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Colorado National Monument

Colorado National Parks

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### Letter to Harold Ickes, Secretary of the U. S. Department of Interior

Eugene Humphrey

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Fort Worth, Texas.

July 21, 1942.

Harold L. Ickes, Sec.  
U. S. Department of the Interior  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I am writing to you to request a very unusual favor of you and your department and also the National Park Service. You may think I am a bit eccentric and the request very, shall we say, silly, but it isnt at all silly if you look at it in the right manner.

Here is my request: Upon my death I would not rather be buried anywhere except in the Colorado National Monument at Grand Junction, Colorado. I want to be buried in the circle in front of the park headquarters and the head Ranger's home near the rim of Monument Canyon.

There is my request of your department. I know it may sound strange to you but it is a wonderful dream that I wish would come true. I worked in the monument for a period of four months and it seemed to hold something for me after I returned to my home in Texas.

I want to be where the fleet-footed deer can trod over my grave and the half-tamed rabbits can chew the grass from the soil above me. ✓  
Yes, Mr. Ickes it may seem very strange to you but I actually love the enclosure of the Colorado National Monument.

I'M only twenty years of age and may have a long life ahead of me but I'm asking this favor of you and Mr. Arno B. Cammerer Director of the Monument. I know I'm no national hero or big shot in the business world but I'm asking you anyway.

Hoping to receive a reply from you soon, and please don't think I'm ready for a brain examination as I'm only asking the one man who can answer my unusual thoughts,

Sincerely

Eugene Humphrey  
911 Galveston Ave.,  
Fort Worth, Texas.

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON

ADDRESS ONLY  
THE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

August 4, 1942.

RECEIVED

AUG 8 1942

MESA VERDE NATL PARK

DISTRIBUTION	
4	Superintendent
	Asst. Cust. <i>[Handwritten initials]</i>
1	Chief Clerk <i>[Handwritten initials]</i>
	Accts-Personel
7	Chief Ranger <i>[Handwritten initials]</i>
3	Naturalist <i>[Handwritten initials]</i>
	Storekeeper
	Mechanic
	Maint.-Foreman
	Electrician
	C.C.C. Office
	Commissioner
	Engineer
	Secretary
5	Files

*[Handwritten signature]*  
Mr. Eugene Humphrey,  
911 Galveston Avenue,  
Fort Worth, Texas.

My dear Mr. Humphrey:

Secretary Ickes has referred to this Service for reply your letter of July 21 expressing your desire to be buried in the Colorado National Monument.

Because we understand and appreciate your love for the beautiful Colorado country, it is with regret that we cannot write you encouragingly as to the fulfillment of your desire. There are numerous others, in all stations of life, who, like you, have expressed a desire to rest within a national park or monument of their choosing. The same privilege cannot be granted to all; therefore we must adhere to a strict policy to deny such requests, except that cemeteries located in an area when it is established as a national park or monument may be used for burials of immediate families of persons who are buried there at the time the area was set aside for park or monument purposes.

We are sure you will understand the conditions which make necessary our position regarding burials in the national parks and monuments.

Sincerely yours,  
(SGD) Newton B. Drury

Newton B. Drury,  
Director.

cc: Regional Director, Region Three)  
Supt., Mesa Verde Natl. Mon. ) with copy of  
Cust., Colorado Natl. Mon. ) Mr. Humphrey's letter.

Tom W.  
Blanchard  
File under letter with  
Coco.

Dear Brent:-

Read this over & return by later  
mail to M.V. files. - This request  
will not be incorporated in master  
planing of the grassed area in front  
of your quarters, regardless of the  
applicant's desire. - Of course, the  
press should know nothing of this  
unique request.

Sincerely,  
Jesse H.

The boy may have something!  
This place is getting more like  
a grave yard every day.  
Brent.

RECEIVED

AUG 2 1942

MESA VERDE NAT'L PARK