

Zion National Park  
Springdale, Utah

June 6, 1962

A25  
*Zion*

**Memorandum**

**To:** Director

**From:** Superintendent, Zion

**Subject:** Report 1048, Annual Narrative Report of Superintendent,  
Zion National Park and Coordinated Areas

The subject report is submitted in duplicate for the following  
areas:

Zion National Park  
Cedar Breaks National Monument  
Pipe Spring National Monument

*FR Oberhansley*  
Frank E. Oberhansley  
Superintendent

**In duplicate**

**Enclosures**

**Copy to:** Regional Director, Region Three, in duplicate, w/enclosures  
Mgt. Asst., Cedar Breaks, w/enclosures  
Acting Supt., Pipe Spring, w/enclosures

FROberhansley:lal

**ZION NATIONAL PARK**

**REPORT 10A3**

**FOR**

**ZION NATIONAL PARK  
1962 Fiscal Year**

1. **Flood Disaster**
2. **Travel**
3. **Private Lands**
4. **MISSION 66 Construction**
5. **Interpretation**
6. **Administration**
7. **Changes in Permanent Personnel**

## 1. Flood Disaster

On September 17, 1961 a series of cloudbursts over the drainage area north and west of Zion Canyon resulted in the highest flash flood since 1938. Five members of a group of 26 hikers from Salt Lake City were caught by the flood and drowned in Zion Narrows. Three bodies were recovered several miles downstream in the vicinity of Springdale. The other two bodies were not found although an intensive and prolonged search was made by members of the Park staff and some 200 volunteer searchers from local communities.

It is estimated that more than \$400,000 damage was done by this and a previous storm that occurred on August 24 and 25. Bridges were destroyed, road sections and revetments washed out and large sections of canyon rim trails obliterated and left unusable. Numerous channel changes were effected and unsightly debris deposited along the river banks throughout its course in the Park below the mouth of Zion Narrows.

## 2. Travel

Annual travel reached a new high as a total of 604,740 people visited Zion. Most of the gain is in day use due to improved access roads and multiple area scenic attractions. Even though today's visitor travels faster and spends less time in one place, family and group campers numbered 81,833, a record year here for camping activities.

### 3. Private Lands

Progress with land acquisition is slow. However, several key parcels adjacent to the South Entrance were purchased. Elsewhere, negotiations were stymied by excessive asking prices and/or competition from private buyers.

The anticipated arrival of wild land developers occurred. Zion is particularly vulnerable for there are more than 12,600 acres of privately owned land within the Park boundary. The County Road (Kolob) provides good access to most of the property and a number of inholdings are suitable locations for summer homesites. After our negotiations in November for tract No. 40 (1,114.32) acres were unsuccessful, the owner sold the land to a Nevada group for subdivision purposes. Bulldozers are now carving out roads and building sites on the talus below Lava Point Lookout. Details of the adverse use are being reported separately and the "hour is late" to save private land in the Park from developers.

#### 4. MISSION 66 Construction

Five new residences were completed, including water and sewer systems, together with .46 mile of new residential road and parking areas.

A million gallon steel water tank, with all appurtenances, including a chlorinator was added to the Park water system. Chlorinating systems for the Temple of Sinawava, Grotto, and Oak Creek water systems were completed and are now in operation.

A day labor project for approximately three miles of fencing along the East Park boundary to exclude sheep trespass was also completed.

Considerable emergency repair work to correct severe flood damage to roads, bridges, trails and campground was accomplished to the extent possible with available funds. Approximately 13 miles of sealing and chipping of Park roads was also completed.

### 5. Interpretation

The interpretative services of the Zion Visitor Center were carried out in a very satisfactory manner throughout the year and were enjoyed and appreciated by more than 100,000 Park visitors.

The Student Conservation Program carried on at Zion and Cedar Breaks proved to be one of the highlights of the year. Five students participating were given rather intensive training and performed their duties and gained very valuable experience in a most satisfactory manner.

The interpretative staff was augmented by the addition of a Receptionist to aid in the information service at the Visitor Center.

## 6. Administration

For the first time in many years, permanent personnel are no longer housed in trailer encampments. Construction of five additional residences plus the abolishment of two permanent positions has provided houses for all employees required to reside in the Park, although several houses were classed as "temporary" many years ago. A single and a double trailer was transferred to other areas, three WDC trailers have been removed, so that the only remaining trailers will be used for seasonal employees with families.

Personnel changes during the year continued to be very high, with Zion-trained employees seemingly in great demand by other areas. A listing is attached to show types of changes involved.

## 7. Changes in Permanent Personnel.

- 7- 9-61 - Andrew R. James, Fiscal Acctng. Clerk, from Yosemite N. P.  
7-16-61 - Lester L. Womack, Park Ranger, to Grand Canyon N.P.  
8-19-61 - Max P. Peterson, Historian (Park), resignation, Pipe Spring  
8-28-61 - Robert W. Olsen, Historian (Park), recruitment, Pipe Spring
- 10- 1-61 - Grace R. Jarboe, Clerk-Typist, Transfer to Forest Service  
10-15-61 - James E. Clark, Maintenance man, to Death Valley N. M.  
11-12-61 - Carl W. Glass, Clerk, Time, Leave and Payroll from Yellowstone  
12-10-61 - William M. Lukens, Jr., Park Ranger from Rocky Mountain  
12-26-61 - Robert C. Stevens, Park Ranger, resignation, Zion
- 1- 5-62 - Margy J. Best, Mail & File Clerk (Typing), resignation, Zion  
1- 8-62 - James L. Peck, Maintenance man, recruitment, Zion  
1-21-62 - William P. Fisher, Park Ranger, transfer from Natchez Trace  
2- 5-62 - Allie L. Platt, Mail & File Clerk, (Typing) recruitment, Zion  
2-25-62 - Charles D. Campbell, Foreman IV (Maintenance), trans.  
to Death Valley N. M.
- 4- 1-62 - Oda L. Arnold, Personnel Mgmt. Asst., trans. to Region Three  
4-15-62 - Carl W. Glass, Clerk, Time, Leave & Payroll, to Rocky Mountain  
4-15-62 - Faye L. Lukens, Clerk, Time, Leave & Payroll, from Rocky Mtn.  
4-15-62 - Jeanne E. Smith, Information Receptionist (Typing)  
Reinstatement, Zion  
4-15-62 - Richard H. Robertson, Personnel Mgmt. Asst., from Region Three
- 6- 3-62 - Barbara T. Bell, Clerk-Typist, from Department of Defense  
6-17-62 - Lloyd R. Hoener, Supervisory Park Ranger (District Ranger)  
to Grand Canyon N. P.  
6-17-62 - William M. Lukens, Jr., promotion from Park Ranger to  
Supervisory Park Ranger (Dist. Ranger) Zion