

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Grand Canyon National Park
Grand Canyon, Ariz.

Office of
the Superintendent

August 21, 1923.

The Director,
National Park Service,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Yours of the 13th, inclosing copy of letter from Mr. Jesse L. Boyce of Williams, addressed to the Hon. Carl Hayden, and three pamphlets on explosives, at hand.

As regards our storage of explosives, I feel that while the T.N.T. itself is not as well protected from weather and deterioration as could be desired, it is stored reasonably safely so far as the public is concerned. It appears to me that Mr. Boyce's letter misrepresents the situation.

Our T.N.T., of which there is less than 20 tons and probably only about 16 tons, is stored at a place in Shoski Canyon about a quarter of a mile east of the stone quarry where it is expected to use most of it. The storage space is across a wash, 50 yards or more from an abandoned highway. Both ends of this highway are posted with signs, in each case there being a "no thoroughfare" sign and a red disk sign marked "Danger." The public are, just as far as practicable with our limited Ranger force, kept out of this Canyon entirely and not allowed to use the old road on which we have done no work for several years.

The T.N.T. is more than a quarter of a mile from the Grand Canyon Railroad, and a half mile from Rowe's Store. It is more than a mile from the T.N.T. to Rowe Well. Further, the T.N.T. pile is in sort of a bay or hollow and between it and the quarry, the Railroad, Rowe's Store and Rowe Well, there are at least one or more ridges considerably higher than the top of the T.N.T. pile (probably the lowest ridge is at least three times the height of the pile), so that any explosion would have to send its forces in curved lines to reach the points mentioned, which, of course, would be most extraordinary.

I have, on only one occasion, seen Indians camping anywhere near the store of T.N.T. In that case, they were across the wash on the opposite side of Shoski Canyon and at least 100 yards from the T.N.T. That camp was merely a daylight rest and there were no fires. They are not allowed to camp in Shoski Canyon and Ranger Peck who patrols the section regularly and frequently, keeps them out of Shoski Canyon as far as it is practicable for one Ranger to do so. The Indians themselves have generally sense enough not to take chances of the nature implied by Mr. Boyce.

In my judgment, the T.N.T. is stored in a reasonable location as well as a convenient one. It is as well stored as our funds have so far permitted and I do not feel like recommending the expenditure of Government funds now, that would be required to make an appreciable improvement in this storage.

I suppose there is no need for me to comment on the second paragraph of Mr. Boyce's letter.

Very truly yours,

W. W. Crosby,
Superintendent.