

NEWSLETTER



THE ASSOCIATION OF NATIONAL PARK RANGERS

Volume VII, Number 1

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National Park Service

Rangers ascending Harper Glacier on Mount McKinley in Denali National Park.

Alaska!

Roger Contor, Alaska Regional Director

Alaska! One of the few states where an exclamation point is right at home following its name. A state that conjures up all manner of mental images . . . you have one now even as you read this.

What makes this state so unique? So different? It is often heard as a well-worn “. . . but Alaska’s different.” But is it really *that* different? Well, we think it is, but the difference is within the state. From the misty rain forests of Southeast, across the arctic tundra of the North Slope, over the spruce and birch boreal forest of the Yukon valley, to the windswept volcanoes of the Aleutians stretch some of our newest—and oldest—national park areas.

It is hard to pin down the essence of Alaska, to separate myth from reality, and fact from fiction. But that’s exactly what we’ve tried to do in this Newsletter. Many of the authors have been associated with Alaska for years; some have been here but a short time. We hope that brings perspective to what you may already know about the state, or what you may learn.

Is Alaska for you? Well, only you can answer that, but we have tried to increase your information base. Whether or not a position is the same as many in established parks “outside,” or the “ultimate challenge”, depends on where you go, what park area you choose, and who you are. I can tell you there is something for everyone, be you interpreter or EMT, climber or scientist, seasonal or permanent. Whatever your next assignment—regional office, park headquarters, or wilderness ranger station—Alaska may, or may not, be the place.

We hope that the articles in this issue will at least answer some questions, or prompt you to know the right questions to ask the next time you see a vacancy announcement that says “Duty Station: Nome . . .” or . . . Sitka . . . Eagle . . . King Salmon . . .

Editor's Notes

The features on Alaska in this issue nicely illustrate both the evolution of story ideas and the sometimes complicated logistics involved in getting them into print.

The entire process began with a chance discussion over a beer at Fontana Lodge a year and a half ago. Dave Mihalic was talking about life in Eagle, and how John McPhee had gotten only part of the story in his account of life there in *Coming Into The Country*. Well, then, would he like to write something about life on the Park Service frontier for the Newsletter? Dave said he'd think about it, but that others could probably express themselves better than he could.

Around the middle of last year, Dave took a shot at capturing some of the feel of working in a national park in Alaska. After some discussion about the article, though, it was decided that a better approach would be to get several people to write about separate aspects of the Alaskan story.

So, at Las Vegas, an impromptu meeting was held at poolside one hot afternoon. Dave, Bryan Swift, Bob Cunningham, Dave Morris and I eschewed the siren call of the pool's cool waters and sundry refreshments to work out a multi-faceted approach to the subject.

By November, story topics, authors and lengths had been worked out through calls and letters, both of which illustrate one aspect of the Alaskan reality—communications hassles.

The phone connection between Eagle and Lincoln was almost as good as that between Houston and Tranquility Base. After passing through satellite relays from Eagle to Talkeetna and Talkeetna to Portland, then land lines across the continent, voices tend to sound like computer synthesized speech heard underwater, and the relay delays cause people to talk simultaneously on occasion. Pure Twilight Zone.

Letters take awhile to make the multi-thousand mile trip, and often are delayed for the most unusual reasons. Dave's article, for instance, was late because it was 50 degrees below zero in Eagle and he couldn't fly it out to the nearest government-approved mailbox—perhaps the all-time best reason ever offered for missing a deadline.

But the issue was finished more or less on time, and is presented to you with considerable effort and pride by your fellow members in the Alaskan parks. We hope you find it an interesting and fairly lucid account of the evolution, management, and life within these great parks.

The deadline for the next issue is April 27th. If you've arranged a contribution, please circle the date on your calendar.

Letters

Editor:

There are two issues I would like to address with the Association of National Park Rangers membership and board of directors so that consideration might be given to taking a formal position on both issues. Each of these items can potentially cause major changes in the character of the National Park Service and its mission.

OMB circular A-76, which has a history older than many ANPR members (1955), is being acknowledged as reality today by the National Park Service. The seriousness in the atmosphere around A-76 has struck home, and many of our coworkers in maintenance operations are looking at an uncertain future.

Time and time again we hear the phrases "team effort and team work" in discussions centered on the mission of the NPS. Indeed, as each of us wraps up a days work, it was team work that protected the resources, enhanced the public's understanding and provided them with a safe visit to their parks. Now we are faced with the realization of losing a team member that has, through the history of the NPS, proven to be a most effective member. The time invested in molding and building the NPS team has paid off consistently for the players and fans alike. Will that investment be guided or will we, as Mr. Jarvis, Director of Federal Activities, National Parks and Conservation Association, stated at

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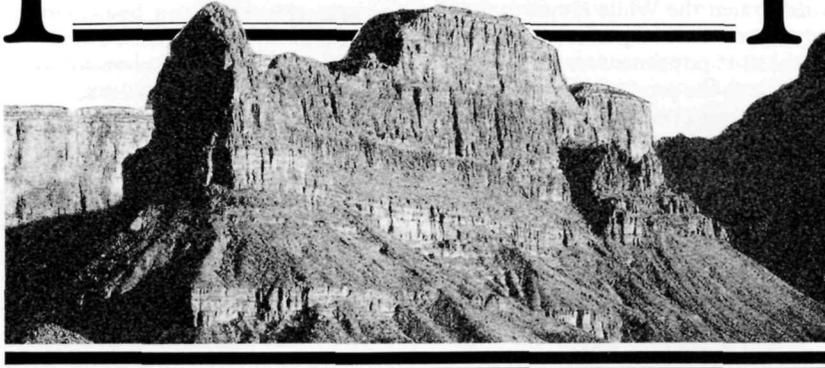
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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



At the very end of last year, the Department proposed amendments to the newly revised 36 Code of Federal Regulations concerning trapping and weapons restrictions within the parks. Since the changes regarding weapons were of great interest and consequence to rangers in the field, we felt that the Association needed to take a stand on these proposals.

By the time you read this, these changes have probably been either implemented, modified or withdrawn, but I feel that the membership should be aware of the position that the board took on this matter in a letter sent to the Service's associate director for operations. Excerpts from that letter follow:

"The Association of National Park Rangers is concerned about two proposed changes to regulations governing the use and possession of weapons, traps, and nets in areas of the National Park System. These changes, along with other revisions to park regulations, were published in the 'Federal Register' on December 27, 1983.

Our first concern is with a highly questionable revision of the definition of the term 'unloaded' in 36 CFR Section 1.4. Under the proposed change, a firearm would be considered unloaded whenever its chamber did not contain a live round. This would permit any firearm other than single-shot models to be carried or possessed with a full clip or magazine, a condition which must be considered to be loaded, using any common sense definition of this term. Firearms in this condition are capable of being activated by a simple movement of the bolt, slide or other action of the weapon. Such a weapon is only marginally safer than one with a round in the chamber. It is not likely to be accidentally discharged when dropped or jarred,

but still constitutes a serious and readily available threat to surrounding people and wildlife through deliberate action and is still subject to accidental discharge.

As proposed, this new definition is somewhat confusing. Saying that a weapon in a condition normally thought of as loaded and ready for use is 'unloaded' defies common sense and in effect permits widespread possession of readily usable weapons contradicts the definition of loaded that is in many state codes . . . By leaving intact the language in Section 2.4 which restricts weapons possession to those which are unloaded, but almost reversing the definition of that term, this proposal is clearly an attempt at a backdoor relaxation of the regulation. In addition this definition provides no clue as to the conditions under which a revolver would be considered 'unloaded'. Under the existing definition, a revolver's cylinder would be presumed to be analogous to a magazine and therefore must be empty of live rounds to be unloaded. However, this proposed definition seems to indicate that the cylinder could be full, with the possible exception of the cartridge position aligned with the firing pin.

Except in situations where a visitor is engaged in hunting authorized by law, there is no reason for having a firearm available to use within a park. The incidence of crimes in parks in which a firearm might have been of value to the victim is extremely low and certainly does not justify this proposal, which will increase risks to both visitors and park wildlife. The final regulations published June 30, 1983 provide more than ample opportunity for people to transport weapons through the parks, subject to reasonable restrictions which will not unduly inconvenience visitors. There is no identifiable or supportable need to open up the parks to the possession of weapons

which are, in fact, loaded. No justification for this relaxation is stated in the notice of proposed rulemaking, perhaps because no justification can be articulated.

We must also take issue with the proposed revision of Section 2.4(a) (2) (ii), which deals with possession of weapons, traps, and nets in mechanical models of conveyance and temporary lodgings. This proposal would eliminate for park visitors the option of rendering a weapon inoperable as a means of complying with the regulation. This option was written into the regulations to allow for those situations where it might be more convenient for a visitor to use a trigger locking device, disassembly, or other means as an alternative to casing, packing, or storing the weapon. While the need for this alternative may not occur very often, we believe that it is an option which should not be eliminated.

In view of the fact that the proposed definition of 'unloaded' is such a radical departure from the existing regulations and would have far-reaching effects on public safety and resource protection in the parks, we feel that the thirty days of public comment provided for in the Federal Register notice is inadequate. This relaxation constitutes a significant regulation which, under the requirements of E.O. 12044, must be made available for a minimum period of 60 days public comment. Only a period of at least 60 days would allow an adequate opportunity for the public to become informed about the issue and participate in the rulemaking process in a meaningful way.

Other revised or new regulations proposed in the same rulemaking notice are essentially authorizations for the continuation of existing practices or are clarifications and therefore need no extension of the comment period. We urge that the revision to the weapons regulations be severed from the remainder of the proposed rulemaking published December 27, 1983 and that no less than 30 days additional public comment period be provided. This will allow the other regulations to be implemented in a timely fashion and avoid disruptions in ongoing activities.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on these proposals and hope that the points we have raised will be given serious consideration. As a professional organization representing those who are charged with the responsibility of protecting both visitors and resources in the national parks, the Association of National Park Rangers feels strongly that these changes are ill-advised and should be dropped."

Following subsequent discussions with the Washington office staff on the issue of the definition of loaded weapons, it is my belief that the issue is being critically re-examined and that there will be positive results from this reappraisal.

Washington EMS Guidelines

Work continues on the development of a Servicewide medical service guideline, which will be known as NPS 51. Association member John Chew was detailed to the office of ranger activities for 120 days this summer, and reports that a good deal of progress has been made, much of it attributable to the hard work of the many Association members who've contributed their efforts to the project.

The Director and his staff were briefed on the subject in December and gave their approval to the guideline. NPS 51, in essence, exercises existing authority for the establishment of a Park Service EMS program which will provide an effective administrative system within which individual parks can manage efficient emergency medical services.

At present, the guideline:

- defines six levels of care;
- establishes criteria for program selection;
- establishes an agency certification program valid in all units within the system;
- sets Servicewide certification criteria;
- provides operational instructions; and
- establishes administrative procedures.

Probably the most significant element of the guideline is the establishment of a Servicewide certification system for the several levels of EMT's. After much study and a very productive meeting with the staff of the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT), it appears that the Service will mandate NREMT certification for all levels of EMT's.

What this means is that once an employee becomes NREMT certified, he or she will carry that certification with him from park to park, regardless of the jurisdiction of the individual parks. Such Park Service/NREMT certification would be valid while working in park areas and while transporting patients to facilities outside parks, but might not be valid while working for local ambulance crews or rescue squads. This validity would be determined by whether the individual state, which governs local certification, mandates the National Registry as part of their certification process, as many states do.

Consequently, it is strongly recommended that those of you with NREMT certification at any level maintain that certification, and that those of you with the opportunity to gain such certification do so. It will make the changeover simpler in the long run.

NPS 51 should be in the field for comment and review within the next few months. This document is designed to work for you, so your comments and suggestions are being sought.

Position Downgrading

The *Washington Post* reported in November that the White House is working on a plan to downgrade 40,000 GS-11 through GS-15 positions over the next four years through the process of attrition (that is, downgrading a position only after its occupant retires). The objectives are to save about \$1.5 billion in salaries, and, as an administration official said, "create more Indians and fewer chiefs."

As there are now about 500,000 non-postal federal workers at those levels, about 8 percent of the positions would be downgraded. The Service estimated last year that it would have 3,016 employees in these grades in 1984; 8 percent of this total would be 241 positions.

The effect of this plan, the *Post* noted, will be to "slow promotions for current federal workers because there would be fewer positions available between GS-11 and GS-15 . . ."

Housing

The release of the newly revised Circular A-45, the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) guideline for housing, was scheduled for release in January, but was held up due to complaints by some government unions that they'd not had enough time to review the proposals. OMB extended the review period for 30 days, but planned on a certain release in mid-February. The Department was given a short turnaround time to put the changes into effect, so the guideline will likely be implemented by the spring.

Because of these revisions, there was no Consumer Price Index (CPI) adjustment to rents in February. The CPI adjustments, which are to be regionally rather than nationally based in order to correlate more closely with area economies, will be delayed until the new A-45 is in place.

The Service has asked for approval for training on A-45, and has scheduled the following sessions: Boston-April 9 to April 13; Atlanta-May 14 to May 18; Seattle-June 3 to June 8.

A task force chaired by Alaska regional director Roger Contor has been appointed with the primary purpose of addressing long range housing issues. This task force had its initial meeting in the last week of January and will be meeting throughout the spring, with a final report due in May. The task force will also be looking at required occupancy, among other things,

and will utilize as part of its information base the materials gathered by the University of Washington's field survey entitled "The Organization and Employee in an Era of Change". Dick Martin is a resource person for the task force, and asks that members with housing concerns get in touch with him.

NPS-9

NPS-9, the Service's law enforcement guideline, is still undergoing revision in Washington. As of late January, the hope and plan was to have it out to the field within 60 to 90 days. The Washington office was at that time awaiting comments from other agencies and organizations on the present draft of the guideline.

Merit Promotion

Mary Rinker, personnel staffing specialist in Washington, is actively soliciting comments from Association members on the automated merit promotion system that is currently under development and scheduled for implementation within the next two years.

Under this system, as she described it in the December *Courier*, "individuals interested in being considered for vacancies in occupations covered by the system would submit one application/questionnaire to be used for consideration for any vacancies which arise in their areas of interest throughout the Service."

This obviously represents an important and potentially far-reaching change in hiring procedures. If you have comments or ideas, send them to her at the Branch of Employee Evaluation and Staffing, Personnel Division, National Park Service, Department of Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

Management Study

According to an Associated Press story that appeared in the *New York Times* last fall, the National Academy of Public Administration, which was commissioned by Interior and 15 other agencies to study federal government operations, has come out with a report recommending significant changes in the way these agencies are managed.

The report concluded that "federal management systems are overregulated, overburdened and stultified"; that these systems discourage individual initiative; and that procedures have become so complex that details now overwhelm substance.

Among other things, it suggested these changes:

- the creation of an office to assume the management tasks now handled by the Office of Management and Budget;
- the development of a two-year budget cycle;
- increased agency authority to transfer funds among programs;
- increased agency control over position classification, recruitment and selection, and other personnel actions;
- the simplification of equal opportunity and affirmative action procedures; and
- establishment of merit pay systems.

Health and Fitness Standards

While on his Washington detail, John Chew was also asked to develop a Service-wide health and fitness program. After considerable time spent evaluating other agency programs, reviewing OPM regulations and policies, and studying the health and fitness task force's recommendations, it became apparent that the Service did not have the expertise to develop the kind of program that it deserved. Consequently, the Park Service sought out a contractor who had experience in designing such a program.

In December, a contract was awarded to the Institute of Human Performance, an organization that has had experience in designing programs for Fish and Wildlife, the Secret Service, Park Police, and a wide variety of other agencies.

The Institute is tasked with the development of a plan for a Servicewide, job-related health and fitness program which will include the outline for a Service manual describing recommended fitness training programs, a recommended curriculum of training for fitness coordinators, administrative considerations and logistics for implementing the program and a projected budget for putting it into effect. It will also recommend minimum levels of physical performance for hazardous and strenuous activities, which will be based on available studies. Should none prove adequate, the plan will make recommendations for conducting such studies.

The Director has given full support to this program. As soon as the contractor has completed his work, which was due in February, the Newsletter will carry more specifics on its direction.

Uniforms

The Park Service and R and R Uniforms will be implementing a trial program for lightweight hiking boots and both steel-toed and regular-toed working boots. Ordering and descriptive information was to be made available to the field in late February, with initial inventories available for shipping in late April. Field requirements for boots were thoroughly studied, and the styles made available should meet the basic general needs for these types of footwear.

Washable Class A trousers are currently being wear-tested in each region, and the results of these tests should be available by late spring. Wear test samples of parkas and overshells, which will also be evaluated and reviewed, are now being manufactured. Information on these items should now be available.

R and R realizes that there's been a problem in delivering the maternity uniform, and has changed the method of manufacture for these items. A new manufacturer has been located and small stocking orders have been placed. Quality and service for these products should improve significantly.

The Service's uniform guideline—NPS 43—is scheduled to be finalized and in the field by early March, so keep your eyes out for it.

The current uniform contract expires in October of this year, and bids for competition for the next five-year contract went out on February 8th. A decision on the new contractor is scheduled to be made by August.

025/026

It seems unlikely that the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) will be releasing the new classification and qualification standards in the near future. The Association, therefore, is working with the Washington office to develop in-house adjustments to the Service's policies regarding the 025 and 026 job series'.

The Association will be suggesting that the former be a clearly professional, decision-making series, and that the latter be technical and non-supervisory in nature. This should help eliminate situations where 026 techs at the GS-5 level and 025 rangers at the GS-9 level end up doing similar work side by side.

In Print

This continuing section of the Newsletter contains brief reviews of articles and books of interest to Park Service professionals who often find they don't have time to keep up with all the periodicals of potential interest to them. If you see an article, please forward it to the editor for summation; if you find an interesting book, call and work out the timing for a review.

Periodicals

There is an article on the merits of charging for search and rescue operations in the fall issue of *Response!* "Who Pays for SAR?", written by associate editor Tom Vines, focuses on the Park Service in its evaluation of the pros and cons of this long-debated issue.

Although the Service paid \$951,299 of the \$1,613,360 spent on SAR in the parks in 1982 (the rest was borne by military, volunteer and other groups), Vines holds that the actual cost details and related issues are "so complicated that a policy change on SAR charges may be questionable."

The primary problem he focuses on is the determination of negligence. A number of parks have reported that over half their SAR costs were incurred in incidents where the visitor was negligent, and the prevailing belief is that these people should pay for their rescues. But who determines what constitutes an act of negligence, particularly in technical areas?

Then there are questions related to economic realities. If the park does charge for negligence, who'll make the collections? If the victim contests the charges, might not the lawyers fees in many cases exceed the cost of the operation? If the rescue is very expensive, how much should the victim be charged? And is it appropriate to charge the family of a deceased victim for a rescue?

Attempts have been made to work around these problems, with varying success. Denali explored the possibility of requiring insurance for some activities, but dropped the idea after finding that only Lloyd's of London would consider it. The Grant Tetons and Sequoia, however, do charge for medical transportation.

Vines concludes the article with an observation: "The possibility of charging for SAR in the national parks has raised too many complicated issues and unanswered questions that cannot now be resolved without congressional action."

The September issue of the *FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin* has an article entitled "Underwater Investigation Training", which should be of consequence to any ranger involved in SCUBA operations. It

details the program for dive officer training at the Lively Criminal Justice Training Academy in Quincy, Florida, which bills itself as creator of "the first formal, centralized dive officer training program in operation in this country."

The Academy features a 3½-acre, man-made lake with a thousand foot obstacle course for familiarizing divers with "the extreme conditions found underwater", sunken objects—a boat, car and airplane—for use in teaching search, recovery and investigation techniques, and an outside classroom immediately adjacent to the water.

The lake is also used by other state agencies for specialized types of training. Among these are classes on boat handling and maneuvering, approach and boarding methods, water survival, and techniques for approaching and dealing with hunters (a duck blind was built on the lake for this purpose).

For further information on the academy, interested rangers might write either Ron Steverson of Alam Lamarche, Instructors, Lively Criminal Justice Training Academy, Quincy, Florida 32351.

Two articles focusing on the current debate over the Service's resource management policies have appeared in recent months—a Jim Robbins piece in the January 1984 *Natural History* entitled "Do Not Feed The Bears?", and Gary Blonston's "Where Nature Takes Its Course" in the November 1983 issue of *Science* 83.

Robbins begins with an account of the recent pinkeye outbreak in Yellowstone's bighorn sheep. Since the Service's management policy is to let nature take its course, the animals were not treated and many died from falls due to an inability to see where they were going. He follows this with an explanation of the philosophy behind this approach, and how it is causing controversy today.

"The fundamental question seems to be what role humans should play in a natural environment," he says. "The park service must weigh what it considers 'natural' human activities and how much 'unnatural' activity the parks can tolerate with an adverse impact on the integrity of their ecosystem."

Robbins then looks at other game management problems—both past and present—that the park has had with wolves, elk, bison, and in particular, grizzlies. He details the long and occasionally acrimonious debate between the Service and outside critics over the proper means for managing the park's diminishing number of bears.

The Park Service's position, which he says has been backed up by both Fish and Wildlife and the scientific community, is that supplemental feeding of the grizzlies is impractical and improper.

"Their whole natural management and natural population philosophy is based on the idea that animal populations will reach a homeostasis based on food supplies," he says. "To feed the bears would destroy gains made in restoring a natural population."

He points out that the Service has tried "manipulative management techniques" in the past with little luck, and that managers now feel that natural management is best, although there are implicit contradictions and sometimes unpleasant effects. Robbins concludes, with some sympathy, that "many of the practical decisions facing park managers are not so clear cut."

"Natural management is, after all, a philosophy and not a science," he says. "In a world of diverse social attitudes and conflicting scientific advice, its implementation is bound to be fraught with difficulties and controversy."

Blonston's article examines the same problems at Yellowstone, and he comments similarly on the effects of a management policy that lets nature run its course.

"It is a brave and determined policy, an attempt to apply scientific knowledge in an arena where politics and presumption often have dominated," he says. "It is also a policy fated to inevitable inconsistency and lapse, for in the years since World War II tremendous new pressures have built upon even the most remote parks, exerted by vastly increased numbers of tourists and by politically potent special interest groups of every stripe."

However, he says, the shift from manipulative to more natural management "has happened with a sense of purpose, determination, and decisiveness unusual in a federal bureaucracy."

Blonston also discusses the changes in management techniques over the last fifty years, how they've reflected changes in society and its perceptions of the parks, and the impact they've had on game populations.

He observes, as does Robbins, that management problems will be with us for a long time, despite the Service's best efforts.

"Yellowstone can neither totally shut those worlds out nor close itself in," he says, "and so park policy making is an act of perennial compromise, pitting the requirements of nature against the desire of people to squeeze the parks tight with affection or wring them out with greed."



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Commentary

Roderick Nash

After delivering the keynote address at the 1979 Rendezvous I joined the Association and have marked its progress with great pleasure. Consequently, it's a pleasure to offer a few ideas for the Commentary section.

First off, I want to commend the Association for inviting and listening to "outside" (meaning non-NPS) critics such as Destry Jarvis (September 1983 Commentator) and myself. Time was that the Albright Training Center and other park agencies had us folks on their regular programs. We thought we brought a breath of fresh air to the meetings, seeing as how 171's and the length of .357 barrels or the percent of polyester in uniforms did not interest us as much as the broader meaning and purpose of the national parks. But budget crunches and, possibly, the growing impatience of top Interior people with even constructive criticism silenced our voices. It's good to be back.

Let me pick up a moment on the theme of Destry Jarvis' "Commentary" of September 1983. I fully agree that the loss of the "Man (but I'd say People)—for-all-seasons" image of the ranger to that of the park cop is unfortunate. I think, however, that the problem goes deeper than this. I question how many rangers are really capable of and interested in "ranging". How skilled are they in the outdoors? I'm not slighting the historical and cultural mission of the Service, but I do feel strongly that a prerequisite for any national park career ought to be expertise in the backcountry. Let the paper pushing and the visitor management come afterwards. Let's find some rangers who can really range!

"Commentary" presents guest opinions by people from outside the Service regarding the ranger profession. Divergent, thought-provoking essays are printed in order to bring about discussion of important issues, but the Association does not necessarily endorse any of the viewpoints appearing here.

Roderick Nash is Professor of History and Environmental Studies at the University of California Santa Barbara. He is the author of *Wilderness and the American Mind* (3rd ed., Yale Press, 1982) and an occasional consultant to the National Park Service.

Of course the promotion system in the Service occasionally places someone in a high place who has extensive backcountry experience. The present director is a good instance. But I have been astonished and embarrassed at the number of park people who lack essential outdoor skills. I recall one Albright field session in which fully half of a group of GS-13s and above put on the backpacks issued to them *upside down*. They tried to make the waistbands serve as tumplines around their heads. We patiently corrected the problem and later explained that you don't stuff an air mattress *inside* a sleeping bag. On another occasion I argued for hours with a good friend about the appropriateness of backcountry (that is, wilderness) patrol cabins. This man, who is actually a talented wilderness traveler, routinely used the cabins and then, after firing up his iron wood stove and Coleman lantern, made the rounds to inform visitors camping in the rain that they were in violation of open-fire restrictions. Better, I argued for the rangers to lead from the front and show how a storm camp can be made with minimal environmental impact. Rangers, I said, were the golf and tennis pros of the parks. They should not need the cabins; they should be better at camping skills than the average visitor.

As a minimum, I recommend every ranger in a big-spaced park spend two to three weeks away from the desk or patrol car. As an ideal, take the attitude of Jim Brady, an old friend who is now assistant superintendent at Zion, who told me his goal was to hike every backcountry trail in his park during his first year on the job. At the time, we were starting this mission at a fine camp in the Kolob section of Zion. But how many other top park administrators would agree with Jim's goal?

I would add that what Mr. Jarvis called the "deep affection" with which the average American holds park rangers is based on their assumed love of the outdoors rather than their law-enforcement and paper-pushing skills. The point is not to forget what the parks are (or should be) about.

Another concern I have is the attitude that says, in effect, we don't have to worry much about congested and tasteless visitor service facilities in the parks because we have all this splendid backcountry. Let the visitor who doesn't like Old Faithful and the South Rim service complex at Grand Canyon go to the other 97 percent of the park. Well, yes, to a point, but aren't we forgetting that for 97 percent of the visitors the service cores *are* the park? That's all they experience. Shouldn't we try to make their visit as meaningful as possible?

This problem came home strongly to me on the South Rim of the Grand Canyon. I've spent two full years of my life in the Grand Canyon backcountry and used to merely laugh at folks buying rubber tomahawks and milkshakes at the Bright Angel Lodge ten feet from the canyon's rim. But one day I watched a group of Japanese visitors standing on pavement amidst the noise and clutter of the South Rim. They had flown in from Las Vegas and had only two hours on the ground. It didn't seem appropriate to tell them of the great spaces and silences available east and west along the rim. What mattered was that their park contact was not what it should have been.

The upshot here is that we need to pay more attention to the two-hour visitors who, after all and like it or not, are far more numerous than the two-week users. Instead of deploring or ridiculing the vacation habits of the average visitor, why not make every effort to give them the best park experience possible? On the South Rim, this would mean belatedly heeding the advice of Theodore Roosevelt ("leave it as it is") and Aldo Leopold (his 1917 journal expressed dismay at the amount of building on the rim) and getting the motels and gift shops and cafeterias the hell out. It's only seven miles to the park line; let private enterprise sell the tomahawks and ice cream there. Make the park boundaries mean something—even for the two-hour visitor.

“But What’s it Really Like?”

Dave Mihalic, Yukon-Charlie

Seasonal rangers are standing around a coffee pot in the Anchorage Fire Department training hall renewing old acquaintances and introducing themselves to new faces as they start a forty-hour refresher. What’s so unique about this? Nothing really, except each represents different parks across the state. From here they will scatter to ranger stations and assignments throughout the Alaska region—Serpentine Hot Springs, Cutler River, Slaven Cabin, Port Alsworth, Exit Glacier, the Russian Bishop’s House—all exotic sounding, all where a job awaits.

One of these rangers, a little uncertain and obviously new, edges toward a group whose laughter and animation mark them as having been there before. Quickly the ranger is noticed and one of the group sticks out his hand. Introductions all around, and someone asks “Which park are you from?”

“Gates of the Arctic . . . I mean, I’m not really *from* there. This is my first year, and I’ll be stationed at Bettles.”

A tall, sandy-haired ranger speaks up. “You’ll like it,” he says. “I was there the summers of ’81 and ’82. I’m at Anaktuvuk Pass now.”

“Really?” The new ranger brightens. This is the first person she’s met who’s *been there!* “Tell me: what’s it like . . . I mean, to *live* there?”

What an assignment.

“It’ll be easy.” Bill Halainen squinted his eyes at the sun as we sat around the Showboat pool in Las Vegas. “Just write about life in Alaska—domestic life, community life, recreation—you know. Focus on the uniqueness of several areas . . . it’ll be easy!”

Sure. (At this point, I wish I could affect a Tim Setnicka snort, as in “[snort] . . . yeah; sure.”) How do you try to convey “life in Alaska” to someone who’s not been there? Where do you start?

Take squinting. At the sun. No big deal. So how do you explain the exhilaration we feel in Eagle every January 17 when, for the first time since mid-November, we can see—and squint at—the sun? No, it hasn’t been dark all that time. We have about 3½ “official” hours of sun with about 5½ hours of light on our shortest day, but the mountains to the south of Eagle block the sun’s low trajectory across the sky. On January 17, beginning with a low notch in the hills, we take pleasure in squinting at the sun, and in what that means: the days are getting longer.

By mid-March, the amount of sunlight is near “normal.” Activity picks up. This is a great time of year for dog-sled trips, cross-country skiing, and outings with family and friends. A mid-thirties day and a bright afternoon sun can cause coats to be shed and impromptu fun and games. This is the time of year when “spring” carnivals take place (at temperatures that would make them winter carnivals elsewhere) and the woodpile needs less attention.

Spring carnivals? Just when you thought you had gotten to the point where you could handle 56 inches of *babiche* and birch without tripping every few feet, you suddenly find yourself in a game of snowshoe softball, with a red-painted orb sailing toward you. And, just like that moment twenty years ago in your first little-league at-bat, you shiver a little (perhaps it’s the cold?). Eyes heavenward, you implore: “Please . . . just let me make it to first base!”

“Road’s open.”

Pretty casual and non-chalant, but those two words are full of meaning. There are three kinds of Alaska, each with different kinds of access. Fairbanks, Denali, Anchorage, Glennallen, Seward—all are open and accessible by road year-round. Sitka and Skagway have roads, but are only accessible by ferry. All the rest—the “bush”—are not accessible by road at all. Except Eagle. We like to think we’re special: we have a state highway, but open only mid-March to mid-October. In the summer we’re road-accessible; in the winter, we’re in the bush.

Elsewhere in this issue, Dave Morris has touched on this logistical fact. It has a different meaning for each area. For example:

Accept a permanent assignment to Bering Land Bridge or the three northwest Alaska areas, and your household goods will have an adventure of their own (a tip from Larry Rose in Nome: take the maximum insurance!). In the summer they go by van to Seattle where they are loaded on an ocean-going barge for the trip direct to Nome or Kotzebue. In the winter, the barge goes instead to Anchorage where your goods are flown to the destination. Your car? It goes right along. The government pays for one, but a two car family will pay \$1,900 to barge their second car from Anchorage to Nome, or \$2,800 to have it flown in. Or they reassess their needs.

Many of the larger bush communities have medical clinics. The villages have health aides. But for serious illness or injury it means a trip to Fairbanks or Anchorage to take advantage of the major hospitals located there. In many instances, that’s no different from quite a few park areas “Outside.” The difference here is the flight to and from town. Consequently, in some of the bush communities a doctor will make the rounds every few months, or a dental hygiene team will fly in with all necessary equipment—except the chair.

Groceries are bought in bulk. Park Service folks in Kotzebue or Nome can have goods delivered twice a year. Summer supplies come in on the first boat after the ice goes out, winter goods on the last boat before freeze-up. Rangers in Glennallen, Chitina, Denali and Eagle have more opportunities but find bulk food orders a convenience. Fresh food is available almost anytime in local stores in the bush—at a price, of course (that 25 per cent COLA is for a reason). There are stores in



Aircraft—the primary mode of travel to Eagle during the winter season.

National Park Service

Anchorage and Fairbanks that will ship groceries out air freight or even through the mail. And the occasional winter trip to the regional office can usually find a head or two of fresh lettuce stuffed into a suitcase on the trip home . . . but remember to have the air carrier place the bag *in* the cabin. Otherwise, you'll join that legion of sourdoughs who have contemplated the salvage value of frozen lettuce . . .

*Ft. Yukon 48
Tri-Valley High 66*

The above isn't really different from any other high school basketball score, except the distance between the two is roughly equivalent to the distance between Cape Hatteras and Fire Island, Crater Lake and Mt. Rainier, or Indiana Dunes and Wilson's Creek. A tournament (pick any sport) held on Kodiak Island may include teams from Ketchikan to Barrow. Many children of service families have seen more of Alaska than their parents.

Travel by school teams is an advantage, and there are others. But there are, as in many states, disadvantages too. The Eagle School is too small to field a team, so children miss those travel opportunities. On the other hand, the senior class trip will be to Hawaii.

Schools in larger communities have many of the same advantages as any of similar size elsewhere. The State of Alaska tends to support the schools—especially those in rural areas. There is an active attempt to prevent small size or low enrollment from translating into poor education. Of course, a small school with two or three teachers and less than fifty students is only as good as those teachers. Turnover is high; quality can change from year to year. Eagle, for example, has four Apple computers with a fifth on order—for fifty students. However, this year's new teachers are still themselves learning to utilize this powerful new instructional tool.

Multi-grade school rooms are the norm in rural Alaska. Student-teacher ratios are good. This can result in more individual attention and moving ahead to higher work as units are completed, or it may be threatening to a younger child who may think he or she is "behind" his or her upper-grade classmates.

There is an alternative: correspondence. The state offers an excellent correspondence program which costs nothing. A correspondence "teacher" flies to the bush every few weeks, landing on skis in the winter and floats or wheels in spring and fall. Consequently, though Mom and Dad administer the program, another adult has the "teacher" role. That role includes not just test scoring, but discussion of results, study habits and lessons with each student.

The school and school system is a central focus in many of the communities. Some

of the physical plant rivals big city schools. Anaktuvuk Pass, an Eskimo village in Gates of the Arctic, has a modern building complete with swimming pool. Ice rinks, gymnasium and shop facilities are often available to general members of the community. And *everyone* goes to Graduation and the children's Christmas play.

*"Isn't he in today?"
"Nope. Probably back next Monday."
"He's not sick, is he?"
"Oh, no! He heard one word last night and just took off. Left me here to hold down the office."
"One word . . . what one word?"
"Caribou."*

Its amazing the number of people who think Alaska is nothing but hunt, fish, and trap. In some ways they are right—in others, dead wrong.

You can see salmon spawning in Ship Creek in downtown Anchorage, just a hundred yards from the Westward Hilton. But you can also see anglers shoulder to shoulder along the Russian River south of Anchorage and you'd swear it was opening day on the Beaverkill.

Most recreational activities are tied to the land. That's not to say one can't see Willie Nelson in Anchorage, the repertory theater in Fairbanks, or listen to a string quartet in Nome. Plus rural areas have all kinds of community activities. Volleyball is always popular, aerobics have Eskimos, Indians and whites alike dancing in school gyms across the state (leg warmers *work* in Alaska!), and some of the best community libraries *anywhere* are found in many small bush villages.

But most recreational activities are related in some manner to the land, which is one reason why Alaskans hold their land so dear and are always interested in the doings of land management agencies. Dog mushing is a means of transportation to some, but recreation to others. For years the winners of the Iditarod—the thousand-mile dog sled race from Anchorage to Nome—were rural residents who used their teams everyday. Now, city-dwellers have as much chance with their racing skills as the early winners did with their bush travel skills.

These long distance races tie together isolated communities. Whole communities get involved. Volunteers, including off-duty Yukon-Charley Rivers rangers, will help break trail for the thousand-mile "Yukon Quest," a race from Fairbanks through Eagle and Dawson to Whitehorse, which commemorates the historic Trail of '98. Park Service families in Nome take in a musher and family at the finish of the Iditarod, volunteer time at race headquarters, and their high-school children set-up and man the computers used to chart the racer's progress.

Winter sports are obviously popular. Bicycle trails in Fairbanks and Anchorage become ski trails in the winter, many miles of which are lighted for use at night. Cross-country skiing is perhaps the most popular, whether backcountry downhill or a day's outing on the ski-train from Anchorage to Turnagain Pass. School ice-rinks host skating parties and hockey. Use of snowmobiles—or "snowmachines"—is more often for access to off-road areas for hunting and trapping, but there are many 'beelers who enjoy them for recreation. Bush villagers often use the machines for village to village travel and an occasional "Sunday drive."

Hunting and fishing are legendary, but take as much planning and effort—maybe more—as anywhere else. Its not often that caribou choose to migrate near town, but when they do, hold all calls! More likely that moose in the freezer came from a hard hundred miles downriver or from a lake accessible only by airplane. Many visitors are surprised to find that salmon don't jump into the boat and moose don't wait alongside the road for your "best shot."

One advantage, however, for field areas is that one is closer to the resource, and the game. Park Service people in Nome, Bettles, Slana or Yakutat will be more likely to supplement their groceries with game and fish. And the only argument you'll find is whether fresh king crab from an ice hole off Nome is better than halibut from Sitka or caribou from the Copper River country.

Fishing is the summer activity. While hook and line fishing is popular, gill nets are set for migrating salmon on interior rivers. This is a major source of protein for many bush residents and a thawed king salmon steak in January brings back memories of warm and sunny summer days.

Trapping of furbearers is as traditional as the dog sled. For some its a recreational activity and a reason to get out on cold winter days. Others view it as an opportunity to learn more about nature. And there are still many—including park residents—for whom the sale of marten or lynx brings their sole source of cash to their subsistence lifestyles.

*". . . Behind the house and barn it stood,
A half a mile or more,
And hurrying feet a path had made
Up to its swinging door . . ."
from "The Passing of the Outhouse"
attributed to James Whitcomb Riley*

Housing in Alaska is perhaps one of the employees' biggest concerns, and rightfully so. Established parks have some government quarters but not enough room for all. Almost all of the newer parks lack housing, even for seasonal employees. These areas are looking at new and innovative ways to provide housing where it is necessary, however.

Summer seasonals, for example, may expect anything from wall tents or historic cabins to bunkhouses or hunting lodges. Permanent employees, on the other hand, may find themselves entering the private housing market for the first time. This may not be all bad. Alaska has a state housing authority with backing for loans up to 95 percent at 10½ percent interest. For a first time entrant into the housing game, this may be a plus. In addition, where houses must meet strict codes elsewhere to qualify for most loans, Alaska has "non-conforming" and "bush" loans as well. Coupled with 5 percent energy improvement loans, Alaska may have advantages over other locales.

Housing types do run the gamut. That "little cabin in the woods" you've always wanted can be a reality. Lack of indoor plumbing can instill lots of character at 50 below zero and a great appreciation for the simple pleasure of turning on a faucet. These are not the rule, however, but the exception. There are many communities where conventional housing is available or where that picturesque cabin has electricity, running water, septic system, telephones and satellite television. Of course, urban areas have the same types and range of housing as any large city, but at Alaska prices.

Home heating is also not that different from elsewhere. Wood is used extensively in bush communities but oil and propane are always available as either backup or primary heating systems. Most Alaskans quickly learn the value of insulation and even "superinsulation," and apply these principles to homes wherever they may transfer.

*"No! There's the land. (Have you seen it?)
It's the cussedest land that I know,
From the big, dizzy mountains that screen it
To the deep, deathlike valleys below."
from "The Spell of the Yukon"
by Robert Service*

Alaska is many things to many people. It is hard to do more than present facts. One can neither foist one's own values on another, gloss over the disadvantages or glorify with words like "grandeur," "majestic," and "spectacular." Alaska is full of people, many of whom have come from elsewhere. Consequently, they have human frailties and bring their problems with them. There is alcoholism in downtown Anchorage, the suburbs of Fairbanks, and in the bush . . . there probably is where you live, too. Yes, it is a problem in some areas; in others it is not. Isolation? You bet. It may be a five or six hour drive to a hospital—if there is a road, and if it is open. But that's not terribly different than many rural areas both east and west, and those areas haven't the reliable convenience and broad dispersal of scheduled air

service. Communities in smaller states don't have 3,000 foot long state airports for populations of a hundred, more or less. Cabin fever? It takes on new meaning when you actually live in a cabin! But the difference is your neighbors are in the same boat, and there is a sense of community and helpfulness. There's no getting away from the cold. One quickly learns that a "fifty below wind chill factor" is *not* the same as "fifty below." The latter is colder. Neither is it "all the same once its colder than minus twenty . . ." Is there a difference between twenty above and fifty above? But most newcomers to Alaska quickly adapt, just as they do at Furnace Creek or Temple Bar.

Alaska is not for everyone; no place is. But one can take pride in doing a job in these magnificent new and old parks in Alaska, and pride in the knowledge that one has the opportunity to experience what our forebears, those early Park Service heroes, did as they forged new parks in the Yellowstone's, Grand Canyon's and Smoky's fifty or more years ago. And, as then, living conditions are part and parcel with the job.

In a way it's a time warp—the ultimate "living history." Dog sleds and toboggans are used every day. Horses and wagons are functional six days a week and driven to church the seventh. Old lessons are rediscovered and manifested in large gardens and in "putting food by." Groceries are toted up and paid for with fur. The sign in the hotel says "Gold Dust Accepted" and you realize they mean it. Words like "parky," "siwash," and "skookum" are used in everyday language.

No, it's not for everyone. But a moonlit mush with the padding of dog's feet and the swish of powder snow; the shimmering curtains of red, green, and white aurora across the inky sky; the thunderous crumble of thousands of tons of ice roiling and tumbling just a few feet away as the Yukon River awakens each spring; the sight of the sun as it dips below the horizon at midnight . . . and reappears a few minutes later; and the song of the Swainson's thrush in the still air of a new day—these will be my memories.

I like it.

Alyeshka: The Great One

Bob Cunningham, Denali

Everyone has heard that Alaska is a big state, but how large is it? Perhaps the following example will give you a better mental picture of the size of Alaska. If you were to place a map of Alaska on a same-scale map of the United States and overlaid Point Barrow on New York City, then the Aleutians would be somewhere in Nebraska and South Dakota, while the eastern edge of Alaska would be in southern Georgia or northern Florida.

This past summer, I was explaining to my father, who lives in western Pennsylvania, that the fishing was particularly good in Homer, Alaska. Dad asked; "Well, why don't you drive down there for the weekend?" I had to explain that such a drive would be the same as if he were to drive to Wisconsin for some fishing during the same weekend. Only then did he begin to visualize the distances we deal with here in the "Frontier State".

The parks of Alaska are equally hard to grasp in scale. The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), which was enacted into law by Congress on December 2, 1980, more than doubled the size of the national park system. Alaska now contains more than 51 million acres of park land. The largest of these parks is Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve at 12.4 million acres. Gates of the Arctic, which lies entirely north of the Arctic Circle, is 8 million acres, and Denali National Park and Preserve (the former Mt. McKinley) was expanded by ANILCA from 1.9 million acres to 6 million acres—approximately 1,000 square miles larger than the state of New Jersey. There are twelve other such parks in Alaska: Aniakchak, Bering Land Bridge, Cape Krusenstern, Glacier Bay, Katmai, Kenai Fjords, Klondike, Kobuk Valley, Lake Clark, Noatak, Sitka and Yukon-Charley Rivers.

Most of these names are familiar to many of you through readings associated with the history of Alaska and the establishment of the parks. If you are like many of us, you envision the very primitive conditions of frontier life when you think of these parks, and for some of these areas you would be quite correct. In most instances, however, the life style of Park Service personnel in Alaska represents something very close to what we all envisioned when we joined this outfit. But it is not entirely a "hunt, fish and trap" existence, because we, too, are on all the same mailing lists that you are, and the bureaucracy works very much the same here as it does elsewhere.



The all-purpose dogsled, here being employed to haul trash at Denali.

Bryan Swift

Just as the landscape differs dramatically from one area of Alaska to another, so do the lifestyles associated with the assignments in the various parks. We at Denali must drive 120 miles to reach Fairbanks to restock our basic provisions. Such a drive is usually possible on any day of the year due to an all-weather hard road that passes by the park. But things are quite different for those rangers assigned to Yukon-Charley in Eagle, which is that park's headquarters.

People in Eagle have gravel road access to Fairbanks, but it's a 375-mile trip one way, and the road is usually closed to traffic from mid-October to mid-March. When it is accessible, the Yukon-Charley folks are looking at a 10 to 12-hour drive and the consumption of 35 gallons of gas at \$1.68 per gallon for a one way trip. A private plane becomes mighty handy at Eagle, since a Cessna 172 can make the same trip in two hours and use only 14 gallons of gas. You get very good at not forgetting what you went to the store for in all the parks, and those who are forgetful become creative in the culinary arts and in making do with whatever is on hand.

We are all, in fact, very dependent on light aircraft for travel and for much of our work, due to the distances involved. Many of the Alaska rangers are pilots, and Alaska is the "flyingest" state in the Union. It is estimated that Alaska has approximately six times as many pilots per capita and 12 times as many airplanes per capita as the rest of the United States.

All Alaskan assignments provide us with an awareness of history from both the past

and the present moment. Dogsleds, for example, are the main mode of transportation in the "bush". They serve as the family sports car, and are utilized when visiting neighbors or running traplines. Unlike Colonial Williamsburg, which is a beautiful and interesting place, "bush" Alaska, with its Native villages, old courthouses and overall lifestyle, is not a re-creation—it is living history occurring on a daily basis.

Accessibility and isolation take on real meaning in many of the Alaskan parks, where it can be an extremely long drive to town and many park areas are accessible only by aircraft. This means that you do a lot of activities with your families and colleagues. Most of all these activities revolve around the out-of-doors and the school systems. A trip to the opera, symphony or any professional sports event is still possible, but travel costs and accessibility make such trips rare treats. It has been said that the Alaska ranger contingent is a very close knit group, and this is in all probability true.

The parks of Alaska are located in a variety of climates. Due to the size of the state and its proximity to the ocean, there are major differences in the weather from one park area to another. Sitka, for example, is located in southeast Alaska, adjacent to the ocean, while Gates of the Arctic lies above the Arctic Circle some 1,250 air miles north.

We do not normally see the heavy snows here that I have known in Yellowstone and the North Cascades. Today, December 20th, there's perhaps six to eight inches of snow on the ground at my house in Denali. Though 356 inches of snow fell in

one season on Wolverine Glacier at the Kenai Peninsula in 1976-77, only three inches of snow fell on Point Barrow in 1935-36.

Temperatures also run to extremes. The highest temperature recorded was 100 degrees at Fort Yukon in the northeast on June 27, 1915, and Fairbanks, which is just south of the Arctic Circle, regularly reaches temperatures in the mid-80's each summer. Likewise, it can get cold. We experienced 23 straight days of 50 below temperatures at Denali in December, 1980, which I understand is a rarity for consecutive days of extreme cold. The lowest recorded temperature for the state, by the way, was 80 below at Prospect Creek Camp in 1971.

The cost of living in Alaska appears to be well known. The highest rates are for services such as dentists, doctors, auto mechanics, and so forth. We all try to delay such needs as much as possible until we are on a trip to the Lower 48, or "the outside", as Alaskans refer to it. Many of us have become reasonably good mechanics, and discount store catalogs occupy a large portion of everyone's bookshelves. Rangers seem to exist, in part, out of such catalogs in all the areas to which I have been assigned. Although costs are high and some items are in short supply, most things can be found in Anchorage, a growing city of 220,000 people with skyscrapers and all the cultural outlets that you might find in Lower 48 cities.

All in all, though, Alaska is an extraordinary place to live and work in. When it entered the American scene in 1867, Alaska was known as "Seward's Folly", a characterization which did little to reveal its awesome nature. Early people called it "Alyeshka", or "The Great Land", a much more appropriate name. It is now often referred to as the "Last Frontier", and, with the advent of the Alaskan parks, we like to think of it as "America's Lasting Frontier."

Working in the Parks

David Morris, Katmai

Every work assignment has its own discrete set of characteristics, its own annual cycle, which sets it apart from every other job. In trying to generalize about working in Alaska's national parks, monuments and preserves, it is vital to understand that no two assignments are the same. However, there are several general characteristics which many of Alaska's areas have in common. Of necessity, this is a somewhat personalized account stemming from my own experience in Katmai and Aniakchak; however, taken together, these two areas reasonably represent many of the field assignments in Alaska.

This discussion focuses on the reality of working in Alaska. I won't attempt to amplify upon or dispell the myths that surround Alaska. Without question, Alaska is a magical place, with some of the world's most extraordinary resources at one's front door. It can also be cold, dark, isolated and not always friendly to the Park Service mission. More often than not, myth and reality tend to merge.

The initial inescapable reality affecting both professional and personal adjustment is one of scale. Everybody soon learns to rattle off the cold acreage and other statistics which illustrate the size, height, and other dimensions of Alaska's park areas. Likewise, there is the inevitable temptation to see how many Yellowstones or Yosemites can be squeezed into a particular park's boundaries. Beyond the planimeter exercises, however, are the realities of managing, protecting and interpreting units that are larger than some states.

In dramatic contrast to the awesome geographical sizes of Alaskan parks is the miniscule scale of human development. Rural Alaskan communities are spoken of in terms of tens or hundreds of residents rather than thousands. Moreover, these communities are likely to be hundreds of miles apart, often with no connecting roads. This contrast in scales has important implications in carrying out day-to-day park operations.

Everything seems to take longer, require more energy and cost more to accomplish in Alaska. The size of the parks, hostile climate, lack of infrastructure and distance from supply centers all influence the logistics of carrying out even the most routine tasks. What should logically take one year seems to invariably take two or more years to complete. Urgently needed replacement parts never seem to be closer than New Jersey. Similarly, specialized staff at the park level is a luxury that few parks can afford and the 'Jack of all trades' adage widely applies. It is difficult to overstate the logistical obstacles to ac-



National Park Service



Rick McIntyre

Work assignments in the Alaska parks can mean anything from a dogsled patrol in the back country (above) to relocating an anesthetized grizzly bear (below)

complishing annual goals; however, trying to anticipate and get ahead of the frenetic summer season provides ample fodder for the frequently asked questions about what we do in the winter.

A glance at an Alaska road map quickly illustrates the need for alternate forms of transport. Depending on the specific assignment, employees quickly become familiar with commercial air, air freight, barge and ferry schedules. Single-engine land and float planes are a major form of travel in most areas. Pilots and non-pilots alike quickly pick up the vocabulary of flying, and become more sensitive to the vagaries of wind, visibility, cloud ceilings

and other factors that influence small airplane travel. Unpredictable weather adds a significant element of uncertainty to scheduled employee pick-ups, drop-offs, or services in remote areas of the park. This uncertainty must be anticipated in all operational activities and particularly for backcountry assignments. Whether one travels by airplane, boat, dog team or on foot, Alaska can be an unforgiving country, and the usual precautions take on added importance.

Another very real aspect of the working environment is the community in which you live. With few exceptions, most Park Service field employees live and work in

very small communities. In most instances, the majority of the people living in the community neither understand nor are conspicuously supportive of the National Park Service and what it is trying to accomplish. A frontier ethic is still very much in evidence in rural areas which is manifested in a strong spirit of self-reliance and independence. Nevertheless, many warm and generous people are to be found in all of these communities and it becomes an imperative part of one's personal and professional lives to find areas of common interest and mutual need. The physical presence of Park Service staff in the local communities has resulted in appreciably improved communication and understanding among the varied interest groups in Alaska.

Added to this unfamiliar ambience is the need to become knowledgeable about a host of concepts and regulations which— to fall back on that overused word—are unique to Alaska. To cite a few: The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (commonly referred to as ANILCA) authorized sport and subsistence hunting in all National Preserves, and subsistence hunting and trapping in most of the newly authorized park lands; provides that cabins and other structures existing prior to December 1977 may be used on the basis of five-year renewable permits; establishes a program to consider for job selection local persons with special knowledge and skills which supercedes Civil Service laws and regulations; permits use of boats and motor vehicles in designated wilderness; and provides for snowmachine and aircraft access.

Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 13, was developed in response to ANILCA for the three-fold purpose of relaxing otherwise applicable provisions of Parts 1-9 of the Act, clarifying and establishing procedures for implementing the provisions of ANILCA and reducing public confusion over what activities are authorized in Service areas in Alaska.

In order to provide a continuity of visitor services in newly authorized areas, the Service has issued commercial business licenses to private business serving the public in the new areas. Various provisions specify the activities permitted and limitations on each commercial operator. Several parks have 30 or more operators authorized to conduct business in the park.

To accommodate the subsistence lifestyle so important to many rural Alaskans, both the state of Alaska and the federal government (through ANILCA) have legislatively given subsistence users priority wherever the level of wildlife harvest must be reduced. Controversy still characterizes both the state and federal effort to equit-

ably administer the legislative intent of this priority. The Service's participation in the subsistence program requires staff involvement in bag limits, subsistence resource commissions, cabins, access and other issues which have yet to be catalogued in manuals and formal directives.

The subsistence issue well illustrates that the historical evolution of many of these parks is still in its infancy, as are some of the new tools being devised to operate them. Insufficient knowledge of resources, as well as lack of staff and logistical capability, hampers the Service's ability to confidently manage many of the natural and cultural resources in the vast parks which it is charged with protecting. A statewide resource management/research program is being developed in order to bring the level of our understanding of these resources into closer tandem with the rapid pace of change now occurring in Alaska.

Taken cumulatively, the new management tools and concepts must be integrated with the more familiar operational activities carried out in each area. It's an additive process which, combined with the personal adjustments of becoming established in rural Alaska, may result in a longer 'breaking in' period for new employees, regardless of their position. It simply takes an extra bit of time to become comfortable with a new set of rules, new but old cultures, and the continually evolving task of problem-solving in these new areas.

Looking backwards, with some obvious anomalies such as jet planes overhead, rural Alaska is somewhat of a time warp. Many of the infrastructure, logistical and even visitor characteristics observed in Alaska in the 1980's must be similar to those which were pondered by similarly skeletal staffs in rural western parks 50 years ago.

I must end this with a suspicion. It's only a suspicion because I have not personally experienced the transition of leaving Alaska. There is a special pride involved in accepting and adapting to the professional lifestyle that Alaska imposes. While I doubt that many of us intend to remain indefinitely in rural Alaska, I suspect that it will be an equally or more difficult transition when we return to a more conventional position. Alaska's parks are an increasingly critical part of Alaska's magic, and I am sure all of us feel that it is a privilege to be associated even temporarily with one or more of them.

National Park Women—Alaska

Judy O'Neale, Denali

With the change to regional status and the advent of new park areas, the Park Service family in Alaska has grown sizably in the last few years. The small group of women who have been in Alaska for several years formed its nucleus, and we now have a large group of vital and energetic women all over the state who have become part of their communities and are helping to create a better understanding of the Park Service in Alaska.

Of our 12 park area offices, four are accessible only by air in winter and three by boat or air, and the most northern area is over one thousand air miles from the most southern area. Because of the limited access and distances involved, we feel that it is especially important to keep the channels of communication open for all of our women.

The Anchorage chapter of National Park Women (NPW) is our largest group, and our support group. Each year they elect co-chairwomen from the office women and the wives. These two gals organize monthly luncheons, the summer picnic and the annual Christmas party. This year they initiated an "adopt-a-park" program which is aimed at giving each of our park areas a specific woman, or two, in Anchorage to call on for any type of assistance, especially in emergency situations where transportation, housing, or just moral support might be needed in Anchorage. This is truly a sincere effort on the part of our city gals to give a helping hand to those in the "bush."

Since so many of our park areas are new, there are few formally organized NPW groups in the parks. Denali, formerly Mt. McKinley, is the oldest and largest staffed area. Our group meets one night each month in the winter and in the summer we try to take advantage of our visitor facilities by having lunch out at least once a month. Our big event of the year is the McKinley Park bazaar which features handcrafted items from the area. Lots of time and effort is put into the unique items which we sell. This year we made over \$500 dollars, \$350 of which will be going to the Employees and Alumni Association Education Fund.

We are reserving part of the money this year for a planned statewide NPW retreat to be hosted by the Denali women in March. We hope to have women from all over the state coming to participate in workshops, rap sessions and some winter

Continued on page 16

Bush Living: It's Not For Everyone

Hope Pittman, Yukon-Charlie

Eagle, Alaska has the charm and quaintness of a small village in the early 20th century. Where else in America can you find homes of which the majority are built of logs? Where women still cook on wood stoves? Where people haul their water? Where gas lights are used?

There are people here who plow with horses and even have a wagon and sleigh they use for transportation. Many people, by choice, do not have electricity, television, or phones. Many do not own a vehicle. Some do not have a chainsaw to cut their winter's supply of wood. Instead, they use a hand or buck saw. Many do not have inside plumbing. Most say they live this way by choice.

I came to Eagle in 1982 with my husband, Bryan, chief ranger of Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve, and our sons, Kris, age 10, and Kelley, age 7. I came expecting nothing, but wanting to see and do everything. We moved from Buxton, North Carolina, at Cape Hatteras National Seashore, an ocean resort, to Eagle. I quit my job as a deputy sheriff and real estate agent to become a full-time mother and eventually a home correspondence teacher.

My days are full of making bread, teaching, and cross-country skiing. My first winter was spent more on the ground than standing up. I've learned to trap, make mukluks, do without little things that you would normally run to the store for, and to juggle two-five gallon jugs full of water on an ice-covered road.

The beauty of this country surpasses the problems created by the cold. To look out the window at the beautiful snow-capped mountains across the ice-flowing Yukon River will make you forget that anything set on the kitchen floor overnight will freeze. The beautiful snow-laden spruce trees will make you forget that your eyelashes freeze at 40° below. To be able to go skiing with your family on a moon-lit night will make you forget the problems encountered cutting 15 cords of firewood the previous summer.

Many of our problems are not physical. The people here do not like changes of any kind. They do not like laws enforced. They came here to "do their own thing." That means most people in Eagle want to do what they like, where they like, and when they like, regardless of whether it's right according to the law or ethics. This might

be as simple as taking a bath once a month or letting a seven-year old have his or her own snowmobile or three-wheeler to drive by himself.

Because we are "government people," our family represents all the changes the people in Eagle resent. They may be basing their beliefs on their biased opinions or past actions of their own or the government's.

Some of their reasoning may be because we are different from them and because we live differently. We came here by choice, not because we couldn't make it anywhere else. We bought a large, three-story log house and have made many improvements. Many people here are satisfied renting a one-room cabin with little insulation and no inside plumbing. We have many of the modern conveniences of the lower 48, such as a dishwasher, microwave oven, washer and dryer, stereo, and color t.v. Most people have none of these conveniences. Some explain this by saying they want to "live off the land" and "get closer to the earth." We teach our boys manners and morals. The people here believe the children should be able to go and do as they please with little or no supervision.

Perhaps the people in Eagle see change coming and feel the need to blame someone. The National Park Service, being a tangible object, may be providing the easy way out. But in the last few years Eagle has seen electric power, push-button telephones, and satellite television come into the town. Change is coming!

More people are moving to Eagle who want the good things in life, but without all the hardships. They want to see better schools for their children, better housing, and maybe the Taylor highway opened year-round to be able to commute to the outside world more easily and more economically.

And why not? When you live with 63° below zero in the winter time, don't you deserve a few luxuries in life? Life would be more enjoyable if you were able to drive to Anchorage or Fairbanks for a long weekend to break up your dark winter. Or, if one member of the family is sick, it would be so much cheaper to drive than to have to charter a plane to a medical facility.

Ah, to be able to see a movie; and how good McDonald's hamburgers look on t.v. commercials. Those are the simple pleasures in life I miss the most . . .

Alaska—Before The Parklands

Robert Belous, Redwoods

When President Carter signed into law the Alaska National Interest Lands Act (ANILCA) on December 2, 1980, the event brought to a successful close our nation's most ambitious effort in establishing national parks as well as its most publicized conservation debate. Yet the creation of 44 million acres of parklands was not an isolated Congressional action deriving from conservation interests alone. Rather, it represented the culmination of a long series of events deeply rooted in Alaska's colorful and sometimes arcane past.

The Alaska Lands Act was the third and final step in a tripartite settlement of interests in lands from the state's vast storehouse of public domain. The first major settlement was allocation to the state of 106 million acres as part of the statehood act of January 3, 1959 and its various entitlements. The acreage comprised 28 percent of Alaska's 375 million-acre landmass. As with previous entrants to the Union, the aim was to assure a sound economy and the promise of diminishing dependence upon federal support. The scheme worked exceedingly well. Some state-selected lands, for example, surrounded a remote stretch of arctic coastline at Prudhoe Bay, the site of our largest oil discovery in the winter of 1968-1969, just ten years after statehood. Lease sales alone brought \$900 million.

The second allocation came with passage of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act on December 18, 1971. All claims to land by Alaska's Native people were resolved by providing payment of \$962 million and transfer from the public domain of 44 million acres to a population of 52,000 Eskimos, Indians and Aleuts. Echoing benefits of the statehood entitlement, this act has been called the most generous settlement of aboriginal claims in United States history. Comparative values aside, however, the longstanding issue of Native claims to land reveals some of the unusual chain of events leading to today's parklands in Alaska.

The question of "Whose land is it?" was raised before the ink had dried on the Treaty of Cession in 1867 by which the U.S. had exchanged \$7 million for Russian America. Unlike numerous Indian tribes in the Lower-48, there had been no subjugation of Alaska's Native people through conquest; no treaties existed or were planned with Native groups, and use and occupancy of the land, though traditional, was without arrangement or authority.

Coastal tribes that had contact with the prior Russian government expressed acceptance of the new American presence, but questioned *ownership* of the land, timber, minerals, fish and wildlife resources. Tribal leaders asserted that Russians had occupied their country only by permission for reasons of mutual benefit. Native dissatisfaction with the U.S. land acquisition did not arise from hostility, as noted by a Federal Treasury agent in 1869, "but from the fact that it was sold without their consent."

Language in the Treaty with Russia did little to clarify the matter. While according all rights, advantages, and immunities of citizens of the United States to Natives, it denied full citizenship to Alaska's aboriginal people. The Treaty merely stated in Article III, that Natives are to be "subject to laws and regulations as the U.S. may from time to time adopt in regard to aboriginal tribes."

But further probing of the period of Russian governance of Alaska revealed references to protection of hunting, fishing and subsistence harvest, and also recognition in a rudimentary fashion for ownership of land without benefit of formal title. These concerns were addressed in Russia's Imperial Charter to the Russian American Company, a quasi-governing body largely patterned after the British East India Company of the same period. The Charter of 1821, for example, called for recognition of rights to property "acquired . . . through work, purchase, exchange or inheritance." And it directed that the company make available as much land as necessary for Native harvest of fish and wildlife related to basic subsistence needs.

From these aspects of the early Russian American Company's charter arose the first glimmer of rights—that is, compensable rights—to lands and the use and occupancy of those lands. As early as 1878, American courts were giving "judicial notice" to the laws of the antecedent government in Alaska.

But judicial notice by the courts did not sufficiently rectify the clouding of titles to mining claims or lands slated for timber harvest. American business interests remained wary of investments in Alaska due to questionable land status, thus stifling economic growth during early territorial days. Moreover, the form of governance in the territory added to the already unpredictable situation. Between 1867 and 1884, the territory was first governed by the Army, then by the Collector of Customs, followed by the Navy.

This period ended with passage by the Congress in 1884 of the Organic Act. The Territory of Alaska was accorded judicial district status. A civil government was installed and a governor assigned. Mining claims were given clear title, so long as they

did not encroach on lands improved or occupied by Native groups. Importantly, the new law also extended both recognition of and protection for aboriginal use and occupancy of land. There followed a predictable upsurge in population influx to Alaska and economic growth. Yet the new law effectively denied Natives the opportunity to obtain formal title to land. Thus the question of "Whose land is it?" remained unanswered.

Despite continued uncertainties relating to Native land ownership a major step in allocating public lands in the territory came with passage of an obscure federal statute in 1891. A group of Tsimshian Indians from neighboring Canada, under the leadership of William Duncan, a white lay missionary of the Church of England, appealed to Congress for rights to land on Annette Island in Alaska where they had established the community of New Metlakatla. Without regard to the location being part of the traditional homeland for Cape Fox Tlingit Indians, the Congress granted an 86,000-acre reservation for Metlakatlans "and such other Alaskan Natives as may join them." The question of prior rights to these lands having been extinguished without compensation was destined for closer scrutiny at a later date.

Additional provisions in the Metlakatla Reserve Act also make it noteworthy as the instrument by which Alaska's early public reserves were established. Along with providing for designation on public lands of town sites and trade and manufacturing sites, the statute also authorized the President to create reserves such as national forests and units of the national park system. Fifteen years later, the Congress would enact the 1906 Antiquities Act, which would further empower the President with proclamational authority needed to establish national monuments in protection of resources of scientific and historic importance.

The first major withdrawal for public reserves came in 1907 with the establishment by Presidential proclamation of Tongass National Forest. It covered virtually all of southeastern Alaska's "panhandle" and comprised about 18 million acres. A series of four national monuments followed shortly thereafter: Sitka in 1910; Old Kasaan in 1916 (later disestablished by act of Congress in 1955); Katmai in 1918; and Glacier Bay (as a withdrawal from Tongass National Forest) in 1925. Mount McKinley National Park was established by act of Congress in 1916 and signed into law on February 26, 1917. In sum, federal land withdrawals up to 1925 exceeded 22 million acres.

By contrast, the Congress also passed the Native Allotment Act in 1906. This law allowed for allocation of 160 acres of

land—without mineral rights—to each qualified Native applicant in Alaska. Such allotments were held in a trust status by the Secretary of Interior. Alaska's Native population in 1909 was estimated to be 25,330.

Population influx to the new territory rose with economic opportunities; e.g., the Klondike and Nome gold rushes, fur trade, and a booming salmon industry. So too did encroachments increase on lands important to Native interests, and most of these lands were without protection of title or legal recognition. Aukwan Tlingits, for example, gave way to a wave of gold prospectors at a site that was later to become the city of Juneau. The trend was both clear and alarming to Native elders.

One of the early organized discussions of this issue of land rights occurred in 1929 at a meeting of the newly formed Alaska Native Brotherhood. Membership was mainly from southeastern villages of Angoon, Sitka, Juneau and Klawock, and so the focus of concern was Native land expropriation along Alaska's panhandle. They agreed to pursue legal redress for Tlingit and Haida lands taken without compensation in the establishment of Tongass National Forest, the Metlakatla Reserve and Glacier Bay National Monument. Recent success in achieving the right to vote through the Citizenship Act of 1924 fired their drive. And one member of the Brotherhood, William L. Paul, a Tlingit and an attorney, had won election to the Territorial House of Representatives.

Resolution of the Native lands issue evolved through numerous phases and setbacks. Before judicial relief could be sought, it was found necessary for Congress to enact legislation in 1935 allowing suit to be brought against the federal government. Finally, a suit for \$35 million in compensation for lands taken was successfully filed. But the case was dismissed by the Federal Court of Claims in 1944 on grounds that the attorneys representing their Native clients did not have prior approval of the Department of Interior.

The close of World War II brought a new influx of people into the territory and a renewed interest in settlement of Native land claims. At the time of the 1929 meeting of the Alaska Native Brotherhood the Native and non-Native populations of Alaska were roughly equal at about 29,000 each. Following the war, the non-Native population outnumbered Natives three-to-one, with the state total population approaching 128,000 by 1950. Amid these changing times, the Tlingit-Haida settlement issue was viewed as the linchpin in resolving Native claims to land rights.

In 1959, the Federal Court of Claims ruled that a taking of lands had in fact occurred and that it comprised an extinguishment of Native rights and claims to the land—and, more importantly, that these were *compensable* rights. Determination of payment would have to wait another nine years until 1968 when a monetary judgment of \$7.5 million was awarded the plaintiff. The amount of payment was based on estimated land values at the time of withdrawal for Tongass National Forest in 1907, an economic lapse of 52 years' valuation. An additional shortfall to Native interests was that the court had authority only to award money for lands lost, but not to grant legal title to lands still under use and occupancy.

The court's findings for compensable rights came in the same year with Alaska's statehood. And so the much larger issue of conflict between unsettled Native land claims and the state's land entitlement of 106 million acres was openly recognized. The threat of state land selections across broad reaches of Alaska posed an ominous prospect to Native people. Once again the need for legislative settlement for *all* Native claims was voiced in Alaska.

A rapid succession of events helped pave the way during the 1960s. A proposal to build a road to a planned recreation area in the Minto Flats in 1963 stirred controversy because the area was important to local Athapascan Native people as hunting, trapping and fishing grounds, and because the proposal appeared to be going forward without their approval. At the same time, the Rampart Dam across the Yukon River was being proposed and would result in the inundation of several Native villages as well as some of the most productive waterfowl and fur bearer habitat in the state. Then, rolling into the midst of these dilemmas like a live grenade, the Atomic Energy Commission announced Project Chariot, a plan to create a deep water harbor along the coast of northwest Alaska by use of nuclear explosion.

These events brought new levels of communication between once-remote village peoples and their elected representatives. A Native newspaper, the *Tundra Times*, became a vital communication link under the creative leadership of the late Howard Rock, an Eskimo from the village of Point Hope (one of the two villages nearest to the ill-fated Project Chariot blast site). During 1965, Eskimos of the North Slope initiated formal claim to 58 million acres under aboriginal use and occupancy. And one year later the Alaska Federation of Natives was formed as the key state-wide organization for land claims settlement. At their October meeting attended by over 250 Native leaders and elders, three top priori-

ty issues were cited: Attainment of a federal land freeze preventing further allocations until all claims were settled; the passage of a Native claims settlement act; and assurance of Native participation in drafting settlement legislation.

Late in 1966, a state-wide land freeze was imposed by Secretary of Interior Stewart Udall. Shortly thereafter, a government task force produced findings that current Native claims were valid and that protection for use and occupancy should be pursued. By 1966, only about 3 million acres of land had been transferred to the state as part of its entitlement. Moreover, several advocates of notable public stature had been enlisted in the Native cause, including two prominent jurists, former Supreme Court Judge Arthur Goldberg and former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark. The stage appeared to be set for final legislative resolution of this longstanding and elemental issue.

Numerous bills and countless amendments were debated in the Congress, but for one reason or another all were stalled. The issue was exceedingly complex. And there was always the option of doing what Congresses of the past had done—postpone a decision. But this time an added emphasis was supplied that could not go unnoticed. In late winter of 1968, an oil drilling rig at Prudhoe Bay, jointly operated by ARCO and Humble Oil (now EXXON), struck our largest reservoir of oil and gas at 9,500 feet below the frozen tundra of the North Slope. This much-needed resource could be taken to markets in the Lower-48 states either by tanker route across northern Canada or across the midsection of Alaska via a 980-mile pipeline to an ice-free port at Valdez in the Gulf of Alaska. And, should the tanker route prove infeasible (which it did), the pipeline route would have to contend with a federal land freeze and unresolved Native land claims.

The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act became law on December 18, 1971. Since this issue of disposition of *public* lands in Alaska also involved national interests, deliberations in the Congress came to include provisions for protection of nationally significant resources beyond those needed to satisfy Native land claims. The thought of undiscovered Yellowstones and Yosemites and Grand Canyons going unrecognized, and therefore unprotected, was a concern that could not be overlooked.

A single provision was added to the legislation under Section 17(d)(2) which addressed the national interest in Alaska's federal lands. It directed appropriate de-

partments of government to evaluate lands beyond state and Native selections for possible inclusion into the four federal conservation systems, national parks, national forests, wildlife refuges, and wild and scenic rivers. Recommendations to the Congress were called for in two years.

As a result of the "d-2" provision, studies were launched in the spring of 1972 which resulted in recommendations being made and submission of Environmental Impact Statements to the Congress in 1974. Six years later, the Alaska National Interest Lands Act emerged from the Congress. It designated, in part, ten new national park system units and added acreage to three existing areas—Katmai, Glacier Bay and Mount McKinley (now "Denali").

The size and quality of these parklands aside, their timing could not have been better. Unlike comparable situations in the Lower-48 states, the lands in Alaska were still in public ownership. Thus the acquisition cost to the American taxpayer was essentially zero. The park units required only designation by the Congress.

Parklands of the dimension and diversity of those in Alaska could not have been created without broad public participation and intense debate. It has been said that the Alaska Lands Act triggered the highest level of public response since passage of the Civil Rights Bill some fifteen years ago. But, then, that's another story—currently being prepared by Park Service historian Frank Willis.

Continued

sports fun. This will be an excellent opportunity for region and park people to get acquainted and discuss problems relating to all Park Service families.

Alaska is just as majestic and beautiful as our tourist bureau would have you believe. There is indeed a uniqueness about living in Alaska that is hard to describe. I don't believe I have ever lived in an area where there is more caring and sharing. Living in isolated or remote areas creates a true desire to lend a helping hand to anyone who needs aid. Many of us believe that Alaska is a very special place to live.

Field Reports

Protection Car clouting

Auto burglaries or "car clouts" are one of the major law enforcement problems confronting park rangers today. Yearly, hundreds of incidents occur throughout the system resulting in thousands of dollars in property damage or loss to park visitors. In Grand Canyon alone, there were 151 incidents in 1982 resulting in approximately \$80,000 property loss/damage.

In the last few years, significant strides have been made in identifying car clout suspects and developing information-sharing networks among parks. This has resulted in the apprehension of several individuals and the reduction of incidents. However, while rangers have reacted effectively to this type of activity, the problem of visitor awareness still remains. Visitors to park areas generally display an unrealistic sense of security making them easy targets for professional thieves.

Last winter, four signs were placed in key areas of Grand Canyon's South Rim Village to advise visitors of this particular problem. These signs were placed partly because we believe that handouts at entrance stations or kiosks are generally ignored, forgotten or lost, and that most visitors, who have been travelling for most of the day, are seemingly primarily interested in seeing the Grand Canyon or finding a campsite immediately. Once they have satisfied one or all of their primary objectives, visitors tend to be more receptive to information on this type of problem. The signs, consequently, were placed in high-visibility areas, such as scenic over-

looks and a trailhead, where people will read the warning immediately after exiting their vehicles.

The results this year have generally been positive. The greatest success appears to have occurred at the Kaibab Trailhead, an isolated parking area for overnight and extended day hikers. There was an average of 27 car clouts yearly in this parking area prior to the signing. In 1983, we've had only five incidents, each of which resulted in minimal property loss due to visitors taking their valuables with them. As noted on the sign, it is suggested that visitors leave their glove compartments open, since they are common hiding spots for wallets and other valuables.

A daily check of the vehicles in this lot revealed that 10 to 50 percent of the vehicles had their glove boxes open, indicating that visitors are heeding our warning. I believe the open boxes also act as a deterrent to thieves, who undoubtedly see the sign and open glove compartments while casing the parking area.

The signing has been most effective at the trailhead area and to a lesser extent in the major day-use lots. Car clout statistics are down approximately 40 percent this year. However, I think this is more a result of other factors such as the information-sharing networks and arrests of key individuals. One frustrating statistic is that about 95 percent of the car clout victims stated that they had seen the signs, but failed to respond appropriately. In a high-density area such as the South Rim Village, there will always be a percentage of people that won't see the signs or who will ignore the warning. Though a small percentage, they can represent a large number of people each day.

A final consideration, though, is that the signing will make more visitors aware of the problem and keep their valuables with them. This should force professional thieves to be more selective, which should result in their need to stay in an area longer. It is hoped this will increase the possibility of apprehension. As a direct result of the signing, one suspect was arrested this year and another excellent suspect description obtained from a visitor who witnessed a car clout.

In conclusion, I feel that this type of signing has been effective and should be considered in other parks as part of a visitor awareness program. Though addressing a specific problem, I feel the magnitude of the car clout problem in our system deserves this specific response. Feel free to contact me with questions about this article.

Joe Evans
Grand Canyon

Seasonal training programs

The following is the current listing of certified institutions whose programs are approved for commissioning seasonal law enforcement personnel in the National Park Service, and is presented for your information:

Southwestern Technical College
Western North Carolina Criminal
Justice Training and Education Center
Post Office Box 95
Sylva, North Carolina 28779
John Riley, Coordinator
Criminal Justice Training and Education
704/586-4091

Santa Rosa Junior College
Seasonal Law Enforcement Training
Program
Northern California Criminal Justice
Training and Education System
7501 Sonoma Highway
Santa Rosa, California 95405
Robert Blanchard, Director
707/539-5210

Memphis State University
Park Ranger Law Enforcement Training
Program
Memphis, Tennessee 38152
William O. Dwyer, Director
Department of Psychology
901/454-2149

Everette Community College
Seasonal Law Enforcement Training
Program
801 Wetmore Avenue
Everette, Washington 98201
John E. Connor, Coordinator
206/259-7151

Hocking Technical College
Seasonal Law Enforcement Training
Program



Joe Evans

One of the warning signs in Grand Canyon's South Rim Village.

Nelsonville, Ohio 45764
Russell Tippit, Program Manager
614/753-3591

Slippery Rock State College
Seasonal Ranger Training
Department of Parks and Recreation
Slippery Rock, Pennsylvania 16507
Dr. William Shiner, Program Director
412/794-7837 or 7503

Cuyohoga Community College
Seasonal Ranger Training
Western Campus
11000 W. Pleasant Valley Road
Parma, Ohio 44130
Dr. Stephen R. Dodd, Program Coordinator
216/842-0092 Ext. 5902

Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Seasonal Ranger Training
129 Straight Hall
Indiana, Pennsylvania 16635
Dr. Paul Lang, Program Coordinator
412/357-2227

Arapahoe Community College
Seasonal Park Ranger Training Program
5900 South Santa Fe Drive
Littleton, Colorado 80120
Donald E. Heller, Program Coordinator
303/797-5872

Mayland Technical College
Post Office Box 547
Spruce Pine, North Carolina 28777
Jack Wood, Department Chairman
704/765-7351

Jim Tuck
Cabrillo

Fire Management Current program developments

The National Park Service without question has been the leader among all land managing agencies over the last ten years in the development of unique and innovative fire management programs. This should not be too surprising, when you consider the many and varied objectives contained in our complex resource management programs. Our fire responsibilities were relatively simple when we pursued a single objective of suppressing all fires. Today, fire suppression capability is still the backbone of any fire management program, but we have added the complexities of using fire as a management tool to that program to fulfill resource management objectives of a much broader nature.

This rather dramatic change, from fire control to fire management, has necessitated some dramatic changes for programs, from the field level through the Washington office. The rapidly accelerating field area programs using fire to accomplish resource management objectives resulted

in the establishment of the Branch of Fire Management in 1979. The Branch's role is to establish policies and procedures and coordinate directions for Servicewide fire management programs.

So, where are we in NPS fire management?

FIREPRO: We have progressed through the design, test, and edit phases and are holding. Related activity in 18 parks, regions and national programs adds up to about \$3.5 million in fiscal year 1984. The Branch of Fire Management, with regional fire coordinators, is reviewing refinements and options for fiscal year 1985 and beyond.

Hotshot Crews: Our NPS interagency hotshot fire crews serve as part of our contribution to the national interagency fire suppression program. Their first priority is large fire suppression, so they are prepositioned into geographic regions with the greatest wildfire potential. They have also provided a valuable source of highly skilled manpower while residing in host parks with fire-oriented resource management programs. These 20-person crews are available to any Service area that can house and provide mess facilities for them. Requests for their services on project work have doubled each of the three years of the program. There is a potential use of the crew program as a source of highly skilled firefighters to fill future vacancies in parks that have strong fire management programs within their resource management plan.

Fire Overhead: At present, we have ten fully qualified Class I personnel and nine people at the Class II level. Of these, only about half are currently tied directly to park fire management programs. We view this as a red flag warning where future needs of the Service are concerned. Based on our review of the complex fire management plans that come through our office, we see a real need to increase secondary overhead (i.e. sector boss, maps and records officer, etc.) to these program leadership positions. We are currently embarking on a program with regional fire coordinators to use prescribed fire programs to maintain fire experience. This should help bring our fire-oriented people into future leadership roles. It is recognized that there is simply not enough wildfire experience available to allow our people to advance up the fire ladder.

NIIMS Implementation: Currently we are in a transition period between a system of Large Fire Organization (LFO) and the new system of National Interagency Incident Management (NIIMS). The NIIMS system will be fully implemented in NPS by 1986. We look at this new system as very beneficial to the National Park Service, and we should have no trouble adapting to it. The beauty of it is that it can be used

on incidents other than fire. The system could work as well for search and rescue and law enforcement incidents as it will for fire. Park rangers, particularly at the district level in large parks, should be able to readily adapt to the NIIMS or ICS systems.

Bob Sellers
BIFC

Interpretation The Western Interpreters Association

The Western Interpreters Association (WIA) is a professional organization of over 1,000 interpreters dedicated to helping one another communicate knowledge and appreciation of the world around us. Members work in private, local, county, regional, state and federal agencies as rangers, museologists, graphic designers, educators, photographers, naturalists, historians, communication specialists, public information staff and in other capacities.

Chapters sponsor frequent meetings, workshops and field trips. Because of growing membership support, new chapters are being established throughout the United States. The national organization sponsors an annual spring conference that brings hundreds of interpreters together for workshops and idea exchanges.

This year's conference, sponsored jointly by WIA, the California State Park Rangers Association and the Park Rangers Association of California, will be held from March 11-15 in Santa Cruz, California. The joint workshop/conference will focus on park management, future technologies, resources and current techniques, and will feature a number of speakers and special events—including beer tasting and a chili cook-off. (More information and registration materials can be obtained by writing to: Joint Conference, Box 28366, Sacramento, CA 95828, or call 916-383-2530).

WIA also publishes a quarterly journal called *The Interpreter*, which provides members a forum to exchange ideas and experiences with others who share similar problems and goals, and a bi-monthly newsletter which brings current information to members.

The Western Interpreters Association is much like the Association—what you receive directly relates to what you contribute. You're invited to join other interpreters as we work to increase our expertise in our profession. Write: Western Interpreters Association (ANPR), P.O. Box 28366, Sacramento, CA 95828, for information.

Jim Tuck
Cabrillo

Association Notes

Rendezvous VIII

Preparations for Rendezvous VIII, which will be held in Bar Harbor, Maine, from October 16 to October 20 this year, are well under way. What follows is a progress report; final arrangements, schedules, and reservation information will appear in the June issue.

Accommodations

Four motels adjacent to each other and near the ocean—the Bar Harbor, Atlantic Oaks By-The-Sea, Frenchman's Bay and Edenbrook motels—will provide most of the needed lodging with their cumulative 250-plus rooms. Several other motels are nearby if a greater number of members come than is presently anticipated.

All room costs will be in the vicinity of \$28 per night, single or double occupancy. This is a substantial reduction from seasonal rates, which run as high as three times the rate offered the Association. All four are within a few minutes walk from each other, about 15 minutes from downtown Bar Harbor, and 10 minutes from trails leading into Acadia National Park, which is immediately adjacent to the town.

Reservations *can not* be made until June, but will then be handled by the Acadia Travel Company. You will only need call their number collect to make your reservation, which will be done by computer. Because of this, members should be able to find out if friends are coming and arrange to room with or near them.

Transportation

The Acadia Travel Company will also be coordinating travel. This means that you will be able to reserve your room and make flight and ground transportation arrangements at the same time.

At this time, it appears that Delta will be the official airline for the Rendezvous and that, because of this, they will offer 30 percent discounts off regular fares (supersavers and other special flight arrangements will still be available, too, and may be cheaper). Delta offers direct flights from most cities to Bangor; from there, it's an hour's drive to Bar Harbor. Bus shuttles will probably be set up, and either Hertz or Avis will be the official car rental agency, so cars should be available at discount rates as well.

Meeting, Greeting and Eating

The Seaview Restaurant, which is centrally located to all four of the main motels, will be ours exclusively for the Rendezvous. It will be open continuously as the

primary gathering point, and will be the location where the beer kegs will be set up. The Seaview seats 300 at any given time, and will be one of several restaurants available for meals. The dance, lobster/clam bake and registration will also be held there.

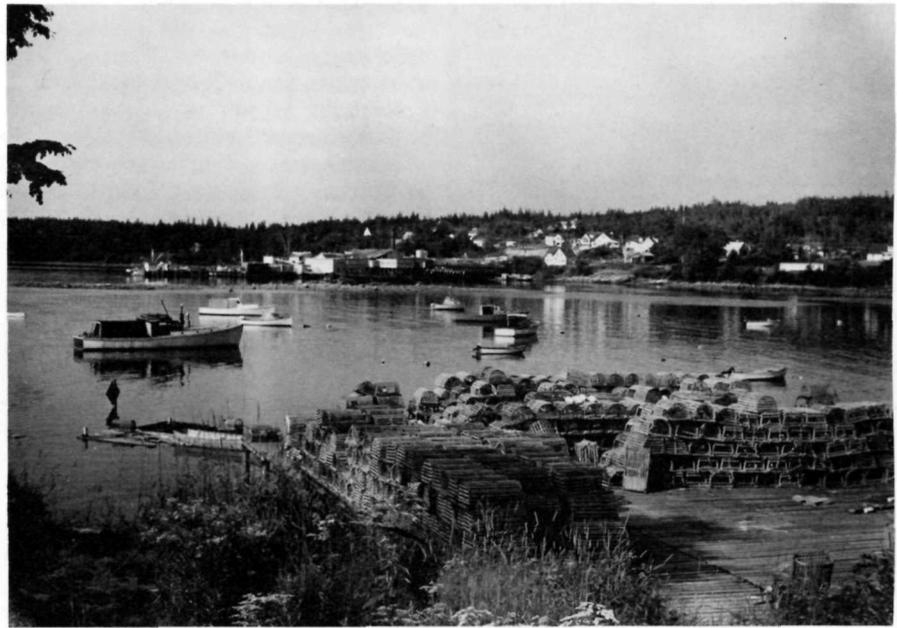
Major meetings and work group sessions will be held in locations nearby. A number of options are possible, but final arrangements will depend on the program which has yet to be developed. Bob Cunningham of Denali has been named program chairman and is working out the agenda for speakers and session leaders.

Recreation and Social Events

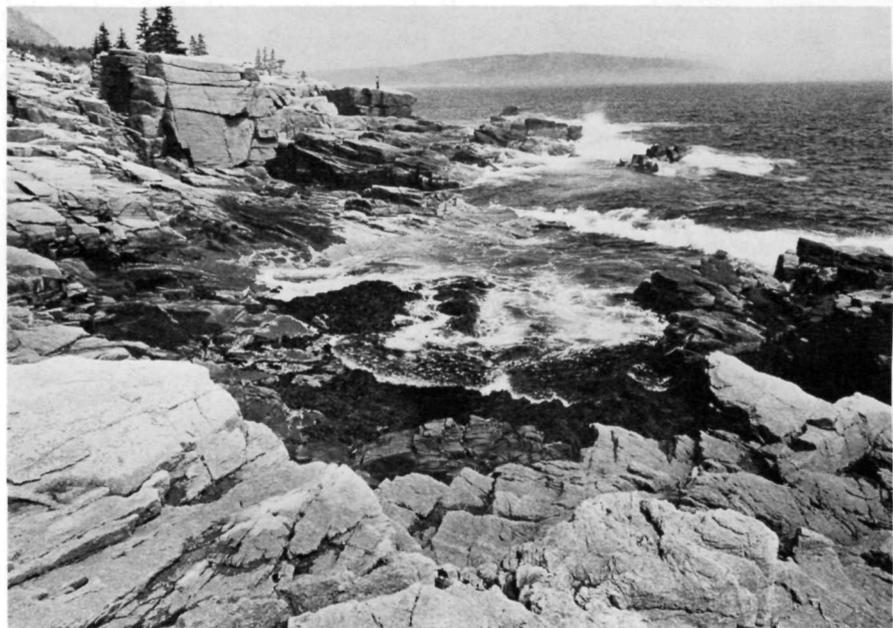
A traditional Down East lobster/clam bake will be held at the Seaview, followed by a dance with Danny Harper's Band, a good local country and western group.

There will be a boat trip out along the magnificent Maine coast. The boat can take up to about 225 people at a probable cost of a couple of dollars a head; the trip will be two hours long. If there's a lot of interest, a second boat will be used, or two trips will be scheduled.

There'll also be a two-to three-hour bus tour of Acadia which will cost about \$3.00



National Park Service



National Park Service

Two of Maine's great attractions—lobster boats in a quiet harbor (above) and surf pounding the rocky coast of Acadia National Park (below).

per person. For the more adventurous types, the park's extensive trail system is almost literally a stone's throw from the motels.

Preliminary Schedule

As it now stands, the schedule of events will probably be as follows:

Tuesday, 10/16—Arrival and registration; Evening: social

Wednesday, 10/17—Morning: speakers; Afternoon: meeting; Evening: boat tour

Thursday, 10/18—All day: workshop; Afternoon/Evening: bus tour

Friday, 10/19—All day: Business meeting; Evening: dinner and dance

Saturday, 10/20—All day: social

Sunday, 10/21—Departure

This schedule may change; a refined version will appear in the summer Newsletter. Although no "official" activities are scheduled for Saturday, it seems a good idea to have an extra day for socializing and seeing Acadia, one of the finest parks in the system. Members have often complained that the Rendezvous is too short, so here's *your* day to relax and see the area.

We look forward to seeing you in October and serving as hosts to this Rendezvous

Stan Robbins
Acadia

Election Results

The tabulation of votes for the slate of candidates for the board of directors was completed by secretary Laurie Coughlan in early January, and the following members were voted into office for two-year terms:

- Western vice president—Jim Tuck, Cabrillo
- Eastern vice president—Maureen Finnerty, Everglades
- Mid-Atlantic regional rep—Mary Kimmitt, Independence
- Pacific Northwest regional rep—Noel Poe, North Cascades
- Southwest regional rep—Cliff Chetwin, Carlsbad
- Southeast regional rep—Ken HUllick, Chattahoochee
- West regional rep—Dennis Burnett, Sequoia

Laurie reports that there was a "very strong voter turnout in West and Southeast regions", where several Association members sought positions as representatives. Another factor, of course, was that these two positions were the only ones which had multiple candidates.

Many members have expressed concern or wondered about the reasons for an election where five of seven candidates ran unopposed. Although the floor was open to nominations for a fair amount of time at the Rendezvous in October, only a few nominations were made. It appears that the main problem was that members did not know that officers were going to be elected, or, if they were aware that there was to be an election this year, did not know *which officers' terms* were about to expire.

With this in mind, the Newsletter herein lists those positions which will be open for nominations during the business meeting at Bar Harbor in October:

- President
- Secretary
- Rocky Mountain regional rep
- North Atlantic regional rep
- National Capitol regional rep
- Midwest regional rep
- Alaska regional rep

Members should actively consider who they'd like to see in these positions and be prepared to nominate and second candidates. Any member can nominate a person for a position, but only members from a region can vote for candidates from that region.

The next issue will carry an article on the rules that apply during these meetings and further information the agenda.

Bumper Sticker Contest

The Association is holding a contest for an appropriate bumper sticker slogan. Members with interesting possibilities should submit them to Bill Halainen at the Newsletter address. The winning choice, which will be determined by the president, editor and marketing coordinator, will be printed on a sticker which will be offered for sale in the future. The award for winning the contest has yet to be determined, but will be something like a promotion to GS-13 at the park of your choice or a \$10 gift certificate. What have you got to lose?

Work Groups

Dual Careers

Leader Mona Divine, Yellowstone. Address: Old Faithful Ranger Station, P.O. Box 2272, Yellowstone Park, Wyoming 82190. Phone: 307-344-7381 x 6005 (work), 307-545-7305 (home).

The dual career committee has completed work on a survey, which will be mailed out shortly. If you would like a copy of it, write Mona at the address listed above.

Sherry Collins is still working on alternative work opportunities. If you know of any new ideas concerning alternative work styles, please write her at PO Box 310, Grand Canyon, Arizona 86023.

Hawaii Volcanoes recently announced two park technician vacancies as dual career potential, and several more parks are considering announcing jobs simultaneously when possible.

Uniforms

Leader Nancy Hunter, Everglades. Address: PO Box 279, Homestead, Florida 33030. Phone: 305-248-5081 (home), 305-247-6211 (work).

A half dozen people have enlisted in this work group, but Nancy is looking for at least six more people to join in. The group is waiting for the new uniform guidelines to be released before beginning work on proposals. There should be more concrete information on developments in the next issue of the Newsletter.

Position Trades

Leader Andy Ferguson, Capitol Reef. Address: Capitol Reef National Park, Torrey, Utah 84775. Phone: 801-425-3871 (work), 801-425-3534 (home).

This work group has so far received just eight pieces of mail regarding the possibility of trade-transfers between persons in similar grades and positions, but a beginning has been made.

As you might suspect, the responses have run the gamut of possibilities, both pro and con. Some of the ideas that keep surfacing included: a reluctance on the part of managers to utilize a poorly defined mechanism; the acknowledged potential for this or some other administrative route to initiate greater movement, opportunities and career development possibilities; reservations about mobility; and the bottom line concern—costs. One region has been involved in an ongoing effort since 1981 that has resulted in a couple of lateral reassignments into vacancies but no trades. Another has suggested the compilation of updated quarterly listings for employees interested in reassignment. Yet a Servicewide computerized merit promo-

tion system for the GS-025 series may be in operation within the next two years.

Other possibilities were also suggested. When a permanent transfer isn't necessarily the answer, detail assignments of up to several months to attain experience may be a good alternative to seeking a trade. Good, solid career counseling could solve some morale problems. And the establishment of criteria for limiting the length of duty (if desired) in remote stations was also suggested in place of trades sought out of desperation.

The responses received may have taken us far afield of the original trade-transfer emphasis, but, since they address many of the same problems and potentials, this work group encourages the submission of all your opinions and ideas.

Seasonal Interests

Leader Mike Sutton, Virgin Islands. Address: Box 110, St. John, Virgin Islands 00830. Phone: 809-776-6201 (work), 809-776-6993 (home).

The results of the work group's seasonal ranger survey are now available and appear below. The group would like to have had more responses, but nonetheless feels that the results are meaningful and important, particularly because they came from so many areas throughout the system.

Mike participated in a seasonal curriculum review council on January 17th and 18th at FLETC in which the nine-member group reviewed and revised the curriculum for seasonal law enforcement training. The major change from the

previous course requirements, established in 1979, is the addition of 40 more hours to the 200 hours now required. Most of the increase came in the law enforcement techniques section, which focuses on patrol procedures, techniques and traffic enforcement. This section will have more of a "grass roots emphasis on practical sorts of things." There are now 10 approved training schools (see "Field Reports") which will teach this program. Rangers who've already finished the 200-hour course, however, will still be able to obtain a commission.

The training office in Washington is spearheading a drive to develop self-instructional materials for both permanents and seasonals, but with a "stronger impact" on the latter group. Materials for these courses will be put together by private contractors, but the Service will develop the curriculum. Either the ranger or the park will then pay for the course. Tentative areas of study are introductory natural resource management, cultural resource management, an introduction to interpretive research principles, and interpretation of the historic scene.

A pilot project for self-instructional law enforcement training will be offered at Yosemite this summer. Mike is working with Tom Smith, director of the park management program at West Valley College in Saratoga, California, and a 20-year seasonal at the park, on the development of the course, which will cover 15 areas of the seasonal law enforcement curriculum. The college is preparing the material, and the Service is paying to have them sent out to seasonals well before they arrive at the park. By doing this, these rangers will be

able to finish half of their annual refresher before the season begins; the rest will be completed thereafter. If it works well, the program may be expanded Servicewide.

Flip Hagood of the training office is working on a publication listing training for seasonals, such as *Courier* now provides such a listing for permanents each year. Flip requests that seasonals forward information on any training opportunities that they are aware of to him for this publication. The address: Training Office, National Park Service, Department of Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

The work group now has an Alaska representative—Jerry Case of Glacier Bay—which Mike feels is important "because seasonals there may have special concerns not shared with their counterparts in the lower 48." Sue Kylander of Indiana Dunes and Craig McClure of Yellowstone continue to work on a group health insurance plan for seasonal rangers through Mutual of Omaha.

Housing and Quarters

Leader Bill Blake, Shenandoah. Address: Box 381, Elkton, Virginia 22827. Phone: 703-298-1675 (home), 804-985-7293 (work).

Management Identification and Development

Leader Maureen Finnerty, Everglades. Address: 465 NW 17 Court, Homestead, Florida 33030. Phone: 303-247-6211 (work), 305-246-4474 (home).

Seasonal Concerns Work Group Survey of Seasonal Rangers

Respondents:	97 from 33 parks	Seeking Permanent	
Age:	Range—19-68 years	Position in NPS:	Yes—55%
	Average—30.2 years		No—42%
	Median—27 years		Undecided—3%
Marital Status:	Single—73%	Training Needs:	#1—Law enforcement
	Married—27%		#2—EMS
	Veterans—16%		#3—Interpretation
	Non-veterans—84%		#4—Fire management
Education:	High School—2%	Should NPS Pay/ Sponsor Training:	15 others listed
	In College—8%		Yes—92%
	Associate degree—8%		No—8%
	Bachelor's degree—65%	Willing To Attend On Own Time and Finances:	Yes—86%
	Master's degree—17%		No—14%
GS Level:	GS 3—14%	Concerns:	#1—NPS career development/employment
	GS 4—37%		#2—Seasonal job security
	GS 5—47%		#3—Training
	GS 7— 1%		#4—Seasonal hiring system
Seasonal Experience:	Range—1-84 months		#5—Type of work
	Average—24 months		#6—Working in park area of choice
Division:	Interpretation—48%		#7—Supervision and evaluation
	Protection—46%		#8—Housing
	General (I & RM)—6%		#9—Personnel matters

Regional Reps Report

North Atlantic

Representative Stan Robbins, Acadia. Address: Seawall Ranger Station, Manset, Maine 04656. Phone: 207-244-3030 (home), 207-288-3360 (work).

Mid-Atlantic

Representative Mary Kimmitt, Independence. Address: 725 Pemberton Street #8, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19147. Phone: 215-238-1249 (home), 215-597-7121 (work).

National Capital

Representative Rick Erisman, C&O Canal. Address: PO Box 31, Sharpsburg, Maryland 21782. Phone: 301-432-2474 (home), 301-739-4200 (work).

On November 29, Rick met with Regional Director Jack Fish, Bob Stanton, Lowell Sturgill and Park Police Chief Lynn Herring for the region's quarterly ANPR-NCR meeting. Arrangements were made for the regional director to meet with a number of Association park representatives from the region in January, and for Service support of a career development seminar arranged by member Einar Olsen, who is the Association's intra-regional park rep at the JFK Center. The purpose of the seminar, which was to be held at regional headquarters in early February, was "to make employees aware of the strategies and tactics that may be of use in promoting their careers." Einar was being assisted by Lucia Bragan, NCR's training officer, in setting up the program, which will be reported on in the next issue.

Rick and 12 intra-regional Association park reps met with Jack Fish and Lowell Sturgill on January 4, and discussed membership, the Newsletter, Rendezvous VIII and the program for the career development seminar. The regional director expressed concern about relationships between Park Police and rangers, the 025-026 dilemma, regional law enforcement specialists, quarters and required occupancy, mobility and temporary assignments. Representatives had the opportunity to address their concerns from the field level.

Rick will be meeting again with the regional director on March 1.

Southeast

Representative Ken Hulick, Chattahoochee. Address: 1700 Old Rex Morrow Road, Morrow, Georgia 30260. Phone: 404-394-8324 (work), 404-961-5349 (home).

Midwest

Representative Sue Kylander, Indiana Dunes. Address: 726 Howe Road, Chester-ton, Indiana. Phone: 219-926-5464 (home), 904-932-5302 (work).

Rocky Mountain

Representative Tim Setnicka, Grand Tetons. Address: Box 26, Moose, Wyoming 83012. Phone: 307-733-2880 (work), 307-733-8220 (home).

Tim replied in December to an editorial which appeared in the October newsletter of the Police Association of District of Columbia. The editorial, written by Patrick O'Brien of the Park Police, was highly critical of the Service for employing rangers instead of Park Police at the economic summit in Williamsburg and for the Queen's visit to Yosemite, and claimed that "inter-agency jealousy and politics" were the reasons for the utilization of rangers for these events.

Tim's reply pointed out that:

- editorials of this fashion—emotional in tone and filled with unsubstantiated claims—serve no productive purpose;
- the rangers involved in the special events teams did not steal any "glory" from Park Police because the work was more boring and tedious than glorious;
- Park Police officers have performed in outstanding and heroic fashion on a number of occasions, such as the Air Florida disaster, and deserved the recognition they got in those events;
- Park Police are not the only law enforcement officers in the Service, as both ranger and police "roles and functions have developed separately with similar but not equal duties"; and that
- there is no secret "Seven Year Plan" wherein rangers are planning to oust Park Police.

Tim concluded by saying that rangers, police and management should "work together to solve these problems instead of throwing rocks at each other based on half truths and limited facts", and challenged O'Brien to "develop a closer tie between (his) organization and the Association of National Park Rangers to air these rumors and differences and continue to build a solid working relationship rather than 'cheap-shotting' one another in Jack Anderson columns and emotional editorials."

Southwest

Representative Cliff Chetwin, Carlsbad. Address: Drawer T, Carlsbad, New Mexico 88220. Phone: 505-785-2243 (home), 505-785-2251 (work).

West

Representative Dennis Burnett, Sequoia/Kings. Address: Box 101, Lodgepole, Sequoia National Park, California 93262. Phone: 209-565-3341 (home), 209-565-3479 (work).

Dennis is soliciting ideas for a possible Western regional mini-conference to be held after this year's Rendezvous, which will be held in October in Bar Harbor. He'd like to set something up around the first of November, somewhere in the Los Angeles basin and preferably in Anaheim somewhere near Disneyland. He and Rick Gale would coordinate the meeting, but will only go ahead with it if there's enough local interest. Please get in touch with Dennis or Rick and let them know if you are interested.

Pacific Northwest

Representative Noel Poe, North Cascades. Address: Box 85, Stehekin, Washington 98852. Phone: 509-682-4404 (work and home).

April 14-15 are the dates for Pacific Northwest's regional rendezvous, which will be held at Fort Worden State park in Puget Sound. The old military park has been rebuilt by Washington state and offers convention facilities in turn-of-the-century military buildings. Reservations for the Association have been made in the officer housing unit. If regular members haven't been contacted yet, they should write or call Noel ASAP.

The theme and speakers have not yet been decided upon but some state park and Canadian park officials have been invited to discuss common problems and their plans for Expo 86, which is to be held in Victoria, Canada. It is anticipated that parks in the northwest will see increased travel in 1986 because of the exposition.

Alaska

Representative Bryan Swift, Denali. Address: Denali National Park, Box 9, McKinley Park, Alaska 99577. Phone: 907-683-2294 (work).

Bryan is making tentative plans for another rendezvous in the spring, but has not yet determined place or time.

Continued

the last Rendezvous "be too tolerant" and not see "the cumulative impacts of several acts of tolerance."

Surely some park managers will be able to articulate a justification for their present level of in-house maintenance activities; hence, maintaining an effective team operation. Associate Director Albright stated in the Winter 83/84 Newsletter "the Park Service has been the victim in the past of a largely reactive system of management". Apparently A-76 has placed the Park Service in the role of victim again, as park managers busily develop their justifications.

Today we have a built-in flexibility as areas call upon their maintenance workers for fire fighting, late night snow removal, wildlife round-ups, boundary fence repair, and a wide spectrum of immediate attention work. We will be hard pressed to find contractors willing to provide the NPS with the type of flexibility we currently enjoy and at times need.

Although the timing is late, the ANPR should develop a formal position on A-76 and the potential impacts it will have on the mission of the NPS.

The last issue I would like to address is Senate Bill 1569, introduced June 1983, titled *Paleontological Resources Conservation Act of 1983*. S-1569 has the potential of changing our current and upcoming revised collecting regulations. The bill will become the law that our regulations are based on in reference to vertebrate fossil collecting—affecting all NPS areas that have any form of vertebrate fossil resource and other federal land agencies.

Professional paleontologists and possibly the NPS would welcome changes in the current collecting permit process (fossils), though S-1569 goes beyond that,

opening the fossil resource for collecting to "hobbyist, fossil collecting groups and scientific commercial collectors" (scientific commercial collectors is a self-contradiction). The Society of Vertebrate Paleontology, as I understand, will endorse the bill *only* if it is revised to exclude hobbyist and commercial collectors.

Why the NPS has had no input on this bill I do not know, though I suggest this possible scenario for the ANPR to follow in this still active issue, which would put us (ANPR & NPS) in a proactive situation. Begin working with the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology, our Washington office, and maybe officials at Interior. During the interim carefully review S-1569 and begin to develop a formal position. It is hoped that by taking this action we will have some input into a law that would serve all concerned.

Fossil Cycad National Monument, South Dakota, was established in 1922 and deauthorized in 1957 simply because the resource vanished. Would it be possible to see other "fossil" areas on the list of former NPS units because of the potential ramifications of S-1569. It is very possible.

Bob Valen
Badlands

Editor:

We now have a good cross section representation from all disciplines of ranger activities as ANPR members. We have members from other disciplines and job functions within the NPS. We have made a strong effort to actively recruit seasonals.

There is one group, however, that is seriously under-represented in ANPR—retirees. Think of the vast amount of knowledge and insight available to give sound counsel and advice to our organization, our purpose, our deliberations, our positions.

I suggest that ANPR members make 1984 the year we actively recruit retirees. One way to begin this recruitment would be for a local ANPR member to "work" the known areas where retirees are concentrated. Santa Fe—Albuquerque, Tucson—Phoenix, and Seattle—Olympia—Port Angeles come readily to mind. I am sure there are others.

So there is the challenge as I see it. Will you join me in trying to bring more retirees into active participation in ANPR?

Rick Gale
Santa Monica Mountains

Editor:

The Branch of Fire Management presented a display of radically new fire equipment vehicles at the Rendezvous. The intent, as stated at 1630 on the program on Monday, was to let rangers have a look at the pieces of equipment that we anticipated would become standard NPS models. We wanted field ranger input before setting specifications. We did get good input from the 40 to 45 rangers who visited the display of equipment that had been brought in from Texas and California.

We were quite disturbed that less than half of the attendees were in the meeting room during our presentation and that only 10 percent of the group took the opportunity to view the display on Tuesday. We had the feeling afterwards that more attendees were interested in how to fill out their forms to get a promotion than they were in updating their skills and knowledge in the tools of their trade. This left us with a distinct feeling of a lack of professionalism by the overwhelming majority of attendees.

John P. Bowdler
BIFC
Donald L. Cross
Yosemite

Association of National Park Rangers

New Membership Application Renewal

Date: _____

Name _____ Title _____

Address _____ NPS Employees: _____

City/State _____ Park (4 letter code, i.e., YELL) _____

Zip Code _____ Region (i.e., RMR)* _____

*(WASO use NCR)

Type of Membership (Check one)	New	Renewal
(1) Active—all NPS employees (permanent or seasonal)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 10.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 15.00
(2) Associate—individuals other than NPS employees	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 10.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 15.00
(3) Sustaining—individuals and organizations	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 50.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 50.00
(4) Life—open to all individuals*	<input type="checkbox"/> \$200.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$200.00
(5) Subscription to newsletter only	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 5.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 5.00

*Life membership may be paid in four installments of \$50.00 each within 12 months.

RETURN TO: ASSOCIATION OF NATIONAL PARK RANGERS
P.O. Box 222
Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190

Received \$ _____

By _____



Association Commemorative Items

The Association is now offering a number of items with the official logo along with the official/unofficial NPS/EMS patch seen in the last few issues. Clockwise from top left are: stadium cup (\$.55), beer mug (\$9.00), coffee cup (\$6.00), baseball cap (\$7.00), belt buckle (\$23.00), and patch (\$3.75).

All items are postpaid. Checks should be made out to ANPR and sent to: John Chew, Route 1, Box 365, Luray, Virginia 22835.



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National Park Rangers
RFD #2, 41 North Great Road
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