To: N.P.S. Wives

Women Employees

Any Park, U.S.A.
OPEN LETTER TO N.P.S. WIVES AND WOMEN EMPLOYEES

Letter content written by:
Mrs. Lyn Broadbent, Tonto N.M.
Mrs. "Pat" Binnewies, Tuzigoot N.M.
Mrs. Susan Wilson, SWAC

Drawings made by:
Mrs. "Erni" Escalante, Tuzigoot N.M.

Assisted by:
Mrs. Gale Ice, Tonto N.M.
Mrs. "Suzy" Morris, SWAC
Mrs. Iola Thomas, SWAC
Mrs. Ruth Linder, Casa Grande Ruins
Mrs. Esther Hart, Casa Grande Ruins
Mrs. Carol Clark, Montezuma Well
Mrs. Glada Costales, Montezuma Well
Mrs. Marjorie Tabor, Montezuma Castle
INTRODUCTION

The idea for this Orientation Booklet originated at the Southwest Superintendents' Conference in Tucson in February, 1967. The reason for such a booklet is to help wives understand more about the National Park Service and what is involved in being a Park Service wife or employee. The project was given to a group of ladies from five park areas: Casa Grande Ruins, Montezuma Castle, Southwest Archeological Center, Tonto, and Tuzigoot. In January 1968 the chairman, Lyn Broadbent, then at Tonto, sent out a letter asking what Park Service wives needed to know about Park Service living. A meeting was held in February 1968 at Tonto, followed by a second meeting later at Casa Grande. From these meetings came the idea of an "open letter". After a report was given on this undertaking at the Superintendents' Conference, Southwest Region, in Santa Fe in February 1969 it was suggested that these orientation booklets be made available to all Southwest Areas and the Albright Training Center. More information and ideas were gathered, and a final meeting was held in Cottonwood, Arizona (Tuzigoot) in May of 1969.

Mrs. Besse Ripley, former Southwest Chairman, was our "gal" in Washington D.C. and met with Miss Betty Koubele in Director Hartzog's office about the project. Much valuable information was provided to help the committee. The completed booklet was sent to Washington for the June 23-26, 1969 meeting where it was discussed and suggestions made. Now the Orientation Booklet is to be printed in Washington D.C. and used Service-wide for National Park wives.

A big thanks to: Nancy Dayton, National Chairman from Petrified Forest; Betty Peterson, Southwest Chairman from Big Bend; Pat Jones, Ruth Becker, Amy Binnewies for all their help and advice, and to all the ladies who answered the questionnaires and gave their comments and suggestions.
Dear Friend:

Welcome, new neighbor, to the National Park Service way of life! You are married to a very special man, or you would not be reading this letter. The Park Service challenges men who are intelligent, able to communicate and get along with people, and who also have a special love for our USA wonderlands, the National Park areas. As the wife of such a man, you are also challenged! May your years be varied and happy ones as you live a long and fruitful career together.

I write you because I, too, am a Park Service wife, and I understand some of the problems and questions you will be facing. To make things easier for you to adjust to the Service, may I share the following?

EVERYBODY MOVES - NOT JUST YOU!

There will come a day when you think all you do is move! move! move! And yet, each move is a new opportunity for your husband, perhaps an advancement in his career.
When you stop to think about it, to move is certainly not something specifically NPS. Most of the rest of the nation is on the move too, and not nearly in so fortunate a manner. In the NPS, most moves provide a house ready and waiting for you, with a new community of friends to welcome you, in an especially beautiful or historic or interesting place in which to live! This is indeed one of the bonuses of NPS life!

Your new area will send you brochures telling you what to expect in the way of housing, nearby towns, schools, etc. Read these with your husband carefully. They will help you plan and decide about your move.

Soon moves become a stepping stone to knowledge for your children and yourself, if you but open your eyes and look around you to see what possibilities of creative adventure await in each new area. Take advantage of whatever is offered. Time passes so quickly! The college course or concert series you meant to take, in the nearby city, might not come your way again. Do it now! Take your children on tours of our nation's shrines. When they study them in school later, they will be able to say, with new awareness, "I've been there! I've seen that place!"

The moving we NPS people do is an excellent opportunity to widen and broaden our lives and make them more meaningful. But it is we wives who have to do this! Our husbands are working in new jobs and meeting new situations and won't have time to plan these things. They won't get done unless we inquire and make the plans for family outings on days off.

Your move may be from a small monument to a large park, or from isolation into a big city. Each area has its own reason for being a part of the NPS, and you will have the excitement of living where others can only visit. You may find yourself moving from
the desert to Alaska, or from the seashore to a historical park. Whatever the adventure, learn to adapt, to put your area prejudices behind you, to go with your husband, willing and eager to face what is new.

Most men choose the Park Service as a career because of a special interest or skill. They quickly become very involved in their work. If you don't want to be left out, share his interests, read everything you can get your hands on that pertains to his field of work, listen to him.

Learn about the structure and organization of the NPS. Learn the various divisions and how they cooperate. It is easy to think of one's husband's line of work as being the most important. Learn the "whole" for a broader understanding of the full scope of what the NPS is trying to do.
Just one word of caution. The job is his, not yours. Don't intrude into official duties.

Remember that the rules of an area which apply to the visitors, also apply to you and your children. Learn them. Sometimes we meet seemingly peculiar rules in some areas. They have a sound reason for being, usually a safety measure. Ask "why this rule?" if one seems unreasonable. Then with new understanding, try to follow it.

HOUSING

Housing in most NPS areas is no problem. The government has built new, closet-filled, well planned modern houses with stoves and refrigerators furnished. You will be assigned to one. An attempt is always made to accommodate the family so far as numbers of children, ages, etc. is concerned, but the availability of housing is the final determining factor.

In some of the older, smaller areas, housing may not be exactly what you would choose, or what you had in mind. Some floor plans present the new housewife with a real challenge. Accept this challenge to your decorating and management skills to create the
most attractive and pleasant surroundings for your family during your assignment in the area.

Like any landlord, the NFS charges rent, wherever housing is furnished. The rental rates are based on prevailing rentals on comparable housing in nearby communities with allowances for isolation.

If your husband is transferred to WASO or a Regional Office or Special Unit, be prepared to find and either buy or rent your own home. You have a choice of where in the city you want to live and how much you want to pay for rent or payment, if you buy. You, and your husband may wish to contact other employees to obtain suggestions for desirable neighborhoods, etc. As you look over the city, keep in mind good schools, shopping convenience, distance to office and other important factors. Ask questions, subscribe to and read thoroughly the local newspapers. (If there is time, subscribe in advance...it will surprise you how much you will know about your new "hometown" when you arrive.)

Ask lots of questions, and do take time enough to make a careful decision. Choose to your own interests and values, as you know best the kind of life you desire. Don't let others talk you into what they prefer, yet heed advice for it will be kindly given. Be careful in making compromises. Select wisely and enjoy this phase of your NFS career.

If you get sent to an isolated area, learn to make lists. As you run out of white thread or salt, write it down. Then when you make an infrequent trip to town, everything you need will be on that list! It is maddening to arrive home and suddenly remember something you forgot, with town many miles away!

If you aren't used to buying groceries in large quantities, roll up your sleeves and learn. This doesn't mean buying the giant size of everything, just buying more of each item at one time.
One very nice thing about this kind of area is that whenever anyone goes into town, the word is spread, and someone will gladly pick up a much needed item or two for you. Just remember, when it is you going to town, to do these same favors in return.

One more word of advice on Park Service living -- don't invest in more home furnishings than you need, buy less expensive standard brand interior furnishings and appliances that can be easily serviced or replaced. For instance, unbleached muslin curtains can be made adjustable and will fit any decor. Keeping weight of furniture and other possessions down will help in the many moves.

CLOTHES MAKE THE MAN

Whatever your husband's position, how he looks on the job is important. The image he projects is the image the public associates with the National Park Service.

This goes for everyone, regardless of the type of clothing worn. As a Park Service wife, it is your responsibility to see that his clothes are ready when needed, clean and neatly pressed. He will appreciate this more than you'll ever know.

If your husband wears a uniform, make proper use of the annual uniform allowance, of course! This money is not to be spent on a "night out", or a new pair of shoes for you, but only to keep your husband's uniform up-to-date and complete. He may want to "make-do" with what he has, or "get by" with too little. Don't let him! A sloppy uniform is inexcusable, shows obvious carelessness, and impresses no one.
THE COMMUNITY

There always seems to be a lot of community activity to be done in the parks. There are parties to welcome new people, and parties to say goodbye. Play areas must be kept for the children. Committees are organized. Everyone working together can make these fun affairs, and whether or not you are on a committee, you have a responsibility to help make these activities successful. Here again, common sense and courtesy are the guidelines.

A park community differs from most communities because the people not only must live together, they also work closely together. It is not fair for wives to burden husbands with complaints about a neighbor when he has to work with the same man all day. Practice patience and understanding and try not to let coffee chats degenerate into gossip sessions or comparisons of advancements and careers. The NPS needs all phases of operation in order to function properly. Interpretation, Protection, Maintenance, and Administration all work cooperatively to create the whole. If you feel your husband is especially able in his work, compliment him. Don't brag to your neighbor.

When you move to a new park you will enjoy making friends outside the park community in the area or town where you shop or send the children to school. You will find it is easy enough to get
acquainted because organizations are always looking for new workers and will welcome you with open arms.

Wives, sometimes more than husbands, color the community's impression of the NPS. There may be a place where you will have to live down or make up for mistakes of wives who've gone before you. This isn't easily done. Be yourself, be honest, and try very hard to avoid self-centeredness.

There will come times when you will want to conk your beloved on his pointed little head for ever getting you into this NPS way of life! You will wonder if he'll ever come home in time for dinner, just once even, but fire season, ski patrol, or rains which bog down unwary visitor's cars shall pass, and you'll have plenty of time to subdue and arrange your feelings and laugh at it together.

And there will come the day you forget to dust and clean,... because out-of-doors is especially beautiful for some special season, spring, fall, or new snow...and this will be the day friend husband comes home to lunch with a guest in tow saying, "Honey, I didn't get a chance to call and warn you, but.....!"

So, for heaven's sake don't apologize to the Regional Officer or WASO person for your untidy house! He has probably lived in a field area and knows how it is. While putting on the coffee and opening extra cans or making an extra sandwich, tell him of your joy in the area. Your enthusiasm for life will make the most tired man relax and appreciate your efforts.

Well now! I didn't mean to ramble on forever, but these are things with which you really should familiarize yourself. Learn all you can about the retirement plan of the NPS, and what to expect if your husband should die or accidentally be injured or incapacitated. It gives peace of mind to understand these things before we need to.
If your only reason for living is to get rich quick, I suggest you find something else to do. However, most Park Service people live well and are not envious of anyone. I do want to mention one thing that is different for you as a Park Service family. Your friends outside the NPS are probably buying homes while NPS people must rent all, or most, of our working lives. Don't put off starting a savings nest egg for your retirement home. This is something to think about now. If you wait until you are making more money, you will discover that your expenses seem to grow at the same rate as your income. Start planning now for a happy future.

And for a happy now, keep in mind what I'm sure you already know. Only you can create your own happiness and that of your family and loved ones. You cannot blame the climate, or another's attitude or a particular park. You are the one responsible for how you face life -- this power is yours! Use it well!

Sincerely,

Mary Park Service
FACTS ABOUT THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

The National Park Service was established August 25, 1916 by an Act of Congress. It is a Bureau of the Department of the Interior, with headquarters in Washington, D.C. The objectives of the NPS are to provide for the public enjoyment and preservation of outstanding scenic, historic, and recreation areas.

The Service is divided into six regions: Western, Northwest, Southwest, Midwest, Northeast, and Southeast. There are three types of National Park Service areas.

Natural Areas - National Parks and Monuments
Historic Areas - Battlefields, Homes, Statue of Liberty, Cemeteries, and others.
Recreation Areas - Seashores, Parkways, Lakes, Rivers, etc.

Also the NPS administers the many areas which make up the National Capital Parks in Washington, D.C. as well as the Historic Landmarks Program.

The "Father of the National Park Service" was Stephen T. Mather, who was its first Director. Yellowstone, the first National Park, was established in 1872.

The Antiquities Act of 1906 provided the authority for the President of the United States, by proclamation, to set aside certain areas as National Monuments (historic or scientific) for protection from vandalism. One question often asked is, "What is the difference between a National Park and a National Monument?" A National Park is established by an Act of Congress; a National Monument is established by Presidential Proclamation.
The official emblem of the National Park Service is the Arrowhead. It is shaped like an arrowhead; brown background with mountain, trees, a lake, and a white bison, all representative of the total environment. The Triangle worn as a tie tack on the uniform is the Parkscape symbol.

Through its Environmental Awareness Program the Park Service has become concerned with total environment throughout the country. Through NEED, the National Environmental Education Development Program, school children are made more aware of their environment and its interrelationships. Also, Environmental Study Areas located in and near parks and monuments are designed for day use by school classes.

Visitors sometimes confuse National Park Service Rangers and Forest Service Rangers. The U.S. Forest Service is administered by the Department of Agriculture, while the National Park Service is administered by the Department of Interior.

Like any large organization or community there are rules and regulations which govern or control the members, and the National Park Service is no exception. Policies which govern parks are derived from Congressional Acts, which in turn are interpreted by the Secretary of the Interior and the Director of the National Park Service. Administrative policies for all areas are established by the Director, and Regional Officers, with local policies established by the Superintendent of an area.
National Park areas are financed by annual appropriations. Often these are not adequate to allow the superintendent and his staff to do all of the jobs that are needed. That is why, from time-to-time, special requests cannot be granted by the superintendent.

As an employee of the NPS your spouse represents the Service both on and off the job. Conduct is important, as a bad reflection on an individual because of poor conduct is also a bad reflection on the agency. An employee code of conduct can be found in Part 370, Departmental Manual Number 735. There are also pamphlets about political activities, meeting financial obligations, financial protection covering employee sickness, accidents, unemployment, retirement and others written by the Civil Service Commission. Many of these are included in the "Welcome to the National Park Service" kit. If you and your husband do not fully understand, or have specific questions concerning the retirement system, insurance, widow and survivor's benefits, or federal credit unions, don't hesitate to ask your personnel officer or Superintendent for additional information. Another excellent source of information is the Federal Employees Almanac. This reference book covers every conceivable question a government employee might have, is revised annually and kept current as to pay tables, legislation, insurance, retirement, promotion and transfer qualifications, moving allowances, etc. The mailing address is: Federal Employees News Digest, P.O. Box 689, Washington, D.C., 20044.

The National Park Service has an Employees and Alumni Association. Membership includes subscription to the monthly National Park Courier. "The principle back of the newspaper (Courier)," states former director Connie Wirth, "is that it will be a means of keeping in the foreground the spirit of the National Park Service and maintaining the friendly family relationships that were developed in the Steve Mather and Horace Albright days." This paper is full of news of what is going on in Washington and in the field, special awards and citations, transfers, and an alumni directory. Membership is open to all present or past employees at a cost of $5.00 per year, and may be obtained through:

Employee and Alumni Association
National Park Service
1100 Ohio Drive, SW
Washington, D.C. 20242
The Park Service has a language all its own and in turn shortens many words to initials applicable to Park Service terminology. This is easy to understand if one knows how the initials are put together. NPS stands for National Park Service. The first four letters are used for an area like, TUIZ for Tuzigoot. If the area name contains two words, the first two letters of each are used like, CACA for Carlsbad Caverns. Some common initials which you will hear are:

- WASO: Washington Office
- SWRO: Southwest Regional Office
- SWAC: Southwest Archeological Center
- WSC: Western Service Center
- GSC: Civil Service Commission
- VC: Visitor Center
- NP: National Park
- NM: National Monument
- NRA: National Recreation Area
- NHS: National Historic Site, or National Historic Seashore
- NMS: National Memorial Site
- LWP: Leave With Pay
- LWOP: Leave Without Pay
- AL: Annual Leave
- SL: Sick Leave
- eod: Entered on duty
- pa: per annum (a year)
- term.: terminated
- perm.: permanent status
- seas.: seasonal or temporary status
- dob: date of birth
- cob: close of business
- eta: estimated time of arrival
- GS-(5,7,9, etc.): grade-in-service
- NEED: Neighborhood Environmental Educational Development
- PPB: Planning, Programming, Budgeting
- I&RM: Interpretation and Resources Mgt.
For general understanding of the Park Service, or just enjoyment, the following suggested reading may be helpful. Copies of most of the books are available from area libraries, or through a park or monument assn.

### I. Understanding

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Steve Mather of the National Park Service</td>
<td>Robert Shanklin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The National Parks in Color</td>
<td>Freeman Tilden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The National Parks (foreword by G. Hartzog)</td>
<td>Freeman Tilden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Following the Frontier</td>
<td>Freeman Tilden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interpreting Our Heritage</td>
<td>Freeman Tilden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>America's Wonderlands</td>
<td>National Geographic Soc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exploring Our National Parks &amp; Monuments</td>
<td>Devereux Butcher</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### II. Related to Conservation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quiet Crises</td>
<td>Stewart Udall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservation Yearbook Series</td>
<td>Supt. of Documents, Washington D.C.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wild Rivers - August 1963</td>
<td>John Muir, with introduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Man, An Endangered Species, 1968.</td>
<td>&amp; comments by Edwin Teale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Wilderness World of John Muir</td>
<td>John Muir, with introduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Sea Around Us</td>
<td>Rachel Carson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In Wilderness is the Preservation of the World</td>
<td>Eliot Porter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book of Natural Wonders</td>
<td>American Heritage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The American Southwest</td>
<td>Nat Dodge</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### III. Fun Reading

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oh, Ranger</td>
<td>Horace Albright</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bears in My Kitchen</td>
<td>Marge Merrill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I Married a Ranger</td>
<td>Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Born Free</td>
<td>Joy Adamson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Living Free</td>
<td>Joy Adamson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death Valley Scotty Told Me</td>
<td>Eleanor Houston</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### IV. Children's Books

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National Parks - A Book to Color</td>
<td>Sealfield Publishing Co.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desert Animals Coloring Book</td>
<td>Dorothy Warren and Alyce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David, Young Chief of the Kuileute</td>
<td>Ann Dengler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desert Life (for very young children)</td>
<td>Ruth Kirk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animals of the Sierra</td>
<td>Ruth Kirk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Day With Tupi</td>
<td>Fran Hubbard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fran Hubbard</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### V. Technical (written by NPS women and husbands about specific areas)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bighorn Sheep</td>
<td>Ralph and Buddy Wells</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bighorn Sheep, Elk, and Deer of Rocky Mtn. National Park</td>
<td>Julie &amp; Roger Contor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flowers of the Southwest Mesas</td>
<td>Pauline (Polly) Patrow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exploring Death Valley, Olympic Seashore</td>
<td>Ruth Kirk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exploring Olympic Peninsula, Exploring Mt. Ranier, Olympic Rain Forest</td>
<td>Published by U. of Washington</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
An excellent source of information for the local area is the library in the visitor centers. Also books and pamphlets are available often through the local park or monument associations like the Zion Natural History Association or Southwest Monuments Association. Such associations are non-profit organizations which provide books, slides, and other sales items relating to the history or natural history of an area. Funds received from sales are used to help interpretive programs through research grants, equipment, and special publications.

The National Park Service also has the NPS Newsletter, published monthly by the Washington Office, free of charge, for each family. In addition to general information, a special column, "See Here, Ladies," is included. There is also a "Profile" about an outstanding employee, and "Silhouette" about a wife of an employee, or a woman employee. Other topics cover questions and answers on policies, scholarship opportunities for NPS children, recognition of achievements by our youth, and a maintenance corner.

There are also regional and local newsletters such as "Yosemite News" and "Death Valley Heatwave" put out by that particular area. The Smoke Signal is a Regional Newsletter in the Southwest Region, composed of informal newsletters written by the women in each area. The idea originated at the Southwest Superintendents' Conference in Tucson in February, 1967 from a suggestion made by the women from Sanford Recreation Area. Besse Ripley, then serving as the Southwest Regional Chairman and the women atGran Quivira compiled the first issue of the Smoke Signal in July 1967. The women at Sanford assembled the newsletter for the rest of 1967, while the women ofPlatt-Arbuckle took over the task in 1968. The women of Saguaro have done the job in 1969. The "chatty" type letters are assembled and mailed out as a quarterly bulletin to all areas that subscribe, at a cost of $1.00 per year, or 25¢ per copy. Individual subscriptions are encouraged also. More information or subscriptions may be obtained by writing to the Southwest (Women's) Regional Chairman. The Midwest Region also publishes a newsletter called The Roundup. The first edition was published by the women from Dinosaur National Monument.
There is also a National Park Service Women's Organization, which was organized in 1952 by the Superintendents' wives present at the National Superintendents' Conference in Glacier National Park, Montana. The purpose of the organization "shall be to provide opportunities for communication and discussion of common areas of interest to the members". All NPS wives and women employees are members, with retired alumnae and employee-widows having the privilege of retaining membership as long as they wish to remain active in the organization. The women meet formally or informally in each area according to their local organization. There are no dues or operating expenses. Enclosed is a copy of the by-laws.

We hope the information gathered will help National Park Service women understand more about the NPS, its history, purpose, organization, and services.
HINTS ON MOVING

Moving happens to everyone! It's time consuming and tiring, but with good planning and methodical packing, it can be accomplished and offers many benefits. Just think of getting rid of the useless junk you've accumulated! The excitement of seeing a new area and making new friends! Renewing old acquaintances! When a transfer is announced, keep smiling, remember... as Hap Dodge, a retired park service wife wisely said, "when you move to a new area in the Park Service, unpack as though you were staying forever, but see the country as though you were moving tomorrow!" Perhaps the following will help:

PLANNING THE MOVE:

Contact movers recommended by other Park Service families. Get in touch with several, and choose between their bids and services. Small movers often give a better price and equally good service. A mover from your destination may be the wisest choice as adjustments can be made in person, rather than by mail.

Be sure your mover signs a written contract. Movers offer routine insurance by the pound. Additional insurance may be a very wise investment.

Get change of address forms from the post office and change your magazine and newspaper subscriptions as soon as you learn your new address.

Take time to prepare any small children what to expect in your move. It is important that your children know why the family is moving, to have the advantages of the new area pointed out, and their questions or anxieties answered and soothed to prevent future problems.

If you receive a floor plan of your new house, write in a tentative furniture arrangement to help at unloading time. You may wish to label boxes as to room in which they are to go.

Settle all outstanding bills, and arrange for utility disconnects, etc.

Get medical, dental and school records. Ask your doctor and dentist for recommendations at your new locality.

PACKING

A good thing to remember in packing is, "heavy in little" and "light in big"--as it makes it much easier to have heavy items such as books, etc. in small boxes, and light things such as pillows, or lamps in large cartons.

Citrus fruit or apple boxes are a big help. These have good covers and most have side slits for handles. Boxes with partitions such as liquor bottle cartons are great for vases and small breakable items.
If you or your children have collections of small items like shells or rocks, get empty baby food jars, and the partitioned boxes they come in.

Packing kitchen utensils in plastic bags saves washing when you unpack.

Throw out the assorted stacks of mail, papers, magazines, etc. and keep a large carton handy to deposit unwanted clothing, toys, and such for giving away.

Give away or throw out all opened food, unless your move is a very short one.

If your freezer is empty, it's a great place to store pictures packed with pillows, bedding, etc. Also a good place to pack lampshades.

Mark each box with a list of contents. Possibly you can color code for the various rooms, or mark children's names on boxes of their belongings.

Nylon filament tape is valuable for sealing boxes.

Most movers will not guarantee safe arrival of frozen foods, although some individual drivers will take them if properly boxed. Many plants can be cut back rather severely for moving, but some states will not allow plants to cross state lines.

Don't pack ink, liquid shoe polish, bleach, etc. One leak or breakage can do serious damage to more valuable items, and wouldn't be covered by insurance.

Go ahead and pack the dishes if necessary (always on end for the plates as they are less likely to break and need less packing material). Plan to "picnic" the last meal or two.

DAY OF THE MOVE:

Pack a large carton, labeled #1 to be taken in the family car! In this place essential cooking utensils, table service, needed dishes, and small quantities of staples. Possibly you could include the coffee pot, fry pan, napkins, and dishwashing equipment. Then you are ready to set up housekeeping without digging for that "right" box.

If there might be a delay in getting to a grocery store, consider packing cans of condensed milk, pork & beans, sardines, tuna, snack crackers, cookies, and fruit to tide the hungry family over.

Another temper saver in your box hunt might be to pack the sheets, pillow cases, bath towels, etc. in the chest of drawers that will be in each room.
Have your house cleaning done to a point that a pre-hired person can do the last minute cleaning after the house is empty.

Leave your house cleaner than you found it—-to save your reputation. Start cleaning early. It is easier to clean an empty house, but you will be too exhausted to do it right after the van leaves.

As the last piece of furniture leaves, pick up litter and vacuum the rugs before the movers roll them up.

Take a last look in cupboards, closets, basement, attic, garage, and yard.

Get the driver's name, van number, shipment number and travel route and the name of the destination agent in case your shipment needs to be traced.

ARRIVAL

Normally you have to have cash or a cashier's check at the destination or the mover will not unload. Some movers who move a great many Park families and seek their business are not demanding in this.

Try to stay with your van until it is loaded, and be at its destination for the unloading. No one else will give your things the care you would, and it often saves rehandling.

The householder is usually allowed a year to report final loss or damage that is not discovered at once. Be sure and check your furniture with the mover for soiled items and scratches.

Save any cartons you want if you have the storage space. They belong to you.