



Christmas Around the Regions



Alaska

Following the star

Gary Candelaria
Chief Park Ranger
Sitka NHP

In a country as ethnically diverse as the United States, variety is the keyword when describing Christmas holiday customs. As unique and attractive as any Christmas traditions are those associated with the Russian Orthodox Church in Alaska.

Many historic Russian Christmas festivities are familiar to those acquainted with Victorian-era Christmas celebrations. There is one notable difference, though, the date. Orthodox Christmas is celebrated on January 7, in keeping with the Julian calendar traditionally used in the Orthodox Church.

At Sitka National Historical Park, interpreters have made a study of Russian Christmas traditions and customs. Some of this information has been developed into a program to acquaint Sitka school children with their community's ethnic past.

Utilizing the setting of the Russian Bishop's House, interpreters set up work stations to help the students, 4th graders, learn about Russian Christmas, and make traditional Russian Christmas tree ornaments. Christmas trees are decorated by the students with cut paper and foil ornaments, fruit, nuts, and candies.

A Russian Christmas custom that is still a part of the holiday throughout the Orthodox parishes of Alaska is called "starring." Following services on Christmas Eve, a large, ornate, paper

mache star is escorted by carolers to the house of each member of the parish. The six or 12-point star, which revolves, is illuminated, traditionally with a candle. The custom, centuries old in Russia before being brought to the Russian-American colony, requires that the star visit the home of each parish member, where carolers sing, and then are invited in for warming refreshments. The starring continues on Christmas night until each home has been visited. This can take several hours, and parishioners often stay up late to receive the traditional visit.

Historically, Russian Christmas combined both the religious and the secular aspects of Western Christmas. It was once described as "twelve days long, three days of Church service, and nine

days of merriment." Dances and masquerades joined starring as favorite social pastimes. Toasts to long life, health, wealth, and happiness were joined by salutes to the Czar and his family in far-off St. Petersburg.

In Sitka, and throughout modern Alaska, most Orthodox believers celebrate Western Christmas. Orthodox Christmas has become mainly a religious observance. But if you follow an Orthodox choir on the night of January 7, as their glowing paper star moves through the streets, you can almost hear the music of balalaikas, the swish of dancing feet, and ringing toasts to the Czar ghosting out of the snowy Alaskan night.



West

Tumacacori creates a tradition

N.J. Bleser

Luminaria—a paper sack with sand in the bottom supporting a lighted votive candle. The custom of luminarias originated in New Mexico as *farolitos*, little fires to light the way on Christmas Eve, and over the centuries its charm has been carried throughout the country.

The current Luminarias program at Tumacacori began about 1946 as an annual Christmas party held on December 24 for park neighbors. At the time, Custodian Earl Jackson wrote: "After the close of the regular visitor day on Christmas Eve, persons of the community erect a large Christmas tree on the

grounds in front of the mission church. A bell in the mission is rung at dusk; the otherwise unused gate just north of the museum building is opened; and the crowd enters by a path lined with 'candelarios,' lighted candles resting on sand in paper sacks. The children flock around the Christmas tree and the Santa Claus who dispenses Christmas stockings to each, while the adults gather around picnic tables and consume huge quantities of doughnuts and coffee and swap reminiscences of last year's cotton or beef crop or the good old days. The party is financed entirely by private subscription . . ."

By 1971 this annual event had evolved into the present program, most of it still "financed by private subscription": Southwest Parks and Monuments Association pays for the candles, purchased in Mexico; the donation account picks up the cost of the home-made Mexican hot chocolate; the volunteer Los Amigos de Tumacacori feverishly bakes Christmas cookies as do members of the staff; then on the afternoon of the 24th staff families fill and place the luminarias,

and, that evening, pitch in to light (and, if it's windy, re-light) candles, serve cookies and chocolate, and greet the visitors.

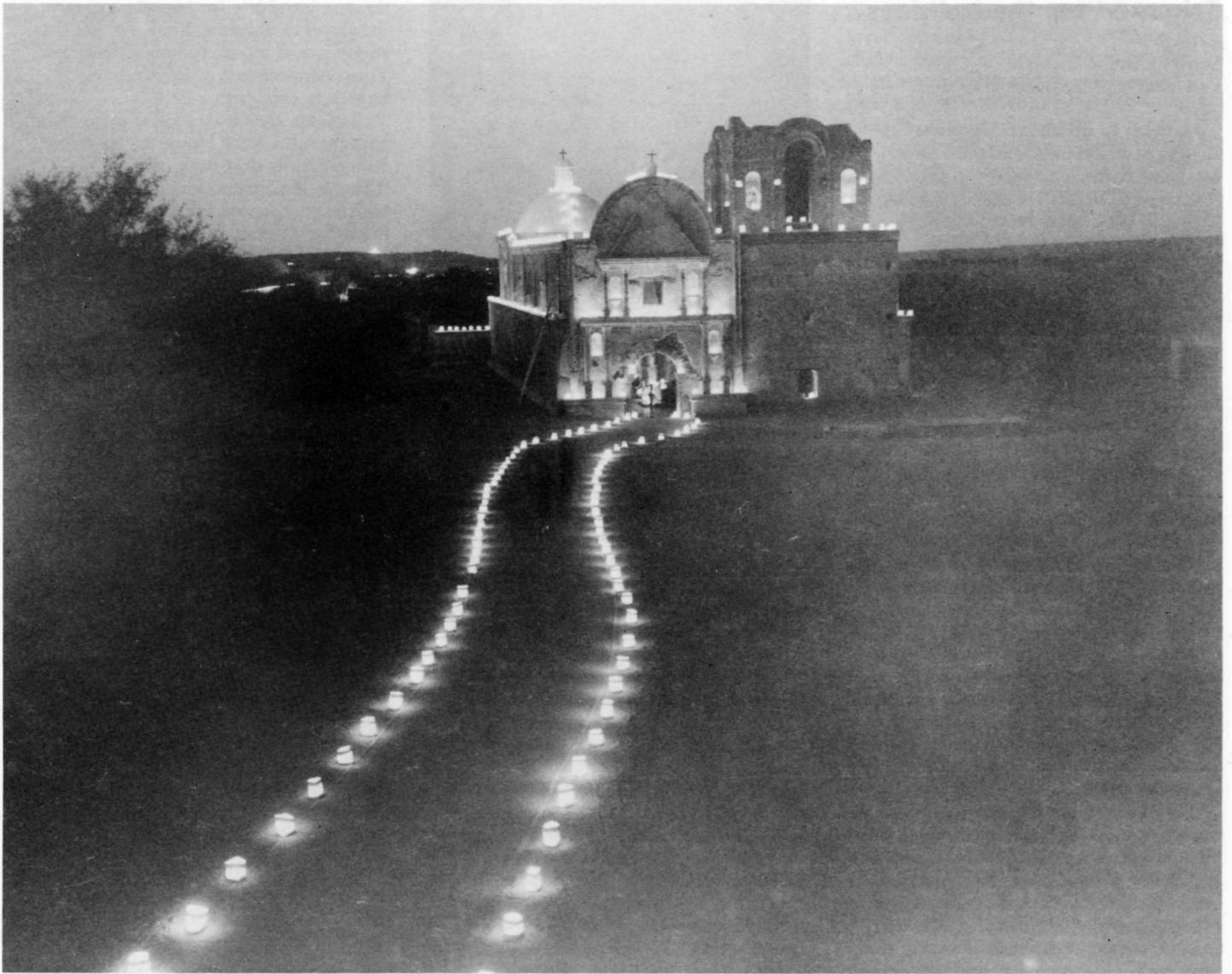
Each of the 12-pound kraft paper bags that hold sand and candles must be folded down in a one-inch strip from the top, then folded again. This process begins the day after Fiesta, and the rattle of bags in the interpreters' office is deafening. Also, cups and napkins are purchased in advance, and arrangements made for caroling as well as two sing-along sessions held in the church. And finally, inevitably, the big day arrives.

First, sand is brought up from the river. Then the bags are filled (just a couple of inches of sand or there'll be sore

arms the next day) and hauled to various locations in wheelbarrows. About 700 are placed along roof lines, walls, walks, and inside the church itself. The monument is closed at its regular time, 5:00, and the lobby of the visitor center cleared. Then, colorful serapes are placed on counters, 150 dozen cookies arranged on trays, thirty to forty gallons of Mexican hot chocolate brought in by the person hired for the occasion, cups readied, a fire started in the fireplace, and trash cans and fire extinguishers strategically placed. About 5:30 lighting of the luminarias begins with match and butane torch. Then at 6:00, greetings of Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas and Feliz Navidad filter throughout the air as the

front doors are opened and the joy begins.

The effect of this is dramatic: a quiet peaceful valley night, lighted only by flickering candles and perhaps the moon. Gone are the Santa Claus and the tree of yesteryear but the warm spirit of neighborliness remains, stretching to include Green Valley, Tucson and Phoenix. Tumacacori discourages publicity but still the visitors come, and the continued existence of the program is tenuous, a potential victim of its own popularity. Certainly the best time to visit the site is after everyone has gone, for the candles flicker quietly throughout the night.



Luminaria flicker through the long night

Parading the lights

John Mohlenrich
Chief Park Interpreter, Lake Mead NRA

The night and the water glow with Christmas lights and good cheer during the Parade of Lights at Lake Mead NRA. Saturday, December 13, beginning at 6:00 pm, the Lake Mead Boat Owners' Association presents the annual parade, this year marking the tenth such festivity. A fleet of local boats take a dazzling two-mile run from Lake Mead Marina to Boulder Beach and Hemenway Harbor,

then circle around the judge's boat and return to the marina.

The Parade of Lights is perhaps the brightest Yuletide procession in Nevada. Like floating Christmas ornaments, up to 50 vessels go on parade, each trying to outshine, outsparkle, and outrig the others with dazzling light and design. Trophies in a variety of categories (best overall for commercial boats, private boats, houseboats, sailboats, cruisers, and more) reward the creativity of the entrants. Last year approximately 25,000 people watched the four-hour cruise, including 250 spectator boats sitting in the water. Many holiday enthusiasts even ar-

rived early, eager for a close look at the boats receiving final touches just prior to "show time."

As the parade of boats has grown through the years, each year has been different. Last year, there were boats in the parade for the first time, boats that had appeared in each of the eight previous parades, and boats missing for the first year since the parade began. The mixture keeps changing, but the outcome is always fun as the fantasia flotilla at Lake Mead fires the water with a kaleidoscope of color. ❁

Trimmed for the holidays

Steven J. Burke
Park Ranger, John Muir NHS

A ticket to the annual Victorian Tea at John Muir National Historic Site is becoming harder and harder to get. All five hundred tickets are usually sold by Thanksgiving, weeks before the event is held. Superintendent Phyllis Shaw isn't surprised by the phone calls she now receives in July and August from people wanting to know when the tickets go on sale. Six years ago at the first tea, a house load of guests came free and gobbled up every cookie in sight within 30 minutes. She knew then that the local community was sold on the idea of an old-fashioned Christmas celebration.

Even with an expanded program of six teas held on two evenings in December there are still not enough tickets to fill the demand. "I think people like the idea of participating in a time when Christmas was simple," Shaw said. "Everyone who comes to the Victorian Tea gets a good feeling that carries them through the holiday season." In addition, proceeds from the tea, sponsored by the John Muir Memorial Association, cover the cost of the John Muir Birthday Celebration in April, yet another reason for the community to turn out in support of the Christmas event.

Each year, park staff and volunteers transform the 17-room Victorian mansion into an old-fashioned wonderland with homemade garlands, wreaths, bright bows, pressed leaves, and candles. Quite a task, especially when all the greenery comes from the back yards of park volunteers. Guests, dressed in turn-of-the-century evening wear, enjoy an array of



Muir house

sweet cookies and breads from silver platters, along with a cup of hot tea, all served by gracious junior ranger hostesses. A string trio creates a festive mood from a corner in the East Parlor while Mrs. Muir, portrayed by park volunteer Dianne Lando, descends the entrance hallway staircase to welcome the guests and share the Muirs' holiday traditions.

The 104-year-old home, with its mingled aromas of redwood, incense cedar, laurel, hot apple cider, cinnamon, and fresh cut flowers, provides a festive backdrop for each hour-long tea. Park Ranger Pat Thomas leads the caroling around a rosewood piano in the West Parlor, where a California bay laurel displays its colorful paper ornaments and strands of popcorn. Muir traditionally cut

down a laurel tree for his wife and two daughters to decorate, knowing that the stump would again produce another tree. The conservationist could not bring himself to chop into a fir.

Each tea ends with singing along the path from the Muir House to the visitor center. Guests drift back, sharing thoughts of Christmases past. A few early birds even stop and ask rangers when tickets for the tea go on sale next year. ❁

Notes from the Muir family

Whether at home or traveling around the world, Muir always took the time to pen Christmas letters to family and friends, updating them on his activities and sending greetings.

Each year, Muir's wife, Louie, gathered the family to hear a traditional Christmas story, "Snitch and His Dog, Angel."

Daughter Helen fondly recalled a typical California Christmas day, enjoyed while delivering presents to her Aunt Margaret who lived up the valley: "I enjoyed the walk home so much, for this has been the most perfect Christmas, so warm, clear, and bright, and perfectly calm."

Remarking on a Christmas spent one year in Yosemite, Muir wrote: "Christmas brought us a cordial, gentle, soothing snow storm—a thing of plain, palpable, innocent beauty the frailest child would love."



Pacific Northwest

Historic Christmas in the Pacific Northwest: Remembrances of those who celebrated

December 25, 1805
Fort Clatsop, Oregon Country

At daylight this morning we were awoke by the discharge of the fire arms of all our party & a Salute, Shouts and a Song which the whole party joined in under our windows after which they retires to their rooms. were cheerfull all the morning. After brackfast we divided our Tobacco which amounted to 12 carrots one, half of which we gave to the men of the party who used tobacco, and to those who doe not use it we make a present of a handkerchief. The Indians leave us in the evening all the party Snugly fixed in their huts. I recvd a presnt of Capt. L. of fleece hosrie Shirt Draws and Socks, a p. of Mockersons of Whitehouse a Small Indian basket of Guterich, two dozen weazils tails of the Indian woman, & some black root of the Indians before their departure. . . . The day proved Showery wet and disagreeable.

We would have Spent this day the nativity of Christ in feasting, had we anything either to raise our Sperits or even gratify our appetites, our Diner consisted of pore Elk, so much Spoiled that we eate it thro' mear necessity, Some Spoiled pounded fish and a few roots. (original spelling)

Captain William Clark

So went the Christmas of the Lewis and Clark Expedition 180 years ago as that famous "Corps of Volunteers for Northwest Discovery" moved into their newly constructed log fort that we know today as Fort Clatsop National Memorial. To commemorate this historic event and celebrate the holiday season, Fort Clatsop N Mem will present an exhibit of the gifts exchanged by the Expedition members. There will be special films shown in the auditorium, with living history activities at the Fort.

Every visitor during the holiday season has a excellent chance to experience reflections of life at Fort Clatsop as the Lewis and Clark Expedition did in 1805. Even the weather remains the same. ". . . Showery wet and disagreeable."

December 25, 1845
Fort Vancouver, Oregon Country

Christmas of 1845 dawned on increasing numbers of settlers who had begun to move into the Territory; fur trade was booming and the Hudson Bay Company had established Fort Vancouver as a trading center. One of the highlights of Christmas Day at the Fort was the dinner served to the gentlemen, sometimes quite elaborate, and a far cry from the the ". . . pore Elk, . . . Spoiled pounded fish and a few roots" that had been the Christmas feast of the Lewis and Clark Expedition just forty five years prior.

Today, staff at Fort Vancouver National Historic Site celebrate the holiday season with activities that include entertainment by musicians and carolers in the brilliantly candlelit mess hall, with staff and volunteers clothed in period attire. In the fort kitchen, visitors witness the preparation and cooking of a Christmas feast featuring mouthwatering roast beef with Yorkshire pudding, roast potatoes, glazed carrots, mint peas and Christmas plum pudding, all reminiscent of earlier times when settler and fur traders gathered to celebrate the holiday season.

December 25, 1847
Waiilatpu, Oregon Country

Christmas Day, 1847, was cold and dreary at the Mission Site founded in 1836 among the Cayuse Indians by Marcus and Narcissa Whitman. Fifty survivors of the Whitman Massacre were being held captive by the Indians. It is told in one account that a whisper went around, "Today is Christmas," and in their misery the thought of Christmas brought a moment of happiness. By now, the captives felt it had been a lifetime since they were free. Then, on the day after Christmas, a swift rider came with the incredible news, "Uncle Pete has bought you from the Indians. "Who is Uncle Pete?" the children wanted to know. "Peter Skene Ogden, of the Hudson's Bay Company, down at Fort Vancouver," was the answer. "Thank God, he has come to rescue us!" Whitman Mission National Historic

Site at Walla Walla, Washington, begins the holiday season on November 29 with the observance of the Whitman Massacre. Although a somber occasion, the observance brings members of the community together for a special remembrance which carries into the Christmas season a real sense of sharing in the true spirit of Christmas.

December 25, 1898
The Klondike Gold Rush

"Up this morning at 9:30 but our stockings were empty. Guess old St. Nick found too many holes in them to hold our presents." Thus wrote Frederick Flaharty on Christmas morning, 1898, in a cabin at Chicken Creek, Alaska. He and three companions had joined the great Klondike Gold Rush months earlier. Now, on their claim across the Alaska-Yukon boundary, they paused in their mining to celebrate the holiday at a table "well laden with roast caribou, lemon pie, fruit cake, escalloped tomatoes, and coffee."

Up and down the creeks and beaches, gold fever momentarily subsided as miners turned their thoughts to distant family and friends, and reflected on the arduous trails that bought them north. For most, the new year brought disillusionment, and like the Flaharty party, ultimately they found their anticipation of riches as disappointing as empty stockings on a frosty Christmas morning.

The Seattle Unit of Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, located in the historic Pioneer Square District in the heart of Old Seattle, will join with the Pacific Northwest Regional Office in hosting a Christmas celebration for friends and members of the community.

December 25, 1930
Grand Coulee, Washington

When the area around Coulee Dam was sparsely settled prior to the construction of Grand Coulee Dam, rural area residents celebrated Christmas together at the grange halls or at a neighbor's farm. Christmas festivities for the families of the dry land wheat farmers and ranchers in Eastern Washington included trimming the tree, Christmas carols, storytelling, refreshments and hay rides. Families all joined together to create a spirit of community during those early days.

(continued, next page)

(from previous page)

Coule Dam National Recreation Area celebrates an "Old Fashioned Christmas" today, duplicating many of the festivities of its early rural community. The sleigh ride is one of the highlights of the Christmas celebration.

The horse drawn sleigh winds around a snow covered, candlelit drive to the site of a huge bonfire where passengers can warm themselves before the ride back down. At the 'barn' (which is really a garage in disguise) guests dance to old-fashioned country folk and square dance music.

The areas of the Pacific Northwest commemorate the holidays each with a different approach, each with a different theme, but all with a spirit of sharing with their surrounding communities. Merry Christmas from the Pacific Northwest Region. ❁

—Candyce M. Moger
PNWR Public Affairs



Rocky Mountain

Christmas under big Montana sky

Jim Harpster
RMRO Public Affairs

If it's a nice day, the temperature may be around zero, although it could be as frigid as 60 below, too. Sunrise will come around 8:30, dusk about 4:30 in the afternoon. There could be as much as four feet of snow on the level, and if the wind blew last night, there'll be drifts across the mile-long entrance road off Montana Highway 43.

That means Maintenance Worker Mike Allison will have to walk to the heated garage, start the pickup truck and put its heavy blade to work clearing the road. Because even though it's Christmas Day, there may be a few visitors and Superintendent Al Schulmeyer wants them not to be disappointed.

This is Christmas at Big Hole National Battlefield, alone in a 60-mile-long basin of southwestern Montana where

even the nearby Bitterroot Mountains are diminished by an incredible bowl of sky that extends to the far horizon.

Arguably, Big Hole is one of the most isolated of all National Park Service areas in the contiguous United States. How isolated?

"Well," Schulmeyer reflects, "it's 90 miles to Butte and 110 miles to Missoula. We don't have a dentist or a doctor; the doc is a circuit rider who comes to town twice a month or so. The school bus picks up the high school kids at 6 o'clock in the morning and delivers them back here at 6 o'clock at night, so it's pretty remote, I'd say."

In this biggest of all of Montana's counties—bigger even than the States of Connecticut and Rhode Island combined—Big Hole National Battlefield and its staff of three are treated to occasional Northern Lights, displays of native wildlife and to warm friendships with the 145 residents of the nearest community, a village with the unlikely name of Wisdom.

Wisdom is 12 miles from the battlefield: two motels, a filling station, two bar/restaurants, a general store, post office and farm equipment repair shop.

But Christmas and the Christmas spirit come here, too, no matter the unimpressive statistics, and last year Schulmeyer and his staff—Allison, Florida-born ranger Phil Gomez and longtime seasonal Chuck Burton—put up a Christmas tree cut in the nearby Beaverhead National Forest and strung bright lights in the lobby of the park visitor center-museum.

Big Hole hardly rivals Yellowstone (150 miles to the southeast) in attracting visitors, so not many people have an opportunity to admire the setting.

"We did have six visitors on Christmas Day, though," Schulmeyer recalls, "and we had 17 the day after. It was a real pleasure to greet them and take them through the museum. It was nice to have visitors from the 'outside' to spend a portion of the day with."

How did the Superintendent and his crew otherwise observe the holiday?

"Phil Gomez had gone back to Florida for Christmas, Chuck Burton was with family at their home over at Darby, Montana, and I'm a bachelor. So Mike Allison and his family invited me over to have dinner at their double-wide trailer. He and his wife, Chris, have three kids, and they also had over some friends from a ranch down the valley. It might not sound like much to people in

the big city, but it was really a delightful time."

And this year?

You don't meddle with success—or with good times. Superintendent Schulmeyer says Big Hole National Battlefield most likely will be open for business once again. With a splendidly tall, luminescent Christmas tree there in the lobby, with bright lights strung all around, and a smiling fellow in National Park Service uniform to welcome a few holiday visitors. ❁



Southwest

Los Pastores: a Christmas drama

Gilbert R. Cruz, Ph.D.
Historian
San Antonio Missions NHP

Los Pastores (The Shepherds) is a Christmas pageant representing one of the oldest colonial traditions linked to the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park. In the last 35 years, the San Antonio Conservation Society has sponsored performances of Los Pastores at San Jose Mission as part of its commitment to the cultural heritage of San Antonio. Los Pastores becomes especially important to park interpreters since visitors seek information about the Christmas drama primarily from the National Park Service. During the Colonial period, Los Pastores very likely served as a way for the friars to instruct the Indians on the basic tenets of Christianity.

The focus of Los Pastores is essentially the portrayal in human terms of the Christian mystery of the Incarnation. The drama is based on faith since one must have recourse to the Evangelical accounts in order to understand its historical foundation. Gila, a shepherdess in the pageant, stresses this when she proclaims, "Fellow shepherds, the day has come for us to leave for the gates of Bethlehem to witness a joyful miracle," (Pastores, ha llegado el dia en que alegres nos partamos para el portal de Belen a ver un feliz milagro—Part I, Scene 3, *Los Pastores*, Leandro Granados).

Originating in Spain in the 1500s, the play depicts the age-old conflict between good and evil, with Lucifer and a band of masked devils trying to prevent the shepherds from reaching Bethlehem. The devils wear black satin capes with their names embroidered on the back. Lucifer is resplendent in red and black satin and a mask encrusted with rhinestones and beads. Protecting the shepherds on the journey, Michael, the Archangel, with sword in hand wears gold-sequined wings and practical tennis shoes.

Designed to instruct neophytes on Christian morality, the pageant includes subtle lessons about the seven vices of pride, avarice, envy, gluttony, sloth, lust and anger. A scene that embodies human foible is placed near the end, when the shepherd Bartolo lies on the grass, reluctant to rise and make the trek to Bethlehem in order to give a gift to the baby Jesus. Shepherd Cucharon devises a scheme and says to Bartolo, "In Bethlehem there's plenty of firewater, white wine and mescal." (En Belen hay aguardiente, vino blanco y buen mescal—Part V, Scene 4, *Los Pastores*, Leandro Granados). Arising, the lazy shepherd proclaims, "I will get up because I want to become inebriated!" (A hora si que me levanto que me quiero emborrachar—Part V, Scene 4, *Los Pastores*, Leandro Granados). Obviously, since earliest times, mankind's motives for reaching for the divine have not always been the most noble. The human frailties and shortcomings, dramatized by the shepherds as the play unfolds, generate anxiety, humor, and, at times, even merriment.

The cast of players come from Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, San Antonio. They use a version of the play memorized by Don Leandro Granados in San Luis Potosi, Mexico, and edited and published by Father Carmelo Tranchese, S.J., in San Antonio (1940). Spanish nativity plays, beginning with the beautiful and inspiring *Los Pastores de Belen* by the literary giant from Spain's Golden Age, Lope de Vega, are legion. In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, nativity plays were still being written both in Spain and America. They were often enacted in the Southwest, particularly during the Colonial period. Aurelio M. Espinosa, the noted literary authority from New Mexico, includes them in *The Folklore of Spain in the American Southwest*, edited by J. Manuel Espinosa (1985).

But each play is adapted to the cir-

cumstances of the region where it is dramatized. The nativity pageant at San Jose Mission is a plebeian and open-air stage production. The folk-religious play is performed by untrained actors who put on a resplendent two-hour drama of the

four-centuries-old play. The acting is free-style and often spontaneous. The play is entirely in Spanish, and is the closest thing to Spanish folk devotion outside of the interior of Mexico. ❀



Father Carmelo Tranchese editing *Los Pastores* for publication while Leandro Granados reviews his notes on the drama.



The shepherds complete their hazardous journey to Bethlehem and approach the Divine Infant at the close of the Christmas play.



Lucifer

A Southwestern Christmas

Ben Moffett
SWRO Public Affairs

Comet, Cupid, Donner and Blitzen might tow Santa across most of America, but at Fort Davis National Historic Site the job has been turned over to a team of mules. And you can forget the sleigh out here, too. On the northern reaches of the Chihuahuan Desert, it would just get cactus in its runners. What it takes is an army wagon to get you over the lonesome Butterfield Trail.

There is a living history Santa Claus at Fort Davis, which was a key post in the defense of West Texas from 1854 to 1891. Back in the bad old days, it was the custom of the fort's enlisted men to dress as Santa, go out into the town (the historic site is at the edge of the community of Fort Davis) and distribute goodies at each quarters where children resided.

This year the tradition is played out again with a Fort Davis rancher volunteering to play Santa and volunteering his mules to pull the historic site's old army wagon. However, the 1986 wagon trip heads for the town's elementary school, located a short distance from the fort, according to Mary L. Williams of the park staff. "The preparations and the festivities give visitors a glimpse of Christmas as it was celebrated at a nineteenth-century military post," she said, offering the following quotation from Alice Kirk Grierson, wife of a post commander, as evidence of what Christmas was like:

"Our Christmas tree was quite gay—all of the children were here to see it lighted up. We gave them cake, apples, popcorn balls, and candy for refreshment . . . At tattoo we went to Mrs. Morrison's and saw her tree and then went over to the band quarters and saw their party dance . . ."

In keeping with that tradition, on December 18, a group of Fort Davis volunteers and park staff decorate officer quarters with typical nineteenth-century decorations.

According to Ms. Williams, in a shared lieutenant's quarters a large pine tree is placed in the parlor along with brightly colored cardboard figures, gingerbread men and candles held by replica antique brass holders. The volunteers also duplicate nineteenth-century ornaments for the tree.

It is not only Fort Davis among Southwest Region parks that has a "living

history" holiday. In 1969, President Lyndon B. Johnson began a holiday tradition in his native Hill Country of Texas that the park continues to observe.

According to Park Ranger Evelyn Klein, on December 14, friends, neighbors, visitors and staff members of both the Lyndon B. Johnson State and National Parks join Mrs. Lyndon Johnson and other family members for the annual Christmas tree lighting and evening bus tours.

Participants gather at the state park and the Stonewall school children begin singing traditional carols as Mrs. Johnson and family members arrive about dusk. Before long, Santa arrives, escorted by NPS rangers with lights and siren. All enjoy home-baked cookies, and films of the Johnson's Christmas White House events are shown.

Bus tours take participants to President Johnson's Birthplace and the Sauer-Beckmann Farmstead, each decorated according to its respective time period and culture of the two families.

Also during the holidays, at the President's Boyhood Home in Johnson City, residents of the nursing home facility of LBJ Memorial Hospital gather with park staff to share Christmas memories. "The Christmas recollections are always a special treat because many of the residents are 80 to 90 years old and are life-long residents of the area," Ms. Klein noted.

And at President Johnson's Birthplace the children from Stonewall Head Start and Kindergarten decorate a freshly cut cedar with their own decorations.

At Bandelier National Monument during the holiday season, a slightly different celebration takes place. Visitors have the opportunity to participate in a nightwalk through Frijoles Canyon amid pre-Columbian Anasazi ruins.

"Night in Frijoles Canyon, with snow sparkling in the moonlight, is an experience few visitors share," said Chris Judson. "Visitors are led into the ruins area by a ranger; Native American poetry is read; candles flicker in the ancient cave dwellings; and Pueblo chants float through the crisp air."

At the winter solstice, December 1, the "sun is the star of show" quips Ms. Johnson. "The prehistoric people built the canyon's main village, Tyuonyi, with only one ground-level entrance—and that pointing directly to the rising sun on the solstice.

"Visitors are invited to join a ranger in watching the sun rise and speculating on how important the day was to people liv-

ing in a narrow canyon where winter days are short and nights are cold."

Ms. Judson said the Bandelier staff is not above some lighthearted frivolity during the holidays. On New Year's Day, members and prospective members of the Bandelier Polar Bear Club, dressed only in swimsuits, break the ice in Frijoles Creek and jump in. The club was started by Ranger Rick Mossman in 1983. Ms. Judson heads the group of about seven this year and will take her fourth plunge.

Other Southwest parks enjoy more traditional but equally enjoyable Christmas activities. Chickasaw National Recreation Area will be hosting its fifth annual open house in its 1894 "Indian Territory" headquarters building, which features a large, stone fireplace decorated in the holiday theme.

At Big Thicket National Preserve, the public helps decorate the tree, according to Park Ranger Merle King. Popcorn on a string is a favorite.

Hot Springs National Park may have the biggest celebration of all with merchants chipping in on a major light display. Last year a 10,000 candle luminary display, sponsored by First National Bank, lit up Whittington Circle and Whittington Park. The display was a drive-through experience of about 15 minutes. The lighted candles, in bags of sand, is a traditional Southwest holiday display that in recent years has begun to catch on in other parts of the country.

(The author wishes to thank Merle King, Chris Judson, Mary L. Williams, Evelyn Klein and others who wrote parts of this article or contributed research time to it).



Midwest

Candlelight at Fort Scott

Sheridan Steele
Superintendent, Fort Scott NHS

The year is 1845; the place, Fort Scott in Indian Territory. Groups of civilian settlers are moving through the fort on their way south along the Military Road which extends from Fort Snelling (now Minnesota) to Fort Jessup in Louisiana . . .

. . . And so the scene is set for the 5th



Park Ranger and "Dragoon Sergeant" Randy Kane leads a group of "civilians" on an evening tour

annual Candlelight Tour of Fort Scott National Historic Site held the first weekend in December. Sixty-two volunteers and five employees in period costume help turn the clock back 140 years to December 1845 when Fort Scott was an active military post on the "permanent Indian frontier."

Established in 1842 to keep the peace along what was then the western border of the United States and the permanent Indian territory of "The Great American Desert," the fort had most of its buildings completed by the end of 1845, and the horse-mounted dragoons had returned from a military expedition out west. While a festive Christmas mood prevailed throughout the garrison, there was still apprehension that a possible war with Mexico might erupt over Texas' independence and its acceptance into the Union.

To convey this spirit, tour guides dressed as dragoon and infantry privates greet visitors at the visitor center and prepare them for their journey "back" to the frontier of 1845. Assuming the role of civilians traveling the military road to Texas, the visitors then tour the fort.

Around the parade ground, 600 luminarias light the walkways. Another 200 candle lanterns, candle wall sconces and crackling fires light the eight interior scenes and building windows.

The tours, each with 30 civilians, are led around the fort at 15-minute intervals. Guards stand at their posts and a supply wagon arrives late in the day, all part of military life. As visitors walk from scene to scene, the sounds of fife and drum and views of an occasional horse and rider add to the atmosphere. At the post hospital, participants view the hospital wardroom as the post surgeon and matron work in dim candlelight on malaria patients. Next, they watch the guard changing at the guardhouse, and meet up with a courier on horseback bearing news concerning Mexico. They enter the Quartermaster's Storehouse to see the Quartermaster Sergeant and his young assistant clerk working well into the night taking inventory and organizing supplies.

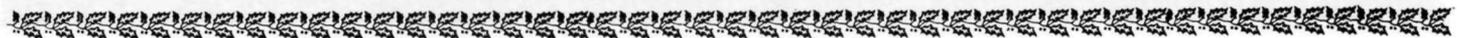
From the storehouse, it was on to Officers' Row and a visit to the residence of Captain Thomas Swords and his wife Charlotte who are entertaining other of-

ficers and guests in the dining room. The lively conversation concerns—what else—the dragoons and prospects for war with Mexico. After a short walk to the Post Headquarters, the travelers also meet Post Commander, Capt. Sidney Burbank. Capt. Burbank questions them about their journey and warns them of possible danger to the south.

At the laundress' quarters, laundresses and their children make simple Christmas decorations while singing carols. The dragoon barracks mess hall is the next stop where a few soldiers and a laundress or two dance the Virginia reel.

The final stop on the tour is the Dragoon Stables where a couple of privates bed down their horses and talk about the loneliness of life on the frontier. One soldier expresses eagerness to answer the call to duty and fight if a war breaks out; the other prefers the simple comforts and routine at Fort Scott.

This year, more than 800 visitors have enjoyed Fort Scott's dramatic "evening on the frontier." Plans are already underway for the 1987 candlelight tour. ❁



Christmas on the Homestead

Kelley Collins
Park Ranger
Homestead NM

The pungent smells of cedar and cooking molasses waft through the air as busy hands decorate the community Christmas tree. No, this is not a scene from Christmas past but a yearly Christmas activity at Homestead National Monument.

Since 1984 the Monument has sponsored "Christmas on the Homestead," an interpretive program reminiscent of frontier community celebrations during the late 1800s. Because trees were both scarce and precious, community Christmas trees gave homesteaders a way to celebrate the holiday season. A scraggly cedar or branch from a plum thicket usually served, and would be decorated at the one-room school house or rural church. Decorations were homemade.

Today, Homestead's visitor center provides the gathering place. A cedar tree, donated by a local farmer, is trimmed with materials common to any homesteader's household—bits of cloth and string, corn husks, scraps of paper, buttons, corn cobs, flour paste, and popcorn, all fashioned into festive ornaments.

The ping of the cast iron stove and the smell of cooking molasses add authenticity to the celebration. Once the trimming is complete, visitors test both



Santa's sleigh at Homestead NM

their tastebuds and endurance by pulling molasses taffy, a holiday treat relished by yesteryear's homesteaders. Then, just as everyone tires of the taffy pull, a fortuitous knock sounds at the door. The late arrival is an interpreter dressed like a woman from the past who is headed north to visit relatives. The celebration reminds her of childhood Christmases on

the unsettled plains. She stops her journey to share memories with the revellers before continuing on her way.

Homestead's Christmas program concludes a short hour and a half after it begins. Visitors head towards home a little stickier and *much more appreciative* than they were of the pioneer experience their ancestors knew. ❁



North Atlantic

Eleanor Roosevelt's Christmas

Sonia Hurley
Park Ranger, Eleanor Roosevelt NHS

"I feel as though I am invited to dinner." "We loved spending Christmas here." "Visiting and experiencing Christmas at Val-Kill is something that cannot be easily forgotten."

The second annual "Christmas at Val-Kill" program is being held weekends in December at Eleanor Roosevelt's home in Hyde Park, NY, and reactions such as

these from visitors are most rewarding to the staff who have recreated Christmas as Mrs. Roosevelt would have celebrated it.

Eleanor Roosevelt's enjoyment of Christmas was well known to her family and friends. She prepared for the holidays throughout the year by purchasing gifts during her travels. Her careful attention to the smallest detail made each person feel special.

The interpretation objective for "Christmas at Val-Kill" is to make visitors feel as though they are specially invited guests to Mrs. Roosevelt's holiday celebration, and to understand the caring and giving nature that guided her private and public life. The Val-Kill staff did extensive research for this project using historic photographs, oral histories, Eleanor's "My Day" newspaper columns, contacts with family and friends, and tapes of a radio program in which Mrs. Roosevelt specifically addressed her Christmas celebrations.

Visitors are greeted at the door and invited into Mrs. Roosevelt's office, where guests gathered before dinner to enjoy cocktails. The windows are stencilled with Christmas designs while poinsettias add color. Cards from neighbors, people across the country and some famous individuals show the diversity of those who greeted Mrs. Roosevelt at Christmas.

Traditionally at 1:30 pm the door to the dining room was opened. It is then that guests see a table laden with holiday goodies. In front of each place there is an entire Christmas celebration. Place cards had a personal message or poem on them composed by Mrs. Roosevelt. Children's places had puzzle books, small toys and games. Adults had several small presents at their places. Small cardboard houses or Christmas tins at each plate contained candy she knew each person enjoyed. An angel and Eleanor Roosevelt's favorite music box were also part of the decorations. Snappers on each plate contained

the hats they all wore during the meal. A marzipan tree was the centerpiece, flanked by silver candelabras with red candles. The windows were decorated with tufts of cotton because the weatherman could not guarantee snow. Champagne glasses were at each place because Eleanor Roosevelt always made a traditional toast: "To the United States of America. To the President. To those we love who are not with us today."

After the meal, the door was opened to the living room where the chairs were piled high with gifts. Mrs. Roosevelt's decorations included a Christmas tree in the alcove and a manger scene displayed on a table. With all her gifts to the family and friends, there was little room for anything else. The windows here, too, are stencilled with Christmas designs. When her guests had finished opening their gifts, she unwrapped hers. She was not unappreciative, simply more interested in giving than receiving. At the end of the day, Mrs. Roosevelt read Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* aloud as FDR used to do at the Roosevelt home in years past.

Much has been written about Eleanor Roosevelt as "First Lady of the World" and how she gave herself to the people of the United States and other nations. Her celebration of Christmas with family and friends shows another dimension of her



Festooned for the holidays

personality. This re-creation at her home gives visitors an intimate view that they might not otherwise have experienced. In the words of a woman who has written a book about Eleanor Roosevelt, "Even I, in spite of the years of work on Eleanor

Roosevelt, only fully realized the scope of the love and kindness she extended to the people around her when I saw Val-Kill at Christmas." ❁

Celebrating at Vanderbilt

R. "Dixie" Tourangeau
NARO Public Affairs

*T'was the eve after Christmas
And inside the mansion,
Milled a host of our friends
Attired in holiday fashion.*

*The poinsettias and roping
Were resplendent to see
The string folk played sweetly;
The chorus sang with glee.*

*Those gathered shared good tidings
As they had in the past;
And wished this first Yule visit
Would not be their last!*

Vanderbilt Mansion (NHS) park ranger Charlotte Scholl is getting a surprise Christmas present, but it's not the kind that fits snugly under a tree.

For the first time since the mansion's NHS designation in 1940, the NPS is in-

viting the public to participate in a turn-of-the-century Christmas program. On the three evenings following Christmas, there will be tours and special volunteer musical presentations from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Mansion. Ranger Scholl has been in charge of arrangements, publicity and invitations.

The idea started to take shape after last Christmas. Taking a cue from Director Mott's 12-Point Plan (#3-Stimulate and Increase Visitor Activities), Roosevelt-Vanderbilt Superintendent Duane Pearson gave the "go-ahead" for planning. Mansion Site Manager Sue Pridemore occasionally arranged task schedules so that Scholl could work specifically on the Christmas event. Of course, no matter how laborious the preparation, the outcome of any "first time" event evokes a certain amount of apprehension. But there is not much chance of Scholl finding a load of bituminous in her stocking.

"She has done very thorough research on Christmas at the turn of the century and on how the holiday was celebrated



Vanderbilt Mansion

by people in the Vanderbilts' class," commented Pridemore.

Though there is no current documentation of the Hyde Park Vanderbilts celebrating Christmas in any particular fashion, other research illustrates how George Washington Vanderbilt celebrated the season at his Biltmore Mansion in Asheville, NC. The event will show some of what the general upper class did at Christmas, not this particular family.

The mansion volunteer staff attended

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two workshops (Oct-Nov) at which they made hand-crafted ornaments for the "average family" Christmas tree. Also on display will be a "Vanderbilt-style" tree, complete with authentic, period glass and paper ornaments. Both the visitor center and mansion are to be appropriately "decked" by December 18th.

"Poinsettias. Lots of white, pink and red poinsettias along with white pine roping," said Scholl, explaining what the major decorations would be. Holly and giant

wreaths add a warm feeling to the otherwise cold-looking limestone house. While the evening tours (a first in itself to everyone's recollection) are guided through the mansion, the additional treat of turn-of-the-century holiday music will waft from the first floor's south living room.

The volunteers involved with the musical program are: Myrtle Edmondson and Teresa Vantella, pianists, who will play the 103-year-old, gold-leafed Steinway Concert Grand; Emily Robinson's

string quartet and JeanMarie Komyathy's vocal quartet.

Invitations went out to neighbors in Hyde Park and environs, and local radio outlets helped spread the word throughout the Hudson River Valley. Now all Ranger Scholl needs is a couple of crispy, clear nights and an inch or two of crunchy snowcover. The crowd should be dazzled, and, if so, I'll flip you for the hot chocolate serving and horse-drawn sleigh ride concessions for 1987. ❁



Mid-Atlantic

Mid-Atlantic preserves Christmas past

Art Miller
MARO Public Affairs

Yuletide visitors stroll up the curving driveway of Hampton National Historic Site between rows of candlelit luminaries. Up the front steps and into the Great Hall, they step into an early nineteenth-century Christmas.

Candles shed their soft light on the greenery along the walls. Pine garlands twist up the staircase bannister. Live bushes, brought in from the orangery next door, freshen the air. In the music room an instrumental ensemble plays chamber music next to the 12-foot cedar tree with its handmade ornaments of silk flowers, paper chains, fruit and "peanut people." And if that's not enough, pungent aromas draw them to the dining room where the volunteers of the Federation of Garden Clubs of Maryland and the park staff have cooked and set out a variety of traditional holiday desserts.

This is the scene that greets visitors to the Hampton mansion near Baltimore this December. On the 17th and 18th, some 1,000 people strolled through the rooms decorated by volunteers.

Festive Hampton is typical of holiday offerings at Mid-Atlantic parks where history sets the tone. At Appomattox Court House NHP, where the surrender was signed that ended the Civil War, motorists see candles at every window facing the highway. If the spirit of the holiday strikes them and they turn into



Yuletide at Hampton

the park, they find wreaths and sprays of boxwood, as well as white pine brightening the historic buildings. Following traditional techniques, rangers make sprays of boxwood using a potato for a base, and apple cones by attaching apples and greens to a triangular form.

At Colonial NHP, holiday festivities center on the historic Nelson House, home of one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. A local nursery donates greens then fashioned by park VIPs into wreaths, garlands and other eighteenth-century style decorations.

At George Washington Birthplace NM, park activities entice a younger audience. Children from local third and fourth grade classes bring ornaments and decorations made in class to put on the park's big Christmas tree. An interpreter

explains the celebrations held by plantation families two centuries ago while eighteenth-century spinet and oboe music fills the air.

Visitors to Gettysburg find President Dwight Eisenhower's home included on a community house tour. Each visitor receives a special Christmas card while walking through the house. Christmas music plays from tapes taken from the original recordings enjoyed by the Eisenhowers.

Christmas in the Mid-Atlantic Region—for most east coast dwellers, a few hours' drive to any Park Service site lets them leave the hustle and bustle of the twentieth century behind. It lets them slip back in time almost two hundred years to the joyful festivity of a youthful America. ❁

A feast for the eyes at Hampton

The food for *Yuletide at Hampton* is prepared by NPS staff and volunteers, using recipes adapted from 18th and early 19th century cookbooks by Winterthur Museum and other institutions. The dining room table is laden with dried sweetmeats, and fresh fruit, including dried apricots, dried peaches, dried apples, and dried figs, almonds, walnuts, apples and oranges. The Ridgelys had extensive orchards and many fruit and nut varieties. They also had an Orangerie.

The punch table includes lemons, nutmeg, cinnamon sticks and sugar, to flavor the brandy and rum punch. A bowl of egg nog (reproduced in polyester with plaster of Paris whipped cream!) attracts our guests, and was a favorite in American homes.

The sideboard is decorated with an apple-filled epergne, with nuts, rock

candy and marzipan in the smaller glass side dishes. Also on the sideboard is a plate of small iced tea cakes, decorated with candied violets and roses (the flowers, and their candied leaves, which are also edible, are real), and a plate of Shrewsbury cakes (spiced cookies).

On the breakfast table in the second slide are iced fruit-filled cakes, again decorated with candied flowers and fruit, and surrounded by fresh greens (boxwood). Apple pyramids, using old varieties, flank tiers of syllabub flavored with lime, strawberry or vanilla, and molded jellies. Our syllabubs and jellies are also polyester. The central silver cake basket holds oak leaf puff pastries, using a cutter which has been reproduced for us from an 18th century pattern, and Portugal cakes with currants, nutmeg and sherry. Sweetmeat dishes hold more dried fruit, and rock candy.

Each recipe is tested, and large amounts of spice added to make the dining room aromatic. The porcelain, glass and silver, almost entirely of Ridgely

family provenance and used at Hampton during the period, assist with our interpretive efforts. Reproducing a fantasy garden in the center of the table creates an elegant picture of the way in which families such as the Ridgelys entertained. Charles Carnan Ridgely, who owned Hampton during this period, was said to keep the best table in America.

The fantasy garden, popular in wealthy homes as a highlight of the entertaining effort, utilized a plateau of glass or mirrored glass to represent water. Often a classical temple made of glass, porcelain, metal, or carved and gilded sugar, was used. Hampton's reproduction, of styrofoam and plastic, simulates the carved sugar variety. The temple would have been surrounded by greens and small urns with artificial (silk) flowers. Porcelain or Staffordshire figurines peopled the gardens, or represented classical statuary. Charles Carnan Ridgely's estate inventory of 1829 lists a plateau and plateau figures.

The Wassail Bowl

The wassail bowl dates back to thirteenth-century England, when the lord of the manor would play host to his tenants during the celebration of the twelve days of Christmas. The dependents living on his land would be invited to the manor house, where the master would drink their health from a bowl of spiced ale, containing apples roasted to the point of bursting, and then his tenants would drink. The pulp of the apples bursting through the skin gave an appearance of lamb's wool, and the spiced ale was so called. The words of the toast were "Wassil," which

meant "to your health," and the accepted reply was "drink hail." This medieval symbol of hospitality was revived in England and in America to some extent in the nineteenth century and is one of the Christmas traditions practiced at Colonial Williamsburg's hotels for the pleasure of their visitors. Wassail recipes must have varied from family to family as eggnog recipes do, today. Basically, it was hot spiced ale, wine, or cider, and could be laced with brandy at one's discretion, or indiscretion.

A modern recipe, yielding about 20 punch cups:

Boil the following mixture for about five minutes to make a spicy syrup:

1/2 Cup Water
1 Cup Sugar
2 Sticks Cinnamon
3 Slices Lemon

Strain the syrup. Heat but do not boil:

1 Pint Cranberry Juice and
1 Pint Lemon Juice
1 Quart Red Wine

Then add syrup to the hot mixture of wine and cranberry-lemon juice. Serve piping hot with lemon slices.



National Capital

The nation's Pageant of Peace

Bill Clark
NCR Public Affairs

A wintry chill blows across the icy Ellipse near the White House as little children, bundled against the cold, rush towards the fence where Santa's reindeer lazily nibble on kernels of grain. It's yuletide and the National Christmas Tree as well as the 57 smaller trees representing the states and territories are adorned in holiday splendor.

The official ceremonies and celebrations for Christmas in the Nation's Capital, known as the Pageant of Peace, attracts thousands of visitors to the area. Most come to enjoy the dazzling light display and to sing along with the choral groups, brass bands and bell ringers.

The festivities are sponsored by the National Park Service in cooperation

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with the Christmas Pageant of Peace, Inc., the D.C. Department of Recreation, and many local and national organizations. Since 1923, when the first National Community Christmas Tree was lighted by President Calvin Coolidge, Park Service employees have worked innumerable hours to organize this annual display.

Months before the opening ceremony, employees of National Capital Region are hard at work pruning the living Colorado Blue Spruce national tree, planting the 57 smaller trees, erecting the main stage, setting up nearly 4,000

chairs and anchoring media platforms. In addition, park personnel coordinate the entertainment and secure participation by the President, the First Lady, and other high ranking government officials.

About three weeks before the opening ceremony, Mrs. Barbara Bush, wife of the Vice President, and Joseph Riley, president of Christmas Pageant of Peace, Inc., place a newly designed ornament on top of the 32-foot tall national tree and officially begin the decorating of the pageant. Each of the smaller trees is then decorated with ornaments that symbolize the theme of the state or territory

it represents. Also, the yule log pit is opened and set ablaze.

For those visiting Washington this holiday season, stop by the Pageant of Peace to enjoy the festivities and warm your hands by the yule log fire, then venture out to other area NPS sites. Arlington House, the Frederick Douglass Home, Fort Dupont Community Center, Georgetown's Old Stone House, and Wolf Trap Farm Park for the Performing Arts all join in the Christmas season with seasonally festive programs of their own. ❁



Mrs. Barbara Bush, wife of the Vice President, and Joseph Riley, President of the Pageant of Peace, Inc., top the National Christmas Tree this year



Workman places ornaments on the National Christmas Tree



Arlington House Christmas decorations

(photos Bill Clark)



Smoky Mountain traditions

Home Remedies From the Smoky Mountains

A physician's attention was a rare thing in the Smokies during the early part of the century. According to Glenn Cardwell, who grew up in what is now the Greenbriar area of Great Smoky Mountains National Park, his mother raised five children without once consulting a doctor.

One of Mrs. Cardwell's secrets was tea. Teas made from plants of the mint family were considered especially effective in curing croup, colds and congestions. Other favorite medicinal teas were brewed from the leaves of boneset, mullen, birch, and Jerusalem oak. Leaves were gathered in summer and stored for winter use.

Tea leaves also served as a base for liniments and salves. Liniments, used to soothe sprains and relieve sore muscles and joints, most often began with Jerusalem oak. The tea leaves were boiled in water and mixed with alcohol to prevent spoiling. Kept in a bottle, these home cure-alls were brought out regularly and rubbed directly on the affected area.

Salves also derived from the leaves of tea. Mrs. Cardwell's favorite, branch mint salve, guaranteed to relieve the itch of poison ivy and other rashes, contained tea, lard, and salt. Again, the leaves were boiled in water, and subsequently mixed with other ingredients.

Food Preserving Methods Commonly Used in the Smoky Mountain Area

Before the days of electricity, the people of the Smoky Mountain region used a variety of food preservation methods to stretch their stores through the winter. Here is a sampler of these methods, and the types of foods associated with each.

Drying—green beans (called "foddered" or "shab" beans), apples, peaches;

Salting/Smoking—meat (mostly hams);



Festival of Christmas Past

Pickling—sauerkraut, beans, cucumbers, corn. Pickling was done by storing the vinegar-soaked food in large barrels in the smokehouse;

Canning—fruits, including blackberries, gooseberries, blueberries, and peaches;

Sulfuring—also called "bleaching." Apples were put in a barrel, and a bit of sulfur spooned into an open dish, also placed in the barrel. The sulfur was ignited, and the sulfur fumes in the closed barrel preserved the apples; *"Holing up"*—cabbage, potatoes, pumpkins, turnips. These vegetables were preserved in earth, either by turning them over in place where they grew, or in earthen root cellars, which were hollowed out under floorboards in front of the hearth.

Old-Time Toys of the Smoky Mountains

Before the days of plastics, aluminum, shopping centers, and Christmas catalogue "wish books," games and gifts were made by hand from materials found around the farm. Particularly at Christmas time, woodshops and other farm buildings took on an air of activity, as parents and older brothers made toys from nature's storehouse . . . the forest. The most popular woods for toymaking

were yellow poplar and basswood, which are soft and easily carved.

In addition to wooden toys, new garments made by mothers and older sisters were always fine gifts because these were "gifts of love." In my childhood days a new shirt or trousers were as welcome a gift as any toy.

These are some of the homemade toys I remember from my childhood in the Smokies:

Tumbling clown: a carved-out figure placed on top of a miniature ladder. Force of gravity helped the figure tumble down;

Climbing bear: a toy attached to two strings. By pulling the strings, the child helped the bear climb to the top of a ladder;

Catapult: a rubber ball fastened by string to a long wooden paddle with wooden baskets attached. The child slapped the paddle and tried to catch the ball in one of the baskets;

Limber Jack Toys: a jointed doll in the shape of a person or animal was attached to a wooden dowel. The doll was then held over a wooden paddle, wedged under the sitting child's leg. As the child beat the paddle, it bounced up and hit the legs of the doll, making the doll dance;

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Hand puzzles: of various sizes, made of both wood and metal;

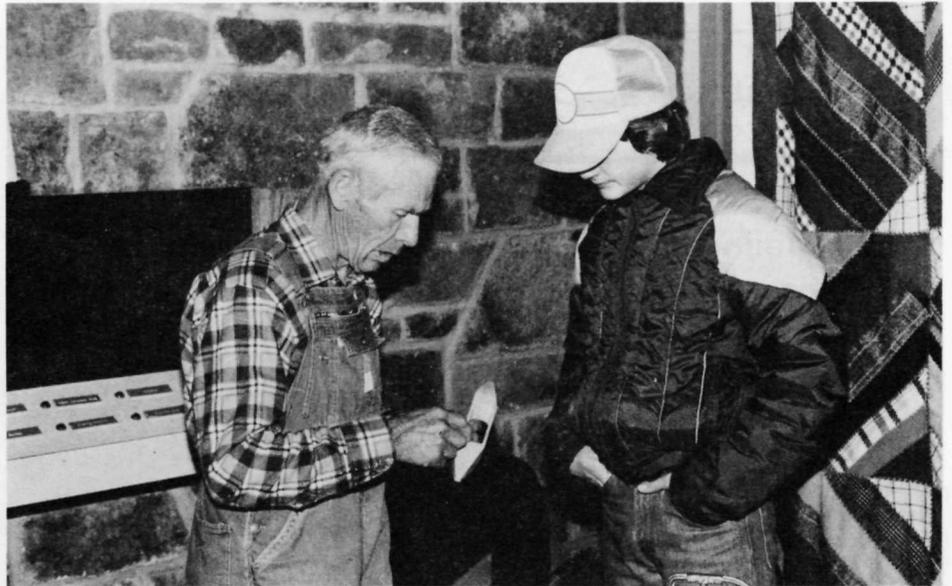
Ball and cup: wooden cups attached at intervals along a piece of dowling. The child tried to land a ball, attached by string to the dowel, in a specific cup for points;

Waddling ducks: designed to walk down an incline, be pulled by a string, or pushed with a stick.

Spools: recycled spools turned into spinning tops, or "caterpillars."

Bulger-wagon: a homemade wagon that could be ridden single or double, with a steering device on the front axle.

—Glenn Cardwell



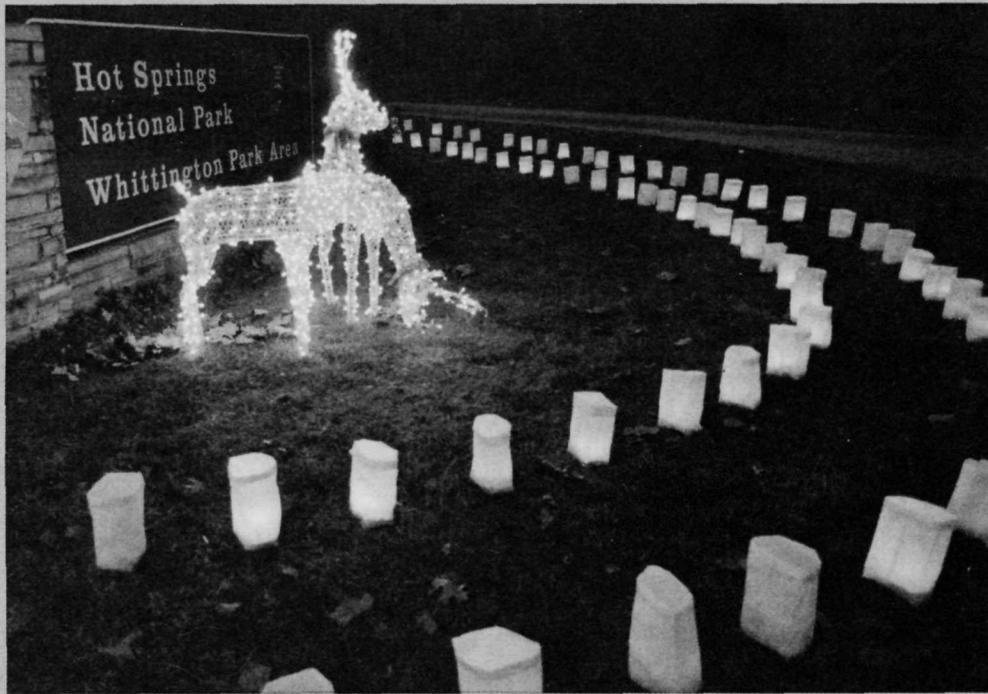
Arvil Greene chats about wooden toys

Glenn Cardwell is now Supervisor at the park's Sugarlands Visitor Center. 🍁



Children using the bulger wagon

Hot Springs aglitter



Hot Springs National Park 1986 Christmas holiday decorations. A total of 10,000 farolitas placed in Hot Springs National Park (Whittington Park portion) by First National Bank. Program to be performed again in 1987.

Twelve Days of Christmas trivia

1. Home for the holidays? General George Washington found it impossible to get to Mt. Vernon during the hardest Revolutionary War Christmases. He could, however, be found at what are *now* four NPS sites between 1775 and 1779. Recall those old history lessons and name the sites.
2. What fort, now a part of the NPS system, was completed on Christmas Eve in 1805?
3. On Christmas morning, _____ & _____ awoke to "the discharge of the fire arm(s) of all our party & a Salute, Shouts and a Song which the whole party joined in under our windows . . ."
4. In the children's book, *Rosita's Christmas Wish* by Mary Ann Smothers Bruni, a major part of the story takes place in what area that is now part of the NPS?
5. What is the first National Park Service area visited by Santa Claus each year?
6. The National Christmas tree is annually displayed at what NPS unit?
7. What person, born Christmas Day, December 25, 1821, is commemorated at an NPS site?
8. On the day before Christmas Eve in 1777, who wrote: "To see men without clothes to cover their nakedness, without blankets to lie upon, without shoes, without a house or hut to cover them until those could be built, and submitting without a murmur, is a proof of patience and obedience which, in my opinion, can scarcely be paralleled."
9. Who ate the following for Christmas dinner: poor elk meat, spoiled pounded fish, and a few roots—all "without salt or season"?
10. What kind of tree did the Muirs decorate for Christmas?
11. Which park allows reindeer grazing and how many graze there?
12. The *tasajillo* may puncture the legs of Big Bend hikers, but its bright red fruit makes it a favorite ornamental plant for many. What is another common name for the *tasajillo*?

(The editor wishes to gratefully acknowledge the wit and wisdom of Dan Steed, SWRO Public Affairs, without which this month's column would have been less challenging, as well as Dixie Tourangeau, Ben Moffett, Holly Bundock and Nancy Stromsem.)

(Trivia answers on pg.25)

The Director's Report

By William Penn Mott, Jr.

A family spirit unsurpassed!



Have you ever celebrated Christmas in July? I have, but only after coming on board to serve as Director. I had never heard of such a thing, but now I know. Christmas in July is just one of the special occasions NPS employees make time for in order to get together informally. Even though, through other similar settings, I have been able to talk and get to know many of you, I have to admit I find myself continually struck by your sincere efforts to make this organization *more* than just another organization. You make it a caring organization—caring for each other, for the Service, and for the public. I have never seen such close-knit camaraderie, and that observation, based on about 50 years of professional service, is not made lightly. You possess a family spirit unsurpassed by any other organization. You are unique! You are special!

Obviously, the time selected to celebrate, be it December, July, or whenever, isn't very important. What is important, however, is celebrating your way. I, for one, always look forward to the holidays for it is a time when I am surrounded by family and friends, and am given the opportunity to contemplate all the things I have to be thankful for. It is also a very special time of the year when I finally get to sit back, relax, and just allow this fast-paced world to whirl on by. For me, that's celebrating! I don't know what the holiday season holds for you, but I hope it is everything you may want it to be, plus perhaps a little extra. I also hope it is a relaxing one filled to the rim with friends and loved ones. Happy Holidays! 🌲

Park ornaments from the tree of Director Mott



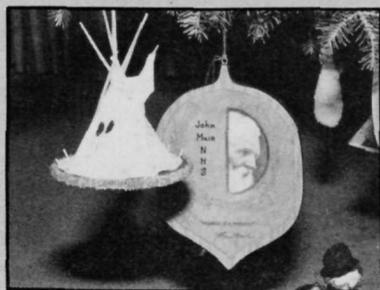
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|-----------------------------|---|
| 1. Grand Teton NP | 9. George Washington Birthplace NM |
| 2. Pipe Spring NM | 10. North Country National Scenic Trail |
| 3. Lincoln Boyhood NMem | 11. Fort Frederica NM |
| 4. Pea Ridge NMP | 12. Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail |
| 5. San Antonio Missions NHP | 13. Fort Donelson NMP |
| 6. Nez Perce NHP | 14. Fort Scott NHS |
| 7. John Muir NHS | 15. Wupatki NM |
| 8. Sleeping Bear Dunes NL | |

*I will honor Christmas in my heart and
keep it all the year.*

—Charles Dickens

The granite orchards of Gettysburg



(photo Kathy Georg Harrison)

Detail of the Louisiana Memorial

Richard West Sellars

Standing near the large Pennsylvania Memorial on Gettysburg Battlefield at dawn, I watch the early light give form and definition to the monument with its beaux-arts design and inscriptions and lists of the Pennsylvania veterans of the battle. Nearby, other memorials dot the landscape. None is larger, though, than the ornate structure built by the people of Pennsylvania, where the momentous Civil War conflict took place in 1863.

A brief glance, and the battlefield appears a bit outdated. With obelisks and equestrian statues, it, like other Civil War battlefields, is crowded with heroic sculpture. Today, the visitor to Gettysburg may view the memorials as curiosities; they do not have, for example, the powerful, direct emotional appeal of the Lincoln Memorial or the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. But in the larger context of the battlefield's history, they have great meaning. To me, they give evidence of the long continuum of commemorative history at Gettysburg, and they indicate that people other than those who fought here also have dedicated, consecrated, and hallowed this site.

Gettysburg is one of the most monumented battlefields in the world.

Scattered about this gentle landscape of woods and fields where the battle occurred are almost 400 memorials, many of them impressively large, and more than 900 smaller markers. An important museum of commemorative architecture, the battlefield exhibits styles of sculpture from more than a century of memorializing. In several areas the memorials dominate the landscape with their size and numbers, and in places they are oddly situated among the historic farmsteads that remain from the time of the battle. The most striking visual feature of the battlefield, the memorials appear like randomly planted orchards—architectural surprises of granite, many topped with bronze sculpture—that at once seem out of place yet, given their purpose, are altogether fitting and proper. Each a call to remembrance of some aspect of the battle, the memorials also testify to its lasting impact.

The history of the Battle of Gettysburg differs from the history of Gettysburg Battlefield. The first is military history, the events of the battle itself; what followed at the site is largely commemorative history—this country's response to the battle through memorialization, veterans' reunions, encampments, and ongoing preservation.

For three days in July 1863, the North-

ern and Southern armies fought a grim, noisy battle in what was otherwise a peaceful rural area. Resulting in more than 50,000 casualties, with more than 6,000 dead, the battle was also a decisive reversal for the Confederacy. Here, the Northern troops blocked the last major Southern effort to penetrate deep into Union territory.

But then the armies moved on, leaving the dead to be buried in a landscape that suddenly had been imbued with a meaning much deeper than mere pastoral beauty. Gettysburg Battlefield became a sacred place, hallowed and revered. These were no longer ordinary farms and wooded hills; they differed even from neighboring farmlands and would not be allowed to return to obscurity.

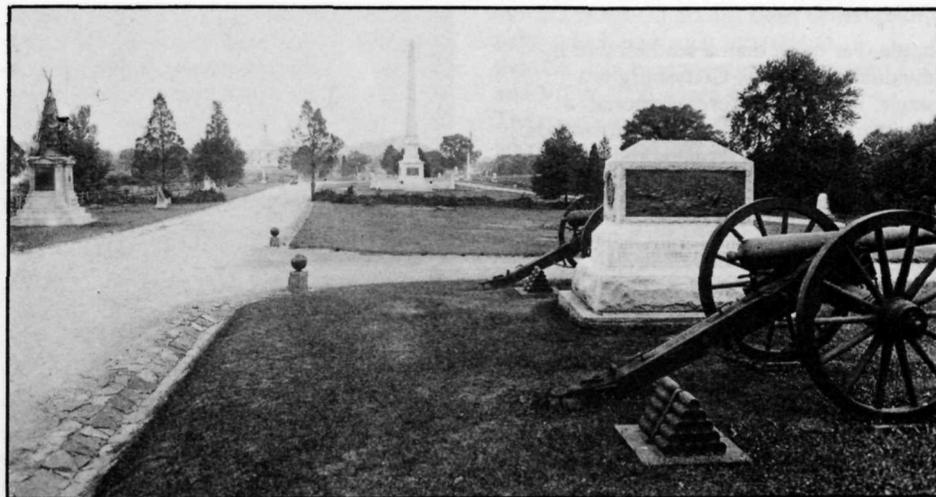
Every generation since the battle, including our own, has placed memorials at Gettysburg—as late as the 1970s and '80s, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee commissioned monuments for the site. Even in the late 1860s, but especially in the last decades of the 19th century, patriotic groups led by veterans' organizations erected memorials here. The early memorials were direct expressions of the feelings and emotions of the generation that fought the war. Traditional memorials erected by traditional people to commemorate the sacrifice and

heroism of the battle, the memorials express national and personal sorrow.

While the Southern states needed a greater perspective of time before memorializing the site of a Northern victory, for the people of the North, Gettysburg immediately became a primary symbol of the tragedy and heroism of war. The battlefield attracted curious visitors even as the soldiers moved out and before the dead and wounded had been fully tended to. The Gettysburg Battlefield Memorial Association, chartered by the State of Pennsylvania in 1864 (the year after the battle), led early efforts to acquire and preserve the site.

After the war, Union veterans and ordinary citizens came repeatedly to the site to get a sense of the place, gain perspective, and associate themselves with Gettysburg. The Pennsylvania posts of the Grand Army of the Republic held encampments almost annually on the battlefield. In 1888 Union and Confederate veterans held a reunion at Gettysburg to commemorate the battle's 25th anniversary. By this time, the first big wave of memorialization was taking place, in part a response to the anniversary.

More than 54,000 Civil War veterans—both Union and Confederate and including many who did not fight at Gettysburg—attended the 50th anniversary encampments in 1913. This commemorative observance created intense national interest, attracted leading politicians of the time (President Woodrow Wilson was the principal speaker), and served as a bond between Northern and Southern states. Reflecting the gradual subsidence of sectional hatred, Gettysburg was becoming a national shrine.



(photo Gettysburg NMP)

Gettysburg Battlefield Park

In 1938 the nation observed the 75th anniversary of the battle with a reunion of more than 1,800 Civil War veterans, most by then in their 90s, some over 100. On the day President Franklin D. Roosevelt unveiled the Peace Light Memorial, the crowd was estimated at more than 250,000. This was the last major observance that veterans of the battle attended. A large commemorative gathering in 1963 included reenactment of parts of the battle to mark the centennial.

Of all the commemorative activity at Gettysburg, some events have had a lasting effect and deserve special note. By far the foremost event to occur after the battle came in November 1863 when President Abraham Lincoln delivered his Gettysburg Address—probably the premier public address in American history—at the dedication of the battlefield cemetery. (In the cemetery there is even a memorial to the address.) The cemetery itself is of historical importance. In 1872 Congress designated it a "national cemetery," one of the first cemeteries to be so named. And in 1895, Congress authorized Gettysburg National Military Park, which, along with similar legislation for other battlefields, established a precedent for extensive, eventually nationwide federal involvement in preservation.

Gettysburg Battlefield has been a powerful magnet, repeatedly attracting commemorative activity, itself historic. Now the battlefield appears like a giant stage set, the play over and the actors gone, but with embellishments of granite and bronze recalling the heroism and tragedy of those three summer days.

Today, visitation to the battlefield has risen to about 1.5 million people annually, while gradually the emotional intensity associated with Gettysburg has diminished, although not vanished. There

are more tourists but fewer pilgrims. The site is closely managed to preserve its many historic features, but it has become more of a park than a battlefield, its history institutionalized by Congress and through federal administration, and its hallowed ground largely defined by legal boundaries. This generation's primary tribute to the battle fought well over a century ago is its continuing commitment to preserve the battlefield and its memorials.

All in all, I disagree with President Lincoln: Even in a larger sense, we have dedicated, we have consecrated, we have hallowed this ground. Lincoln himself did so with his great address. Gettysburg is the best remembered battle of the Civil War, in part because of this commemorative act by Lincoln in which he articulated the larger sense of the battle and the war. How dedicated, consecrated, and hallowed are other Civil War battlefields, such as Champion Hill or Glorietta Pass? Not at all. Yet the same generation of brave men struggled there for the same causes. Gettysburg is so not only because of the battle's major significance and the sacrifices of those who fought here, but also because of the American people's response to sanctify the battlefield.

Sanctification is an act of special remembrance. The Civil War generation and its descendants have time and again paid tribute at Gettysburg. The memorials perpetuate this special remembrance. They are the chief physical evidence of the battlefield's hallowedness.

Today, amid green, pastoral beauty, I find it difficult to comprehend the battle that took place here. Yet the peaceful countryside of the park suggests the giant, steady rhythms of nature—an ironic juxtaposition to the brief, furious

(continued, next page)



(photo Gettysburg NMP)

Pennsylvania Memorial

(from previous page)

battle. Far more than a scattering of individual memorials, Gettysburg is a single, immense pastoral memorial, a landscape of monuments and farmsteads, its granite orchards recalling the battle and the war. The evolution of Gettysburg's memorialized landscape reflects a continuing rite of passage by a nation long reconciled, yet determined to remember.

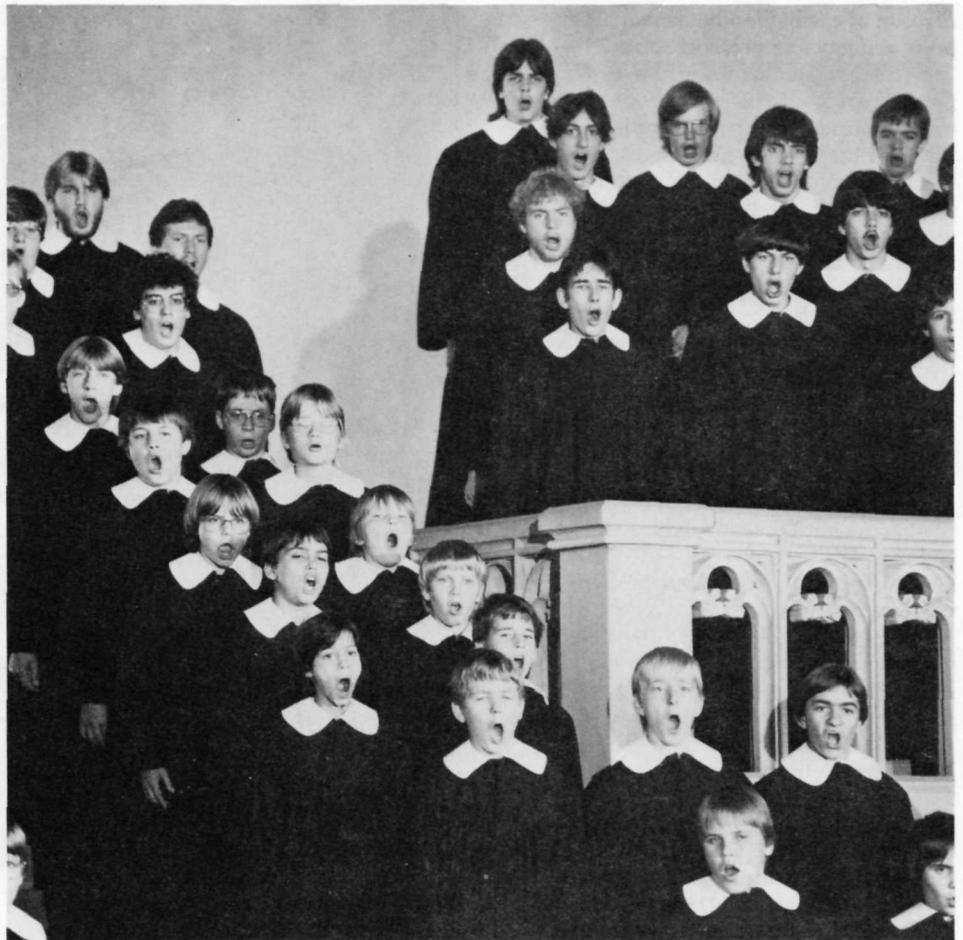
Dick Sellars is Chief, Southwest Cultural Resources Center, SWRO.

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Park Briefs

MORRISTOWN NHP, NJ—Gen. Washington's Continental Army certainly didn't have it this good back in the late 1770s. On December 6, this Revolutionary War park held its sixth annual Christmas Concert and Candlelight Tour at Washington's Headquarters (the Ford Mansion). The Washington Association of New Jersey, in conjunction with the park, again sponsored an evening of 18th-century music, followed by a candlelight tour of the Mansion led by park staffers. Decorations were slight, reflecting some traditions of the 18th century and the harsh times of the Revolutionary War period. About 175 guests attended. In mid-November Supt. Janet Wolf held an "open house" at the Superintendent's House in the Jockey Hollow section of the park.

SAGUARO NM, AZ—The stately saguaro cactus played host recently to members of the Japanese Royal Family when Prince Masahito and Princess Hanaho stopped for a picnic in the Tucson Mountain Unit of the park. A doctor by profession, the Prince was in the United States to attend a medical conference. His wife has a great interest in the desert. After picnicking with Superintendent Rob Arnberger and other members of the Saguro staff, the Royal Family and their entourage moved on.



MANHATTAN SITES, NY—When West Germany's well-known Windsbacher Knabenchor Boys Choir made its first visit to New York, the 72-voice choral group gave a free noon concert on the steps of Federal Hall NMem before lunchtime spectators. The performance was followed by a reception for guests of

the Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany. The concert was coordinated by the West German Consulate and American Landmarks Foundation. It concluded the choir's first American visit since it was founded 40 years ago.

SPRINGFIELD ARMORY NHS, MA—Marco Paul lives; and he's gone video! Thanks to a grant from a local cable TV programming endowment, this hero from mid-1800s children's literature will again be going on "Adventures in the Pursuit of Knowledge." A century and a half ago, the Marco Paul character took youthful readers to many places via a series of travel books. One visit was to the famed Massachusetts Armory to see how muskets were produced. The new recreated-for-TV Marco will be helping a present-day junior high student complete an assigned Armory report. NHS chief interpreter Larry Lowenthal penned the script for the half-hour program, "The Grand National Armory."

THEODORE ROOSEVELT INAUGURAL NHS, NY—This westernmost NAR facility, in downtown Buffalo, celebrated its 11th annual "Victorian

Christmas" from December 7 to the 14th. Local musical groups performed concerts on each Sunday, playing both regular and Christmas songs. During the week, guests and visitors were treated to daily lectures, with the speakers covering historical or specifically Victorian topics. Two fashion shows were put on by TRI's costume research volunteers, while the Garden Club solidified the seasonal mood with appropriate turn-of-the-century Victorian decorations for the home. Along with selected greenery, there were antique ornaments, toys and dolls for visitors to view. All of TRI's holiday programs are organized by its enthusiastic volunteer corps and supported by 13 community groups. All programs were held in the Ansley Wilcox House's second floor hall that was once a tea room. About 3,000 people attended the week's festivities. Decorations are on display through December 31.

WASO—On August 31, 1986, Jerry Rogers, Associate Director, Cultural Resources, and Lawrence Aten, Chief, Interagency Resources Division, participated in a "Golden Spike" ceremony, held to celebrate the completion of data entry for properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Entry of the last property record—the Susitna River Bridge in Yukon-Koyukuk District, Alaska—was done by Rogers and Aten, with the assistance of John Byrne, National Register Data Base Manager. After the last record was entered, Jerry Rogers addressed those gathered for the occasion, among whom were several of the interns who had worked on the project over the last four years. Rogers said, "We have now reached a major milestone in the National Register program, and those of you who have achieved it should be very proud. This data base provides us for the first time the ability to analyze the contents—the strengths and the weaknesses—of the National Register, and to understand what remains to be done to preserve the Nation's cultural resources. We know for the first time, for example, that the 46,000 listings in the National Register represent more than 750,000 resources."

The 46,000 listings include resources that are significant in American history, archeology, architecture, engineering, and culture. The National Register lists all historic units of the national park system, such as national historic sites, national battlefields, national battlefield parks, and national historical parks. Additionally, the National Register includes hundreds more individual cultural resources in park units that are primarily natural or recreation areas, such as historic lighthouses at national seashores, historic ships at Golden Gate National Recreation Area, and early log structures and bridges in natural areas. Each data base record contains 45 data elements, including name, location, areas and periods of significance, architectural style, materials, and park code. This means that park and regional personnel, when conducting research for purposes of documentation, evaluation, or interpretation, can place park resources in the context of a great number of comparable or related resources in their immediate area, in other parks, in other parts of the country, or in the country as a whole. Questions relating to the full range of data in the National Register Data Base should be directed to John Byrne on FTS 343-9559.

While the National Register (NR) includes data on sites throughout the country, data on its NPS properties have recently been linked to NPS COMMON Data Base so that NPS personnel can derive information not only about NR resources in parks but can inter-relate

that data with other park information to the COMMON data base, such as park acreage, visitation statistics, and natural resource information. COMMON's National Register module also includes information on whether National Register documentation has been completed for the resource, and can generate reports of National Register data organized by park and region.

The NR data base is running on the

WASO Hewlett-Packard super minicomputer which uses such software as IMAGE data base management system and VIEW 3000 screen entry programs. The microcomputer can be accessed by telephone, using GEONET, the Interior Department's Communications system, and any microcomputer or computer terminal having a modem and Communications software.



Larry Aten enters data as John Byrne and Jerry Rogers watch

VIRGIN ISLANDS NP, VI—Through the Volunteer Vacations programs of the American Hiking Society, Virgin Islands NP received much needed assistance from an 11-member volunteer trail crew. These volunteers came from all over the United States; they contributed 500 hours of labor over a period of 10 days, rehabilitating the Lameshur and Europa Bay trails on the south shore of St. John. These men and women tirelessly repaired 300 feet of gullied trail; built steps, erosion control structures and 71 water bars; and handled beach clean-up and trail clearing. Then, for relaxation, they cleared scenic vistas and constructed stone benches, work valued at approximately \$4,600, but costing the government only \$620 total. The importance of their work to the Lameshur area is reflected by the fact that some trails have not had major maintenance since they were used in the days of the sugar plantations, more than 100 years ago. Nevertheless, thanks to Kay Beebe who runs

the Volunteer Vacations program, the right mixture of skills and experience was obtained.

The volunteers she recruited paid their own way to St. John where the park provided transportation to Lameshur. The College of the Virgin Islands has a research and educational facility at Lameshur that offered housing and dining areas; the park paid for the volunteer's meals (\$600) and provided tools, safety equipment, and instructional guidance in the form of the Lameshur ranger. The volunteers worked into the afternoon, then spent the remainder of the day enjoying the beach. Other parks wishing to use the Volunteer Vacations program should contact Kay Beebe at 617/545-7019 or write American Hiking Society Volunteer Vacations, P.O. Box 86, North Scituate, MA 02060. The Appalachian Mountain Club also has a volunteer program, 5 Joy Street, Boston, MA 02108.

—Bernard Stoffel

MOUNT RAINIER NP, WA—Everyone has heard how difficult it is to see an old man cry. Well, there were tears welling up in the eyes of younger participants, too, as more than 200 World War II veterans of the 10th Mountain and their families gathered around a small bronze plaque on the flowered slopes of Mt. Rainier. One thousand three hundred of these ski troopers had mustered in the Seattle area for the 45th anniversary reunion of the 10th, and a number of them decided not to miss an opportunity to return to the site of their basic training from which they had headed for the mountains of northwestern Italy in the closing months of the war. Attended by veterans from all across the United States, the group at the site also included veteran mountain soldiers from Germany and Australia. Karl Kaoru Kasukabe who came to the reunion from his home in Nagoya, Japan, was a special honorary guest.



In honor of those who served

E&AA news and notes

Will it be Challenger Peak?

Henry J. Pratt
Special to the *Courier*

There's Tonapah Summit, Martha's Vineyard, Ten Sleep, Pine Ridge, Shirttail Gulch, Beaver Creek, Pikes Peak, and Jackson Hole. Behind those topo-map names, and thousands of others are dramatic, often witty, scenarios scripted by our ancestors, who explored, mined, fur-traded, and settled the nation from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

If a vocal group of Colorado citizens get its way, a scenic, now-unnamed 14,081-foot-high Colorado peak in 1987 will be named "Challenger Peak" or "Mount Challenger." The Board on Geographic Names in Washington, D.C., is now considering the group's proposals.

This obscure, but important, government board has no fulltime employees, and its role and functions are spread around several different federal offices in Washington. Created by Congress in 1890, the Board still adjudicates up to 10,000 place name questions and concerns annually.

When and if the Challenger space shuttle tribute nomination is approved, the beautiful, now-unnamed peak, located in the Sangre De Cristo Range in South Central Colorado, would be a lasting memorial to the seven astronauts. The nomination group's leader, elec-

tronics engineer Dennis A. Williams from Colorado Springs explains that "mountain peaks symbolize the spirit of adventure, a spirit our lost seven so boldly displayed." Williams adds: "Few memorials would be as enduring or as inspiring as a 14,081-foot-high mountain."

NPS employees and alumni, who want to support this Challenger shuttle disaster tribute and get it on the map, may write to Donald J. Orth, Executive Secretary, Board on Geographic Names, National Center 523, Reston, VA 22092. Make your response count by contacting the Board as soon as possible, but not later than January 31, 1987, Orth said.

Desperate plea!

National Parks and Conservation Association NPCA is publishing a special Bicentennial issue of its *National Parks* magazine, which will serve as the official guide to events celebrating the Bicentennial within the National Park Service. Parks are encouraged to mail information pertaining to their plans to NPCA by the first of January. Don't delay. Send material to Michele Strutin, NPCA, 1015 31st Street NW, Washington, DC 20007 or call 202/944-8530.

National
Park
Women



NPW in Shenandoah

On a sunny but chilly day, about 40 women gathered at the Pinnacles Picnic Grounds for a fall box luncheon and silent auction. Bidding was competitive for such items as a crocheted afghan and slippers, quilted pillow, lampshades, pin cushion, baby sweater, pot holders, a ghost and pumpkin Halloween ceramic, Christmas ornaments and even Irish soda bread. Prior to the ham and roast beef lunch, there were also demonstrations of weaving and loom, stained glass and basket making, as well as chair caning. Seasonal Pat Thompson led 12 hikers along the Appalachian Trail. Approximately \$275 was added to the club treasury through the sale of lunches and flowers, including \$180 from the auction.

—Kari Koester



Chats with Madame G...

...Or Adventures In E&AA!!

What is this world coming to, darlings, when a well-meaning woman with the best of intentions can't chat harmlessly about her fellow human beings? Imagine my shock, my chagrin and embarrassment, when the editor of the *Courier* indelicately informed me that there had been *complaints!* Complaints? About *me?* I couldn't believe it. Well, you just *must know* that I told her to ignore them. But not her! Oh no. *She* had to lecture me on freedom of speech. Just what I wanted to hear!

The long and the short is that Madame has to make every column count from here on out because the editor's freedom of speech just may not be Madame's . . . So much the pity, I say. Talk about a Grinch stealing Christmas!

But come what may, Madame *is* going to smile in the face of adversity. She *is* going to enjoy herself.

Speaking of enjoyment, let me pass on a couple of entertaining little tales that filtered out of the Ranger Rendezvous this year. A certain young lady eager for a "park experience" decided to take a care-free amble around Jenny Lake (Grand Teton NP). Half-way through her stroll she heard a low growl behind her. With every step she took, the sound continued. Did the noise come from a bear? She was sure it did and, worse yet, that the bear was after *her* . . . Fortunately about that time she remembered she hadn't eaten lunch. It was her own empty stomach following her around the lake. As Madame could have told her, there's nothing like celebrating nature—in *all its forms*.

Other Rendezvousers had *their* park experience in Yellowstone this year. **Steve Holder** (district ranger, Golden Gate), **Glenn Fuller** (site manager, Muir Woods), **Holly Bundock** (public affairs, WRO), and **Linda Koephgen** (who doesn't work for the Park Service but who does buy good groceries) staged an expedition to the Yellowstone site where the Park Service concept had its origins. "Well," said Holder when the van pulled to a stop, "now that we're here, we have to consecrate the moment." And consecrate they did—in style. Holder pulled a recliner (that had come with him from

California) out of the van, as well as additional lawn furniture appropriate to the occasion. Koephgen opened a basket of cheeses and meats. And so they all dined, taking turns in the recliner, knowing that Stephen Mather would have been proud.

The Rendezvous certainly wasn't short on familiar faces. Seeing all that hugging did Madame's heart good. **Karen Reyer** ran up to **Dan Sholly**, with a quick word of explanation to bystanders: "We've known each other since we were little shakers." As far as that goes, Karen and Eldon Reyer are now the proud grandparents of a little shaker of their own, named for Karen's mother **Inger Garrison**. . . . Speaking of which, besides Karen, there were 20 to 25 *known* second and third generation Park Service people also at the gathering, among them **Jane Rabbit Ring**, **Marshall Gingery**, **Bill Supernaugh**, **Rick Gale**, **Boyd Evison**, **Paul Broyles**, **Rob Arnberger**, **Jan Oscar**, and **John Reynolds**. **Phyllis** and **Fred Broyles** (recently retired from Pinnacles) took time out from their schedules to hold a family reunion as well as join friends at the Rendezvous and reaffirm their support for the Park Service.

Nor was the Rendezvous short on good deeds. Yosemite ranger **Hugh Dougher** helped out some stranded Washington women with a ride to the airport. And **Rob Wallace** kindly volunteered critical tour information to the same trio before they began their foray into the wilds of Grand Teton.

Of course, there *were* other things going on in the Park Service during the week of the Rendezvous, but Madame had her pince-nez exclusively aimed at Wyoming. Not to be forgotten, for example, is the park ranger from Coulee Dam NRA who couldn't get to sleep till he plugged his child's smurf radio into his ear. Or **Kari Koester** who walked to the crown of the Statue of Liberty on October 28, the statue's actual anniversary. Or **Ben Moffett** who failed to notice that the word "hereby" was misspelled on his E&AA Life Membership certificate but who did ask **Terry Wood** "if you send me another one, could you spell my name right?" Or **Bob Barbee** who addressed the opening session of the Rendezvous: "You've all heard of *Playing*

God in Yellowstone. Well, that's me."

Madame wouldn't mind playing in Yellowstone herself. In fact, she caught a couple of sillies enthusiastically doing the same. They were practically cheering themselves hoarse during one of Old Faithful's regular displays. They must have been a couple of dazed Sox fans who managed to wander out West.

Ta-ta and stay tuned.

Trivia Answers

(From pg. 17).

1. 1775—Longfellow NHS, Cambridge, MA; 1776—(Crossed Delaware to fight Hessians at Trenton, and in January, went to Morristown; 1777—Valley Forge NHP, PA; 1776—Independence NHP, Philadelphia, where he spoke to the Continental Congress; 1779—Morristown NHP, NJ.
2. Fort Clatsop National Memorial.
3. Lewis and Clark.
4. Mission San Jose which is now part of San Antonio Missions NHP.
5. Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve, or so says St. Nick.
6. The Ellipse, south of the White House.
7. Clara Barton who is commemorated at Clara Barton NHS.
8. George Washington, December 23, 1777, at Valley Forge.
9. Lewis and Clark at Fort Clatsop in 1805.
10. A bay laurel, also known as a California bay.
11. Bering Land Bridge National Preserve, with its 8,000 reindeer (maybe Santa's eight tiny reindeer are among them).
12. The Christmas cactus.



Correction

The October *Courier* contained some misinformation on page 26. Seventy concessioners operate lodging facilities and 185 have food and beverage operations.

Deaths

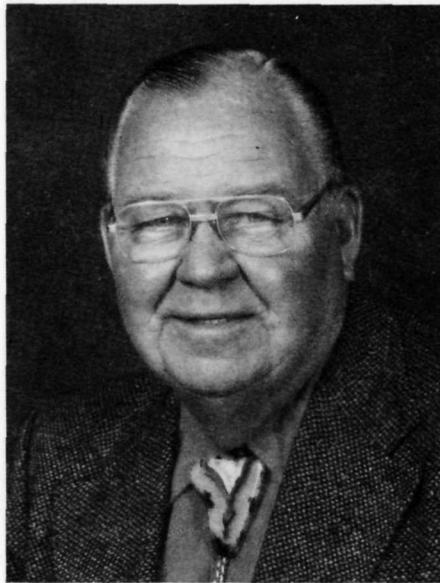
Earl M. "Tiny". Semingsen, 79, beloved alumnus, died on Saturday, November 8, following a long illness. Tiny, who was known throughout the National Park Service for his stellar career and his love and respect for the Service, as well as for founding the Employees and Alumni Association of the National Park Service (E&AA), will be sorely missed not only by members of the E&AA but by all others who had the privilege of knowing this great man. We have enjoyed his guiding hand through the years.

Tiny began his Park Service career as a seasonal ranger in Yellowstone in the years 1930 to 1935; in 1937 he obtained his first permanent position as a Yellowstone ranger. From 1951 to 1959 he served as Superintendent of Wind Cave National Park, from 1959 to 1965 as Superintendent of Dinosaur National Monument, and from 1966 until his retirement in 1967 as Superintendent of Catoctin Mountain Park.

At the Superintendents Conference in Great Smoky Mountains National Park and Fontana Dam in September 1955, Tiny went among the attendees asking for one dollar from each in order to found the E&AA. In the 31 years E&AA has been in existence it has grown from a charter membership of 600 to more than 2,200 members, its two primary purposes to foster ever closer ties between the Park Service and its alumni, and to help maintain and improve service morale while encouraging public understanding of the national park concept.

Since its inception, Tiny was active in the organization, first as its organizational director, then serving as Alumni Representative for the Southeast Region, as Education Trust Fund Officer, and also as Editor and Publisher of the NPS Courier (Flora, his widow, and Don, his son, remember helping Tiny stuff envelopes; according to Don, "Pop" paid him \$.01 an envelope).

Tiny also served as Special Membership Chairman, and in that capacity encouraged numerous retirees and friends of the Service to join the E&AA as Life Members then elevate their memberships to higher levels. Only Tiny's grave illness prevented John Cook, E&AA Chairman, from presenting him with a certificate from the E&AA, signed by Cook as Chairman, William Penn Mott, Jr., as Director, and Terry Wood as Executive Director, elevating him to the position of Chairman, Emeritus. Cook sent the certificate and a letter of appreciation to Flora Semingsen. This



Tiny Semingsen

honor was to have been bestowed upon Tiny by unanimous vote of the Board of Directors of the E&AA.

Tiny did receive a \$500 Special Act Award for his involvement in the creation of E&AA. He also received a special commendation from the Director of the National Park Service for his energetic leadership and dedication to the perpetuation of the organization. Also, because of his services as a park protection official and his special work in connection with the E&AA, Tiny received the Department of the Interior's Meritorious Service Award from Secretary of the Interior Rogers C. B. Morton in 1971.

Tiny's ashes were scattered over his beloved Yellowstone in the vicinity of Fishing Bridge on November 14 by his son, Don. He is survived by his wife, Flora, a son, a daughter, and three grandchildren. Flora's address is 1170 West Wabash Street, Box 9, Tucson, AZ 85705.

Messages of condolence may be sent to Flora. Those wishing to make a memorial donation in Tiny's memory may do so by sending a contribution to one of Tiny's favorite charities, the Education Trust Fund of the E&AA, P.O. Box 1490, Falls Church, VA 22041.

Harthon L. "Spud" Bill passed away on November 2. He was born in Bridgeport, Connecticut, on May 12, 1911, graduated from Middlebury College in Vermont with a B.A., and took a Master's Degree at Yale School of



Spud Bill

Forestry, New Haven, in 1935. He began his Park Service career in 1935 as a park ranger in Grand Canyon National Park and served there until 1946, rising to the position of Chief Park Ranger. He also served as Assistant Superintendent at Mount Rainier and Yosemite National Parks, as Assistant Regional Director in the Southwest Region and as Superintendent at Grand Teton and Glacier National Parks. In 1964 he transferred to the Washington Office as Chief of Resources Management and Visitor Protection; then assumed the position of Deputy Assistant Director and Assistant Director for Operations in 1966, and from 1967 until his retirement on January 8, 1972, he served as Deputy Director. After his Park Service retirement, Spud served as General Manager, Long Island State Park Commission, Babylon, New York. He was also involved with the Tucson Botanical Gardens, and was a director of the Mile High Bird Sanctuary.

Spud was awarded the Department of the Interior's highest honor, Distinguished Service Award, in 1966. He also was the recipient of the Cornelius A. Pugsley Gold Medal Award for Conservation in 1971. He is survived by his widow, Jane, and one son, Harthon H. "Sandy" of East Mayalsia, and a granddaughter, L. Katherine Bill of Colorado. Messages of condolence may be sent to Jane at the home address of 7256 E. Camino Valle Verde, Tucson, AZ 85715. Donations may be made to the Education Trust Fund of the E&AA, P.O. Box 1490, Falls Church, VA 22041, in Spud's memory.

Harvey B. Reynolds passed away September 23. He had retired in 1973 after 34 years of federal service, 31 of them with the National Park Service, beginning with his first permanent position in 1942 as Park Ranger in Yellowstone. He was Chief Ranger in Theodore Roosevelt and Superintendent of Pipestone before becoming involved with programming and plans in the

Midwest Region, Yellowstone, and Eastern Service Center, finally retiring from the positions of Chief, Finance and Management Control, in the Pacific Northwest Region. He is survived by his wife, Lois; two sons, John who is Superintendent of North Cascades, and Bob who is Superintendent of Capitol Reef; and one daughter, Jean, who is a youth counselor and therapist and lives in

Portland. Messages of condolence may be sent to his wife, 13505 Southeast River Road, #56, Portland, OR 97222. Memorials may be made to the Education Trust Fund of the Employees and Alumni Association of the National Park Service (E&AA), P.O. Box 1490, Falls Church, VA 22041.



From the Editor

It's one thing to celebrate the Christmas spirit in December, quite another to conjure its presence several months in advance. For that accomplishment, I have a number of people to thank.

Given the production schedule of the *Courier*, the December issue has to leave my desk for typesetting during October. That means most of the material must be prepared during the fall—a requirement that creates an unusual set of challenges as well as frustrations. First of all, the production of a December *Courier* requires a great many people to write about Christmas long before the rest of us even think of "decking the halls." It is to these people that I owe a special note of thanks—for answering their phones when a certain editor put out an all-points-bulletin in *August* (possibly the worst month on record to face the concept of Christmas) and for saying "yes" to a request for articles and pictures (an almost impossible assignment when one considers that these have to be assembled and mailed prior to the event). Sonia Hurley (Eleanor Roosevelt NHS), Steven Burke (John Muir NHS), John Mohlenrich (Lake Mead NRA), and Kelley Collins (Homestead NM) as well as others who contributed Christmas articles deserve special recognition for their effort.

If all of this seems a bit self-revealing, I suppose it is. I too had difficulty in the month of October with the idea of Christmas cheer. How was I to write about the holiday season when the leaves had barely changed hue? Nevertheless, as December's articles began to appear in my mailbox, the spirit of Christmas slipped up on me unbeckoned. Indeed, as I read each manuscript, I shamelessly longed for a small plane to zip me from park to park in time to participate in the holiday fare of each area. Of course such was not to be; but I *have* thoroughly enjoyed my mental travels through the

parcs, and I hope that this month you will too.

A few final thank-you's for the year . . . Since December is a time for summation, for tying up the loose ends of the past year and waxing philosophical after that-one-last-glass-of-eggnog, I would like to slip in my appreciation for everyone who has wholeheartedly contributed to the newsletter—for original research and writing completed in many cases on the writers' own time, for the desire (which is as great as my own) to produce articles on significant NPS issues,

and for the willingness to let me know when there were things they liked about the *Courier* and things they didn't. There is a long list of people whom I would like to thank here and they all know who they are.

With that said, I hope this issue of the newsletter will serve as my Christmas gift to the Park Service. Please note that it is shorter than usual in order to give everyone less material to read and more time with which to enjoy the festivities of the season.



The Personnel Side

Terrie Fajardo

— A Christmas Card

'Twas the night before Christmas and all through the Parks
not a sound could be heard, not even dog barks
The Rangers were nestled all snug in their beds
with visions of parklands alive in the heads.
Back in the east no rest was in sight,
everyone knew it'd be quite a night!

"We have to prepare, make ready the sleigh.
The delivery is coming, it's almost the day!"

The gifts are all ready, the papers are here.
The sleigh's been made ready with 12-point reindeer.

We're sending best wishes for your holiday glee
with love, health, and happiness from us in D.C.

From Contracts, Procurement, Budget and Finance,
Data Systems, Concessions, and even from Science.
From Training and Labor and Culture as well,
Legislation, Recreation and all of Personnel.

From each of the others too numerous to name,
We say "Merry Christmas," we all feel the same.

Now darkness has fallen, it's almost midnight,
The sleigh is all loaded, it's time for the flight!

The Director is ready, he's boarding the sleigh.
He calls to the reindeer, "Up, up and away!!"

We heard him cry out as he flew out of sight,
"Merry Christmas Park Service, and to all a
Good Night!!!!"

Yellowstone Reunion

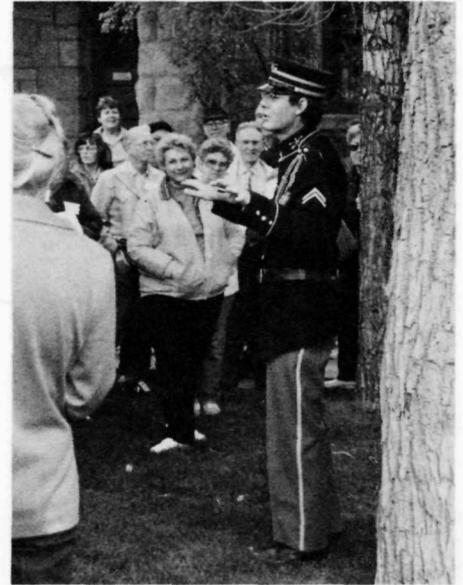
The much-anticipated Yellowstone Reunion was enjoyed September 12, 13 & 14 by 260 registrants and perhaps 50 others who dropped in at various times during the weekend. Participants included old timers and young timers from the National Park Service as well as Hamilton Stores, Haynes Studios, Yellowstone Park Company, Yellowstone Library and Museum Association, TW Services, and Yellowstone Park Service Stations. Activities included a Fort Yellowstone walk, movies of community activities during the old days, a barbecue dinner and dance, a church service conducted by Interior Secretary Hodel, and a commemoration of the Army's 1886 arrival to administer Yellowstone National Park. A raffle was conducted with proceeds of more than \$375 going to the Employee and Alumni Association Education Trust

Fund. William Wright won a prize for being the oldest person to attend and his wife for having worked there the farthest time back (1921).

Most of all, however, it was a mellow occasion with ample time to visit, reminisce, renew friendships, and make new friends. Attendees came from as far away as Maine, Alaska, Florida, and Hawaii. Horace Albright sent a message to the group, and a letter from former President Gerald Ford was read. Ford served as a seasonal ranger at Canyon Station in 1936.

Although the reunion ended Sunday afternoon, many stayed on to enjoy the park, while others headed for home amid handshakes, hugs, and cries of "Let's do this again!"

—Ken and Ethel Ashley



John Whitman sets the stage for his Fort Yellowstone tour during the reunion.

Sisneros honored by National Trust

Jerry Rogers
Associate Director, Cultural Resources

"Not a dry eye in the house," was the way person after person described the climax of the National Trust for Historic Preservation's awards ceremony in Kansas City, Missouri on October 16. When Park Ranger Federico Sisneros ascended the stage of the historic Folly Theater to receive the Trust's Certificate of Commendation given to outstanding public officials at the 1986 preservation honor awards, the 1,100 Trust members responded with a sustained and emotional standing ovation. He was presented the award by Trust chairman Alan Boyd and Rustoleum Corporation Chairman Rex Reade. Sisneros, accompanied by his sons, B. F. and Ray, and by Dr. Joseph Sanchez of the Southwest Region, was clearly the star of the show and the center of attention at a reception hosted by the Board of Trustees.

Preservationists agree that despite the importance of institutional forces for preservation such as the Trust, the National Register, State Historic Preservation Officers, and the National Park Service itself, at the heart of most great preservation success stories can usually be found a determined individual selflessly committed to the cause. Sisneros was honored for his lifetime commitment to the preservation of the Abo, a unit of

Salinas National Monument. He acquired his devotion to the preservation of this 1620s Spanish mission from his grandfather when he was only a small boy, and continues the work at age ninety-two. Trust members, engaged in individual struggles of their own across the country, identified strongly with this nation's oldest park ranger.

A total of sixteen awards was given during the ceremony, eleven to the private sector, and five to public servants. Winners were honored with a handsome plaque, a reception, and travel expenses, all financed under an endowment from Rustoleum Corporation.

The Trust's annual meeting focused upon the 20th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, and featured both historical recountings and a look into the future. Cultural Resources Associate Director Jerry Rogers announced the publication of Barry Mackintosh's latest administrative history, "The National Historic Preservation Act and the National Park Service." Rogers also predicted progress on several long-postponed issues, such as maritime preservation, landscapes, ethnic cultural values, and the forging of more effective partnerships between National Park Service units, State Historic Preservation Officers, and local preservation groups. Rogers fills the Secretary of the Interior's *ex officio* seat on the Trust's board.

Temporary Employee Survey Update

Just over a year ago, temporary employees were randomly canvassed to identify their perspectives and attitudes on a full range of issues. This survey, conducted by the Cooperative Park Studies Unit at the University of Washington, was a follow-up to the 1983 survey of permanent employees.

As of now, the effort is on schedule and identified targets are being met: compilation of the survey results were made in late fall; an abstract interpreting the data was recently completed; and determination of the appropriate next steps will be made once a thorough study of the abstract has been completed.

Employees will be kept informed of significant developments and progress of this effort through the *Courier*. In the interim, however, those employees with questions should write to:

Darryll Johnson
Cooperative Park Studies Unit
National Park Service
College of Forest Resources
AR-10
University of Washington
Seattle, WA 98195

Railroad days recalled

Manny Strumpf
Public Affairs, New York

Bob Harris, chief of maintenance for Manhattan Sites (NYC), hasn't traveled by train in many years. But the sight of sleek diesels and the clackity-clack of the rails bring back fond memories.

Harris, a Louisiana native, was drafted into the Army at age 18 during World War II and, after a four-year hitch in the Pacific, found himself in New York City in need of a job. The New York Central Railroad hired him as a waiter aboard some of its fastest, sleekest and most modern trains.

"I still remember the famed 20th Century Limited, the Empire State Express, and some of the other trains. They were the height of luxury and we were always full. My runs were between New York and Chicago, Detroit, St. Louis and Canada. We'd often carry the big executives of the auto industry, many of whom I got to know pretty well," Harris recalls.

"For a young, single man, the work was fun. We'd work eight hours a shift. The pay was \$205 a month plus free room and board while out of New York. I averaged \$60 in tips round-trip. That was considered good money in those days," he adds.

Harris would be out of New York a week at a time. Sleeping accommodations were provided on the train while en route

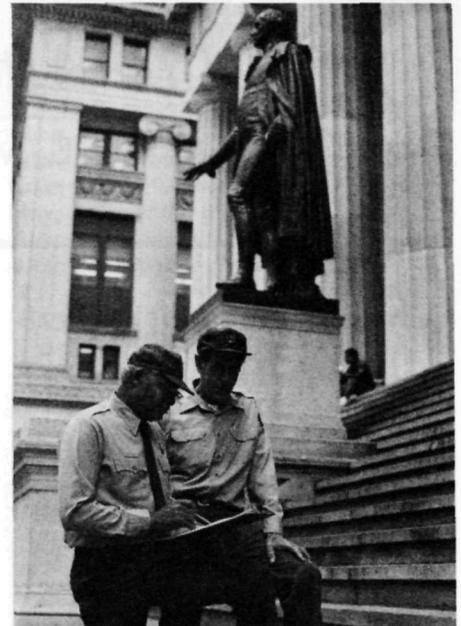
to and from the Midwest and in hotels once they reached their destination.

The most difficult part of the job was the scheduling. When a waiter was sick or on vacation, the others would have to adjust their schedules, but Harris met interesting people, enjoyed the companionship of his colleagues, and, best of all, he claims, was earning a good living while seeing America.

By the late '40s, however, airplanes replaced trains and interstate railroads laid off a lot of their help, including Harris. He decided to stay in New York and, after a stint with the Hotel Taft in Manhattan, he was hired as a guard and elevator operator at the Statue of Liberty. In 1967 he was named maintenance mechanic.

When Gateway National Recreation Area was opened in 1974, Harris moved to the new urban park as a general maintenance person. By the time he left Gateway six years later, he was maintenance mechanic foreman at Gateway's Breezy Point Unit. Since 1984, Harris has been maintenance supervisor at Manhattan Sites and has a staff of eight. His responsibilities include Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace NHS, Castle Clinton NM, Federal Hall NMem, General Grant NMem, Hamilton Grange NMem, and St. Paul's Church NHS.

Harris admits that, while he and his wife Dessie travel, it's not by train but by plane or car. "It's too bad that the



Bob Harris, left, and John Nedjlik discuss a project in front of Federal Hall NM

popularity of rail travel has dwindled as it gave passengers a chance to see the country from ground level. But I guess we're like most people. When we travel, we're either in too much of a hurry to go by train or want the personal comforts that our car offers," he says.

(Editor's note: don't pass up this expressive excerpt from the journal of Jorge Ventocilla of Panama, recorded during his participation in the 20th International Seminar on National Parks and Other Protected Areas.)

August 13, 1986

Madison (confluence of the Firehole and Gibbon Rivers), Yellowstone National Park

Today we were at Madison, all seated on the grass together, at the same place that the forefathers of the national park idea had their campfire in 1870.

—"The Symbolic Place"—

There was a mystic atmosphere and a calm joy. A happiness in listening to Yellowstone's historian telling us what had happened here.

There on the grass; the river—small—beyond. Green grass, radiant blue river. Pines in the foreground, then a mountain with its enormous rocky cliffs falling downward from on high. And to one side, children

fishing. Perhaps catch and release.

—The dream made reality: conserve and enjoy.

It was like a communion with the past.

The ideal of everyone, of each of us, of every color, from every continent.

—Stretched out on the ground.

The Africans thinking of their gazelles and giraffes, the Australians of their arid lands (protected). Each one thinking of their protected lands. "Promised." Promised so that others will protect them, sustaining the promise.

—And I (myself) open to this fine moment. With a thorough eye I saw (contemplated) the pine, and I asked if the grass is native. "Yes, I think so." And then, I thought how this grass is the descendent of the grass the expedition members trod.

The land for everyone. For the people ("For the people"). A young woman ran by, jogging beside the river.

And the land is also for the community of animals, for the plants—so that the grizzly bears won't die.

And the bison stopping traffic. Enormous. Bulls. With their horrible heads, sitting on the highway, the traffic stopped.

—Yellowstone. In order to return to the mountains.

It's been a century now since the poets have sung it in the United States. John Muir said: "Thousands of nerve-shaken, over-civilized people are beginning to see that going to the mountains is going home, that wildness is a necessity, as a fountain of life."

—Yellowstone, I don't want to judge you. It's been enough for me to see you, to sit there and contemplate Echinus geyser, shooting its boiling water to the sky, not caring whether those are people or bison that are watching.

(translated from the Spanish by Greg Kroll)



Life After Retirement

Dennis E. McGinnis

Beware the peanut butter!

At our house, my wife does the grocery shopping. Shopping, any kind, holds little excitement for me. Oh, I've shopped a few times during our thirty-five years of marriage. But only on an emergency basis, like the times my wife was incapacitated with the births of our sons, or when illness restricted her mobility.

A while back, the flu knocked my wife out of action. She was still confined to bed on Thursday—her scheduled grocery shopping day.

"Don't worry about the grocery shopping," I comforted my ailing spouse. "Grocery shopping is nothing that a man like me can't handle."

"I don't know, dear," she sighed, "you haven't been shopping since the new system of marking grocery prices has been in effect."

"Good heavens! I'm a trained civil engineer," I said as I pulled in my stomach and squared my shoulders. I can easily handle a little chore like buying a few groceries."

"Well perhaps you can. But don't forget to take your glasses with you, and please try to remain calm."

"Remain calm? What's there to get my blood pressure up purchasing something to eat?"

"Take the grocery list with you, and be sure to check the prices of each item. Have fun."

I waltzed into one of our more up-to-date groceries with the confidence of General Patton. A visual reconnoitering of the store told me there were eighteen identified aisles—A through R—plus several sub-departments, wine cellar, deli, stationery cove, florist, rubber goods and oil (I was surprised to learn what they sold in rubber goods).

To facilitate my campaign, I categorized my shopping list to coincide with the listing for each aisle. With pre-attack details completed, I revved up my shopping cart and steered a course for aisle "A".

Peanut butter—nutty variety, small size—headed my wife's shopping list. No problem developed in locating the peanut butter department. The difficulty surfaced when I looked for the nutty variety,

small size. Contrary to all reasoning, the small size rested on a shelf an inch and a half from the floor.

Remembering my wife's admonition to "check the prices," and after going through a modified half gainer, I snatched a small jar of peanut butter from its lower berth. Not immediately locating the price of the unit, I donned my bifocals. More scrutiny failed to reveal its cost.

Turning to a fellow shopper, who had demonstrated he possessed a taste for peanut butter, I asked "Sir, where do you find the prices?"

"On the edge of the shelf."

"Thanks."

"Don't mention it."

I bent over as far as my ever-expanding waistline permitted to search the bottom shelf for the posted amount of ransom demanded for nutty peanut butter. From this position, it became evident that bifocals were not designed to bring into focus the price. A lower descent was demanded.

I dropped to my knees. Casting my sights in the vicinity of the lower shelf, I discovered my muscles lacked the resiliency to arch my neck to the degree necessary to bring the bifocals into play on the price tag.

I ran my fingers along the shelf edge hoping to find the prices posted in raised letters, but stores don't post prices of their items that way.

Determined not to be defeated in my mission, I paused for a moment to regroup with my head resting against the shelf.

"Look, mama, that old man is saying his prayers," exclaimed a small child tagging along beside her mother's cart. "I wonder why he doesn't say his prayers at home?"

I let that observation pass, for at the moment my patience was becoming a little ragged. Lying on the floor on my right side, and by maneuvering my bifocals, I was finally obtaining a clearer reading of the cost of nutty peanut butter.

My victory celebration was shortened by a stabbing pain in my foot. Looking up, I stared in horror at a shopping cart, stacked high above its gunwhales with

edibles and crawling up my leg. Letting out a loud litany of expletives, I halted its forward motion.

A woman, whose wide girth strongly suggested an over indulgence in peanut butter, appeared in front of the offending vehicle. "Well, I declare! What are you doing lying on the floor?" she demanded. "Are you drunk, or something?"

Wiggling my leg free, I struggled to my feet. Getting my breath, I stuck my tongue out at the astonished lady and limped out of the store.

My wife did the grocery shopping from then on.

Letters

To the Editor:

In his letter to the editor (*Courier*, September 1986), John Sutton has raised the question of professionalism in Jack DeGolia's portrayal of Rudyard Kipling in Yellowstone NP. I submit that any interpretation which is approved by the supervisor, is relevant to basic park themes, is paid for or recognized by the Service, performed by personnel with credentials to do it properly, and is rewarded with accolades from park visitors is "professional" by any reasonable standard.

Regarding the relevancy of Mr. DeGolia's portrayal of Kipling to Yellowstone's themes: The Yellowstone Annual Statement for Interpretation (approved by the Regional Director in February, 1985) says, "As a human institution, an artifact of culture, Yellowstone has evolved from a pleasuring ground to a refuge to a Biosphere reserve and a World Heritage Site." Kipling's commentary on visitor treatment of the "pleasuring ground," precisely stated in DeGolia's performances, is a superb springboard for modern visitor contemplation of the meaning of the place—and, thus, eminently relevant to what Yellowstone is all about.

Mr. Sutton has also questioned Yellowstone staff's adherence to NPS-6, and implied that interpreters who create performances "contrary to Service guidelines" are "detrimental to the professionalism of all Park Service interpreters." NPS-6 is a set of "Guidelines"—they are not codified, they are not legislated, and, above all, they are not absolute. They contain standards, advice, suggested procedures, and a few requirements—most of which are flexible and subject to managerial interpretation and professional

judgment. Yellowstone Chief Interpreter George Robinson is a talented manager with the responsibility and capability to "interpret" our guidelines. Such "interpretation," I submit, is also necessary for NPS-9, and that those "Guidelines," too, permit officers considerable latitude in how, when, and under what conditions they apply the laws and regs.

The intent of the caveat in NPS-6 quoted by Mr. Sutton was to discourage interpreters from taking liberties with well-known historic *personalities*, about whom "personality" characteristics are widely perceived by the visiting public (accurately or not). Examples would include notable personalities such as Martin Luther King, Teddy Roosevelt, and George A. Custer. I believe Kipling was (and *is*) known for his literature, not for his persona or his role as a public personality. Whether Mr. Sutton accepts that rationale or not, it must be noted that Mr. DeGolia strove diligently and successfully for accuracy in appearance, mannerism, and content. Such diligence and success are truer gauges of "professionalism" than myopic adherence to a set of outdated "Guidelines."

As a final note, a team of field interpreters has recently revised NPS-6 at WASO's request. They addressed this issue, presumably found the prohibition lacking in both substance and utility. It has wisely been deleted from the revised edition of NPS-6 now being published by WASO.

Questions about policy (and our adherence to it) are always excellent issues for discussion; such challenges are healthy and necessary reminders of our goals and how they are to be achieved. However, I believe that *no discipline's* "professionalism" is enhanced by an assumption that agency guidelines are ignored, or are necessarily more important than a successful effort which has the support of management, the admiration of fellow professionals, and the appreciation of park visitors.

Bill Sontag
Chief, Division of Interpretation
Rocky Mountain Regional Office

To the Editor:

Here is my answer to a letter about me written by John Sutton of Fort Davis National Historic Site that appeared in your September 1986 issue:

To some, the world is a place of endless limitations. The limitations include NPS-1 through 99 and what your neighbors think. To others, the world is a place of endless possibilities. The possibilities include all that has never been tried, all that was tried once but

didn't work then, and ideas whose times have come.

In the world of endless possibilities interpretation flourishes and breaks new ground. The emphasis is on taking risks, on trying, on growing. And it all gets dutifully recorded as a kind of history in things like NPS-6.

In the world of endless limitations interpretation withers under the restraints of NPS-6 and the history that others more bold and more daring made in some other place and at some other time.

The choice for living and working in either of these two worlds is purely your own. Mr. Sutton and the too many others who have chosen the more limited world do so to the detriment of the national park idea.

I'd rather be an "outlaw" than a "prisoner."

Jack de Golia
Park Ranger
Division of Interpretation
Yellowstone NP

To the Editor:

My response to the myopic invective of John Sutton, Chief Ranger, Fort Davis National Historic Site (*Courier*, Volume 31, Number 9, September 1986):

"Rules are for the obedience of fools and the guidance of wise men" (David Ogilvy).

George B. Robinson
Chief of Interpretation
Yellowstone National Park

To the Editor:

I was interested in your "From the Editor" column in the September *Courier*.

You cannot please every one of your readers, but you should provide *something* of interest for everyone.

Just a word about E&AA news. The facts show that the majority (well over 55% of the membership) are alumni of E&AA. When the *Courier* started back in the 1950s (E&AA was organized in 1955), it was the Employees and Alumni paper; in fact for years the flag carried the notation "Steve Mather's Family Newspaper." Then it was written, edited, and printed by employees on their own time. For years, alumni as well as employees did all the work *on their own time*. It was not until the late '60s or very early '70s that the then-editor of the NPS was elected the editor of the *Courier*. For years NPS had an official newsletter. At the same time we had the printed *Courier*, with the same editor. It was during the term of my chairmanship of the Board that both the Newsletter and the *Courier* were com-

bined and we had one editor, officially an NPS employee, and paid by government funds. Only sad feature was that it became available to *all* NPS employees, as well as *members* of the E&AA. This is one of the reasons we get so few employees as members. They get the *Courier* and they think that is all they get for membership in E&AA. Wait until they retire. They will find out they get *nothing*. Keep up the good work.

George Fry

To the Editor:

The changes in the newsletter are welcome, and I read with interest your intention to reinsert the "New Faces, New Places, Out of the Traces" section.

I have to tell you, though, that I find the "Chats with Madame G" articles repulsive. The information conveyed may be fun or interesting, but the methods, style, etc., are revolting. We don't need more gossip in the parks, and we don't need to even appear to condone her kind of nasty Hollywood-style snickering. You may not be aware of the sort of "everyone knows everyone's personal business" type of lifestyle that many of us live out here in the boondocks. The parks are the consummate example of small town America. There are always the busy-body gossip types, and they need to be defeated, not encouraged.

Thanks for the chance to sound off, and thanks for attempting to improve the *Courier*.

Kathy Dimont
Glacier National Park

(Editor's note: Madame G—should she stay or go? Tell the *Courier*).

COURIER

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