



COURIER

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SPECIAL INTERVIEW

Senator James A. McClure on park issues and answers

Q: What is your reaction to proposals to expand the national park system? Are there new areas you feel merit inclusion; how about areas that might be better transferred to non-federal management?

A: I look at proposals to expand the National Park System on a case-by-case basis. First, I solicit the views of the senators from the state in which the additional designation is proposed. Second, I look to the Park Service for its professional evaluation. And third, I evaluate the proposal on a resource and cost basis.

Does it add a new dimension to the system that didn't exist before? Does it fit the criteria for inclusion in the system? What are the land acquisition costs? What are the development costs? What are the operations and maintenance costs? These are the kinds of questions I ask when considering an expansion proposal.

As far as transferring is concerned, neither the Administration nor Congress has considered transferring units of the National Park System to non-federal management since the deauthorization of the Georgia O'Keefe homesite in New Mexico. This site was authorized in 1980, but was deauthorized in 1984 at the request of the late Mrs. O'Keefe.

Q: What is your stand on air quality? How extensively should the Park Service be involved in air quality issues and related research?

A: The objectives of the Clean Air Act are admirable. However, the regulations prescribed under that act—and their interpretation by EPA, the Justice Department, and other agencies—have made compliance both difficult and unworkable.

The Park Service, in my opinion, should not be thrust into an arbiter's position of telling a state, county, or an industry that it must stop, change, or



alter its activities in areas surrounding the parks. If it is in that position, I think it could run the risk of alienating support for park activities in those communities and businesses that are near a park's boundaries.

The National Park System has many units where clean air is an essential attribute of the area. The Park Service should address issues affecting land inside its boundaries, and serve as a responsible neighbor to the lands outside its boundaries. Good communication between the Park Service and surrounding communities can make that easier.

Q: The protection of the nation's resources for further generations is a popular National Park Service platform. However, this sometimes runs counter to the views of recreational groups and neighboring landowners. Where do you stand on controlling animal populations like the grizzly, the Florida panther, and the buffalo? How should this issue be handled?

A: Protection of our natural splendor is certainly a primary concern of everyone who works for our national parks. However, I don't think the protection of the nation's resources, as you

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put it, should be primarily a Park Service "platform."

Instead, that platform should be the protection of *park* resources for future generations, as mandated by Congress in the 1916 Organic Act.

The conservation of natural resources, a much different concept, is the province of the Interior Department. The control of animal populations is not exclusively a Park Service issue; many laws, agencies and political subdivisions are involved with species management on both public and private lands.

Wildlife management becomes much more complex when you have a "checkerboard" of public and private land ownership and uses. In the cases of grizzly bear and wolf, the problems become geometric in areas of mixed land ownership and administration, where these species compete with or consume domestic animals.

In any case where adjusting animal populations is being considered, public comment and communication with affected groups is essential. But until we sort out the many problems with species recovery, I don't believe we should expand or augment populations in areas where they do not now exist.

I'd also note that those aren't wild buffalo in the United States—they are bison.

Q: Director Mott has stirred up some controversy with his advocacy of proposals to increase or institute fees at certain parks. Do you agree with the Director that a fee program will help the NPS maintain financial accountability for its resources during this period of fiscal restraint?

A: As a general rule, I don't advocate increasing the amount and sources of funds available to the agency for park management and operations—not because of a question of need, but because of the need for Congress to have an accurate accounting of receipts and expenditures. I prefer to have the necessary funds provided through Congressional appropriations.

I'm undecided on whether such funds should supplement or supplant appropriations if they are returned to the agency. That question will most likely be resolved through the legislative process.

However, I'm opposed to charging entrance fees on national forests and the public lands in general. Such fees would conflict with the authority of states to charge hunting and fishing licenses. And when you consider the vast amount of land in western states that is owned by the federal government, charging a fee

for just entering public lands is both unconscionable and unenforceable.

Q: The tax incentives program which enables the National Park Service to encourage historic restoration in the private sector has come under scrutiny in recent months. Where do you stand on continuing Congressional support for this program, and how successful do you think it has been in accomplishing its goals over the past years?

A: I support the concept of a tax incentive program that allows for the restoration of some of our nation's historic structures. In Idaho, I know of several buildings that have been restored through this program.

Whether or not this program will be retained is an open question. At this writing, the Finance Committee has just sent its tax reform bill to the full Senate for consideration, and if passed, the legislation will go to a conference committee with the House of Representatives. Whether or not the tax incentives program is retained at the end of that process remains to be seen.

Q: Pothunting has become a significant threat to park archaeological resources, especially in the southwestern United States. Likewise, submerged cultural resources have been disturbed by sport and professional divers. Do you see a need for more strongly publicized archaeological protection in order to prevent removal of such resources?

A: I have to disagree with your premise that pothunting has become a significant threat to park resources.

Last October, the Senate Subcommittee on Public Lands, Reserved Water, and Resource Conservation held an oversight hearing in Albuquerque, New Mexico, on this very issue.

Testimony received at that hearing revealed that illegal pothunting is a far more serious problem on non-park public and Indian lands, and that enforcement and prevention capabilities by the Park Service at its units was much greater.

There's a need for coordinated publicity and enforcement between agencies and other landowners to discourage potential pothunters, or those who would disturb underwater resources. If they know that they face stiff penalties for their actions, they might think twice before committing such acts.

Q: Do you support Secretary Hodel's "Take Pride in America" program? What do you feel the impact of this program can be?

A: Absolutely. The "Take Pride in America" program is making more

Americans aware that our national parks are a precious resource that must be protected and cared for.

Q: The Gramm-Rudman bill mandates that government agencies cooperate in reducing the financial burdens placed on taxpayers. In order to comply with the 4.3% cuts required, how should the Service prioritize its reductions? What should be its lowest and highest priorities?

A: That question should really be put to Director Mott. But so far, I think he and the entire Park Service are to be commended for the way they have handled the 4.3% reductions required earlier this year under Gramm-Rudman. As it shoulders its portion of the deficit reduction plan, the Park Service has kept top priority on keeping the parks open and services available to visitors.

In discussing Gramm-Rudman, however, I'd note that speculation runs rampant about what programs will supposedly be "cut," "reduced," or "terminated," by Congress because of Gramm-Rudman. But remember that Gramm-Rudman is not a foregone conclusion: it is a *process* that lays out a timetable for the Congress to meet its deficit reduction targets. If we do our job right, the across-the-board cuts that would go into effect in the fall won't be necessary.

Q: What are the proper roles of volunteer services and private donations (both individual and corporate) in the parks?

A: I believe volunteers can provide valuable assistance to regular Park Service activities—helping at visitor centers is a good example. However, I believe it's inappropriate for volunteers to be used where professional skills are required, such as in law enforcement.

Private donations should be limited to park units and activities, to supplement appropriations in areas defined by a written policy. In no instance should donations go to individuals for services that have been rendered.

Q: How can commercial enterprise serve a better role in the Park Service? Consider the contributions it might make in areas like concession operations, contracting, and management?

A: The Concession Policy Acts give a clear definition of the proper role and relationship between concessioners and the Park Service.

Congress has directed that the use of franchise fees be directed to improving government-owned facilities in which concessioners provide visitor services. Expanding the joint use of buildings, management of facilities and camp-

grounds, and contracting for other park services where appropriate. The goal that should be kept in mind is to keep costs down, but still provide quality service to visitors.

Q: What are your thoughts on the professionalism of NPS career service

employees? Any suggestions for improving support and quality of NPS uniformed personnel?

A: The Park Service career service employees are held in high regard by the visiting public. And for good reason: they enjoy working for the service and the public, and they make every effort

to provide visitors with information, advice, and protection.

If there's an area where I think improvement can be made, it is in the area of training, placing, and advancing Park Service personnel. Those functions, lacking since the system's large expansion in the mid-1970's, need to be standardized.

Mott's Action Plan, the right stuff



Director William Penn Mott may not be from the "show-me" state of Missouri, but he fervently believes in showing the public that he lives up to his word. So committed is he that he puts his promises down in writing and invites people to keep track of what he has and hasn't done. When the Director's 12-point plan was released in late 1985, the press considered it a positive step, but doubted the Service's capability to carry it out. After all, such fully-encompassing plans require money, don't they? And in today's fiscal environment, money is one of those things that always seems hard to find.

But there are ways to creatively work around problems, as anyone who has ever balanced a budget knows, and Director Mott puts a lot of stock in the Park Service's ability to work creatively. So he has taken the 12-point plan a step further. A set of actions have been compiled which, when carried out, will begin to fulfill the intentions of the 12 points. Designed as a companion volume to the earlier release, "it is not just a nice publication," the Director says. "It will be actively carried out." And anyone who doubts the Director's word on *that* has only to refer back to the publication from time to time.

"You'll see that we get them done," Mott announced to the press with a wry smile.

"You're right," said a reporter, who could not resist the retort.

One of the best things about the actions, according to the Director, is their function as a living document. When the 32 actions currently on the list have been completed, this does not mean that the work is done or that the Park Service can



sit back and collect accolades. Rather, the actions can be added to, updated, and otherwise revised. And this is exactly what Mott expects will happen.

In addition, the actions are only one part of a three-part approach. The regional directors have been charged by Mott to develop their own actions, as have the park superintendents. In several instances, the functional nature of the actions has spurred special interest areas, like interpretation, to likewise develop their own.

Mott also expects the actions to be accomplished through the reallocation of funds rather than the commitment of additional monies. Once again he emphasized the creativity and dedication of NPS employees. "But there does come a point beyond which more than creativity has to come into play," he added. "That point for us will be 1988. If the fee legislation goes through for 1987, we will be alright. In 1988, however, we may have to close some parks."

National Parks and Conservation Association (NPCA) endorsed the Director's program for leading the Park Service forward. In particular, it cited the action calling for the addition of representative natural areas to the System, for continued land acquisition, better resources management, improved visitor interpretation, and education to build support for park programs.

"We are fully supportive of Director Mott's efforts," said Paul Pritchard, NPCA president. "Now we look to the *actions* of the Administration as the key test of commitment to the preservation of the values represented in the National Park System."



At the press briefing directly following the announcement of the 12-point plan actions, Director Mott fielded questions concerning their enforcement. The main areas of concern appeared to be the threat of terrorism in the parks, overcrowding during the summer, and the fate of Mott's fee legislation. On terrorism, Mott observed that the Park Service was prepared to handle all situations, and though nothing out of the ordinary was expected, he added that the Service was not taking the issue lightly. . . "I'm sorry people are afraid to visit the parks here in Washington," he said. "We are prepared for anything that could happen, so they will be safe here or any place else in the System."

Perhaps one of the most pressing issues for the parks this summer is the possibility of overcrowding. Mott said that handling crowds without diminishing the park experience for visitors depends on how the crowds are dispersed. "Many people aren't aware there are 337 units. They think in terms of the larger units." Therefore, the parks will be directing people to less travelled units. A brochure available from General Foods as part of the Post Natural Raisin Bran effort will also help to publicize the NPS "jewels."

However, in conjunction with NPCA, the National Park Service is developing carrying capacity studies.

"If Yosemite Valley has parking facilities for 5,000 cars, should it only admit 3,000 or 4,000 cars in reality? The decision involves both objective and subjective evaluations," Mott said.

Asked whether money from fee collection will be used for improving park

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facilities, the Director stressed that capital improvements would not be handled out of that fund. Instead, those monies would go toward supplying interpretation, research, and resource management needs.

In spite of the difficult questions still

to be faced by the Service and the variety of issues still to be resolved, the briefing ended on a high note. Director Mott accepted a final question.

"How many parks have you personally visited since you became Director?" asked a reporter seated in the back of the briefing room.

"Approximately 87," Mott answered. "And at five o'clock, I leave for Lincoln Boyhood Home, then from there to the Virgin Islands. Tough assignment," he smiled.

"And I get to stay here," announced Denis Galvin, who was seated beside him.

The Action Plan

1. Develop a long-range strategy to protect our natural, cultural and recreational resources

Add representative natural units to the National Park System

Create usable resource inventories for each park

Develop a nationwide systematic resource management strategy

Identify and remove hazardous wastes in National Park System areas

Improve wilderness management

Pursue cooperative agreements with public and private land managers, owners, and communities near park units to help protect their resources and values

Reaffirm the principles of the National Historic Preservation Act on its 20th anniversary
2. Pursue a creative, expanded land protection initiative

Complete and implement the National Park Service's land protection initiative
3. Stimulate and increase our interpretive and visitor service activities for greater public impact

Employ new outreach tools to communicate with the public about national parks

Help celebrate the Bicentennial of the Constitution

Start preparations to commemorate the 500th anniversary of Columbus's voyage

Update interpretive media throughout the National Park System
4. Share effectively with the public our understanding of critical resource issues

Integrate research, resource management, interpretation, and public information efforts
5. Increase public understanding of the role and function of the National Park Service

Reemphasize the NPS "Management Policies" as the basis for decision making
6. Expand the role and involvement of citizens and citizen groups at all levels in the National Park Service

Enhance the protection of parks as part of the U.S. Public Lands System through the "Take Pride in America" program

Establish a blue-ribbon panel to examine NPS policies about natural and cultural resources and to recommend how these policies may be improved

Establish a Citizens' Friends Group for each unit of the National Park System
7. Seek a better balance between visitor use and resource management

Improve our knowledge of visitors to national parks

Minimize the potential disturbance of park visitors' solitary experiences by motorized recreational activities
8. Enhance our ability to meet the diverse uses that the public expects in national parks

Participate in the President's Commission on Americans Outdoors to better define how national parks help meet public recreation needs

Provide visitor facilities in parks that have been added to the National Park Service since 1960
9. Expand career opportunities for our employees

Encourage and support the development of the Horace Albright Fund

Establish a reassignment mobility program

Stimulate career opportunities and employee growth
10. Plan, design, and maintain appropriate park facilities

Ensure that park road systems enhance the visitor experience

Improve housing for NPS employees

Move facilities out of critical resource areas
11. Develop a team relationship between concessioners and the National Park Service

Integrate concessioners into interpretive programs throughout the National Park System

Work with concessioners when facilities are moved out of critical resource areas
12. Foster and encourage more creativity, efficiency, and effectiveness in the management and administration of the National Park Service

Develop a servicewide information management system

Enhance productivity within the National Park Service

Use fees currently collected in national parks to directly support park operations, and expand the portion of park operations supported by fees

Before the memory fades: community contributes to history of New River

William E. Cox
Chief, Interpretation and Visitor Services
New River Gorge National River

For the last three winters, the "New River Neighbors" program at New River Gorge NR has hosted local speakers who reminisce about their experiences in the community.

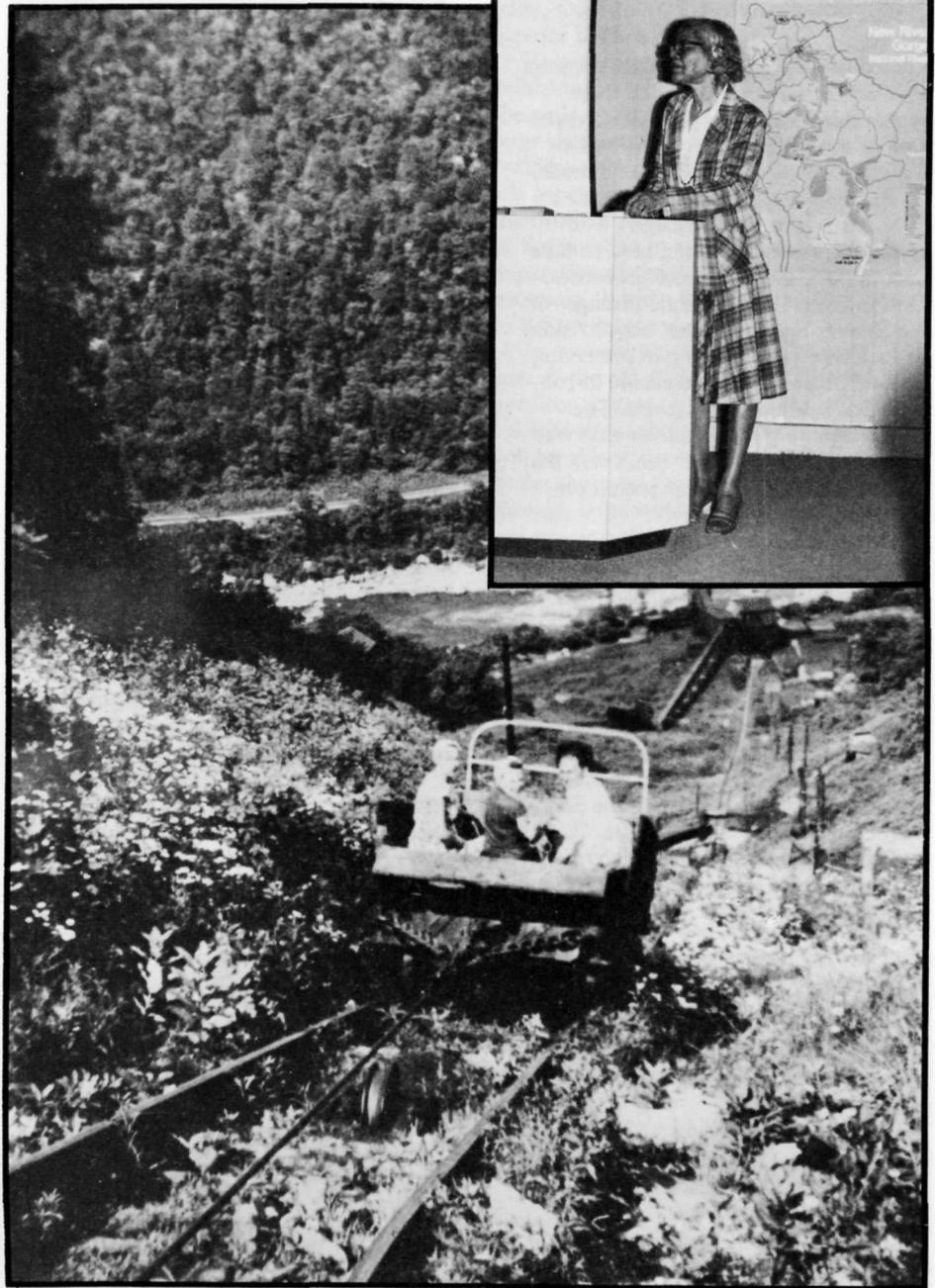
In addition to the standard research methods, the park developed the neighbors program as another viable approach to collecting historical information. Local citizens became interpreters at the park, and their presentations were recorded for the park's historical files. Audience participation has been high; many attendees have brought in historical photographs, momentos, etc., for the park staff to copy as a result of the talks.

A wide assortment of presentations has been given over the last few months. Included in the eight Sunday programs was a former telegraph operator and dispatcher at the now-abandoned town of Sewall. The grandson of pioneer coal operator, Col. Joseph Beury, discussed his boyhood home; Ruth Kidd told of her days as a school teacher at Kaymoor and Thayer; and the Rev. William Carter told of his 41-year career as a railroad labor gang cook.

Mrs. Marion Valentine also discussed her teaching experiences at Kaymoor. One-room schools have practically vanished from the American scene and Mrs. Valentine recalled those days for the park. Kaymoor, the community in which she taught, was, for a brief 60 years, part of a major industrial effort in the New River Gorge area. Of some two dozen coal mining towns, none remain today.

Mrs. Valentine taught 70 some students, leading lessons for first through eighth grades. Referring to her audience, Mrs. Valentine said, "Many of you have been in a school like that. The objectives are the same—to try your best to do all you can for the students so they can get a quality education."

There were many challenges and achievements. Valentine was also the school custodian, and the community helped her fulfill this role. During winter, one parent made the fires one week; the next week, another parent was scheduled. The older boys in the class helped maintain the fire throughout the day.



Marion Valentine

Just getting to and from work was a major exercise

One advantage, Mrs. Valentine said, of one-room schools over the others was the children's tendency to learn from each other. Spelling bees, creative interpretations of stories read in class, art instruction—all of these activities brought the various grade levels together.

The New Rivers Neighbors program

has helped the park build its historical information base. It has also helped personalize its interpretive efforts. Only a few people remain who lived and worked in the New River Gorge during the early days of its history, and these people are helping to preserve those days for all of us.

WPTC is one of a kind

Mary Jo Stine
Writer/Editor
DSC/EAF

"I'd say it's more a graduate program than an apprenticeship." With these words Jim Askins grapples with a definition of the Williamsport Preservation Training Center (WPTC) that he heads.

Askins traces the center's start to a 1976 meeting of NPS managers who found there was a pressing need to take care of NPS' many cultural properties. Don Bressler, then associate manager of the Denver Service Center, asked Askins to look into what training in preserving historic properties was available in colleges and vocational programs. The result: "Nothing was available that was close," says Jim. Another result was that Askins was picked to start such a program for the Park Service.

Since the center accepted architect John Marsh as its first trainee in November 1977, twelve trainees have graduated, with eight enrolled now.

Current trainee Bruce Martin had worked at the Moller Organ Works factory in Hagerstown and run a private cabinetmaking business before coming to the center in 1984. His first on-the-job experience came from working on the historic Laundress Quarters in the San Juan Islands of Washington state. "I learned how to lay out the different courses of cedar shingles for the roof and what size materials to use," he recalls.

The experience paid off; last year Bruce was the project supervisor of roof shingling and other work on the Walker and Knox barns at Valley Forge National Historical Park, Pennsylvania.

Bruce notes of his training, "It's been very interesting. The average person or craftsperson wouldn't get into duplicating materials in kind, or different styles of construction." Bruce will be supervising masonry work for his next assignment at Hot Springs, Arkansas.

Most students in the program have college degrees and four or five years of experience as journeyman workers in crafts such as stone mason, carpenter, or woodcraftsman. Askins estimates the average entering ages of trainees as "mid-30s." He finds them "highly motivated" to finish training and pursue careers in historic preservation. Six graduates hold jobs as exhibit specialists for NPS regional offices or parks. Several others are historic architects or construction representatives with the Denver Service Center or parks.

Askins is proud of the fact that all but one of the graduates worked for the Park Service immediately after finishing the course. The one exception worked for another Federal agency.

Most trainees spend three years at Williamsport, although a few have finished in less time. Beginning the program, each person has an individual development plan drawn up that outlines a plan of instruction through on-the-job training.

There is also a core group of courses all trainees take on evaluating contractors' performance, writing reports, and learning personnel management.

A curriculum committee of Park Service professionals oversees the training program. In addition, Askins finds the committee serves as "an underground network to find our projects and to place graduates in jobs." The committee meets twice a year.

A trainee spends most of the first year of training as a member of a work crew. The second year he may do more individual work, but is closely supervised. The third year the trainee supervises workers and is evaluated on project management. Some of the workers supervised are first-year trainees, as the program comes full circle.

Askins feels the center has been successful in producing well-trained people. His only regret is that the program has not attracted very many women or minority candidates despite recruiting by vacancy announcements and listing with Office of Personnel Management in Baltimore. He remains optimistic that more women may join the program as they become more established in crafts work. Architect Elizabeth Sasser is finishing her last year of training at Cuyahoga Valley NRA in Ohio. Her project includes building a covered bridge from scratch. It will be a complete reconstruction of the circa 1870 bridge at that spot that was destroyed by a Cuyahoga River ice jam in 1975. Some



Trainee Tim Gallaher's current project is the restoration of this former slave quarters at Hampton NHS. Vertical boards help hold the logs in place while the deteriorated chinking is removed and replaced

\$30,000 donated by citizens of the area will be contributed toward the rebuilding.

Timothy Gallaher is in his last year at Williamsport. Since November he has been restoring the log slave quarters at Hampton NHS. Over the winter, he made windows, doors, and exterior trim for the building in the center's wood-working shop. Gallaher finds his project diverse. "Everything is involved: masonry, types of woodworking, replacing logs, even how to hew a beam out of a log," he notes. Gallaher's career goal is to remain a craftsman, perhaps a carpenter "in a park out west."

Keith Newlin is the newest recruit, entering in training last October. Activities of his first half year have included window repair work for the Lund House at Valley Forge and restoration of the Conner-Sweeney Cabin, part of the historic scene at Appomattox Court House, Virginia.

The staff at Williamsport includes three persons involved directly in training: Jim Askins, Harry Sloat, and Fran Lucas. Lucas is a 1982 program graduate himself. He responds to the question of which project was the most intriguing: "That's too hard. They're all unique." One recent favorite, though, was an 8-week training course on log and masonry repairs he taught to 26 Park Service employees at Grand Canyon NP. He lists as a career highlight shaking hands with the Queen of England and several current and former U.S. presidents while working in Philadelphia during the Bicentennial year.

Lucas now supervises trainees on the job, often travelling between different sites. He says, "If they call up and need help, then I go." He expresses satisfaction with his career, though he dislikes living in motels so much of the time. He takes pride in "replicating the visual impact, texture, color, architectural character of a historic building." But he also says ironically of his efforts, "I hope you won't know I was there."

Askins finds his biggest worries have been hiring freezes and lack of training funds, both brought on by budget tightening. Despite this, he points to the center offering training to other Park Service units on occasion and its having become "the largest repository of technical information on historic preservation that anyone in the Federal government has access to." Because of this, the center currently serves as consultant to GSA on maintenance of its Washington, D.C. buildings. Another large project is advising the Fish & Wildlife Service on restoration of historic buildings on 18 farms at Patuxent, Maryland.

The center is involved in some 50 to 60 projects a year, Askins estimates.



Trainee Bruce Martin, right, tells the Director about his work restoring the front door to Washington's headquarters at Valley Forge

These range from a few days for preliminary planning or design or specialized work to longer, involved restoration work. Two current jobs that are certainly specialized are orders to make six pairs of historic-era shutters for the Fredericksburg/Spotsylvania, Virginia National Military Park and eight chairs for Fort Davis, Texas.

Appropriately, the Williamsport center makes its home in a very historic building. Located near the C & O Canal

in Maryland, half of the long building was originally a barn built in 1780. The other half was built adjacent to the barn circa 1835 for a brick warehouse. You can still see the name of the brick company, Cushwa's, painted in white on an exterior brick wall.

Recently approved plans call for consolidation of offices and training rooms at the main building, and the moving of large shop areas to a nearby brick building. This building served as an electric generating station in the 1800s. An intermediate floor will be added to part of the building to support the shop areas. Separation of the different areas was necessary to bring the main building up to fire safety standards.

In cooperation with C & O Canal, part of the old station will be devoted to a visitor contact facility. Besides viewing exhibits about the nearby canal, visitors will be able to see trainees hard at work in the shops on the other side of the wall through large windows. It should be an eye-opening glimpse into how Williamsport trainees bring parts of the past to life.

Harpers Ferry Center: they're the good guys too!

Tom Danton
Interpretive Planner, MWRO

I have run into a number of field interpreters whose attitude towards Harpers Ferry Center (HFC) could best be described as "suspicious." After all, projects do cost a lot of money; there are often delays; maybe it isn't exactly what was expected. Then there is always the "we-they" syndrome. The complaints are many but only rarely valid. HFC, like any human-run organization, makes mistakes and some field people won't let them forget them. Let's look at a few accusations.

"Cost too high!"

Yes, we probably could get someone to do the project for less money and quicker, but are we familiar with state-of-the-arts exhibitry systems? Can we do the detailed design plans required by top quality exhibit builders, and write contracts that guarantee we get what we want at the price we want to pay? Each professional at HFC is an expert in publications or exhibitry or audio-visual or other media. They know their craft and they know how to deal effectively

with those with whom they contract. Generally, HFC does not build exhibits or print booklets; they *plan* the project, *design* the work, *contract* it out, and walk it through all the steps to completion. Top contractors charge top prices for quality, and quality is what the Park Service is after.

"Takes too long!"

Most delays are due to inadequate funds and priority shifts, two items which are related and often uncontrollable. If Congress appropriates special funds for a one-year period to fix up a park's media program, then HFC is asked to crank these additional programs into the schedule and insure their completion within the year. To do this, existing projects must be put aside and delayed. In other situations, political pressures may force HFC to jump a project ahead, thus taking funds away from an earlier priority and forcing a setback in its timetable. The region sets project priorities with HFC, but politics and events like Gramm-Rudman upset those priorities. So, yes, there are delays, but not because of indifference, laziness or whimsy. All priorities

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are tentative, and the folks at HFC hate this uncertainty as much as anyone else does.

"It's not what I expected!"

In any media production, the park, HFC, and the region work as a team. The park superintendent or chief interpreter is usually on the planning team for the interpretive prospectus, and they are asked to review every rough draft or proposed change as the plan unfolds. HFC is very concerned that a park gets the exhibits,

waysides, handbook, or other media product which meets their needs. If parks review each step critically and openly express their concerns, they usually find HFC an excellent listener. HFC needs this feedback to keep the effort on target. Parks that work the closest with HFC usually express the greatest satisfaction with the final product.

True, the individuals at Harpers Ferry Center do not work with visitors everyday; that is not their job. They are interpretive media specialists, dedicated to providing quality interpretive assistance

to parks. They know their specialty; you know your park and visitors. Only by working closely with each other does the miracle of Interpretation happen.

Editor's Note: This article is one of a series written by Tom and Circulated to interpreters in the Midwest Region under the label "Sharing."

Wilderness Workskills in Yellowstone: a cooperative venture

Yellowstone National Park first hosted Student Conservation Association (SCA) programs in the mid-1970s, fully 100 years after its birth as our first national park. In 1975, Superintendent John Townsley advised SCA Executive Director Harry Francis to proceed slowly and cautiously with the new program, and success would be assured. Heeding this advice, the SCA presence in Yellowstone slowly expanded and made inroads over the next few years.

First came a few resource assistants, who helped with backcountry office and other visitor contact duties. Then a few began assuming backcountry responsibilities and moved into working on some of the park's 500 miles of trails and innumerable campsites. By 1980, there were 10 resource assistants working parkwide, and SCA had completed three seasons operating the park's YCC program. The following year, two SCA high school work groups arrived to undertake trail reconstruction and maintenance projects in the park's backcountry. If SCA had ended its tenure in Yellowstone at that time, the results of its work would have been testimony to the high value of the program. However, SCA was just beginning.

In nearly 30 years of operating its High School Work Group Program, the SCA has come to embody many of the traditional work skills long associated with Park and Forest Service trail crews. Many SCA groups have had the rare fortune of working with and learning from old time Park and Forest Service hands now in their twilight years. Everette H. (Buck) McKinney of North Cascades National Park was a favorite of many work groups over the years. Buck could reputedly roll cigarettes so fast that to this day it is not known if any human ever actually saw him in the act. Master builder, packer, craftsman, ski instructor and sworn enemy of pack rats, he had

accumulated a lifetime of invaluable backcountry wisdom and knowledge during a full career with both the Park and Forest Service. Buck McKinney was a rare jewel, a master storyteller and educator who shared freely of his wit and wisdom and whose voice, even after his death, still rings in many folks' ears: "If you're talkin', you ain't learnin'!"

Under the leadership of Carroll Vogel, SCA Northwest representative and skilled far-sighted manager, plans developed last year for an ambitious cooperative training venture at Yellowstone. The objective, of the first Wilderness Work Skills Program was to create a training forum where students could learn and share contemporary thought, traditional skills, and appropriate technology for backcountry management. Vanishing skills were to be revived, placed in the context of contemporary management philosophy, and passed on alive and viable to succeeding generations of wilderness stewards. Week-long training experiences involved participants in daily hands-on field work as well as evening programs and workshops. With the arrival of the first group of 24 students, work commenced on Yellowstone Tower Fall Trail.

Tower Fall Trail, located in the northern part of the park, had become a textbook example of a trail with everything possible wrong with it. Only 2,500 feet long, the trail switchbacked to the base of a popular as well as spectacular waterfall. The trail descends 300 feet through dirt, sagebrush, and scrub lodgepole habitat. Years of constant visitation had created social trails, short-cuts, and erosion, enough to discourage any but the most ambitious of reconstruction efforts. Worse, and increasingly serious, was the safety hazard from loose rocks, unstable tread, and uncontrolled cutting of switchbacks. In 1983, within a period of a few weeks, 9 people were carried up from the



Tower Fall trail after trail work

trail with broken or severely sprained ankles, and one with a broken tibia. Recognizing that a comprehensive solution to the impact problems at Tower Fall Trail required a large work force and development of an effective management plan, planners made this a focus of the Wilderness Work Skills Program.

Over the course of various summer sessions, participants constructed impressive stone walls, timber cribs, and an elaborate native material observation platform at trail's end. They built crib steps and rock-lined ditches. They surfaced many feet of trail with gravel, installed countless water bars, and revegetated several acres worth of seriously impacted and denuded soil. They completed a trail and revegetation survey of the project and established

guidelines for a visitor education/awareness program to be implemented following completion of the reconstruction effort. In the final analysis, conservative estimates establish the real contribution to the park in the neighborhood of \$50,000, a figure representing the cost to the agency had the work been contracted or performed by NPS personnel. Actual direct expenses incurred by the

park in support of the training program were approximately 10% of this figure. Of course, the benefits reached beyond the boundaries of Yellowstone, with course participants taking back skills to their land management areas nationwide.

The Wilderness Work Skills Program undoubtedly has a bright future. Plans have been finalized for a June course this year to complete work on Tower Fall

Trail, as well as other trails in Yellowstone. With continued exposure of backcountry and resource managers to disappearing backcountry skills, neglected and ailing trail systems can be given the attention and skilled maintenance they need. What better way is there "to quit talkin' and start learnin.'"

—Caroll Vogel
Tony Sisto

Denying the waves: restoration saves Canaveral dunes

Brian Carey
Park Ranger
Canaveral National Seashore

Christmas arrived early this year at Canaveral National Seashore. At least the Christmas trees did . . . along with a dozen Boy Scout volunteers from Troop 277 of Ponte Verda Beach who helped place the trees along damaged areas of the dunes at the north end of the park.

Instead of tinsel and popcorn, the trees will help collect sand carried by the winds off the beach, thus filling in paths eroded by foot traffic through the dunes. Although pedestrian use of the dunes is not allowed at Canaveral, the lure of the unknown and the urge to explore are too strong for some visitors. The Christmas trees will not only encourage the deposition of sand on the paths, but also discourage the curious, thereby allowing the regrowth of native vegetation.

Scouts participating in the erosion-stopping project for the first time will earn a SOAR (Save Our American Resources) patch. Those who have assisted in similar programs in North

Florida, where four scout troops have placed nearly 35,000 trees along dunes, will receive a curved rocker similar to a military chevron patch.

Dr. Jim Allen, a coastal geomorphologist with the North Atlantic Regional Office, considers Canaveral's dunes the most unique dune zone on the eastern seaboard. In contrast to the shifting sands of the outer banks of Cape Cod, the Canaveral dunes are relatively stable, held in place by thick growths of saw palmetto and sea oats. The intertwining roots and stems of these plants anchor the dunes in all but the most violent weather, thereby protecting the barrier island of which the national seashore is a part.

A system of wooden boardwalks leading from the parking lots to the beach has also been completed, in order to provide further protection for the fragile dune vegetation. Because of damage caused by a Thanksgiving Day storm two years ago, a specialized carpentry crew was required to replace sections of existing boardwalks which took an unexpected trip out to sea. The crew has also

added new boardwalks at both the Playalinda and Apollo districts of the park, and several of these incorporate benches and overlooks for a relaxing view of the beach. Going to the beach for fishing, surfing, swimming or other recreational pursuits has become "a breeze," and two fully accessible boardwalks also provide access for the park's disabled visitors.

Is protection of the dunes complete? As long as Canaveral has visitors, there will be human impact on the dune zone. But projects such as the one initiated by the Boy Scouts go a long way towards repairing human damage and increasing public awareness. A combination of dune protection messages delivered through interpretive programs, signs and brochures, along with "first aid" measures such as sand fencing emplacement and revegetation, are all crucial to the maintenance of a healthy dune system. A teamwork approach like this is the only way to guarantee that the dunes at Canaveral will be in better shape next Christmas.



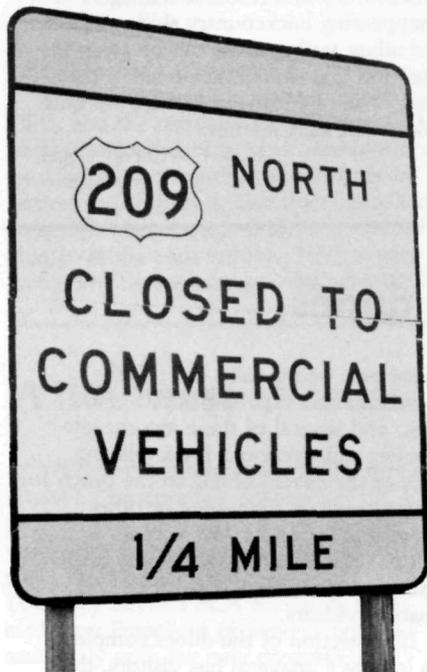
Boy Scout anchors Christmas tree to a stake to help collect sand in a damaged area



Sand fencing and signs discourage foot traffic

From truck route to tour road:

a success story for Delaware Water Gap



Arthur Miller
Public Affairs Officer, MARO

Until 1983, no park area of the National Park System had a more critical road safety problem than Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. It was the recreation area's bad luck to lie between two major east-west interstate highways—Interstate 80 that heads east toward New York City and Interstate 84 that carries traffic to New England.

Route 209 is a two-lane secondary road that runs north and south through the recreation area, providing a natural link between two busy interstates. Naturally, it attracted a huge number of long-haul trucks.

Concerns about the traffic on 209 date back to 1965, the year the national recreation area was authorized. By 1983, the truck problem had become staggering. An unbelievable 2,000 trucks, large and small, rumbled each day down 209 at the 55-mile-an-hour speed limit or above.

A typical passenger car, sandwiched between two big rigs on a rainy night, had to turn its windshield wipers to high speed just so the driver could see the road ahead. A visitor searching for a turn-off to one of the park's attractions had to keep one eye on park direction signs and the other on the 18-wheeler bearing down on him from behind. The truckers themselves called 209 the "Ho Chi Minh Trail," comparing it to the road through the Vietnam battle zone.

The results were tragic. No less than 106 accident-related deaths were recorded on Route 209 from 1966 to 1980. The accident rate was an insurance agent's nightmare. Trailer rigs overturned in the front yards of homes. Untold wildlife was killed by trucks unable to avoid the white-tailed deer and other animals that populate the recreation area.

Superintendent Amos Hawkins and the National Park Service found themselves in an awkward position. Route 209 provided the primary visitor access to the recreation area, yet Pennsylvania exercised responsibility for the traffic on the state road.

Concerned citizens like Warner DePuy, a banker in Milford, Pennsylvania, and a former Pike County commissioner and Pennsylvania Commissioner of Revenue, dramatized the extreme traffic hazards of the road and petitioned the state to give the portion of the roadway within the recreation area to the National Park Service. The Service then could use its federal authority to prohibit commercial traffic on a road meant for park visitors, he reasoned.

In October 1980, the Pennsylvania legislature authorized a transfer of the deed for that section of Route 209 to the Park Service. The Mid-Atlantic Regional Office immediately set in motion the regulatory procedures required to prohibit heavy commercial traffic. A draft environmental impact statement was presented to the public in April 1982. At public meetings, the Park Service got an earful of opinions, pro and con, from environmentalists, health and safety experts, local officials, businessmen, and truckers. The trucking companies reacted strongly, threatening to close terminals, lay off workers, and increase hauling rates.

Finally, in November 1982, MARO issued its final EIS and Regional Director Jim Coleman announced his decision to halt commercial traffic through the recreation area.

Congressional legislation later supported this decision, but allowed certain commercial vehicles to continue to use 209 to go to nearby counties in Pennsylvania and New York, or to make local deliveries near the recreation area. The legislation established fees for the commercial vehicles allowed through, provided that the fees would be returned to the recreation area for road management, operation, construction and maintenance, and promised future funding for a bypass highway around the park. It also established a five-member Route 209 Commission to monitor the effect of traffic limitation on the trucking companies, nearby counties, and recreation area visitors.

On August 1, 1983, Park Service rangers stopped their first truck. Signs were erected on major interstates approaching Delaware Water Gap to warn truckers they might not be able to traverse the park area. Contact stations were built at the north and south entrances with paved turn-arounds to allow trucks to turn back. The speed limit was reduced to 45 miles per hour, signs posted, and ranger patrols stepped up. Rangers and dispatchers were added to the staff, providing 24-hour patrol and dispatcher operations.

Today rangers on duty at the cleverly designed contact stations check the manifest of each commercial driver to see where he's going. If authorized to pass through, the driver pays a fee of up to \$7, based on the number of axles on his rig. If not authorized, he is turned back



Traffic jam on Route 209 prior to transformation of the route

and told of alternative routes. Rangers strictly enforce the speed limit; they handed out 2,930 citations in 1985.

"We haven't eliminated all the commercial traffic from Route 209," says Amos Hawkins, "but we have seen the number decrease to an average of 430 a day. More important, we have made the road safe for our park visitors."

Both the visitors and the residents of Milford and other nearby communities are delighted. "Business is better and people can cross the street safely and sleep at night," says Depuy, recalling how a close friend was killed after a day's fishing when a truck collided with his car.

"It was a 15-year battle but we won," he smiles. "Now we've got our town back!"

Ranger Keith Kelly checks the manifest for a truckers destination at the northern contact station for Route 209



Tracking Radon Daughters

In addition to tracking moose, bears, migrating birds, and the Hawaiian goat, NPS specialists are also concerned with tracking unseen particles in the atmosphere, such as radon daughters, tiny bits of matter that are a by-product of radon gas.

Radon, which occurs naturally in the earth, is especially prevalent in areas containing uranium. When radon gas undergoes a change in composition (such as disintegration), it produces radon daughters, which are microscopic particles.

Radon has been present in the world for a long, long time, but it began to creep into our consciousness only with the energy crisis of the past decade. The energy crisis created an awareness of the need to make buildings air tight and fully weatherproofed, both to conserve natural resources and to reduce heating and cooling costs. Snug houses proved to be a logical response to energy conservation. But sealed structures could also trap unwanted elements, such as radon, if not adequately ventilated.

Radon is unwanted because, with continued exposure, susceptibility to lung cancers and other diseases increase. In the atmosphere, radon is diluted to harmless levels; in confined areas, or areas of low ventilation, its concentration can pose long-range health problems. The NPS, concerned with the health and safety of its park visitors and employees, as well as with the need for energy efficiency, wants

all employees to be aware of these potential problems.

Retrofitting to improve energy efficiency is a major part of the NPS energy conservation program, notes John Duran, Servicewide Energy Coordinator. "Over the past six years, the NPS energy program has tried to make buildings as energy efficient as possible," he explains, "but in some areas of the country, we have to be careful not to seal the buildings so tightly, without ventilation, that we cause a concentration of unwanted elements."

"The Service has been aware of the nationwide radon problem since it first surfaced a few years ago," he added. "The possibility of radon collecting in well-sealed buildings is something we should all be aware of in our safety and energy programs."

Because of naturally occurring uranium, or uranium mining by-products, several areas of the nation are considered a prime radon concern. These include Grand Junction, Colorado; Fargo, North Dakota; and eastern Pennsylvania.

For health and safety purposes, the NPS has for a decade conducted a monitoring program for caves within its jurisdiction. In addition, inspection and monitoring of residential and park structures in some areas is already occurring, according to Connie Kurtz, WASO industrial hygienist. Structural alterations and ventilation retrofitting are recommended when readings indicate that high

radon daughter build-up has occurred. Access and worker exposure on these Federal sites can be controlled and regulated, but with private homes, the situation is quite different.

It is estimated that indoor air pollution by radon exists in some one million homes throughout the country. It can be monitored and measured by simple reactive devices, and can be ameliorated by proper venting of building spaces.

The presence of radon in a building can be tested using a simple detection kit available from Bernard Cohen, Department of Physics, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 15260. The cost is \$12.00, which includes postage. Order by check, payable to the University of Pittsburgh. Allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.

The kit is a charcoal-filled container with a tape over an air hole. To use, remove the tape, expose the container for one week, and return with an enclosed questionnaire. Test results will be mailed to you. To answer any further questions, the university recommends contacting the public health authority in your state.

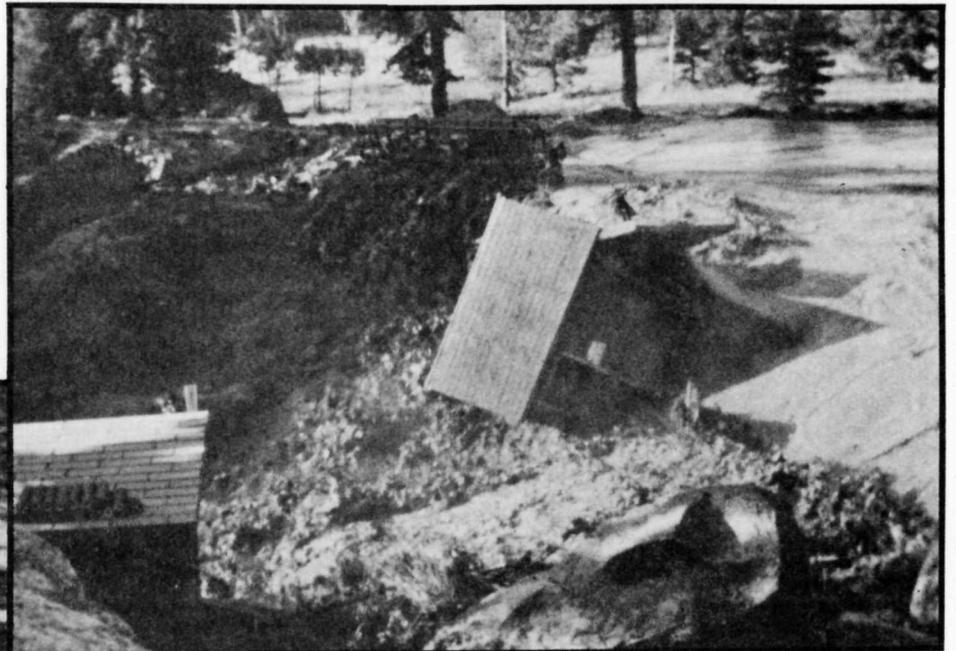
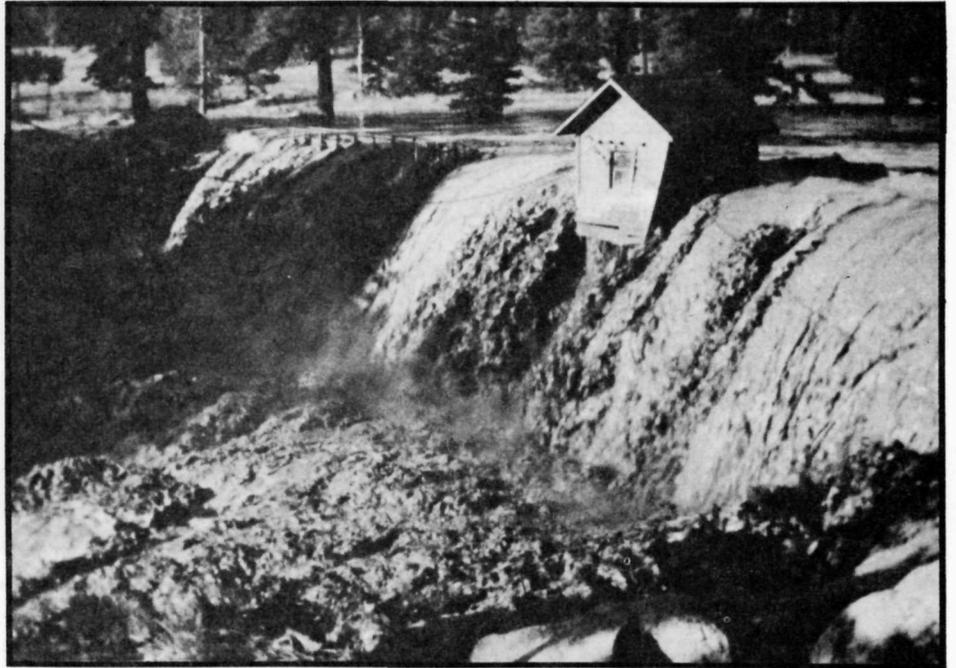
Dam Problems? Call Charles Karpowicz!

Along with flora, fauna, natural wonders, and spectacular scenery, a large number of dams figure in the landscape of the National Park System and related areas. Dams, some 389 of them, range in size from the relatively small Blow-Me-Down Dam at Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site, New Hampshire, to the vast Hoover Dam at Lake Mead National Recreation Area, Arizona-Nevada.

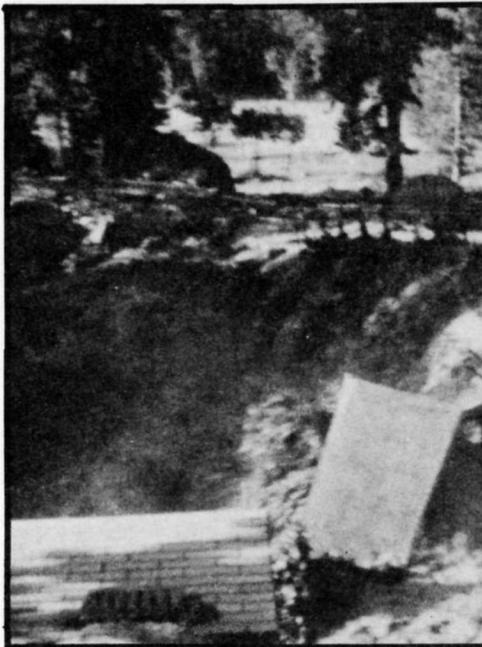
Routine surveillance and maintenance of dams is necessary to protect life, property, and natural resources. Many dams outside park boundaries are also monitored, since their failure or misoperation can impact downstream parks. Compilation of the National Park Service (NPS) inventory of dams is carried out by Charles Karpowicz, a registered civil engineer who has been with the program since it started in 1980. Dams are being added constantly to the inventory because of property acquisition or new surveys.

"Our mandate is to work with park managers and other dam owners to ensure that maintenance standards and inspections are properly observed," Karpowicz explains. "The key to the program's success is the on-site evaluation of the dam and prompt corrective action."

The program is a complex one, since only 263 of the dams are under the direct control of the NPS. For the other 126, close coordination is performed by park personnel with owners in order to assure the protection of the parks.



Cascade Lake dam failure



A critical aspect in this protection is the development of NPS Emergency Action Plans (EAPs) for dams that present significant hazard potential to the National Park System and related areas. These provide for early warning and evacuation of people from park areas that could be affected by dam failure or misoperation.

After several dam failures in the 1970s, with loss of life and extensive damage, Federal laws were enacted that called for all Federal land managing agen-

cies to have coordinators for oversight and management of dams under their responsibility, and monitor non-Federal dams affecting them.

Karpowicz, whose program is formally known as "Maintenance, Operations, and Safety of Dams (MOSD)," points out that the NPS management guideline, NPS-40, *Dams and Appurtenant Works*, issued in February 1983, is the basic

document dealing with responsibilities and procedures for the successful management of any dam. That guideline, together with training sessions in the field, and a system of periodic reporting, have served to heighten awareness within the NPS to the importance of routine surveillance and maintenance of dams before they become threatening to life, property, or natural resources.

The potential destructive power of stored water, which can spread havoc for many miles downstream, needs to be continually monitored in order that future devastation be avoided. The NPS MOSD program provides an important dimension of safety for park visitors and natural resources where one did not exist before.

World War II destroyer second home for veterans

A World War II destroyer berthed adjacent to the historic *USS Constitution* in Boston Harbor has become a second home for a group of former "tin can" sailors who regularly give up their weekends to maintain the ship and exchange memories.

USS Cassin Young joined the Constitution in 1979 as part of a permanent naval exhibit at Boston National Historical Park.

"Cassin Young is the one love affair I have had except for my wife," says a member of the Cassin Young Association, a group incorporated in 1980 to help maintain the aging ship and improve public understanding of its role in Naval history.

Named for a Naval officer who received the Congressional Medal of Honor for his heroism during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, *Cassin Young* was the last U.S. Navy ship to suffer a Kamikaze attack during the final days of World War II. The destroyer went on to serve in the Korean War prior to decommissioning some 30 years ago, when it was put into "mothballs" at the Philadelphia Navy Yard.

The ship was moved to its current home because Boston area residents wanted a ship that was an example of those built at Boston's Charlestown Navy Yard during World War II for display near the Constitution. But *Cassin Young* needed special attention when it first arrived in Charlestown.

"It really made you feel bad for the ship," said the National Park Service's Al Phelps, who selected the destroyer from the collection of mothballed Navy ships in Philadelphia. "It looked so bad, all rust and peeling paint."

Thanks to the Cassin Young Association and the National Park Service, the ship underwent major refurbishing and has been well maintained since its move. A visiting Navy Admiral recently observed that *Cassin Young* looked good enough to sail.

The Cassin Young Association got its start when former crew member Sumner Wheeler of Newton, MA read about the ship's arrival in Boston. Although Wheeler's request to "come aboard" was rejected because the Park Service estimated it would take one to three years to make the destroyer sufficiently shipshape for visitors, his enthusiasm about the ship was undeterred. He and former crew member Dave O'Connell of Winthrop, MA met with the Park Service, formed the Association, and while *Cassin Young* was still in dry dock, decided to hold a reunion, using names obtained from the Navy as well as children and relatives of former crew members.

This research continued while the National Park Service reactivated electrical and ventilation systems, and collected and installed missing items ranging from bunk frames and mattresses to 40 mm gun mounts, torpedoes, depth charges, life rafts and a wooden 26-foot motor whaleboat.

The Association has played an important role in maintaining the ship ever since. Other organizations also have volunteered their help. The Sea Cadets, Reserve Naval Mobile Construction Battalion "Seabees", the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve, the Navy League of the United States—and even Army reservists—have all pitched in to keep *Cassin Young* looking good for thousands of people who tour the ship each year.

The Association is not restricted to former crew members. Tom Hayes, a heating specialist from Newton (MA) joined because of his hobby as a boater. At 36, he is far too young to have served in either World War II or Korea, but he has an interest in Naval history and a personal interest in *Cassin Young* because his father once served on a Navy destroyer.

Some of the former crew members brought together by the Association had not seen each other since the end of World War II. Others have stayed in contact through the years. But it was the "rebirth" of their ship that really brought the sailors together.

"The ship was an extension of ourselves," remembered Paul M. Jones, who served as *Cassin Young's* Executive Officer during World War II.

Moored alongside the historic "Old Ironsides," the three-masted frigate built in 1797, *Cassin Young* stands as a tribute to its heroic namesake, its dedicated crew, and its valuable service in time of war.

"In appearances, the two ships are totally different," according to a booklet written about *Cassin Young*.

"But they share a heritage of mission and duty that goes further across time than the century and a half that elapsed between their building dates."



The Director's Report

By William Penn Mott, Jr.

Litter; Safety at Work;
National Park Women
and Other Spouses:

Reducing the first, increasing the second
and thanking the third

This month I have three topics I want to address, all of them based on recent experiences of my own in meeting with National Park Service staff in the field.

Like many of you, I am saddened at the volume of litter that finds its way into parks and historic places and buildings throughout the National Park System. I am told that we spend upwards of \$15 million a year picking up and disposing of litter. Uncontained trash. Some people call it "night mail." By any name, it is a mess of junk largely thoughtlessly discarded by a public who would be shocked to know how much their unthinking acts cost and what good things could have been done with the money.

I have a theory. My theory is that people think about different places differently when it comes to litter. People do not litter in church, or in funeral parlors, or at art galleries. Why? Because in some obscure corner of the brain is a special circuit labeled "Special Place—Do Not Litter!" And, sure enough, people don't.

So, how do we implant the world of parks in that "Special place?" Or, perhaps, more pointedly, how do we get across to the public that parks and historic sites are "special places" that should be treated with the same measure of respect and feeling as other "special places" at which littering would be unheard of?

I am not sure I know how to do that; I just know we need to do it. We need to set a letter-perfect example ourselves. If you see litter, pick it up. If you see someone litter, say something to them. Remind people at the entrance gate: "Please don't litter—we need your help in keeping this special place special."

We need to change a lot of people's attitudes in a positive way. We need to do it every day with every visitor all the time. Relax, and the old ways come back, *unless* and *until* the attitudes change and others recognize the special place the parks occupy. If we can energize that special circuit in the brain. . . . Do it!

And there is another part of the brain we need to activate—in this case our own. The cell labeled "Work Safely!"

Do you know that the National Park Service has the worst safety record of any bureau in the Department of the Interior? And it's getting worse. Accidents and personal injuries cost NPS over \$8 million last year. And a surprisingly large amount of it was in the office, not out at hazardous work sites in the boondocks.

Safety is something you have to be nagged about. Every day it has to be something you think about. Something you never take for granted. It is everybody's business all the time.

Too often safety training is regarded as old hat—something we "knew all along." Well, that's mostly true, because safe working practices are in large part just common sense. But the thing that safety training does is make us think about the common sense things and about doing them in ways that minimize exposures and risks. Sometimes we violate good safety practices because we're in a hurry or because we want to get something over and done in order to get onto something easier or more pleasant. It's all human nature. But that's just the time we need to slow down, think, and reflect on the safety considerations relating to the job. There are plenty of risks not worth taking.

Resolve to be more safety conscious every day. Take it seriously. Energize the safety circuit in the brain. It pays. And it can save a lot of pain and inconvenience.

And stimulate that sense of safety consciousness in those we serve. Hit the *safety circuit* and the *special places circuit* in the same message.

And, finally, and at the risk of having someone cry "chauvinist," I want to offer a special "thanks" to the women and other spouses of the National Park Service for the incredible, sustained, dedicated, valued, contributions they make to the quality of worklife in the National Park System. They put up with the inconveniences of life that sometimes exist in a remote environment, and with living circumstances that are (to understate reality) not the best. They make countless sacrifices and provide countless support, that contribute to the quality of the National Park System in ways often as tangible as those contributed by any employee, for which they receive no pay and far too little gratitude.

If public service employees fail to receive adequate appreciation for their good works on behalf of the programs and resources they care for—wives and other spouses have suffered doubly, because they do not even have the benefit of pay.

I have seen it everywhere I go. And for it, please accept my thanks and appreciation, for now and for the future.

"Fur traders" really get into the act

Frederic Smith

You could call it method acting. When the folks up at the Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site put on a show for the tourists, they go that extra mile to get in character.

It is thus with their re-creation Saturday and Sunday of an 1800 parley between white traders and Hidatsa Indians. Like the buffalo meat served up to guests, this year's renewal of Fur Trade Days had been cooking since 24 hours before, with the participants clad in period dress, living in tepees and otherwise getting with the program.

"It really does help get you in the right frame of mind," said buckskin-clad Tim McLaughlin of Minot, one of the friends of Knife River who threw in with National Park Service employees to stage the affair. "It also gives us a chance to visit real intensively and swap what we know."

Another volunteer was Kent Bakken, age 16, of Stanton, for whom this year's event represented a promotion. "Last year, I helped park the cars. This year, they let me be an Indian."

They also let Kent sit up all night minding the pit fire that cooked the meat.

Even before an American fur trader named Manuel Lisa built the first post in their neighborhood in 1807, the Hidatsas were used to having a white trader in residence, usually a French Canadian, representing the Montreal-based Northwest Company, who lived like an Indian and had an Indian wife. Over the winter, he would trade his store of blankets, trinkets, guns and metal tools for buffalo hides and furs. In the spring, his superior would come down from the north with an expedition to relieve him of his haul and outfit him with trade goods for the next year.

This spring rite was the subject of the weekend reenactment. Park Ranger Bill Haviland, standing in for the fur trader's superior, came rowing down the Knife River in a canoe, and it was easy to imagine the excitement of Tim McLaughlin, the resident trader, as he walked down the bank with a lot of curious Indians to see his first countryman in perhaps a year.

"How is everything in Montreal?" he wanted to know.

"Very well, very well, Did you have a good trade?"

Haviland stepped out of character only long enough to remind his wife, who was in the canoe with their baby, "Grab that radio, will you?"

In a pretty clearing in the woods below the Big Hidatsa Village, Haviland and McLaughlin settled accounts and dickered with the Indians over the prices that would prevail in the coming season. It was a good show, followed by a demonstration by McLaughlin of how the voyageurs, or traders, would start a fire.

A kid could do it, and a kid did it—first try igniting a small cloth with the spark made by striking steel against flint. The cloth is applied to a handful of dry grass, and with a little blowing, you are in business.

Supper was not the least of the entertainment. Knife River Villages Seasonal Interpreter Erik Holland served up the buffalo meat, whose authentic preparation he had also superintended. We ate it with our fingers, sitting on the ground: *sacre bleu*, how it in your mouth melted! It was also hard to argue with the two kinds of fry bread, which were not only delicious but made by two of the Indian women in attendance, Lois Rosario of Mandaree and Rosalind McHugh of Mandan.

Holland would like to improve on the size of the crowds at Knife River—about 25 for Saturday's program—but is proud that people tend to come back once they have been exposed to its historical treasures and charm.

McHugh, for whom this was the fourth visit, comes by her interest naturally. She is three-quarters Hidatsa and one-quarter Mandan. "I passed up two powwows to come here today," she said. It gives her pleasure to walk over the ground trod by her ancestors, to explore the old garden plots they tended down by the river.

Of her fry bread she is modest, saying, "I can't tell you how I make it—I don't have any recipe that I follow—but I'll be happy to show you." Still, she has made sure all her children have received instructions in it, including two boys, "just in case they grow up to be bachelors and have to cook for themselves."

For Mayme Grannis of Stanton, another repeater, Knife River used to be home, the visitors' center occupying the house she and her late husband lived in for 47 years. They kept a watchful eye on the Big Hidatsa site before the government took over, refusing offers of considerable money by people who wanted to dig it up for its artifacts.

"We weren't about to let them do that," she said. "Our Indians were unique, you know, and all kinds of famous people like Lewis and Clark visited there. This place is special."

Indeed it is.

BISMARCK TRIBUNE
Bismarck, ND

National Park Service VIPs

Dorothy-Anne Flor

Although there are many essential tasks for maintaining parks and wildlife areas, they are jobs for which there is no budget. Fortunately, each year Americans donate thousands of hours in the National Park Service's Volunteers in Parks program.

While friends and family back home in Hastings, MI, stand in their kitchens warming themselves in the steam of their morning coffee and cursing the need to use their snow shovels, Don and Marj Fuller rise to bird songs and the pattern of green leaves in silhouette against the sky. After breakfast in their recreational vehicle, parked in a campground at Everglades National Park near Homestead, the Fullers climb on their bikes and pedal about eight miles deeper into the park to go to work.

Don, 50, a retired Michigan state trooper, paints signs, mends boardwalks and does other maintenance chores. Marj, 45, a former secretary for General Motors, compiles oral histories of the park, works at the Visitor's Center and helps catalog material for park museum exhibits.

Except for free parking space for their RV in return for serving as campground hosts, the Fullers receive no pay for their hard work.

For five months each year, they are part of a quietly growing number of people (28,000 in 1984) who are donating their time and skills to the National Park Service's Volunteers in Parks (VIP) program.

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Each year retirees, students and footloose youths—Americans ages 18 to 80—donate thousands of hours of work to the 337 national park areas in the United States. "National park area" is an umbrella term that covers traditional parks, national monuments, historic sites, seashores and recreational areas.

"We estimate the value of the work these people did just in 1984 at \$8.5 million," said Roy Graybill, visitor services specialist and program manager for the national VIP program. "This figure is based on the amount we would have had to spend if we had hired people to do this work."

Hiring people is out of the question.

"There's no way the federal government could hire people to do all this work, no way that it can by itself protect all the land entrusted to its care," said Priscilla Baker, special assistant to the director for tourism at the National Park Service, Washington, D.C. "The work to be done requires huge numbers of people and we need help. Volunteers are doing essential jobs for which there is no budget."

Money is always a problem. People assume that parks make some money from campsite reservations and entrance fees, said Graybill. In fact, while most parks keep their campsite fees, the larger sums generated from entrance fees goes straight into the general treasury of the United States. "Money to support each national park area comes from the United States Congress. We request, they decide," he said. "And, the amounts allocated depend neither on the size of the park nor the size of the bears that might live in it."

How to sign up

"A large number of our volunteers throughout the country are retired people with skills to share but who don't want permanent or full-time jobs. Some work in parks near where they live," said Baker. "Others are owners of recreational vehicles who want to travel, but also want to either keep costs down or just do something useful along the way. These people call ahead to park officials in the park in which they want to make their skills known and ask for a volunteer job. In a few cases there will be enough money to pay for some subsistence or to reimburse transportation expenses from where you are staying to where park officials want you to work. In most cases, however, you will be paid nothing."

So it is with Florida's Everglades National Park, almost 1.5 million acres of land and water on the southwest tip of the Florida mainland that draws about 700,000 visitors annually, mostly during winter months. "Last year about 85 individuals of all ages and both sexes offered their services to this park," said Pat Tolle, VIP coordinator for public affairs. With the exception of a few who, like the Fullers, served as park hosts in the campgrounds in return for space for their own recreational vehicles, they worked without wages and provided their own board and room outside the park."

Deductible possibilities

Some of the activities connected with the volunteer work may be deductible from federal income tax.

Jeanne Palmer, Jacksonville District Office of the Internal Revenue Service, says volunteers are permitted to deduct 12 cents per mile for transportation from home to the place where they are assigned to give service. "Also, if you stay overnight while providing services you can deduct reasonable payments for meals and lodging. But, you cannot deduct the value of your time or services," she says.

Because the IRS operates under so many categories, Palmer was not able to say definitely that the federal park system came under the designation "charitable organization." However, Frank Sanders, staff member of the district office of H&R Block, tax return preparers, says that if a person who volunteered time to the U.S. park system were to appear before him, he would ignore the qualifier "charitable" and offer the deductions as outlined above. To be safe, volunteers should probably apply individually to IRS for guidance at the end of the work year.

The work varies

Each national park volunteer does what he is best qualified for. Some keep records, some clean trails, paint, repair, plant trees and post signs that identify trees and flowers. Others do research on wildlife studies sponsored by the park system, a job which can take from three to four years. Still others catalog picture collections and preserve insects and other specimens.

"The fact is when people show up with a special skill, like speciality photographers, artists or botanists, we will develop a job description and set this person to work," said Susan Paishon, VIP coordinator. "There are always jobs waiting to be done." Probably more people would turn up to help if they knew they were needed. For example, the Fullers found their way into the National Park Service by accident.

Two years ago, while driving home to Michigan after their annual visit with Marj's parents in La Belle, they decided that Don, eligible for full retirement from the Michigan State Police after 27 years of service, should retire immediately. And, because their three children were grown, they concluded that Marj should leave her secretarial job at General Motors so they could do things together.

They bought a van and a 29-foot trailer and, in 1984, set out on a 10-state trip designed to help them decide where they might want to settle permanently. "We learned about the VIP program at the National Park Service Visitor's Center at Skagway, Alaska," she said. As a result, in January 1985, while visiting Everglades National Park, they applied ahead of time to join the volunteer program during the winter of 1985-86.

"Park officials didn't want to wait until winter. It turned out they needed both of us right away," she said. "I went to work immediately as a secretary to the park superintendent and Don worked in the maintenance division. Since then, I have turned down several offers to work in the private sector because we found that both of us liked this sort of arrangement. One of the nice things about this kind of work is that you get a sort of community feeling. People engaged in it seem to move around and once you get to know someone, you feel you will see each other again. We have met several rangers at different parks who have turned up down here. Now we have a five-year plan—five months here and the rest of each year split between our home in Michigan and travel."

Directory lists jobs

While the Fullers seem to have found a winter home at Everglades National Park, potential volunteers who would prefer work in another park of the United States will find it helpful to send for *Helping Out in the Outdoors*, a directory published in February and August each year by Louise Marshall, founder of the 20-year-old Washington Trails Association, a non-profit organization focused on hikers. Six years ago Marshall started the directory to bring together hikers who found trails that needed maintenance and agencies that could help with repair.

Today the directory lists a wide variety of volunteer opportunities in state and national parks and forests throughout the United States. In addition to requests for campground hosts—jobs usually filled by retired people who can stay weeks or months in one place—there is a need for cartographers, computer technicians, commercial artists, librarians and landscapers. Less skilled work includes trail maintenance, tree planting, painting, road survey, collecting acorns for reforestation or assistance to professional foresters in examining and determining the size of trees and need for fertilizing.

Specific opportunities listed in the current directory include a request for a lighthouse keeper in Hiawatha National Forest on Lake Superior in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and a need for people to man forest fire lookout posts in several sites in Idaho. "There are different kinds of forest fire lookouts," said Marshall. "Some are in remote areas; others are accessible by road and you have a lot of visitors. Training is provided for this work."

Student programs

In addition, the directory offers information about volunteer positions for high school and college students through the nationwide Student Conservation Association (SCA), a non-profit education group. This organization offers summer programs in more than 250 areas throughout the country, including Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming, Assateague Island National Seashore in Maryland, Royal Gorge Resource Area in Colorado and Maine's Appalachian Trail.

Among other things, students are invited to apply to assist conservation professionals in trail construction, in botanical research or to learn about wildlife management with organizations like the U.S. Forest Service in Utah or Washington's State Department of Game.

The SCA currently is accepting applications for its 1986 program from students between the ages of 16 and 18. Send a postcard requesting a program listing and an application to the Student Conservation Association, Box 550H, Charleston, N.H. 03603. People 18 years old and older should follow the same instructions but send requests to Box 550C. Application deadline is March 1 each year.

To obtain a copy of *Helping Out in the Outdoors*, send \$3 to Washington Trails Association, 16812 36th Ave., West Lynnwood, Washington, 98037.

"All of this kind of volunteer effort is very important to the parks system," Baker said, "And, it's great for retired people, for college students seeking internship credits or in-the-field experience and for clubs and youth groups looking for useful work within their abilities.

"(The office of Tourism for the National Park Service) is now working on plans to launch a major campaign in early 1986 to encourage volunteer help of this kind," she said.

Stay tuned.

*NEWS/SUN-SENTINEL,
Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.*

Park Briefs

WUPATKI, NM, AZ—Professor Shi Xing Bang, Vice President and Director of the Institute of Archeology, Shaanxi Province, Republic of China, visited the park, escorted by Professor Pete Mehringer of Washington State University, and Professor Mel Aikens, University of Oregon. The trio were on a nine day, 3000 mile trip through primary archeological sites of the American Southwest. Professor Shi is director of the area in China which contains the famous tomb of Ch'in Shih Huang Ji, the emperor who built the Great Wall and first unified China. His tomb is notable for a 6000 man army of ceramic soldiers buried along with him.





FORT SCOTT NHS, KS—Established in 1842 by the first regiment of United States dragoons to police the “permanent Indian frontier,” Fort Scott recently received a long-awaited replica 1850 freight wagon. This wagon was built by a small firm in Ohio at a cost of \$12,000. Funds were raised locally during a suc-

cessful gift catalog campaign. Transportation to get the wagon to Fort Scott was also donated by a local trucking firm. Shown assembling the wagon are park rangers Arnold Schofield and Don Wollenhaupt, and maintenance employees Jim Carlton and Mike Younggren.

GRAND CANYON NP, AZ—Park Service employees are many things, including athletes. In this tradition, Park Ranger/ Paramedic Erny Kuncl will be traveling to Trento, Italy, next February as a member of the eight-person U.S. Police Ski Team. Ranger Kuncl recently finished seventh out of 200 entrants in the National Police Ski Championships in Aspen, Colorado. He earned an opportunity to compete in the national finals by finishing second overall in the Giant Slalom and Downhill races in the February California Winter Police Olympics held at Lake Tahoe. Others representing the final team are with the Secret Service and the Los Angeles and University of Colorado Police Departments.

VALLEY FORGE NHP, PA—The National Park Service will soon begin a three-year archeological survey of Valley Forge that may unearth new evidence of the epic encampment of 1777-1778. Through remote-sensing techniques such as magnetometers as well as traditional methods of reconnaissance and careful excavating, a team of archeologists will survey areas never before investigated in the park.

“We expect the survey to identify critical resources, both historic and prehistoric, that we may not be fully aware of,” said Superintendent Wallace B. Elms. “Once we identify these important sites we can then act to protect them and interpret them for our visitors.”

Among the top-priority areas to be investigated are 400 acres north of the Schuylkill River, part of which has been recently purchased. Archeologists have a head start on the job, however. In 1984, the Philadelphia Electric Company contracted to do an archeological investigation along the right-of-way of a power line running through a portion of the park. The resulting information has since been turned over to the Park Service.

JEAN LAFITTE NHP, LA—A generous donation of \$10,000 was presented to Jean Laffitte NHP by Shell Companies Foundation in order to update and publish an ethnographic study of Mississippi delta culture in Louisiana. Shell became interested in the book, because, said company spokesman John Wright “In spite of the difficult financial times, we felt we could contribute in a worthwhile way to a project that would honor and benefit the community within which we have operated and will continue to operate in the future.” Shell has had a Louisiana presence for more than 50 years.



Ecology Village lean-to

GATEWAY NRA, NY—In ribbon-cutting ceremonies at Floyd Bennett Field, officials of Gateway NRA, the New York Board of Education, and various other civic and service groups officially unveiled three lean-to's which will be used by wheelchair-disabled youngsters at Gateway's Ecology Village program. Ecology Village is a 6-year-old project. It is a major organized tent camping program for New York City school children, that provides overnight camping and education in gardening and the marine ecology. The program attracts approximately 40,000 children annually. Robert W. McIntosh, Jr., Superintendent of Gateway, noted that the learn-to's will enable school groups and organizations from special populations to participate in Ecology Village, and to share with other youngsters the experience of learning about food chains and the diverse marine life of Jamaica Bay.



Spoonbill. (Inset) Park Ranger Kim Coast, Everglades NP

EVERGLADES NP, FL—Off the Tamiami Trail, at the north side of the park on the Shark Valley Loop Road, a wide variety of wildlife inhabits the shallow waterway. Alligators, otters, snakes, turtles and birds (including ibis, anhinga, herons, egrets, and rare wood storks) are native to this watery expanse. Ranger Kim Coast conducted the regularly scheduled tram rides on the loop road this past

season. Her informal presentations included information about water management problems. She explained the wet/dry cycle and discussed conservation measures taken by the state and the Park Service to preserve endangered species. Said Kim, "People are very enthusiastic about preserving rare birds and animals. I think people have always been fascinated with genetic diversity, if you explain it to them."



Seminar participants at historic Rock Harbor lighthouse

ISLE ROYALE NP, MI—Want a chance to accomplish academic study while enjoying a national park vacation this summer? Isle Royale National Park, the wilderness island in Lake Superior, has added a week-long course in "Island Folklore" to its popular Field Seminar series, which also includes courses in "Ecology" and "Wilderness Photography." Through class discussions and field trips, participants will learn about Isle Royale folklore flourishing today, as well as the folklore of its past. Contact the park for more details.

NTS, DE—The Hagley Museum and Library's Trail System has become the second national recreation trail in Delaware. Located in the grounds of the 230-acre Hagley Museum near Wilmington, it includes the majority of the sites and structures integral to the 1802-1921 black powder mills of du Pont

de Nemours and Company. Director Mott called the trail system a "welcome addition. . . . It offers uniquely distinguished remains of our nation's past and of a family whose members have shown the highest level of immigrant achievement."

Two Stars of Alaska



Norm Simons

Norm Simons, 33, East District Ranger at Denali National Park, recently competed in the 1986 Iditaski, a 210-mile ski race, reportedly the world's longest. This year, 36 men and 7 women started; 34 finished.

Although there were no mandatory stopping points, eight checkpoints exist where skiers must show officials their required equipment: tent, sleeping bag, stove with fuel, an axe or saw, flares and one day's food. Skiers must be prepared for -40 degree weather, overflow ice, moose blocking the trail, fallen rocks and logs, skiing at night, and skiing for several days with little or no sleep. They must also carry their own gear—Norm's weighed 43 pounds which he carried in a specially designed sled.

Norm started training in September, putting on more than 330 miles before the race. Training also included running, roller skiing, cycling, lifting weights, volleyball, rowing, swimming, and judo. To prepare mentally, Norm did much of his skiing at night. Superintendent Bob Cunningham described Norm as a lean Rocky.

During the race, the weather was very uncooperative. Temperatures hovered around freezing. Norm encountered heavy snow around midnight the first night. The rest of the night he broke trail through six to eight inches of wet snow. For one 18-mile icy stretch, he also encountered 25-30 mph headwinds. Ankle-deep water on top of ice also characterized much of the race. "It was great weather for walruses," Norm said.

Norm tied for 15th place with Tom Petramalo, who said that the Iditaski was much more difficult than the World Iron Man Triathlon in which he placed 18th. Norm completed the race in 67 hours and 11 minutes, which included 3 1/2 hours of sleep.

Why did he race?

"For the challenge. I had never done anything like that before. Knowing that you'll be aching all over, unable to eat, traveling long hours with little or no sleep, and in all kinds of weather mostly by yourself but still completing the race—that is the ultimate challenge to me. To tax the mental as well as the physical. I wanted to see how I'd fare under those conditions. Bob Baker (twice Iditaski winner) told me that the race tells you a lot about yourself. I think it did for me."

Norm hopes to compete in next year's Iditaski, which may be increased to 350 miles.



Ralph Tingey

Ralph Tingey, 42, Management Assistant at Denali National Park, competed in the 3rd Annual Yukon Quest, a 1,000 mile sled dog race between Fairbanks, Alaska and Whitehorse, Yukon Territory. Also racing were two seasonal employees, Bruce Lee, 32, maintenance worker, and Martin Weiner, 28, heavy equipment operator, as well as veteran Quest racer Jeff King, 29.

The Quest, unique in sled dog racing, limits mushers to a maximum of 12 dogs, and permits only three dogs to be dropped due to sickness or injuries. Also mushers must start and finish the race with the same sled. There are six checkpoints. The longest distance between them is 290 miles, and there are three others where distances range between 120 and 190 miles. The Quest stresses care of equipment and dogs, and tests one's camping and wilderness skills in the harsh interior of Alaska. It is intended for those who have the skills, abilities, and spirit of an Alaskan sourdough pioneer.

"This was a family adventure for us," Ralph said. "Sheri (Ralph's wife) did most of the training, packed all the dog food, selected the dogs, made all of my clothing, and met me at every checkpoint with cheering and advice. She was definitely the major factor that allowed me to do the race and complete it." Sheri, along with the wives of the other entrants, not only provided basic support but also made approximately 700 dog booties to protect the dogs' feet from sharp ice and snow in extreme cold.

Racers spent more than two weeks on the trail. Every imaginable type of weather was encountered except warm. With the exception of the first day, temperatures never rose above -20 F! Fresh snowfall made travel slow at times, though Ralph still maintained a pace of 70 miles every 24 hours. Much of the time Ralph traveled at night.

Thirty-nine mushers started the race, but due to injuries, damaged sleds, or sick dogs only 26 finished. Ralph placed 25th.

Will he race again?

"Oh yes," he said "each year we will do a sled dog race. Next year it is Sheri's turn; she did all the work this year. But as a family adventure, I think we'll go skiing in Europe next year instead."

Awards

"Let Lits Live" — award acknowledges tireless preservation effort

Park Ranger Eleanor (Ellie) Gesensway who works as a printer in Independence NHP's Franklin Court Printing Office and Bindery, also works tirelessly during her off duty hours for historic preservation and adaptive reuse of Philadelphia's 19th century buildings. Her efforts have been acknowledged by two awards recently presented: the Ebenezer Maxwell Award on March 25, 1986 and the Foundation for Architecture Civic Award for 1986 on April 30th. Both awards were given in recognition of her lengthy and effective efforts to preserve the Lit Brothers Building, one of Philadelphia's late Victorian landmarks.

The Lit family store which began in 1890 as a dress shop was famous for its slogan "Hats Trimmed Free of Charge" mounted on its corner facade. The building is a complex of a dozen mid—to late—nineteenth century buildings with a unified facade on one of Philadelphia's main business streets. The family sold the business to a company which filed for bankruptcy, making the future of the block size building uncertain despite earlier certification by the Philadelphia Historical Commission and the National Register of Historic Places. Demolition seemed imminent in September 1981 when the "Let Lits Live" coalition was formed. Led by Ellie Gesensway, who later spearheaded the movement to create a new City Preservation Ordinance to help prevent similar situations from occurring, the group fought a rocky four-year battle to remind Philadelphians of the importance of the structure to the cityscape and to save the building for eventual reuse.

In September 1984, the last in a long succession of developers acquired the building and created a viable plan for its rehabilitation. Its major tenant, Mellon Bank, will renovate the building as its operations center.

The Ebenezer Maxwell Award was created by the Maxwell Mansion Board of Trustees to recognize those individuals and institutions who have advanced the preservation of Philadelphia's nineteenth-century built environment, or the study of Victorian culture. The award was also presented to Mellon Bank for its renovation of a symbol of nineteenth-century commercialism.

The Foundation for Architecture Civic Award is presented annually to those persons who have demonstrated an extraordinary contribution to design excellence in Philadelphia.

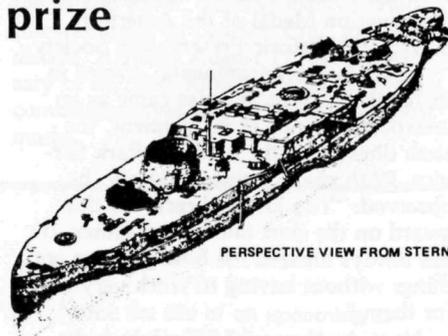


Printer and park ranger Ellie Gesensway with a broadside pulled from hand-operated reproduction printing press

USS Arizona takes the prize

The Society for History in the Federal government awarded the John Wesley Powell Prize to the National Park Service during the Society's April 18 meeting in Washington, D.C. The Society created the annual prize to recognize a Federal historic preservation or historic display project that the award committee has determined to be outstanding for a particular year. The 1985 prize-winning NPS project was the underwater survey/assessment of the *U.S.S. Arizona*. The resulting scale drawings accurately portray the sunken battleship on the bottom of Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, where she has lain since the December 7, 1941 Japanese air attack.

The USS Arizona Memorial staff conceived the project as a means to determine the vessel's actual condition and preservation needs; to fill in gaps in the documentary record; and to provide accurate data for the park's interpretive program. To accomplish this, they turned to the NPS Submerged Cultural Resources Unit, based at the Southwest Regional Office in Santa Fe, NM. A team of diver-archeologists from the unit, led by its chief, Dan Lenihan, took primary responsibility for the project. They were assisted by U.S. Navy divers from the Pearl Harbor command, as well as park ranger/divers from the USS Arizona Memorial and Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. The Arizona Memorial Museum



Association, the USS Arizona Memorial's cooperating association, funded the entire undertaking.

In 1983 and 1984, the inter-service dive team carried out the project under conditions of poor visibility and some hazards, including the presence of live, large-calibre ammunition. After the last dive in late October, 1984, project scientific illustrator Jerry Livingston began compiling data and assimilating it into the final drawings, which he completed in 1985. The drawings won high praise from the professionals as well as the general public. The project attracted national media attention and was the focus of an ABC television network news special.

Former USS Arizona Memorial Superintendent Gary Cummins, who also worked as a diver on the project, accepted the prize on behalf of the National Park Service during a luncheon ceremony in the Cannon House Office Building.

Other Honorees



Conrad Wirth, recipient

Conrad L. Wirth received the first Wirth Environmental Award of the National Park Foundation at an April ceremony in Williamsburg, VA. Concurrently, John L. Bryant, Jr., president of the National Foundation, was presented with the Horace Marden Albright Scenic Preservation Medal of the American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society.

The Wirth Environmental Award in its handsome wooden case came as an unexpected honor to its recipient, the sixth director of the National Park Service. With characteristic modesty, he observed: "You know, I received this award on the shirt tails of my father. It has always amazed me how you can get things without having to work very hard for them."

Named in honor of Theodore and Conrad Wirth, father and son pioneers in recreational land management, the Wirth Environmental Award was established to recognize outstanding contributions made to the preservation of America's land and water resources as they relate to park and recreation use. Theodore Wirth, Swiss immigrant and early dean of park superintendents, did much to shape the conceptual development of municipal parks in the United States. His love for the beauty of nature and landscape, as well as his skill in the horticultural adornment of formal and informal gardens, contributed notably to the development of an early professional park philosophy. This love for natural beauty and commitment to land preservation has been carried forward by his son, Conrad, whose special contributions at the state and federal level have helped to expand and preserve the nation's natural and scenic resources.



Wirth Environmental Award



Greg McGuire

The National Park Service was recently the recipient of a generous contribution made to its Horace Albright Fund by the California State Park Rangers Association. Director Mott received a check for \$100 to be applied to the Fund as a gesture of the Association's support for the principles and goals of the Service.

Chief of Maintenance Greg McGuire accepted Certificates of Appreciation from Captain Hugh Thomas, Executive Council of the Baltimore Federal Executive Board, recognizing the efforts of Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine in increasing by 163% its direct awards to minority business during 1985. The monument was also recognized for achieving the highest percentage minority awards (27%) out of the total small business awards of any agency in Baltimore during 1985.

Mary Lester, a fourth grader and the daughter of Bill Lester (a backcountry ranger with North Cascades NP) won second place for her age group in a statewide essay contest sponsored by the



Mary Lester

Veterans of Foreign Wars Ladies Auxiliary. Writing on the theme, "My Dream for America," Lester notes, "My dreams for America would include preserving special areas such as national parks for future generations to enjoy as I have. . . My dreams would also eliminate prejudice. . . Unemployment would not be allowed. . . My dreams for senior adults would be many. I would want them to have all the comforts they deserve and have earned. They have made what we have today possible." John Reynolds, Superintendent at North Cascades NP, observes: "Mary's essay is sensitive and eloquently simple and human. It is evocative of what is finest in all of us."

Neil DeJong of New River Gorge National River received a Certificate of Appreciation for his recent detail to the NPS Harpers Ferry Training Center. Superintendent Jim Carrico who arranged the detail said that a temporary assignment of this nature is an excellent way for employees to gain practical hands-on experience at a different area. "Neil not only contributed to the work at Harpers Ferry, but he returns to New River with a broader perspective of how things work in a major National Park Service training center," Carrico concluded.

Arthur L. Sullivan, Superintendent of the Ozark National Scenic Riverways since 1976, received recognition as Missouri Water Conservationist of the Year. Cited for his efforts to balance preservation and use, he addressed the needs of canoeists as well as the sometimes conflicting interests of commercial canoe operations by assuring that adequate services were available to the public. Sullivan played a key role in setting the tone for the kind of commercial operations management that could assure protection of the resource while offering high-quality services to visitors.



Arthur L. Sullivan

A reception in honor of Director Mott was held at the Seattle Unit of Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, where the Director received, among other things, a very special commemorative letter, carried from Seattle to Dawson City, Yukon during last summer's Klondike Heritage Mail Run.

The postal delivery, launched July 19, reenacted the arduous 1,500-mile journey taken by thousands of stamperders during the 1898 Klondike gold rush. Begun with ceremony in Seattle's historic Pioneer Square, the mail run kicked off a year-long celebration of the centennial of the national parks in Canada, a system of over 100 national parks and historic sites



Director Mott with Mike Gurling and Willie Russell

that began with the establishment of Banff National Park on July 19, 1885.

From Seattle, the commemoratives were transported aboard the Alaska State ferry, *M.V. Columbia*, to Skagway, Alaska. There the bundles were transferred to Canadian army cadets, who retraced the steps of earlier mail couriers

over the steep Chilkoot Trail to Lake Bennett in Canada. At the headwaters of the Yukon River, waiting boats provided transportation to Dawson City, 450 miles distant. Arriving August 17, the anniversary of the 1896 Klondike discovery, the commemoratives carried six separate post marks.

Trivia

- How many sites are dedicated to women and their rich contributions to U.S. history. Name them.
—Gina Moriarty, WASO
- Over the years, quite a few novels have been written about the national parks. However, only one series of novels has been written using the same lead character. What was the series of novels?
—Ken Mabery, SWRO
- Who was the first woman to climb Mt. Olympus?
—Donald Jackson, Olympic NP
- What park memorializes one of our earliest statesmen and is landscaped like a perfect par 4 golf hole?
—Richard Tourangeau, NARO
- Name the largest historical district in the United States under the Department of the Interior?
—Bethany Hooker, Castillo de San Marcos NM
- What is the oldest historical area in the National Park System?
—Duncan Morrow, WASO
- Photographs taken by a well-known photographer in 1870 in conjunction with the Washburn-Langford-Doane Expedition did much to convince Congress to enact legislation creating Yellowstone National Park in 1872. Name the photographer.
—Debra Berke, WASO
- Name the site of an upcoming archaeological dig to be conducted at a mid-Atlantic park site. (See Park Briefs)
- What innovative dune preservation technique brought Christmas to Canaveral National Seashore earlier than usual? (See features section)
- What is the historical significance of Wilson's Creek National Battlefield near Springfield, Missouri?
—Charles Wieser, MWRO

(Trivia answers on pg. 29).



E&AA news and notes

Mixing business and pleasure at Shenandoah Reunion



Meeting old friends

Friendships blossomed in the chilly mountain air of Shenandoah NP when over 100 E&AA members gathered to renew old bonds and establish new ones. To members who had travelled from the warm climates of the South and Southwest, the five inches of snow that fell just prior to the event must have come as a surprise. But the gusty winds blowing outside their cabin retreats were no match for the warmth within.

"As I saw old friends meeting old friends for the first time in years," said John Cook, E&AA Chairman, "I wished that all the employees could have participated in what I had just seen, because all of us are eventually going to be alumni, and the closeness I witnessed at Shenandoah is what this organization is all about."

The success of the two-day event depended in large part on the cooperative efforts launched by former Superintendent and Mrs. Bob Jacobsen, former Assistant Superintendent and Mrs. Bill Loftis, and former District Ranger and Mrs. Bob Johnson. The Shenandoah Women's Organization, co-chaired by Mary Jo Yates and Vickie Francis, continuously replenished trays of cookies and cakes during the day and hors d'oeuvres during the cocktail parties at night. Every need was anticipated and supplied, so much so that guests commented appreciatively. Even the motorcade to Camp Hoover went off without a hitch.

"I don't know when I've ever seen an affair like this managed so beautifully," said one E&AA member. "It was all so effortless."

While guests enjoyed leisurely bridge games or snowy hikes, E&AA representatives and interested members attended a mini-meeting chaired by John Cook.

Cook mentioned his personal commitment to increase E&AA membership by 500 at the end of his tenure as chairman. He and Terry Wood, E&AA Executive Director, discussed the importance of revamping the Education Trust Fund agreement, and he proposed the creation of an endowment fund to enable reunions like the Shenandoah experience to become a yearly occurrence.

"I think it's essential to find ways to continue doing what we did here last night," he said. "Reunions that have the mantle of E&AA are crucial, and we're grateful that we were able to do this."

He also took the time to mention important contributions to the organization of employees like Tom Lucke, as well as the support given over the years by George Berklacy, Chief of Public Affairs.

"When he gets new typewriters, the old ones go right around the corner to Terry," he said.

One bit of important information that came out of the mini-meeting was news concerning the passports published by Eastern National Park and Monument Association. The passports are 104-page booklets designed to serve as constant companions to park visitors. They record visits to the parks through the insertion of ten annual stamps, one national stamp, and nine regional stamps, as well as by cancellation stamping in all parks visited. In addition, the booklets contain a nationwide map of the park system, nine geographical regional maps, and interpretive statements for each region.

Like the passports used by international travelers, these books are good for five years, from 1986 to 1990, and will have available to them a new national stamp designed each year, commemorating that year's significant event. The

passports cost \$2.95 per copy, the national stamps \$1.00 each and the regional stamps 50 cents each. Available by writing to Eastern National, Jamestown Visitor Center, Jamestown, VA 23081 or by visiting park gift shop displays, these books will make attractive presents for all occasions. Best of all, either directly or indirectly, the net return from passport and stamp sales will be used by the Park Service for the benefit of visitors to the parks.

After the mini-meeting tied up the business of the day, a final cocktail party in the evening and a banquet concluding the festivities allowed participants a last chance to reminisce and enjoy each others company. Bob Jacobsen spoke eloquently of the numerous Park Service heroes in the banquet hall that night. He pointed out several of them, and their names rang like a history of the Service. Acting Superintendent Gerry Tays acknowledged the presence of all those who had served through the years at Shenandoah, and Director Mott singled out William G. Carnes, former Chief Landscape Architect of the Service and head of Mission 66, as his mentor. Then John Cook and Director Mott presented Bill Carnes with a leather-bound, gold-leaf copy of Horace M. Albright's book "The Birth of the National Park Service: The Founding Years, 1913-1933" for traveling the farthest distance to attend the Reunion.

Finally Director Mott presented George W. Fry with a framed certificate attesting to his status as an E&AA Founder. (Founder is the highest level of membership and denotes payment of \$1,000.) Fry whimsically admitted that he had been trying to keep up with Earl M. (Tiny) Semingsen, also a Founder. Nate Golub likewise received recognition for

reaching the membership level of Supporting Donor. Then, before the festivities were concluded, Director Mott was remembered with his own leather-

bound copy of Mr. Albright's book.

"Maybe I can get him to sign it for me," he suggested to Terry Wood, and his enthusiastic smile signaled the spirit

that everyone attending the reunion had felt throughout the event.

Why we are here

Editor's Note: At the E&AA Reunion, Bob Jacobsen moved everyone present with his tribute to those who have made the Park Service what it is. The following is a close approximation of those remarks.

I'm going to take advantage of my position at the rostrum to try to express a feeling that has been running close to the surface during these past two days—I suspect that I might be speaking for several of you also.

When Phil and I were married, we, in a sense, left our respective families and joined the National Park Service family

at Isle Royale. Floyd Henderson, our first Chief Ranger, picked the date for our wedding and Mary Gibbs, our first Superintendent's wife, and their son John, attended the ceremony. Back on the island, the Hendersons and the Gibbses took us in and made us feel welcome and feel very much "at home."

Since that time we have lived and worked in many places and in many situations—and as I look about this room, there are very few of you that have not had a significant impact upon our lives, and with whom we have not developed special relationships. Almost every one of you have touched our lives

as friends, neighbors, associates, examples, and teachers.

Often in the past, various groups of us have gathered in meetings to set a course of action, or to determine what we might achieve together—but this is one of those rare occasions when we have gathered simply to say what we mean to each other. And I think what we are saying is that we are filled with respect and joy and love for one another, and for this opportunity that we have all had to become a part of this wonderful NPS family.

Horace Albright remembers Shenandoah National Park

Editor's Note: The following paragraphs, written by Horace Albright to those attending the E&AA Reunion were delivered eloquently by Stan Albright at the closing banquet.

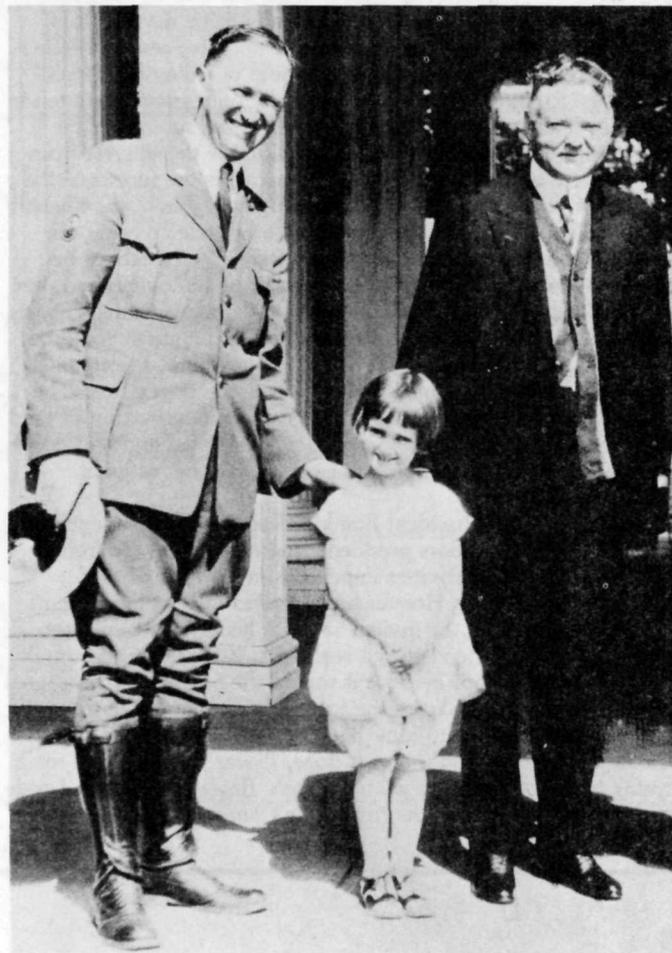
Ninety-six years can prove a real handicap and a prevention for my being at the reunion to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the creation of the Shenandoah National Park. My disappointment is monumental, and so are my regrets that I cannot be there with you.

Shenandoah was not yet a national park during the four and one half years that I was the Director of the National Park Service, beginning in January, 1929. The law authorizing the park required Virginia to purchase the lands for the park, but this mandate was enough completed to permit the Park Service to cooperate in fixing park boundaries, planning its protection, and even assisting in money raising campaigns. There were no superintendent, rangers, or other Park Service personnel. Associate Director Arno Cammerer was the officer responsible for our support of the Virginia Conservation Commission, the Chairman of which was William E. Carson. He was a big, handsome, popular businessman and civic leader whom I have always regarded as the founder of Shenandoah National Park, although not the first to promote its establishment.

Cammerer and Carson soon gave me detailed information regarding the national features and the history of the park region. As soon as Skyland's host, the very genial George Pollock, had all its facilities available for visitors, they took me there. For two days we hiked or rode horseback on Blue Ridge trails. I was so pleased with what I saw that the Shenandoah became a favorite of mine and so remains to this day.

On March, 1929, Herbert Hoover became President. He and Mrs. Hoover enjoyed outdoors vacations, and fishing was the President's favorite pastime. In April, he had a committee of four undertake to find a place not more than 100 miles from the White House for a camp that he would build with his personal funds. I was one of the four. The others were his personal

(continued)



Albright with daughter Marian, and Herbert Hoover



Hoover on horseback



The Hoovers with King Tut



Fishing

(continued)

secretary, Lawrence Richey, Bill Starling of the Secret Service, and Henry O'Malley, Commissioner of Fisheries, who would look for good fishing waters. We invited help from both Maryland and Virginia officials engaged in fish and game protection. Carson urged us to look at a wilderness tract of land on the headwaters of the Rapidan River in the Shenandoah National Park area. Commissioner O'Malley found the river to be a trout stream, and we all agreed the Camp site would please the Hoovers, and we recommended it for the President's retreat. It was almost exactly 100 miles from Washington. On seeing it, the President was delighted, and he built a forest village where he often went with his family, visiting friends and guests during his years as our Chief Executive.

Two years later, in April, President Hoover invited the Secretary of the Interior and his bureau chiefs to be his guests for a weekend at his camp. Saturday was to be devoted to a budget discussion, but Sunday was left open for rest and relaxation—hiking, fishing, pitching horseshoes or riding horseback with Mrs. Hoover and himself. I was the only guest interested in the ride. The President led us on a trail to the summit of the Blue Ridge, then turned south on a trail close to the crest from which there were spectacular views, east over the forests of the Piedmont country and west to the plunging sights of the Shenandoah Valley. The President called me to his side and said our trail was the *natural route* of a scenic highway that could be world famous. He said he hoped it might be built soon and that he had funds available for aid to drought-stricken farmers of the Shenandoah Valley, so that they and their equipment could be employed in the construction. On return to camp, I telephoned Will Carson about the plan and he promised cooperation. The project was undertaken, and, within two years, a section of land a few miles south from Panorama was completed and had been well reported in the press and magazines like the National Geographic.

March 4, 1933, President Franklin Roosevelt was inaugurated. He was also an outdoors president, and a retreat away from daily White House activities impelled him to think of the Rapidan Camp which Hoover had donated to the government.

On April 9, 1933, he invited some of his official associates and three or four friends to go with Mrs. Roosevelt and himself to the Hoover Camp. Because it was in the Shenandoah National Park designated boundaries, he invited Secretary of the Interior, Harold Ickes, and me to join the party. At once I asked that Carson be invited, and this was done. It was a perfect day for a spring trip to Virginia, clear, mild, early flowers in bloom. I rode with Secretary Ickes on the trip to the Camp. Mrs. Roosevelt

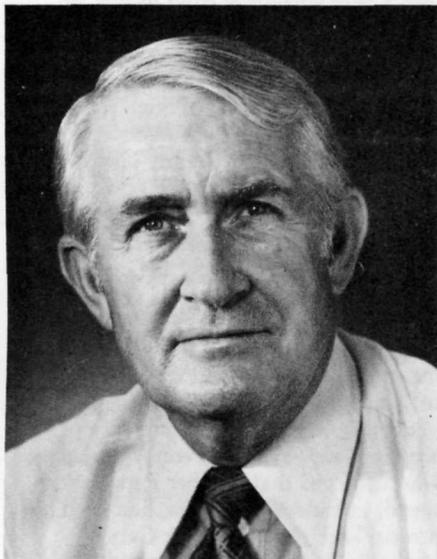
had prepared a special picnic luncheon which was enjoyed on the porch of the Hoover house, and the party engaged in lively conversation for more than an hour. The President asked many questions about resource conservation in Virginia, about the status of Shenandoah Park, about the scenic road along the crest of the Blue Ridge. Some questions were directed to me, but Will Carson "fielded" most. When the time came to return, the President said he wanted me to ride in the "jump seat" behind him. I had a wonderful visit with him, and it gave me the best chance anybody ever had to explain the National Park programs and policies. I pointed out the fact that there were many national monuments, memorials, historic sites and other precious features of the American heritage that were under the War and Agriculture Departments as well as a division of the District of Columbia Federal offices, making four national park agencies, whereas they should all be combined in just one—our National Park Service. Roosevelt readily agreed, and, on June 10, 1933, he issued an order consolidating all of them in our bureau. I have always felt that this marks the establishment of our National Park System.

At the same time these events were taking place, I was made a member of Roosevelt's council to organize the Civilian Conservation Corps and put 200,000 men in camp by early summer. This we did and several camps were placed in Shenandoah Park. That was my last official act affecting this park before I retired to a business career.

On these lovely spring days as the Shenandoah celebration is taking place and the reunion of the great park's friends are being enjoyed, I will be thinking of the beauty of the site more than 50 years ago and how it has enriched the Washington-Virginia area and the National Park Service. I'll be thinking of our host of long ago at Skyland, George Pollock, with horse and trumpet rounding us up for breakfast and a day on mountain trails, of Will Carson, Senator Harry Byrd, Ferdinand Zerkel and his Luray associates, Cammerer, and NPS engineers, Oliver Taylor and Charles Peterson, of Bill Austin who built the Skyline Drive, of Dr. Roy Sexton and Harlean James of the Potomac Appalachian Club, Billy and Lucy Mann of the National Zoological Gardens, of so many interested writers, especially of the National Geographic Society, Secretaries of the Interior Hubert Work and Harold Ickes, and finally the two great conservationist presidents, Hoover and Franklin Roosevelt.

I am thankful for the invitation to be at the semi-centennial and for my fond memories. May God bless Shenandoah National Park forever.

Kowski golf tournament flourished under Earl Hassebrock



National Park Service employees and alumni will participate in the 12th annual Frank F. Kowski Memorial Golf Tournament this summer at courses all across America, and Earl Hassebrock will be directing it for the last time.

The tourney, in memory of the late, legendary NPS figure whose last assignment was as Southwest Regional Director in Santa Fe, has flourished under Hassebrock's leadership.

Instigated by Jim Lewis, then an employee at Padre Island National Seashore, the purpose of the tournament is to raise money for the Employees and Alumni Association Education Trust Fund in Kowski's memory. Monte Fitch, chairman of the board of the E&AA and Associate Director, Operations in SWR, was the first director of the tourney, but he soon retired and Hassebrock, SWR Associate Director, Administration, has been in charge of making it go ever since.

And go it has. In 1975, 79 golfers participated and \$133 was raised for the E&AA. Both the number of entrants and the amount of money raised has increased each year so that in 1985, 360 golfers participated and \$1,765 was collected for E&AA.

Over the tournament's 11 years, \$9,621.10 has been raised.

Hassebrock's job has become increasingly more time-consuming over the years. It falls upon him to figure out the winners under the Callaway Handicap System, and the paperwork gets harder as more and more golfers join in.

Since its inception, trophies have been given for the first, second and third place finishers under the Callaway System and the low gross winner has also been recognized. In 1978, Hassebrock added new awards for the golfer who sank the

longest putt and for the one closest to the pin off a designated par-3 hole.

Hassebrock is retiring in May and is relinquishing the leadership role to Dave Thompson, former Southeast Regional Director who is now retired near Santa Fe, NM. But Hassebrock, one of the bet-

ter golfers among the Santa Fe NPS contingent, will continue to vie for honors in the meet and may be able to break into the select circle with no more distractions to ruin his concentration over the sharp-breaking putts at his hilly Santa Fe course.

Dennis McGinnis places second

Dennis McGinnis, former superintendent of Fort McHenry National Monument, was cajoled by staffers of *The Coastline Times* of Manteo, NC, to enter a sampling of his columns in the North Carolina Press Association Contest. The effort paid off, as everyone knew it would. The judges awarded McGinnis second place statewide in column writing for semi-weekly newspapers at ceremonies attended by guest speaker and nationally syndicated columnist James J. Kilpatrick.

Dennis' columns have appeared regularly in *The Coastland Times* for the past four years. Often asked if the incidents he describes actually happened, McGinnis answers a wily "yes and no."

Basically I elaborate," he admits, lov-

ing a good story as much as anyone and willing to tamper with the facts "just enough" to make them come out "the way they really should have." McGinnis has one simple criterion for his columns: if they make him laugh, they pass inspection; if not, they go into the waste paper basket.

Loving his life as a writer, McGinnis has the Manteo Lions Club to thank for the unexpected pleasure. When they needed someone to produce their bulletin, they generously "volunteered" Dennis into the job. Now E&AA is happy to say it also has just "volunteered" Dennis into becoming a contributing editor for the *Courier*. Manteo, NC is not the only part of the country that should have the pleasure of his talent and wit.

Yellowstone National Park Reunion, September 12-14, 1986

All past and present Yellowstone NPS and concession employees:

- Remember to make your reservations to attend the Yellowstone Alumni Reunion no later than July 31.
- Enjoy half-price lodging in Mammoth Hot Springs by registering soon (rooms in the park are going *fast*).
- Send your registration fee of \$20 per person (which includes the cost of the barbecue) to:

Chris Marshall
TW Services, Inc.
Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190

- Spread the word to friends and acquaintances that there's a reunion (some don't receive the *Courier*).
- Go through your old Yellowstone photos and bring them along to share.

See you in Yellowstone!

Chats With Madame G...

...Or Adventures In E&AA!!



Oh my aching heels and fingers! And darlings, the eye strain! You just can't imagine how tiring it is trying to keep up with what's what and who's who in our set. And the responsibility! Why no sooner do I zero in on a juicy tidbit in Omaha than something twice as exciting breaks in Florida. Darlings, you give me far too much to do.

So imagine my jubilation, my outright glee, when I heard about your E&AA Reunion in Shenandoah National Park. Your own Madame G was quick to pack her bags for that one. All of you in one place, darlings, what a thrill! And you *were* all there, as I knew you would be, and I *saw* you, everyone.

What a fete we had, didn't we! Food, fun, and freedom to do as we pleased. . . The **Jacobsons**, the **Loftises** and the **Johnsons** really did us proud. Oh darlings, my mouth still waters when I think of the dear little unsuspecting coffee cakes laid out just waiting for the knife, and those trays of succulent ham biscuits, and the bowls and bowls of piquant marinated vegetables so vulnerable to the hordes of toothpicks we all aimed at their hearts. I could have just sobbed as I hovered around the hors d'oeuvre tables. (**Kari Koester**, I saw you there too, and what about that man with the little boy! Everytime I turned around, he was consuming more dip . . . disgraceful). . . Of course, no one can forget the banquet that last night; what a gourmet's delight. One silly fool thought the meringue on top of the Baked Alaska was snow. . . Now I *know* some of you think you heard *me* say that, but, darlings, you should never tell tales out of school. That's *my* department.

And anyway, you *know* we did have snow. I for one agree that it was a good thing we had a nice warm conference hall for the festivities, as well as enough people mingling about to produce quantities of good, comforting body heat. Madame G knows all about the purpose of that hugging and kissing she saw going on. It wasn't just for the fun. No indeed. There were some powerfully cold people at Shenandoah trying to keep warm. As far as Madame G is concerned, she was also

glad for the bar at either end of the conference hall. Nothing like a glass of spirits to raise the spirits of one and all. . . Not to mention loosen the tongues, and you can imagine what a blessing that turned out to be for Madame G.

Actually, everyone at the reunion loved talking to each other without any prompting from their favorite gossip columnist. E&AA Chairman, the exuberant, loquacious cowboy, **John Cook**, mentioned the presence of a great many storytellers at the reunion. And great storytellers there were indeed. How many people know how the E&AA got started? Well I do, and you will too in just a minute. **Tiny Semingsen** corralled everyone at the Fontana Dam Superintendents' Conference into each donating one dollar to the kitty, and that kitty was what started E&AA on its way. **Howard Baker** followed in Tiny's footsteps years later at another E&AA Board Meeting. With the wicked smile and commanding voice of a man in control, he towered above **Terry Wood**, **Naomi Hunt**, **Francis Reynolds**, and **Sandra Alley**. "In my day," he said, "you couldn't be on the board of the E&AA unless you became a life member." What were the ladies to do but pull out their checkbooks. But **Terry Wood** remembered Howard's ploy, and several years later, she got five times the amount of her original investment out of him for the E&AA.

One great E&AA storyteller in the making is the incomparable **Dennis McGinnis**. His genial personality and wry sense of humor will be gracing the pages of E&AA News in the upcoming months. Only thing you'll miss, if you weren't at the reunion, is his wonderful red-and-white neon hat. To find Dennis in a crowd, all I had to do was listen for the laughter and look for the hat.

The only problem with the reunion was that it came to an end. I hope everyone had a chance to talk with the fine photographer, **Woody Williams**—a lot of congressional offices still have his sensitive wildlife photographs on their walls. And **Phil Jacobsen**—her graciousness and vitality inspired even the cynic, Madame G. And **Ann Loftis**—she contributed

selflessly to the success of the reunion we all enjoyed, and even took time out to keep a very small boy from feeling left out. And **Margaret Hushelpeck**—a new recruit for E&AA, she was so inspired by the friendly atmosphere that she signed up for membership even though she had never worked for the Park Service. And **Naomi Hunt**, and the **Granny Liles**, and the **Ira Lykes** and the **George Frys** and. . . Well, even though the list goes on and on, Madame G has to stop somewhere. (The editor thinks Madame G has *too much to say already*. . . Have you ever heard of such a thing. . . What a concept *that is!*) Nevertheless, I do have one or two more little ditties to share. Just wanted you to know that the reunion was honored by the presence of two directors—**William Penn Mott Jr.** (who observed that another Park Service legend, attendee **Bill Carnes**, had been his mentor) and former director **Gary Everhardt**. **Stan Albright** represented his uncle who was with us in spirit if not in fact. And **Deny Galvin** raced down from Washington to share a cool drink and a bite of dinner before returning to Washington in time to unlock his office door at 8:00 the next morning.

Now darlings, I don't want you to think that Madame G is going soft on you by saying all these lovely things about the reunion. Be kind, my dears, be kind. The reunion *was* lovely, and everyone who missed it had better think twice about skipping the next one. As the party broke up on the last eventful night, **John Cook** observed that there was no head table at the banquet. "That's because everyone here is a VIP," he said. I guess that means even Madame G too. More next month. Ta-Ta.

Did you know that the 30 people comprising Shenandoah National Park Women have contributed 266 years worth of service to the park?

Founders Day

Mark your calendars for Monday, August 25, 1986, Founders Day at the National Geographic Society's Membership Center near Rockville, Maryland. Social gathering to begin at 6 p.m., with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres; dinner to be served at 7:30 p.m.

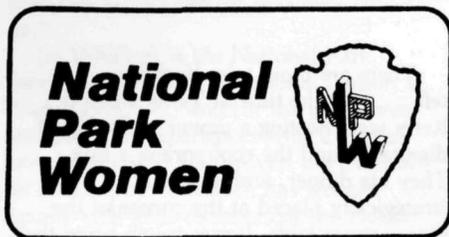
NPS celebration special

In appreciation for the fine work and dedication of the National Park Service employees and alumni, Arnold Fine of Arnold Fine and Associates, Director of Public Relations, is generously offering a 70% discount on regular room rates at the Omni Shoreham (2500 Calvert St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20008) for NPS employees and alumni on *personal* vacation travel during the months of July and

August 1986. Children 17 and under are free if they stay in the room with their parents; if cots are required, that will be an extra charge. (Please call the Omni Shoreham direct on 202-234-0700 for hotel reservations.)

Also being offered is a 50% discount on tickets to the hit Musical Review "Forbidden Broadway" currently showing in the hotel's Marquee Lounge, a 20% dis-

count on all food and beverage in the hotel's restaurants, and a 20% discount for the use of the hotel's tennis courts. An olympic-size swimming pool and a children's pool are available for the hotel's guests. (In making your reservations, please indicate that you are responding to Mr. Fine's National Park Service Celebration Special at the Omni Shoreham.)



The National Parks: Index 1985

The red and black *Index* is practically the bible of the National Park Service. In it are found the names and addresses of all NPS areas, as well as brief sketches and other pertinent information. Although some may consider this book about as exciting as a telephone directory, others find in it a key to unlock memories and anticipated adventures. Places lived or visited, as well as dreams of the future, find expression because of this publication. Especially useful is the red-dotted map on pages 10-11 which pinpoints each of the national park areas. It makes discovering park neighbors and keeping track of friends an effortless, pleasant experience.

The *National Parks: Index 1985* has been especially helpful in the development of a national mailing list for our NPW organization. Five times in recent years, letters or cards have been mailed, soliciting the name of one individual in every Park Service area to serve as a correspondent. This represents an effort to develop a complete network of interested women willing to share personal and park news on a regular basis. The red dots on the map have real significance, standing as they do for our bonds to each other nationwide.

As we live in and protect the natural, historic, scenic, scientific, and recreational resources in our charge, employees and supporters of the National Park Service share not only a great common cause, but also similar adaptive lifestyles. Park Service areas are not just government en-

tities; they are our homes and the homes of our good friends. It is important to know about all of these areas, and it should make us proud to recall the various categories into which they all fit.

Included are national parks (48), monuments (77), historic sites (62), historic parks (26), military parks (10), battlefields and battlefield parks (14), memorials (23), recreational areas (17), seashores (10), lakeshores, rivers, and parkways (4 each), wild rivers (8), trails (3), preserves (12), other parks (11), D.C. areas and regional offices (10). All of

these 337 areas are located in 49 states and in Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. The Index helps us remember that it is the people of the National Park Service who administer the areas of the National Park System.

Persons interested in obtaining a copy of the Index should write to the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402, requesting GPO number 461/20005.

—Thelma Warnock

Trivia Answers (From pg. 23).

1. Women's Rights, NHP, Eleanor Roosevelt NHS, Clara Barton NHS, Maggie L. Walker NHS, Whitman Mission NHS, Sewell-Belmont House NHS
2. The Bob Flame series, titles including Bob Flame, Ranger; Bob Flame Among the Navajo; Bob Flame, Rocky Mountain Ranger; and Bob Flame in Death Valley. The series was written in the early to mid 1940s.
3. Anna Hubert in 1907. Hubert Glacier was named in her honor.
4. Roger Williams NM
5. Savannah, Georgia
6. Casa Grande NM, AZ was first set aside as Casa Grande Ruin Reservation on March 8, 1889.
7. W. H. Jackson
8. Valley Forge NP
9. The use of Christmas trees to stabilize dunes
10. Although the Confederate forces won the Battle of Wilson's Creek, they were so crippled they were not able to pursue the retreating Union forces. This strengthened the hand of the Unionists in Kentucky, who succeeded in keeping much of that state loyal. Had Missouri and Kentucky seceded, the chance for a Southern victory in the Civil War would have been enhanced greatly.

(Send your Trivia Questions to Mary Maruca, c/o Courier. We need your contributions.)

Bob Kerr on the best addresses in America

Ben Moffett
Public Affairs Officer, SWRO

Most career National Park Service employees are well-traveled. Still, few, if any, have served in as many national parks as Robert I. Kerr, retiring Southwest Regional Director.

Kerr has worked in ten national parks. In order they are Sequoia, Kings Canyon, Yosemite, Great Smokies, Shenandoah, Everglades, Zion, Canyonlands, Arches and Grand Teton. By some quirk of fate, he never served, as most field employees do, in a monument, historic site or recreation area, unless you consider his management of Natural Bridges National Monument while he was at Canyonlands. It was not that he avoided these lesser-touted areas—it just happened that way.

Living at the best addresses in America from birth is bound to have a profound effect on the way you and your family look at life.

"If I had it to do over, there's very little I would change," said Kerr from his second story adobe office which faces the blue Jeze and Sangre de Cristo Mountains. "I can't imagine a better career. There is no better clientele than the people who go to the parks, and the parks themselves are the most magnificent places God put on the face of the earth."

Kerr started his park career at age 16, working on a blister rust control crew at Sequoia, where he washed pots and pans—the lowliest job extant. When the Army got wind of his talents, it put his newly found expertise in the pots-and-pans field to use for Uncle Sam. After 16 weeks of basic training at Fort Ord, California, he was headed to Korea when the armistice was signed, and his orders were rescinded.

Christmas, 1953, found him face to face with a lovely waitress at the local Sequoia concession (his father was chief ranger at Sequoia). Kathleen Trait later married Kerr, and they honeymooned at Yosemite where Kerr held a seasonal job. Shortly thereafter, Kerr began to travel in earnest. He and his growing family spent time at the Great Smoky Mountains, then Sequoia/Kings Canyon again, and finally Shenandoah, where they spent some of their happiest years. "I remember thinking that I had the best job in the world and it didn't matter if I did anything else the rest of my life," recalls Kerr.

The opportunity to be a chief ranger at Everglades lured Kerr out of Shenandoah, however. At first the Kerrs weren't

sure they had made the right decision. Hurricane Betsy battered the Everglades with 130 mph winds the first week of their arrival. They had to learn quickly how to button up a house. "It was a helluva way to be broken in to that part of the country," Kerr recalled.

"But I got more enchanted with it as time went on," he added. His children also shared the enchantment with him. "I sometimes got to ride with ranger patrols—you could do that then," said Ken, who is now a third-generation ranger serving at Bryce Canyon. "As a kid growing up, it's hard to beat the Everglades."

Next the superintendent bug caught Kerr and he was off to Washington, D.C. for seasoning. "(George) Hartzog's criteria was that you had to spend some time in the Washington office if you wanted to be a superintendent," he said, "so I decided to bite the bullet. In a way it was a traumatic experience, because I had never lived in an urban area, but it gave me insights into what it is that makes things tick at the Washington level."

Kerr and company spent two years in Washington (1968-70) and escaped with watery eyes (from tear gas, not emotion) to Utah. For the next five years, they enjoyed the high desert, first while Bob was Superintendent of Zion (1970-72) and then while he was Superintendent of Canyonlands (1972-75). It was the move from Utah to Grand Teton that caused some jangled nerves in the family. "I had promised the kids we wouldn't move again during high school and they were a little upset with me," he said.

Upset they were, but it didn't last long. "He felt guilty. I think he knew I was upset with him," remembers daughter Karen, now Mrs. Karen Hodges of Jackson Hole. "But I got over it quickly and it worked out for the best. . . . There's no better way to get an education than by moving around. How else could we have experienced hurricanes and riots?"

Kerr followed Gary Everhardt as Superintendent at Grand Teton when Everhardt moved to the directorship of the National Park Service. While they were there, President Carter visited the park for ten days, just prior to his historic conference with Sadat and Begin. Wife Kathy remembers that she dug out Bob's and Ken's waders so that President and Mrs. Carter could use them to go fishing.



Robert Kerr

There are more tales Kathy can tell. . . Like the time at Teton when the Kerrs were hosting a dinner party for 30 dignitaries and the roof sprang a leak. They ate dinner, with a bucket strategically placed at the corner of the dining room table. It was tough being the hostess. . . . Or the many times Mrs. Kerr was called upon to answer the ranger telephone or radio when Bob was called on at night. "It wasn't always easy for her and she was always a good sport about it," he said. "I don't know how I could have done it without her there for support."

The Kerrs have now been in Santa Fe longer than any other post. When Lorraine Mintzmyer left as Southwest Regional Director in 1980, Bob was named to the job, and earned the respect of both his employees and bosses for his accomplishments.

He describes his philosophy in dealing with fellow workers and the public: "I've always tried to be open and honest so there would be no question about what my thinking was and I've always left employees the freedom to work without thinking that someone was looking over their shoulder. I've been consistently rewarded with that approach, and I have a great deal of gratitude for what we've accomplished together over the years. I've tried to take the same approach with the public. It has a right to know because it pays the bills and if we can't explain what we're doing adequately, maybe we need to take another look at it."

The Kerrs have made hundreds of friends over the years. Among the early mentors who helped them in their journey were Bill and Lola Rolen who "took us in like part of the family" after the first scary trip across country to the Great Smokies, and Joe Kulesza at Shenandoah who "had a great deal of patience in teaching young people."

After retirement, the Kerrs will remain in Santa Fe where Kathy has earned a master's degree at the University of New Mexico and is a consumer advocate for the state attorney general's office.

Ira Whitlock says goodbye, but not farewell

Ira Whitlock leans back in his chair, resting his hand against his forehead, his eyes thoughtful, intense, alert. He has just been asked to describe the greatest challenge of his career. With characteristic directness, he explains, "My entire career has been a challenge. When you work with Congress, you work in a very fluid situation. It's hard to plan ahead even from moment to moment. That's why I think it's important to do as much planning as you can, to be as prepared as you can for whatever comes up."

Ira Whitlock is the National Park Service's chief of Congressional Liaison in Washington, DC, and for the past seventeen years his experiences with Congress have both tested and proven the truth of his philosophy. Whitlock has worked equally well with members of the House and the Senate, with Democrats as well as Republicans, with everyone on the House and Senate subcommittees who deal with issues related to parks. Those who don't know Ira Whitlock personally, know him by reputation. Former Representative Roy Taylor failed to introduce him to a colleague at an evening gathering held several years ago on the Hill, because, as he explained later, "Ira, I thought everyone knew you!"

Mrs. Whitlock had a similar experience when she toured Hoover Dam not long ago. Her name was spoken in casual conversation, and the ranger leading the tour exclaimed: "Are you Ira Whitlock's wife?" When she answered "yes" and asked if he knew her husband, he told her that Ira's name appeared on all the correspondence.

In one way or another, whether directly or indirectly, the workings of Congress have a tremendous impact on the parks, and because they do, so does the work of Ira Whitlock. According to Mr. Whitlock, the mission of Congressional Liaison is two-fold. First, the activities, purpose, and mission of the National Park Service have to be made crystal clear to members of Congress. And secondly, the very real role of Congress in overseeing the national parks has to be explained to government employees. Essentially, an individual in Mr. Whitlock's position has to wear two very different hats. He has to be able to appreciate the ways in which a government agency helps and hinders the workings of Congress, as well as the reasons behind Congressional maneuvers that need to be explained to the agency he works for. And understanding these things, he has to be able to communicate with and intercede on each side.

How has he survived such a potential minefield?

"I always tell the truth," he observes. "You survive through telling the truth. Otherwise, you're always checking your stories to see if they add up."

Whitlock recalls one trip to the Hill during which a congressman berated him for a Park Service decision. He knew nothing about the decision, but volunteered to find out more. When he did, the congressman still did not get the decision he was looking for. Nevertheless, he appreciated Whitlock's forthright manner enough to call him as soon as a decision on a legislative matter was approved that Whitlock needed to know about.

"You have to like dealing with people," the chief of Congressional Liaison observes. "It doesn't matter if you wake up on the wrong side of the bed or not, when you come in here all of that's behind you. You do the job required of a good staff person. You make your recommendations based on the best information you have at the time, and if your recommendations aren't accepted, well that's that. I never recommend overturning a professional decision, but I do point out the potential political repercussions that might occur."

Whitlock's respect for the parks as well as his interest in the workings of Congress are two major threads that have carried through his life since childhood. As a boy, he visited Yellowstone for the first time. And though he admits not to have understood the Park Service ethic then, he was impressed with the wildlife and with the spectacular views. Later when he served under Stewart Udall and came in contact with Park Service employees, he found every one of them to be genuinely good people to work with. "NPS people are the most dedicated I've ever known," he says.

Whitlock's interest in the legislative process may not stretch quite as far back as his attraction for the parks, but it is nevertheless fired by a profound belief in the importance of what he is working for. It was this faith in the legislative process that caused him to run for office in 1958. As he said, the results caused him to walk backwards rather than run, and though he was grateful for the experience, it is one he would rather not repeat. Nevertheless, the experiences he has had working directly with the legends of the Senate, knowing how bills come up before committees, and what can delay as well as expedite them has been invaluable to him during his years with the Service.

"I was hired by Director Hartzog. Since that time, I have worked with a

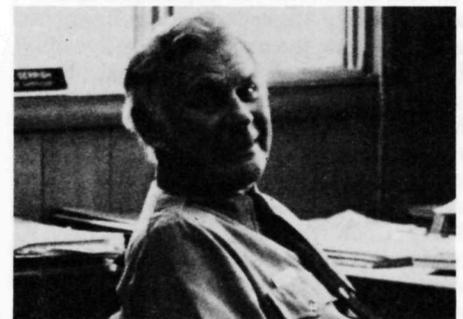
variety of different directors. And with every one of them I have enjoyed good cooperation. Oh, there has always been a getting-acquainted period when I have had to prove myself all over again. But I have enjoyed working with every director, both during my years inside and outside the Park Service."

Ira Whitlock's love and respect for the Service echoes through everything he says. "I think the National Park Service is the best governmental organization there is," he observes. "I really believe in the park ethic. Like Director Mott says, I think the parks offer one of the greatest hopes there is for family solidarity and unity."

Even in retirement, Mr. Whitlock still plans to enjoy the park experience. First and foremost, travel will be occupying the upcoming months away from the office. "This time when I travel, I plan to do it right. My wife and I plan to take a long, leisurely trip, to see the parks the way they ought to be seen. I'm really going to look at the Grand Canyon instead of glancing quickly over the South Rim, then heading out. And for years, on the way to visit my daughter in Ohio, I've passed Zane Grey's Birthplace. Well, this time you know I'm going to stop."

Asked what he will do if he is visiting a park and an employee says "Ira, we have this little problem," he smiles, and his life-long affection for the parks comes shining through. "I would hope," he says, "that my love of the Park Service would cause me to continue to offer them advice."

Other Retirees



Paul Gerrish, Facility Manager at Isle Royale National Park since 1974, is retiring after a 30-year career. In addition to his management duties at the park, Paul has been a popular instructor of the training course "Introduction to Park Programs." He plans to move from Houghton, Michigan, to Tucson, Arizona, where his wife, Marianne, is a career NPS employee at Saguaro National Monument.

Alma J. Halloran, Administrative Technician at the Big Cypress Land Acquisition Office, Naples, Florida, has retired after 10½ years with the National Park Service and a total of 26 years Federal service. After spending most of those years with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration at the Lewis Research Center in Cleveland, she retired in 1974 to enjoy the warm Florida climate. But once a hard worker, always a hard worker; so after a year of retirement, she accepted a position with the Big Cypress Land Acquisition Office, which was purchasing land to create the Big Cypress National Preserve at that time. Alma has served as a staffing clerk, personnel assistant, and administrative technician, and, as the lone personnelist, has hired over 200 employees. She says she and her husband plan to enjoy their two grandchildren, the climate, a little fishing, and a little golf in the upcoming months. Go for it, Alma. You deserve it.

On April 2, **Evelyn Bates** reached her goal—retirement from the Federal service. Evelyn joined the NPS at Gran Quivera in 1965, then arrived a year later at Sequoia/Kings Canyon to begin her 20 years as a clerk in the interpretive division. Her work as secretary to the Sequoia Natural History Association and her efforts to make the Ash Mountain Library a successful research tool for users will not soon be forgotten. The list of her accomplishments goes on and on. So it was with mixed feelings that her friends gathered to share this important event in her life and wish one of the stars of Sequoia/Kings Canyon their best.

Blanche Skinner, widely known throughout the Department of the Interior and the NPS, was honored at a gala reception-buffet April 3, celebrating her retirement from the Department after approximately 37 years of service. In acknowledging the many accolades, Blanche thanked all who helped make her career a rewarding one. She recognized her family, former supervisors, and co-workers for their support through the years, and paid special tribute to her assistants, Nancy Appler and Amy Keary. Upon retirement, she immediately began work as a consultant for the Washington, D.C. law firm of McDade, Warran, and Zimmerman, specialists in Federal oil and gas leasing.

Rothwell P. "Rod" Broyles whose early days as a NPS ranger included stints battling smugglers along the border with Mexico, has retired as Superintendent of Pinnacles National Monument. Broyles, 60, has been effectively carrying out the park's resource management plan since its approval in 1976. A native of Virginia, his experience with Mexican ranchers herding livestock across the river

to graze at Big Bend NP may have had something to do with his ability to face down marauding cattle and wild pigs at Pinnacles. To keep these invaders from destroying the park's ecological balance, Broyles implemented the construction of a wire mesh fence around the 16,000 acre

preserve. The fence will be erected over a number of years and keep the intruders at bay. Among his many accomplishments, Broyles has also been instrumental in preserving park structures that are part of the legacy of CCC construction Servicewide.

FYI



**OPM
Regulations**

The Personnel Side

You can't imagine how often I've heard a manager or employee here in Washington say that trying to understand the personnel do's and don'ts is harder than anything else they do. If only someone would "show me the way, things would be a lot better," they say.

Personnel has always been thought to be the work of the "Wizard Merlin" gone amuck, with only a chosen few disciples in the "personnel office" able to conjure up the magic to solve the mystery of employment. Well, by answering some questions posed by loyal readers of the *Courier*, I hope to dispel the Merlin theory and at least point folks in the right direction.

I had the opportunity recently to review the application of a fellow who wanted to be a ranger in a Western park. He was presently a ranger in the Southeast and just wanted a change of scenery. As I sat him down and began reading his SF-171, I realized that it was practically empty. Yes, his name was there, as well as his grade and park, but there was nothing about what he was doing on a day-to-day basis.

"Well," he said, "I'm a ranger; you know what rangers do!"

I had to explain to him that, yes, I did know what "rangers do," but since the ranger category covers a variety of types (interpretation, enforcement, etc.) I couldn't tell, by what he had written, what type of ranger he was. I further explained that even if he said he was a ranger (naturalist) for instance, I would not automatically know what his duties

were. He had assumed that since we both worked for the same agency, I automatically understood his qualifications.

Unfortunately, this is a real misconception. When evaluating an application, the personnelist can only go by what the applicant has written down. Applicants have to be specific. They have to tell what they have done: don't give every detail about the mission of the park, then forget to include duties *you* performed in support of that mission. Remember, you are being evaluated solely by what appears on your SF-171. The duties of a ranger, like those connected with other positions, do vary. So give a clear, concise picture and don't forget to key your remarks to how well you fit the KSAs. The selecting official will especially be looking at that part. He/she wants to know how well you'll fit into the organization. Sell yourself, but be truthful at the same time. (I once received an application from a lady who claimed she had painted the Sistine Chapel!) Don't "paint" a picture of yourself that you cannot live up to later.

If you would like more information about completing the SF-171, contact your friendly personnel office or write to me, care of the *Courier*. Maybe we can perform a little magic just for you.

—Terrie Fajardo

Editor's Note: Send your puzzling personnel questions to "The Personnel Side," c/o COURIER, NPS, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127.

Review of RIF regulations

Interest from the field regarding the interim guidelines based on the new Reduction-in-Force regulations have prompted us to give you a brief summary of the major changes. This section is *for your information only* and does not indicate any plans for RIF activities. The differences between the old and the new procedures are:

Old Procedure

RETENTION ORDER

In descending order by:

Tenure Groups;
Veterans Preference Subgroups; Seniority with up to four years added for last performance rating; Employees with unacceptable rating listed at bottom of retention register.

ASSIGNMENT RIGHTS

Employee bumps into any other position held by an employee in a lower sub-group within the same.

RETREAT RIGHTS

Employee retreats to any position from which promoted or an identical position which is occupied by an employee with a lower retention standing in the same tenure subgroup.

JOB EROSION

Positions reclassified and downgraded due to job erosion covered under RIF procedures.

APPEAL RIGHTS

Employee can appeal RIF reassignment separation, demotion and furlough for more than 30 days.

Appellants can request hearing of MSPB regardless of whether issues require a hearing.

The Office of Personnel Management is in the process of revising the final RIF regulations. These will be available as soon as they are ready through normal distribution. If you have any questions, we suggest you contact your Personnel Office.

New Procedure

RETENTION ORDER

In descending order by:

Tenure Groups;
Veteran Preference Subgroups; Additional service added based on employees' last three performance ratings. Credit added as follows:

20 years for outstanding performance;
16 years for exceeds fully successful;
12 years for fully successful;

ASSIGNMENT RIGHTS

Bumping rights limited to positions no more than three grades lower than the grade held when RIF'ed.

Employee with an unacceptable performance rating has no bump rights.

RETREAT RIGHTS

Retreat rights have been expanded to include any position held within the grade limitations due to promotion or lateral reassignment.

JOB EROSION

Reclassification due to job erosion no longer covered by RIF procedures unless the reclassification occurred six months prior to RIF.

APPEAL RIGHTS

Employee can no longer appeal reassignment during RIF to the Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB).

Appellant can appeal furlough of more than 30 days, separation or demotion as a result of a RIF. The MSPB will review the agency reasons for conducting the RIF and unless the board determines that there is fact in the issues raised, no hearing will be granted.

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Let's Put A Lid On LITTER!

From the Editor

When summer weather hits, thoughts drift comfortably toward long, sunny days at the beach, visits to exotic places, or quiet, personal time in which to read a book. Vacation plans occupy many people's thoughts. Indeed, one of the primary focuses this summer, both for the corporate executive who needs to unwind and the frazzled parent who can't vacation without the kids, will probably be the National Park System.

The parks are expecting an influx of visitors this summer. And because of this, the peak visitation months are a great time for news to break. Summer tests the effectiveness of Park Service planning carried on throughout the year. It helps employees evaluate their interpretive skills, as well as their creativity in carrying out park functions in spite of administrative shortages. Practically every summer event contains the seed of a publishable story.

But the local papers and news stations are often the ones who get the news long before the *Courier* does. This is unfortunate for several reasons. First, it means the *Courier* doesn't live up to its name. Secondly, many of the stories that might be of interest to Park Service employees never surface outside the local community.

Occasionally, parks mail in copies of local newspaper articles that concern their important contributions to the system, the problems they have solved, and the people who have solved them. . . . And the stories are great; they provide insight into the personalities of the people being profiled, into their goals and accomplishments; and they are written with great energy and enthusiasm. . . .

Of course, as *Courier* editor, I can't help but wish that I had published the stories first. And even with the fast pace of summer and the demands it places on park staffs, this does not seem like an entirely impossible dream.

I think there are two approaches that can be taken. First, think *publicity*. Even if your park doesn't have a public affairs officer to develop story ideas, there are certain events that strike everyone as good material. . . . And who could possibly know more about such stories than you, the people who create the events that attract the reporters. You know about such stories long before the reporters do, and just because it is summer and everyone is busy doesn't mean that these stories don't need to be told . . . or that they can't be told by the *Courier*. Simply give me a call to discuss the idea. I'll either make suggestions for follow-up or try to follow-up myself.

Under certain circumstances, however, the most straight-forward approach may simply be clipping an already-published article from the paper and sending it on to me. The article you mail in may stimulate any number of additional story ideas.

As the *Courier* evolves over the next few years, one of my very specific goals involves publishing more and more features, *written by National Park Service employees*, that reflect the same storytelling capabilities as the articles that appear in the NewsDigest portion of the newsletter. And since the Park Service employs some of the best storytellers in the world, this should not be so difficult

to achieve. The article on Bob Kerr's retirement by Ben Moffett in this issue is a good example. It reflects Kerr's personality as well as his career. It has an organizing thread which weaves throughout. It offers interesting anecdotes and quotable quotes. In a few hundred words, the man is sketched well enough that those who have never met him might want to meet him. And this is, of course, the goal of all articles—to capture the interest of the reader.

As *Courier* readers, all of you know what interests you most. Don't let the summer vanish without sharing some of these interests with your counterparts throughout the National Park Service.



Cheri Groves, from NPS's Tourism Office, spent National Consumers Week providing materials and information for the many visitors interested in services available to park visitors

Notice

We urge you to check your COURIER label and renew your annual membership on or before your anniversary date. Also, please try to upgrade your membership to the next membership level.

The E&AA is solely dependent on membership fees and donations. We need your support

to continue the revitalization of the E&AA. Please make check payable to E&AA and send to: Treasurer, P.O. Box 1490, Falls Church, Va. 22041.

Annual-\$10, Life-\$100 (can be paid in a lump sum or four or five equal payments), Second Century-\$200, Supporting Donor-\$500, Founder-\$1,000.

Travel News

In October 1987, the Rocky Mountain Nature Association is inviting representatives of national park cooperating associations, NPS alumni, and friends to join in a special tour celebrating the Centennial of New Zealand's national parks. In addition to visiting historic sites, parks, and reserves from the exotic Bay of Islands to Fiordland, the group will meet Rocky's sister association, the newly formed Tongoriro National History Society, the first to be established in that country. For complete information write to: Choice Travel and Cruise, New Zealand Parks Tour, 3836 College Avenue, Fort Collins, CO 85025, or telephone 303/226-6080.

People interested in sharing and perpetuating traditional backcountry and wilderness work skills can enjoy a one- or two-week-long seminar sponsored by the Student Conservation Association in Yellowstone this June. Experiences ranging from timber use and construction to trail engineering and design may be had in the beautiful Yellowstone wilderness from June 8-13 or June 5-20. SCA member/alumnus pay \$175; resource agency, organization, or educational institution, \$200; and the general public \$250. This price includes room, board, tuition materials, accident insurance and round-trip transportation from Bozeman, MT to Yellowstone. A 15% group discount is also available for parties of three or more. Send your check to SCA Northwest, Wilderness Work Skills Program, P.O. Box 31989, Seattle, WA 98103. Contact Carroll Vogel at 206/547-7380 with questions.

June and July bring further opportunities for educational travel in the form of seminars offered by the Campbell Center. Museum collections conservation, furniture conservation, and architectural preservation represent the primary focus of this year's activities. Located in Mount Carroll, IL, the center features a 14-acre, park-like setting rimmed with Georgian Revival buildings; a distinguished faculty of preservation professionals; and an intensive learning experience that increases the skills-proficiency of all participants. Courses range from two to five days. Address inquiries to Margery Douglass or Laurie Scott at 815/244-1173.

Play and learn at the Glacier Institute this summer. Float down a river while learning why it flows so freely or backpack to a remote glacier and see how it has scoured the rocks at your feet, or take an afternoon walk with your camera and a professional photographer. These and many more activities are available through the Institute in the form of family and college-level classes. The Glacier

Institute is an independent, non-profit corporation cooperating with Flathead Valley Community College, the Glacier Natural History Association, and the National Park Service. For more information contact: the Glacier Institute, P.O. Box 1457, Kalispell, MT 59903 or call 406/752-5222.

Letter

To the Editor

I have been giving some thought recently to the purpose and role of the National Park Service. As a result, I contend that we, as an organization, have hit middle age . . . and that this is not such a bad age to be. Having had experience with the many ways that exist for facing problems and handling change, we have modified some of our assumptions and formed new, perhaps more accurate ones. We know what works now. We have learned how to make decisions with a welcome economy of action. It is this striking improvement in the exercise of judgment that is one of the most reassuring aspects of being middle-aged, as is the maturity that comes to an organization served by skilled, sensitive professionals.

So why do we occasionally scurry about under a cloud of gloom? Our future can be and will be as bright as our past. We are a proud force . . . our strength is still our real accomplishment.

If we, as an organization, do not like the light that is cast upon us, we have only to cast a different beam. If we allow others to direct our destiny, we can expect only their vision of our worth, our importance, our contributions. It is our view of ourselves that determines the future. Our leadership and our direction must be based upon the sound perception of those within our midst who have tried, succeeded, and sometimes failed. We should listen to the optimism and wisdom of our achievers. Put process, the uncertainty of budgets, and statistics behind the strength of spirit, conviction, and proven achievement. We may sometimes be alone in what we believe, but we will achieve those beliefs, with respect, if we set our own course.

So it's not so bad to be middle-aged after all!

Ken Raithel
Denver Service Center

Books

Tired of eating the same old thing? Want to put some excitement into the next potluck? Now's your chance. The Zion National Park Women's Club has compiled 300 recipes into a cookbook available for distribution on or about June 15, 1986. The book is 6" x 9", has wipe-clean plastic covers and a spiral binding. To order your copy(ies) of "Favorite Recipes of the Zion National Park Women's Club," send a donation of \$5.75 (includes postage) to: "Cookbook," c/o Gwen Brady, P.O. Box 277, Springdale, Utah 84767. Proceeds will go the Employees and Alumni Association Scholarship Fund.

Road Guide to Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, by Barbara and Robert Decker, published 1986 by Double Decker Press. Available at National Parks and bookstores in Hawaii, or by mail from Double Decker Press, 4087 Silver Bar Road, Mariposa CA 95338 for \$3.95 postpaid (on prepaid orders). Wholesale discounts on larger orders.

COURIER

The National Park Service Newsletter

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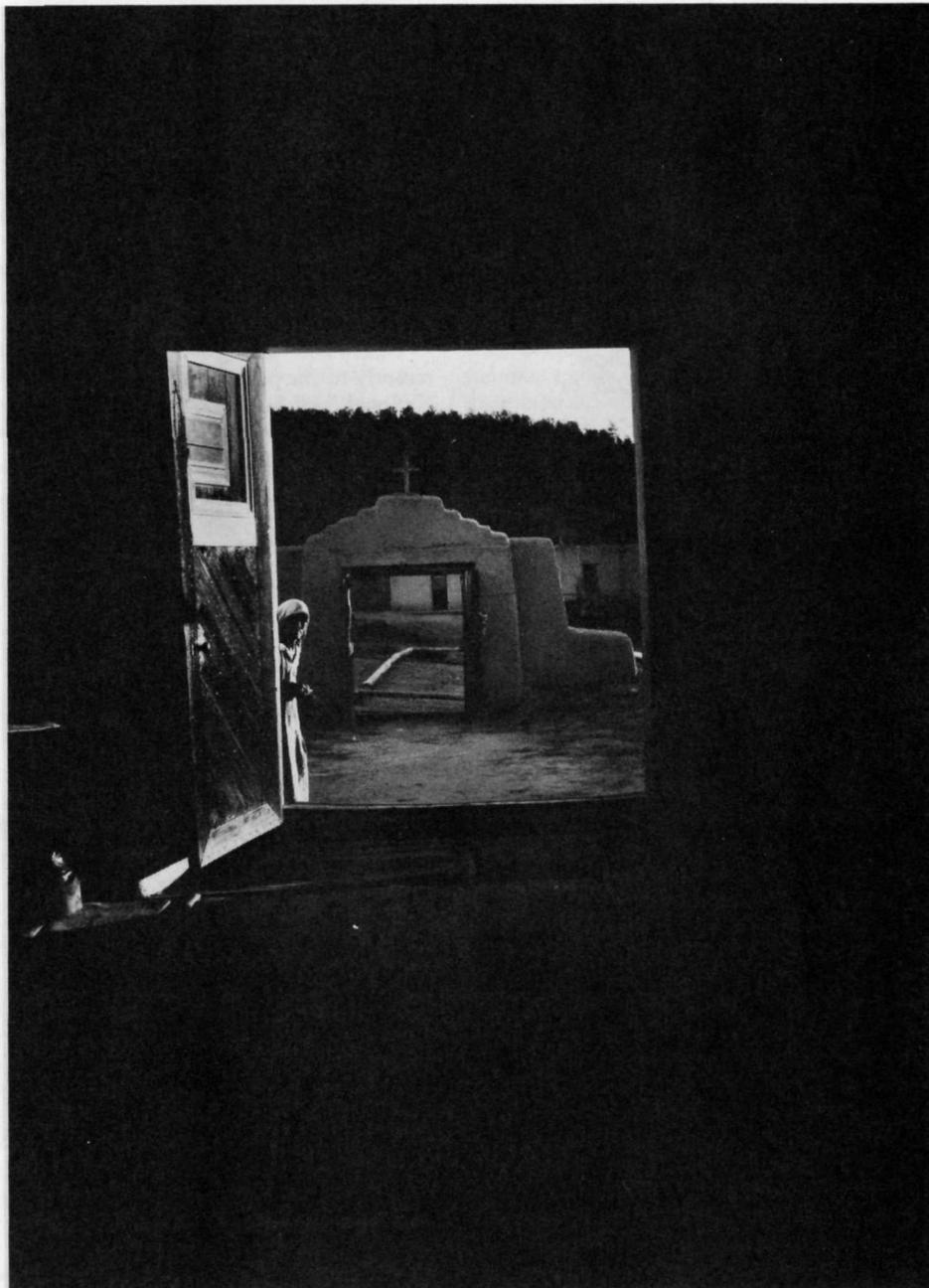
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A record in detail: architectural photographs of Jack E. Boucher



The retrospective of Jack Boucher's photographs, displayed at the American Institute of Architects, will be a traveling exhibit of the Library of Congress. These are a few of the prints in the collection

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