

interpreters  
information  
exchange

# IN TOUCH

produced  
by and for  
nps people  
concerned with  
interpretive  
and visitor  
services

Number 12

March 1976



## SERVICEWIDE GOALS FOR INTERPRETATION - 1976

In these occasionally frustrating times of austerity that are balanced with new opportunity for the National Park Service, we have a special obligation as park interpreters to uphold the vitality and quality of interpretation, to make the best possible use of our limited resources, and to mesh our programs within the overall mission and objectives of the Service.

To these ends the following dozen goals have been singled out for Park interpretive programs during the Bicentennial Year. Director Everhardt has reviewed the goals, agrees with them, and we expect them to be incorporated in the Servicewide goals that will soon be communicated to the field. In the meantime I want to share with you, our grassroots readership, the points of interpretation that will be emphasized in the coming year.

1. The overriding strategy shall be to maintain and improve standards of interpretive services and media. In parks where curtailments of interpretive programs are necessary, they should be applied to a reduction in quantity rather than quality of interpretive services.

2. Interpretation should be employed by park management as a primary means of achieving all management objectives affecting the public. Interpreters should think of themselves as an integral part of the management team and should actively participate in developing and reviewing parkwide objectives and programs.

3. Special emphasis should be placed on increasing public understanding of NPS resource preservation objectives, and resource preservation themes should be

incorporated wherever possible in interpretive programs. No interpretive activities should have an adverse environmental impact.

4. Interpretive programs should incorporate an energy conservation message, both in content and by example.

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<i>Editor</i>	<i>Roy Graybill</i>
<i>Design</i>	<i>Keith Hoofnagle</i>
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UPCOMING MEETINGS OF INTEREST TO NPS  
INTERPRETERS

5. Interpretive programs should strive for greater relevance to cultural minorities.
6. Interpretation should take the initiative in increasing citizen involvement in NPS policies and operations through formal programs and informal contacts that encourage visitor dialogue and feedback. Interpretation should be taking the pulse of the visiting public and passing on what they are saying to management.
7. Environmental education should continue to receive strong emphasis as an integral part of the interpretive function. The incorporation of environmental education concepts and techniques is basic to the development and operation of high quality interpretive programs.
8. Interpretive programs in all parks should incorporate special Bicentennial activities during the year. The Bicentennial should be observed in all areas of the System.
9. Emphasis should be given to interpretive programs that take advantage of outside-Service cooperation and assistance. We should be seeking appropriate alter-

natives to some of our traditional NPS-operated programs through use of cooperative agreements, contracts, and other forms of assistance.

10. Parks should be placing greater emphasis on on-site training for interpreters, taking advantage of videotape and other training packages that have been produced for field use.

11. The soon-to-be-released Guidelines for Interpretation should be used by management as a model for upgrading standards of field interpretive services and programs.

12. All park interpretive programs should be critically reviewed and evaluated for relevance, effectiveness and concordance with Servicewide goals and objectives. Programs that are peripheral or unrelated to a park's primary interpretive themes, programs that have an unusually low visitor-to-interpreter ratio, and programs that require substantial personal service commitments beyond the park and its surrounding community should be scrutinized for possible curtailment. In effect, interpretation should be taking a lead in zero-base program review.

How will your programs measure up?

Bill Dunmire

with a commitment to...  
Secretary of the Interior  
National Association for...  
190 S.W. 78 Street  
Miami, Florida 33132  
July 3-5, 1976  
NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP IN RECONSTRUCTION OF HISTORIC SITES  
North Central Region, 4500  
(Minneapolis, Minnesota)  
Contact: American Assoc. for State and Local History, 1400 5th Avenue South  
Rashville, Tennessee 37203

of...  
Contact: American Association for State and Local History, 1400 5th Avenue South  
Rashville, Tennessee 37203  
July 12-25, 1976  
SEMINAR ON INTERPRETATION OF HISTORY BY HISTORICAL SOCIETIES AND MUSEUMS  
(Museum of the Rockies, Bozeman, Montana)  
Registration Fee: \$30 Apply by  
June 1, 1976  
Limited to 20 select professionals west of the Mississippi River

The Editor has suggested I use this space to introduce myself as NPS Bicentennial Coordinator and let you know some of my thoughts on the Bicentennial.

There is no question that the National Park Service's Bicentennial program has the best quality printed, aural, visual, oral, tactile--you name it--materials and the most exciting construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation projects of any federal agency. During last year's programs, as field interpreters, you demonstrated that you knew what you were about when you related the Bicentennial to your park areas. I've seen the letters praising your Bicentennial talks, your living history programs, and your individual interpretive efforts.

This year, our responsibilities will be even greater. The interpretive materials, the concepts, the new buildings and roads are prepared. Now we have to use them to help visitors understand our country, our parks and themselves in relation to the world around them. The tools and resources have been provided you, the final test is the way you use them on site. And you'll be communicating your message to more people this year than have ever visited national parks before.

My regret is that in the short 7-8 months left of the Bicentennial year I'll never get to meet all of you nor even be able to see a fraction of the many hundreds of fine programs you've planned. I hope to keep up on the events through your Regional Bicentennial Coordinators but if there is something I can do to help, please call me at (202)-343-4961.

The Bicentennial celebrates a nation--not a war. But more than that, in the National Park Service the Bicentennial is an opportunity to interpret parks as places to celebrate all life.

My best wishes for your celebration...

Jean Henderer

UPCOMING MEETINGS OF INTEREST TO NPS  
INTERPRETERS

April 1-4, 1976

WESTERN INTERPRETERS ASSOCIATION  
Annual Conference  
(Palm Desert, California)  
Contact: Western Interpreters Assoc.  
P. O. Box 1441  
Crestline, California 92325

April 5-7, 1976

REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON INTERPRETATION OF  
HISTORIC SITES  
South Central Region, AASLH  
(Independence, Missouri)  
Contact: American Assoc. for State and  
Local History, 1400 8th Avenue South  
Nashville, Tennessee 37203

April 7-10, 1976

ASSOCIATION OF INTERPRETIVE NATURALISTS  
Annual Meeting  
(Center of Adult Education; University  
Of Maryland; College Park, Maryland)  
Contact: Anthony A. Janda, Prog. Chairman  
Association of Interpretive Naturalists  
6700 Needwood Road  
Derwood, Maryland 20855

April 25-27, 1976

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL  
EDUCATION  
Fifth Annual Conference - "New Values for  
a New Century"  
Program will include sessions dealing  
with elementary, secondary, post secondary  
environmental education, industries and  
agencies, and environmental issues.  
(Sheraton-Biltmore Hotel, Atlanta, Ga.)  
Contact: Bonnie McCabe  
National Association for Environ. Ed.  
5940 S.W. 73 Street  
Miami, Florida 33143

May 3-5, 1976

REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON INTERPRETATION OF  
HISTORIC SITES  
North Central Region, AASLH  
(Minneapolis, Minnesota)  
Contact: American Assoc. for State and  
Local History, 1400 8th Avenue South  
Nashville, Tennessee 37203

May 10-14, 1976

SEMINAR ON USE OF HISTORICAL PHOTOGRAPHS  
/sources, care, research, and possibili-  
ties of historical photographs/  
(State Historical Society of Wisconsin;  
Madison, Wisconsin)  
Registration fee: \$25; Apply by April 6  
Limited to 25 select advanced profession-  
als  
Contact: American Assoc. for State and  
Local History, 1400 8th Avenue South  
Nashville, Tennessee 37203

May 24-26, 1976

REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON INTERPRETATION OF  
HISTORIC SITES  
Southwest Region, AASLH  
(Albuquerque, New Mexico)  
Contact: American Assoc. for State and  
Local History, 1400 8th Avenue South  
Nashville, Tennessee 37203

June 7-9, 1976

REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON INTERPRETATION OF  
HISTORIC SITES  
Northeast Region, AASLH  
(Plymouth, Massachusetts)  
Contact: American Association for State  
and Local History, 1400 8th Avenue South  
Nashville, Tennessee 37203

July 12-23, 1976

REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON INTERPRETATION OF  
HISTORIC SITES  
Northwest Region, AASLH  
(Portland, Oregon)  
Contact: American Assoc. for State and  
Local History, 1400 8th Avenue South  
Nashville, Tennessee 37203

July 12-23, 1976

SEMINAR ON INTERPRETATION OF HISTORY BY  
HISTORICAL SOCIETIES AND MUSEUMS  
(Museum of the Rockies; Bozeman, Montana)  
Registration Fee: \$30 Apply by  
June 1, 1976  
Limited to 20 select professionals west  
of the Mississippi River

Everett DeWitt  
Texas A & M University

# FORUM



## PILFERAGE: THE BROKEN TRUST

One of the greatest trusts of the American people accepted by the National Park Service and its employees is the care, preservation, and protection of numerous historical and scientific artifacts and objects. Unfortunately, in too many instances this trust has been broken by a pilfering employee and those responsible for allowing the opportunity for pilferage to exist. In some park areas indications are that the responsibility for the protection of such items is neglected. It is ironic that some will take such great pains to protect against loss by infestation and adverse light, temperature, and humidity, but will be so lackadaisical as to allow conditions or practices to exist that create opportunities for light-fingered employees.

No doubt that in many cases a lack of knowledge is the reason. However, too frequently it is an attitude that protecting against such losses is not the function of the interpreter. Well, the days of the pure disciplines are over. Each discipline today must have in its framework certain traits of many disciplines. Fortunately, there are many interpreters who take protective precautions and try to uphold the people's trust.

Let's ban the unlocked storage cabinet! Now is the time for a closer working relationship between interpretation and protection. For those seeking assistance and advice each region has a Law Enforcement Specialist and a Physical Security Specialist.

Lt. Wayne Z. Maliska  
United States Park  
Police



## RECOMMENDED FOR REHIRE?

One of the most critical functions of a supervisor is the evaluation of an employee, seasonal or permanent. This evaluation is in the form of the permanent's 10-180's or the seasonal's 10-153. The supervisor, based on experience and his own beliefs, must fairly evaluate each of the employees on his staff. The most recent 10-153, Seasonal Employee Evaluation and Rehire Recommendation form, makes this task even more difficult, if not impossible, on a practical basis.

I, like many others, found the old form troublesome to work with; however, this new form clusters most of the original

eighteen elements into only five (six if the seasonal is a supervisor), making it very difficult to give fair weight to all aspects of performance.

Another problem is the "Performance Value Definitions" classified as 1, 2, or 3. This is a fine numbering system, but if the seasonal is rated a single 3 (fails to do what is expected), he is rated as a no-hire. Now the dilemma: What if the supervisor believes the individual has potential and with experience will be an asset to the National Park Service? True, the form allows for a supervisory deviation from the criteria, but the "3" looks bad on the form so supervisors are forced to first fill out the rating summary and then justify his decision by filling out the above elements accordingly. Obviously, this is exactly backwards!

This is a complex area of management and to prepare a fair form is even more difficult. I'd like to hear from seasonals and permanents if they feel this form is unfair and unworkable.

Steven K. Sandell  
District Naturalist  
Everglades NP

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Within my experience as a seasonal employee with the National Park Service, I became aware of a definite lack of interest in naturalist activities (i.e.: walks, slide shows, Visitor Centers) in the National Recreation Area in which I worked. Having interviewed several people who had experience in these areas, I found that the lack of interest is quite widespread. It seems that the visitors to the various NRAs are there primarily to swim, ski, fish, sail, etc., and are not there to study nature. If they were people who wanted to "get

back to nature" it would seem quite logical to attend some park that is geared more for this type of activity. Because of this lack of interest in the naturalist activities, many people believe that they are not needed in the Recreation Areas and therefore neither are the naturalists. This seems quite logical, for if people are not interested, why waste the money.

However, it is because of this lack of interest in natural surroundings by the Recreation Area visitor that the naturalist programs are needed all the more. If the visitor to the Recreation Area is not too concerned with the natural ecology that surrounds him, what is to keep him from leaving waste material wherever he pleases because he cannot see an immediate danger? How are the visitors to be warned of the hazards in the area, such as poisonous dwellers and dangerous geologic formations, if they don't really care to stop in at the information center? It would seem that the naturalists that can go out into the area and reach these people by keeping bulletin boards current and by contacting the visitor firsthand can alleviate many of the problems plaguing the understaffed ranger sections in many parks. If the people can be made to willingly adhere to park regulations the burden of the ranger section might be lightened somewhat, and quite possibly the visitor would enjoy his stay even more.

At first glance it may seem that naturalist activities are a waste of time and money where National Recreation Areas are concerned. However, a second look at the reason people are not interested in the naturalist activities might be the very reason they are needed all the more.

Everett DeWolfe  
Texas A & M University

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

## THE CRAFT OF HISTORY

Once the craft of history was practiced in the National Park Service with great enthusiasm and integrity. It still exists. It is still practiced. But it has gone underground, relegated there by the subtle pressures and ridiculing of popular philosophy. We respond now to the more seductive tunes and tempers of advertising agencies and sensitivity sessions. We use their media tools; we practice their psychology and sociology. And those tools and practices may be legitimate, necessary, even long overdue. But we are finding out--the hard way--that our purposes, our resources, our rewards have little in common with the ambitions of the selling, entertainment, and happiness industries by whom such practices are usually used. So we struggle, visibly and painfully, to resist the opportunism and superficiality of that world. But the craft of history appears to have disappeared, to have succumbed, little used or little wanted.

The loss of the craft--or the appearance of loss--is explainable. Now, when the past is so often packaged with either fast pacing and neon lights or a homey and nostalgic stage set, the craft of history seems a stodgy nuisance. It requires patience and arduous work. It gives gray "maybes" or "not necessarilys" when easy black and whites would be more dramatic. It labors under some disciplines, some principles that do not always permit history to be a handy tool for social causes. It trades in factual information, but performs its greatest service by learning how the bare bones of fact are most honestly and understandably assembled. It should consider big and timeless questions. And like any craft, it requires craftsmanship - that intangible blend of love and respect and thorough knowledge of the materials, the

practices, and the practitioners involved.

Historical craftsmanship may still be found - in the work of a field interpreter whose informational handouts or walking tours have come from hours spent reading books and walking battle-lines and thinking. It is evident in the work of a Denver Service Center historian who has translated a deed or will into a previously unknown fact about the building of a historic house. It may be exercised by the park manager whose planning is based on a knowledge and appreciation for the park's purpose. And in a central office, we try to put its precepts and methods to use in the thoughtful reviewing and directing of some Service plans and publications and projects.

But that's not to say that we all agree on how or where the craft of history should be practiced - or that there is any agreement within the Service that history - as a craft - should be practiced. We approach our tasks with different needs and different experiences. And sometimes like the proverbial Indian blind men, we clutch our piece of the Service's anatomy and insist that our part of the elephant is the only one.

In a subsequent issue of "In Touch", I would like to share with you a trio of reflections on the craft of history as practiced in the park service. The reflections deal with our assumptions about the past, our professional ethics, and our practitioners. Those reflections represent a personal philosophy, almost a personal cause, that has evolved from a range of experiences in and out of the Service. I'll welcome your thoughtful reading and response to them.

Marcella Sherfy  
Staff Historian  
Division of History



Having graduated in 1973, I am not too far removed from the ill-timed final exams which happen to be scheduled right in the middle of preparing my interpretive tricks and trivia for the quickly approaching season.

As it happens generally, the new seasonal is inundated with tomes of knowledge concerning every imaginable discipline that can be contained within a single park's boundaries of carrying out the mission of the Stetson, also comes the awe and sigh of relief, knowing you "MADE IT!"

But, back to our nickel-knowledge of Sierra National Park, How can all of this be ingested, digested, assimilated, mulled over and kicked around while pulling all-nighters with the Topology and Its Functions in the Matriarchal Cosmographic Schema of Thingz?

We are to put together a "real grabber" for the hoards of visitors who, with the same awe of the Stetson as a new seasonal has, soak up every last word. Sure, the twelveteen hours of Public Speaking and 96 hours of Bio, History, or Geology are great for our UNDERSTANDING.

But what properly constructed bit of Sophoclea is going to turn on a lathe operator from Cleveland---huh? How is the new seasonal going to get the 8 year old and the octogenerian both into the WHY, WHAT IFS, BEFORES AND AFTERS, THE SMELL THISES AND FEEL THATS OF THE LIVING PARK? Not from any college 301 level course. No!

They are going to get down to learning various interpretive techniques by watching, listening, experimenting and counseling. Here is my plan:

1) Record the various daily talks and evening programs on cassettes-make several different copies. Then weed

out the so-so programs and keep the dynamic, the innovative, the grabbers indigenous to the park.

2) For each of the grabber talks retained, draw up a corresponding booklet that points up strengths and differences in approach in them; somewhat similar to the national interpretive training package.

3) Send each new seasonal a cassette, the corresponding booklet, and some park information. This way, the new seasonal could pick out the different techniques he may wish to employ in his interpretive messages. Building up information is later.

When the seasonal EODs, he will have had exposure to what was expected of him and maybe had a little head-start in putting together some programs. This then would save the 8 to 12 hours spent on preparing interpreters during training. Also, if at the beginning of the season his programs are not working out, or if he wants to experiment further, he can. Communication Specialist or Interpretive Specialists and seasonals will also have a common point of reference when developing ideas.

Most everybody can get their hands on a cassette to prepare for the season. This material might allay anxieties and make for some downright decent interpretation. Piggybacking of ideas and brainstorming could arise from this. At least from this idea, parks could snip away the "Irish pennants" in their programs alot sooner and with less mediocrity. Constant evolution is going to make us better---so said good ole Chuck Darwin---

Thanks for listening.

Jim O'Brien  
Seasonal Interpretor  
Perry's Victory & I.P.M.



★ ★

Uniforms for women in the Park Service have come a long way since the green skirts, nylons, and high-heeled pumps that were the standard for office work as well as leading hikes some years ago. But after returning this fall from a five-week trip to western and midwestern parks, my husband and I agree uniformity for women in the Park Service still has a long way to go.

In visitor centers and along the trails, we saw an unbelievable array of uniform combinations--everything from the traditional gray and green and the new green knit uniforms to pieces of the new knits worn with the former beige uniforms. We even saw one new employee wearing a nametag on a white shirt and a pair of green corduroy jeans with a big patch on the seat. No wonder visitors are confused as to who is a ranger!

Even parks which have adopted the new uniforms showed inconsistency. Some do not allow women in direct visitor contact wear the traditional green and gray uniforms. This means leading hikes and patrolling in knit uniforms that constantly snag and run on sticks and bushes. Other parks do not allow women to wear the hat. Some refused to give women badges.

In the mind of the visitor, a "ranger" is the person he finds on the trail, at a visitor center, or in the campground, who can give him the information, assistance, or emergency aid he is seeking. Over the years, the "ranger" has earned instant recognition in the green and gray uniform, badge, and hat. We should not be stumbling over a matter of a "men's" uniform or a "women's" uniform. We should be concentrating on putting both men and women into the traditional garb of a ranger of the National Park Service.

I wore the former green skirt and nylons, and the "beige pajamas," as one visitor described them, and I was often mistaken for such things as a Girl Scout, a ticket-taker, and "the lady who takes lodge reservations." For the last year and one-half, I have worn the traditional green and gray uniform, and I have been recognized and respected as a ranger.

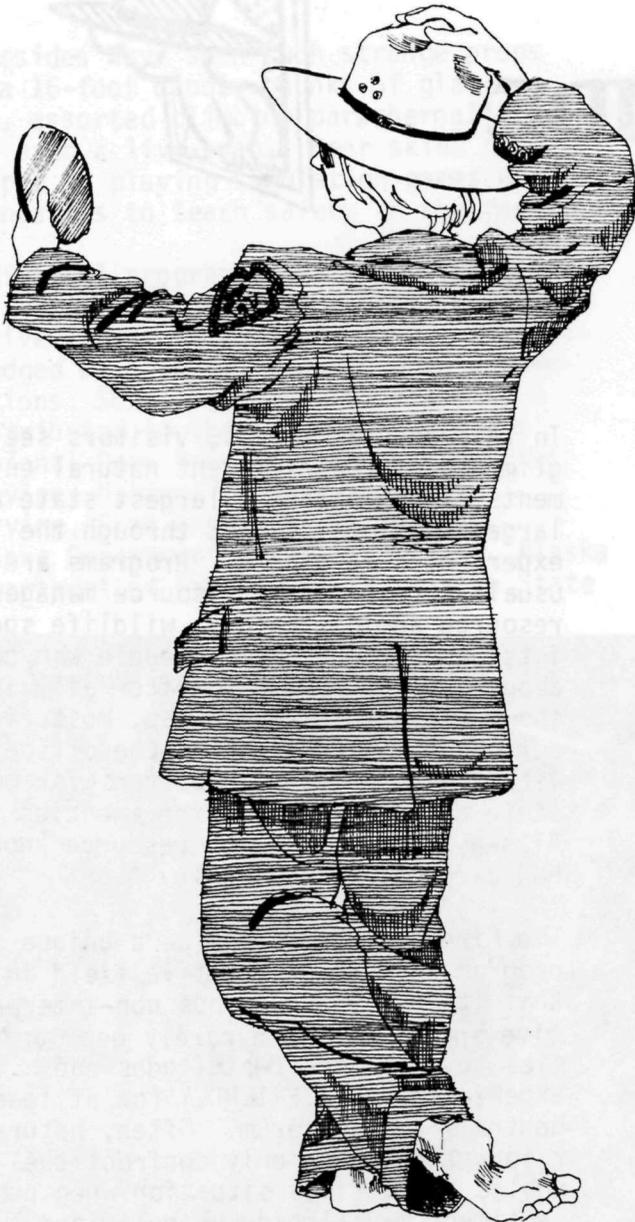
I would hope superintendents and uniform committees throughout the Park Service will take a good look at the uniformity in their parks right now. Are there visitors in your parks who are hindered in their recognition of some rangers because not all are allowed to wear the complete and traditional uniform of the Park Service? Let's not play guessing games with our visitors. They deserve to know a ranger when they see one.

Connie Toops  
Free-Lance Interpreter  
Everglades National Park  
Shenandoah National Park

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

There is an item in the Keep It Alive! booklet of the Visitor Services Training Series which I would like to bring to your attention. I was sent this booklet to read before I came to work for the NPS for the first time. On reading the following paragraph, I experienced some apprehension as to what type of intelligence would be found in the NPS organization I was about to enter.

"The ladies, God bless'em, deserve special attention. Let's consider them. These



delicate creatures, who generally out-live us, and who sometimes can out-hike, out-work, out-bowl, and out-think us, very often have definite ideas. Now a man can function if necessary, in an unattractive, even ragged and dirty costume as a blacksmith, soldier, or what have you. But most of the gals work best if they feel they're reasonably attractive." (Underlining is mine.)

I find the tone of this paragraph patronizing and insulting. Ladies deserve "special consideration"...delicate creatures." Yet by some freak of circumstance, they can occasionally (but not too often) out-hike or out-bowl (at least they aren't recognized as out-footballing men--think of the blow to male ego should that occur) men. Notice that the author uses "us" not "men," therefore, I conclude that the booklet is not directed toward Park Service personnel, but to Park Service males. He continues with an assertion that men can do their work should their costume be soiled or ragged; I infer that he believes women are so concerned over trivial matters of appearance that they could not likewise "function." I have inferred here that the author meant "women" although he used the word "gals," a word which not only is offensively patronizing, but also one which defies definition in my dictionary.

Deborah R. Wade  
Seasonal Park Technician  
Everglades NP

★ ★ ★

# ON THE OUTSIDE



Not far from Juneau, Alaska, one can find one of Alaska's top visitor attractions—the Mendenhall Glacier. During summer, visitors arrive from far and wide to see the 100-foot cliffs of blue ice of Juneau's impressive glacier. The 2 mile wide Mendenhall Glacier flows between several mountains and lies entirely within the Tongass National Forest. In the rainy environment of Southeast Alaska, the Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center (the first ever built by the Forest Service in 1962) provides a comfortable shelter for the glacier viewer.

During winter, the number of visitors from "outside" diminishes and the visitor center moves to a weekend schedule to accommodate visitors and Juneau folks. This is the cabin fever period in Alaska and programming is planned to stimulate, inform, and entertain audiences with a variety of environmental, resource, and recreational subjects. The Forest Service, in cooperation with several agencies, organizations, and individuals, presents a series of weekly interpretive programs known as the Fireside Programs.

The visitor center has a large rock fireplace in the main observatory room which provides the thematic backdrop for the annual winter series. The '75-'76 season will provide Juneauites (and other visitors too!) with their 12th season of Firesides.

In this popular series, visitors see glimpses of the different natural environments of the nation's largest state and largest National Forest through the experiences of others. Programs are usually presented by resource managers, resource administrators, wildlife specialists, and often just by people who care about our environment. After all, in the snowy winter of the Tongass, most field personnel are confined to the office, and with Juneau being headquarters for many state and federal resource agencies in Alaska, the people with resource know-how are readily available.

The Fireside Series may be a unique program in the interpretive field in that it involves numerous non-interpretive specialists who rarely get opportunities to share their attitudes and experiences in a FRIENDLY (or at least neutral) public forum. Often, natural resource managers only confront the public in a crisis situation when public sentiment may already be polarized. The Fireside idea is to promote resource understanding in a positive atmosphere, thereby reducing some of the potential for conflicts at decision-making time. This, after all, is one of the objectives of the Visitor Information Service (VIS) of the Forest Service. And in Juneau, there is some indication that the Firesides affect the climate of opinion in local FS decisions.

Firesides have seen such strange props as a 16-foot canoe, chunks of glacier ice, assorted climbing paraphernalia, and even a live swan. Bear skins have helped in playing simulation games with youngsters to teach safety in the forest.

Individual programs last about 1 hour and have ranged from mere "chats" to Native Indian dance performances to full-fledged multi-media audio-visual presentations. Some of the agencies who have contributed to the series include the National Park Service, National Weather Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Alaska Department of Public Safety, Alaska State

Museum, various departments of the City and Borough of Juneau, private guides and outfitters, and local recreation/outdoor clubs.

What started as a way to utilize an expensive facility in the very slow off-season has become a Juneau institution---one which many families eagerly await in the fall. So, if you would like more information about the Mendenhall Glacier Winter Fireside Programs, drop a line to:

John Knorr, Forest Naturalist  
Juneau Work Center, USFS  
P. O. Box 1049  
Juneau, Alaska 99802



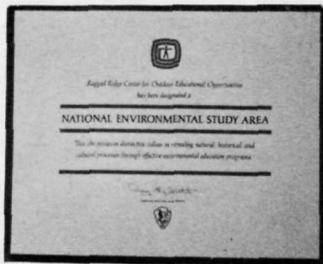
# RAP UP

## ENVIRONMENTAL CLIPS

Some exciting things are stirring in the name of environmental education throughout the System.

In WASO the new NESA application and criteria forms are now being printed. As soon as received they will be distributed to the field areas through the regional offices. All new environmental study areas that meet the NPS criteria for NESA status will receive a NESA certificate. NESAs already existing in park areas will also receive a certificate indicating their status as such in the near future.

Out of the Pacific Northwest has come our newest National Environmental Study Area, the first to be officially entered on the rolls under our new certification program. This is the Ragged Ridge Center for Outdoor Educational Opportunities of Whitworth College, in Spokane, Washington. After Director Everhardt made this designation, Regional Director Russ Dickinson presented the first of the new NESA certificates, pictured below, to Mr. Merle Prater, Director of the program.



The Ragged Ridge Curriculum Manual has "230 model lesson plans for specific outdoor education activities" involving several curriculum areas--the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences. Those of you who are interested in purchasing this booklet may obtain one by sending \$8.50 to Merle Prater, Ragged Ridge Center, Whitworth College, Spokane, Washington, 99251.

Glenn Hinsdale, Interpretive Specialist (Environmental Education in this case) for the PNWRO, has again created some "Environmental Quickies." His latest topics (shown below along with two "oldies") include "The Environmental



Strands." "...NEED Program in the Pacific Northwest Region," "Activities that Illustrate Concepts," and the exciting "Three-Semi-hypothetical Teachers--A Legend." Write directly to Glenn for your copies.

From the Southeast Region we have received sample copies of "hugged a tree today?" a new, multicolored STEP brochure. This pamphlet stresses STEP Awareness Leadership Training through use of the senses for discovery, order, wonder, and identification with places by high school students. Write to SERO, Division of Interpretation, if you wish copies.

...Now tell us what's going on in your park or region in environmental education. Others of our interpreters would like to share your experiences.

Stan Lock



At the Western Region Interpreter's Conference, Bill Dunmire asked for tools of the trade that have worked for us. Here's mine:

A blind person, child, or even adult often has a difficult time getting a feeling for how high a 200 foot redwood really is. Cut dowels into 1½" lengths. "If you pretend you're a 200 foot redwood tree, a visitor to the park is as tall as this dowell." Twenty to thirty dowells will give each person in a group his or her own "visitor" to compare with, and will be cheap and easy to make.

Now I have a request for help from Harpers Ferry. With all their expertise with

tools, techniques, new products, etc., I'd like to see them share. They could go a long way toward improving park-made exhibits and signs by providing some helpful hints. Example:

When color is needed for a temporary sign, pencils, paint, etc., can be messy and less than professional. Matte acetate color films are sheets of plastic color which are transparent. They are peeled off of a backing, laid on the sign, cut along the outline with a razor blade, and the excess is removed. The area is then rubbed (burnished) to seal the film. This may not be the cheapest method for applying color, but it does produce pleasing results. Available at art and drafting supply stores.

Thanks.

Jim Tuck  
Park Technician  
John Muir NHS



WANTED:

GOOD IMAGES - CURRENT or HISTORIC FOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE PICTURE LIBRARY

If you have a fine original personal slide or negative collection of NPS areas and related subjects (or know someone else who has one) and would like to find a good home for their protection and use, you should consider donating them to WASO's Picture Library.

The Photo Library is always interested in outstanding additions to supplement the Park Service collection.

We are interested in current or historic

material - all should be captioned as to location, date and photographer.

Several years ago the Historic Thompson collection was acquired by gift. The donor bought the collection and a rocking chair for \$20.00. We received a priceless collection, and the donor kept the rocking chair for his retirement.

Every year there must be a lot of Park Service retirees who have some outstanding items which will eventually be discarded by them or their families. Why not place the images wisely while still in full control. Don't leave it to chance.

Frederick R. Bell  
Visual Information Specialist  
WASO - Picture Library

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

#### DARK SIDE OF THE EARTH

As we followed a trail leading across the prairie, the silence was broken by a high pitched shrill. Not far away on a hill a pronghorn antelope sounded off again. We stood to look at him before he ran off over the other side.

On we went until we eventually hiked up to Lookout Point. We sat on the hill top and took in the view. In the distance barely within our sight, traveled about 40 elk heading north along a ridge. Stretching out behind the ridge layed the flat prairie of South Dakota. Behind us were the dark pine covered Black Hills.

It all seemed so perfect. The fact that there were fifty of us on the hill and it was 11:15 p.m. just added to my amazement. Everyone knows that crazy things happen during a full moon. This was no exception.

For a long time I have enjoyed hiking by moonlight. Wind Cave National Park is ideal for night walking even without a moon because you don't have to worry about bumping into a tree. The moon does make it nice though, one wouldn't want to step on a bison.

Perhaps I wanted to make sure that I wasn't luney--wanting to hike during full moons. I wanted to see if other people would join me. Dale Smith, Chief of I & I at Wind Cave, liked the idea of a moonlight hike for visitors.

I studied up on the activity of park wildlife at night--the prairie dogs sleep, the seasonals play cards, etc. Lunar geology and night vision seemed to be appropriate subjects. The increase in out-door lighting causing a decrease in visible constellations also was worthy of some mention.

Where should we hike? No more than a three mile round trip, the route I decided on followed an easy trail. It stayed clear of most trees so that "moon shadows" would not cause problems. Figuring that the top of Lookout Point would be a good spot to sit and enjoy the silvery night, I checked for cactus. Everything was ready. We only had to wait for the right time of the month. Provided the skies are clear, the moon shines brightly enough for at least ten nights. Five nights were enough for me since I led cave tours during the day and tried this on my own time.

A few signs and some announcements after cave tours told of the Moonlight Hike. During the evening campfire programs the hike was mentioned again. Hikers gathered together after the program. As the moon came over the trees there were almost fifty people ready for the adventure.

We all got into cars to drive to the trailhead. As I led this line of cars with headlights glowing the thought of a funeral procession crossed my mind, on a full moon yet! All headlights went out when we parked. Next came the flash lights when we all gathered. "You may bring flashlights if you wish just as long as you don't turn them on," I said. "From now on we'll travel by moonlight."

The Moonlight Hike revealed our own world in a different light while another world, the moon, hung above like a magnet pulling at our imaginations. There are as many interpretation possibilities for this activity as there are craters on the moon. Think up your own. But I must warn you, don't forget what Lon Cheney, Jr. once said, "Even a man who's pure in heart and says his prayers by night, can become a wolf when the wolfbane blooms and the moon is full and bright."

Kevin Sutter  
Seasonal Naturalist  
Wind Cave National Park



#### SNOW CAVE AT ROCKY

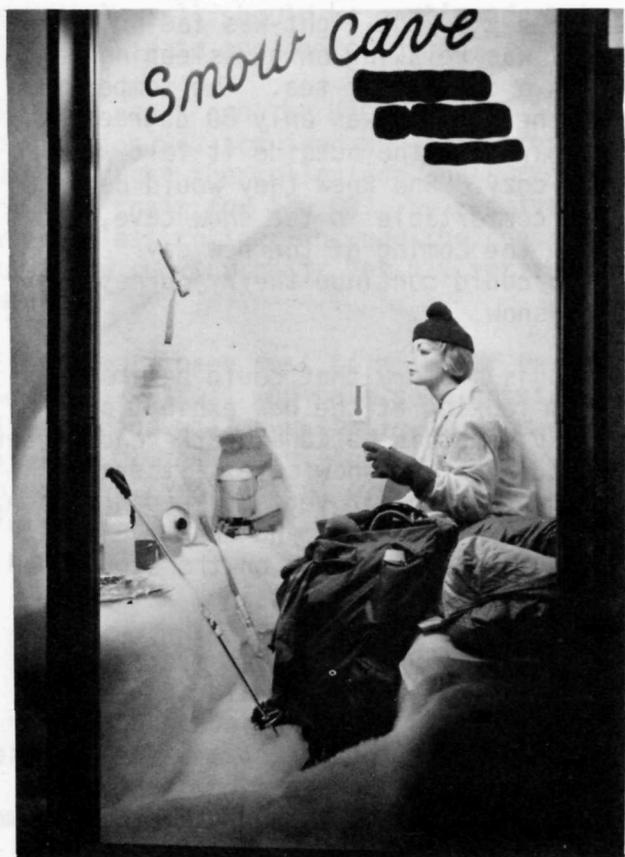
It started out as a clear calm winter day, a good time for that overnight trip to Loch Vale. The trek over the snow was pleasant, with fresh crystals sparkling on every tree and bush. However, in the afternoon the sky turned cloudy and a chilly wind began blowing the fluffy new snow off the peaks. The two skiers needed a shelter and they were prepared to make it.

By the time the light was fading, the girl was relaxing on her sleeping bag with a cup of hot tea. The temperature in the shelter was only 30 degrees, but compared to the outside it felt warm and cozy. She knew they would be safe and comfortable in the snow cave, and with the coming of the new day they could continue their journey over the snow.

Such is a story that could be imagined from looking at the new exhibit at the Rocky Mountain National Park headquarters building. The snow cave is there, complete with air vents, sleeping bench, low entrance, stove and candle niches, snow melting in a pot on the stove, and skis and snowshoes outside.

Winter camping has become ever more popular the past few years at Rocky Mountain, and with the increased winter use, there is the potential for increased hazard. With this in mind, the Park wanted an exhibit that would stress some of the safety precautions winter travelers should know about. Hence the idea of the snow cave, the brainstorm of Marj Dunmire, formerly a seasonal technician and now sales manager for the Rocky Mountain Nature Association.

With a bit of scrounging for some old chicken wire, sheets, and a few other odds and ends, the project got under way. A few weeks later, with an expenditure of of under \$20 for the polyester fiber quilt batting used to give the illusion of snow, Clara, the manikin, was sitting on her sleeping bag munching a biscuit and sipping tea. Beside her is a pack with some of the other necessities of winter camping, and on the shelf opposite are a first aid kit, extra candles, matches in a water proof container, rubber gloves for digging, a repaired ski pole, etc.



Because of the variety in the types of snow shelters that can be made, Bob Haines and Marj worked up a mimeographed handout to give to people who are interested in knowing more about snow shelters and/or are going out in winter. Types of shelters include the snow trench, snow cave, and igloo.

We hope our winter travelers will enjoy safe and comfortable trips into the back-country this year.

Dwight Hamilton  
Chief Park Naturalist  
Rocky Mountain NP

★ ★ ★ ★

#### DOUBLE CRATING ARTIFACTS FOR SHIPMENT

Museum objects are subjected to a greater chance of damage when they are in transit. Changes in humidity and temperature levels, vibration, and mishandling combine to cause rapid deterioration or breakage of artifacts. The practice of double crating objects before travel increases the chances for its survival.

When objects are shipped REA, air freight, or parcel post it is essential to allow this extra measure of protection. Any artifact, whether it is fragile or in stable condition, deserves to be packed carefully before it is transported.

Double crating is simply enclosing an artifact firmly with packing material, in a can, box, or crate and then floating this inner container in a large box with ample cushioning material. Excelsior is recommended to fill the 6" clearance from the inner crate to the inside of the outer crate.

Measures must be taken to prevent water damage to the enclosed artifacts. A silica gel bag placed with the artifact prevents high humidity from damaging the object. Covering the inner crate with polyethylene lessens the chance of damage if the package is left out in the rain.

The packing list, a copy of the catalog card, and, if available, a photograph, should be attached to the outside of the inner package.

The address and return address should be marked clearly on the outer package. Special attention should be called to the person for whom the package is intended.

Information on general packing and shipping procedures as well as instructions for transporting specific types of artifacts is available from Harpers Ferry Center. When in doubt call HFC.

Sharon L. Sutton



### GOGA's Fog Game

Ever wonder how to interpret a fog horn? You can stand on a chair and yell "Beee-ohhh," or you can try a new game devised by the interpretive staff at Fort Mason in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

Park Technician Lee Shenk came up with an idea one foggy San Francisco day. Having lived near the Bay most of his life, he was familiar with the numerous fog signals around the Golden Gate and harbor. To a native of the area, each horn has its own recognizable sound and length of blast, depending upon its location. To the casual visitor or land-locked resident, however, the cacophony of sounds near the water is pure chaos.

Lee came up with the idea of making a practical demonstration of how the fog signals worked in unison to protect and guide ships. Basically, park visitors become fog horns and ships, and "guide" a fog-shrouded ship safely into San Francisco Bay.

A large map of the Golden Gate and Bay was sketched out in a parking lot next to the Fort Mason headquarters building, and the location of the various light

houses and fog horns marked on it. About 10 visitors are asked to volunteer to be "horns" and stand at the appropriate locations. One visitor plays "Coast Guard Computer" and his job is to point to the different horns to tell them to blow. Finally, a "ship" is chosen, taken outside the harbor entrance, and blindfolded.

The ship is turned around like in blindman's bluff, and then has to navigate correctly to his berth by listening to and avoiding the various horns.

The computer points to each horn and the sequence of sounds is the name of each fog signal's location, said in a fog-horn voice, "Lands End," "Point Bonita," "Al-catraz" and so on.

By studying the map and the signal location before hand, the ship can easily remember what the best route is and have to get to his safe anchorage by navigating first towards, and then avoiding, the obstacles.

Although at GGNRA the San Francisco Bay is used, any Park near a harbor with fog horns nearby can easily follow this same idea. On the first trial-run, the 7-year-old ship-visitor easily made it past Alcatraz and Fishermen's Wharf before running into Yerba Buena Island (his mother) and sinking in 15 fathoms. The group related well to the game and expressed the thought that finally all that "noise out there" made sense. Try it and see for yourself if you can't even develop it further with sound-makers or flashlights for a night game. It works.

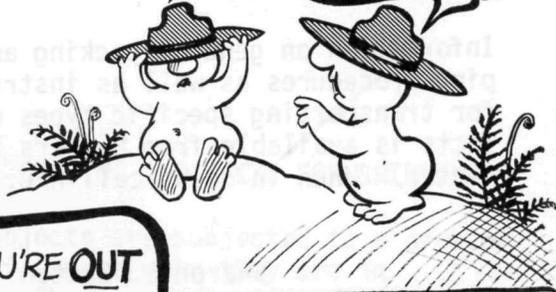
John Martini  
Golden Gate National  
Recreation Area



# THE RANGEROON'S GUIDE TO WORKING AT THE V.C. DESK

RANGEROON?  
WHAT'S A  
RANGEROON?

YOU'RE A  
RANGEROON AND  
I'M A RANGEROON.  
THEY HAD TO CALL  
US SOMETHING!



WHAT? YOU'RE OUT  
OF GOLDEN AGE  
PASSPORTS?  
I'M OLD ENOUGH  
FOR ONE AND I  
WANT IT NOW  
!!!

BE PLEASANT  
WITH THE VISITOR  
EVEN IF HE'S  
IRRITATED  
!!!

55 SORRY  
55 SIR!



1.

I HATE YOU!

OH, THAT'S NICE!



ACT AS IF YOU'RE  
ANSWERING THAT  
QUESTION FOR  
THE FIRST  
TIME, EVEN IF  
YOU'VE ALREADY  
ANSWERED IT  
1,000 TIMES!

OH, I'M  
SO GLAD YOU  
ASKED THAT  
QUESTION!  
THE REST ROOMS  
ARE LOCATED OVER  
THERE...



2.

...BE WITH YOU IN A MINUTE,  
SIR... THIS IS KOF-700 ALPHA  
... I MEAN, GOOD AFTERNOON,  
KOSCIUSZKO HOUSE,  
OOPS, ER, SORRY, WRONG  
LINE...

TRY TO HANDLE THE PARK  
RADIO, INTERCOM, TELE-  
PHONE, AND VISITORS  
ONE AT A TIME. OTHER-  
WISE IT CAN GET A BIT  
CONFUSING!

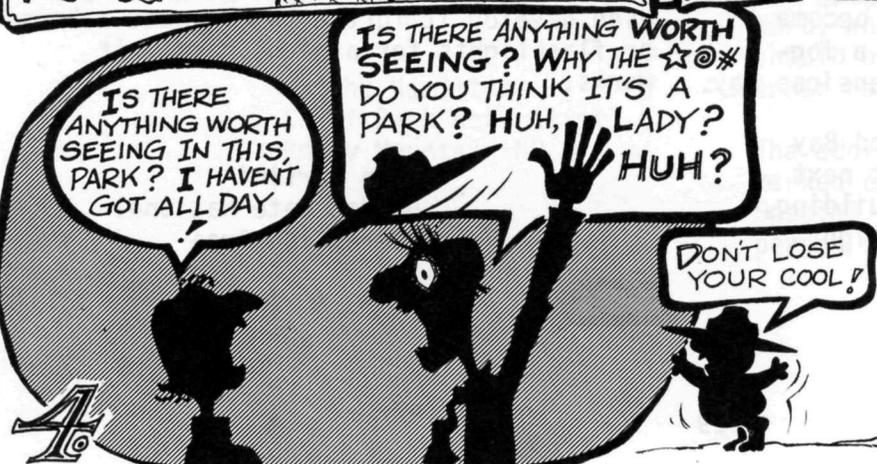


3.

IS THERE ANYTHING WORTH  
SEEING? WHY THE ☆@\*  
DO YOU THINK IT'S A  
PARK? HUH, LADY?  
HUH?

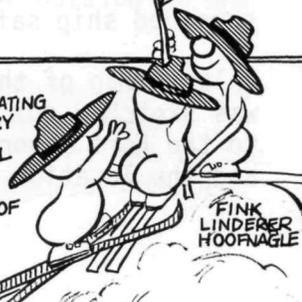
IS THERE  
ANYTHING WORTH  
SEEING IN THIS  
PARK? I HAVEN'T  
GOT ALL DAY

DON'T LOSE  
YOUR COOL!



4.

COMMEMORATING  
THE HONORARY  
MEMORIAL  
BICENTENNIAL  
CROSS-  
COUNTRY  
SKI CLIMB OF  
MAUNA LOA  
FEB. 19  
'76



FINK  
LINDERER  
HOOFNAGLE

hoofnagle  
HAVO