

## **1. History, General, 1934-42**

Gladstone MacKenzie, Pima County, AZ, to Lawrence C. Merriam, February 7, 1934, Folder: History, General, 1934-42, Box 2319, Central Classified Files, 1907-49, RG 79, NARA-MD.

This correspondence between Merriam and MacKenzie relates to the creation of Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. This letter is an affirmation by MacKenzie that the Organ Pipe Cactus needs to be protected and that every effort should be made to establish the area inhabited by organ pipe cacti into a National Monument. The pencil notes added to this text propose the question of even making it a National Park.

George A. Ankham, Jay C. Hicks, and W.R. Denison, Pima County, AZ, to Whom it May Concern, January 9, 1934, Folder: History, General, 1934-42, Box 2319, Central Classified Files, 1907-49, RG 79, NARA-MD.

This letter from the Board of Supervisors of the Ajo Chamber of Commerce argues in support of the creation of Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. Sighting rare animal life and vegetation, such as *Lemaireocereus thurberii* or the organ pipe cactus, they propose that tracts of public land be put aside to preserve these native species. The borders of the park would be the U.S.-Mexico boundary to the south, the Papago Indian Reservation to the east, Ajo Road to the North, and Sonoita Road to the west. The letter was signed by the Board of Supervisors of the Ajo Chamber of Commerce and was sent to Washington on February 12, 1934.

B.L. Douglas, Santa Fe, NM, to the Director of the National Park Service, February 25, 1942, Folder: History, General, 1934-42, Box 2319, Central Classified Files, 1907-49, RG 79, NARA-MD.

This letter argues for the creation of a National Monument in southeastern Arizona based on its archaeological merit. Douglas sites many of the archaeological finds that are being excavated by the University of Arizona as a claim to protecting this land. The examples of prehistoric sites include one trinchera, two occupied caves, fifteen miscellaneous camp sites, four village sites, twelve possible burial grounds and three sites with petroglyphs. He argues that the land itself is highly qualified for preservation, but also notes that it's historical and archaeological possibilities are also worth protecting.

Associate Director, National Park Service, Washington D.C., to the Acting Regional Director, Region Three, National Park Service, November 24, 1943, History, General, 1934-42, Box 2319, Central Classified Files, 1907-49, RG 79, NARA-MD.

Passed internally within the National Park Service, this letter discusses research of trails across the border. The trail in question is called the Camino del Diablo and runs straight through Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. There are several variations of the trail that run between

Ajo and Yuma, through the Papago Indian Reservation and one that passes through the city of Las Playas. Each of these routes is known to be used by Father Kino and his closest associates.

“Routes From and Near Ajo: Ajo to Yuma by the Camino del Diablo,” 1925, History, General, 1934-42, Box 2319, Central Classified Files, 1907-49, RG 79, NARA-MD.

This report, published by the National Park Service, explains the history, the reasons for travel and documents the various hardships of sections of the Camino del Diablo, or Devil’s Road. The Camino del Diablo stretches from the Mexican Border town of Altar and Caborca to Sonoita, California. It chronicles the historical voyage of Padre Kino, who was the first to make this journey in 1699. When there was a rush to get to California in the mid-1800s, the route became more popular with Mexicans who were trying to cross over from Sonora because it was less prone to Indian attacks. The first automobile that drove the Camino del Diablo in October of 1917 was a Geological Survey Vehicle. When this report was published in 1925, the most frequent users of the road were a few exploratory expeditions and prospectors looking for mineral deposits and guano. The report gives a detailed description of the terrain and course of the Camino del Diablo.