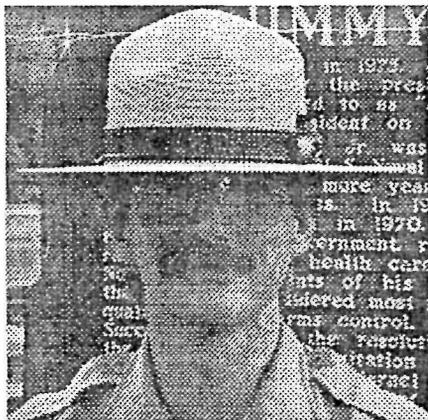


1989
Freeman Tilden
Awards

WINNERS

1989 National Winner Southeast Region

In the past two years **James E Small II** developed an active Volunteer program at Andersonville NHS dedicated to public service and interpretation. For this effort, he is the Southeast Regional and 1989 National Freeman Tilden Award winner. Jim recruited volunteers anticipating the increased visitor interest in the historic site during the 125th commemoration of the Civil War. He sought to provoke through interpretation a deeper appreciation for and understanding of those men and women who were prisoners of war. The volunteer program was structured into three phases: (1) Physical Activity and Participation in Community Service—the volunteers assisted with the actual reconstruction of the stockade wall at



the park; (2) Research and Instruction—volunteers were provided study materials as their preparation exercise for the “shebang” weekend during which visitors and volunteers alike were able to experience the vivid imagery of the meager condition inside Andersonville Prison (a shebang was a makeshift shelter used by prisoners); and (3) Historical Drama—Jim produced a “A Day at Andersonville,” an evening torch-light tour that involved intense, accurate portrayals of activities inside the Andersonville prison. Over 5000 volunteer hours were donated. Jim’s efforts have produced a cadre of volunteers that participated in a unique experience allowing them to reflect on the theme of “Man’s cruel treatment of his fellow man,” and a new interpretive-delivery media at Andersonville (stockade and shebang) for today’s visitors to see, touch, and experience.

Regional Winners

Congratulations to all ten Freeman Tilden Award winners and to National Tilden Award recipient **James Small**. All ten nominations were excellent and the judges had a tough time in their decision. This is the eighth year that the Tilden Award has been presented. It is an award program cooperatively sponsored by the National Park Service and the National Parks and Conservation Association.

This year’s national judging team consisted of Mr James M Ridenour, Director, NPS; Mr Paul C Pritchard, President, NPCA; and Dr Barbara Howe, Professor of Public History, West Virginia University. They based their decision on degree of creativity displayed by the nominee and amount of impact upon the visiting public by the nominee’s interpretive activities.

The National Award ceremony was held in St Paul, Minnesota, in November during the National Association for Interpretation National Workshop. The National winner received a bronze bust of Freeman Tilden and a \$2500 award from NPS. I urge all interpreters to nominate outstanding candidates for the 1990 Tilden Award next spring. Read on to learn of the outstanding accomplishments of your fellow interpreters.

Michael D Watson
Chief, Division of Interpretation



Charles Lennox



Carol Bormeman



William Gwaltney



Richard N Pawling



Mike Whatley



Jeff Selleck



Catherine A Pellarin



Richard Vance

David K Hansen

Alaska Region

Charles (Chuck) Lennox, environmental education specialist/assistant manager at the Alaska Public Lands Information Center in Fairbanks, Alaska, has developed an environmental education program uniquely suited for the interagency context. Upon Chuck's arrival in Fairbanks in 1986, he began building bridges to the local school districts, developing a packet of information for teachers and youth leaders on how to use the Center. Chuck's contacts in teacher workshops and promotion through educational channels resulted in a large increase in visitation to the Center from school groups. Chuck also broadened the program's focus to include groups generally overlooked, such as an ElderHostel program on board the Alaska ferry system, a nature education section in the Alaska Natural History Association's mail-order catalog to insure access to materials by teachers in remote bush areas of the state, and local library programs directed to preschool children. Chuck's enthusiasm for environmental education and interpretation have resulted in greater community awareness and use of the Center's resources. His efforts have resulted in increasing the public's appreciation for national parks and other public lands in Alaska.

Mid-Atlantic Region

Richard N Pawling of Hopewell Furnace NHS has brought to life a man who had been dead for well over a century. This man, George Kephart, held the blue-collar job of "filler" who loaded the Hopewell iron furnace twelve hours a day, seven days a week, with iron ore, limestone, and charcoal. By originating this character, Richard initiated the first true living history program at Hopewell Furnace. Richard's characterization of filler Kephart exists in the year 1836, a year of high prosperity at the furnace. Bearded, roughly dressed, heavily soiled, cheek bulging with tobacco, he greets park visitors at the connecting shed between the furnace and charcoal house. With an opinion on many topics, Kephart weaves Hopewell history with national trends and activities such as canal and railroad construction, new iron-making technology, and the changing demands for iron products. Another characterization, Tom Foster, is the company clerk, the white-collar side of the furnace business. Filler Kephart and Clerk Foster were incorporated into the 1989 summer interpretive program marking the 50th anniversary of Hopewell's establishment as a National Historic Site.

Midwest Region

Catherine A Pellarin at Jefferson NEM is the Midwest Regional Tilden winner. Imagine a group of school children gathered excitedly around a wooden cart covered with a bow of cardboard to simulate the canvas of a prairie schooner. Scattered piles of supplies lie nearby. "What should we take with us to Oregon?" asks the woman in long cotton skirt and sunbonnet, looking more like a pioneer than a ranger. After a spirited discussion the children make their final choices and embark on an hour-long journey along the Oregon Trail. Or, gathered by the sod house in the Museum of Westward Expansion 45 men, women, and children listen with rapt attention as Ranger Pellarin brings to life the Chrisman Sisters, four young women in a new land of opportunity—Nebraska. Carefully weaving in quotes and stories, Cathy leads her audience into the minds and experiences of early sodbusters. Cathy concentrates on the role women and children have played in the settling and civilizing of the West. She fulfills Tilden's principles by revealing meanings and relationships which touch people personal experiences, by giving visitors better understanding and appreciation of their past, by giving life and form to her material, and by giving of herself.

National Capital Region

One would not expect to find a magician at Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens. However, when attending an interpretive program presented by National Capital Regional Tilden winner **Carol Borneman**, one does experience that "magical moment" which reaches into one's emotions and brings about understanding. Imagine a rangeland program where a person barges in, dressed in Reebok high-tops and flashy shorts, with purple hair and blaring radio. This punk rocker is "Cool Carol." She discusses how people may dislike punk rockers because they do not understand them, and how outward appearances often control reactions to others. This leads to discussions about city attitudes towards the outdoors. Another of Carol's characters is "Mother Nature." "Mother" is excellent at teaching pre-school and lower-elementary students about nature. Once again, Carol involves her audiences by including hands-on experiences and relating new concepts to those already familiar to the children. Carol's enthusiasm and effectiveness in teaching youth has prompted many teachers to bring their classes to the Aquatic Gardens. Carol has been instrumental in reaching out to non-traditional audiences. This effort has resulted in a decrease in vandalism in the park and greatly increased support for park programs.

North Atlantic Region

For many years **Mike Whatley** from Cape Cod NS has maintained a reputation as a creative, dedicated, and people-oriented interpreter. His skills and experiences in interpretation range from writing and singing songs to school groups, to major interpretive assignments in the Washington Office. His writing accomplishments include a 32-page book on *Marconi and His Wireless Operation on Cape Cod*; developing the preliminary script for the new NPS Biological Diversity folder; and redesigning the North Atlantic Region's Seasonal Orientation Kit. Mike enjoys performing sea chanteys and other songs he has written about park resources. One of his favorite roles as a historical interpreter is participating in the historic "Beach Apparatus Drill" at Cape Cod. Through his involvement in both the fields of interpretation and resources management, Mike blends the two for the sake of better public understanding and appreciation. In this capacity, he wrote a report while detailed to the Washington Office entitled "Communicating Critical Natural Resource Information to the Public." He served as the Public Information Officer during a recent oil spill at Cape Cod.

Pacific Northwest Region

David K Hansen, Park Curator at Fort Vancouver NHS, is involved with the care and maintenance of the park archeological collections and exhibit furnishings. David has almost single-handedly written and implemented the furnishings plans for the reconstructed buildings at Fort Vancouver. His work in locating and procuring the proper period items for exhibit has been tireless, and his selection and preparation of items for exhibit has been excellent. David spends a good amount of his off-duty time haunting antique sales, flea markets, and garage sales, where he locates items needed for exhibits in the reconstructed buildings. David's contributions to the interpretive efforts of the park have come about due to his enthusiasm for living history activities. His knowledge of the Hudson's Bay Company and Fort Vancouver is encyclopedic and indispensable for conception of the special programs held there. He has been a prime mover in the celebrations of Queen Victoria's Birthday, the Brigade Encampment, Candle Lantern Tour, and Christmas Open House. One notable program involved the recreation of a dinner meal of the 1840s.

Rocky Mountain Region

William Gwaltney from Bent's Old Fort NHS exhibits skills which are exemplary of interpretive excellence. He has singlehandedly taken the Bent's Fort Rendezvous and turned it into a model of what living history programs should be. Through Bill's leadership the Fur Trade Encampment, as it is now called, has set the tone by requiring the accurate portrayal of history through encouraged academic scholarship. Bill has done this through his insistence on historical accuracy, by developing a volunteer orientation packet; by rewarding participant excellence; by creating an outside volunteer support group, and by supporting the concept of an Annual Fur Trade Symposium at Bent's Old Fort. Bill's drive for professional excellence is best noted by his developmental assignment as Site Manager at Frederick Douglass NHS. Going "double time" is a way of life for Bill: while at Frederick Douglass, he took care of business at his home park, and co-chaired the "Second Annual Fur Trade Symposium, Interpreting the Santa Fe Trail and Trade" in 1988. Bill's involvement with recreating the 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, the first Union organization comprised of free blacks from the North in the Civil War, is another illustration of history preserved by this outstanding professional.

Southwest Region

Jeff Selleck from Big Bend NP, is an interpreter who maintains an effective balance between personal services interpretation and a wide array of behind-the-scenes skills which also serve the public. His evening program on birds demonstrates that he understands and practices interpretive principles effectively. In describing the numerous bird species in Big Bend, Jeff goes beyond a mere presentation of facts to include a take-home concept of the natural world. He introduces the idea of habitat as the key in locating and understanding birds within the park. In his conclusion, Jeff reminds visitors that preserving migratory birds in Big Bend requires that tough decisions be made to preserve habitats in developing countries in Central and South America. He provokes listeners to go beyond the bird-watching stage and take action in preserving and caring for the habitats critical to the birds they love. Jeff's concern about professionalism has included writing articles on the history of and international border town near the park, the production of the park's bird checklist, and a new German translation of the park's unigrid map text.

Western Region

Richard Vance, at Lassen Volcanic NP, has accomplished a variety of projects which contribute to his selection for the Regional Freeman Tilden Award. He arranged for the construction of a handicapped trail with volunteer labor, a badly needed facility. Since the closure of the Manzanita Lake facilities in 1974, Dick has worked tirelessly to reopen the historic Loomis structures and the nature trails and picnic area; the reopening of these facilities restore a very significant segment in Lassen's cultural history for park visitors as well as restore local public support for park activities. His efforts have also resulted in the production of an educational video program on volcanology which greatly facilitates the study and understanding of this field of science. He worked closely with the California State University, Chico, to train and develop a group of Bolivian park managers. Finally, Dick has fostered an atmosphere of mutual respect and cooperation with his counterparts in the Forest Service in the operation of an interagency visitor center and in the planning for a larger operation in anticipation of the construction of a larger center. His personal standards for detail is extremely high, and Lassen's interpretive program shows it.