



MRNPA NEWS

Temporary Editors Edition: Spring/Summer 1999

From The Summit

by David L. Berry, President MRNPA

Happy Birthday Mount Rainier National Park! The centennial year celebration and activities have begun at the Park and elsewhere around the state. A list of those activities can be found in this news letter. I hope you all take the opportunity to participate in some or all of the activities and visit the many sites and venues that are displaying the history of the first 100 years of Mount Rainier National Park. I think we all can be proud that our organization has played a positive role in seeing that the original mandate for creating the Park continues today. Mount Rainier National Park remains and is a special place "for the benefit and enjoyment of the people."

It is about the role of MRNPA that I would like to briefly speak. MRNPA was formed in 1985 by a dedicated group of people concerned about the future of Mount Rainier National Park. The group was formed so individual citizens have a voice to help "preserve and protect the natural state of the park and to promote wise stewardship of the park's natural resources." Many of those people who formed MRNPA are still active today with projects fulfilling those goals. We have become one of the most active groups performing trail maintenance and helping with alpine meadow revegetation programs. Our efforts inside the Park remain strong and vigorous. It is in an area outside the Park where our greater challenge now lies.

Right now our greatest challenge is to increase our membership and to find some dedicated souls to take on some of the tasks and functions that keep our organization energetic and alive. This news letter is the area where we need help here and now. Bette Filley has done a wonderful job for a very long time in seeing that the news letter was put together and published. She is also a professional writer and is very busy doing what writers do for a living that is writing and publishing books of their own! MRNPA owes Bette a big thank you for her work in the past seeing that these news letters were sent out on a more regular schedule. It is now time for someone else who has the knowledge and skills to step forward and take the lead so we can continue to publish and send out the MRNPA News on a more regular basis. So, who will it be?

There are other areas where members can become more active. We are now at the time of year where we put together a slate of candidates for the Board and membership to approve for 1999 -2000. The current open positions include a person for President Elect and we could add a body or two to the Board membership. So, who will it be? If anyone is interested in becoming involved with publication of the news letter or filling one of the open positions for the Board, please call me at 253.474.7814 and we can talk!!!

I look forward to seeing many of you at our scheduled trail work parties (a list of which you will find in this news letter) and possibly at some of the centennial activities throughout the year. I would like to end with a challenge for all our active members. Wouldn't it be great if all of us who volunteer to do trail and revegetation work bring a friend, acquaintance or relative along with us to one of the outings? We could show them how good it feels to give something of ourselves to the Park. We could show them what a wacky and fun group of people we are to be around. Perhaps we could even increase our membership numbers!!! Have a safe and wonderful summer, see you at the Park.

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The Mount Rainier Archives Project

by Bette Filley

The Mount Rainier Archives Project was created by a cooperative agreement between Mount Rainier National Park and Western Washington University. As part of the agreement, Western Washington provides a professional project archivist to process the park's collections with technical assistance provided to both the Park and the project archivist by staff from the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) Pacific Alaska Region (Seattle).

Since its inception in 1899, as part of their duties, superintendents and staff working in the park have created an irreplaceable administrative and photographic record, which chronicles every facet of park history. These records include details of virtually everything that went on in the park including road and trail building, attendance, employee duties, climbing history, accident and fatality records, famous visitors, summit registers, animal records, and in more recent years, environmental records of air quality, pollution, plant, animal and forest health and minutiae of every kind.

During the first phase of the project (1995 – 1997) the Park's collection of textual records were processed and microfilmed.

The second phase of the project (1997) to present) is focusing on the park's photographic image collection. To date 7000 images have been cataloged and entered into a database. Ideally every image in the collection will eventually be copied. The copy negative will become the use set. The original negatives (including glass lantern slides) will be stored at NARA. Cost for supplies and the photographic processing is estimated to be in the \$30,000 range.

During the third phase of the project the Interpretive Division's slide collection would be processed. The collection contains 45,000 slides that document ranger activities, visitor use, and the park's natural resources. This collection is used by permanent and seasonal staff for interpretive slide shows. Processing this collection, making duplicate slides, and entering the information into a database will take approximately one year. The cost for supplies and photographic processing is estimated to be about \$25,000.

Phase four of the project will process the Park's oversized materials including architectural drawings and maps. This project will take approximately one year and cost an approximate \$5,000.

During each stage of the project the archivist handles reference requests from park personnel and researchers. These

requests are expected to continue to increase due to Centennial interest, and the fact that these materials are now accessible for the first time.

After completion, many of the original images are to be returned to the park, however this is problematic because the park does not have the proper storage facilities of the image collection. Some of the images have already been damaged by improper storage. At this time there is no funding for phase three and four.

The really bad news is that Nancy Shader, the Western Washington Archivist who has shepherded this project from its inception, is leaving for a position back east. Nancy is owed a debt of gratitude by all Mount Rainier fans for the magnificent job she has done in organizing this overwhelming job.

It is anticipated that all stages of the project will be completed by the Spring of 2000. Those wanting to access the collection should contact the Mount Rainier Archives Project c/o National Archives and Records Administration, 6125 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle, WA 98115. (206) 528-0841.

Officers of MRNPA

President	David L. Berry	253.474.7814
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Temporary Editors Rob and Dave

The MRNPA News is published periodically by the Mount Rainier National Park Associates of Seattle, WA for the purpose of providing general information about issues affecting Mount Rainier National Park in furtherance of the goals of the Mount Rainier National Park Associates - To Maintain, Restore, Nurture, Protect and Appreciate the natural values of Mr. Rainier National Park.

The opinions expressed in the MRNPA News are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official positions of the MRNPA.

Letters and articles from members and readers are welcomed. We reserve the right to edit for length, grammar or libel. Articles and comments can be sent to:

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1999 Work Parties

by John Titland



Last year, in recognition of the 1999 centennial anniversary of Mount Rainier National Park, the Board of MRNPA authorized expanding our volunteer work parties to once a month as a way of assisting the Park clean up and get ready for the coming celebration. Once a month was quite an ambitious schedule and the results were very satisfying. We worked twice on the Huckleberry Creek Trail, assisting the trail crew in opening the trail for the first time in two years. We cleared at least 1/2 mile of right-of-way for new trail to be built along what is called the "missing mile" of Wonderland Trail between Fryingpan Creek and the White River Campground. And on a wonderful day in the fall, we helped plant thousands of wildflower seedlings at the Sunrise Campground revegetation project.

Again this year in recognition of the centennial year, we will be conducting volunteer work parties monthly beginning in April. The tentative dates are:

- April 17
- May 15
- June 12
- July 17
- August 7-8 Saturday work party and Potluck
 dinner. Camp over and Sunday hike.
- September 11 Revegetation project at Sunrise

These dates are not entirely certain, but close to it. Except for the revegetation project, the locations will be determined at the time of the work party. Carl Fabiani, Mount Rainier Trail Crew Supervisor and I have discussed several possible projects. There is at least one non-trails project at Paradise in need of completion before the crowds arrive. The "missing mile" trail extension needs to be completed and the Huckleberry Creek trail has a stream crossing in need of safety improvements. If we had volunteers available to work every weekend throughout the summer, we would not run out of things to do!

I'm sure that many people reading this will say "Yeah! Right! Why would I want to spend one of my too few trips to Mount Rainier doing back breaking manual labor?" My answer would be "because it will be one of the most satisfying and fun days you will spend!" We have a great group of volunteers who enjoy the Park and each other. We get something done and we have fun doing it.

If you are interested in joining the devoted group of MRNPA members doing volunteer work in the Park, give me--John Titland--a call at 425-747-1698. I will keep you informed of dates, times, and locations of our projects. With a work party scheduled each month, I'm sure there is at least one date and a project for you.

Mount Rainier on the Web

by Rob Stoker

With the exploding popularity of the Internet, you can get quite a bit of information about Mount Rainier off of the Internet. I encourage you to take a look at a few of the sites below, but not don't forget to actually go outside and visit the park.

The Mount Rainier National Park Associates Home Page

Check out our home page which contains information about our organization. In fact, e-mail our page to any friends who aren't already members.

<http://www.halcyon.com/rdpayne/mrnpa.html>

The Official Mount Rainier Home Page

This page is maintained by the National Park Service and contains lots of information

<http://www.nps.gov/mora/home.htm>

The Un-Official Guide to Mount Rainier

This page is maintained by Randy Payne and contains information from the printed Official Guide to Mount Rainier plus links to lots of other information.

<http://www.halcyon.com/rdpayne/mrnp.html>

Mount Rainier Centennial Web Site

Almost all the information you ever wanted to know about the Centennial plans for Mount Rainier. This page also contains historical information and an interesting facts page.

<http://mtrainier100.com/>

Mount Rainier - Earthquakes and Seismicity

This page is provided by the USGS-Cascades Volcano Observatory out of Vancouver, WA. Information about what they do and about the geological hazards at Mount Rainier.

<http://vulcan.wr.usgs.gov/Volcanoes/Rainier/Seismicity/>

The Search Engines

These pages are all search engines which will search the Web for anything you ask. (Somewhat surprisingly, they can usually find something on almost any subject.) A search for Mount Rainier will turn up a few things.

<http://www.yahoo.com/>

<http://www.excite.com/>

Centennial Events

Well the long-awaited Centennial is finally here boys and girls! Plan to take in as many of the events as possible. Below is a listing as of press time:

June 5

"Mount Rainier Family Day". REI will offer hands-on geology activities, plant and animal displays. Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture, UW Seattle. Free with paid admission. Kids under 5 free. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

June 12

Backyard Botany Family Workshop: Unraveling the mysteries of Mount Rainier flowers and trees. Co-sponsored by the Pacific Science Center. Event is at Washington State History Museum 10 a.m. to noon. Advance registration required. 1-888-BE-There.

June 23

Day trip to Mount Rainier. A bus trip to the Mountain organized for members of the Washington State Historical Society. Lunch at Paradise Lodge. Call 253-798-5877 to get costs and see if space is available.

July 15

Lantern Slide Show: A rare chance to see historic lantern slides from the good old days. Washington State History Museum. Free with paid museum admission. 6:30 p.m.

July 29

"RAMROD" Redmond Cycling Club's annual "Ride Around Mount Rainier in One Day" event. The event covers 154 miles with a 10,000 foot total elevation gain. To sign up call 425-739-8609.

August 12

Centennial Celebration in the Paradise Area: A day of pomp and circumstance in honor of the centennial. A special Intertribal Salmon Bake will be the highlight. Parking will be SCARCE!!

August 14

Volcano Family Workshop. Become a volcanologist for a day at the Washington State History Museum, 10 a.m. - noon. Advanced registration and fee required. Call 1-888-BE-THERE.

August 21

Washington State Historical Society Mountain Day featuring a Mount Rainier treasure hunt for kids. 11 a.m. - 4:00 at the museum

September (all month)

Chet Hanson Photography Exhibit at the Jackson Visitor Center, Paradise.

September 16

Brown Bag Lecture. Cecelia Carpenter discusses the importance of the Nisqually people to the mountain. Washington State History Museum, Free with paid admission. Noon - 1 p.m.

September 23

Author Bruce Barcott reads from "The Measure of a Mountain" at the Washington State History Museum. Free with paid museum admission. 6:30 p.m.

October 5

"The View From Here" Rainier inspired works will be on display at the Yakima Valley Museum through Nov. 15.

October 14

Brown Bag Lecture. Historian Paul Sadin discusses Rainier as a tourist destination at the Washington State History Museum. Free with paid admission. Noon - 1 p.m.

October 21

Geology Presentation: Geologist Pat Pringle discusses volcanoes and seismology. Washington State History Museum, Free with paid admission. 6:30 p.m.

November 4

Brown Bag Lecture: Park Service historian Victoria Jacobson discusses the architectural history of the mountain at the Washington State History Museum. Free with paid museum admission. Noon - 1 p.m.

November 18

An Evening with Dee Molenaar, author of "The Challenge of Mount Rainier." Washington State History Museum. Free with paid museum admission. 6:30 p.m.

December 3

"The View From Here" Rainier inspired works go on display at the Museum of Northwest Art in LaConner through February 27, 2000.

December 9

"An Evening with Otto Lang" The founder of the Mount Rainier Ski School who went on to become a Hollywood producer will share some of his stories. Washington State History Museum, Free with paid museum admission. 6:30 p.m.

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

December 12

"Celebrating Mount Rainier with Ruth Kirk and Jean Walkinshaw" The women behind the companion book to the history museum's exhibit and public television documentary. Washington State History Museum, free with paid museum admission. 2 p.m.

December 20

The Washington State History Museum will keep special hours to accommodate school vacations. Hours will be 10 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

December 24/26/27

Special hours at the Washington State History Museum. 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

January 9

Last day to see the "Sunrise to Paradise" exhibit at the Washington State History Museum"



A little relaxation after an enjoyable day of trail maintenance. See the accompanying article about a Trail Maintenance on page 7.

NEWS FLASHES and UPDATES from MRNPA

by David L Berry, President MRNPA

In case you are wondering, MRNPA is alive and well and like our favorite national park, there have been some changes. As many of you already know, there has been a selection made to fill the top job at Mount Rainier National Park. It is the because of the length of time it took to name a superintendent that there have been some changes made in the normal operating procedures of our organization. Along about the time a speaker was being selected for our annual meeting (usually held in May), the news came that a new superintendent was being named. The decision was made to try and invite the new Superintendent to be our guest speaker at the annual meeting. But alas, my sources told me there was a delay at the regional office and the naming of the new person was delayed slightly (and long enough to throw off our time table for meeting the new boss at Mount Rainier by sometime in May).

So, I broke with tradition and decided to wait. If there was a possibility of meeting the new Superintendent and inviting that person to meet us, I thought a slight delay in the annual meeting might be worth the wait. Graciously a few days before the new Superintendent was announced to the public, we were informed of the choice. By the way, his name is Jon Jarvis, currently the headman at Wrangell – St. Elias National Park and Preserve in Alaska. I have already sent him a letter introducing him to the Mount Rainier National Park Associates and inviting him to be a guest of ours at our annual meeting to be held sometime in July. I anxiously await his replay and really, really hope he accepts our invitation.

With this in mind, please be on the look out for an announcement in the mail telling you where and when the annual meeting will be held, this year in July.



Due to the extreme snow levels in the mountains, please be careful this hiking season on all excursions into the hills, especially stream crossings and snow bearing slopes.

Superintendent Briggie Resigns

In a surprise move, Superintendent Briggie ended his long Park Service career by resigning January 2. Briggie had spent 52 years with the Park Service including two stints at Mount Rainier. He was at the Mountain from 1977-84 and came back from 1991 to his January retirement.

Dave Uberago was acting park superintendent while the search is being conducted for Briggie's replacement.

Rainier's GMP on Hold

With Superintendent Briggie's retirement, the General Management Plan is in limbo. "I didn't feel comfortable taking it all the way down the line," Briggie said. "Then the new person would have no sense of ownership, or commitment to implementing it."

Relief Is On The Way!

State Senator Marilyn Rasmussen (D-Eatonville) and U.S. Rep. Jennifer Dunn are both flushed with success! Between them, they have finally garnered the funds, land and permits for a new much-needed rest area just outside of Elbe.

Long suffering park visitors will find that the new \$1.7 million, 25-acre will feature 20 toilets and urinals, ample parking, a picnic area and trails for walking dogs. It is designed to handle up to 6,000 visitors a day. The big "First Flush" ceremony which promises to feature flying flags and bands playing, will take place in the spring of 2000.

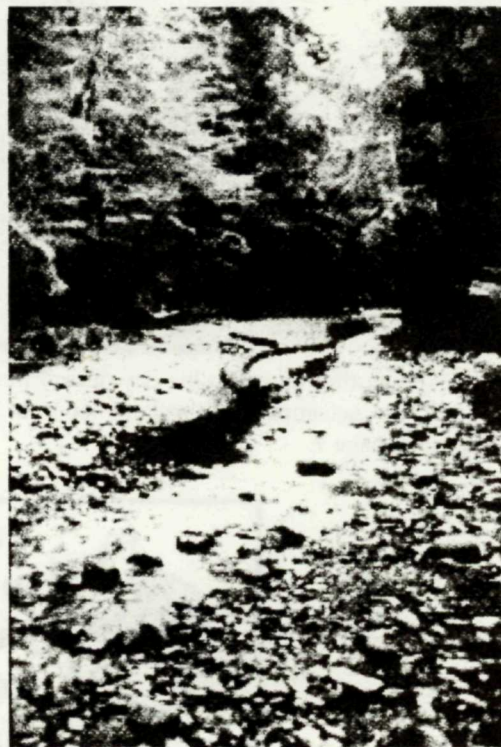
The facility will be a short distance east of town.

Carbon River Road at Mount Rainier National Park Washes out again!

Just 30 something days after MRNP officials opened the rebuilt Carbon River Road, a \$900,000 repair job, Mother Nature had it her way again! Stream flow in the Carbon River was 10 times normal water flow for three days. The Carbon River had a bed on the other side of the road many years ago - it seems the river wants to go there again. The photos to the right were taken just days after the wash out.

Since these photos were taken the park service has bulldozed the roadbed to a passable condition for high clearance vehicles. MRNP officials are considering options for a more permanent solution. The Ipsut Creek Campground will be open this summer.

(Photos by R. Payne)



A Day of Trail Maintenance

by Jan Stoker

On April 17, 1999 MRNPA began the work party season at the Carbon River Road Entrance. Fifteen volunteers gathered to work on the short nature walk trail near the park entrance. The group was lead by Luke (a NPS employee) and John Titland (MRNPA's trail party coordinator). We began by distributing about 100 yards of gravel (it was probably only 10 yards, but it sure seemed like more) to areas of the trail. We also cleaned bridges to relieve them of winter moss, cleared out sections of rotting wood from the trail's boardwalks, and laid river rock down to mark the trail. In addition to my duties on the trails, I also had the opportunity to catch some of our volunteers in action, or inaction as the case might be. I enjoyed snapping pictures of everyone as the gravel was spread and the river rocks were laid. At the end of the day, we took time as a group to visit with John and Yolanda Thompson as they graciously allowed us to rest on their lawn.

We invite anyone who is interested to come and share a day with us on the trails. If you would like more information about future MRNPA trail parties, please contact John Titland at 425-747-1698.



Our president Dave Berry on the left and our past-president John Titland on the right. They claimed that they were discussing the Park's General Management Plan (GMP), but I think they were just goofing off.



We sent these guys off to gather big river rocks to line the trails. It took them a long time to find any, but they apparently found the ancient river rock burial ground.



General trail maintenance. It's interesting that everyone is heading away from the trail and towards the cars.



John and Yolanda Thompson

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☐ Trail Parties

☐ Newsletter

☐ Hikes

☐ Adjacent Lands and Boundaries

☐ Wilderness &
Backcountry Management

☐ Visitor Impact

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Mail to:
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Treasurer, MRNPA
9230 41st Avenue NE