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Great Sand Dunes National Park

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### GSD National Monument Memorandum

Harold P. Schaafsma

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GREAT SAND DUNES NATIONAL MONUMENT  
Alamosa, Colorado

March 23, 1957

## Memorandum

To: Regional Director  
From: Superintendent  
Subject: 25th Anniversary Establishment Day

We believe that our 25th Anniversary Establishment Day was, in all respects, highly successful. We are submitting but a few of the many articles which have appeared in the San Luis Valley newspapers, indicating the fine support we received from this medium.

It was a genuine pleasure to have the splendid support of Dr. Jesse L. Nusbaum. Many prominent valley residents remember him and all the more enjoyed his outstanding talk in behalf of the monument. Please extend our thanks and appreciation to Dr. Nusbaum.

Park Ranger Ken Wallace also served us well in handling traffic and on parking detail. Since he too was stationed at Great Sand Dunes several years ago, we were ably represented by a man familiar with the area. We would have been completely unable to care for on-site park visitors without his able assistance.

Mr. Schaafsma and I served over two hundred rounds of coffee, refreshments, and cookies to all who came to the area during the day.

The Valley Courier sent a photographer and the editor to obtain a first hand report of the event. Unfortunately no indoor pictures were made since the thought was that we were to hold the program out of doors.

We are most appreciative for all assistance extended us and for the awareness on the part of the Regional Director of our real need for the help which all contributed to make the program the fine success that it was.

(SIGNED)

Harold F. Schaafsma  
Superintendent

With attachment



San Luis

THE VALLEY CO

VOLUME 29—NUMBER 53

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Full Unpaid Wire

ALAMOSA, COLO., FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 1957

# Dunes To Observe Anniversary

ALAMOSA — Show-Me Day in observance of the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Great Sand Dunes National Monument will be held all day Sunday, March 17.

The public is invited to attend the anniversary ceremonies which marks 25 years to the date since President Herbert Hoover, at the

instigation of the P. E.O. Society chapters, in the San Luis Valley and other interested Valley citizens and groups, signed a proclamation making the Dunes a national monument in 1932.

The designation in 1932 climaxed a long campaign by local interests, headed by Mrs. Millie H. Velhagen and Mrs. Frank Spencer, along with Valley P.E.O. chapters, instrumental in the monument's establishments.

Valley P.E.O. Societies will attend the ceremonies at the Dunes at 2 p. m. Sunday. Monument superintendent Harold Schaafsma said uniformed officers will be on hand to answer general questions about the monument and to outline the "Mission 66" program and how it applies to the development of the monument.

Schaafsma said free coffee will be served at the ranger station which is located at the entrance to the monument grounds. Appropriately coinciding with the anniversary will be a new sign located near Mosca to guide visitors to the Dunes.

The sign, financed by the Hooper-Mosca-Moffat Service League and built by Adams State College, will

be a large impressive marker made from peeled logs and located by the State Highway Department near the junction of the Sand Dunes road and Highway 17.

Dr. Jesse L. Nusbaum, who was closely associated with past history of the establishment of the Sand Dunes will be on hand to represent the regional office of the U. S. Department of Interior and the National Park Service.

Dr. Nusbaum will explain to visitors about "Mission 66," a 10-year program to place National Parks and Monuments in a state of development and completion to career and anticipated 80 million visitors expected in 1966 which is the Golden anniversary of the National Park Service.

The Great Sand Dunes National Monument, since its establishment, has been a boon to the

Valley's publicity and economy. Thousands of sightseers visit the monument every year, coming from all parts of the United States and other countries.

Schaafsma cordially invites all Valley citizens to attend the ceremonies and participate in the celebration. Interesting tours and information will be available in the history of the Valley's National Monument.

## The Singing Sand Dunes

Lifted by every bright breeze  
in its stayage.  
Or reeling in funnels flung  
high by the storm,  
Hurling their grains into air  
like waves spraying,  
Or slipping in soft, silent eddies  
that form,  
The sands of the Great Dunes  
are constantly seeking  
The lost sea that left them  
when old Earth was new.  
Left them a tideless shore  
evermore keeping  
Their tryst of the centuries,  
Listless but true;  
Restless to know that once  
again the dear drifting,  
Of all the strange craft that  
the Primitives found,  
Eager to feel the soft, vibrating  
shifting  
Of blue limpid water, spring-fed  
and Rock bound,  
Down thru endless years  
sounds the low yearning,  
That lost wailing shore that a  
sea left behind,  
Telling the search of the  
solemn sands turning,  
Turning to search again,  
never to find.

- Millicent H. Velhagen

## Monument Sign Erected



EFFORTS of the Moffat-Hooper-Mosca Service League for the erection of a sign signifying the direction of the Great Sand Dunes National Monument, were realized today with the erection of this double-face sign about one mile north structure was designed by the Industrial Arts department of Adams State College, with materials being purchased by the league. Assisting are left to right, Cirilo Trujillo; Max Duran; Roy Helde, charter member of the league; Jim Johnston, member of the league, and Harold Schaafsma, superintendent of the Monument.

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# Sand Dunes Program Given At Election Meeting Of Chapter AE

Mrs. Christine Moeny was elected and installed as new president of Chapter AE, P.E.O. Sisterhood, at the Thursday afternoon meeting of the group at her home with Mrs. Dolores McLean as assistant hostess.

Other officers elected and installed were Mrs. Eileen Blickhahn, vice-president, Mrs. Kathleen Grimwood, recording secretary, Mrs. Bertha Lough, corresponding secretary, Mrs. Helen Spencer, treasurer, Mrs. Florence Lorton, chaplain, and Mrs. Josephine Elston, guard.

Delegates to the state convention in June will be Mrs. Moeny and Mrs. Grimwood, with Mrs. Lough and Mrs. Betha Luethi elected as alternates. Mrs. Moeny and Mrs. Helen Pound will be the new members of the advisory board.

Following the installation ceremony, the outgoing president, Mrs. Eileen Blickhahn, was presented with a gift by the chapter, with Mrs. Marian Moses, past-president making the presentation.

The story of the organization of the Great Sand Dunes as a national monument was presented as the program by Mrs. Genevieve McDermith. The monument will be celebrating its twentieth-fifty anniversary of its founding this Sunday. Elsewhere in this issue of The Courier is an article on the Great Sand Dunes, containing part of Mrs. McDermith's program information. Refreshments were served by the hostess.

Present were Mrs. McDermith, Mrs. Mildred Day, Mrs. Frances Magee, Mrs. Helene Sullivan, Mrs. Bernice Blickhahn, Mrs. Margaret Falchy, Mrs. Marie Shellabarger, Mrs. Alma Sheesley, Mrs. Mary Steinhage, Mrs. Marva McKinney, Mrs. Lough, Mrs. Pound, Mrs. Moses, Mrs. Eileen Blickhahn, Mrs. Grimwood, Mrs. Erma McMullen, Mrs. Spencer, Mrs. Janet Birkins, Mrs. Lorton, Mrs. Alfreda, Mrs. Judy Armast, and hostesses, Mrs. Moeny and Mrs. McLean.