sheep that took over our whole house inside. The ewe would come in and slide the rug. My father finally decided the sheep was too rough for us." The children also had two baby cougars as pets as well as a family of ring-tailed cats in the attic.

Though no one is keeping cougars as pets anymore, children living in the park today share many experiences with the young people who came before. They may meet wild turkeys at the school bus stop, stay up past their bedtime gazing at a sky swimming in stars, and spend lazy Saturdays counting lizards that run through the backyard. Certainly they will share the freedom experienced by other young people in Zion. Another prior resident remembers "the freedom to go up there in the hills." She recalls, "I always felt so fortunate to have been born there. We slept outdoors in the summertime. That was a big thing, to have a bed outside. Oh, just out in the open air, you know, and the stars above and the good fresh smell of everything…"

And the children lucky enough to spend a few formative years in a park might carry a sense of responsibility too. Just like their park ranger parents, they are learning everyday what it is about this place that makes it worth protecting. They will know what is at stake and why a place like Zion means so much, now that modern civilization seems to outnumber those wild places. Often children follow in their parent's footsteps, but it seems that many park rangers chose their career because their earliest experiences were in America's treasured places. Maybe they did not grow up in a park, but someone shared one with them.

Your children or grandchildren can experience the same incredible moments that the kids who grew up in Zion had. Whether it's swimming in the Virgin River on a hot day, watching condors soar over Angels Landing, sleeping under the stars on a warm night, or just spending time together in a beautiful place — the experiences we have in National Parks are memories that stay with us. In a way, everyone who visits Zion National Park experiences what the children living in Zion experienced, because here we can feel like we did as children. We rediscover those childlike senses of wonder, delight, and freedom. Perhaps we can have the same feeling that Della Higley, a Springdale resident for eight decades, shared: "We loved the land and we love the park and we felt that the land should be taken care of and not destroyed."

Courtesy Denise H. Williams

The chief ranger's children build a snowman, 1934.

Courtesy Denise H. Williams

"It was a wonderful place to grow up." Della Higley

Dale Smith

Ranger family in front of their "modern" house, 1968.

Historic houses are still homes for NPS families.

1990

The Zion Lodge is restored to its original appearance.

More than 2 million people visit.

1992

A 5.9 magnitude earthquake shakes Springdale causing a major landslide and destroying several homes.

1995

After heavy rain, a landslide dams the Virgin River at the Sentinel Slide and a section of the road is washed away.

1998

A flood washes out the road at the Sentinel Slide; again.

2000

Zion Canyon Visitor Center opens and the shuttle system begins.

2002

The 1960 visitor center reopens as the Zion Human History Museum.

2006

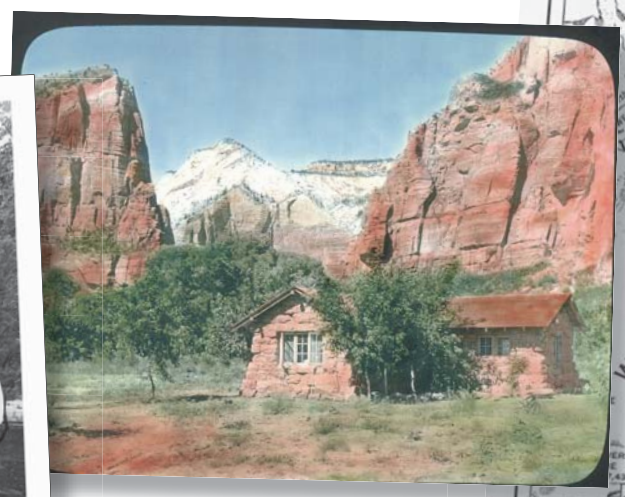
The economic impact of the park to the surrounding communities is $396 million and creates 2,432 jobs.

The largest fire in the park's history burns 10,516 acres.

July 31, 2009

Zion National Park turns 100. Park visitation reaches 2.7 million people. Total visitation since 1919 is more than 86 million.

Centennial Events



Top left **Camp Center cafeteria and cabins (now the Nature Center) staff, 1950s.** Lower left **Interpretive Ranger staff, 2007.**

Top center **Original Zion Museum at The Grotto (hand-colored glass slide), 1928.** Lower center **Hikers at Emerald Pools Trailhead, 1958.**

Top right **Map of Zion Canyon from 1948 park brochure.** Lower right **Ranger at Park Headquarters (at Canyon Junction), 1925.**

ZION NATIONAL PARK CELEBRATES 100 YEARS ON JULY 31, 2009. EVENTS AND PROGRAMS WILL commemorate this milestone for Utah's most visited national park. The centennial recognizes the park's initial establishment as Mukuntuweap National Monument in 1909 and Congressional designation as Zion National Park in 1919.

A Century of Sanctuary
Juried Art Exhibition
Historic and contemporary paintings, St. George Museum of Art, St George, Utah, August 25, 2008–May 23, 2009

Zion Centennial Celebration
Juried Photo Exhibition
Utah photographers, Canyon Community Center, Springdale, Utah
March 31-May 11

Special Ranger-led Programs
Zion National Park, April–October

Zion Canyon Centennial Fun Run
10Ks of fun on the Zion Canyon Scenic Drive, April 18. Advanced registration.

In the Footsteps of Thomas Moran
Z-Arts!: Zion Arts & Humanities Council
Invited artists painting locations sketched by Moran in 1873. April 20-24

Springdale Folklife Festival
Canyon Community Center, Springdale, Utah, May 9

Red Rock Rondo
Live concert and debut of PBS musical documentary about Zion, O.C. Tanner Amphitheater, Springdale, Utah, May 9

Children's Vision of Zion & Springdale
Photo Exhibit
Canyon Community Center, Springdale, Utah, June 23-August 3

Zion Postage Stamp
First day of sale, June 28

Zion: The Integration of Art and Science
Arts and Sciences Student & Faculty
Braithwaite Fine Art Gallery, Southern Utah University, Cedar City, Utah, May-June; Salt Lake City Office of Tourism, July-August

100th Anniversary, July 31
• 100th Anniversary Celebration
The Grotto, 9:30 am
• Paiute Dancers
Zion Lodge Lawn, 1 pm
• Post Office Stamp Cancellation
Zion Canyon & Kolob Canyons Visitor Centers, 2–5 pm
• Concert In the Canyon: String Sextet
Zion Lodge Lawn, 8 pm
• Junior Ranger Activities: Nature Center
Games & Activities, 8:30 am–4pm
One hour Ranger-led Hikes, 9 & 10:30 am
30 minute Ranger Talks, 1, 2, & 3 pm

A Century of Cinema
Movies filmed in Zion National Park
Thursdays, starting August 13

Tunnel Walk
Through the 1.1 mile-long Zion–Mt. Carmel Tunnel, August 26. Advanced registration required (all spaces full).

Historic Photos of Zion
Iron Mission State Park, Cedar City, Utah, September 1-October 9

Zion National Park
Utah High Schools Student Art Exhibition
Braithwaite Fine Art Gallery, Southern Utah University, Cedar City, Utah, September, 2009.

Centennial Fundraiser Dinner
Nature Center, Zion National Park
September 26

Vision of Zion
Local artists, multi-media exhibit
St. George Museum of Art, St George, Utah, September 26, 2009–January 9, 2010.

Employee Reunion
Canyon Community Center, Springdale, Utah, October 16–18

Zion Centennial License Plate
Avalable at all Utah Department of Motor Vehicles Offices.

For more information visit www.nps.gov/zion or contact Karen Mayne, Centennial Program Coordinator; karen_s_mayne@nps.gov; 435 772-0210.

Photos courtesy: top left and lower center, Sherratte Library Collection, Southern Utah University; top center, and lower right, Zion NP.