

Craters of the Moon Chronology

CRATERS OF THE MOON NM

- 1833-4 U.S. Army Captain Benjamin L.E. Bonneville, military explorer and fur entrepreneur, visits the Craters of the Moon region.
- 1862 Tim Goodale leads 1,095 people safely from Fort Hail to Boise on the cutoff of the Oregon Trail that came to bear his name.
- 1884 The Horn Silver Mine is discovered by Fran and Samuel Martin. Boom towns of Era and Martin spring up.
- 1885 Ferris and Powell inscribe their names and the year on a cow shoulder bone they find in Buffalo Caves.
- 1901 Arco is permanently established at present site with the arrival of the Shortline Railroad from Blackfoot.
- 1920 Robert W. Limbert follows up two earlier trips on the lava fields with a 17-day trek from Minidoka to the Era Martin ranch with W.L. Cole.
- 1921 Limbert prints an article about the Craters of the Moon area in the Idaho Sunday Statesman. In June he leads 10 men on a 2 week investigation of the area.
- 1923 A geology field trip from Pocatello Tech. discovers Horseshoe Cave, later renamed Surprise Cave.
- 1924 Limbert's article entitled "Among the Craters of the Moon" appears in National Geographic Magazine.
- The National Park Service requests a report from geologist Harold T. Stearns stating the reasons Craters of the Moon should be preserved as a National Monument.
- Calvin Coolidge proclaims Craters of the Moon National Monument, bringing to a close years of public lobbying.
- Arco sponsors a monument dedication ceremony on June 15th, which 1,500 people attend.
- Horace M. Albright, Superintendent of Yellowstone, makes an official inspection of the new monument and plans for its administration.
- 1925-27 Custodian Samuel A. Paisley, the monument's first custodian, improves the loop drive so visitors can see the monument's principal sites, and establishes the first

headquarters at Registration Waterhole (in the saddle between North Crater and Paisley Cone.) The site consists of a wooden plank cabin, registration booth, and the monument's first "museum." Paisley earns \$12/year.

1926 Visitation is 4,600

1927 The monument's concession, the "Crater Inn," is constructed (with 3 cabins and a gas station.)

Considerable road improvement (the rocks were removed) to form the 4-5 mile Loop Drive.

Boy Scouts discover a cave; guess which one!

Registration Waterhole dries up over night, perhaps due to earthquakes earlier in the month. This launches the monument into an immediate water crisis. The headquarters area is moved to near the present campground, across from the Craters Inn. The concession manager hauls water for visitors for four years until the Park Service can solve the water problem.

1928 To add a water source and to include exemplary features, Calvin Coolidge signs a proclamation expanding Craters of the Moon from 39 to 83 square miles.

Paisley constructs a path to Indian Tunnel and Dewdrop Caves. A trail between Snow Crater, Crystal Pit, Big Sink and Great Owl Cavern is created with rock piles marking the way.

1929 Phone service arrives.

1930 Herbert Hoover signs a proclamation adding 37 acres with a spring.

1931 Land exchange act is passed to eliminate private holdings in the north end, leading to the completion of the water system.

Custodian Burton C. Lacombe enters duty, the first career agency employee at the monument. He establishes the monument's first grazing policy by designating a stock drive path in the north end.

A four room log cottage is built as a residence for the custodian.

1932 Log equipment shed built (the one now in the bone yard).

1933-39 The New Deal comes to the monument. Emergency work relief programs improve visitor services by repairing buildings and roads, trails and structures. The main caves trail is paved and the rough trail to Last Chance Cave completed.

- 1934 Log comfort station with the monument's first flush toilets is built (the one now in the campground).
- 1935 The monument's first seasonal ranger, Frederick Shepherd, enters on duty and begins evening programs around the campfire.
- 1936 An act passes to excise 463 acres from the monument's north end, reducing grazing, mining, and administrative threats and burdens.
- 1941 Franklin D. Roosevelt signs a proclamation transferring a strip of highway in the monument to the state, leading to the improvement and realignment of the roadway.
- Visitation reaches 21,800.
- 1942-45 World War II sends the monument into decline.
- 1949 The National Reactor Testing Station (later known as the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory) is established near Arco, bringing growth to the region surrounding the monument. This occurrence, along with the postwar travel boom and highway improvements, increases visitation to Craters of the Moon and causes its management to enter a critical stage after years of neglect.
- Aubrey F. Houston becomes the first full time superintendent of the monument.
- 1950 *NHA founded*
- 1952 Craters of the Moon's first permanent ranger position is created and filled.
- The NPS acquires two tracts of school lands within the monument.
- 1956 Mission 66 arrives at the monument, making it one of the first in the region to receive the program's blessings. The comprehensive program forms a watershed in the area's management. Among the changes, a new headquarters complex is constructed, the road system paved, the administration reorganized, and the concession service eliminated.
- The monument receives 100,000 visitors.
- 1958 Visitor center completed.
- Last of the Crater Inn's buildings is sold at public auction.

- 1959 Residences completed.
- Natural History Association established.
- Interpretation Division is created and staffed by a park naturalist.
- 1961-67 The Mistletoe Control Program runs its course, destroying thousands of limber pine and raising protest from monument managers concerned about the ecological impacts.
- 1962 The destruction of the Devil's Sewer lava tube and degradation of the spatter cones symbolize decades of unchecked impacts to geologic features.
- President John F. Kennedy signs a proclamation adding the Carey Kipuka to the monument.
- 1963 Superintendent Daniel E. Davis ends the "Posse Dash" during Opening Day ceremonies to protect sensitive volcanic resources.
- 1966 Paul Sneed undertakes an archeological reconnaissance of the monument, and identifies 28 archeological sites.
- 1967 The first mule deer study is completed.
- After decades of negotiations, the Park Service acquires title to the Martin Mine lands, the last private lands within the monument.
- 1969-73 Superintendent Paul Fritz proposes expansion of the monument and redesignation as a national park.
- 1970 Congress creates the 43,243 acre Craters of the Moon Wilderness, together with Petrified Forest National Park the first in the National Park System.
- 1982-4 The spatter cone rehabilitation project takes place to restore the cones after years of deterioration.
- 1983 The second mule deer study is finished.
- 1987-92 Monument expansion and park designation resurface. The movement, headed by Congressman Richard Stallings, leads to a NPS study and legislation is introduced, but fails to pass.
- 1988 The Park Service submits a northern unit boundary revision proposal to the Department of the Interior as a way to resolve grazing, hunting, and other resource protection issues.

1991—Park handbook published by NPS

--New amphitheater built in campground

1992 Innovative waysides interpreting critical resource management issues installed at Devil's Orchard. Trail made fully accessible, the only such trail in the monument.

A second archeological survey is completed. In the 2,000 acres surveyed, the team discovers only 5 sites not visited by Sneed in 1966.

The Park Service produces a general management plan for Craters of the Moon, the first such document to comprehensively address issues and problems facing the monument's resources, visitors, and facilities in over 25 years.

1993 Revegetation project to replace much of the bluegrass lawns with native vegetation begins.

1994—"Snake—The Plain and its People" published by CRMONHA and BSU
-Removed VC Lawns

1996—Loop drive road resurfaced and improved

1997—New exhibits design, produced, and installed in visitor center
-Boundary adjustment to eliminate grazing

1998—Grant received to rehab spatter cones area
-Accessible sites