

Zion National Park  
Springdale, Utah

May 15, 1959

*Handley*

**Memorandum**

**To:** Director  
**From:** Superintendent, Zion  
**Subject:** Report 1958, Annual Narrative Report of Superintendent,  
Zion National Park and Coordinated Areas.

The above mentioned report is submitted in duplicate  
for the following areas:

- Zion National Park
- Capitol Reef National Monument
- Cedar Breaks National Monument
- Pipe Spring National Monument

Paul R. Franke  
Superintendent

In duplicate

**Enclosures**

- cc: Regional Director, Region Three, in duplicate, w/enclosures
- Capitol Reef, w/ enclosure
- Cedar Breaks, w/ enclosure
- Pipe Spring, w/ enclosure

CEH:lal

ZION NATIONAL PARK

REPORT 10A8  
FOR  
ZION NATIONAL PARK  
1959 Fiscal Year

1. Travel
2. MISSION 66 Planning
3. MISSION 66 Construction
4. Administration
5. Personnel Changes
6. Flood Damage
7. Management Improvement
8. Accidents and Safety
9. Campground Use
10. Boundary adjustments and legislation
11. Grazing
12. Trucking on Park Roads

## **I. Travel**

Travel to Zion National Park continued to increase with a total of 590,719 visits during the 1958 calendar year. This topped the 1957 total by 65,621 visits, establishing a new record.

## 2. MISSION 66 Planning

The Utah State Highway Commission has under construction the underpass structure on U. S. Interstate 15, formerly Highway 51. The interchange will connect with the proposed Kolob road from Taylor Creek to Lee Pass which is currently programmed for the 1961 Fiscal Year.

Plans are being prepared by the Bureau of Public Roads for the South Entrance Road betterment and visitor center parking area. It is hoped that this work may be advertised for bidding before the end of the fiscal year to enable obligation of all 1959 Fiscal Year construction funds.

### 3. MISSION 66 Construction

A contract was awarded to George W. Rennie in the amount of \$359,032.00 for the construction of the new visitor center. Notice to proceed was given on April 3, 1959, with completion scheduled for April 2, 1960.

The sewer system for the visitor center building and improvements to the Oak Creek sewer system were completed with park forces during the winter and spring months. Amount allotted for this work was \$25,050.00. This work will provide a new, separate system for the visitor center along with placing the Oak Creek System in new condition.

#### 4. Administration

Wage Board rates previously based upon the iron mining industry near Cedar City, Utah, are now based upon rates established by the Armed Forces in their Utah installations. This permits more equitable rates for comparable positions and eliminates any lag in the establishment of area schedules. Rates have been steadily increasing with resultant shrinkage of funds available for project use not considered in estimates for the current year.

Lack of available government housing has created a severe handicap in the recruiting of seasonal and permanent personnel. Six house trailers are now established in the old CCC area east of the Virgin River. Close proximity to both unprotected irrigation ditches and the Virgin River, makes a potential safety hazard for small children of the trailer camp.

5. Personnel Changes

Changes In Permanent Personnel - 1959 F.Y.  
Zion National Park

Assistant Superintendent

9-6-58 - Chester A. Thomas - to Superintendent, Mesa Verde  
10-19-58 - Charles E. Hamberger - from Superintendent, Mount  
Rushmore

Supervisory Accountant

10-4-58 - Victor E. Dahlberg - to same, Grand Canyon  
10-5-58 - Percy J. Espevig - from Voucher Examiner, Region  
Three Office

General Property Clerk (Storekeeper)

10-4-58 - Dell E. Saxton - transferred to U. S. Forest Service  
1-11-59 - Glen E. Bepner - transferred from Army Air Forces

Park Ranger (New Position)

10-12-58 - Robert C. Stevens - Recruitment

Clerk-Typist (New Position)

3-22-59 - Betsy R. Rozelle - Recruitment

## 6. Flood Damage

On July 31, 1958, a storm occurred that did considerable damage to the buildings, grounds, roads and trails in the Zion Canyon Area. Total cost to repair damage and perform cleanup work was approximately \$12,000.

Another storm occurred on September 30 in the Weeping Rock and West Rim Trail vicinity. It required about \$2,000 to repair this cloudburst damage.

## 7. Management Improvement

Six Supervisory Training Sessions were held during the winter season. These sessions were scheduled in advance with various employees assigned to prepare the training material and to act as discussion leaders.

Improved methods of inspection and programming maintenance work and recording vehicle and equipment use were placed in operation.

A "Management Survey" conducted by new employees assigned to the Park was made during the year. Many fine observations were made and recommendations submitted that will be helpful in achieving a better operation.

### 3. Accidents and Safety

One fatal visitor accident occurred on August 26, 1959, when Mrs. Mile Long, Age 42, was killed in a 200 foot fall from Gallery No. 4, Zion Tunnel.

There were no employee lost time accidents or accidents involving Government vehicles. Only three minor employee accidents were reported this fiscal year.

The park safety committee has been active with regular meetings. Regular safety meetings have been held monthly in the park shop for all maintenance personnel.

## 9. Campground Use

Campground use remained about the same as last year during the summer months. Over July 4th weekend more campers were accommodated than ever before in the history of the park. The spring of 1959 started out with campground use running double what it was for the same period last year. House trailers have shown a very definite increase every year, especially the small 14 to 17 foot house trailer.

## 10. Boundary Adjustments and Legislation

Utah Senators Wallace F. Bennett and Frank E. Moss sponsored Bill S-713 to revise the boundary of Zion National Park. The Honorable Henry Aldous Dixon sponsored Bill H.R. 4356 in the House of Representatives for the same purpose. No formal action has been taken on these bills at the present time.

## 11. Grazing

The number of AUMs remained the same this year, however, the purchase of one inholding and the notice from one private land owner of his intention to turn his land over to the Soil Bank will bring about a reduction in grazing this spring.

## 12. Trucking on Park Roads

Truck regulations remained in effect during the year. Trucks over three ton manufactures' rated capacity were permitted to use park roads during daylight hours only from November 1 to March 31. For the period April 1 to October 31 large trucks were only permitted to use park roads during the hours 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. The peak of truck convoy service was during October, 1958, when 152 oversized trucks were convoyed. Since that time the use of park roads by trucks has shown a decrease and this trend will probably continue as the Permanente Cement Co. who furnished cement for tunnel lining at Glen Canyon Dam completes their contract. New regulations forwarded for publishing in the Federal Register will prohibit all large trucks from using park roads during the period that Route 14 is open to such travel. Trucks will be permitted use of park roads during the period October 1 to June 1 at any hour of the day, or when Route 14 is closed to such travel.

The Fredonia, Hurricane by-pass road is receiving more attention from the State Road Commissions of Utah and Arizona and negotiations are underway to start improvements. When this road is made an all year paved highway it will take a great deal of local travel and most heavy trucking off the park roads.