October 2009, Volume 2 Issue 10

Memorial Parks! at National Mall and wonderful experience visiting, and have a questions. Thanks for answer any of your will be glad to staff and volunteers the park. Our park offered throughout ranger programs many fascinating out more about the newspaper to find Page through this progress.

To learn more about the future of the National Mall, visit the National Mall Plan website (www.nps.gov/nationalmallplan) to read current alternatives, express ideas, and follow our progress.

Page through this newspaper to find out more about the many fascinating ranger programs offered throughout the park. Our park staff and volunteers will be glad to answer any of your questions. Thanks for visiting, and have a wonderful experience at National Mall and Memorial Parks!

“Malady in City Increasing Despite Preventive Measures” The 1918 Influenza Epidemic in Washington, D.C.

By Ranger Sandy Tennyson

In the fall of 1918, as the United States was coming to grips with the horrors of death from the First World War, the country found itself battling another horror, an extremely deadly and infectious influenza spread across the county in epidemic proportions. Stealthily, the gruesome virus known as the Spanish Influenza began its march from the trenches of Europe to U.S. military facilities.

As it reached Americans shores, millions were stricken and hundreds of thousands died. The onset of the disease was severe. Victims reported dull headaches and body aches in the morning. By noon, symptoms included an increasingly high fever. Nightfall brought no relief as the victim drifted into a semi-conscious state. Most would not see sunrise, and succumbing to suffocation from fluid buildup in their lungs. The first cases of influenza appeared in Washington, D.C. in the last week of September. The federal city, overcrowded with new employees supporting the war-time government, was extremely vulnerable. District officials acted swiftly closing schools, playgrounds, churches, theaters, vaudeville houses and “all places of amusement.” Public meetings, including vital War Bond Drives, were suspended. Unfortunately, these measures were in vain. By Saturday, October 5, fifty-four police officers were sick and two hundred sixty-one trolley car drivers became ill, causing the transportation system to ground to a halt. With so many firemen sick, the Fire Marshal believed “the whole city’d burn to the ground if a fire ever got started.”

The U.S. Government, in the midst of trying to win a war, staggered work hours of all its employees, hoping to stop the spread of the virus by relieving crowding on street cars. Workers were also advised to keep office windows open, and thirty-minute “fresh air breaks” were mandatory twice a day.

The disease peaked in the late fall and disappeared as suddenly as it had arrived, leaving its mark of fear across the nation. By the time the pandemic had subsided in Washington, at least 30,000 residents had become ill and 3,000 had died.

THE RED CROSS CALLS

To fight INFLUENZA in Washington, there is URGENT and IMMEDIATE NEED for:

- Graduate nurses, undergraduate, nurses’ aids, students of the Red Cross Home Care program.
- Assistance from Religious, charitable and social agencies and organizations.
- Physicians and Pharmacists are asked to release as many nurses as possible for this emergency service.

VOLUNTEERS to take charge of household and children where the mother is ill.

WOMEN who will donate their time to nurse kitchens, preparing food for influenza patients in lodging houses where there is no facility for cooking.

MOTOR CARS for the distribution of food. This need is imperative. If you can and will loan your car for only part of the day, you will contribute much to the relief of the emergency.

THERMOMETERS to be loaned for the period of the epidemic.

If you loan your services, your car, or your thermomse, notify at once the RED CROSS RECRUITING STATION Branch Office.

American Red Cross advertisement, The Evening Star, Wednesday, October 9, 1918

• National Mall and Memorial Parks
900 Ohio Drive, SW
Washington, DC 20024
202-233-3520
www.nps.gov/nama or www.nps.gov/mall
National Mall Plan Website: www.nps.gov/nationalmallplan
Radio: 1670 AM

National Mall Times
Page 5

“From the moment I got up in the morning to when I went to bed at night, I felt a constant sense of fear. We were afraid to kiss each other, to eat with each other, to have contact of any kind. You were surrounded by death…. entire families were gone completely… they disappeared from the face of the earth.”

- William H. Sardo, Jr., Washington, D.C. resident, 6 years-old in 1918

NPS Organic Act
Tours and Presentations
Eastern National
Old Post Office Tower NHS
NPS Organic Act
Daily Ranger Programs

Washington Monument Tickets
Eastern National
Tourmobile
Old Post Office Tower NHS
Tours and Presentations

Welcome to National Mall and Memorial Parks!

October is a great time to experience your national park! Our ranger staff presents interpretive programs throughout the park from bike tours and evening walking tours to shorter detailed programs of each memorial.

To learn more about the future of the National Mall, visit the National Mall Plan website (www.nps.gov/nationalmallplan) to read current alternatives, express ideas, and follow our progress.

Page through this newspaper to find out more about the many fascinating ranger programs offered throughout the park. Our park staff and volunteers will be glad to answer any of your questions. Thanks for visiting, and have a wonderful experience at National Mall and Memorial Parks!

Getting Around in Washington, D.C.

• Ranger Led Bike Tours
• Ranger Led Programs
• Potomac Nature Packs
• New Lincoln Memorial Webpage
• Getting Around in Washington, D.C.
Join National Park Service rangers every Saturday and Sunday from 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. for FREE guided bike tours of the Nation's Capital. (Family Tours are given on the third Sunday of the month from 2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.) Tour season begins Saturday, March 28, and continues through Sunday, November 29, 2009. Please bring your own bike, helmet (required), and water. All tours begin at the Thomas Jefferson Memorial plaza.

For more information call Bike Program Coordinator, Ranger Jason Martz at 202-438-4391, or check our website: www.nps.gov/mall.

Saturday, October 3
The Mercury Seven

Fifty years ago America's first seven astronauts were introduced to the world at a news conference in Washington, D.C. Their enthusiasm and charm captured the national spotlight, and they became virtual celebrities overnight. Their mission, known as Project Mercury, was the initial phase of America's first attempts at breaking the veil of our atmosphere, and hurrying brave volunteers in the vast reaches of outer space. Join National Park Service rangers as we explore the story of the Mercury Seven and their impact upon the world.

Sunday, October 4
Transportation History of D.C.

Come and explore the history of Washington, D.C. as told through the development of the regional transportation network. This tour will trace Washington, D.C. transportation history from the canals of the earliest days to the rail, road, and air networks of the 21st century.

Saturday, October 10
Did Silly Putty Win the War? - Everyday Items from Wartime

No, silly putty did not win the war, but it may not have existed if World War II had not taken place. Many items we take for granted today have emerged from war-time networks of the 21st century. Of the earliest days to the rail, road, and air networks of the 21st century.

Sunday, October 11
On This Date in History- The United States Navy—Past and Present

Did you know that the United States Navy is older than the United States itself? Moreover, the Navy has always played a major role in the creation, development, and defense of this country and its capital city. When Peter L’Enfant designed the federal city in 1791, he included a prominent site for a Navy memorial, and designated military use areas such as that occupied by the Washington Navy Yard. Throughout American history, the U.S. Navy has provided heroic men and women whose service to country has been vital to our survival. Explore Washington’s strong naval tradition by experiencing some of its many memorials dedicated to the performance and sacrifice of this nation’s sea service veterans.

Saturday, October 17
From Infection to Election: Presidential Illnesses

Do you suffer from asthma? Gout? Dysentery? Hypertensive cardiomyopathy? If so, then you have something in common with quite a few American presidents. Join park rangers for a bike tour around the National Mall, stopping at thematically-related sites to explore the illnesses and diseases of select commanders-in-chief. Find out who had food poisoning, who was blind in one eye and deaf in one ear, who may not have had polio after all, and whose debilitating stroke was covered up throughout his presidency. “From Infection to Election” uncovers the backstory of several diseases that may have had an adverse effect on the presidency, thereby affecting American, and world, history.

Sunday, October 18
On This Date in History - "All Quiet Along the Potomac Tonight" - The Battle at Ball's Bluff

On October 21, 1861, a great Civil War battle raged just a few dozen miles from Washington City, near a bend in the Potomac River. Immediately in the wake of the Union disaster there, Washington politicians and newspapers commenced the usual game of finger pointing, backstabbing, and fault finding in their search for a scapegoat. Would they blame the President, the Secretary of War, the commanding general, or the senior officer on the field—who just happened to be the best friend of Abraham Lincoln? Who would take the fall? We will focus our attention on Washington, D.C. and National Park Service sites where the story of this small-scale, yet fascinating, military engagement forever altered the course of the American Civil War, and affected the lives of everyone associated with it—for better or for worse.

Sunday, October 18
Family Tour – The Hunt is On! The Search for Symbols on the National Mall

Have you ever wondered if there is anything hidden inside the monuments and memorials on the National Mall? If you did, you’re right! There are symbols, some in plain view, others hidden, which may clue about the person or event being memorialized that help visitors better understand the structure. Plants, animals, and even different types of stone have meaning. You just need to know where, and what to look for. What can the leaves at the World War II Memorial teach us? Who is that man in the painting at the Lincoln Memorial? What is George Washington leaning on? You will never look at the monuments and memorials on the National Mall the same way again!

Parents – Please note; all participants (children and adults) must have their own bike and helmet. Reservations for Family Tours are required. Please call Bike Program Coordinator Ranger Jason Martz 202-438-4391 to make reservations. Space is limited.

Saturday, October 24
Pop Culture on the Mall

Join park rangers as they lead a bike tour exploring the history of the National Mall from a slightly different angle. This won’t be your average, textbook history of the monuments and memorials, but history through the eyes of film, music, sports, and other modes of popular culture. Aliens crash into the Washington Monument in “The Day the Earth Stood Still”, Nixon welcomes Elvis to the White House, Houdini wants to parachute off the top of the Washington Monument, Jenny runs through the Reflecting Pool in “Forrest Gump”, and much, much more. Come out and hear how popular culture has changed our perspective in these alternative annals of history.

Sunday, October 25
Photography on the Mall - Then and Now

Ever wonder where you can best photograph the United States Capitol, the Thomas Jefferson Memorial, the White House, the Washington Monument, or any of the other iconic locations around the city? Grab your camera and join us for a two-wheeled jaunt across the National Mall to see what it looked like after the turn of the 20th century, and then take your own shots from some of our best vantage points today! See the National Mall through the eyes of the camera lens, and take home the pictures of a lifetime!

Saturday, October 31
Unexplored Tales of the City – Murderers

Everyone has heard of Lizzie Borden, Jack the Ripper, and Charles Manson. What is less known is how these murderers are connected to Washington, D.C. Join park rangers for a tour that will help explain how these and other murderous connections are linked to our nation’s capital. Gory stories will be told, crime scene pictures will be shown, and nightmares hatched. Due to the graphic nature of the tour it is not recommended for children.
Join a National Park Service ranger for a two-hour walking tour of the history and culture of the Spanish and Latin American statues on Virginia Avenue. The tour will start at the entrance to the Foggy Bottom Metro Station, (23rd & I Street, N.W.), and will end at the intersection of Virginia and Constitution Avenues, N.W. This will be a strenuous walk, and comfortable shoes are recommended. There are no public restrooms along the route. Contact Mike Balis at 202-438-9710 for more information.

Friday, October 2
Stalingrad and the Battles of 1942
5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

The Battle of Stalingrad was a critical campaign for the Germans and the Soviets in 1942. How would this battle help shape the ultimate outcome of World War II? However, the Battles of the Coral Sea, Midway, Guadalcanal, El Alamein, and the landings in North Africa by the Allies were decisive battles in 1942 as well. Join two National Park Service rangers as they explain the details and minutiae about the Battle of Stalingrad, the battles of 1942, and how they helped determine the ultimate result of World War II. Meet at the World War II Memorial to learn more. Contact Brad Berger at 202-438-4173 for more information.

Saturday, October 3
The Lincoln Haunts Jaunt
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Celebrate our sixteenth President's Bicentennial by stopping at sites that would have been familiar to Abraham Lincoln. This walking tour will concentrate in areas around Lafayette Square, the White House, and along Pennsylvania Avenue. Meet at the base of the Washington Monument for this two-hour walking tour. Contact Lowell Fry at 202-438-9603 for more information.

Sunday, October 4
Bird Walk Around the Tidal Basin
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

What is bipedal, endothermic, and a vertebrate species? Join a park ranger to explore the Tidal Basin area for birds! Discover waterfowl, songbirds, and possibly even birds of prey. B.Y.O.B! Bring Your Own Binoculars, bug spray, and wear comfortable shoes. Tour begins at the base of the steps of the Thomas Jefferson Memorial. Contact Kristel Nelson at 202-497-1357 for more information.

Wednesday, October 7, 14, 21, 28
America’s Railroads
4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

For over one hundred years American railroads touched almost every aspect of American life. Whether it was travel, transportation, communication, settlement, war or politics, railroads were essential to all Americans. Join a park ranger to learn about how railroads had a profound impact on American life. This walking tour of Washington, D.C. railroad station sites will start at Union Station. Contact Matt McNameer at 202-438-9563 for more information.

Saturday, October 10
The Washington Monument at 125:
The Man, the Monument, its Memorial Stones
12:00 p.m., 2:00 p.m., 4:00 p.m.

This year we celebrate the 125th anniversary of the completion of the Washington Monument. Learn little-known facts about the remarkable man it honors, the history of the idea of a National Monument, and why it took so long to build. Discover the secrets of its decoration, and some of the stories behind the memorial stones embedded in its interior walls. Meet at the base of the Washington Monument. Contact Jan Buerger at 202-497-1397 for more information.
Saturday, October 17  
In Wildness is the Preservation of the World: A Celebration of "America's Best Idea"  
12:00 p.m., 2:00 p.m., 4:00 p.m.

Two events made America's Declaration of Independence the "shot heard round the world" on April 19, 1775, and the Continental Congress's subsequent appointment of George Washington as Commander in Chief of the Patriot troops. The Old-North-Bridge landscape of the "shot heard round the world" (Minute Man National Historical Park, Concord, M.A.) inspired Henry David Thoreau's famous dictum: "In wildness is the preservation of the world." Learn why that historic battlefield prompted his early articulation of "America's best idea," and how it all connects to the National Mall. Meet at The 56 Signers of the Declaration of Independence Memorial in Constitution Gardens. Contact Jan Buerger at 202-497-1397 for more information.

Sunday, October 18 & 25  
A Tradition of Honor  
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Join National Park Service rangers for a tour of the Japanese-American Memorial to Patriotism During World War II. Learn more about the internment of over 100,000 Americans without any due process, and the service of over three thousand. Contact Mike Balis at 202-438-9710 for more information about this program, and where to meet.

Saturday, October 24  
Friends and Rivals: The Turbulent Relationship between John Adams and Thomas Jefferson  
5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Over the fifty-one years during which Founding Fathers John Adams and Thomas Jefferson were acquainted, they were alternately close friends and bitter political adversaries. The relationship between the short, pugnacious, and self-described "obnoxious" Adams, and the tall, stately, soft-spoken Jefferson is one of the great dramas of American history. They worked together to craft the Declaration of Independence, served together as President and Vice-President of the new nation they helped to conceive, then didn't speak to each other for twelve years. Come and learn about the unlikely friendship, the vicious personal attacks, political disputes, and the eloquent correspondence that they shared in their later years. Program begins at the Thomas Jefferson Memorial steps. Contact Harry Gedney at 202-438-9640 for more information.

Saturday, October 31  
Hurtgen Forest: Not an Easy Walk  
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

The obvious answer to that question is only partially correct. The last Civil War veteran died only fifty years ago. Why has this conflict, that took 620,000 American lives, been termed "our felt history?" We have to start at the Washington Monument to find out! Meet on the west side of the Washington Monument. Contact Lowell Fry at 202-438-9603 for more information.

Potomac Nature Packs

Discover the wild side of the National Mall with nature packs designed to engage the entire family. Each pack is filled with a sketch pad, binoculars, books, park brochures, maps, and activities for the whole family. These self-guided nature packs allow the whole family to put on their Eagle eyes, and explore the unbe-leaf-able sights and sounds of the National Mall!!

Packs are available at the Survey Lodge Ranger Station near the southwest corner of the Washington Monument grounds. Packs are available on a first come, first served basis, and require an adult’s drivers license. One pack per family. Call 202-426-6841 for more information.

Be sure to visit the updated Lincoln Memorial website!  http://www.nps.gov/linc

Highlights include a new Lincoln Memorial Construction Flipbook and an Interactive Site. The flipbook utilizes historic photographs to tell the story of the memorial construction from inception to completion. You can experience a virtual walk-through of the memorial, and listen to ranger reflections of the memorial and its history on the Interactive Site.
Getting Around in Washington, D.C.

By Ranger George A. McHugh

Venture to the outskirts of any major American urban center, and you can see the highly evident effects of suburban growth. You can see strip malls, one after the other along wide, multi-lane boulevards. You can see residential developments with broad tree lined streets. From such a journey, a typical picture of 20th century land-use planning can be accurately drawn. With that image of modern American planning however, we sometimes forget that planning was just as necessary for development in early America, and Washington, D.C. was no exception.

While most major American cities developed around commerce or trade, and thus began to radiate outwards from that core business, Washington went a different direction. As the product of the U.S. Congress, Washington was destined not to be a spontaneous city, but a planned city. While buildings, institutions, and landmarks may be the heart and soul of a city, its true lifeblood is the infrastructure that connects the people and places.

As we progress into the 21st century, Washington, D.C. and its metro region continue to grow. The transportation network that carries us to and fro will continue to grow along with the city. Indeed, it is this very network that like a circulatory system of the city will transport the lifeblood of human and freight traffic throughout the region.

National Mall Times 5

Getting Around in Washington, D.C.
Visiting the Washington Monument:

Summer Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
Monday, May 25 - Monday, September 7

Winter Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 a.m.

All persons who wish to visit the Washington Monument must have a ticket. One person may pick up to six tickets. Open daily except July 4 and December 25.

Timed entry tickets are required and may be obtained in two ways:

1. Free, same-day tickets may be picked up at the Washington Monument Lodge (located at the base of the Monument along 15th Street) on a first come - first serve basis, the morning of your visit. Monument Lodge opens at 8:30 a.m.

2. Reserved tickets may be obtained in advance by visiting www.recreation.gov or by calling 1-877-444-6777 (for individuals) or 1-877-559-6777 (for large groups). Reserved tickets are often booked 30 days ahead of time. Please plan accordingly. All reserved tickets carry a $1.50 convenience charge.

Reserved tickets are often booked 30 days ahead of time. Please plan accordingly. All reserved tickets carry a $1.50 convenience charge. 

The Old Post Office, built between 1892 and 1899, is home to the Bells of Congress, which were a gift from England on our Nation's Bicentennial. From the observation deck, located 270 feet above the street level, the visitor can get a spectacular view of our Nation's Capital.

Operating Hours

Summer: Memorial Day through Labor Day
Monday through Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 7:45 a.m.
Sunday and Holidays 10:00 a.m. - 5:45 p.m.

Winter: Labor Day through Memorial Day
Monday through Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 4:45 a.m.
Sunday 10:00 a.m. - 5:45 a.m.

202-606-8691 www.nps.gov/opot

Old Post Office Tower NHS Tours and Presentations

Ranger led walking tours of Pennsylvania Avenue
Upon Request - Saturdays and Sundays 11:00 a.m. & 1:00 a.m.

Join a park ranger for an interpretive program to learn more about one of Washington, D.C.'s more impressive and fascinating landmarks, the Old Post Office Tower. Tours are by request. Call 202-606-8691 for more information.

For Whom the Bell Tolls:
The Washington Ringing Society and the Bells of Congress
First Thursday of every month 6:45 p.m.

The art of change ringing goes back to the Middle Ages, and you can experience it first-hand at the Old Post Office Tower! To learn more about the systematic ringing of the Bells of Congress, join members of the Washington Ringing Society the first Thursday of each month for a full explanation of the Bells of Congress, why they are here, and how they work. The program will be followed by their weekly practice session. Call 202-606-8691 for more information.

Eastern National

Want to learn more about National Mall and Memorial Parks? Eastern National, a park partner, operates four bookstores throughout the park. The bookstores are located at:

Lincoln Memorial 9:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.
Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 a.m.
Thomas Jefferson Memorial 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 a.m.
Washington Monument Lodge 8:30 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.

www.easternnational.org

Tourmobile Sightseeing

Get ready for the sights and sounds of the Nation's Capital. Tourmobile Sightseeing's narrated shuttle tours take you right where you want to go. Buy your tickets from the driver, and enjoy unlimited re-boarding. You choose where to stop, stay as long as you want, then board and ride to another historic location.

202-554-5100 www.tourmobile.com

"Monuments, and reservations, which purpose is to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

National Park Service Organic Act
August 25, 1916

For Whom the Bell Tolls:
The Washington Ringing Society and the Bells of Congress
First Thursday of every month 6:45 p.m.

The art of change ringing goes back to the Middle Ages, and you can experience it first-hand at the Old Post Office Tower! To learn more about the systematic ringing of the Bells of Congress, join members of the Washington Ringing Society the first Thursday of each month for a full explanation of the Bells of Congress, why they are here, and how they work. The program will be followed by their weekly practice session. Call 202-606-8691 for more information.