COURIER

NEWSMAGAZINE OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

VOL. 38, NO. 2 FEBRUARY 1993

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Volume 38, Number 2 February 1993

COVER

Professional re-enactors help tell the story of the role African-Americans played during the War Between the States. See Max Lockwood's feature article on the historic Massachusetts 54th Regiment, *Remembering the 54th*, on page 6. Photos by Don West.

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National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

TAKE PRIDE IN AMERICA

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Q&A WITH SECRETARY BABBITT

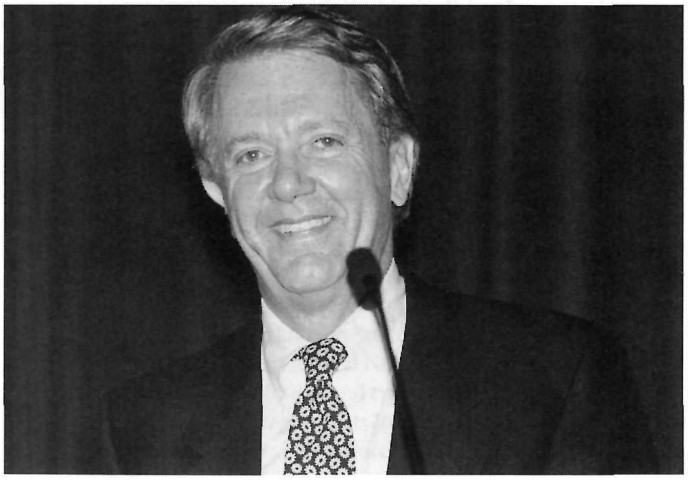
You've said that one of your top priorities is expansion of the National Park System. How can you balance expansion of the National Park System with the lands already under our care? I think we need to get help with the infrastructure. If the proposed stimulus program passes Congress, I think NPS would receive the money it needs to help with the maintenance, repairs, and rehabilitation that need to be done. We need to look at land exchanges among the public land agencies as a way of rationalizing park boundaries; creating parks; expansion of Joshua Tree NM and Death Valley NM, and the California Wilderness. These all bring some additional budget implications and we have to look at the revenue side of this Department. Ask hard questions about how faithful we are in collecting every nickel we are entitled to... What about raising fees? ...Before we ask Congress for money we have to ask ourselves if we're fulfilling our responsibility to the budget by collecting revenues for services rendered and resources used.

How can we gather more support from the private sector while maintaining integrity within the National Park System? We have to look at each situation as it comes up. I'm not terribly offended by the use I've seen of the Grand Canyon in national advertising. But, if it shows up as a backdrop in an [adult magazine] feature, then I'll start wondering whether that is a good way to raise revenue.

Do you see the next NPS director as a careerist? I am interviewing on both sides of the fence — careerists and outsiders. I really want to find the best person and I haven't reached that decision yet.

How does the Department see the role of science? Life is not going to get easier around the Interior Department. Look at the West particularly. There's a perpetual conflict between conservationists who want to preserve the land for recreational purposes and those who want to use the land for other interests. How do we resolve this conflict? This conflict has been, notably, over the Endangered Species Act...grazing...surface and subsurface mining...return flows from agriculture to river systems — the examples are endless. We need all of the Interior to work on the quality of our science. See how we can build confidence in the scientific community. How can we put together a more coordinated science effort that crosses jurisdictional lines? We are living in an a world where it is increasingly hard to do science that stops at the boundaries of the national parks. How do we move to a more integrated basic view of the things we want to initiate? With all the people in the Department, I want to start a discussion, not present a result.

You mentioned that multiple use is getting harder and harder to accomplish in some parts of the west? Multiple use is becoming what I would call "adjacent use." Land is being set aside for recreational purposes, watershed purposes, habitat purposes for endangered species. Rather than multiple use, it's become a mosaic of adjacent specific uses. You can't pile all uses on top of a given acre. What are the processes for deciding which is dominant? The problem with multiple uses — some of them — is, who decides on what criteria? There haave to be some criteria somewhere. I guess one possibility is that it could be up to land managers in the states. I think land managers should have a fair amount of discretion, but I'd really sleep a little better on my public trust pillow if I'd know the land managers all had some kind of criteria to select which uses will dominate when all cannot be accommodated. I am not inclined toward analyses that say you can manage land for all public uses. You really ought to have preferential rights.



What are you views on the Endangered Species Act? The real challenge with the Endangered Species Act is to avoid the train wreck we had in the Cascades Mountains with the spotted owl. The train wreck came because the agencies did not anticipate the problem and how to deal with it and they tended to work at cross purposes. Everybody had their own plans. Judges in courts are tired of hearing four or five agencies at cross purposes. The lessons I brought from that are these: With the Endangered Species Act we need to anticipate problems; formulate coverage and habitat plans that minimize disruptions and maximize conservation of the species. There have been some good plans put together in this way. The fringe-toed lizard is a success story in California. Rather than listing the animal, a habitat conservation plan was put together to avert the listing. ...If we get into a thoughtful course we can allow resources development at the same time that we give the species a maximum chance.

PROFILE: BRUCE BABBITT

Bruce Babbitt was sworn in as the 47th Secretary of the Interior on January 22, 1993. Babbitt was Governor of Arizona for nine years (1978-1987) and Attorney General of Arizona (1975-1978). In 1988 he was a candidate for the Democratic party nomination forPresident.

Born June 27, 1938, Babbitt grew up in Flagstaff, Ariz., where his family pioneered a ranching and trading business in the 1880s. After graduating from the University of Notre Dame, where he was student body president, he received a master's degree in geophysics from the University of Newcastle, England, which he attended as a Marshall Scholar. He graduated from Harvard Law School in 1965.

Babbitt was in private law practice at the time of his nomination to be Interior Secretary. He also was national president of the non-partisan, non-profit League of Conservation Voters.

In 1978, he served as a member of the Presidential commission to investigate the nuclear accident at Three Mile Island. He was a founding member of the Democratic Leadership Council and served as chairman of The Democratic Governors Association in 1985. He has been a member of the Advisory Council on Intergovernmental Relations, and was a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the Grand Canyon Trust.

Described by the *Almanac of American Politics* as one of Americas's "most original" governors, his advocacy led to passage of a nationally acclaimed state water management code in 1980, and in 1986 of a water quality act described by the *Los Angeles Times* as perhaps "the nation's toughest law to protect underground water."

Babbitt's wife, Harriet, also an attorney, has been nominated to become of Ambassador to the Organization of American States.

COMMENTARY

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

A View From the Hill– Change is in the Air

by Sean Devlin Bersell,
Office of Legislative
and Congressional Affairs

On January 5, the 103rd Congress convened; 110 new House members and 13 new Senators were sworn in, making this the largest class of new lawmakers since 1949. In addition, it is also the most diverse class in history.

Change means opportunity. How the National Park Service responds to this opportunity will dictate whether we are successful in achieving our legislative objectives during this session. Forty-eight women sit in the House now, a 66 percent increase over last session. The Senate now has six female members — two more than last year and the most ever.

Minority representation has increased dramatically. Forty African Americans now sit in the House, up from 26 last Congress. For the first time since 1979, an African American, Carol Moseley-Braun, serves in the Senate. Moseley-Braun, of Illinois, is also the first African American female Senator in history. Colorado's Ben Nighthorse-Campbell is the first native American senator in more than 60 years. Hispanics gained six seats in the House, bringing their total to 19. The number of Asian/ Pacific Islanders increased by one, for a total of eight, including the first Korean American to serve in Congress.

In a good news/bad news scenario, the number of lawyers in Congress had decreased, but with 239 members who are lawyers, it is still the most represented profession in Congress.

Almost three-fourths of the House freshmen have held elected office before or have had some other form of political experience.

In the House, the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs has changed its name to the Committee on Natural Resources. The Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands is now called the Subcommittee on National Parks and Forests and Public Lands. The subcommittee has expanded its jurisdiction to include California desert conservation areas administered by BLM, non-federal recreation land use, urban parks, and some additional historic preservation issues.There are 15 new members on the full committee and 10 new members on the subcommittee. Representative James V. Hansen of Utah is now the ranking Republican Member of the Subcommittee.

The House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee now consists of Representatives Yates of Illinois (Chairman), Murtha of Pennsylvania, Dicks of Washington, Bevill of Alabama, Skaggs of Colorado, Coleman of Texas, Regula of Ohio (Ranking Republican member), McDade of Pennsylvania, Kolbe of Arizona, and Packard of California.

In the Senate, Campbell of Colorado, Harlen Mathews of Tennessee, Robert Krueger of Texas, Robert F. Bennett of Utah, Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania, and Trent Lott of Mississippi have joined the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

The six new members of the Senate Appropriations Committee are Herb Kohl of Wisconsin, Dianne Feinstein of California, Patty Murray of Washington, Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, and Conrad Burns of Montana.

Although the Congress will apparently wait for the new administration to settle in and develop its program before moving forward on National Park issues, a number of park-related bills have already been introduced, including a California Desert Protection Act. In addition, both the House and the Senate have indicated they will hold hearings on the new Yosemite concessions contract soon after it is submitted to the Hill.

(Editor's Note: Assignments to the House Subcommittee on Interior Appropriations, Senate Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies, House Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands, and the Senate Subcommittee on Public Lands, National Parks, and Forests will be publised in the next issue.)

NATIONAL PARK FOUNDATION NEWS

NPF – 25th Anniversary Special

by Donald M.D. Thurber,
Founder and Historian

President Johnson was in office when the National Park Foundation was born, December 18, 1967. But the concept had its genesis six years earlier when President Kennedy asked me to serve as a consultant to Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall to explore ways to make the existing National Park Trust Fund a more effective instrument for encouraging private gifts to benefit the National Park Service.

I assembled and chaired a small citizen's task force, representing several disciplines, that decided the times called for a new beginning, an innovation that would supersede and go far beyond the Trust Fund in its serviceability. We discarded the past and took a calculated leap into the future. There was little to guide us except our goal itself, as we crafted the language that Congress adopted and President Johnson signed. We pioneered the concept of a federally chartered foundation — a true partnership between the private sector and a major public agency, the National Park Service.

Now it is six presidents later and more than that number of Secretaries of the Interior and Directors of the National Park Service; and the Foundation is reaching new heights of service with each passing year. Through the Foundation, the bond between the private sector and the National Park Service grows ever stronger, as resources provided by private sources increase. The pioneering vision of 25 years ago has come into its own.

1967 — December 18, NPF established by Act of Congress. Assets transferred from National Park Trust Fund: $784,387.

1970 — Laurance S. Rockefeller's $1.075 million gift provides critical seed money to NPF; NPF assists in rescue of Glen Echo carousel by helping to raise $80,000.

1972 — NPF acquires 40 acres of Saint-Gaudens NHS and 47 acres at Lyndon B. Johnson NHS for NPS.

1974 — Foundation funds production of filmstrips for National Environmental Education Development (NEED) program. Total raised for program to date: $355,973; NPF begins Associates Programs designed to provide annual funds for NPS projects from a small group of concerned individuals, corporations, and foundations.

1975 — More than 1,000 acres acquired at Acadia NP for NPS.

1976 — 1,246 acres of land acquired for NPS at Arches NP. Other land acquisitions include tracts at Antietam, George Washington Birthplace, Morristown, Acadia, Appomattox Court House, Glacier, and Greenbelt.

1977 — NPF celebrates 10th anniversary. To date 35,686 acres acquired, worth $18,611,977; Also, $2,498,839 raised for grants and projects.

1980 — NPF produces *American Photographers and the National Parks*, a book and exhibit of historical National Park

pictures, under the guidance of Robert Glenn Ketchum and Robert Cahn.

1982 — NPF makes substantial commitment of energy and resources to the Visitor Facilities Fund (VFF) to upgrade the physical condition of overnight visitor facilities in the Parks. VFF legislation approved in 1982; VFF improves facilities at Death Valley, Olympic, Mammoth Cave, Glacier Bay, and Crater Lake.

1985 — Horace Albright Professional Development Restricted Fund established with $250,000 gifts from Laurance S. Rockefeller and the Jackson Hole Preserve, Inc.; challenge grant also issued. NPF assumes management of American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society awards and creates the Wirth Environmental Award.

1986 — Arts for the Parks competition created by NPF and National Park Academy of the Arts to honor top artists who capture the spirit of the National Park System.

1987 — First 26 Albright Fund grants to NPS employees made for career development, totalling $68,452.

1989 — With Foundation's help and $1,798,765, Museum of American Constitutional Government dedicated at Federal Hall, New York. "The Constitution Works," an innovative, hands-on educational program for students to roleplay Constitutional arguments, commences.

1990 — NPS asks NPF to manage corporate advertising and promotional efforts for the Parks to generate new resources for Park needs.

1991 — NPF contracts to acquire Yosemite Park and Curry Company from MCA, Inc. for future conveyance to NPS, setting in motion a major reform in NPS concession policy; the Foundation receives a $6 million gift as part of the transaction. Foundation initiates unrestricted grantmaking program.

CULTURAL RESOURCES NEWS

NPS' Historic Preservation Mission Gets Helping Hand

by Jerry Rogers,
Chief, Cultural Resources Division, WASO

On October 30, 1992, former President Bush signed legislation that included the National Historic Preservation Act Amendments of 1992. This was the culmination of several years of effort by historic preservationists, primarily in state and local governments and the private sector, to make significant changes in the law.

Ideas, some supported by the National Park Service and some not, had been threshed out in countless committee meetings of the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers and in other forums. The resulting bill was introduced by Senator Wyche Fowler of Georgia in the 101st Congress and reintroduced with modifications in the 102nd Congress by Fowler and Congressman Charles Bennett of Florida. Major modifications continued to be made in House and Senate Committees and in conference between the two Houses. Few, if any, historic preservation bills had been the subject of so much effort by the time the President signed this into law.

Although the minor changes are numerous, the major ones can be grouped into three areas: relationships with state historic preservation officers (SHPO); tribal historic preservation programs;, and preservation technology. The law defines the duties of SHPOs more comprehensively than before, but in ways that confirm traditional NPS management of the federal-state partnership. NPS is now authorized to fund and maintain the partnership through contracts and cooperative agreements, but NPS officials worry that there may not be an advantage in using such agreements instead of the current grant-relationship standards.

A clear and strong authority to develop historic preservation programs among Indian Tribes became law, with the support of NPS, SHPOs, and other partners. If tribal programs meet prescribed standards, they can assume the roles heretofore played by SHPOs with regard to tribal lands. The Center for Preservation Technology and Training was established and situated at Northwestern State University of Louisiana at Natchitoches. The WASO Cultural Resources program has developed a "Statement of Program Approach," which offers a preliminary and informal interpretation of each change, and suggests the ways in which NPS proposes to implement them. The statement is being circulated to SHPOs and other partners. Their comments will be considered before NPS begins to draft the formal changes in regulations, guidelines, and other documents by which the law will be implemented.

It is anticipated that the Center for Preservation Technology and Training will become the long-desired Cultural Resources Research Program. Growing out of a 1986 study by the Congressional Office of Technology Assessment, the Center is a new entity within the Department of the Interior. The center conducts, coordinates, and financially supports research, technology transfer, and training, relating to historic preservation. It is designed to meet the needs of National Park units, other agencies, states, local governments, Indian tribes, and the private sector — in other words, it supports the full historic preservation mission of the National Park Service.

By means of a preservation technology and training board, the Center is expected to draw upon the strength and knowledge of a wide range of disciplines and institutions as it decides which preservation problems to tackle and in what order. Implementers want to make major gains for historic preservation, which means that they must supplement, rather than supplant, current activities in research, technology transfer, and training. Both the Service and Northwestern State University are strongly and enthusiastically committed to the program. Its location at Natchitoches puts it in the oldest European town in the Louisiana Purchase, and in the heartland of colonial-era competition between Spain, France, and England for domination of North America.

NATURAL RESOURCES NEWS

Grand Canyon Protection Now the Law

by Bill Jackson,
Water Resources Division

On October 30, 1992, the Reclamation Projects Act, which includes Title XVIII, Grand Canyon Protection, was signed into law. The Act requires the Secretary of the Interior to operate Glen Canyon Dam in such a manner as to "...improve the values for which the Grand Canyon National Park and Glen Canyon National Recreation Area were established...."

The passage of the Grand Canyon Protection Act marks a milestone in the long and often heated controversy over the impacts of Glen Canyon Dam on river resources values in the Grand Canyon. Research, conducted since 1982 under the auspices of the Bureau of Reclamation's Glen Canyon Environmental Studies Program, documents changes in river resources resulting from the construction and operation of Glen Canyon Dam. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the operation of Glen Canyon Dam is now being prepared by the Bureau of Reclamation in cooperation with the National Park Service and other agencies. The EIS will draw from available research and evaluate the effects of alternative dam operations on downstream natural and cultural resources. The EIS will form the basis for changing dam operations to benefit downstream resources, as directed by the new law.

The pre-dam Colorado River in Grand

Canyon was characterized by enormous sediment-laden spring floods and low, warm flows in late summer and fall. Beach erosion was a fact of life along the pre-dam river, but new sands were always redeposited, furthering the spring run-off. Native fish, like the humpback chub, evolved to thrive in the turbid main stem and riparian vegetation underwent varying cycles of re-establishment and succession, depending on floodplain terrace location and the frequency of flood disturbances.

Now, much of the pre-dam character of the river has changed. Water released from Glen Canyon Dam is cold and sediment-free all year. Whereas pre-dam flows varied on the average from 3,000 cfs to 80,000 cfs (and as high as 220,000 cfs) throughout a year, flows from 1965 to 1991 varied between 1,000 cfs and 30,000 cfs on a daily basis in response to electrical power demands. It is now widely thought that the combination of cold water, reduced sediment loads, loss of spring floods, and large daily fluctuations in river stage combined to induce changes in the physical and biological character of the river corridor. Beaches now erode, but are less likely to rebuild.

The native humpback chub now thrives only in the Little Colorado River and is a less frequent visitor to the main stem. Riparian vegetation is encroaching lower and lower on the river's banks, and new marshes are forming in areas now no longer scoured by annual floods. Traditional river uses have changed also. Trout fishing is now possible downstream from the dam and river rafting, though complicated by fluctuating daily flows, now occurs over a longer season.

The Grand Canyon Protection Act provides a legislative imperative to modify the operation of Glen Canyon Dam to improve pre-dam resources adversely impacted by the dam's operation. The Act requires that the EIS now being prepared by completed within two years. It also requires the dam be operated according to an "Interim Flow" prescription implemented by the former Secretary of the Interior Manuel Lujan in 1991 until a decision regarding final operations is made following completion of the EIS. Interim flows were designed to reduce resource impacts caused by daily flow fluctuations by imposing restrictions on the magnitude of permitted daily fluctuations. Interim flows also set limits on maximum flows, minimum flows, and the rate at which flows can change. Any changes in interim flows will require consultation with the National Park Service.

Recognizing that our understanding of the relationship between dam operations and the condition of downstream resources will continue to evolve as new scientific information is developed, the Grand Canyon Protection Act authorizes a long-term program of monitoring and research to evaluate how river resources respond to changes in dam operations. Thus, through its establishment of policy and its long endorsement of both the EIS process and long-term monitoring and research, the Grand Canyon Protection Act clearly provides that river resources protection is a fundamental purpose of dam operations and it creates a basis for a strong legal and technical framework to permanently modify flows from Glen Canyon Dam to accomplish that purpose.

NEW FACES, NEW PLACES

ANTHONY, David — Returning Seasonal at Mammoth Cave NP.
BAUER, Randy — Returning Seasonal at Mammoth Cave NP.
BOOHER, Barbara — Superintendent of Little Bighorn Battlefield NM, will also act as Indian Affairs Coordinator, RMRO.
BOUCHER, Donald — NARO to Ranger, Harpers Ferry NHP.
BRADLEY, Douglas C. — Computer Specialist, Big Thicket NPr to Division of Natural Resources Management and Sciences, CPSU, University of New Mexico.
BROCK, Paul — Returning Seasonal at Mammoth Cave NP.
BRYANT, Shawn — Maintenance Mechanic, Yellowstone NP to Maintenance Mechanic, Big Bend NP.
BURKE, Charles — C&O Canal NHP to Ranger, MWRO.
BURNETT, Gretel — Returning Seasonal at Mammoth Cave NP.
CARLSTROM, Brian — Wolf Trap Farm Park for the Performing Arts to Natural Resource Specialist, DSC.
CUMMINGS, Gerald H. — Utilities Systems Repair Operator, Sequoia NP to Maintenance Foreman, Capulin Volcano NM.
CURTIS, Lisa — Fire program clerk, Santa Monica Mtns NRA to park ranger, George Washington Carver NM.
DiSALVO, Carol — George Washington Memorial Parkway to Biologist, PNWRO.
DUFFY, Shawn — Seasonal from Arches NP to seasonal interpreter at Death Valley NM.
FERGUSON, Lee — Returning Seasonal at Mammoth Cave NP.
FIEDOR, John — George Washington Memorial Parkway to Supervisory Park Ranger, PNWRO.
FINK, William O. — Superintendent, Isle Royale NP to first superintendent of Keweenaw NHP.
FLIPPO, Barbara M. — Clerk-Typist, Laughlin AFB, Texas, to Secretary, Amistad NRA.
FORD, Vanessa — New in Personnel Office at Yellowstone.
GENTRY, John — Chief of Maintenance, Mammoth Cave NP to Assistant Superintendent, Chattahoochee River NRA.
GLADDEN, Charley W. — Engineering Equipment Operator, Department of Defense, Gila Bend, Arizona, to Engineering Equipment Operator, Big Bend NP.
GREEN, Terri — White House Liaison, NCR, to Secretary, SWRO.
HANSEN, Chris — New criminal investigator at Old Faithful, Yellowstone NP.
HEINGER, John R. — Personnel Clerk, Grand Canyon NP to Secretary, Big Bend NP.
HERNANDEZ, Roberto R. — Fire Management Officer, Grand Teton NP to Supervisory Park Ranger, Big Bend NP.
HOLM, Mick — Knife River Indian Villages NHS to Mammoth Cave NP.
KLIMA, Rich — Ranger, Martin Luther King, Jr. NHS to Ranger, Great Smoky Mountains NP.
KLINGENSMITH, Mike — C&O Canal NHP to Ranger, MARO.
KRUG, Luis — MARO to Ranger, C&O Canal NHP.
LINDERMAN, Linda — Operations, NCR to Secretary, WASO.
McADAMS, Kris — Former seasonal at Yellowstone is now the park's North District clerk.
MORRIS, Doug — Chief Ranger, Sequoia & Kings NPs to Superintendent, Saguaro NM.
O'HAVER, Joe — Ranger, Hot Springs NP to Ranger, Carlsbad Caverns NP.
OLSON, Rick — University of Illinois to Resource Manager at Mammoth Cave NP.
PLUMB, Glenn — Asst. Dir., Univ. of Wyo. NPS Research Ctr., Grand Teton NP to wildlife biologist, Badlands NP.
POOLE, Sandra — Clerk-Typist, U.S. Forest Service, Albuquerque, to Public Affairs Technician, Office of Communications, SWRO.
RAMBUR, Richard — Superintendent, Antietam NB to superintendent, Lowell NHP.
RICH, Margarett — New Personnel Clerk at Mammoth Cave NP.
ROELANDT, Paul — Utility systems repair foreman, Sequoia, to maintenance worker foreman, Voyageurs NP.
ROSSELLE, Heather — Rock Creek Park to Ranger, WRO.
ROUSE, Homer — RMRO Associate Director, Operations to superintendent, Rocky Mountain NP.
SCHAAF, Elizabeth — Operations, NCR to Ranger, MARO.
SMITH, Gregory — Interpretive Ranger, Edison NHS to Law Enforcement Ranger, Statue of Liberty NM.

SPRY, Don — USGS, Cheyenne, Wyo. to Administrative Officer, Great Onyx Job Corps Civilian Conservation Corps.
TANNER, Bruce — New coordinator for the Archeological Resources Protection Program and Resources Management at RMRO.
TOWERY, Lisa — From Yellowstone to personnel officer at Glacier NP.
WARREN-TAYLOR, Dave — Klondike Gold Rush NHP to Museum Technician, Mammoth Cave NP.
WESLOH, Eugene J. — Ranger, Cumberland Island NS to Ranger, Big Bend NP.

AWARDS

BAKER, Bob — Rocky Mountain Regional Director, received the DOI Meritorious Service Award January 12, recognizing his "pioneering the concept of strategic planning as a management tool" and "for his application of the principles of long range management into innovative programs."

BANTA, Jerry — Apostle Islands NL, received the MWRO Superintendent of the Year Award for his understanding and commitment to stewardship of natural resources and balanced approach to solving today's problems and future resource management problems while addressing issues of both Apostle Islands and the Great Lakes.

GEIGER, Tom — Buildings and utilities foreman at Grand Canyon, Tom recently received the 1992 WRO Outstanding Maintenance Employee of the Year Award. In addition, he received the 1992 Maintenance Supervisor of the Year Award for his achievements as a supervisor and his efforts to improve the professional skills and career advancement of his employees. He was also recognized for his support and commitment to the Equal Opportunity Program and the WRO Maintenance Affirmative Action Program.

SCOTT, Douglas — Received the DOI Meritorious Service Award for his contributions in the field of archeological methodology and interpretation for NPS.

SMITH, Rick — SWRO Associate Regional Director, Resources Management, received the DOI Meritorious Service Award.

VEGA, Richard — Sanitation foreman at Grand Canyon, recently received the 1992 WRO Outstanding Maintenance Employee of the Year award.

The NPS AOD: In the Vanguard of Financial Management

by Dario Bard

"National Park Service employees may not regard their Accounting Operations Division as the vanguard of federal financial management, but the Treasury Department does," said Bruce Sheaffer, NPS Assistant Director, Budget and Administration, and Comptroller. On December 10, the Treasury Department's Washington Financial Center presented its first Vanguard Award to Accounting Operations Division (AOD) Chief Jon Shrum in recognition of his office's excellent performance in the field of financial management. The Park Service AOD was selected out of the more than 200 federal agencies and bureaus served by the Washington Financial Center.

Some Park Service employees may question this selection, remembering difficulties they experienced obtaining cash advances or travel reimbursements from AOD. But, consider everything the AOD does to really evaluate its worthiness.

Shrum's office strives to improve financial services to the field. While the Departmental mandates AOD works toward this goal, it must deal with responsibilities to the Treasury, and implementation of Congressional decrees. Even though the AOD is the largest administrative office in the NPS with a staff of 170, these outside pressures occupy most of its time.

The AOD was formed in FY 1988. Jon Shrum, then of the Secretary's Office of Budget, was chosen by Sheaffer to head up the new organization. He and his original staff of 25 were given office space in Reston, Virginia, and little else.

There was much to be done, however, and Shrum and the AOD staff had to deal with these circumstances as best as they could. Their first task was to comply with an Interior Department directive to consolidate 11 finance offices and bring all financial services under one roof. This was necessary to establish uniform procedures and policies that would facilitate managing money matters Systemwide. This took a year and a half to accomplish and resulted in some unpopular changes.

One of the changes involved improved procedures and programming to ensure compliance with the Prompt Payment Act. This law requires the federal government to make commercial payments only during a specific time window — not before 23 days and not after 30 days from the date invoices are received in the parks. Construction payments are due sooner, and grant payments to states are due immediately. When financial matters were dealt with at the regional level, this law was habitually disregarded because vendors insisted on being paid promptly. Otherwise, they said they would refuse to do business with the federal government. Now that there is a central AOD, things are handled more professionally, which means the law is followed to the letter.

As things began to settle after the consolidation, the Department imposed another mandate on NPS — AOD had to implement a new accounting system, FFS, that now provides online and two alternative methods for data entry by field organizations.

The AOD also made the Park Service the first Interior bureau to implement the third party draft payment system, giving the parks a checkbook that allows them to pay certain bills quickly.

Meanwhile, AOD had to continue going about its everyday duties. In FY 1992, AOD staff processed more than 221,000 disbursements totalling about $630 million, and made more than one and a half million other accounting entries. Additionally, AOD is responsible for getting financial policies, guidelines, and reports to headquarters and field offices, and providing input in the development of other Servicewide policies and procedures. Every year AOD receives more than 1.25 million pieces of mail. And, the AOD has the thankless job of collecting debt payments from individuals and organizations that owe the Park Service money. It has become more aggressive in this regard.

The AOD altered the way business was done and, in disrupting routine, it has struggled to have its new ways accepted. This did not make it popular with many individuals and offices who interacted with AOD, and this, in turn, gave the AOD a bad reputation in the NPS community.

The Vanguard Award shows that the AOD has gained the respect of its peers. Jon Shrum and his people have come a long way and plan to continue improving their financial services. They have received a lot of positive feedback from the field personnel they serve. They have already successfully planned and tested a method by which employees can receive transfers from the Treasury directly into their bank accounts for travel payments, and for payments to contractors and vendors. Implementation of this procedure is expected to take place soon. A project is underway to build an electronic interface between FFS and AFS, a budget and accounting system used in most parks.

Other AOD plans include making it possible for parks and offices to collect payments by credit card, allowing contracting officers to purchase goods and services with credit cards, and enabling travelers to obtain travel advances using government Diners Club cards at automated teller machines.

The AOD has undertaken many changes but their primary goal remains the same — to better serve the financial needs of every Park Service organization. The Vanguard Award signals an excellent start and appears to be a harbinger of things to come.

BY MAX LOCKWOOD

Remembering the 54th

Heads held high, shoulders broad, the mighty men of the 54th Regiment marched up Beacon Street toward the State House. This parade was an unusual spectacle to the Boston Brahmin, the wealthy white community on the southern slope of Beacon Hill. They were not expecting to receive an all-black regiment. The sight of black soldiers displaying the Union's red, white, and blue uniforms had never taken place. Thousands of curious spectators observed them at Boston Common on May 28, 1863. These men were on a mission to show that blacks were entitled to a better position in society. One Journalist covering the event wrote: "No regiment has collected so many thousands as the 54th. Vast crowds lined the streets where the regiment was to pass and the Common was crowded with an immense number of people such as only the Fourth of July or some rare event cause for assemble."

The men of the 54th were aware that they would be seen as examples. The hopes of blacks joining the military in the future rested on their shoulders. Their hard work and training paid off; they marched with the discipline and confidence seen only in the most exemplary military units. According to one witness: "No white regiment from Massachusetts has surpassed the 54th in excellence of drill, while in general discipline, dignity, and military bearing the regiment is acknowledged by every candid mind to be all that can be desired."

To the Boston-based abolitionists, seeing the 54th march aroused emotion and pride. To an aging William Lloyd Garrison, a famous Boston abolitionist, watching the regiment from the balcony of his friend Wendell Phillips' home on Essex Street was like watching his accomplishments for the cause he had dedicated his life to.

Abolitionist Frederick Douglass, one of the greatest black civil rights activists was present to see the regiment he helped recruit. Douglass spent his life fighting for black equality. Besides, his sons Charles and Lewis, who had been among the first to volunteer for the regiment march off to war, were among the proud soldiers.

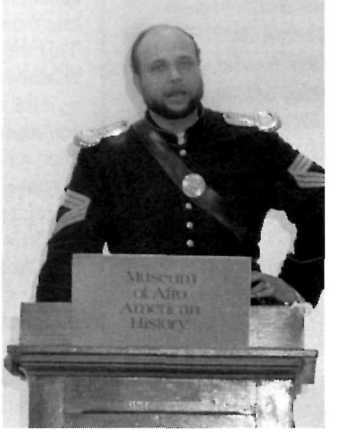
Prior to the 54th there were other attempts to form black fighting regiments but all had been denied by the Northern War Department. The North and the South had been at war for nearly three years before the 54th was recognized by the federal government. Blacks were legally free in the North, but to say they were of equal status in Northern society would be a gross inaccuracy. The North was willing to free the slaves but it was neither willing nor prepared to mainstream such a large group of blacks. And, until a clear set of laws protecting the freedom and rights of blacks was established, the North would be an unwelcome place.

Laws like the Fugitive Slave Act were indicators that the North was still not willing to protect the freedom of blacks. The Act was established by the Northern government in 1850 to help recapture runaway slaves. It stated that bounty hunters could be sent from the South to recapture runaways who had settled in the "free" states of the North.

Blacks and whites did not socialize much beyond the workplace and the two groups often lived in segregated neighborhoods. When proposals were issued that colored regiments be formed, several concerns were voiced by the Northern War Department and much of the white population. These concerns were a product of ignorance. Much of the War Department's hierarchy felt that African-Americans would be inadequate in battle. They assumed that blacks were not as capable as whites intellectually and therefore could not follow military orders. Others believed that, because of embitterment over their lower social status, the black regiments would rebel against white officers.

Fears such as these was partly due to a lack of interaction between whites and blacks. Many whites held misconceptions because of the little contact they had with blacks on a day-to-day basis. Aside from ignorance, some whites were racists. But, bigotry did not discourage the blacks. In many instances, it made them more persistent in their attempts to break the government's policies.

In mid-19th century Massachusetts, Boston was home to a great Abolitionist movement. It is in Boston where the effort to form the 54th



Professional re-enactors bring the 54th Massachusetts Regiment to life.

regiment was diligently pursued. A question presented itself to Massachusetts: Was a state which claimed to be progressive, and home to some of the leading anti-slavery advocates going to break deadlock and be the first to allow African-Americans to bear arms? Yes, according to Frederick Douglass:

We can get at the throat of treason and slavery through the state of Massachusetts. She was the first in the war of independence; first to break the chains of her slaves; first to make the black man equal before the law; first to admit colored children to her common schools. She was first to answer with her blood, the alarm-cry of the nation when its capital was menaced by the rebels. You know the patriotic Governor, and now you know Charles Sumner. I need add no more. Massachusetts now welcomes you as her soldiers.

This came from Douglass' newspaper, Rochester, New York, and was read during a recruitment campaign at the African Meeting House in Boston. Subsequently, the African Meeting House became one of the major recruiting centers for the 54th.

The regiment's commanding officer was Robert Gould Shaw. The Civil War Governor of Massachusetts was John Andrew, a Beacon Hill Abolitionist who had fought adamantly for the creation of the 54th.

Because of the origins of the 54th, the City of Boston was selected as the location for the re-enactment of the regiment's march through town. Last summer, the Boston African-American National Historic Site, in collaboration with the Museum of Afro-American History, sponsored a Abolitionist march and rally, "Men and valor." The historic site, which is based at 46 Joy Street in Boston's Beacon Hill, is managed in cooperation between the Museum of Afro-American History and The National Park Service. The Park Service's responsibilities consist of taking the public on tours of Boston's Black Heritage Trail, and interpreting the social history of African-Americans.

The Black Heritage Trail is a walking tour throughout the former African-American neighborhood that was located on the North slope of Beacon Hill throughout most of the 19th century. Both organizations felt the importance of putting together a program that would display a piece of history that Americans seldom get to experience. Kenneth Heidleberg, the Site Manager of the Boston African American National Historic Site, elaborated on the celebration: "I feel that by celebrating the commencement of the 54th, we are making the public aware of the diverse means that went into forming this country — not just white men had stakes in unifying this country."

Professional re-enactors from Washington D.C. and Massachusetts participated in the event. The re-enactment troupes were Companies A and B. Company A, a recently chartered Massachusetts reenactment troupe, worked with the established Company B. Company B has traveled throughout the country to participate in battles and marches the 54th was involved in during the Civil War. Many members of Company B played soldiers in the movie *Glory*. The re-enactors consist of men from a variety of professions and backgrounds. The chance of re-enacting pieces of military history that display the proud heritage of their people makes for a great hobby. George Harding, president of the 54th had this to say about his fellow re-enactors: "Whether we realize it or not, we have proven ourselves as re-enactors and historical interpreters through our attention to detail and commitment to authenticity, our total experience in battle, and our historical knowledge. Gentlemen, we have had our 1863. "

As NPSers we all know why we're here. We work to preserve that which will profit not men and their corporations, but our children and their children. The natural sites we preserve will teach those who come after us about areas that no longer exist and about wildernesses that once were. The historic areas we maintain keep history alive. In commemoration of Black History Month, we note those 47 units of the National Park System with black historical associations or where black involvement is significantly related to the park's interpretation themes (*).

- **Antietam NBS** (Sharpsburg, Md.)
- **Arlington House, The Robert E. Lee Memorial** (Arlington, Va.)
- **Booker T. Washington NM** (Hardy, Va.)*
- **Brices Cross Roads NBS** (Tupelo, Miss.)
- **Buck Island Reef NM** (St. Croix, V.I.)
- **Christiansted NHS** (St. Croix, V.I.)
- **Colonial NHP** (Yorktown, Va.)
- **Dry Tortugas NP** (Key West, Fla.)
- **Fort Bowie NHS** (Bowie, Ariz.)
- **Fort Clatsop NM** (Astoria, Ore.)
- **Fort Davis NHS** (Fort Davis, Tex.)*
- **Fort Donelson NMP** (Dover, Tenn.)
- **Fort Larned NHS** (Larned, Kans.)
- **Fort Pulaski NM** (Savannah Beach, Ga.)
- **Fort Scott NHS** (Fort Scott, Kan.)
- **Fort Sumter NM** (Sullivans Island, S.C.)
- **Fort Union NM** (Watrous, N.M.)
- **Frederick Douglas Home** (Washington, D.C.)*
- **George Washington Birthplace NM** (Washington's Birthplace, Va.)
- **George Washington Carver NM** (Diamond, Mo.)*
- **Gulf Islands NS** (Gulf Breeze, Fla.)
- **Hampton NHS** (Towson, Md.)
- **Harpers Ferry NHP** (Harpers Ferry, W.Va.)*
- **Homestead National Monument of America** (Beatrice, Neb.)*
- **Independence NHP** (Philadelphia, Pa.)
- **Jean Lafitte NHP** (New Orleans, La.)
- **Jefferson National Expansion Memorial** (St. Louis, Mo.)
- **Lincoln Memorial** (Washington, D.C.)
- **Lincoln Park** (Washington, D.C.)*
- **Longfellow NHS** (Cambridge, Mass.)
- **Maggie L. Walker NHS** (Richmond, Va.)*
- **Manassas NBP** (Manassas, Va.)
- **Mary McLeod Bethune Council House NHS** (Washington, D.C.)
- **Morristown NHP** (Morristown, N.J.)
- **Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial** (Put-In-Bay, Ohio)
- **Petersburg NB** (Petersburg, Va.)*
- **Richmond NBP** (Richmond, Va.)
- **San Juan NHS** (Old San Juan, P.R.)
- **Saratoga NHP** (Stillwater, N.Y.)
- **Sequoia NP** (Three Rivers, Calif.)
- **Shiloh NMP** (Shiloh, Tenn.)
- **Stones River NB** (Murfreesboro, Tenn.)
- **Tupelo NB** (Tupelo, Miss.)
- **Tuskegee Institute NHS** (Tuskegee, Ala.)*
- **Valley Forge NHP** (Valley Forge, Pa.)
- **Vicksburg NMP** (Vicksburg, Miss.)
- **Virgin Islands NP** (St. John, V.I.)

An Anniversary No One Can Forget

by John Quinley
Public Information Officer, ARO

Quiet bays like this one at Katmai National Park are the areas where oil is likely to remain for years after the Exxon Valdez oil spill.

Good Friday 1993 marks the fourth anniversary of the grounding of the Exxon Valdez, the largest oil spill in the United States and the largest man-made disaster to hit national parks.

In 1989, some 400 miles of national park coastline was struck by oil in varying amounts, primarily in Katmai National Park and Kenai Fjords National Park, and to a lesser extent in Aniakchak National Monument.

This year, a casual observer would be hard pressed to see oil in those parks. But, it's not gone, not nicely cleaned up and toted away with absorbent booms, skimmers, and shovels. To be sure, some of the 11 million gallons went away in that manner — a small army of Exxon-paid crews made that happen over three summers of field work. But oil remains in the environment — evaporated, dispersed by tides and storms, or, more ominously, buried but not dead on quiet beaches.

"Especially in sheltered locations, there is oil," said Cordell Roy, chief of the coastal programs division in the Alaska Regional Office. "This past summer [1992], we were finding oil that still looked fresh, producing sheens, still with toxic qualities," he said. More than 20 sites are known to contain oil. The oil is stable, buried or crusted over, until disrupted by storms, high tides, or warm weather that allows it to ooze back into the water. "We and others are learning a lot about the fate, persistence, and the range of effects of oil in the environment," Roy said.

Beach cleanup in the parks lasted two summers. By the third year, as crews worked other areas, park managers found the marginal benefit of more cleanup was not worth the disruption caused by boats, helicopters, all-terrain vehicles, and people.

The focus of work has shifted from the high-visibility clean-up projects to an unprecedented process of sorting out how to spend civil settlement and criminal restitution funds totalling more than $1 billion on restoring injured resources.

Not long after the tanker went aground, state and federal agencies began assessing damages to resources. Overall, the federal and state assessment "had a profound Prince William Sound focus, and a focus toward criminal and civil litigation," Roy said. (Geography 101: The Exxon Valdez went aground in northeast Prince William Sound. Kenai Fjords is 125 miles southwest; Katmai is another 200 miles further southwest.)

As the organizational and political chips fell into place in 1989 and 1990, the National Park Service was largely left out of studies now being used to guide restoration activities.

"The NPS was very peripheral on damage assessments, and there are very few state or federal studies in or near parks," Roy said. The lesson learned: get to the table early and stay as fully involved in the process as possible.

The pattern has continued in the restoration phase. Of $16 million allotted for restoration work in 1992, the National Park Service got $52,000 for a cooperative study on mussel beds.

"It's surprising to many of us how little the NPS and the resources we protect are getting from this settlement so far," said Sandy Rabinowitch, the restoration program manager for the Service. "Clearly the country looks at these park lands as very important places, yet within the oil spill community there is little recognition.

"We're not saying forget about other areas, but there should be some measure of recognition that these lands are the most protected lands in the United States, and to a large extent we don't have a clue what the oil did to brown bears in Katmai, to birds nesting in and near parks, to marine resources using the parks, or to recreational resources," Rabinowitch said.

Ideas on how to spend the restoration money are varied. Some agencies are considering physically restoring beaches, others are looking to enhance fish and other wildlife stocks damaged by the spill.

Top priority for the Park Service in its bidding for restoration funding is acquisition of some or all of the 75,000 acres of inholdings on the Kenai Fjords coast. The native corporation owners are willing sellers, and the permanent protection of coastal resources from logging, mining, and recreational subdivisions is viewed as "a way of helping to make things whole," said Anne Castellina, superintendent of Kenai Fjords.

"There's not much else you can do to restore land that's oiled. On one significant archeological site, we can't remove oil without compromising the site. So you cast about and look for what you can do. We have the opportunity to purchase land that somewhat makes up for the loss," she said.

One hard fought success in the legal evolution of the oil spill was the inclusion of cultural resources in the damage assessment and subsequent settlement. The Clean Water Act

does not specifically recognize archeological sites and other cultural areas as being susceptible to damage. Throughout the spill area, nearly three dozen known archeological sites were injured either by oil, cleanup, or vandals who became aware of sites through media coverage of the spill. Many more are thought to have been oiled.

The Park Service has used spill settlement money to fund the evaluation and restoration planning for archeological sites in parks, and plans to hire seasonal law enforcement rangers for coastal patrols if the project is approved for 1993.

The nine coastal parks in Alaska have some 1,500 miles of coastline. Four years after the "big one," Kenai Fjords and Katmai have acquired some information about their coastal resources, but remain — as do many parks — largely ignorant of their far flung treasures.

A 72-volume investigation done by the NPS for use by the Justice Department in litigation is now available for public and scholarly use. While it provides a significant snapshot of park resources in the spill area, inventories of resources remain incomplete, monitoring sites and priorities must be selected, and long-term funding for addressing coastal resources must be secured.

"We're not really any better off than four years ago," said Castellina. "Our staff is about the same size, but we've had oil spill duties. This has not been an impetus for helping eliminate the problem of not having a collection of baseline data about the park."

Castellina, an interpreter by background, is also disappointed that with the threat of litigation limited, until recently, what could be said about spill damages. "We lost the opportunity to do environmental interpretation about what an oil spill like this means to our future. Now it's old news."

Then-superintendent Ray Bane examines oil and dead birds in the gravel beach at Katmai National Park.

The oil spill office in Anchorage, once a beehive of activity for an incident command team, has been renamed the Coastal Programs division to recognize its broader focus and now consists of four resource specialists and a secretary. The $218,000 in base funding and some project money, though, leaves the office's future uncertain.

In 1989, the Park Service had no boats that made an adequate platform to work the outer coasts of Kenai Fjords or Katmai. That is unchanged in Katmai, but Kenai Fjords has added the 56-foot Serac, a boat designed in part to house on-board work teams and capable of handling much of the Gulf of Alaska weather.

Outside the Park Service other changes have taken place. The U.S. Coast Guard and the oil industry have added safeguards for the tanker fleet leaving Alaska. Nevertheless, four years after the Exxon Valdez hit Bligh Reef, oil spills from supertankers or the many smaller ships moving products in and out of Alaska remain a significant threat to Alaska's coastal parks.

"Four years ago, I figured we'd be about where we are in terms of the physical environment, but the political environment has left people very disappointed. The restoration process has been a bureaucratic nightmare," Castellina said.

That sentiment was echoed by Roy, who said: "About $300 million of the $1 billion settlement has already been spent on cleanup costs, continuing damage assessment studies, reimbursements for trustee agencies for past costs, and agency restoration planning administrative expenses."

"If we continue at this rate, another $50 to $100 million be be spent on trustee agency overhead over the next seven years, leaving only about half of the $1 billion for restoration activities. It is clearly time to get on with some meaningful restoration activities for the injured resources before the tremendous buying power of the fund is gone."

MID-ATLANTIC REGION

Two Newly Discovered African-American Burial Sites Give First-Hand Knowledge About the Past

A rare and tangible link to a little-known chapter in the history of one of America's oldest African-American communities was revealed in 1991. Workers excavating foundations for a new General Services Administration building in the heart of downtown Manhattan's civic center area unexpectedly unearthed human remains beneath landfill 16 feet below present street level. A survey of city archival records soon showed the site to be that of New York's 18th century African burial ground. Halting construction, city officials in consultation with representatives of New York's African-American community, worked with federal authorities in 1991 and 1992 to administer systematic archeological excavations at the site.

Human remains and artifacts associated with the 425 burials thus far unearthed represent what may be the only preserved urban 18th century African burial ground in the United States. Then, as now, the cemetery has been a site of profound social, cultural, and spiritual significance to New York's African-American population. Information preserved in cemetery deposits can provide otherwise unobtainable insights into the health, demography, spiritual beliefs, and social life of this predominantly enslaved 18th century community.

MARO is working with community leaders and city officials to preserve, protect, and interpret this important cultural resource. Spearheaded by NHL Regional Program Coordinator Bill Bolger and Cultural Resource Planning Branch archeologists Bert Herbert and Bob Grumet, National Register Programs Division staff have been helping the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission coordinate preparation and presentation of a National Historic Landmark nomination. The nomination of this site provides an

opportunity to honor the heritage and better understand the lives of people belonging to one of the nation's oldest and least-known urban communities. By providing technical assistance in this effort, MARO staff is helping New Yorkers preserve this unique and long-hidden part of America's past.

The National Historic Landmark Program is also involved in preserving another African-American cemetery. At Berry Hill, a plantation in Southern Virginia (landmarked in 1971 for architectural design), one of the largest African burial grounds in the antebellum South was recently discovered.

Berry Hill is a privately-owned agricultural property. The cemetery, concealed by overgrowth, but otherwise unaltered since the 1860s, was discovered last winter on a hillside overlooking the Dan River. No jurisdiction protected this resource, however, the owner voluntarily donated a protective easement to the Virginia Historic Landmarks Board.

Landmark nomination for Berry Hill will be amended to include the property's African-American significance, following additional research.

Both properties will be included in the forthcoming African-American NHL Theme Study, which will supplement the 97 currently designated African-American NHLs.

Information preserved in these cemetery deposits can provide otherwise unobtainable insights into the health, spiritual beliefs, and social life of these predominantly enslaved communities. ■

The Battle of New Market Heights: Medals for Heroes

The Battle of New Market Heights, Henrico County, Virginia, fought on September 29, 1864, remains among the lesser known engagements of the Civil War. Its significance, however, in American military history and African-American history deserves recognition. While there is no NPS land at New Market Heights, the battle is interpreted at the Fort Harrison unit of the Richmond National Battlefield Park.

In late September 1864, General-in-Chief U.S. Grant approved a plan sending Major General Benjamin Butler's Army of the James against the Confederate defenses protecting Richmond. If Butler's men broke through, capturing the Confederate capital became possible. The campaign involved more than 20,000 troops, and, although not a complete victory, it was the North's most successful effort to break General Robert E. Lee's defensive lines north of the James. Blacks, serving in units designated as the United States Colored Troops (USCT), played a crucial role.

Just before dawn Butler launched a two-pronged attack. While Major General Edward Ord's 18th Corps crossed the James River at Aiken's Landing and attacked up the Varina Road, Major General William Birney's 10th Corps and Brigadair General Charles Paine's division of about 3,000 USCT men advanced north from Deep Bottom. General Butler had personally recommended Paine's division to lead the Union attacks; he believed blacks would fight as well as whites and New Market Heights offered a perfect opportunity for the USCT to prove their ability.

Advancing north from the protected river crossing at Deep Bottom, Paine's division quickly came under Confederate fire. Aligned behind earthworks along the base of New Market Heights were perhaps 2,000 Confederate soldiers belonging to the famous Texas brigade and Brigadair General Martin Gary's dismounted cavalry brigade. Paine's three Union brigades formed behind Four Mile Creek and steadied themselves before the grand rush toward the enemy line.

Unfortunately for the Union effort, the attacks came piecemeal. Colonel Samuel Duncan's brigade went first but was soon bogged down, unable to penetrate the two lines of fallen trees and debris the Confederates layed to protect their position. Next came Colonel Alonzo Draper's attack across the same ground. Under constant infantry and artillery fire, Draper's men spent 30 brutal minutes exchanging fire with the southern defenders. Finally, Confederate fire slackened, providing an opening for the USCT to charge the heights. Paine's men crossed the earthworks and rushed up the slopes of the heights only to find that most of the Confederate defenders had shifted westward. But, the valor of the charge could not be denied. Paine's division suffered around 800 casualties in just over an hour. The courage and determination of the troops was firmly established.

The story doesn't end here. General Butler visited the field shortly after the battle and witnessed the terrible cost of victory. In recognition of his men's bravery he sponsored production of 200 medals to honor the heroes of New Market Heights.

Of even greater significance was the awarding of the Medal of Honor to 14 USCT men for their conduct during the battle. This was an especially important achievement given that only 16 Army Medals of Honor were given to black men during the entire Civil War.

MIDWEST REGION

From Dream to Reality

On a sunny, crisp day in November, a dream was realized. The Agate Fossil Beds National Monument visitor center and museum was opened to the public.

Established in 1965, Agate Fossil Beds National Monument protects outstanding paleontological sites of the Miocene age. It is envisioned that through the new visitor center, the park will provide for continuing research, display, and interpretation of the scientific specimens from the University of Carnegie Hills fossil beds that tower over the Niobrara River valley site, and become the permanent home for more than 500 Sioux Indian artifacts. Artifacts include famed Oglala Chief Red Cloud's ceremonial shirt and gifts he and other Sioux gave to their friend Captain James H. Cook, a trail driver, cavalry scout, and cattleman who first discovered the fossils on his Agate Springs ranch.

The day was the culmination of years of effort and contribution by many individuals, businesses, organizations and foundations — all working together to fulfill the dream of a permanent facility to house the Cook collections and interpret the fossil beds. More than 400 visitors participated, including the former United States Senator Roman L. Hruska, who sponsored the enabling legislation, Midwest Regional Director Don Castleberry, Deputy Regional Director Bill Schenk, Superintendent JoAnn Kyrall, and many other dignitaries.

John Around Him, a spiritual leader to the Oglala Sioux Indian Tribe of Pine Ridge, South Dakota, blessed the facility and its artifacts with a sacred peace pipe and Indian smoke blessings.

Left to right, Victoria Hruska, Koann Kyral, Bill Schenk, Senator Roman Hruska, Don Castleberry, Patricia Redel and Paul Hofmeister cut the ribbon to open the visitor center and museum at Agate Fossil Beds National Monument. Photo provided by the Lusk Herald.

The participation of the Lakota People, especially the blessing of the artifacts and the building, was an experience of a lifetime for many. It was a special honor to have several members of the park's resource panel from the Oglala Lakota Historical Society present. Captain James H. Cook's granddaughter, Dorothy Meade, and her family attended the event, along with descendants of Chief Red Cloud. The tradition of friendship between the two peoples continues today.

The 10,600-square-foot visitors center and museum was designed by Midwest Regional Office engineers and architects. The Friends of the Agate Fossil Beds raised more than $382,000 to match federal funds. These efforts made a big difference in gaining congressional approval for federal dollars. Permanent exhibits and murals are expected to be completed in 1995. ■

It's a Tradition

More than 600 candle lanterns light the parade ground at Fort Scott National Historic Site for the annual candlelight tour.

Laughter, music, and the sounds of disciplined soldiers float through the darkness. The pounding of horses' hooves heard in the distance. The glow of candlelight and crackling fires is welcome respite from the cold.

Two nights each year, Fort Scott National Historic Site, Kansas, springs to life during the site's frontier candlelight tour. This 11-year tradition gives visitors a chance to experience activity at an isolated frontier post during December 1845. The scene is breathtaking as more than 600 candle lanterns light the walks and stairways of the post buildings.

Park staff and living history volunteers don the dress and demeanor of soldiers, guards, hospital patients, laundresses, and officers and their families. One might get a glimpse of the post surgeon tending the sick, a fancy dinner party, or a group of infantrymen gathered around a campfire. To visitors escorted by a soldier or officer's wife, the rigors of frontier life are readily apparent.

The first weekend in December is like a homecoming at Fort Scott. Only 1,200 reserved tickets are available for visitors who come from miles around to witness this festive occasion. The tremendous popularity of the Candlelight tour is testimony to the quality effort of all who are involved: visitors, volunteers, park staff, and the many supportive businesses and individuals from the City of Fort Scott.

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

Celebration of Achievement

It has been 25 years now since Dottie Benton and Bob Stanton started working together at the Interior building. So when Bob asked her to step forward during a recent all-employees meeting, you could feel the nostalgia and warmth. The framed picture told the story of why this moment was to be savored.

It was titled *Celebration of Achievement,* and includes portraits of Mary McLeod Bethune, Lena Horne, Shirley Chisolm, Barbara Jordan, and Dr. Dorothy Height. It summed up the accomplishments of a generation of Black leaders who have succeeded in bringing African-American history into the mainstream of the National Park Service. Bob Stanton is now a regional director, and Dottie takes some of the credit, saying she was his mentor when they worked together as NPS personnelists.

The unspoken congratulations during the round of special achievement awards and 10-year service pinnings was the latest recognition of African-American culture in the nation's capital — authorization by Congress to acquire the Mary McLeod Bethune Council House. Dottie, who said she was looking toward retirement before the legislation was enacted, has been working full-time since then as manager of the project to bring the House into the family of the park historic sites.

Once funding is in place, the three-story townhouse at 1218 Vermont Avenue, N.W.,

NCR Regional Director Robert Stanton presents Dottie Benton a framed print titled "A Celebration of Achievement." NPS photo by Bill Clark.

will be operated by NPS staff working in partnership with the National Council of Negro Women, which was established by Mary McLeod Bethune and has been headquartered there since 1935. Bethune was counselor to five U.S. presidents and the acknowledged leader of the "Black Cabinet" during the Franklin D. Roosevelt administration. Dottie also hopes to focus attention on Bethune's role as mentor to young blacks who gained prominence later, among them A. Philip Randolph, who became a labor leader as president of the Sleeping Car Porters Union, and Whitney Young, who became a major civil rights leader as president of the Urban League.

Partnership with the National Council of Negro Women gives the house license to broadly interpret the history and contributions of African-American women. Bethune lived for a time on the third floor and some of her furniture and personal items have been saved, but the house will function more as an archive for researchers and a site for lectures, training, and symposia. Bethune founded the Bethune-Cookman College in Florida where, Dottie said, 25 boxes of photos and other materials wait to be donated to NPS. Dottie is continuing to work on a list of nomination sources for a 15-member advisory board.

The next step is a management plan to get the house running like a real NPS site, Dottie said. After years of working with community groups to bring NPS urban programs to bear on issues of environmentalism, ethnicity, and recreational opportunity, Dottie said she felt personally rewarded by this latest challenge in her career. With a twinkle she explained why she thought Bob Stanton gave her the picture. "Oh, I think he was just feeling warm at Christmas time," Dottie said, giving lie to thoughts that "management" lacks love or human compassion. ■

Inaugural 1993

by Earle Kittleman

Something old, something new--a Presidential Inaugural is something like a big, public wedding. The civil requirements for the ceremony haven't changed since George Washington: the Congress embraces the outcome of the election and vows are spoken. But the rest of the fanfare, including the President's inaugural speech and grand parade down Pennsylvania Avenue, has its origins in layers of tradition built up over each of the past 51 inaugurals.

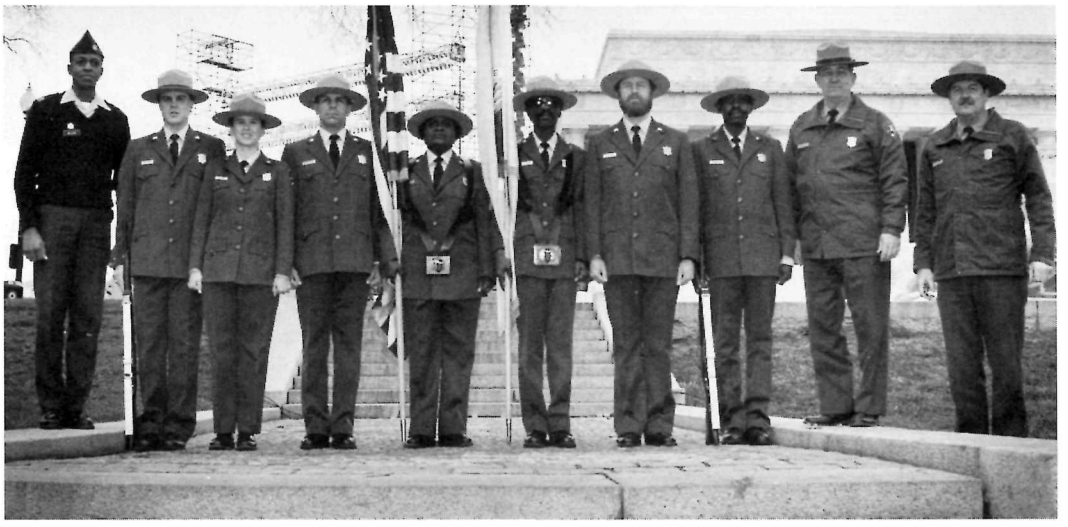
Each administration tries to reflect the mood of the country and establish themes that will be heard during the next four years. President-elect Ronald Reagan in 1981 used the Lincoln Memorial to stage a pre-inaugural ceremony. President-elect Bush's people turned it into a "points of light" concert. So no one was too surprised when the inaugural committee this year carried the festivity a step further, inviting more than 1000 popular entertainers to the Nation's Capital to perform a free concert on a massive stage built on the Lincoln Memorial steps and a two-day cultural fair on the Mall. A bell-ringing ceremony across Memorial Bridge and 20-minute-long fireworks display on the Potomac River brought traffic to a standstill on the George Washington Memorial Parkway and city streets in a carefully orchestrated shutdown by U.S. Park Police.

The muscle work of inaugural week fell to the police, rangers and maintenance workers who erected nine miles of snowfence for crowd control, manned barricades, controlled access points to public ceremonies, kept tabs on numerous private contractors hired by the inaugural committee, escorted VIP motorcades, transported supplies and dignitaries and hauled tons of refuse so that each park area looked fresh the next day. NPS coordinators for the event were Stan Lock and Sandra Alley from the NCR regional office, Vicki McGraw for National Capital Parks Central and Captain J.J. McLoughlin of the U.S. Park Police. They met the multiple heads of the inaugural committee before Christmas and after the holidays flew into a blur of activity to stay ahead of events. More than 30 special event and filming permits were issued for construction and setups on park land. Calls to the public affairs office and U.S. Park Police kept the phone lines busy for weeks in advance as hundreds of news media representatives arrived in town to augment the already huge resident press corps of Washington, D.C.

This year's inaugural took another new twist involving park rangers at President's Park midway through the planning. The presidential open house the day following the inaugural was to be open to the public in a tradition dating to Thomas Jefferson in 1805. Realizing that the distribution of a limited number of free tickets to the open house would have to be visibly fair, the inaugural committee came to NPS with 90,000 postcards requesting tickets. The next morning, park rangers held a public drawing on the White House tour line at the Ellipse and then spent the evening with the help of 12 volunteers calling around the country to the lucky 2000 people whose names had been pulled. "I felt like Ed McMahan calling from Publisher's Clearing House," one happy volunteer told Jim McDaniel head of NCR's White House Liaison office.

With METRO choked, streets closed, and the parks swarming with flag-waving crowds, TV cameras whirring and the radios crackling in the Chief's communications room, NPS workers exhausted themselves to help produce another successful inauguration. Tourmobile, the park concessioner, was commended too for transporting hundreds of visitors from one end of the National Mall to the other; and Guest Services Incorporated (GSI) for cooperating on the sale of inaugural food and souvenirs on parkland.

For many it was their first inaugural, and no one has worked more of them than Central's Chief of Maintenance William I. Newman, who was probably working when President Eisenhower took the oath. To be an eyewitness to the constitutional change of government and to participate in the political pageantry has to be counted as the greatest privilege of working in the National Capital Region. For all that can and does happen here, it still has to be said--you haven't worked at NCR until you've worked an inaugural. ■



U.S. Army Sgt. Carrie Williams of Fort Lesley J. McNair with NCR Color Guard members, left to right, Mike Caldwell, Amy Dailey, Bruce Hasson, Claudia Anderson, Willie Banks, Will Morris, Mike Lucas, Chief Ranger Ed Drotos, and Ken Kelley.

NCR Park Ranger Color Guard

by William R. Morris,
Interpretive Specialist, NCR

Regional Director Bob Stanton and Chief Ranger Ed Drotos had long hoped for a way to showcase the proud image of the NPS at special events in the Washington, D.C. area. Now that wish has become reality through the Park Ranger Color Guard.

The idea began in 1990 with the creation of the NCR Public Events Team. Composed of park rangers from throughout NCR, the Public Events Team served primarily at special events, such as wreath-laying ceremonies where a highly polished NPS image was needed. These rangers learned protocol, saluting, and marching techniques from Colonel Gordon H. Colson and Sergeant Carrie Williams of the U.S. Army, Military District of Washington, Fort Lesley J. McNair.

Ceremonies like the birthday celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. traditionally included a military color guard, so regional Director Stanton wondered why that role wasn't carried by the NPS. Chief Ranger Drotos was quick to answer the call. More training with Colonel Colson and Sergeant Williams pulled select members of the Public Events Team into the "Ranger Elite," the NCR Park Ranger Color Guard. Less than one year old, the Color Guard now has participated in seven special events including the Bicentennial of the Laying of the White House Cornerstone, the 10th Anniversary Ceremony of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, and the Women in Federal Law Enforcement Candlelight Vigil.

NORTH ATLANTIC REGION

The Big Events Calendar

For the 12th consecutive year, the staff of Boston African-American NHS (BOAF) has published its acclaimed "Black History Month" events calendar. Since 1982, when Dorothy Powell was site manager, events scheduled for the entire celebratory month have been accessible to folks in Greater Boston via the calendar.

"Now we have a nationwide and international mailing list," said Site Manager Ken Heidelberg. "Of our 18,500 copies, we mail about 300 overseas." The calendar unfolds to a large poster size and depicts February's days in bib blocks with the major Black History-related events having a photo and/or headline-size type to promote each within their respective blocks (for easy self-scheduling and reference). The BOAF staff considers this year's four top events as: "Worlds of Revolt," a world premiere play by David Coleman about abolition in Boston (1850-1900), February 2; the Jazz/Blues Cabaret on February 12; a film festival, "Flick Afrique," February 20-21; and the exciting and popular Gospel Choir Concert on February 26. All of these events will take place at the African Meeting House, the centerpiece of BOAF and the oldest standing Black-built church in America (1806).

Heidelberg and assistant Charles Taylor say that distribution and working the calendar "through the system" are the toughest things to do relating to publishing the widely sought-after and acclaimed item. "We start piecing it together in July, but the December deadline still seems to come so quickly," said Heidelberg. "Actually," added Taylor, "the hardest thing of all is to have to turn people away at the sold-out events." ■

Essay Contest

On January 19 the African Meeting House hosted the winners of the fifth annual NARO Martin Luther King, Jr. essay contest. Regionwide, about 250 schools were invited to enter one essay to a panel of judges. The three winners got all-expenses-paid trips to the Martin Luther King NHS and Center in Atlanta. Winners were selected on the basis of originality and their reflection on Dr. King's ideals. The 1993 winners: Kori Dawn Marrone (Lebanon, N.H.); Amarl Glasgow (Brooklyn, N.Y.); and Jason Gaswirth (Great Neck, N.Y.).

Keynote speaker at the afternoon event was Deborah Jackson, president and chief executive officer of Morgan Memorial/Goodwill Industries. A choral group from Boston Latin School performed several selections for NARO and the local community who assembled at the meeting house.

Story of York Told at Fort Clatsop

York, William Clark's personal servant and companion since childhood, was the only black member of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. During Black History Month each year, an exhibit in his honor is displayed at Fort Clatsop (Oreg.), where the explorers spent the harsh winter of 1805-1806.

He was the son of "Old York" and "Rose," slaves who had been with the Clark family all their lives, and he was willed to William Clark by his father in July 1799.

Entries about York appear often in Clark's journals. His popularity with native Americans is described in the entry for October 10, 1804: *"Those Indians were much astonished at my Servant. They never Saw a black man before, all flocked around him & examind him from top to toe, he Carried on the joke and made himself more turibal than he wished him to doe..*[sic]"

According to the journals of both Lewis and Clark, York traded, hunted, foraged, danced, attended to the ailing Sacagawea, and helped build Fort Clatsop.

Despite being a slave, York was accepted as a peer and enjoyed the comraderie of the men. Unheard of in that era, he used firearms and cast an equal vote in deciding the location of Fort Clatsop. His color, size, and strength made a lasting impression on the native people. Tales of York are still passed on in tribal oral histories.

Today, it is impossible to accurately sort out truth from rampant myths about his late life, which is cloaked in obscurity and fanciful legend.

York was eventually freed by Clark and set up in a hauling business with six horses and a wagon. This venture quickly failed; his slave wife was forcibly separated from him and he died in middle age of cholera. There is some plausible, but unlikely evidence to the contrary; some people optimistically embrace the story of his return to the west to enjoy dignity living among the Crow Indians as a respected chief. ■

Giving Where It Helps

The federal employees in the Seattle-King County area are proud of the record they have achieved in the Combined Federal Campaign. Since 1987 collections have increased from $849,000 to $2,135,000. Contributions from employees of the Pacific Northwest Regional Office and Klondike Goldrush National Historical Park have padded this impressive growth.

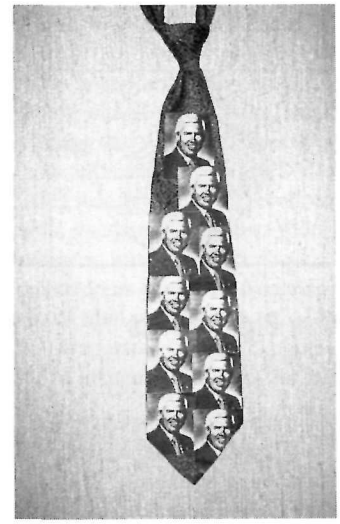
For 1992, however, Regional Office employees surpassed prior efforts with a campaign that combined a message of giving with some fun and good humor. Purchasing agent Steve Allen appeared in the locally produced campaign video, telling his personal story of how a CFC-funded agency helped to change his life. Rory Westberg participated on the county-wide campaign steering committee. Under the inspired direction of NPS Coordinator Joe Dunstan, 18 regional office employees participated in the "Walk to Care," kicking off the county-wide campaign.

The regional office got its campaign started with an all-employee rally and judging of the "Ugly Tie Contest." The entire regional directorate agreed to wear the winning entry if the regional office met its campaign goal of 60 percent participation. The winning tie, a custom cravat created by Ruth Anderson, featured overlapping portraits of youthful Regional Director Charles Odegaard.

Nothing ensures success like the thought of embarrassing your boss! When the final figures were in, the regional office tallied a 64 percent employee participation rate with a total collection of $16,495.80, an increase of 37.5 percent over 1991.

The end of the successful campaign was celebrated with a potluck luncheon and an awards rally. This combined effort earned the Pacific Northwest Region a "Gold Eagle Share Award" and a first-ever nomination for the Chair's Award, given annually to the federal agency that runs the best employee campaign. Regional office employees proved that they know how to "give where it helps" and to have some fun in the process. ■

From left, Joe Dunstan, PNRO Combined Federal Campaign Coordinator; Ruth Anderson, designer of the ugly tie contest winner; and Regional Director Charles Odegaard, wearing the famous tie (pictured at right).



Buying Smart in the Pacific Northwest

A "Small Purchases Form Folder" designed by Cherie Guilford, Mount Rainier National Park's contract specialist, is so useful to procurement personnel that it's been adopted regionwide. "Cherie Guilford is to be commended for her initiative and creativity," said Regional Director Odegaard.

Cherie determined that we needed a checklist/guideline that would remind the procurement personnel of each purchase order step. The folder has proven itself a gentle reminder of our responsibilities when purchasing with federal funds.

Anyone interested in getting a sample folder can request one from Pacific Northwest Region, National Park Service, Attn: Chief, Contracting Branch, 83 South King St., Suite 212, Seattle, WA 98104-2887. ■

New Species at Oregon Caves

Until 1992, there had never been a survey of cave species inhabiting Oregon Caves. This changed in 1992.

The first-ever biological survey of the cave was carried out by Ron Crawford, an invertebrate specialist at the University of Washington's Burk Museum, and park staff.

Initial efforts yielded more than 20 species. Two, and possibly three, of the species had never been known, and they occur nowhere else in the world! These are among the most restricted endemic species in the National Park System.

One of these species is a millipede, of the genus *Speoseya,* which is represented elsewhere by only two specimens. The second species is a water mite, likely to be parasitic on a yet-unknown species occurring in the cave.

A third specimen, a grylloblatid, is suspected to be a new species, but this cannot be confirmed until a male is found. Grylloblatids are primitive insects found mostly on ice fields and in lava caves.

The pit-traps, baited with limburger cheese, are still set in the cave and checked every 20 days. The survey will continue in 1993.

For more information, contact Oregon Caves Resource Management Specialist John Roth at 503-592-2100. ■

Painting the "Y"

Several regional office personnel gave their time and energy to support United Way's "Day of Caring." With old clothes on and brushes in hand the would-be Wyeths traveled to the Highline YMCA in Des Moines, Washington, to paint up the place.

The painters spent the day scraping and wiping, painting and laughing at the work in progress. At the end of the day, after the trim was all painted, they bade a cheerful goodbye and headed for the closing celebrations, which included t-shirts and root beer floats.

That day 800 volunteers participated in a variety of minor repairs and cleanups around the Seattle area. A "Day of Caring" was an easy and fun thing to give. ■

Librarians Meet

A mid-winter library management course in Seattle attracted field library managers from throughout the Pacific Northwest. Library managers left tourist destinations like the North Cascades, Crater Lake, John Day Fossil Beds, and Nez Perce National Historical Park to attend the training. Two library technicians traveled all the way from San Francisco Maritime NHP.

They attended sessions on library operating policy, collection development, interlibrary loan, reference, online reference service, and much more. The online catalog and automated library procedures developed by the Pacific Northwest Region were highlighted in several sessions. The NPS Union Catalog was also discussed and demonstrated.

Most sessions were taught by the PNW Regional Library Staff of Nancy Hori, regional librarian; Richard Aroksaar, assistant librarian; and Mary Ellen Bartholomew, librarian. Edie Ramey, chief, DSC Technical Information Center, flew in from DSC to participate as an instructor in the workshop.

Kent Bush, regional curator, and Gretchen Luxemberg, regional historian, presented a session on special collections. Participants also attended a special talk and tour of the Special Collections Division of the University of Washington.

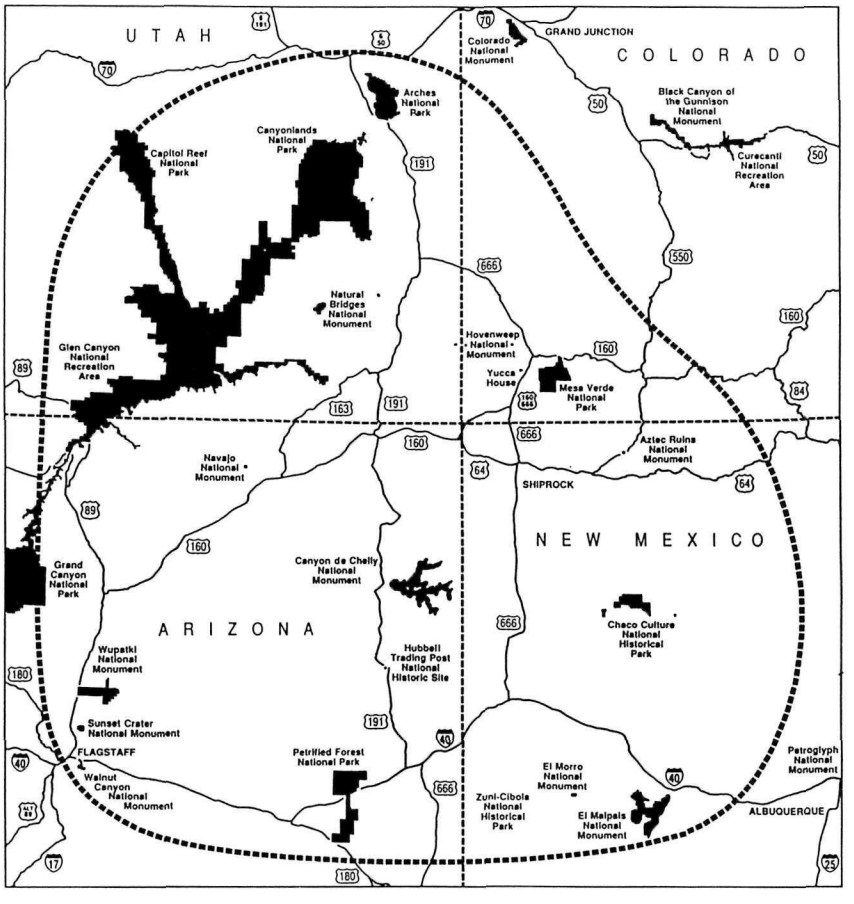
ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION

The "Four Corners Strategic Plan"

by Peggy Lipson

What do Canyonlands National Park, Chaco Culture National Historical Park, Hubbell Trading Post National Historic Site, and Mesa Verde National Park have in common? A plan to help them achieve strategic futures in the areas of tourism, communication and education, resources preservation, and National Park Service effectiveness. This approach came about as a result of a need to provide a coordinated National Park Service response to a variety of requests from such interest groups as the travel and tourism industry.

In preparing an approach to respond to this



STUDY AREA

need, the Division of Planning and Compliance in the Rocky Mountain Region explored a variety of methods. The method we chose, which is more "strategic" in nature, focuses on defining the interrelationship between the purpose and significance of individual park units with those of their regions, their eco-regions (geographic areas where the individual parts of which share a multitude of characteristics, including political divisions, and traits of nature, history, and culture) and, ultimately, the nation. It provides a broad contextual framework into which fits the national system of parks and special places and its managers and cooperators, both in the public and private sectors. The first attempt at this strategic approach occurred in the Four Corners area and is embodied in a document titled *NPS Efforts in the Four Corners Area — Strategies for the Future*. Casually referred to as the "Four Corners Strategic Plan," this is the Rocky Mountain Region's pilot effort into what we are referring to as "eco-region strategic planning." The plan was produced in cooperation with the Southwest and Western regions.

According to the plan, "The Four Corners Region encompasses one of the most important and fascinating collections of prehistoric cultural resources, sites, and artifacts in the world. The comprehensive protection and management of these resources, while promoting a solid economic base for the region, is a challenge faced by decision makers in both the private and public sectors. Within the area are 21 National Park System units, in portions of the four states, spanning three NPS regions." The purpose identified for this effort was to develop a clear, concise NPS position, vision, and policy, upon which to set NPS program priorities in the areas of tourism, communication and education, resources preservation, and NPS effectiveness, as they relate to telling the story of the "Anasazi." Regional Director Baker said of the plan, "It is one of the most exciting documents I have ever seen and the level of enthusiasm we have received from the field about the document is equally exciting. The strategies and implementation actions were developed by those who will use them to achieve what the field believes to be their desired futures; and because they are so specific, results can be easily tracked."

A team comprising seventeen park superintendents and various staff of three National Park Service regions has worked together since April 1992 to develop the future strategies for the Four Corners area, by defining the purpose, NPS vision, goals, the challenges to achieving, and actions for achieving those goals. What is hoped to be the final review draft of the document titled *NPS Efforts in the Four Corners Area — Strategies for the Future* was printed in November 1992 and was circulated widely for public comment. To date, it has been well received by a variety of constituencies, including governors' staffs from Arizona and New Mexico. Copies of the draft plan are available from the Division of Planning and Compliance of the Rocky Mountain Region.

SOUTHEAST REGION

Mammoth Cave: EPAers Take Field Trip from Week-Long Meeting

About 30 employees of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) who were attending a week-long national meeting on wetlands in Nashville, Tennessee, last fall spent the Veterans Day holiday touring Mammoth Cave (MACA) NP.

The field trip, arranged by MACA Interpretive Operations Supervisor Joe McGown, enabled the EPA employees to see, touch, and smell some of the issues their agency has been helping the NPS solve.

The world's longest cave system has been threatened by pollution entering the park through the underground streams ever since park neighbors started flushing wastewater from their homes.

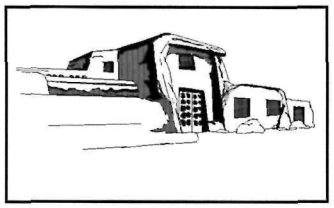
EPA has worked with the NPS the past few years on such projects as the 201 Study and federal grants for the Caveland Sanitation Authority. EPA's grants are helping plan and develop a regional wastewater treatment system that is designed to prevent polluted waters from entering this World Heritage and International Biosphere park.

Ranger Randy Bauer took the EPA group on the Frozen Niagarta Tour, presented a hydrology program and concluded their one-day visit with a tour of the Echo River section.

Mammoth Cave NP Ranger Randy Bauer interprets hydrology of this World Heritage and International Biosphere Park to about 30 people who took a day off from the national meeting on wetlands conducted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Nashville, Tenn., last November. The visitors came from 10 states and D.C.

Throughout the day, Bauer answered questions about how flowing water has affected not only the surface of the earth but also its subterranean layers as well. He sent the EPA employees back to their Nashville meeting site with a deeper understanding of how their jobs relate to this part of the the National Park System.

The EPA visitors represented offices in Washington, D.C., San Francisco, Philadelphia, Denver, New York, Atlanta, Dallas, Anchorage, Seattle, and Boston. In addition to the EPA employees, the group included representatives of the U.S. Forest Service at Pineville, Louisiana, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at New York, and some members of the Tennessee Tech Wildlife Society.



SOUTHWEST REGION

First the Resource

At left, deteriorated above-ground gas storage tanks at the Pine Spring Cafe. The photograph on the right shows a deteriorated wall propped up by makeshift supports.

A longstanding indignity to the integrity of National Park Service stewardship was finally resolved in January when the National Park Service was able to reclaim property from a politically protected occupant. For more than 10 years the Pine Spring Store/Cafe, located within the boundary of Guadalupe Mountains National Park in Northwest Texas, was allowed to operate without legal basis on the strength of political persuasion.

Political support finally waned in 1992 when architectural, engineering, health, and safety inspections pointed out that the federal government is liable for the welfare of the visiting public. Political supporters realized the store operator enjoyed a privilege of conducting business at the NPS site without having to comply with federal regulations and guidelines, as do other commercial operators throughout the System (i.e., proof of insurance, revenue reporting, payment of appropriate taxes, proper maintenance of facilities, adherence to all safety and health standards and building codes.

The history of the Pine Spring store and cafe is rooted in the 1966 establishment of the Guadalupe Mountains National Park. The store/cafe complex was owned by Walter and Bertha Glover. The National Park Service acquired title in 1972 through condemnation; the monetary settlement was considerably higher than the appraised value.

The Glovers were allowed to live on the property and operate the store/cafe until the death of the last surviving spouse. Mr. Glover died in 1973 at the age of 94, and Mrs. Glover passed away in 1982 at the age of 89.

Following the death of the Glovers, their daughter, Mrs. Mary Hinson, appealed to the Secretary of the Interior, demanding the right to continue the operation. After considerable publicity and controversy, the Secretary of Interior directed the National Park Service to allow the operation of the store through a made-up "Use and Occupancy" agreement. After scoring this victory, Mrs. Hinson moved away and hired a non-relative to run the store.

The unusual operating arrangement continued through two Secretaries of the Interior. The most recent "Use and Occupancy" permit expired January 1, 1992. An interim authorization was provided until Director James Ridenour in December 1992 approved the region's longstanding recommendation to close the operation.

Mrs. Hinson's legacy now involves a dilapidated structure that contains a hazardous substructure and an overloaded electrical system. Walls on the back side of the store have pulled away from the frame and are supported by wooden poles and cables. The plumbing appears substandard; public toilets are foul and unacceptable for visitor use. Gasoline pumps and storage tanks are extremely hazardous. There is great concern about leakage and ground contamination.

The Public Health Inspector, who last year conducted an Environmental Health Inspection of Pine Spring Store/Cafe, said, "The number of critical violations indicate a lack of knowledge and total disregard for the health and well-being of any patron foolhearted enough to purchase and consume food at this facility."

Following Mrs. Hinson's removal of her personal property, staff at Guadalupe Mountains National Park are carefully assessing the amount of degradation to the resource and the amount of money required to bring it up to an acceptable National Park Service standard.

WESTERN REGION

In Defense of Their Country: Minorities Stationed at Pearl Harbor

by Blanca Stransky,
USS Arizona Memorial

For the last 12 years, ceremonies of remembrance have been held on December 7 at the USS Arizona Memorial. The dead are mourned. Their heroes are remembered. This year about 5,000 people flocked to the national park site not only to remember, but also to honor those who had to fight for the right to fight.

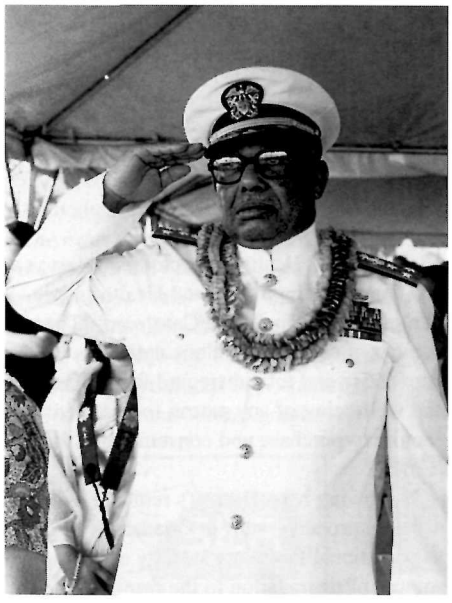
"Few of us today realize the immense struggle minorities faced in order to fight for our country," said Superintendent Donald E. Magee. "For example, African-Americans in the U.S. Navy were delegated to servile positions, regardless of their qualifications. Japanese-Americans were forced to prove their loyalty and fight for their honor."

In an effort to bring balance and equality to the Pearl Harbor story, the park staff joined forces with the State of Hawaii, Veterans Affairs Office, and the World War II Heritage Commission, a group dedicated to recognizing the African-American contribution. Visitors to the park's 51st commemoration were provided with a sampling of the contributions made by minorities during the December 7, 1941, attack.

"The attack on Pearl Harbor not only propelled the United States into World War II, but in a sense served as a catalyst for the renewed civil rights struggle in the United States," explained Magee.

One of the people credited with revitalizing this struggle was Mess Attendant Doris Miller,

Clockwise, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Bishop, guest speakers for the ceremony; Vice Admiral Samuel Gravely, the first African-American to reach the rank of admiral, recounted his struggle for equality during World War II; Park Rangers Harry Oba (front) and Mark Coulbourne (rear) place orchid wreaths near the flags of the eight battleships that were in Pearl Harbor on the morning of December 7, 1941.



who was serving aboard the *USS West Virginia*. On that famous day, "Dorie" (as many like to call him) was summoned to the bridge of the ship to carry the ship's mortally wounded captain to safety. Upon returning to the bridge, he noticed an unmanned .50-caliber machine gun and quickly began firing at the attacking Japanese planes. Due to his conspicuous presence and valorous acts, he was the first African-American awarded the Navy Cross.

This year's guest speaker, Samuel Bishop, was preparing to serve breakfast to officers aboard the *USS Bagley* when a shipmate looked out the porthole and said, "What are these planes doing practicing on Sunday?" Bishop quickly looked out the window, saw the Rising Sun on one of the planes and realized they were under attack.

Aside from providing visitors with a personal narrative on the Pearl Harbor attack, Samuel Bishop recounted the injustices faced by African-Americans in the military.

"Just following World War I and to the time just before I enlisted, there was a planned effort to eliminate all blacks from the Navy and not let them enlist. When I joined in 1939, all black persons were assigned to the 'servant branch,'" he said.

From a historical viewpoint, this year's program underscored the importance of recognizing a broader perspective in American history. It was the first time in the history of the December 7 observances that an ethnic minority was featured as the keynote speaker.

"We must strive to present the Pearl Harbor story from a variety of perspectives; because only then can we honestly say, 'We have addressed the whole story rather than a chapter,'" said Magee. ■

The Rescued and the Heroes

The dramatic rescue of two Paramount Pictures cameramen and their pilot who were trapped in the erupting Kilauea Volcano in Hawaii Volcanoes National Park Thanksgiving week led to this letter to the editor in the January 10 issue of the Hawaii Tribune-Herald:

Fumes and acid rain generated by the volcano ruined two private helicopters and $30,000 worth of park equipment, including gas masks, breathing apparatus, respirators, and rescue equipment. The camera crew did not have a film permit since it was not expected to land its helicopter within park boundaries. However, it did pay for one of the helicopters associated with the three-day rescue operation. It is not often that the National Park Service receives such lauded, unsolicited appreciation. The small park staff has been coping with constant fires, lava flows, increased visitation to a dangerous areas, special events held by native Hawaiians exercising traditional and spiritual practices, as well as routine park operations.

As long as we're on the subject of heroes and the issue of aircraft overflights at Hawaii Volcanoes, I'd like to mention just a few of my own. The Hawaii Volcanoes National Park staff, Hawaii County Civil Defense Director Harry Kim and his CD staff, the US. Geological Survey, the Hawaii County Fire Department, and all the Red Cross volunteers who were involved in the safe and successful rescue of the two Paramount photographers and one pilot all pitched themselves into Pu'u O'o via helicopter last November 21.

Special kudos go to NPS rangers Neil Akana, Robin Cooper, Greg Herbst, and Jeffrey Judd — four people who risked their lives for 30 non-stop hours in acid-laden fumes and zero visibility.

Several more heroes worth mentioning are pilot Don Shearer and NPS ranger Paul Ducasse (who landed inside Pu'u O'o under extremely hazardous conditions to rescue the paramount pilot on Saturday, November 21); pilot Tom Hauptman (who, with NPS ranger Jeff Judd, drop-rescued a lifeline to the last survivor inside Pu'u O'o during virtual "whiteout" conditions on Monday, November 23); geologist Margaret Mangan of the U.S. Geological Survey (for telling the rescuers what to expect once inside the vent); the Red Cross (for helping to support the command post at Kalapana); and especially NPS Public Affairs Specialist Mardie Lane (for keeping a clear head while reporting rapidly changing conditions to any source whenever it was requested).

Finally, the biggest hero throughout remains NPS Chief Ranger Jim Martin, who skillfully pulled off this most impossible, worst-case scenario rescue effort without the loss of one single life. He accomplished this challenge with much grace and heart, and in doing so, garnered even more respect from his co-workers, friends, and the public.

As Big Islanders we must all learn to cherish and conserve Hawaii's most spectacular natural resource — Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, and especially those individuals and dedicated NPS employees who work in some way every day to protect Volcanoes and the other fine heroes mentioned above... You've made every one of us Big Islanders most proud indeed.

— J.B. Stokes,
President,
Citizens Against Noise

NPS PEOPLE

RETIREMENTS

BARROW, Pete — Retired December 31 as Automotive Mechanic, Pictured Rocks NL. He had more than 18 years with Pictured Rocks! He was the first recipient of the Pictured Rocks Annual Employee Safety Recognition Award, which recognized his safe work habits and his positive influence on his coworkers' safety awareness and morale. ■

CONNELL, Martha — Martha left SERO in January after serving as the EEO Officer there since 1974. She began her federal career in 1958 with the Department of the Air Force. She will be moving to Alabama to join her family. ■

GARLAND, Hafford (Hal)— Retired as SERO Associate Regional Director for Administration January 8 after a 30-year federal career. Hal worked in a variety of administrative capacities in a number of NPS offices, including Mammoth Cave NP, Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania County Battlefields, Grand Teton NP, Sequoia NP, MWRO, and RMRO. ■

HITE, Dick — Retired December 31 as Superintendent of DeSoto NMem, a position he held since July 1972.. He began his NPS career in 1960 as a seasonal fire control aide at Yellowstone. During the early 1960s he was involved in historic events in the Everglades, such as the recovery of bodies in the February 1963 commercial airliner crash and the 1964 unexpected arrival of Cuban refugees and insurgents at Fort Jefferson. He was a member of the first class (March 1965) NPS Ranger Intake Trainee Program at Albright Training Center. Rumors are that there are still a few species of fish he hasn't hooked, so he'll be staying in the Brandenton, Fla., area. Dick and his wife Bev can be reached at 640 Park Dr., W. Brandenton, FL 34209. ■

HUNTER, Johnson — Engineer Equipment Operator at Canyon de Chelly NM retired after 28 years federal service. ■

MARKS, Richard — Richard Marks retired July 31 as deputy regional director, SWRO, ending a 32-year long career with NPS. Now retired, he serves as a senior advisor in working up a National Park Service Action Agenda for the 21st century. He left some final words: *As I leave the NPS and federal service ... it seems appropriate to reflect on how we, as an organization, have evolved to our current position.*

As I transferred to the National Park Service as a forester on the Jefferson National Forest to a park ranger position at the Blue Ridge Parkway near Vinton, Va., I was struck by the attitude and approach of management for its employees. I experienced a feeling that each employee was hired to do a job and expected to do it to the best of his or her ability. If you needed advice, you asked; if not, you just went on and just did it.

Beyond that you had the satisfaction of seeing a job completed and mostly well done. You had the opportunity to explore, learn, and grow. Come to think of it, this was not a bad way to go!

...Embrace and enthusiastically endorse the Vail Agenda and do so not by waiting to be led. Rather it is to revisit the Vail Symposium report and subsequent correspondence from [the Director] and others, identifying the appropriate steps we need to take to meet this challenge. What now needs to occur is for all employees, our partners, and other interested persons to work vigorously to once again attain the position of the premier land management agency in the world.

...In one respect I almost wish I could assist in this adventure. But I have experienced the most exciting career imaginable. It is up to each employee to meet the challenge with the skills and expertise they collectively possess.

To all National Park Service employees, I wish good luck.

And keep in touch. ■

MARQUEZ, Delia — Budget Analyst in the Division of Programming and Budget, SWRO, retired after 35 years with NPS. Her entire career was spent in the Southwest Regional Office! ■

PATTON, Warren "Hi" — Associate Regional Director, Administration, is spending his newfound freedom hiking the Marin Headlands rather than worrying about policy driven issues in the Western Region, now that he's retired from WRO. Deputy Director Lew Albert presented him with a Meritorious Service Award for his 32 years of "can-do" administrative service in the Western Region. ■

PORTER, Gloria — Retired February 3 as RMRO Supervisor in Contracts & Property Management after 30 years federal service. ■

RAMIREZ, Cornelio — Cornelio worked at Big Bend NP since 1948 in a variety of occupations. He's retired after 34 years of federal service. According to Superintendent Arnberger, "Cornelio represented a part of the living history of the park. He lived in the era before the national park saw changes that came about in the 48-year history of the park. He witnessed the park's development and was involved in much of it." ■

VENNER, Duane — Retired December 31 from DSC after 30 years of service. He'll begin a second career conducting training courses, like the ones he conducted in the Office of Value Engineering and the NPS regions. Duane and his wife Mary plan to bicycle, canoe, travel, and volunteer. His address: 134 Xavier St., Denver, CO 80219. ■

VINCENT, Max — Retired January 3 as Ranger from Mammoth Cave NP. ■

WEIRICH, Olivia — Ranger at Lyndon B. Johnson NHP, retired after 19 years federal service. ■

DEATHS

Chaucey Lay, retired chief negotiator, Buffalo NR, died at his home in Arkansas January 5. He also worked at Big Cypress NP in Naples. Condolences can be sent to his wife, Edith, at P.O. Box 385, Harrison, AR 72601. ■

Brewster Lindner died in Golden, Colo., December 14 following a heart attack. He retired in 1981 after 28 years federal service, which began in the U.S. Army in 1943 and ended in NPS' SWRO, where he was regional chief, land acquisition. He is survived by his daughter Connie and two grandchildren. Condolences can be sent to 2700 Clover Road, Golden, CO 80401. ■

Frances Amelia Judge, 87, died December 13. Her husband, Paul, died April 6, 1991. He retired in October 1965 as superintendent of Saguaro NM. Frances was born in Dayton, Ohio, and was raised on a ranch in Jackson Hole, Wyo. She had been residing in Albuquerque, N.M., for the last 10 years. Frances is survived by her brother, two sons, six grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. ■

E&AA NEWS

MEMBER NEWS

Bob Walker, who retired in January 1987 as MWRO Visitor Services Specialist after 32 years in NPS, wishes to advise *Courier* readers that he and Betty have relocated from Rio Grande Valley, Tex., to 3240 W. Edward Springfield, MO 65810. Bob and Betty spent the summers of 1990 and 1991 managing the store and gas dock at Windigo on Isle Royale for National Park Concessions, Inc. Summer 1992 was spent touring and taking it easy, especially since Bob had a replacement of his right shoulder done in April 1992. He says he is ready to put on his uniform and do another 32 years! The Walkers say there is a lot to do in the Springfield area and anyone heading their way is invited to get in touch with them at the above address or at (417) 887-6477. ■

Jim and Dorothy Husted celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary December 27 on a cruise to Nassau with their children. Jim recently turned 80 and has been a stroke survivor for three years. He's now walking without a cane. Their son David received his Master's Degree in Public Administration from the University of Colorado at Denver while being employed full-time. Their two granddaughters are in high school — one is about to graduate! Jim retired from WASO as a park planner in 1972. Their home is at 3403 May Street, Silver Spring, MD 20906. ■

Bill Selkirk, who retired in 1972 as Realty Specialist, WASO, advises he is still enjoying his retirement. He's even taken up golf! ■

Woody Harrell, superintendent of Shiloh NMP, celebrated the park's 98th anniversary with a Grand Illumination of Shiloh Battlefield on December 12. He and his staff are looking forward to entering Shiloh's Second Century in 1994. ■

Leon Folsom, mechanical engineer in the SERO maintenance division, performed for his fourth straight year in "Tuba Christmas," a concert of seasonal music at the CNN Center in Atlanta. ■

Dick and Joyce Maeder started their extended Grand Tour in fall 1991 with visits to Switzerland (Dick's ancestral homeland), Austria, and Italy. In October 1992 they toured Germany and Venice. This August they plan to see London. Dick is working as Executive Director for Boeing Employees' Association and enjoying it. They were pleased to receive the 1992 Alumni Directory because one of these days when they really retire, they plan to go visiting. ■

General Colin L. Powell, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, delivered remarks at the annual Dedication Day Ceremony at Gettysburg National Cemetery November 19. The Lincoln Fellowship of Pennsylvania and the NPS sponsor the dedication day ceremonies in the cemetery each year. ■

Richard Dreyfuss, noted actor and Civil War buff, is the narrator of a new *Cyclorama* program to premier in Gettysburg NMP in March. After 30 years of operation, the *Cyclorama* sound and light program underwent major renovation as part of Eastern National's involvement in the program's operation. Eastern National took over the operation in mid-1992. ■

Doyle and Pat Yaney write from Bozeman, Mont., where they spend their summers. They spend their winters traveling and visiting family and friends throughout the world. Last fall they went to Switzerland for an Elderhostel trip, which included a home-stay and hiking in the Alps. "From there," Doyle wrote, "we rented an Opel and started retracing the route of my all-expenses-paid tour of Europe nearly half a century ago, during WWII." Stuttgart and Ludwigsburg were next, then Backnang, where he had been on detached service to the Red Cross following V.E. Day. Other stops were in East Germany and in Malmedy, Belgium, where the massacre of the Eighth FAOB occurred during the Battle of the Bulge. The Yaneys did not continue on to France, but drove to Amsterdam and Haarlem, Netherlands, where they flew home. When they returned to the United States they went on a tour of New England and Williamsburg, Va., before visiting Washington, D.C. and Indiana. Finally, they went home to Montana. ■

Harold Danz, retired associate regional director, RMRO, now serves as the director of the American Bison Association. He found a letter one day, dated September 18, 1932, from Roger Toll, former superintendent of Yellowstone NP to Denver City Hall, stating that if [NPS] wished to get new stock for their buffalo herd in Denver Mountain parks, Yellowstone could supply their needs at the express rate from Gardiner, Mont., to Denver, Colo., of $63.75 for a yearling weighing about 1,000 pounds crated. Toll added that if Denver wished any black bears or grizzlies, that the park could ship them on a similar basis. ■

A SPECIAL WORD

Dear Friends,

At the beginning of my 94th year [Dec. 1, 1992], I wish to thank all those who sent their best wishes and return the same to them. It is heart warming to hear from so many and from so many places. There are just too many to thank individually.

All corners were heard from... Olympic to Acadia, around the Everglades and back west through one of my favorites, Grant Teton, not forgetting Rocky Mountain. All were very kind; you re-kindled many fond memories.

Thanks again for reaffirming my memories of good times and good friends.

Sincerely,
Conrad Wirth
(NPS Director 1951-1964)

NPS CALENDAR

Feb. 7 - Jewel Cave NM proclaimed, 1908.
Feb. 9 - Lincoln Memorial authorized, 1911.
Feb. 11 - Death Valley NM proclaimed, 1933.
Feb. 11 - Gettysburg NMP established 1895.
Feb. 11 - Bandelier NM proclaimed, 1916.
Feb. 14 - Canyon de Chelly NM authorized, 1931.
Feb. 14 - San Juan NHS designated, 1949.
Feb. 14 - Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania County Battlefields Memorial NMP, 1927.
Feb. 16 - Timucuan Ecological & Historic Reserve authorized, 1988.
Feb. 19 - Lincoln Boyhood NM authorized, 1962.
Feb. 21 - Tupelo NB established, 1929.
Feb. 21 - Vicksburg NMP established, 1899.
Feb. 21 - Brices Cross Roads NBS established, 1929.
Feb. 26 - Grand Teton NP established, 1929.
Feb. 26 - Grand Canyon NP established, 1919.

VIEWPOINT

The 'N' Word, Ugly in Rap or Anyplace Else

by Leonard Pitts, Jr.

I write today about a word.

Nigger.

Go ahead, try it out, Roll it around in your mind. Test it out on your ear. *Listen* to it.

Nigger.

I've always hated the sound if it — the harsh grinding of those two consonants hitting each other like pieces of an ice floe.

I've always hated the fact of it, too. It is a low, mean word that demeans both the user and the person he or she uses it against.

And yet...

As an American alive in the waning days of the 20th century, I can't escape that word. It comes not just from the expected places — not just from boobs in bedsheets with dunce caps on their heads or dirt-dumb, Confederate flag-waving bozos from Birmingham to Boston.

No, I hear it louder, hear it uttered with a perverse and unfathomable pride, in music. It seeps from the CD player, drips out of the radio, booms forth from the car next to mine at the stop light.

Virtually every rapper who values his macho strut uses it. Ice-T flies it like a banner: *Straight-Up Nigga* goes the song title. N.W.A. flaunts it as a given name: The acronym stands for Niggaz With Attitude. Ice Cube, KRS-One, and other rap tough guys use it interchangeably to mean "friend," "brother," "homeboy," or "African-American man."

Yes, there are isolated islands of self-respect, where rappers risk their cool to save their dignity. Public Enemy declared in '91, "I don't wanna be called 'Yo, Niga.' But it was like spitting into the wind.

Two summers ago I spoke to a group of young journalism students. Three black kids, sitting together, challenged my contention that rap was wrong to popularize the word, "nigger." They asked me what was wrong with it.

I was shocked. They truly didn't know.

I know the counterarguments, most of them so lame they ought to be on crutches. The most popular one holds that constant use of the word will rob it of its hateful, hurtful sting.

Comedian Paul Mooney subscribes to that theory. He recently sent out a pamphlet advertising his new album, *Race*.

It was designed so that you opened it up and the word assaulted you: "nigger" in big, fat type. The word was repeated, growing a little smaller each time until at the bottom of the page, it had become infinitesimal.

It was a powerful piece of graphic art. It was also a lie. Because, contrary to popular belief, "nigger" does not diminish with use.

It was in late August 1619 that the history of the African-American people began, as a Dutch ship dropped anchor at Jamestown, Va. The ship's manifest listed among its cargo 20 "Negars—" indentured servants.

That was 374 years ago. Since then, the word has been in constant, non-stop use — snarled by the overseer, spat by the factory boss, whispered by the intellectual, chanted by the lynch mob and yes, bantered with fraternal good cheer by blacks among blacks.

Can anyone argue that all that use has diminished the word? Can anyone say that it has lost its sting?

Noted thinker Axl Rose (singer in the heavy metal rock group Guns 'n Roses) once defended his use of 'nigger' by claiming that the word doesn't necessarily connote black people but any contemptible human being, no matter the race. Interesting theory. Since we're now in the business of giving new meaning to ancient terms, why stop with "nigger?" Let's declare that "moronic" means wonderful and "jerk" means the most moronic jerk to come along in years.

Funny, it didn't sound like a compliment, did it?

The strange thing about all this is that once, not too long ago, the movers and shakers of black pop culture rose up, almost as if on cue, and rejected the word "nigger."

Much of that revolved around comedian Richard Pryor, whose 1974 breakthrough album called *That Nigger's Crazy*. But in the late '70s, Pryor publicly renounced the word, which had long been a staple of his humor. He explained his reasons in an Ebony magazine profile and also in a comedy routine in which he recounted his visit to a thriving African city. He told of walking on streets teaming with Africans streets on which no matter where he turned, he saw faces and skin tones that mirrored his own. In a moment of stunning, revelatory power, Pryor said, he began to understand something of what a white man feels walking down a street in America. "I suddenly realized, I didn't see any niggers."

The rest of the black entertainment community soon followed Pryor's lead: indeed, the rest of black America followed them all. It became less acceptable to use the ugly word — even in jest, even in private. "Nigger" went up on that shelf where we, African-Americans, stored all the other artifacts of our degradation and self-hatred. It was about foulness and inferiority, up there behind the creams that claimed to bleach your complexion white and right in front of scalp-scalding preparations that were supposed to give you "good" hair.

It stayed there for years and pretty much gathered dust. Until about 1987 or so, when the gangsta rappers came along, pulled it down, polished it up and made it new again. They've worn it proudly since then: a perverse badge of ignorant cool.

I'm reminded of a song written in 1900 by author and civil rights pioneer James Weldon Johnson. Its proper title is *Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing*, but it is probably better known as *The Negro National Anthem.* It says, in part:

"Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod, felt in the days when hope, unborn, had died. Yet with steady beat, have not our weary feet, come to the place for which our fathers died."

And I am forced to wonder. Is *this* the place for which our fathers died? This place in which African-Americans degrade and malign themselves with an ugly old word whose only proper place is the dustbin of history? Because if this *is* that place, and if those lies are indeed truth, if that word is all that we are or can be, then let's not stop here, let's set the whole record straight. Pull out the history books, and let's do some wholesale revision.

Frederick Douglass, pioneering abolitionist. Nigger.

George Washington Carver, brilliant scientist. Nigger.

Rosa Parks, mother of the civil rights movement. Nigger.

Emmett Till, 14-year-old lynch victim. Nigger.

Maya Angelou, poet. Nigger.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., martyred civil rights leader. Nigger.

Seven years ago, I wrote a poem for Black History Month. One passage goes:

"Who am I?

I am a mammy

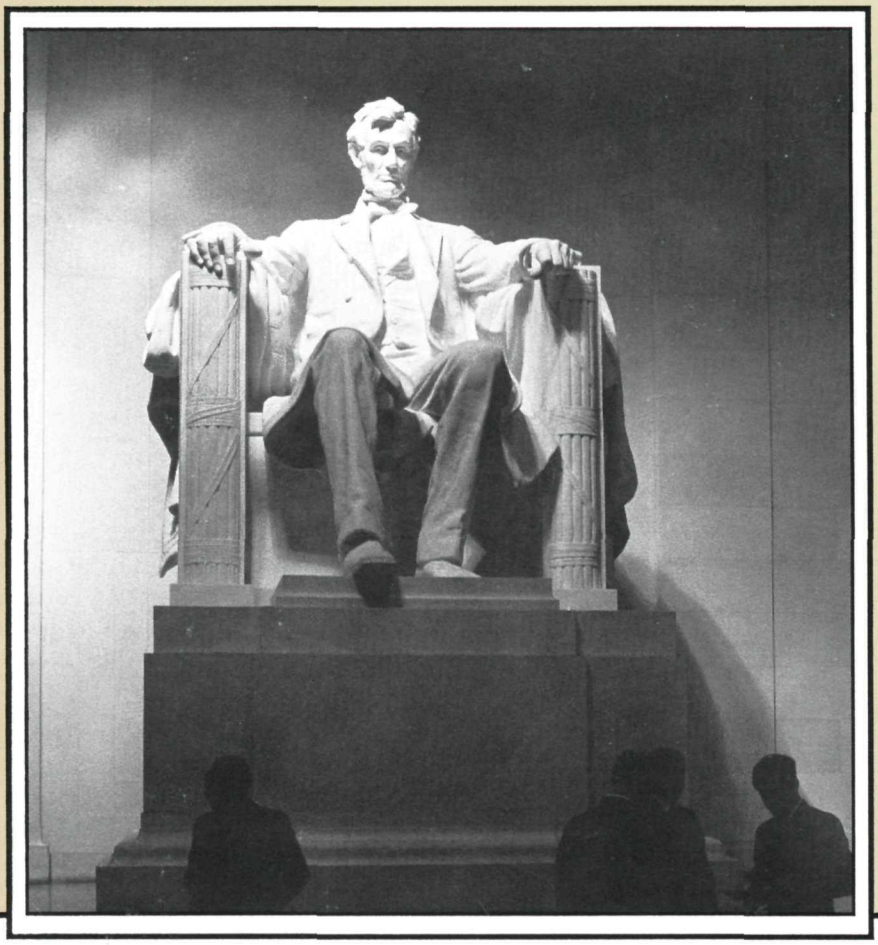
I am a coon, a spade, a jungle bunny, a jig-a-boo, a darky, a beast... a shiftless, good for nothing nigger

At least that's what I was told

God help me, that's what I sometimes Believed."

God help us all. Because some of us still do.

(Editor's Note: Pitts writes about entertainment for Knight-Ridder Newspapers. His article was reprinted with the permission of the Miami Herald.)



I have never had a feeling, politically, that did not spring from the sentiments embodied in the Declaration of Independence... I have often inquired of myself what great principle or idea it was that kept this Confederacy so long together. It was not the mere matter of separation of the colonies from the motherland, but that sentiment in the Declaration of Independence which gave liberty not alone to the people of this country, but hope to all the world, for all future time. It was that which gave promise that in due time the weights would be lifted from the shoulders of all men, and that all should have an equal chance. This is the sentiment embodied in the Declaration of Independence... I would rather be assassinated on this spot than surrender it.

— Abraham Lincoln

Excerpt from a speech delivered at Independence Hall, Philadelphia, February 22, 1861.

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