

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON

October 31, 1923.

Dear Mr. Hayden:

In the absence of Director Mather and Assistant Director Cammerer from Washington I have to acknowledge receipt of your letter of October 25th inclosing a letter addressed to you by Mr. Ed Hamilton of Grand Canyon relative to a piece of existing road which Mr. Hamilton desires to repair leading from the main entrance road to Rowe Well via Shoski Canyon.

As you know, this road was abandoned by the Park Service and closed to public traffic as a measure of protection to visitors because the road passes close to where the T. N. T. explosives are stored and where quarrying operations, with blasting more or less frequent, are being carried on. According to the records of this Department this road is not a public highway, no permit having been granted for its construction by the Forest Service which prior to the creation of the National Park had jurisdiction over the land since 1893. Neither was it recorded as a public highway by order of the Board of Supervisors of Coconino County as required by Section 5055 of the Revised Statutes of Arizona, 1913. After the road was closed by Superintendent Crosby and "No Thorofare" signs placed at each entrance to it, these signs were removed and signs placed on the approach road outside of the Park advising tourists to go to Rowe Well via this road regardless of the advice or instructions of the Park officials.

This Service is of the opinion that all travel should be kept off this road in the interest of public safety and the interest of the Government and it is therefore necessary to refuse permission to Mr. Hamilton to repair this road at his own expense and should he attempt to do so he would be a trespasser on Government property. Mr. Hamilton has ample means of ingress to and egress from his property over the road maintained by the Park Service via Grand Canyon village.



As requested Mr. Hamilton's letter addressed to you is returned together with a copy of this letter.

Cordially yours,

*A. E. Demaray*  
A. E. Demaray,  
Acting Director.

Hon. Carl Hayden,  
House of Representatives.

Inclosure 14043.