

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT'S

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	i
INTRODUCTION	1
Chapter	
I.    LAND ACQUISITION	4
Decline of Catoctin Mountain's Resources and Economy	4
Early Depression Years in Maryland	6
New Deal and Catoctin Recreational Area	8
Planning and Land Acquisition	14
II.   PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT OF CATOCTIN RDA	22
Administrative Headquarters and Central Garage Unit	26
Planning for Group Camps and Picnic Areas	28
Misty Mount and Greentop	31
Camp Hi-Catoctin	39
Blue Blazes Contact Station	43
Catoctin Manor House Day Use Area	49
Catoctin Furnace	52
III.  CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORP	57
IV.  ORGANIZED CAMPING 1937-1941	65
Misty Mount	65
Greentop	66
Camp Hi-Catoctin	69
British Sailors Visit-Summer 1941	69
V.   CATOCTIN RDA'S CONTRIBUTION TO WORLD WAR II	72
Franklin D. Roosevelt's Shangri-La	72
Creating Shangri-La	76
Cruising on Board the U.S.S. Shangri-La	80
Military Activities at Catoctin RDA	86
The Beginning of the End of World War II	93
Land Acquisition--1940	95
VI.  CREATION OF CUNNINGHAM FALLS STATE PARK	99
VII. MISSION 66 AND CATOCTIN MOUNTAIN PARK	111
First Administrative Transition	117
VIII. JOB CORPS AND YOUTH CONSERVATION CAMPS	126
Catoctin Job Corps Conservation Center	126
Camp Peniel	134
Youth Conservation Corps	139

IX.	INTERPRETATION AND USE	147
	Environmental Interpretation	147
	Interpretation in Seasonal Organized Group Camps	149
	Misty Mount	149
	Greentop	151
	Maryland League for Crippled Children	151
	Fredrick County Outdoor School	158
	Round Meadow Camp	168
	Living History Interpretation	171
	Folk Culture Center	175
	Recreation Management	186
	Volunteers	189
X.	NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT	192
	Fishing Management	192
	Brotherhood of the Jungle Cock	205
	Credo Brotherhood of J. C.	210
	Wildlife Management	210
	Soil Conservation	213
	Fire Protection	214
	Forest Protection	217
	Outside Threats	218
	Route 77	219
	Impounding of Big Hunting Creek	223
	SUMMARY	237
APPENDIX A.	Copy of Legislation	A227
APPENDIX B.	Principle Staff	A239
APPENDIX C.	Illustrations	A243
APPENDIX D.	Time Line	A245
	BIBIOGRAPHY	B267

## INTRODUCTION

Catoctin Mountain Park is located 1,400' above the Monocacy River Valley in the Catoctin Mountains on the western boundary of the Piedmont Plateau, two and a half miles west of Thurmont, Maryland, in Frederick County. The park is within an hour of several million urban dwellers who take advantage of picnic grounds, hiking trails, fishing, and nature talks, the way they did 50 years ago when the park first opened. Group camps still welcome Scouts, urban social groups, the Maryland League for the Handicapped and school children from neighboring counties.

Catoctin Mountain Park is an hour away from the metropolitan areas of Baltimore and Washington, D.C. Hunting Creek, on the southern boundary of the park, remains one of the foremost fishing streams in Maryland. The park offers the visitor spring wildflowers and fishing, autumn leaves in all their glory and winter cross-country skiing. Summers at Catoctin are five to ten degrees cooler than at lesser elevations.

The Catoctin Mountains, located on the eastern edge of the Appalachian range, were a part of the geographic barrier to the westward movement that forced settlers south in search of a way west through the mountains. Route 77, running east and west through Harmon's Gap on the park's southern boundary, was once an old Indian path connecting the Monocacy and Middleton (Harbaugh) Valleys. The path was soon widened and appeared on a Baltimore and Ohio Railroad map drawn in 1629 by Joshua Barney<sup>1</sup>. Palatinate Germans moved south from Pennsylvania and settled the northern end of the Monocacy Valley. They introduced farming to the rich valley and industries to tap the mountain's natural resources of timber and iron products<sup>2</sup>. In the southern

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1 Joshua Barney, Map, Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, 1829, Library of Congress, MD HR G1213-478.

2 Souvenir Program, Thurmont Bicentennial and Homecoming, 1951.

Monocacy Valley were English and Irish families from Southern Maryland. Family names still remaining in the Catoctin area, such as Addison and Beat, preceded in Southern Maryland<sup>3</sup>.

Industry was introduced to the mountains when James Johnson and his three brothers built the first Catoctin Furnace in 1774 near deposits of iron ore and limestone. The present stacks were built by this partnership in 1787, three quarters of a mile up Little Hunting Creek from the original site, to be closer to the ore banks<sup>4</sup>. At this same time, residents who manufactured whiskey from surplus grain and corn for cheaper transport to the east resisted new federal government excise taxes on every gallon of whiskey produced. The Whiskey Rebellion in Maryland resulted in riots that eventually caused the governor reluctantly to intervene and restore order<sup>5</sup>. Local sympathy for whiskey stills and their owners reached far into the twentieth century.

Ultimately its location near Baltimore and Washington, D.C., led to the federal government's decision to develop a recreational demonstration area in the Catoctin Mountains in 1935. By the early twentieth century, mountain resources and land were depleted by local farming and industrial practices, setting the stage for intervention by a New Deal program establishing a recreational demonstration area on Catoctin Mountain. Originally 10,000 acres, 4,446 acres of Catoctin Recreational Demonstration Area south of Route 77 became part of the State of Maryland park system in 1954. The proximity of urban centers continues to affect interpretation, resource management, law enforcement and budgeting. Changes in National Park service policy and priorities are reflected in the administration of Catoctin Mountain Park. Existence of the Presidential retreat, Camp David, requires special security measures necessary to cooperate with

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3 Dr. C.E. Schildknecht, Frederick News. 11 Jul 1973, p. D-2.

4 Charles Porter, Catoctin Furnace Report, 11 May 1936, copy CMP.

5 Richard Walsh and William Lloyd, eds., Maryland: A History 1632 -1974 (Baltimore: The Maryland Historical Society Press, Scheidereith & Sons, 1974), p.149.

the Secret Service. Though it shares characteristics with other urban parks, Catoctin MP is a unique resource with a diverse history and interesting cast of characters.

The study of Catoctin historical material reflected four themes: (1) park land acquisition and development; (2) post WW II educational group camping; (3) urban program emphasis after the assassination of Martin Luther King, April 16, 1966; (4) living history and environmental movement.

This administrative history was prepared under contract with the National Capital Regional Office of the National Park Service, located in Washington, D.C.. The report's primary purpose is to present the development and administration of the Park from 1935 to the 50th anniversary celebration in 1965.

## CHAPTER I

### LAND ACQUISITION

#### Decline of Catoctin Mountain's Resources and Economy

The economy of Catoctin Mountain in the late 19th and early 20th century was one of subsistence farm living. Food was produced by plowing rocky soil with horse drawn plows to feed families. Money was earned by tapping natural resources to supplement the bounty from the land, for cash was needed to pay taxes, purchase shoes, coffee, sugar and cloth for clothing. Harvesting valuable timber resources for firewood, railroad ties, staves, mine supports and charcoal all brought in money for commodities not produced on farms. Work in numerous sawmills was readily available. Chestnut trees provided nuts, which were sold by the bushel, as were huckleberries in season.

Industries sprang up in nearby towns such as Mechanics Town (Thurmont), Hagerstown, Frederick and Brunswick, providing employment for men, women and children. By 1751 a road led from Harbaugh Valley, west of Catoctin Mountain to Baltimore through Harmon's Gap. A few houses, wheelwright and blacksmith shops built in the woods to accommodate travelers soon grew into Mechanics Town, named for the "mechanics" who worked there. An edge tool factory was established in 1811 with a tilt-hammer forge that operated until 1850. The first tannery was built in 1793, and by 1831 the town boasted seven. The first Lucifer matches manufactured in America were made in Mechanics Town in 1825. A pottery, woolen mill, nail factory, cooperage, cigar factories, casket works, harness shops, ice cream plant, flour mill, hosiery and garment factories all produced goods and employed residents during the nineteenth century in Mechanics Town. Most people on Catoctin Mountain relied on the rich resources of the mountain to provide their living.

By an act of the Maryland Assembly in 1894, the name of Mechanics Town was changed to Thurmont, meaning “Gateway to the Mountain.”<sup>1</sup>

. When Catoctin Furnace converted from charcoal to coal in the 1880's,<sup>2</sup> traditional trades such as colliers, woodcutters and haulers were eliminated. The opening of Baltimore's Sparrow Point Ironworks in 1889 and the depression of 1893,<sup>3</sup> coupled with rich ore discoveries on the Great Lakes spelled the end of the local iron industry. Catoctin Furnace closed for good in 1903.<sup>4</sup> The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad yard in Brunswick, Maryland, built in 1889, and the C. & O. Canal in Cumberland, provided employment to supplement income from farms. Railroads experienced labor and economic difficulties in the 1920's and another economic recession in 1921 affected the economy of rural areas of Maryland for the rest of the decade.<sup>5</sup>

Conservation continued to take a backseat to local economic interests.<sup>6</sup> Sawmills dominated the mountain industries from 1911 and used the small timber that was left to make barrel staves and pins for mining cars. The stave mill operation finished cutting timber off the mountain and closed in 1926 or 1927.<sup>7</sup> Underbrush took over and the berries were gone. The American Chestnut trees were gone. Their nuts were no longer a source of fall income, seemingly killed overnight by the blight. Erosion from poor farming practices, timber cutting, and slash fires from careless logging resulted in the depletion of the natural resources of Catoctin Mountain. Sheet erosion began on bare slopes, washing precious topsoil into streams. But Catoctin was not alone in

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<sup>1</sup> Souvenir Program, Bicentennial 1951, Catoctin Mountain Park(hereafter referred too as CMP )

<sup>2</sup> Maryland Its Resources, Industries and Institutions. Prepared for the Board of World's Fair Managers of Maryland, by members of Johns Hopkins University and others(Baltimore: The Sun Job Printing Office, 1893), p.106.

<sup>3</sup> Richard Walsh and William Lloyd, eds., Maryland: A History 1632 -1974 (Baltimore: The Maryland Historical Society Press, Scheidereith & Sons, 1974), p.403.

<sup>4</sup> Master Plan, Catoctin Furnace and the Manor Area of Cunningham Falls State Park. 1983, p. A-1.

<sup>5</sup> Walsh, p 703.

<sup>6</sup> George H. Calcott, Maryland & America: 1940-1980(Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Univ. Press, 1985), p. 259.

<sup>7</sup> William Renner, Youth Conservation Corps interview, 1972, CMP.

this practice. The Conservation Supervisor of the state of Maryland estimated that 330 square miles of Maryland land had been displaced by erosion in the years since colonial times.<sup>8</sup>

Factors beyond control of the Catoctin residents were at work as well. Baltimore dominated the state, with 51% of the state's population in 1920.<sup>9</sup> The automobile and migration to Baltimore mirrored developments throughout America as people moved to the metropolitan areas to work and live. The 1910 census recorded that 70% of the immigrants to Baltimore had come from rural parts of Maryland.<sup>10</sup> With this migration, new middle-class attitudes and conditions developed that threatened the rural standards and habits. Industrial workers in Baltimore kept regular hours, had a steady income and more free time than rural labor. Recreation became an important factor in the allocation of time. The 1920's saw the rise of recreational societies, clubs, choral groups, sports clubs, and fraternal organizations. Social welfare organizations in Baltimore sponsored many recreational activities for low-income families, including trips to the country for the fresh air and sunshine. Trends toward organized and publicly supported recreation continued and were recognized by the framers of the New Deal who used resources of the federal government to provide recreation for those who were involuntarily idled by the economic depression that began in 1929.

### Early Depression Years in Maryland

Albert Ritchie was serving his fourth elected term as governor of Maryland when the depression began. Ritchie, a believer in states' rights and admired nationally for his ardent stand

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<sup>8</sup> Charles Byron Marsh, "Soil Erosion," May 10, 1939, University of Maryland, McKeldin Library, WPA Papers, Box 2.

<sup>9</sup> Calcott, p. 1.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid, p. 503.

against the Prohibition Amendment on the principles of States Rights, opposed the extension of federal authority. He was a leader in the fight to repeal the 18th amendment and supported laws allowing Marylanders to produce hard cider and 3 1/2% beer.<sup>11</sup> Ritchie went so far as to order state law officers not to assist their federal counterparts in dealing with prohibition enforcement.<sup>12</sup> Ritchie's reputation for resisting federal encroachment in Maryland earned him consideration for the nomination for the U.S. Presidency at each convention from 1924 to 1932. His philosophy of states' rights extended to relief for the poor as well and Maryland for the first few years of the depression relied on independent, local aid.

Baltimore suffered during the depression like other metropolitan areas, but rural Maryland seemed to fare somewhat better than the rest of the nation until the end of 1930.<sup>13</sup> Rural areas sought state funds when drought and an unusually cold winter in 1930 took their toll. Many families returned to their rural homes from Baltimore, adding to burdens in Frederick County on the land and local relief rolls.

Baltimore and other communities could no longer carry the load and by 1933 pleaded for more assistance in handling the crisis. State aid voted by the legislature during the 1933 session proved to be too little. A survey of Maryland cities in the summer of 1933 convinced the Governor that the state of emergency in Maryland warranted a change in philosophy toward the acceptance of federal aid. He appointed a special liaison, Frederick F. Lee, to represent Maryland's interests in Washington and formed a committee to draft programs for the Public Works Administration (PWA).<sup>14</sup> In April of 1933, Ritchie applied for funds from the Reconstruction Finance Corporation

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<sup>11</sup> Walsh, p. 679.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid, p. 712.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid, p. 730.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid, p. 740.

(RFC).<sup>15</sup> When Ritchie requested federal funds from the RFC, Maryland was one of eight states remaining that had not found it necessary to apply for federal relief funds.<sup>16</sup>

By 1934 the crisis in Maryland was deepening and it was an election year. Harry W. Nice, a pro-New Deal Republican, was elected governor and promised more cooperation with federal programs.<sup>17</sup> But in general Maryland officials continued in the mold of Albert Ritchie's attitudes of non-cooperation with the federal government while taking handouts.<sup>18</sup>

### New Deal and Catoctin Recreation Area

Franklin Delano Roosevelt was inaugurated to the Presidency of the United States on March 4, 1933, bringing with him a hope for better times in the midst of the Great Depression. The banking crisis had closed or restricted the operations of all the banks, the stock exchange was closed, social unrest was prevalent, and national unemployment was estimated at between 12 and 15 million.

FDR began his term by calling a special session of Congress that would ultimately change the way the federal government did business. In May of 1933 the Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA) was allocated \$500,000,000 in direct relief money to be spent by the federal government through state and local agencies. Harry Hopkins, in charge of relief administration when Mr. Roosevelt was governor of New York, was appointed head of this new organization. FDR gained control of the banks and moved immediately to open those that were sound and reorganize others. The National Industrial Recovery Act passed by Congress and signed

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<sup>15</sup> Gerald E. McCarron, "Governor Albert C. Ritchie and Unemployment Relief in Maryland, 1929-1933," Thesis, University of Maryland, 1970, p. 11.

<sup>16</sup> McCarron, p. 110.

<sup>17</sup> Walsh, p. 748.

by FDR on June 16, 1933, supported an enormous appropriation of money in the sum of \$3,300,000,000 for relief through public works to be dispensed at FDR's discretion. Congress had turned over its power of appropriation and authorization of money to President Roosevelt.

Reflecting this trend, by January 1934, a Land Planning Committee had been set up within FERA to consider the problem of land utilization in the country. Land use and maintenance had become an important economic topic during the New Deal, since the income from poor lands was less than the cost to maintain services such as roads and schools for the residents of the land.<sup>19</sup>

Serving on the Land Planning Committee were the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture, the FERA Administrator, and the Farm Credit Administrator. Each member then appointed his own coordinator to the Committee. Conrad L. Wirth, Assistant Director, Chief of the Branch of Planning of the National Park Service (NPS), became the Department of Interior's representative.<sup>20</sup> He was eminently qualified to serve in this capacity, as he was in charge of the State Park Emergency Conservation (ECW) Program, managing the planning and coordination with the State park and recreational authorities. He also had administrative oversight of all the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camps operated by the NPS.

Wirth was familiar with the 1928 report of the joint Committee on Recreational Survey of Federal Lands entitled Recreation Resources on Federal Lands<sup>21</sup> that revealed an "urgent need" for natural areas near large cities for recreation. The report indicated that existing state parks were located far from large centers of population. Also, the study showed that many private, urban social groups could provide recreation programs, but were unable to afford the investment in land or facilities. This element was emphasized and perhaps enlarged by Wirth to sell the idea of

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<sup>18</sup> Calcott, p. 20.

<sup>19</sup> Conrad Wirth, *Parks, Politics and the People* (Norman, Univ. of Oklahoma Press, 1980), p. 176.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid.

recreation development near urban centers.<sup>22</sup> Armed with these facts and the knowledge that other programs provided for facility development but not land acquisition, Mr. Wirth proposed a program to buy land near metropolitan areas no longer suitable for agriculture, in order to "provide quality outdoor recreation facilities at the lowest cost for the benefit of people of lower and middle incomes".<sup>23</sup> Farmlands sought for this program were those abused by erosion and poor farming practices and labeled with the phrase "submarginal land."<sup>24</sup>

The proposal was accepted by the committee and criteria established for choosing areas to be purchased and developed. Initial criteria for proposed sites were:

- 1) land submarginal for agriculture
- 2) area available must be between 2 and 10 thousand acres
- 3) suitable for campsites for year round group and family camping
- 4) lots of good water
- 5) local building materials
- 6) interesting surroundings
- 7) price average of \$5 an acre(ended at \$10 an acre)
- 8) located within 50 mile radius of a large city
- 9) water based recreation available, either natural or man-made.<sup>25</sup>

From the beginning it was the intent of the Committee that the lands would eventually be turned over to local park systems.<sup>26</sup> Both the NPS and the States were involved in selection, acquisition and development plans. During the acquisition process, no lands selected would be

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<sup>21</sup> Harlan D. Unrau & G. Frank Williss, Administrative History: Expansion of the National ParkService in the 1930's (Denver Service Center Publication, 1983), p. 108.

<sup>22</sup> Personnel interview with Conrad Wirth, 10 Mar 1986.

<sup>23</sup> Wirth, 1980, p.186.

<sup>24</sup> Ibid, p.176

<sup>25</sup> Ibid, p. 186.

<sup>26</sup> Ibid, p. 189.

condemned and if as suitably large area of land could not be assembled through voluntary sale of land, the site would be abandoned in favor of another.

As a result of the Land Planning Committee's recommendation and approval of President Roosevelt, Harold Ickes, Secretary of the Interior and head of the Public Works Administration (PWA), transferred \$25 million from the PWA to the Federal Emergency Relief Administration. Five million dollars of that figure was to be used to purchase submarginal lands for recreational demonstration areas.<sup>27</sup> Agencies of governments interested in rural land were notified to "submit their programs of land use adjustment." By the end of 1934, 400 areas had been investigated and 25 approved for development. Eventually 46 recreational demonstration areas were developed in 24 states.<sup>28</sup>

The Cooperative Extension Service of the Department of Agriculture had responsibility for organizing the investigation and classification of the submarginal land retirement program in each state. Maryland Extension Service Director Dr. Thomas B. Symons at the University of Maryland, College Park, took responsibility for the program in his state in May 1934. Symons assembled a committee composed of officials from state and municipal agencies to formulate a general plan to convert state submarginal land to recreation and conservation uses.

Guidelines for the committee were forwarded from Extension Service Regional Director A. W. Manchester, in Storrs, Connecticut, emphasizing the need for a range of "definite project proposals" that would take advantage of the available federal funds. As with FERA's Land Planning Committee, Manchester directed that a major thrust of Symons planning was to be the retirement of submarginal land. He specifically asked for a project that would retire a large area of

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<sup>27</sup>Unrau, p. 13.

<sup>28</sup>Unrau, p. 184.

land for recreation development if the opportunity arose.<sup>29</sup> The projects were also meant to serve as relief programs for rural populations and provide recreation opportunities for the public, but specifically for low income groups. The National Park Service(NPS) offered consultants with technical expertise and were very interested in the progress of the individual state committees<sup>30</sup>

Dr. Symons acted quickly to take advantage of the opportunities for alternative land utilization and the promise of more jobs. By the fall of 1934, his committee proposed an investigation for purchasing land in the Catoctin region of Frederick and Washington Counties in north central Maryland. The region had been studied by the Land Consultant of the State of Maryland and other representatives of the University of Maryland, who found it contained "many submarginal farms and constituted a problem region."<sup>31</sup> In a coordinated effort, the State Planning Commission and other agencies involved had sent approval for the recommendation.<sup>32</sup> Further, the agency authorized to manage parks and forests, the Maryland State Department of Forestry, had agreed to "administer submarginal lands in Maryland, acquired by federal government as recreational areas."<sup>33</sup>

Symons submitted the Catoctin region proposal to the NPS for approval on December 22, 1934, and offered to organize a meeting to formalize details of administration and personnel if the project was approved.<sup>34</sup> The region proposed by Dr. Symon and his committee fit the Federal Emergency Relief Administration FEW Land Planning Committee's criteria as though it had been the prototype. All nine areas selected for consideration matched the description of a recreational

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<sup>29</sup> A.W. Manchester, Letter to Dr. Thomas B. Symons, 15 May 1934, National Archives, RG 79, Entry 54, Box 61. (Hereafter referred to as Natl. Arch.)

<sup>30</sup> Ibid.

<sup>31</sup> A.W. Manchester, Regional Director, Dept. of Agri., Letter to H.E. Weatherwax, 14 Jan 1935, CMP.

<sup>32</sup> Symons, Letter to H.E. Weatherwax, District 5 Officer, NPS, Richmond, Va., 22 Dec 1934, Natl. Arch, RG 79, Entry 54, Box 61.

<sup>33</sup> Letter, F.W. Besely, Maryland State Forester to H.E. Weatherwax, District Officer NPS, 28 Nov 1934, CMP.

<sup>34</sup> Symons, Dec 22, 1934.

demonstration area perfectly. Declared submarginal for agriculture, the Catoctin's mountainous land had been ravaged by years of industrial and agricultural abuse. Hunting Creek and Owens Creek tumbled through picturesque valleys, providing water based activity areas for sportsmen and families from the population centers 55 miles away in Washington, D.C. and Baltimore. Blighted chestnut trees and field stone provided building materials and the former Catoctin Furnace, closed in 1903, provided historical interest. Conrad Wirth approved the preliminary proposal of 10,000 acres at Catoctin for inclusion in a recreational project on January 4, 1935. He then submitted it as a candidate for recreational development to John S. Lansill, the Land Program Director for the Agricultural Adjustment Administration.<sup>35</sup> Lansill communicated his approval on January 7.<sup>36</sup> Originally labeled A-2, denoting an agricultural demonstration project,<sup>37</sup> the Catoctin project received the new designation, Catoctin Recreational Area, Maryland R-1 by the NPS.<sup>38</sup> On February 7, 1935 it received a designation as Catoctin Recreational Demonstration Project, Maryland R-1 by the Land Policy section.<sup>39</sup> The eventual title, Catoctin Recreational Demonstration Area, first appeared in park correspondence on August 8, 1936.<sup>40</sup>

### Planning and Land Acquisition

Within a week of the project's approval, the principle personnel involved in the recreational planning and land acquisition had been proposed. The NP submitted the name of Garland B.

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<sup>35</sup>Wirth, Letter to John Lansill, Director of Land Program, 4 Jan 35, CMP.

<sup>36</sup>Lansill, Letter to Wirth, 7 Jan 1935, CMP.

<sup>37</sup>C. F. Clayton, Asst. to the Chef in charge of Projects, Land Policy Section, Letter to Manchester, 7 Feb. 1935, Natl Arch., RG 79, Entry 54, Box 61.

<sup>38</sup>Ibid.

<sup>39</sup>Clayton, 7 Feb 35.

<sup>40</sup>Wilbert C. Dennis, Junior Geologist, Report to Regional Officer, 8 Aug 36, Natl. Arch., RG 79, Entry 54, Box 61.

Williams (Mike) for approval to the Land Policy Section.<sup>41</sup> Williams had been Chief Land Appraiser for the C. & O. Railroad in Richmond, Virginia before the depression cost him the job. He was the Civil Works Administration manager for the City of Petersburg, Virginia when Conrad Wirth offered him the position of Project Manager for recreation of the new Catoctin Recreational Area (Catoctin RA).<sup>42</sup> The Land Policy Section appointed W. W. Simonds to the position of Project Manager for acquisition.<sup>43</sup>

At a conference held Friday, February 1, 1935 in College Park, Maryland, high level federal and state officials involved in the development of the Catoctin project met to draw up a cooperative agreement. Attending the meeting from the NPS were Regional Director E. L. Lisle, Inspector Tell Nicolet, and Project Manager Mike Williams. Representing the Land Policy Section were Project Manager W. W. Simonds and Kenneth Seigworth, Assistant try Regional Director Manchester. Dr. T. B. Symons of the Extension Service, Maryland State Forester F. W. Besely and K. B. Pfeiffer in charge of parks for the Maryland State Department of Forestry represented Maryland.

The meeting resolved reporting presses and the responsibilities of the various agencies and personnel who were conducting the on-site investigations. Simonds job was to contact land owners, secure options and make appraisals. Simultaneously, Williams was to investigate and report on the potential for recreational development. Simonds and Williams agreed to cooperate on a joint report of their findings regarding the potential for land acquisition and recreational development. Lisle and Seigworth agreed to pave the way in their respective departments to hasten the report through channels so that land purchasing could begin. It was also understood that the NPS had the authority to begin drawing up development plans so building could begin as soon as

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<sup>41</sup>Weatherwax, Telegram too Manchester, 14 Jan 1935, Natl. Arch., RG 79, Entry 54, Box 61.

<sup>42</sup>Telephone interview with Garland Williams, Jr., 1 Mar 87.

<sup>43</sup>Report, Conference on Acquisition and Development of Catoctin Area, 1 Feb 1935, RG 79, Entry 54, Box 61.

the project received final approval<sup>44</sup> Initially Simonds and Williams were put on equal footing at the Catoctin project, with separate jobs and authority. But on Monday, February 4, the Land Policy Section amended the agreement and Simonds became a Field Assistant in charge of Acquisition. Williams became the Project Manager. Under the new arrangement Simonds would locate, appraise and option' land chosen by Williams. Public relations, selection of office space, the final report and anything other than the land acquisition process would fall to Williams<sup>45</sup> The NPS would essentially shape, sponsor and administer the project. Williams would also write and submit all reports to the other agencies for recommendations or approval:<sup>46</sup>

On February 15, 1935 Williams filed his first of many "Tri-monthly Reports." He took a residence at 35 E. Church Street in Frederick, Maryland and began contacting local officials. At the end of February he forwarded a clipping from the Frederick Post to Mr. Weatherwax in Richmond, indicating that the local Congressman, David J. Lewis, had been asked by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to provide names of three persons recommended for supervisor and three for clerk for a new government project to be started in the county. The Democratic State Central Committee for Frederick County convened to provide the requested names<sup>47</sup>

In early March the land acquisition team arrived in Thurmont to initiate appraisals of land chosen to comprise the project and secure offers to sell land to the United States.<sup>48</sup> Personnel working at the project were W. W. Simonds, Supervisor of Land Acquisition for the Land Policy Section, draftsman Frank Kenley, option takers J. G. Constable, Clyde Findbinder and f. A. Cohill, Appraisers D. Lee Staley and Jos. C. Goldsborough, abstracter R. W. Walters, stenographer Beatrice N. Firor, and junior engineer A. W. Johns, Jr. A second stenographer, Margaret Snively

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<sup>44</sup>Ibid.

<sup>45</sup>Seigworth, Letter to Simonds, 4 Feb 1935, Natl. Arch., RG 79, Entry 54, Box 61.

<sup>46</sup>F. Clayton, Letter to Manchester, 7 Feb 1935, Natl. Arch. RG 79, Entry 54, Box 61.

was added to the office staff and timber appraisers Wenerch, Porter and H. J. Twilley arrived to begin work.

Thus began the process of assembling the land package that would become the Catoctin Recreational Area. Letters were sent to the approximately 80 landowners in Frederick and Washington Counties explaining the project and offering to buy their acreage, timber and improvements at a fair prices. Letters requested deed descriptions and statements as to whether owners would be willing to sell their lands.<sup>49</sup> Appraisers also approached landowners individually to explain the project.<sup>50</sup> Positive responses from resident landowners were followed by appraisals and signing of offers to sell if the price was agreed upon. Non-resident landowners were asked what they would sell their property for, and, if it was equal to or below the appraised value, the offer to sell was taken for that amount.<sup>51</sup>

By mid-March the Catoctin community was well aware that something big was happening on the mountain. Forty-two landowners had expressed a willingness to sell their property. Local men and women were being interviewed for jobs on the project.<sup>52</sup> In April survey crews composed mainly of men hired from the local Catoctin area were collecting data for project maps.<sup>53</sup>

Williams met with the Frederick and Hagerstown Chambers of Commerce and interviewed local organizations for development and use information.<sup>54</sup> He explained the scope of the project and tried to get a feel for reactions in the communities nearest to the Catoctin project.<sup>55</sup> Local

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<sup>47</sup> Williams, Letter to Weatherwax, 27 Feb 1935, CMP. There is no evidence in the files that the individuals were hired.

<sup>48</sup> Williams, Letter to Horne, Cf, Eng. Dept. Natl Cap Pks 19 Jan 1955, CMP.

<sup>49</sup> W.W. Simonds, Field Asst. in Charge of Acquisition, Letter to Dr. Michael Abrams, 28 March 1935, CMP.

<sup>50</sup> William Renner, Personal interview, March 15, 1987

<sup>51</sup> Weatherwax, Letter to State Park ECW, 24 Apr 1935, Natl. Arch., RG 79, Entry 54, Box 61.

<sup>52</sup> Tri-monthly Report, 15 Mar 1935, Natl. Arch., RG 79, Entry 54, Box 61.

<sup>53</sup> Tri-monthly Report, 25 Apr 1935, Natl. Arch., RG 79, Entry 54, Box 61.

<sup>54</sup> Tri-monthly Report, 5 Apr 1935, Natl. Arch., RG 79, Entry 54, Box 6 1.

<sup>55</sup> Hagerstown Daily Mail, 30 Apr 1935.

newspapers carried articles about the new recreation project, precipitating numerous letters supporting the project. The Isaak Walton League and the Maryland Appalachian Trail Club of Hagerstown were among the first to respond favorably to the development of a new outdoor recreation area. Several important Baltimore social organizations including the Henry Watson Children's Aid Society, YMCA, Federation of Churches, Jewish Educational Alliance, Playground Athletic League and Family Welfare Association all sent letters to Williams supporting the project and expressing strong interest for such an urgently needed facility. Local Lions Clubs, Rotaries and the Zonta Club of Frederick, Maryland, expressed the same sentiments<sup>56</sup>

Regardless of the community support, some owners of land within the 22,000 acres mapped for the project were less than willing to sell their property. Many families had lived there for generations and wished to stay, despite poor farming returns and dilapidated buildings. Also, several Philadelphia families owned vacation property in Washington County and wished to retain their holdings<sup>57</sup> Rumors spread that the government was buying the land to build a tunnel from Hagerstown to Thurmont so cars wouldn't have to drive over the mountains or that land was going to be used for target practice by Camp Ritchie.

In a coordinated effort to correct the misinformation, Williams and Simonds personally contacted many members of the community to explain the project and its purposes. Four land owners initially opposed the project enough to circulate a petition to block the land acquisition and write letters to their Congressman and Frederick County Commissioners. Williams and Simonds attended a meeting in mid-April with the County Commissioners, the Chairman of the Frederick County Welfare Board and two prominent Frederick citizens in favor of the project to discuss the charges leveled by citizens in opposition. One issue centered on the threat that lands would be

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<sup>56</sup>Letters, Organizations to Williams, CMP

<sup>57</sup>D. Lee Staley, Letter to George Demming, 10 Doc 1936, CMP.

condemned to facilitate the project. Williams assured the officials that all land sought for the recreational area would be purchased and not taken by the government. A second concern was the large amount of revenue lost when the current taxable County land was taken off the tax rolls. Williams offered to return to the group in two weeks after computing the maintenance costs of the 68 miles of County roads, four schools and the families on relief that lived within the proposed project.<sup>58</sup>

Public relations and communications efforts were successful in calming the fears and concerns of the local community and the County Commissioners. Work proceeded on appraisals and options for the project. Appraisals had begun on April 16th with an unoccupied Tract 160 owned by Joseph G. Gernand. Tracts 80a and 80b were appraised the next day. A lack of personnel delayed optioning so the Land Policy Section assigned another supervisor, C. C. Freeburn. Added the end of April were draftsman William Rach, local engineer foreman Herbert Neighbor, abstracters N. B. Dudrow and D. S. Ebersole, and appraiser Luke Umbarger.<sup>59</sup> The first land options were signed on May 1, 1935.

By the end of July, Williams had begun the master plan for development of Catoctin RA. Based on his examination of the area's terrain and proposed land use, the areas to be developed were located on maps. The Land Policy Section assembled a priority list for appraising and optioning blocks of land where building would take place.<sup>60</sup>

After a summer of work, the Master Plan was finished and submitted September 24, 1935. Williams recommended that a maximum total area of 15,000 acres of privately owned land be purchased, at an average price of \$13.33 per acre. Of this figure only 5,476 acres had actually

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<sup>58</sup>Williams, Letter to Weatherwax, 15 Apr 35, Natl. Arch., RG 79, Entry 54, Box 61.

<sup>59</sup>Tri-monthly Report, 25 Apr 1935, Natl. Arch., RG 79, Entry 54, Box 61.

<sup>60</sup>Lawrence C. Merriam, Acting Assistant Director, Resettlement Administration, Letter to Clayton, 29 Jul 1935, Natl. Arch., RG 79, Entry 54, Box 61.

been optioned.<sup>61</sup> The report stated that of the 50 families within the project area, eight were able to make a subsistence living exclusively from their land, 26 were cutting timber and firewood to supplement their income and 16 were on relief. A few landowners were paid as much as \$75 per acre for peach and apple orchards, while those with wood lots of merchantable lumber were appraised at \$8.00 per acre. Pasture land and grazing acreage was noted, but for the most part, land and improvements determined the appraised price.<sup>62</sup>

The final report was submitted to officials in the Regional office in Richmond, Virginia and within a week a revised maximum acreage figure for the project of 10,333 was sent back to Williams. The land purchase price was slashed by \$45,000.00 to a total of \$155,000.00 and the development budget estimate cut in half.<sup>63</sup> The acquisition team had appraised and acquired offers to sell for approximately half the 10,333 acres needed for the project and its Work was finished except for checking on the options. The team had been unable to put together a suitable land package in Washington County and that part of the project was abandoned.

A new symbol designation, LD-MD 4, was assigned to the project, "LD" denoted a project conducted on NPS areas known as "Federal projects." The Symbol "MD 4" was important for identification and was the official number given when the project was approved by FDR.<sup>64</sup> "Under the Emergency Relief Act (ERA) of 1935 the LD projects on Recreation Demonstration Area's were approved as federal projects and allocations made from Works Progress Administration (WPA) funds to the Resettlement Administration under whose jurisdiction the projects were operated. Technical supervision, however, was provided by the NPS."<sup>65</sup> The Resettlement

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<sup>61</sup>Williams, Final Catoctin Recreation Area Project Report, to Wirth, 2 4 Sep 1936, p. 1, CMP.

<sup>62</sup>Appraisal Report, date unknown, CMP.

<sup>63</sup>Memo, 1 Oct 1935, CMP.

<sup>64</sup>NPS-ERA, Administration Introduction, unknown publication, CMP.

<sup>65</sup>Ibid.

Administration, headed by Rex Tugwell, was created to specifically address rural poverty<sup>66</sup> and took over the FERA project of the Land Policy Section at the Catoctin Project in April of 1935. The Resettlement Administration ended the direct relief of FERA and instituted the philosophy of work relief. Those people on direct federal relief were turned over to state roils and the federal government provided employment programs.<sup>67</sup> Later under the 1936 and 1937 ERA, funds were allocated directly to the NPS for projects and Service administrative procedures were followed. WPA regulations were followed with regard to employment of workers, their hours and rates of pay.<sup>68</sup>

The transition from land acquisition at Catoctin RA to physical development of took place in the fall of 1935. In November Williams began interviewing potential local personnel. Informal bids were taken on a saw mill, a rock crusher and the tools needed to develop the Catoctin Recreational Area.<sup>69</sup> Accompanied by a draftsman and an engineer, he laid out a residential work camp for WPA laborers. Original plans included construction the camp for employees whose commute was uneconomical, but exemptions were granted enabling Williams to hire labor within "hauling distance of the project, thereby eliminating the necessity of a work camp."<sup>70</sup> Funds allotted to the work camp were transferred to other jobs.

By the end of the year the Land Policy Section's acquisition work was essentially done and only three Resettlement Administration employees remained at Catoctin RA. A new agreement

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<sup>66</sup>William E. Leuchtenburg, *Franklin D. Roosevelt and the New Deal: 1932-1940* (New York: Harper and Row, 1963), p. 140.

<sup>67</sup>Leuchtenburg, 1963, p. 124.

<sup>68</sup> NPS-ERA, *Administration Introduction*, unknown publication, CMP.

<sup>69</sup>Tri-monthly Report, 15 Dec 1935, Natl. Arch., RG 70, Entry 54, Box 61.

<sup>70</sup>Job # 608 Timber Harvest Justification, 23 Apr 1936, CMP

was drawn up and on February 15, 1936 in which the National Park Service took complete responsibility for all personnel and overhead.<sup>71</sup>

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<sup>71</sup>Dorothy M. Beck, Region One Director, Resettlement Administration, Letter to Rex Tugwell, 29 Feb 1936, Nail. Arch., RG 79, Entry 54, Box 61.

## CHAPTER II

### PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT OF CATOCTIN

The physical development at Catoctin Recreational Area (Catoctin RA) was performed with Works Progress Administration (WPA) funds. Building began during the winter of 1936 with the Central Garage Unit and ended with the Blue Blazes contact center in 1941. Guiding architectural development of the Catoctin project was the style manual Park Structures and Facilities. Conrad Wirth commissioned the guidelines when park expansion was at its height and few resources existed for planners. Published in November 1935, the manual addressed problems of signage, building design and materials.

Park Structures and Facilities presented photographs and floor plans as examples of the predominantly rustic architectural style used in national parks. The buildings were set in harmony with nature, using natural colors, as few straight lines as possible and emphasized horizontal lines to achieve the feeling of integration with the setting. Rough stone served as foundations; carefully scaled building elements and rough logs all served to achieve the effect. "Finally, while seeking harmony with the natural setting and with the past, rustic structures were to achieve thematic harmony with other buildings in the same park or vicinity. This concept was a part of the tenet of the time that attempted to make parks separate and distinct from the larger world."<sup>1</sup>

Rustic architecture was particularly appropriate to the Catoctin RA, for the form and construction of local houses and outbuildings closely resembled the prescribed NPS

style manual. A melding of styles, local vernacular architecture represented both the German and English influences within the Mid-Atlantic region<sup>2</sup> Internal, gable-end chimneys, projecting roofs over out-buildings, symmetrical placement of windows and doors, low pitched roofs, and stone and log construction characterized buildings on the mountain.

Local woodsmen employed by the WPA were familiar with the methods and tools needed to build these buildings. Years of experience in the forest and working in the sawmills were put to use snaking logs and riving shingles. Logs were brought to the saw mill erected near the administrative area for shaping and dressing. Only 40% of the logs made good boards, but if squared-off, notched and saddled, all logs could be used in construction. Log walls were pinned with locust pins made on the site, alternating sides as the walls rose.<sup>3</sup> Chestnut logs were the preferred building material. Local red oak was used to rive shingles 4"-8" wide and 26" long, laid in random roof courses. Oak used for the tongue and groove floors received a paraffin floor oil finish. Interior trim and siding was of chestnut, oak or hemlock finished with raw linseed oil.<sup>4</sup>

Initially only dead trees, mainly chestnut or other standing timber, were harvested, though later consideration was given to any mature live timber, after it had been located and marked by Maryland state foresters. "Picturesque snags, approximately six per acre

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<sup>1</sup>William, Tweed, "Parkitecture: Rustic Architecture in the National Parks," p. 113.

<sup>2</sup>Henry Glassie, *Pattern in the Material Folk Culture of the Eastern United States* (Philadelphia, University of Pennsylvania Press, 1983), p. 54.

<sup>3</sup>Personal interview with William Renner, 1987.

<sup>4</sup>Justification and Specifications for Camp C-1, undated, CMP. > Herbert Evison, Letter to Williams, 9 Oct 1936, CMP.

were to be left for aesthetic purposes and wildlife consideration.<sup>5</sup> Horses were used to drag the logs from the forest, since tractors would damage the remaining growth and compact the ground.

Work began at Catoctin RA on January 2, 1936. By January 30, 125 men were clearing underbrush and slash, cutting timber and clearing for camps.<sup>6</sup> Clinton F. Waesche was hired as labor superintendent in early January<sup>7</sup> and landscape architect, J. C. Milson joined the staff before the end of the month<sup>8</sup> William Renner, a local engineer, worked on the project from its beginning and was a source for this history. Renner supervised the reconstruction of rickety bridges, originally built for light vehicular traffic, and prepared them for heavy log trucks. Crews replaced rotted sleepers with new locust logs and covered the surface of the bridges with new planking, completing at least one a days.<sup>9</sup> Preliminary archeological work began at the Catoctin Furnace under Renner's supervision the end of January.<sup>10</sup> Sub-zero weather and 30 inches of snow in February slowed progress.<sup>11</sup>

Project architect A. R. Vanston arrived at Catoctin RA the end of March to prepare plans and justification documents for the central administrative and garage units, camps and picnic areas.<sup>12</sup> This important headquarters and maintenance complex were developed on Tracts, #18 and #152 on the western side of the park, about one mile

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<sup>5</sup>Herbert Evison, Letter to Williams, 9 Oct 1936, CMP.

<sup>6</sup>Christian Science Monitor, 30 Jan 1936, p. 4, col. b.

<sup>7</sup>Tri-monthly Report, 15 Jan 1936, Natl. Arch., RG 79, Entry 54, Box 58.

<sup>8</sup>Tri-monthly Report, 31 Jan 1936, Natl. Arch., RG 79, Entry 54, Box 58.

<sup>9</sup> Renner 1987.

<sup>10</sup>Williams, Letter the 3rd Regional Office, 3 Mar 1936, CMP.

<sup>11</sup>Tri-monthly Report, 15 Feb 1936, Natl. Arch., RG 79, Entry 54, box 58.

<sup>12</sup>Vanston was a young architect, 20-25, who had an agreement with Mr. Renner to note "to be determined in the field" on plans if there was a detail Van didn't know how to handle. Renner claims to have "pulled his chestnuts from the fire" on many occasions.(Renner, 1987).

northeast of the village of Foxville. The area chosen was close to building activities of proposed group camps, near potable water, electricity and telephone lines.<sup>13</sup> The sawmill and stone crusher were installed at this centralized location to prepare local materials for use in the construction of the camps.

Due to the extended length of time required for necessary title work on land purchased for the park, individual parcels needed for development were leased. By the end of January, 7114 acres of land had been leased from owners, pending final payment by the government.<sup>14</sup> The NPS stipulated that only structures of a temporary nature could be built on the leased land. The rustic building designs lent themselves to this "temporary" condition, as they were built on stone piers and in theory could be moved.

Property status also affected phasing of the building. Until land problems were solved Williams transferred funds from building cabins to harvesting timber for organized group camps construction.<sup>15</sup> Logs from the harvest provided WPA labor with additional man-hours of work at the sawmill to shape and dress logs. This arrangement was especially important since Catoctin RA employed almost 500 men by the end of April.<sup>16</sup>

Plans and cost estimates, including months of man-hours, had to be prepared and sent to the 3rd Regional Office in Richmond for comment and eventual approval. Conrad Wirth and his technical staff in Washington required they be consulted when buildings deviated from the standard design, slowing the process by adding another level of

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<sup>13</sup>Narrative Report to Accompany Layout Plans, Area Service Group, Drawing Cat2 018, no date-pre-1939, CMP. The first telephone had been installed in May 1935.

<sup>14</sup>Tri-monthly Report? 31 Jan 1936, Natl. Arch., RG 79, Entry 54, Box 58.

<sup>15</sup>Timber Harvest Justification, 23 Apr 1936, CMP.

bureaucracy. Project Manager Williams on several occasions complained and stated that he had men wanting to work who needed jobs and money, but the bureaucracy wasn't helping him.

Approval for the marking of the 60 linear mile boundary of the park was sent to Catoctin RA on April 9, 1936.<sup>17</sup> WPA wages totaling \$1,971 for the survey of the purchased area was paid to Resettlement Administration workers. Stones were set at the corners to mark the limits of the park before the spring foliage would obstruct the surveyors.<sup>18</sup> Markings served to keep hunters from trespassing on the park and field workers from trespassing on private property.

Catoctin RA provided jobs for hundreds of men the spring and summer of 1936, fulfilling one of its prime purposes. A peak was reached in May 1936 when 595 men were employed at the project logging, clearing slash, and other jobs needing mainly unskilled labor.<sup>19</sup> Throughout the late spring and into June the numbers held steady at about 400 WPA laborers. As initial work was completed the numbers employed dropped to about 250 men of various skill, levels needed to build the administrative area and cabins, run the sawmill, supervise the rock crusher and build the roads.

#### Administrative Headquarters and Central Garage Unit.

In late March 1936, Williams submitted the paperwork to build a Central

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<sup>16</sup>Tri-monthly Report, 30 Apr 1936, Natl. Arch., RG 79, Entry 54, Box 58.

<sup>17</sup>Job #105 Approval, 9 Apr 1936, CMP.

<sup>18</sup>T.W. Fergusen, Jr., Acting Recreational Planner, Letter to William, 10 Apr 1936, CMP.

<sup>19</sup>Tri-monthly Report, 15 May 1936, Natl. Arch., RG 79, Entry 54, Box 58.

Garage Unit for storage of trucks, equipment and supplies. The needed structures included covered bays to park trucks, a toolhouse with an office and repair shop, grease pit, oil storage for flammable materials and a blacksmith shop. Plans and estimate forms for the area's water lines were sent to Richmond on March 27, 1936, for skilled and unskilled labor hours.<sup>20</sup>

Administration building estimates and plans were sent along next. Williams notified the 3rd Regional office that he was starting the foundation for the temporary field headquarters on April 2.<sup>21</sup> The headquarters was completed in July of 1936, despite delays, to serve as a planning, construction and operating center and eventually an employee residence.<sup>22</sup> This building was still in existence the summer of 1987.

Williams' biggest headache with this complex came when the blacksmith shop plans were submitted the end of June 1936. Initially a rectangular log on stone structure was proposed with an estimated cost of \$612 for labor and materials<sup>23</sup> When the plans were forwarded to Wirth in Washington, his technical staff felt the design was "out of scale" and prepared alternative sketches "as an aid in satisfactorily carrying out the job."<sup>24</sup>

Wirth, sympathetic to the frustrations of those in the field, promised that new submissions from Catoctin RA would receive his staff's "immediate attention!" Telegrams, plans and letters exchanged hands during the next two weeks, resulting in a new estimated cost of \$919.55.<sup>25</sup> Eventually, conditional approval was given by Wirth, if

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<sup>20</sup>Job #222 estimate, 27 Mar 1936, CMP.

<sup>21</sup>Williams, Letter to 3rd Regional Office, 28 Mar 1936, CMP.

<sup>22</sup>Narrative Report to Accompany Layout Plans, Area Service Group, Drawing #Cat2 018, no date-pre-1939, CMP.

<sup>23</sup>Williams, Estimate to 3rd Region, 30 Jun 1936, CMP.

<sup>24</sup>Wirth, Letter to A.P. Bursley, Assistant Regional Officer, 3rd Region, 28 Jul 1936, CMP.

<sup>25</sup>Central Garage Unit Group justification, 6 Aug 1936, CMP.

new, formal plans, elevations and bills weir made and were in conformance with sketches from his staff.<sup>26</sup>

Construction was completed except for the roof shingles, which had to have special approval, since oak shakes were considered a permanent construction item. The anvil was installed inside the blacksmith shop on a stump sunk into the earth floor. Raymond Toms, a smith recommended by Renner, was hired<sup>27</sup> Approval of additional funding for oak shakes and man hours was given in early November and the blacksmith shop was finished<sup>28</sup> This project and all others were subject to available funds. Work had to be planned so 'that in the event a further allocation of funds is not obtained, jobs already initiated can be brought to a stage of useful completion upon short notice.<sup>29</sup> The blacksmith shop and headquarters were still standing at Round Meadow camp in summer 1987. Completion of the blacksmith shop ended necessary work on the Central Garage Unit.

### Planning for Group Camps and Picnic Areas

While Project Manager Williams wrestled with building the Central Garage Area in the spring of 1936, four group camps and two picnic areas were being planned by architect Vanson and landscape architect Milson. Camp were designated 1-C (coed), 2 A12-C, 3-B (boys) and 4-G (girls). During the late spring and summer of 1936, paperwork was prepared for submission of plans and estimates for the first group camp to

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<sup>26</sup>Wirth, Letter to Regional Officer, Region One, 15 Aug 1936, CMP.

<sup>27</sup>Renner, 1987.

<sup>28</sup>Permanent Roofing Material Budget approval, 14 Nov 1936, CMP.

<sup>29</sup>Wirth, Letter to Regional Officer, Region One, 26 Aug 1936, CMP.

be built at Catoctin Recreation Demonstration Area (Catoctin RDA). The NPS had standard camp and cabin configuration for girls' and boys' camps and expected them to be followed or changes justified. Williams requested plans from Chopawamsic RDA (later renamed Prince William Forest Park) for reference<sup>30</sup>

Landscape architect Milson planned the camps and picnic areas with care and supervised the work to see that the natural features of the landscape were preserved and utilized to best advantage. Light availability, prevailing winds and views from cabins were taken into account<sup>31</sup> The site terrain was taken into consideration and used to best advantage when the pool and cabin foundations were placed. Stumps and rocks were cleared by hand.<sup>32</sup> Trees left within the camps were boxed in to prevent injury and workers took steps to preserve the top soil<sup>33</sup> Dead trees were cut down and taken to the sawmill for squaring into 8" building members and boards sawn for flooring and dressed lumber.

Clearing of the land for the day use picnic area on tract 91 began in June 1936. Three acres were cleared for picnic tables, a small play field, a parking lot and covered pavilion. Chemical latrines were built later within a log building with a shake roof designed with a roof overhang typical of the local architecture<sup>34</sup> This area was submerged when Hunting Creek was impounded, but was in use by the public up until that time.<sup>35</sup>

Maryland state foresters located and marked trees for felling on thirteen

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<sup>30</sup>A. P. Bursley, Letter to Williams, 29 May 1936, CMP.

<sup>31</sup>Fred T. Johnson, Letter to Williams, 18 Feb 1937, CMP.

<sup>32</sup>Estimate of land clearing, 29 Jun 36, CMP.

<sup>33</sup>Camp 1-C, justification, no date, CMP.

<sup>34</sup>Inspector Woodward, Letter to Williams, 21 Sep 1936, CLIP.

<sup>35</sup>Report on Rt. 15, 1964, CMP 36 Job #608 Estimate, 8 act 1936, CMP.

tracts of land leased June 30, 1936, to provide materials for Misty Mount.<sup>36</sup> Assistant Forester W. E. Wagner was added to the staff in June and eventually became one of the project's senior foreman<sup>37</sup> Project Manager Williams was forced by legal technicalities to rearrange his selection of lumber harvest locations for this initial phase of camp construction. Delays developed in optioning and clearing titles for some of the land needed for logging. Work was strictly prohibited on land not owned by the federal government unless a lease was signed, for protection of the U.S. government from property damage.<sup>38</sup> Timber harvesting commenced on already leased land with available labor. The work of harvesting timber for Misty Mount provided \$5,843 in wages for men on relief<sup>39</sup>

The planning, refinement and construction of the four camps and two picnic areas spread over a four year period from early 1936 to fall 1939 and involved hundreds of WPA laborers, NPS planners and administrators. Misty Mount was built in 1937 on, 30 acres comprising tracts 3, 98 and 146.<sup>40</sup> Greentop was built in 1938 up the hill on tracts 26 and 26a where cleared fields and level ground gave easy access.<sup>41</sup> Hi-Catoctin (eventually Shangri-La) and 4-G (never completed) were sited on the brow of a hill north of tracts 26 and 26a, overlooking the Monocacy River Valley. Tract 91 became a three acre day use picnic area<sup>42</sup> and a large picnic area was planned for the Catoctin Furnace Area Tract.

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<sup>36</sup>Job #608 Estimate, 8 Oct. 1936, CMP.

<sup>37</sup>Tri-monthly Report, 30 Jun 1936, Nall. Arch., RG 79, Entry 54, Box 58.

<sup>38</sup>Lisle, Letter to Williams, 24 Dec 1936, CMP.

<sup>39</sup>Job #608 Estimate, 8 act 1936, CMP.

<sup>40</sup>Estimate of Land Clearing, 29 June 36, CMP.

<sup>41</sup>Renner, 1987.

<sup>42</sup>Justification, 9 Sept 36, CMP.

## Misty Mount and Greentop

From the first announcement of the project at Catoctin Mountain, the Maryland League for Crippled Children (MLCC) began lobbying the Resettlement Administration, the National Park Service (NPS) and Project Manager Williams at Catoctin RDA for a camp with special accommodations for handicapped children.<sup>43</sup> Before any promises could be made to the MLCC, a camping advisory council representing all Baltimore organizations needed to be created to make recommendations to the NPS. Contacts were made within the Baltimore community to organize the council and the MLCC agreed to cooperate in its formation.<sup>44</sup>

The NPS was receptive to the idea of providing a camp tailored to accommodate children with handicaps. Stanley Hawkins, Associate Recreation Specialist for the IFS, attended a meeting with the MLCC camping committee on October 6, 1936, in Baltimore. Hawkins explained the NPS policies that applied to their request and the League explained their needs and objectives for the type of camp wanted, the physical conditions of the children and proposed staff. Hawkins suggested modifications that might suit their needs but still come within the construction plans for the standard organized camps “without too many special features.”<sup>45</sup>

Hawkins' report of the meeting with the MLCC reflected needs Conrad Wirth and the Land Planning Committee had originally anticipated. The League, though unable to afford to buy land and to build a camp, had “the money in a special fund to equip it.” He felt there was a need for such a camp and cited the report, Crippled Children's Camps in

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<sup>43</sup>Stanley Hawkins, Letter to Lisle, 13 Oct 1936, CMP.

<sup>44</sup>Ibid.

America. This report stated only 24 such camps existed in the United States and three in Canada for the rehabilitation of children. None existed in Maryland.

Planning began for Misty Mount in 1936. Building plans and justifications for Misty Mount's administrative office were forwarded to Region One in mid October 1936, and Project Manager Williams scheduled work on the camp for November and December. The blacksmith shop at the Central Garage Unit was nearing completion and crews would be ready to move onto other construction projects. But consultations with the MLCC effectively stopped work on Misty Mount while decisions were made on how best to accommodate the children.<sup>46</sup>

Planners initially designated Misty Mount as the permanent MLCC camp and Greentop was assigned to the YMCA and YWCA. But further study judged the terrain of Misty Mount too rugged for children in braces or on crutches.<sup>47</sup> Since Camp 2-A/2-C was flatter and suited the needs of the children it became the future home of Greentop. Eventually Misty Mount, was planned and built according to NPS children's camp standard plans the spring of 1937. The MLCC agreed to use Misty Mount the first year while Greentop was under construction.

On March 18, 1937, Region One requested William's best estimate, given his knowledge of the current status and availability of labor, of the possibility of a July 1, 1937 camp completion date.<sup>48</sup> The MLCC needed a commitment for their planning purposes; but a serious bureaucratic development affected the building schedule.

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<sup>45</sup>Ibid.

<sup>46</sup>Estimate, 27 Oct 1936, CMP

<sup>47</sup>Renner, 1987.

<sup>48</sup>Bahlman, Letter to Williams, 16 Mar 1937, CMP.

Williams noted that recent changes in the Works Progress Administration (WPA) dictated that 95% of those employed must be "from certified relief rolls after April 15."<sup>49</sup> The federal government made large cutbacks in its appropriations for the WPA<sup>50</sup> and the state of Maryland was afraid that those on relief dropped from WPA jobs would end up becoming state responsibility<sup>51</sup>. This stipulation made a real difference in skilled labor available to build cabins and more complex buildings. Williams lost the flexibility to choose individuals with specific skills needed to work on the camps. He stated he could not commit to a completion date of July 1 on the wash house and dining hall, but that unskilled labor could be used to construct the water and sewer lines<sup>52</sup>. By the end of March 1937, Misty Mount's plans and estimates for water lines, sewer lines and dining hall were ready to be sent to Region One and the wash house was pending.<sup>53</sup>

Approval for electricity for Misty Mount's administrative buildings was requested April 28 and granted June 1, 1937, with a note that Assistant Architect Parris would discuss the fixtures and their number.<sup>54</sup> There was no further correspondence concerning the construction phase of Misty Mount except an undated winterizing report for "Camp 1-C" listing the following buildings: Dining Hall and kitchen, 20 four-cot cabins, seven two cot cabins, three unit latrines, one camp office-two rooms, infirmary, central shower house, help quarters-two rooms, and staff quarters-five rooms.

To Williams's credit, the above were finished on time and occupied the first summer by children of the MLCC. Williams observed activities all summer and

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<sup>49</sup>Williams, Letter to Region One, 19Mar 1937, CMP.

<sup>50</sup>Richard Walsh and William Lloyd, eds., *Maryland: A History 1632-1974*(Baltimore: The Maryland Historical Society Press, Scheidereith & Sons, 1974), p. 753.

<sup>51</sup>Ibid, p. 342.

<sup>52</sup>Williams, Letter to Region, 19 Mar 1937, CMP

<sup>53</sup>Williams, Letter to Region, 19 Mar 1937, CMP.

<sup>54</sup>Herbert Evison, Letter to Williams, 1 June 1937, CMP.

submitted a sensitive and informative report in support of building revisions for Greentop requested by Mary E. Church, executive director of the M LCC <sup>55</sup>

As Misty Mount was being built, Hawkins requested that Williams, Project Manager at Catoctin RDA, draw preliminary plans for review that provided for 150 campers plus staff. The administrative buildings could remain as at Misty Mount, but Hawkins requested a bathtub with a grab bar, a swimming pool with facilities and cabins not farther than 600 feet from the dining hall. He suggested that the camper's cabins be constructed with four beds on either end of a long cabin with counselor's sleeping in the center <sup>56</sup>

Plans were started for Greentop the winter of 1937 and were on Hawkins's desk by February <sup>57</sup> Concern was expressed in some quarters that the changes not be so drastic as to make the camp unusable for other populations. But the majority of the NPS planners considered this a worthy project and were convinced a flexible plan, using current standards, could accommodate the special needs of those who would use the camp. Factors such as views from the cabins, number of campers, light availability, prevailing winds and trail widths were discussed in the preliminary planning. Much correspondence and revision took place between Williams and the staff at Region One.

Plans proceeded with Greentop as Misty Mount was being constructed, but. problems developed in early May when Assistant Architect Orin Bullock visited Catoctin RDA and proposed design solutions to “special problems” that Williams and his

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<sup>55</sup>Williams, Report on 1st Summer Season to Woodward, 28 Sept 1937, CMP.

<sup>56</sup>Stanley Hawkins, Letter to Lisle, 13 Oct 1936, CMP.

<sup>57</sup>Johnson, Letter to Williams, 18 Feb 1937, CMP.

immediate superiors didn't know existed.<sup>58</sup> Williams reluctantly drew new plans that included Bullock's Suggestions, but submitted only one copy, as he did not agree with the changes. Bullock proposed to change the distances between some of the buildings that he felt were too close visually. Williams referred to Hawkins's October 1936 report, arguing that the MLCC had specified the distances between the buildings and that the 20' elevation change would solve the "problem" when landscaping was completed.<sup>59</sup> When on June 21st the revised, approved plans for Greentop arrived at Catoctin, Williams stated he was "pleased to note" that except for the craft shop, the plans stood identical to those originally submitted in February.<sup>60</sup>

Because construction of the special camp for the MLCC had not begun, Williams could observe the first MLCC camping season at Misty Mount to judge decisions made for Greentop. Campers arrived on July 1st and stayed for eight weeks, leaving on August 28; 1937. A total of 64 campers, 16 staff members and two helpers in the kitchen were in residence. He was greatly impressed with the "remarkable results" obtained with the children and remarked on the efficiency of the organization and the well maintained campground. Williams recommended that any special facilities requested should be installed at Greentop if the cost was not too high, for the MLCC planned to use the camp as a permanent site.<sup>61</sup>

Williams and Mary Church, Executive Director of the MLCC, submitted a report at the end of the 1937 camping season containing recommendations for design

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<sup>58</sup>Woodward, Letter to Orin Bullock, 5 May 1937, CMP.

<sup>59</sup>Williams, Letter to Region, 24 May 1937, CMP.

<sup>60</sup> Williams, Letter to Region, 21 Jun 1937, CMP.

<sup>61</sup>Williams, Report on 1st Summer Season to Woodward, 28 Sep 1937, CMP.

revisions and statements affirming modifications already in the plans. The administration building was considered satisfactory, but a canteen to supply campers with film, stationery and postcards with access from the outside was suggested. The camp staff was against the "handling of confectionery." A telephone was also considered a necessity. The cabin distances from 300' to 600' to the dining hall were affirmed, as the younger children were "severely taxed by long distances several times a day," at Misty Mount. It was suggested that older and more able-bodied children be placed in the farthest cabins.

The dining hall was also satisfactory and glazing was suggested for the windows in addition to screens, for when it rained shutters were closed and there was not enough light. The kitchen was staffed by a dietician and three full time helpers. Larger kitchen staff quarters were recommended for Greentop with bathrooms attached. The porches of the recreation lodges were used extensively for activities and it was decided that outdoor space justified elimination of two of the planned lodges at Greentop, thus saving \$6,000. The omitted lodges would be replaced by additional staff quarters and none of the rest of the buildings on the site needed to be rearranged.

The unit cabin system was successful with one unit used for each sex. Rough stone floors were to replace wooden ones in the wash houses, as they were less hazardous and sinks were suggested for the porches since their floors dried faster. No bunk beds could be used. Woodworking, weaving, model making, beading, sponge painting and nature lore were taught in the craftshop. The paved entrance was a boon to outdoor activity and were used often. The infirmary was satisfactory.

Swimming was a favorite activity of the children and staff. The pool dimensions were 25' x 75' with a shallow end depth of 18" and a deep end of 7' recommended.

Gravel surface trails wound among the cabins to the dining hall and Williams suggested that much of the underbrush should be eliminated along with any trees that shaded an area for more than two hours a day.

Local farmers benefited from the presence of campers, as they sold fresh eggs and produce at the dining hall and hauled away the garbage to feed their pigs. Nearby grocery stores provided perishables such as butter and milk for the children, and ice came from Thurmont. Meats and non-perishable staples were delivered from Baltimore.

Refinements of the standard camp arrangements were made in the fall of 1937. Two unit lodges were eliminated and the camp capacity lowered to 98 campers plus staff. Stanley Hawkins and Regional Director Carl Russell concurred with the elimination of the two recreation lodges but plans needed to be submitted to Washington for final approval.<sup>62</sup> Changes fell on friendly ears at Region One and the Director suggested plans be drawn and submitted because they might meet with some success.<sup>63</sup> Williams had them in the mail with changes noted on October 16.<sup>64</sup> Seven sets of prints, supplemented with letters from Mary Church, Stanley Hawkins and Project Manager Williams were sent on November 1, 1937, to the Director of the NPS with a cover letter from Region One Director Carl Russell recommending approval of changes in standard facilities for the MLCC camp.<sup>65</sup>

Williams requested permission to construct water lines to two unit lodges in mid-November and on November 23, received communication from Region One that

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<sup>62</sup>Russell and Hawkins, Letters to Williams 6 Oct 1937 and 13 Oct 1937, CMP.

<sup>63</sup>Russell, Letter to Williams, 13 Oct 1937, CMP.

<sup>64</sup>Williams, Letter to Region One, 16 Oct 37, CMP.

<sup>65</sup>Carl Russell, Letter to NPS Director, 1 Nov 1937, CMP.

they had heard no word of approval from Washington, but had forwarded plans on Nov. 1 and would let him know the outcome as soon as possible<sup>66</sup> Three months passed before a reply came from Washington. The technical staff implied the changes were to specialized and questioned whether staff quarters should replace the recreation lodges. Russell defended the extra staff buildings as necessary to house the larger staff of the MLCC and since the space remained the same, the lodges could be built at a future date if the camp needed to be expanded.<sup>67</sup>

Russell's letter further stated that an Inspector, 'through some misapprehension,' had granted approval for starting the two unit lodges on January 17, 1938, and Region One felt it "desirable to concur in the approval of the Inspector" and "assumed that the NPS would as well." Russell claimed the layout had been approved on August 4, 1937 and "urged concurrence in the construction of the lodges and leader's cabins in order that work which is urgently needed may not be delayed longer." He added the MLCC's request for a museum attached to the craft shop and asked to be advised if there would to a "hold up" in the approval of the plans<sup>68</sup> Approval for staff cabins to replace the recreation lodges came on March 23, 1938, with the request to discourage the museum attached to the craft shop.<sup>69</sup>

Williams submitted final plans for Greentop to state and federal officials in early April. As per the cooperative agreement, Williams submitted plans to Karl E. Pfeifer, state of Maryland.<sup>70</sup> Maryland's approval was received on April 20, 1938 and the camp was finished in time for the MLCC to use for the summer season. "The camp was

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<sup>66</sup>Russell, Letter to Williams, 23 Nov 37, CMP.

<sup>67</sup>Russell, Letter to Director of NPS, 8 Feb 1938, CMP.

<sup>68</sup>Ibid.

<sup>69</sup> Russell, Letter to Inspector R.M. Schenck, 23 Mar 1938, CMP.

named 'Greentop' by the first group of campers, because of their appreciation of the abundance of green trees on top of the mountain."<sup>71</sup> It has been called Greentop ever since.

### Camp Hi -Catoctin

While details were being negotiated for Greentop, the Baltimore Camp Advisory Committee (BCAC) began preliminary studies for a third camp at Catoctin RDA. Recreational Planner Neasmith and Inspector Woodward attended a meeting with the Committee in early January 1938 seeking their views on building plans for summer 1938. J. Hammond Brown, Chairman of the BCAC reported that the Committee felt the focus of the next two camps should be toward units for smaller groups. They suggested one camp for girls and one for boys, "two camps, each with facilities for 50 campers...thrown open to small groups for short periods through the camping season." The Committee would locate a sponsoring "body" for administration of the camps.<sup>72</sup>

Williams and his staff were well advanced in their plans when Brown's letter arrived and they requested a decision on the capacity and type of cabins from Region One.<sup>73</sup> When plans arrived at Region One, Associate Regional Director Evison queried Inspector Schenck on the absence of explanatory documents or justification for a camp other than a standard camp. Williams's plans presented eight-cot cabins, implying a "nursery camp or consolidation for a particular purpose' but the "symbol number

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<sup>70</sup>Williams, Letter to Karl E. Pfeifer, 31 Mar 1938, CMP.

<sup>71</sup>Mary E. Church, "Camping with Crippled Children at Greentop", *The Child*. May 1941, pp. 311-315, United States Labor Library.

<sup>72</sup>J. Hammond Brown, Letter to Neasmith, 24 Jan 1938, CMP.

indicates a regular boys camp. The standard boys camp comprised four-cot cabins with six cabins per unit. Evison requested a justification for non-standard cabins but commented that the relationship of the three units was "well-handled."<sup>74</sup>

A conference was called in Richmond on May 12, 1938 where plans were discussed for the structures of Hi-Catoctin. Attending the meeting were Mike Williams and Vanston from Catoctin RDA, Project Architect, Neasmith, Recreational Planner, O'Neil, Engineer and Higgins, Architect from Region One. The conference report described the camp generally as "a three unit camp for children" and recommended that most units reflect the standard camp plan for boys or be similar to those previously approved for Catoctin. The infirmary and dining hall would be increased to handle the capacity of the camp and A. J. Higgins with Orin Bullock's approval, drew new staff quarters.<sup>75</sup> Buildings for Hi-Catoctin were frame construction with rough board siding instead of logs.

Within a week Williams prepared and forwarded justification for Hi-Catoctin, "an organized group camp for boys" with a 72 camper capacity and nine leaders, three in each unit. This combination reflected the standards for a boys' camp with four-cot cabins in three units of six. The administrative unit housed six staff members, one nurse and four kitchen helpers and included a swimming pool, craft shop, play field, camp fire circle, camp office, central shower, recreation hall and a nature lore building.<sup>76</sup>

The site was ideal for a three-unit camp. Young timber and a few mature

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<sup>73</sup>Williams, Letter to Region One, 29 Jan 1938, CMP.

<sup>74</sup>Evison, Letter to Schenck.- 25 Apr 1938, CMP.

<sup>75</sup>Memo 12 May 1938, CMP.

<sup>76</sup>Camp 3-B Administrative Unit justification, 19 May 1938, CMP.

trees covered the site located in the northeastern section of Catoctin. The justification documents for the camp submitted in May of 1938, described 52 miles of hiking trails to such points as Chimney Rock, Wolf Rock, Black Rock, Catoctin Furnace and Cunningham Falls. "High points along the trails afford excellent views of the neighboring valleys."<sup>77</sup>

A layout plan, #9048, for Hi-Catoctin was forwarded to Schenck on Map 26, 1938. Also included in the same roll of drawings was drawing #9065 showing locations of Greentop, Hi-Catoctin and 4-G. Camp 4-G, a girls camping area located approximately 1,400' from Hi-Catoctin, was planned but never built. Baltimore Camp Advisory Committee began plans in late 1938 for Camp 4-G, but lack of labor and funding, plus preparations for World War II, cancelled construction.

By July 1938, Hi-Catoctin's Units A and B were well under construction. Unit C's location was being debated by technical staff of Region One who suggested shifting the lodge farther from other units for "better operation and non-interference of unit programs with camps." Williams liked his selected location, as it afforded a beautiful view of the valleys below. Evison asked for revisions or explanations from the field as to why changes should not be made.<sup>78</sup> Revisions were made on the location of Unit C and the camp was finished by the end of the year

Construction of Hi-Catoctin had barely commenced when groups began inquiring about its use. The Baltimore Camp Advisory Committee (BCAC) was consulted and asked by Recreation Specialist Neasmith for detailed information about any Baltimore organizations or others in Maryland interested in leasing Hi Catoctin RDA. The NPS

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<sup>77</sup>Ibid.

<sup>78</sup>Williams, Letter to Reg One Director, 26 Jul 1938, CMP.

received a request from a family camping organization in Washington, D.C. Neasmith needed data on sex and ages of campers and an opinion from the Committee on the formation of a "Management and Using organization" if several groups were to use the camp.<sup>79</sup>

Hi-Catoctin had been built specifically as a boys' camp and family group Usage necessitated modifications in the cabins, latrines and shower facilities. Williams requested "early advice"<sup>80</sup> on any adjustments of existing structures to accommodate families. Partitions were eventually placed in nine of the 18 Cabins and each had two outside doors. Changes were made in latrines and wash houses converting them for use by both sexes.<sup>81</sup>

In early 1939 it was decided that the sponsoring organization using Hi Catoctin the first season would be a family organization of federal employees. In April 1939, Mr. A. J. S. Martin from the Federal Camp Council of Washington, D.C. asked the NPS about the availability of the camp for the summer 1939 season. Layout plans were sent to his office in Washington, D.C.<sup>82</sup> A highly organized group serving a large population of federal employees, the Federal Camp Council, Inc. had operated camps for federal employees since 1935. Programs were promoted on bulletin boards, in employee publications, drawings for vacations, photo contests and open houses.<sup>83</sup> Membership drives recruited families likely to participate. Dates of winter reunions and publications of summer camping activities were distributed.

The organization's purpose matched the philosophy of the original mandate

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<sup>79</sup>Neasmith, Letter to J. Hammond Brown, 10 Dec 1938, CMP.

<sup>80</sup>Ibid.

<sup>81</sup>Lisle, Letter to Director of NPS, 6 Feb 1939, CMP.

<sup>82</sup>Lisle, Memo to Williams, 29 Apr 1939, CMP.

for Catoctin. The Federal Camp Council worked to “meet the needs of federal employees and their families for a low-cost vacation in an organized camp.” The Council offered -a wholesome program of recreation amid beautiful surroundings, with opportunities for the development of latent talents, and adequate provisions for rest and relaxation.<sup>84</sup>

Hi-Catoctin was used by the Federal Camp Council during the summers of 1939, 1940 and 1941, after which the camp became Franklin D. Roosevelt's World War II retreat, Shangri-La. Development of camps at Catoctin ended with the construction of Camp Hi-Catoctin. War in Europe, defense buildups in Baltimore, and redistribution of funds combined to end further building of camps.

#### Blue Blazes Contact Station

During development, the Central Administrative Group near Foxville was the hub of the project, coordinating building and planning of camps and roads. As camping and day-use increased at Catoctin Recreation Demonstration Area (Catoctin RDA) a new center of activity emerged at the intersection of County Road 77 and the new road to the group camps. A contact station was needed to serve as a guide post for visitors and control access to the group camps. Williams proposed to build the contact station at the intersection, traditionally called Blue Blazes by the local community.

The name Blue Blazes is thought to derive from the sighting of foxfire by early settlers passing through Harmon's Gap on their trek west.<sup>85</sup> Foxfire emanates from a luminescent fungus, Armellaria mellea, growing on decaying wood, which glows at

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<sup>83</sup>Aneta E. Bowden, Report of Summer Season, 16 Dec 1940, CMP.

<sup>84</sup>Ibid.

night in areas of the Appalachian Mountains. Foxfire emits enough blue light. to read coarse print at night. Harmon's Gap is another early reference to the area.<sup>86</sup>

A formal survey to "collect and tabulate factual data on Attendance and Use of Facilities and the habits, customs and preferences of park visitors participating in recreational activities in the Catoctin area" was conducted between July 1 and September 15, 1938 to support the need for the Blue Blazes contact station. Williams hoped to assign this project to a student, but eventually assigned Emergency Relief Administration (ERA) personnel to the job. Areas surveyed included park picnic grounds, the banks of Hunting Creek and picnic grounds in Thurmont, Maryland.<sup>87</sup> The survey revealed that all visitors to the new West Picnic Area and the three organized camps passed by the intersection at Blue Blazes and 98% entered from the east and exited in the same direction.<sup>88</sup> Other data from the survey is regrettably not available.

Hikers, fishermen and visitors to Catoctin for general outdoor recreation would benefit from the new contact station. The December 1938 Project Construction Program recommended that during heavy traffic seasons a watchman be stationed at the building continuously and that sleeping quarters and cooking facilities be provided. The Report also noted that timber supply on Catoctin Mountain suitable for building had been exhausted and logs "on the stump" would be purchased and prepared at the sawmill as they had for Misty Mount and Greentop. Local fieldstone and a shake roof were incorporated into the design to harmonize with the rest of the project structures.

Williams visualized the Blue Blazes contact station as the crowning gem in

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<sup>85</sup>William Renner, Youth Conservation Corps interview, 1972, CMP.

<sup>86</sup> Joshua Barney, Map, Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, 1829, Library of Congress, MD HR 1213-478.

<sup>87</sup>Survey justification, 13 Jun 1938, CMP.

the development of the park and the longer architects at Region One delayed designs, the more elaborate Williams's schemes became. What began as a simple contact station evolved into a stone entrance portico with pedestrian gate, ranger's quarters and parking lot. A curving wall flanked the east side and the large beech and oak trees located behind the wall were to be saved.

The initial request for drawings was sent to Regional headquarters in Richmond at the end of September 1939.<sup>89</sup> Architects and draftsmen were no longer working at Catoctin RDA and drawings were generated in Richmond. A second set of plans and bill of materials was requested on March 28, 1940 and Region one hoped to have them at Catoctin RDA by April 22.<sup>90</sup> Williams was especially hopeful plans would arrive as promised, for funds were available if WPC workers could be found. Labor was scarce, as Congress had passed the Appropriation Acts of 1939 and 1940 Which contained clauses that forced workers off relief. The clauses stated that workers could remain in the program for 18 months and then were to be dropped for 30 days. Eligibility for relief had to be, reestablished before reinstatement.<sup>91</sup>

Three months passed and plans were still in Richmond. Williams sent weekly notes with suggestions and pleas that drawings be sent so the building could be completed before winter. Cost estimates had increased with the added elaborate entrance and the intersection had been realigned for the safety of cars entering the main road and to accommodate the contact station.<sup>92</sup>

Karl Pfeiffer, Maryland State Director of Parks, reviewed plans for the new

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<sup>88</sup>Williams, Memo to Region One, 15 Nov 1939, CMP.

<sup>89</sup>Job application, 27 Sep 1939, CMP.

<sup>90</sup>Ferguson, Acting Asst. Dir. Memo to Heinrich, 3 Apr 1940, CMP.

<sup>91</sup>Josephine Brown. Public Relief 1929-1q39(New York: Octagon Books,1971), p. 391.

Contact station and in his opinion the building's orientation was 45 degrees off and not in a position to afford a good view of the road. He also disapproved of the lack of bathing and cooking facilities for the ranger and claimed anyone manning the station couldn't see to open the gate.<sup>93</sup>

By mid-July 1940, Blue Blazes had evolved into the site of the proposed “permanent Area Office.”<sup>94</sup> Williams had tempered his position on facilities for Blue Blazes. Having discussed the project with his immediate superior, Inspector Heinrich, he agreed that the ranger quarters in the building were not desirable and suggested an expandable public contact station that one day would contain offices for the manager and a clerk. Meanwhile a small building would be built to fill the needs of the remaining development phase. A new project construction program was written to include the Blue Blazes site with an eventual Area office and watchman's quarters. Construction of the small contact station was included in the fiscal year 1941 and had to be completed by May 1, 1942.

Williams was either a very patient man or a very frustrated one. Plans being drawn at Region One for Blue Blazes were basically the ones he had proms in his original submission nearly two years before in December of 1938, except that an Area Office would be added at a future date. Temporary quarters for the watchman were provided by partitioning off part of the interior. The same experience had occurred on the layout of Greentop.

Relations were becoming strained with the state of Maryland concerning the plans for Blue Blazes. Karl Pfeiffer of Maryland State Parks criticized the plan's lack of

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<sup>92</sup> Williams, Letter to Region One, 21 Jun 1940, CMP.

<sup>93</sup>Pfeiffer, Letter to Williams, 29 Jun 1940, CMP.

foresight in not including a main service area and truck storage near the office. (Tears later this was done.)<sup>95</sup> Since he had not been consulted and had disagreed with the siting all along, he could not give approval. Heinrich penciled his own feelings of regret on Pfeiffer's rejection letter to Williams, and added directions to send the job application with attached Maryland Park veto directly to him. A week later Heinrich sent approval for the project with the comment that although Pfeiffer still disagreed, he would drop the hint to the Maryland official that the NPS "still owns Catoctin RDA and holds controlling interest in the planning program."<sup>96</sup> With official approval in hand, Williams announced that construction of the stone wall and portal had already begun by the CCC and the chestnut paneling and trim had been milled at the Project woodworking shop. Much of the hardware was WPA surplus from New York City projects.<sup>97</sup>

Maryland State Park Director Karl Pfeiffer, unsuccessful in his attempt to influence the plans for Blue Blazes registered his protest with officials in the State Relations Division of the NPS's Washington office. Matt Huppuch, Acting Chief of that division, wrote a diplomatic memo to Region One October 8, 1940 inquiring about the "administrative facilities at Catoctin" and asked the Region One director for a "clear picture of planning at the site."<sup>98</sup> Huppuch's inquiry had the effect of a stop work order and construction was halted at Blue Blazes.

Region One Acting Director E. M. Lisle responded a week later stating future needs of Catoctin were "paramount" in the decisions made for the park. Staff consensus supported providing space for four permanent employees and quarters for

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<sup>94</sup>Williams, Memo to Region One, 19 Jul 1940, CMP.

<sup>95</sup>Pfeiffer, Letter to Williams, 21 Sept 1940, CMP.

<sup>96</sup>Heinrich, Letter to Williams, 27 Sept 1940, CMP.

<sup>97</sup>#272 Job application, 26 Sept 1940, CMP.

employees could be constructed. The project manager's residence had been built just north of Blue Blazes during the summer of 1939. Lisle did not address the orientation of the building on the site or mention Pfeiffer's other concerns.

On October 28, 1940 construction was permitted to resume as "originally Proposed."<sup>99</sup> State official Pfeiffer grudgingly sent his approval for the project on February 26, 1941, stating he thought the building still improperly oriented, but since "the job has been started, it should be finished, and therefore, I have approved the supplement."<sup>100</sup>

Labor problems continued to plague the project. Roosevelt announced that the United States would aid its allies with "material resources" and he started the preparations for an emergency. Congress passed the Selective Service Act in September 1940 that required men ages 21-35 to register for possible military duty. Many volunteered for military service.<sup>101</sup> Men left the low wages of the WPA relief rolls to work in defense plants, which resulted in booming ship yards and aircraft industries in Baltimore. Emigration back to the city after the hard times of the depression had begun as America mobilized defense efforts in the summer of 1940.<sup>102</sup>

Blue Blazes contact station was completed at the end of April 1941, with Williams inserting a real fireplace instead of a "dummy" as shown on the plans.<sup>103</sup>

Project Manager Williams claimed in his final report: "This structure and the stone wall

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<sup>98</sup>Huppuch, Memo to Regional Director, 8 Oct 1940, CMP.

<sup>99</sup>Bursley, Memo to Heinrich, 28 Oct 1940, CMP.

<sup>100</sup>Pfeiffer,

Letter to Williams, 26 Feb 1941, CMP.

<sup>101</sup>Richard Walsh and William Lloyd, eds. *Maryland: A History 1632-1974* (Baltimore: The Maryland Historical Society, Schneidereich & Sons, 1974), p. 784.

<sup>102</sup>*Ibid*, p. 785.

are probably the most creditable[sic) pieces of work on the entire project area and many favorable comments have been made by Service officials and visitors regarding the layout, design and workmanship."<sup>104</sup>

The Blue Blazes contact center was enlarged in 1964 with Mission 66 funds. It remained the visitor center and administrative headquarters until Supt. Pridemore moved the administrative offices to Camp Peniel in 1973.

### Catoctin Manor House Day Use Area

As early as January 1937 development of a day-use picnic area near the Catoctin Manor House was planned with benches, shelters and fireplaces. Williams submitted layout plans two years later on December 5, 1938 for a more elaborate picnic area furnished with tables, fireplaces, a man-made lake, bath house, large parking lots, trails, playfield, amphitheatre and concessions stand.<sup>105</sup> Provisional approval for the location of shelters, concession building, bath house and picnic areas was received at the Park on December 16, 1938, and Region One staff complimented Williams on the thoughtful relationship of the various use areas to each other and preservation of lake frontage in its natural state. Region One needed justification statements for the whole project and when those arrived the project would be viewed as a package.<sup>106</sup>

Williams submitted two justification statements for the 50-acre public day-use facility along Route #15 near Catoctin Manor House Day Use Area, one on January 5, 1939, the other February 16, for the water system. He predicted the heavily

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<sup>103</sup> Job Completion record, 15 Jan 1942, CMP.

<sup>104</sup> Ibid.

used U.S. Route 15 would bring many picnickers to use the lake, tour the historic sites and hike the trails. Old ore pits and ditches dotting the area were filled and leveled before construction commenced but two small spring fed lakes in abandoned ore pits, remained on the plans. A two-acre swimming lake, 100' east of Little Hunting Creek, was configured much like a swimming pool, with a shallow north end for non-swimmers and diving platform at the south end. Water diverted from Little Hunting Creek would provide a constant flow through the lake before returning to the creek. Two planned parking lots of 105 and 170 spaces were planned near the entrance. A stone wall was planned to direct traffic and define the area.<sup>107</sup>

In the spring, funding became an issue in scheduling work on facilities at Catoctin Manor Day Use Area. A Bill of Materials submitted to Region One April 12, 1939 by Williams cited economics and time as factors leading to postponement of certain work until after June 30. An entrance road, two parking lots, two latrines, 100 picnic tables and 30 fireplaces would be constructed as originally planned since the new Civilian Conservation Corps(CCC) camp at Catoctin RDA provided labor as of April 1, 1939. Further construction would be delayed, as other jobs on the project had priority for funds for materials.<sup>108</sup> The stone wall at the entrance was completed by the CCC under the supervision of Mr. Harmon.<sup>109</sup>

The carrying capacity of the Catoctin Manor House Day Use Area was the subject of a conference requested by Regional Recreation Planner R. C. Robinson with Region

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<sup>105</sup>Evison, Letter to Schenck, 16 Dec 1938, CMP.

<sup>106</sup>Ibid..

<sup>107</sup>Manor House Justification, 5 Jan 1939, CMP.

<sup>108</sup>Williams, Bill of Materials, 12 Apr 1939, CMP.

One and Park staff.<sup>110</sup> Robinson voiced concern that decisions were being made for the area based on "probable demand" rather than on the "available resources." He predicted the area could not handle more than 1500 people at any one time and still provide "satisfactory participation in the activities offered." To accommodate 1500 people he recommended a regulation size pool, 100' x 150', to serve swimming events. Robinson questioned the size of the playfield and suggested that more space was needed throughout the whole system to fully balance the offered activities.

Robinson's concern for development of Catoctin's recreational area and its link with user satisfaction may have had as its origin a 1936 NPS report by Service wildlife technician Lowell Sumner, who felt that overcrowded parks defeated their purpose. While Sumner's report referred to wilderness management, Robinson obviously felt the principles applied to general recreational facilities.<sup>111</sup>

The June 1939 Monthly Progress Report summarized construction schedules at Catoctin RDA and listed roads, picnic shelter and tables and latrines as being 100% complete with the water system and fireplaces 37% complete. Unskilled CCC labor completed the area and provided minimum facilities for picnics. Though Williams did not abandon plans to completely develop the Catoctin Manor House Day Use Area, changes in the facilities began with a memo dated February 20, 1940 from Region One. The Regional staff concurred with Robinson's concerns that mass activity would endanger the scenic values of the area and replaced the lake with a swimming pool central to other facilities. An additional concern was an anticipated need to widen Route

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<sup>109</sup>Renner, 1987.

<sup>110</sup>Robinson, memo to Region One, 2 May 1939, CMP.

15 to accommodate the public, an issue that would arise later with great emotion and paperwork.

The Manor Area became part of Cunningham Falls State Park in 1954 when 4,446 acres were deeded to the state of Maryland. Recreational resource: listed in the 1983 Master Plan for Catoctin Furnace and the Manor Area of Cunningham Falls State Park(CFSP) cited a concessions stand as the only major structure added to the Catoctin Manor House Day Use Area since its initial development in 1939. Day use has remained the principle activity of the area.

### Catoctin Furnace

The historic Catoctin Furnace ruins came under close scrutiny by NP S historians in November of 1935 when Charles W. Porter sent a preliminary memo to Earl Weatherwax stressing the significance of the Furnace.<sup>112</sup> Alerted to the presence of the furnace by the justification section of the Catoctin final report submitted the end of September 1935, Porter began the process to verify the significance of the site. Numerous claims to fame for the furnace stack, located south of Thurmont along Route 15, included supplying arms for George Washington during the Revolution and military hardware for the War of 1812. James Rumsey, who built the first steam boat in America, was reputed to have purchased iron from the present Catoctin Furnace.

Porter discovered a history of the furnace written by James M. Swank, “foremost authority on the subject of the history of the iron industry in America,” refuting the

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<sup>111</sup>Roderick Nash, "Wilderness Management: A Contradiction in Terms?", presented at the Wilderness Resource Distinguished Lectureship, Univ.

claims about the present standing stack. Swank's book, History of Iron in All Ages and Particularly in the United States, located the original furnace three quarters of a mile further down Little Hunting Creek than the present stack. Porter considered these findings a very 'delicate' matter and suggested going slowly on any publicity until the research was done, as many people in the area took considerable pride in their famous furnace. He further suggested that since Ronald Lee from the NPS Historical Division was very interested in Catoctin, he might be interested in a copy of the Memo.<sup>113</sup>

NPS interest in the furnace resulted in preliminary archeological work at Catoctin Furnace on leased land when WPA funds became available the winter of 1936. In a semi-monthly report for January, Williams noted 30 men had begun work January 20, 1936 at the Furnace in severe weather on job #904. "Restoration of Historic Structures." Under foreman William Renner, slag and refuse were moved to a site east of the Manor House so digging could begin. Charles Porter must have disapproved of amateurs doing the job of a trained archeologist, for on February 7, 1936 Williams received a stop work order by telegram from the Regional office that disapproved the job.<sup>114</sup> Williams, recognizing that the site could not be left with excavations open, ordered the men to level the area, thus expending money after the stop order.<sup>115</sup> At this point, 3rd Regional Inspector Tell W. Nicholet arrived at Catoctin Furnace for an on-site inspection.

Inspector Nicholet Visited Catoctin Furnace and filed a glowing report of the work being performed by Mr. Renner and his crew, most of whom lived nearby and were

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of Idaho Wilderness Research Center, Moscow, Idaho, 18 Apr 1978.

<sup>112</sup> Charles Porter, Memo to Weatherwax, 23 Nov 1935

<sup>113</sup> Ibid.

<sup>114</sup> Williams, Letter to 3rd Regional Office, 3 Mar 1936, CMP.

descended from former furnace employees. He complimented Mr. Renner's thoroughness in recording specimen tags, whose identifying descriptions and relationships reflected Renner's background and knowledge of furnace operation. Nicolet further noted that an archaeologist was to be hired for the site in the spring, but unless he was better qualified and more knowledgeable than Renner, he would not be necessary and recommended that the work be allowed to resume.<sup>116</sup> Despite Nicolet's report, work was suspended until an archeologist could be assigned.

Historian Charles Porter researched the Catoctin Furnace history on a visit to the Frederick County Courthouse where he examined deeds and wills relative to the property. Five and a half days of research revealed that James Johnson and his brothers, Thomas, Baker and Roger, built the first Catoctin Furnace in 1774, and operated it until 1787, when they moved three-quarters of a mile upstream to build a second furnace nearer the ore banks.<sup>117</sup> Porter wrote that the second furnace was built on the present stack site and operated by Johnson until 1803, when it was rented.<sup>118</sup> By 1873, three stacks were located at the present site and the existing stack may have been one of the three listed in the 1876 tax assessment of the property.<sup>119</sup>

The Catoctin Furnace operated under various owners until closing in 1903. Mining continued on the property and the ore was shipped north to furnaces in Pennsylvania.<sup>120</sup>

Porter concluded there was no validity to claims that the standing stack provided "war materials for Washington's army," nor was iron provided to James Rumsey's steamboat, as its first trials were in 1787. His research revealed that Rumsey's "boiler,

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<sup>115</sup>Ferguson, T. W., Jr. 3<sup>rd</sup> Regional Office, Letter to Williams, 2 Mar 1936, CMP.

<sup>116</sup>Tell W. Nicolet, Regional Inspector, Letter to 3<sup>rd</sup> Regional Office, 20 Feb 1936, CMP.

<sup>117</sup>Charles Porter, Catoctin Furnace report, p 1, CMP.

<sup>118</sup>Ibid, p.3

pumps and pipes were made in Baltimore and Antietam Iron Works.” Porter speculated that the present stack may have played a role in the war of 1812 or the Civil War,<sup>121</sup> though there was little authenticity to the claim that iron was supplied for the famous Union ironclad ship the Monitor. He further stated that it would be difficult to date the present stack, as there were three stacks standing on the site in 1876.

With Charles Porter's history report as background, work at Jamestown as job experience and Mr. Renner to help him, student archeologist, W. H. Enslow began a two month exploratory dig at Catoctin Furnace on August 1, 1936. H. Summerfield Day, archeologist from Williamsburg, Inspector Nicholet, Chafes Porter and Williams met at the site on August 4 and 5 to discuss the project and its logistics. Archeologist Day described the above ground remains of the furnace as stonework foundations of the wheel house, casting shed and one other building, and a high wall against the hill bounding the site on two sides, with slag everywhere. Day outlined the exploratory techniques planned as several 5' wide trenches: 1) a trench east from the southeast corner of the furnace and parallel to the south side of the furnace; 2) a trench at right angles to the first. and about 20' from the east of the furnace. Field drawings and photographs were planned. Artifacts were kept in the basement of the caretaker's house.<sup>122</sup>

Enslow was responsible for weekly reports. The first was lost in the mail on its way to Richmond, the second described two weeks of work that included renewing the lease on the land, cleaning up the site, staking the area in sixteen, 100' squares and opening trench AA on August 7, 1936. Valuable suggestions and recollections were supplied by two members of his crew who had worked the furnace before it closed in

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<sup>119</sup>Ibid, p. 6

<sup>120</sup>Ibid, p. 7

1903, and interviews were scheduled with older residents of the area. Enslow also reported that he had established the location of the 1774 site tentatively on the highway one-quarter mile south of the present furnace. He interviewed the owner of the land who verified the existence of walls two feet below the level of his "truck patch" and said the owner had removed much slag and iron, which he had sold for junk. Work ended in mid-September. All notes, photographs, artifacts and maps disappeared.

Catoctin Furnace became part of the cultural resources of Cunningham Falls State Park in 1954 when the state park was created and was designated tree Catoctin Furnace Complex<sup>123</sup> by the Catoctin Furnace and Manor Area Master Plan of 1983. The State of Maryland keeps the vegetation from growing between the rocks on the dry wall and is responsible for the maintenance and preservation planning of the furnace stack "Isabella," casting shed and ironmaster's house. A committee of local citizens, the Catoctin Furnace Historical Society, established in 1974, works closely with state authorities "to assist and counsel" in the preservation and restoration of the furnace.<sup>124</sup>

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<sup>121</sup>Ibid, p. 9

<sup>122</sup>Day, Report try Evison, date unknown, CMP.

<sup>123</sup>Master Plan, Catoctin Furnace and the Manor Area of Cunningham Falls State Park, 1983, p. 2.

<sup>124</sup>Ibid, p. 6

## CHAPTER III

### CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS AT CATOCTIN RECREATIONAL

#### DEMONSTRATION AREA

Catoctin Recreational Demonstration Area (Catoctin RDA) welcomed a Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) contingent April 1, 1939, the beginning of the 13th period of enrollment.<sup>1</sup> Housed in the wooded area adjacent to the Central Garage Unit, the CCC camped in canvas wall tents until they built their barracks. A general reduction in the CCC force had taken place nationally in 1938, but was arrested by supporters in Congress who tried to save the Corps by appropriating funds to stabilize the program and allotting more camps to state and national parks. State parks were allotted a total of 245 new CCC camps and the camp at Catoctin RDA was established under this measure.<sup>2</sup> On April 1, 1939, the NPS maintained 311 standard CCC camps in the United States, down from 561 the same period in 1935.<sup>3</sup>

The original Civilian Conservation Corps Act was passed March 31, 1933, and within a week recruits were being enrolled for the first camp at Luray, Virginia.<sup>4</sup> Conrad Wirth became the NPS liaison to a CCC Advisory Committee that included representatives of the Forest Service, and the Labor, Agriculture, Education and War

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<sup>1</sup> John C. Paige, *The Civilian Conservation Corps and the National Service, 1933-1942, An Administrative History* (National Park Service, U.S. Department of Interior, 1985), p. 191.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 26.

<sup>3</sup> Conrad Wirth, Report to Ickes, Jan 1944, p. 14, Maryland Hall of Records.

<sup>4</sup> Conrad Wirth, *Parks, Politics and the People* (Norman: Univ. of Oklahoma Press, 1980), p. 70.

Departments.<sup>5</sup> Robert Fechner, who headed the CCC at its founding, felt the recruits should acquire everything they could from the experience.<sup>6</sup> Study, recreation and character building experiences were considered necessary to round out the CCC camp days.

Enrollment periods initially were for three months, eventually extending to Six-month terms, with opportunities for reenlistment. Skinny young men were Issued uniforms too large, knowing that they soon would fill them out with a few months of good diet and hard work. A "CCC Foremanship" manual<sup>7</sup> profiled enrollees to assist foremen who supervised the work: the recruits had "done little manual labor, . . . they were not familiar with tools, . . . had little formal education, . . . and some had poor home training." The foremen were expected to train the recruits to be useful citizens by teaching them to take orders, use tools, get along with supervisors and "give an honest days work willingly and cheerfully."<sup>8</sup> The CCC hoped to provide a view of the working world of men by giving them experience in working systematically together to complete large jobs.<sup>9</sup>

The main objectives of the CCC were first and foremost to "promote conservation, secondly to instill and develop leadership abilities, third to train young men in at least one skill enabling them to get a job in the future."<sup>10</sup> In addition to conservation and job training, the recruits were expected try gain social, educational and personal skills, a work ethic, self discipline, citizenship and practice good hygiene.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>5</sup>Ibid. p. 80.

<sup>6</sup>Ibid. p. 81.

<sup>7</sup>"CCC Foremanship", Manual, Records Group 1778, Item 82, Maryland Hall of Records.

<sup>8</sup>Ibid. p. 1.

<sup>9</sup>Ibid. p. 2

<sup>10</sup>Ibid. p. 4.

The Civilian Conservation Corps, Company 1374, NP-3-MD, arrived at Catoctin RDA during the 13th period that began on April 1, 1939<sup>12</sup> and set up camp north of the Central Garage Unit.<sup>13</sup> Its Company Commander was 2nd Lt., Infantry Reserve, Alden F. Church, Subaltern, and 2nd Lt. Ralph J. Wyman. The educational advisor was Bernard G. Harless. Those supervising the work under Project Supervisor H. D. Hammond, from Woodsboro,<sup>14</sup> were older men entitled "LEM's" or "Local Experienced Men"<sup>15</sup> familiar with the heavy labor that would be done at Catoctin RDA.<sup>16</sup> Foremen included W. H. Wagner, C. B. Clark, G. D. Paxson, J. R. Joy, and A. S. Gernand. George N. Wolf was the mechanic and C. H. Ridgely served as tool keeper.<sup>17</sup> Wagner had been with the Catoctin project since its beginning as a senior foreman.

Williams began planning reforestation work in January 1939, in preparation for the CCC's arrival in April. Ivan H. Smalley, Assistant Forester of Soil and Conservation was contacted concerning availability of surplus "seedling nursery stock."<sup>18</sup> Williams immediately sent a list of desired trees, which included most of the native trees of the East Coast region: oak, chestnut, yellow poplar, locust, pine, maple, ash, gum, redbud, cypress, beech, birch, basswood, shadbush, hemlock, hickories, maple, dogwood and elm. He specifically asked that 25% of the 100,000 trees needed to be varieties of oak, and that April first was a good time to plant trees. It also coincided with the arrival of the CCC.<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>11</sup>Ibid. p. 7.

<sup>12</sup>Paige, p. 50.

<sup>13</sup>Williams, Memo to Robert C. Horne, Chief, Engineering Division, NCP, 19 Jan 1955, AMP.

<sup>14</sup>William Renner, personal interview, 15 Mar 87.

<sup>15</sup> Paige defines this acronym as "locally employed men", p. 12.

<sup>16</sup>Norman Newton, *Design on the Land*(Cambridge: Belknap Press, 1971), p. 577.

<sup>17</sup>Pictorial review; Co 1374, CMP.

<sup>18</sup>Smalley, Letter to Region One, 4 Jan 1939, CMP.

<sup>19</sup>Williams, Letter to Arnold, 9 Jan 1939, CMP.

Williams sought trees for planting by the CCC from any source available. He sent his list to Maryland State Forester Besely, who replied that his supply for the year was depleted, but he had 10,000 white pine 4-8" tall.<sup>20</sup> John Diggs, Inspector for the Soil Conservation Service, notified Williams he had 2,000 pitch pine if trucks could be provided by the Park. Transportation was a problem and 3,000 sugar maples were lost because travel expense authorization to Blue Knob could not be approved. Eventually 2,000 red maples and 2,000 pitch pines were picked up in York, Pa., April 13, 1939 and planted by the CCC, over objections of Karl E. Pfeiffer, Maryland Director of State Parks, who disagreed with the varieties chosen for field planting.<sup>21</sup>

Williams pulled two plans off his shelf that had been formulated in 1936 and 1937 by technicians Fred Tresselt of the NPS and V. W. Saari of the Maryland State Forest Service. Tresselt's plan involved stream improvement within Catoctin RDA boundaries to encourage native fish and improve fishing. Saari's recommendations included planting abandoned fields to benefit wildlife and cut over forests of the mountain. These two plans, especially appropriate to the CCC program, were dusted off and implemented with the newly available labor.

Regional Forester Saari had visited Catoctin RDA on December 6, 1937 and recommended systematic rehabilitation of 800 acres of open fields acquired on Catoctin Mountain to prevent sheet erosion and provide habitat for wildlife. Diversity of wildlife was promoted and erosion checked by planting Lespedeza sp. and grains such as "buckwheat, kaffir corn and soy beans in 10-12" strips along contours to benefit quail,

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<sup>20</sup>Besely, Letter to Williams, 11 Mar 1939, CMP.

<sup>21</sup>Pfeiffer, Letter to Williams, 28 Apr 1939, CMP.

turkeys, rabbits and song birds."<sup>22</sup> Forest encroachment was controlled by planting grains provided by the Maryland State Game and Inland Fish Commission near cover along the outside border of fields designated to remain open. Wildlife populations increased over the winters that followed and a marked increase was noted in the number of deer, mountain grouse and quail.<sup>23</sup>

The CCC worked to improve Owens and Hunting Creek Within Catoctin RDA the summer of 1939, under Job #32.<sup>24</sup> Fred Tresselt's plans drawn up in 1936 called for deepening pools to keep the water cool and to provide cover for fish. Side springs were cleaned and erosion checked by strategically placing rocks to deflect the current<sup>25</sup> Several check dams were constructed along Owens and Hunting Creeks that significantly benefited trout during dry seasons. Williams received reports from anglers that fishing greatly improved and had been complimented on the "natural appearance of the streams" after the work was completed. A Fisherman's Trail was built along Hunting Creek to prevent trampling of the vegetation along the creek during fishing season.<sup>26</sup> The improved area of Hunting Creek was submerged when the dam was built at Cunningham Falls State Park in the mid-1970s.

Tree planting began again in the fall of 1939. Native trees and shrub; dug from the woods of Catoctin RDA were transplanted to obliterate construction roads and old woods roads. More trees were planted to screen an open playing field north of the Park road

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<sup>22</sup>Saari, Report. to Woodward, 6 Dec 1937, CMP.

<sup>23</sup>Supplementary Report on the Master Plan: Catoctin RDA, State of Maryland, 1941 edition, Feb 1942, pp. 12, CMP.

<sup>24</sup>Williams, Memo to Region One, 22 Sept 1939, CMP.

<sup>25</sup>Fred Tresselt, Recommendations for Stream Improvements of Hunting Creek, Thurmont, Maryland, June 1936, CMP.

<sup>26</sup>Supplementary Report on the Master Plan: 1941 edition, 24 Feb 1942 pp. ICS, CMP.

leading to Camp #3 that served all the organized camps.<sup>27</sup> Blue Blazes Contact Station was also under construction at this time and the CCC dug the water system for this project. Dry stone walls flanking the contact station, guard rails, landscaping, and sodding were also done by the CCC<sup>28</sup> Mike Williams was very proud of the work done on this contact station and considered it one of the best projects completed in the park. Work of the same nature was completed by the CCC at Area Headquarters, where no landscaping improvement or maintenance had been performed since the Area was constructed in 1936.<sup>29</sup>

The CCC helped to dig the water lines and built the water system for Camp Hi-Catoctin (Camp #3) in 1939-40<sup>30</sup> Photographs from the Pictorial Review for Camp NP-3-MD featured pictures of activities during construction of the cistern and concrete headwall completed by the CCC. Presence of the CCC greatly expedited the construction of this camp's facilities, for WPA labor was scarce.

The CCC retrieved fences and prepared needed rails for Gettysburg National Military Park Superintendent James R. McConaghie, who was referred to Catoctin RDA in February 1940. The Wildlife Division liked to leave old worm fences for cover, but McConaghie visited Williams at Catoctin RDA and they agreed those in the deep woods could be removed for transport to Gettysburg., since their weathered appearance added a great deal to Gettysburg's restoration effort.<sup>31</sup> The job was approved February 14, 1940, with the qualification that no cutting would be allowed in the forest, but the CCC was

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<sup>27</sup>Application, job #243, 26 Oct 1939, CMP.

<sup>28</sup>Job Completion Form, 15 Jan 1942, CMP.

<sup>29</sup>Williams, Report, Aug. 40, CMP.

<sup>30</sup>Job approval, 5 Oct 1439, CMP.

<sup>31</sup>McConaghie, Letter to Region One, 1 Feb 1940, CMP.

"daylighting the three organized camps and the West Picnic areas" and that timber was used.<sup>32</sup> On July 16, 1940, a 2-ton stake load of fence rails was delivered to Gettysburg.<sup>33</sup>

Reforestation continued in the spring of 1940, when Associate State Forester V. H. Saari conferred with Senior Foreman Wagner to plan more plantings in open areas of the park. Their plans included obliteration of old, unused roads by breaking up the surfaces, hauling in topsoil and planting trees. It was estimated that 75 openings would be blocked to prevent cars from backing trees and shrubs. Dumping of rubbish was greatly reduced by closing up the roadsides with vegetation, improving the appearance of the county roads.<sup>34</sup>

At the request of Maryland Director of State Parks and the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club in January 1939 two trailside shelters were constructed by the CCC along the Appalachian Trail in Washington County. They also requested a connecting trail between two parks and the project was given consideration in Williams work plan. The two-trailside shelters were built in January of 1941 just two miles from Catoctin RDA for use by hikers and seasonal campers from Catoctin RDA's organized camps.<sup>35</sup>

Trails, water systems, stream improvement and reforestation programs completed by the CCC at Catoctin RDA advanced the facilities available for the enjoyment of the visiting public in Maryland. Projects done by the CCC in the national parks were said to have advanced development 50 years and the program was considered to be one of the most successful established by the New Deal. As defense work began to increase in 1941, fewer young men were available for service in the CCC. April 1941,

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<sup>32</sup>Smalley, Letter to McConaghie, 24 Feb 1940, CMP.

<sup>33</sup>Handwritten note, 16 Jul 1940, CMP.

<sup>34</sup>Job Approval, CCC #38, 19 Feb 1940, CMP.

<sup>35</sup>Supplementary Report on the Master Plan.- 1941 Edition, 24 Feb 1942, p. 10, CMP.

saw a 23% reduction in the number of camps delegated to the NPS<sup>36</sup> and on November 7, 1941, at the end of the 16th Period, the CCC camp at Catoctin was abandoned.<sup>37</sup>

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<sup>36</sup>Paige, p. 50.

<sup>37</sup>Williams, Memo to Roger Horne, Chief, Engineering Division, NCP, 19 Jan 1955, CMP.

## CHAPTER IV

### ORGANIZED CAMPING 1937-1941

#### Misty Mount

The Maryland League for Crippled Children (MLCC) camped at Misty Mount during the 1937 season while Greentop was in the planning stage. The Elks and a number of religious organizations inquired about the use of Misty Mount. On file with Williams were letters from "colored organizations" in Baltimore concerning provisions for their needs.<sup>1</sup>

The Salvation Army leased Misty Mount beginning in the summer of 1938, and continued to camp the four successive seasons until the Park was closed after the summer season 1941, for wartime use. A December 1970 presentation to a Rotary Club by Frank Mentzer, then superintendent of Catoctin RDA Mountain Park, prompted a letter from Salvation Army Director, Lt. Col. Walter Swyers concerning the derivation of the name Misty Mount. Swyers wrote that the first camp director, Mrs. Lt. Col. Harold Stout, had a cabin facing the mountain and because "every morning the top of the mountain was covered with mist," Mrs. Stout named the camp Misty Mount.<sup>2</sup>

Williams's report accompanying the 1942 Catoctin RDA Master Plan stated that "seasonal and intermediate permits" were issued to six organizations for camping the summer of 1941 at Misty Mount Girl Scouts from Hagerstown camped two weeks as they

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<sup>1</sup>Formulation of Future Work. Program, Tentative, 19 Jan 1937.

<sup>2</sup>Lt. Col. Walter Swyers, Letter to Mentzer, 17 Dec 1970, CMP.

had done in 1940 and were interested in longer periods of time. Many groups were unable to be accommodated because the number of requests received exceeded the seasonal capacity.<sup>3</sup>

### Greentop

Program information for Greentop came from two sources: 1) an article by Maryland League for Crippled Children's (MLCC) Executive Director, Mary E. Church, entitled "Camping with Crippled Children at Greentop" and published in the Department of Labor publication, *The Child*. June 1941 and 2) Project Manager Williams's report to the NPS at the end of the 1937 camping season at Misty Mount.

Mary Church wrote that Greentop was established for physically handicapped youngsters from low-income families. Two-thirds of the children lived in Baltimore the remaining in rural Maryland. As a health came, Greentop sought to improve the physical condition of its campers through diet., exercise and mental stimulation by exposing them to new experiences in a nature camp setting. Campers were required to be ambulatory and capable of walking at least the 600 feet from the farthest cabin to the dining hall, with speed not a factor. Girls and boys ages 7-16 years old attended camp for eight weeks; a shorter period was deemed too little time to achieve the desired goals and see a difference in the child's condition and attitude. Poliomyelitis was the most prevalent cause of campers' disabilities, making up 82% of the population; bone tuberculosis was next in frequency. MLCC staff social workers determined the needs of each child. Some benefited from social interaction with other children as much as the physical demands of

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<sup>3</sup>1942 Master Plan, Report, CMP.

camp. Not only did the children have physical disabilities, but many had suffered through long hospitalizations. Others seldom left their homes or came from an overprotected environment where the presence of playmates was an exception. The MLCC perceived Greentop as a place where children could operate under new rules in a new environment.

Camp staff were generally physical education teachers and school administrators with many years experience with children. Counselors were chosen for their talents in nature programming, music, recreation and leadership. All were over 21. A junior staff of college and older high school students supplemented the senior staff. Training classes were mandatory and in-service sessions were held at Greentop.

Occupational and physical therapy through nature and recreational activities were emphasized. Hikes, nature craft., gardening,, swimming, croquet, and active games with modified rules were available. Camper committee established schedules. Organized activities and with help from staff carried out. their plans. Outdoor cookouts and swimming were favorite activities.

All 16 orthopedists in Maryland served on the League's Medical Advisory Committee, two of whom visited the camp each week during the eight week session. Entrance and exit physicals were given to each child and children were weighed each week to measure effects of diet and exercise. A dietician worked in the camp kitchen supervising meals and menus.

The summary of Mary Church's article emphasized the social benefit of Greentop's program to the campers and improved behavior when they returned home.

She reported that parents commented on their children's happiness and increased consideration for others at home. Friendships formed at camp, spiritual renewal and a new appreciation of nature were all valued acquisition's at Greentop.

Williams's comments on the camping program were observations of a practical nature. He was very impressed with the efficiently operated and maintained camp and noted details concerning the operation of the camp and participation of the campers. Williams related that the most active campers assisted in kitchen duties and everyone ate family style in the dining hall, with the junior counselors putting food on the tables. Cooking was done in the outdoor kitchens at least twice a week, with food and utensils coming from the main kitchen. Campers rested for an hour in the morning and an hour in the afternoon, with the balance of the day spent in activities.

Williams estimated that unit lodges were used four hours during the day and evening for indoor recreation programs and that porches greatly expanded the usable space of the buildings. Craft provided a large part of Greentop's program and included woodworking, weaving, bead and leatherwork, sponge painting and nature lore. After watching the swimming program, Williams recommended that the size and depth of the swimming pool be changed from that at Misty Mount to 16' at the shallow end and 7' at the deep end to best accommodate the children.

The Project Manager's glowing comments on the remarkable progress made by the children during the first camping season were sent to Region One with recommendations to accommodate the group in every way possible in building Greentop. The MLCC used Greentop four seasons before World War II, when they were moved to French Creek, Pennsylvania for the duration.

### Camp Hi-Catoctin

The Federal Camp Council leased Hi-Catoctin RDA a total of three summers, from 1939 to 1941, using the camp for five weeks each year. Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts from Frederick County and Washington, D.C. camped for two-week periods in the summer of 1941.<sup>4</sup> While military use closed all campgrounds at Catoctin RDA during World War II, Hi-Catoctin was permanently closed to the public when Franklin Roosevelt chose it as the site for Shangri-La in spring of 1942.

### British Sailors Visit--Summer 1941

British sailors, whose ship was in dry dock in Baltimore, were bused to Catoctin RDA for rest and relaxation under a cooperative agreement between the Navy and the Department of the Interior. Permits for the Royal Navy's use of Catoctin RDA were signed by the Secretary of Interior the Harold Ickes, at the request of the Secretary of the Navy, who commented on the "excellent cooperation" of the Department of the Interior and stated that two camps were occupied by the British.<sup>5</sup> George Calcott in his general history, Maryland and America, 1940 to 1980 stated that in 1941, Baltimore was overcrowded with industrial defense employees and men from nearby military bases who overtaxed public services and crowded restaurants, grocery stores and recreational

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<sup>4</sup>1942 Master Plan, Report, CMP.

<sup>5</sup>Sec. of Navy, Letter to Sec. of Interior, 12 Jun 1941.

services.<sup>6</sup> There was little chance for the sailors to escape the noise of repair onboard their ship and a mountain retreat was a chance to rest and relax. The men were housed at Greentop and Mt. Lent, on tract, # 215, a three story stone and frame house outfitted for short-term use. The first group of 75 officers and men arrived June 5, 1941<sup>7</sup> and all other short-term reservations at the Park were cancelled.<sup>8</sup>

Williams reported that extra time was spent by supervisory personnel at Catoctin RDA to "entertain the guests with dances and tours." Natives from nearby towns were impressed with the "exemplary conduct" of the sailors and they could easily get a ride on county roads with their thumb and their accent.<sup>9</sup> Williams noted in his periodic report of July 23, 1941, that the British were entertained by the Fountain Head Country Club of Hagerstown, the Washington County Rod and Gun Club and many private citizens. The men reciprocated by holding exhibition games of cricket, soccer and rugby. Tree Royal Navy occupied various camps at Catoctin RDA from June 10 to November 8, 1941, accounting for 6,383 camper days, and leaving many phone bills that arrived after they had gone.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>6</sup>George H. Calcott, *Maryland & America: 1940-1980* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Univ. Press, 1985), p. 259.

<sup>7</sup>Baltimore Sun. 23 Sep 1941.

<sup>8</sup>Williams, *Periodic Report W* Region One, 2 G Jun 1941.

<sup>9</sup>Baltimore Sun. 23 Sep 1941.

<sup>10</sup>Williams, *Periodic report*; 10 Nov 1941.

## CHAPTER V

### CATOCTIN RECREATIONAL DEMONSTRATION AREA'S CONTRIBUTION TO WORLD WAR II

In the spring of 1942, five months after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, J. Hammond Brown, chairman of Catoctin Recreational Demonstration Area's Camp Advisory Committee, announced in his column for the Baltimore American on April 5, 1942 that Catoctin Recreational Demonstration Area (Catoctin RDA) had been closed to the public and "taken over for use in the present war effort." No specific use was cited for the area and the fishing season would proceed as planned, but short-term camping permits were cancelled for the Angler's Campfire planned for May 1942. The Salvation Army and Maryland League for Crippled Children were notified that all their camping equipment would have to be removed from the camps with no guarantee they would use the camps during the coming summer.<sup>1</sup>

#### Franklin D. Roosevelt's Shangri-La

Catoctin RDA, was closed to the public in the spring of 1942, when President Franklin D. Roosevelt, under the stress of war-time activity, chose Catoctin RDA as his hideaway to relax, away from the sultry Washington summer. Though air conditioning

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<sup>1</sup>Baltimore American, 5 Apr 1942.

had been installed in the White House family quarters in 1933<sup>2</sup> doctors were concerned for FDR's health and prescribed mountain air for his asthma, preferably 2,000' above sea level. Before World War II, FDR traveled by train to Hyde Park, New York or cruised on his yacht, the USS Potomac, when he needed a respite from duties of the Presidency.

Ben Bagdikian, in an article for the New York Times in 1962, noted precedent for presidential escapes from Washington summers. The White House was built on the swamps of the Potomac River 50' above sea level. Cleveland Park and the Naval Observatory, presidential retreats within the city of Washington, D.C., were at 270' above sea level. Jefferson escaped from the pressures of the presidency to Monticello, Hoover to the Rapidan and Lincoln used the Old Soldier's Home. Hoover's camp on the Rapidan was considered for FDR's retreat, but the terrain was judged too rough for his wheelchair and too low in elevation.<sup>3</sup>

In addition to the humid summer weather, security and accessibility were wartime factors. German U-boats threatened the East Coast of the United States, and the Secret Service prohibited use of the presidential yacht. Hyde Park's distance from Washington proved inconvenient for carrying on the nation's wartime business. Presidential aides began looking for alternatives to FDR's customary vacation retreats.

Secretary of the Interior Ickes was alerted to the search in March 1942. He requested that National Park Service (NPS) officials survey potential secluded sites within 100 miles of the White House that met the altitude requirements.<sup>4</sup> Newton B. Drury, Director of the NPS, delegated the confidential job to Conrad Wirth, Director of

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<sup>2</sup>William Seale, *The President's House* (Washington, D.C.: White House Historical Association, 1986), vol II, p. 927.

<sup>3</sup>Ben Bagdikian, *New York Times Magazine*. 20 May 1962.

Recreation and Land Planning. Wirth, in his book Parks Politics and the People,<sup>5</sup> stated that several locations came to mind as he conferred with Drury, and he planned on-site inspections immediately.

On short notice, Wirth, accompanied by landscape architect Ben Thompson and architect Ab Good, surveyed seven or eight sites in Virginia and Maryland. Each site was judged for its altitude, road conditions, utilities, beauty, woodland character and view.<sup>6</sup> The "Selection of Sit" chapter in A Summary of the Development of "Shangri-La" Summary) recorded three alternatives, at two geographic sites, presented for FDR's consideration:

1. Comer's Deadening in the Shenandoah National Park, 3 hours travel time from the White House over good roads and at an elevation of 3,300'. The cost to build the camp was estimated at \$150,000.

2. Catoctin RDA campsite #4, two hours from Washington, at 1,700' above sea level at approximately the same estimated cost for facility construction as at. Comer's Deadening

3. Catoctin RDA camp site #3, Hi-Catoctin, 1/2 mile from #4 at 1,800' in elevation and could be "revamped" at a cost of \$25,000 to meet the President's needs.<sup>7</sup>

The Summary recorded President Roosevelt's visit to Catoctin RDA on April 22, 1942, and the choice of Camp #3's 'Unit. E" recreation lodge as tree "nucleus" of his "mountain retreat colony."<sup>8</sup> Project Manager Williams accompanied the party to Camp #3

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<sup>4</sup>A Summary of the Development of "Shangri-La" .1942, p. 2, Franklin Roosevelt Library. (hereafter referred to as FDR Library).

<sup>5</sup>Conrad Wirth, *Parks, Politics and the People*(Norman: Univ. of Oklahoma Press:, 1980), p. 201.

<sup>6</sup>Ibid.

<sup>7</sup>Summary, F. 9.

<sup>8</sup>Ibid, p. 16.

and was to be supervisor of the building of the President's new hideaway.<sup>9</sup> Frederick newspapers also recorded the amazement of the few townspeople who glimpsed Roosevelt and his entourage of five cars as they drove through town on April 22. Frederick police officer, manning lights at the intersection of South and South Market Streets, reported FDR's return trip and commented on his deep conversation with his 'American looking' passengers and the agility of the Secret Service men. Later that evening the White House refused to answer questions about FDR's destination.<sup>10</sup> Mrs. Roosevelt, in a June 9, 1942, news conference referred to Catoctin RDA briefly as a place "up the river," but would say no more<sup>11</sup>.

It was generally accepted that FDR named his mountain retreat after the mountain kingdom of Shangri-La in James Hilton's novel *Lost Horizon*. Hilton sent a copy of his novel to FDR on October 5, 1937. In his thank you note to Hilton, sent shortly before Christmas 1937, Roosevelt expressed the wish that more people throughout the world could read the book. FDR felt the book asked just the proper questions he needed to prepare his speech for the Chicago Democratic Convention.<sup>12</sup>

Hilton wrote to FDR again on May 6, 1942, after Jimmie Doolittle bombed Japan on April 16, 1942, explaining the origin of the name Shangri-La. It came, the author said, at "a certain corner of Paternoster Row, near St. Paul's Cathedral. Today, all that lovely part of London has been blitzed into rubble; and today also, as you have stated (and who should know better?) American planes and battleships are based at Shangri-

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<sup>9</sup>Wirth, p. 202.

<sup>10</sup>Frederick Post, 23 Apr 1942 .

<sup>11</sup>Washington Post 9 Jun 1942 .

<sup>12</sup>Roosevelt, Letter to James Hilton, FDR Library, President's Personal File, Box 5066.

La.”<sup>13</sup> Jimmie Doolittle and his aviators had gained heroes' status with their bombing of four Japanese cities, after having secretly launched their B-25's off the carrier U.S.S. Hornet.<sup>14</sup> When reporters later questioned Roosevelt about the origin of the mission his reply was Shangri-La.”<sup>15</sup>

### Creating Shangri-La

A detailed explanation of the creation of Shangri-La was contained in the Planning of Site portion of the Summary. Immediately after FDR's visit April 22, 1942, architects began planning the expansion of the unit lodge and adaptations to other camp structures to accommodate an estimated 40 people. Existing cabin design made them easily movable, facilitating relocation and remodeling.<sup>16</sup> FDR sketched a new bedroom wing to be attached to the lodge for architect Ab Goode. He specified 11' high ceilings and asked that the beams be left exposed in the dining room and porch.<sup>17</sup> Aware of history, FDR asked that the sketch be returned to him for deposit at the FDR Library.<sup>18</sup> On April 30, 1942, Roosevelt made another inspection visit to Catoctin RDA and gave final approval for the new design of his quarters.

On May 7, 1942, Williams received authorization from Hillary A. Tolson, Acting Associate Director of the National Park Service (NPS) to use any resource he needed to complete tree refurbishing of Hi-Catoctin. Funds provided from the Emergency Fund for the President, National Defense, 1942, were "unlimited in their use." Materials could be

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<sup>13</sup>Ibid.

<sup>14</sup>Edward Joblonski, *America in the Air War*(Alexandria: Time-Life Books, 1982), p. 28.

<sup>15</sup>FDR Library, *President's Personal Papers*, 9 Jul 1942, Box 8086.

<sup>16</sup>Summary, p. 16.

<sup>17</sup>Ibid. p. 5.

purchased as needed on the open market and Williams was assigned a procurement officer to expedite the purchase orders. Williams was free to hire whatever labor was needed, Civil Service restrictions were lifted for those hired for less than 30 days.<sup>19</sup>

Foundation plans arrived at Catoctin RDA May 11, 1942. By May 16, a set of working drawings was on site for the rest of the lodge. Williams was receiving better service from the architects in Washington than on any previous project at Catoctin RDA. Unit lodge "B", a 17' x 28' rustic room with a fieldstone fireplace, became a combination living-dining room. An attached 15' x 18' screened porch on the east, overlooked the valley. Bedrooms heated with fireplaces were to be constructed in a wing set 30 degrees to the existing building, as the hill fell sharply away beyond the southwest corner of the lodge. A kitchen and butler's pantry were added to the northeast side of the lodge.

As a safety feature, architects specified an exit directly to the outside from the Roosevelt's bedroom. Built in the section of an outside wall between FDR's bedroom windows, the fire escape had hinges at floor level. A button activated counter weights within the wall, causing the wall to fall to the ground, forming a ramp for the President's wheelchair.<sup>20</sup> On a visit to Camp David during the Johnson administration, Wirth could not find evidence that the device still existed in the wall at Camp David.<sup>21</sup>

Another fire-related feature was added a year later when an outdoor cistern with a fountain was added to the space in the loop of the approach road.<sup>22</sup> The cistern was naturalized with rocks and plants to appear part of the landscape. When Winston

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<sup>18</sup> Grace Tully, Private Secretary to FDR, Letter to Drury, 15 Aug 1942, FDR Library, President's Secretary File, Box 185.

<sup>19</sup>Hillary A. Tolson, Letter to Williams, 7 May 1942, Natl. Arch., RG 79, Entry 54, Box 57.

<sup>20</sup>Summary, p. 21

<sup>21</sup>Personal interview with Conrad Mirth, 10 Mar, 1986.

Churchill visited Shangri-La the weekend of May 14, 1943, he mentioned a pond containing trout recently caught in a nearby stream, "awaiting the consummation of their existence."<sup>23</sup> Thomas Jefferson constructed a similar pond at Monticello both to keep fish fresh for his dinner guests and naturally air condition his house with water cooled wind.<sup>24</sup>

Cabins intruding on main lodge vistas were moved from their original positions and joined together under one roof for use as quarters for staff, communications and guest cabins. The craft shop became sleeping quarters for servants. A rustic sentry house with a gate was constructed at the entrance to the main lodge from "hand hewn post-and rail fencing, fabricated out of salvage collected from abandoned farms in the vicinity."<sup>25</sup>

The Development-Landscape Architectural section of the Summary listed impressive amounts of heavy landscaping done to naturalize the new construction and improve vistas. During his April 30, 1942, inspection visit, FDR indicated the scope of "selective cutting" he desired to open the view to the east of the lodge. Great care was taken to preserve desirable native trees and shrubs, plus trees needed to frame the views. One southeastern view was improved and another developed due east of the lodge.<sup>26</sup> Another view from the bedroom wing looking toward Keysville, highlighted the valley and distant wooded hills. Plant materials dug from surrounding woods and fields and large rocks completed naturalization of the surrounding landscape.

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<sup>22</sup>Demarey, Memo to Director of NPS, 25 Feb 1943, Natl. Arch., RG 79, Entry 54, Box 57

<sup>23</sup>Winston S. Churchill, *The Second World War. The Hinge of Fate*. Volume IV (London: Cassell & Co., Ltd., 1951), p. ? 12.

<sup>24</sup>Frederick D. Nichols and Ralph E. Griswold, *Thomas Jefferson, Landscape Architect* (Charlottesville: Univ. Press of Virginia, 1981), p. 111.

<sup>25</sup>Summary, p. 23.

<sup>26</sup>Ibid. p. 25.

Security for the President was planned at a conference the end of May 1942. Attending were Lt. Col. Charles Brooks, U.S. Marine Corps, Michael Reilly, Chief of U.S. Secret Service, Lt. Col. William A. Beasley, Signal Corps and Conrad Wirth from the NPS. Protection for the President was described in a memo from Reilly to Asst. Secretary Gaston: (1) 20 Marine sentry posts with 20-40 men at Catoctin RDA at all times and 100 Marines when the President was in residence; (2) a nine foot barbed wire fence built by Army engineers who provided 40 men for the work; (3) a fence alarm system triggered if wires were cut. (4) intercom system between posts and agents' cabins; (5) 250 watt receiver station for constant contact with Washington, D.C.. Agents practiced sharp shooting at the pistol range already constructed by the U.S. Army at Catoctin RDA. Captain C. T. Farber of the British Army, formerly Chief of Police of Shanghai, China, and "recognized as the world's foremost expert of jujitsu, "was stationed at the Army camp and would instruct agents when possible.<sup>27</sup>

Labor and materials for building Shangri-La came from every branch of military service except the Army Air Corps.<sup>28</sup> A cost. breakdown on the last. page of the Summary listed \$8,283 in physical labor and equipment costs funded by the WPA. Skilled masons and carpenters were hired at a cost of \$3,121 and paid for with specially appropriated funds. National Park Service employees worked on the lodge at a cost of \$4,036.55. Heavy rains plus wartime shortages of labor and materials slowed the pace of construction, but the camp was ready when FDR and his party arrived on July 5, 1942,

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<sup>27</sup> Michael Reilly, Chief of U.S. Secret Service, Memo to Asst. Sec. Gaston, 27 May 42, FDR Library, Secret Service File.

<sup>28</sup> Summary, p. 29.

for the weekend. Unfinished details were completed by mid-July and the transfer of Shangri-La from the NPS responsibility was" effected."<sup>29</sup>

### Cruising on Board the U.S.S. Shangri-La

Franklin Roosevelt, his secretary, Margaret Suckley and four guests launched the U.S.S. Shangri-La," July 5, 1942. His land based yacht offered familiar furnishings and staff. Navy Filipino mess personnel were transferred from the U.S.S. Potomac to Catoctin RDA and furniture was brought from the Yacht and the attics of the White House. Fala, FDR's dog, even came along and was provided with a rustic doghouse beside the main lodge.

A navy blue leather logbook with heavy, cream colored pages recorded dates of all of FDR visits and signatures of his guests as they pretended to sign aboard for the "cruises."<sup>30</sup> Roosevelt, in his heavy script, declared the U.S.S. Shangri-La "Launched" on July 5, 1942, with the "1st Trial Run" two weeks later, on July 16. "Final Trials" were held July 25-27, and the yacht was "Accepted" on the cruise of August 8-11.

By the end of August the "yacht" had been "Commissioned" and was going "Full Steam." Admirals Leahy and Forestal made an inspection tour that first summer. A log entry in November noted radio broadcasts announced heartening news of American landings November 7, 1942, at Algiers. The last cruise of the season on November 22, found U.S.S. Shangri-La "Cruising with the Atlantic: Fleet" before she was winterized.

Days at Shangri-La were spent. in such restful pastimes as chatting,

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<sup>29</sup>Ibid. p. 30.

<sup>30</sup>U.S.S. Shangri-La FDR Library, President's Naval Collection.

playing cards, swimming and fishing. Roosevelt worked on the porch on his stamp collection, one of his favorite pastimes.<sup>31</sup> He visited with Marine security forces at Misty Mount and took interest in their drill schedules and training. Dispatches arrived daily from Washington, and the telephone was ever present.<sup>32</sup> Roosevelt routinely stayed in bed all morning, working with William Hasset, his personal secretary.

At the end of the first summer season, Grace Tully, private secretary to the President, asked NPS Director Newton Drury to look into the where-abouts of FDR's original sketch and in a few days received notice that a development portfolio was being prepared.<sup>33</sup> The handsome portfolio, presented to FDR for his library at Hyde Park, recorded the building of Shangri-La. Bound in blue leather with gold letters, A Summary of the Development of "Shangri-La": The Presidents Lodge on Catoctin RDA Mountain, Maryland, contained a history of the Catoctin RDA area, notes on the discovery of the site, building construction chronology and a set of working drawings. Conrad Firth prepared the surprise for presentation by Hon. Harold Ickes, Secretary of the Interior, to a delighted FDR on February 19, 1943.<sup>34</sup>

U. S. S. Shangri-La was "Recommissioned" for the "1st Cruise" of the new season on May 14, 1943. Winston Churchill, Harry Hopkins and Mrs. Roosevelt were along that weekend and Churchill described the lodge, "which was in principle a log cabin with all modern improvements."<sup>35</sup> Washington, D. C. was experiencing a warm May and the two statesmen escaped to Catoctin RDA to fish and rest from discussions of

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<sup>31</sup>Churchill, p. 712.

<sup>32</sup>Bagdikian, 2 a May 1962 .

<sup>33</sup>Grace G. Tully, Letter to Drury, 2 Sept 42, FDR Library, President's Secretary File, Box 185.

<sup>34</sup>Summary, p.1.

<sup>35</sup>Churchill, p. 712.

Sicily and Burma.<sup>36</sup> Churchill and Roosevelt spent Sunday fishing but caught nothing. The President enjoyed the afternoon and did not "measure the pleasure by the catch."<sup>37</sup>

Subsequent cruises were each numbered dated and signed by FDR's many illustrious guests. Comments in the log for July 10, 1943, noted the news of the landing on Sicily. The next entry the end of July noted the Rome broadcast of the resignation of Mussolini. After the "9th Cruise" at the end of October 1943, the U.S.S. Shangri-La was "placed in 'commission in reserve' until the spring of 1944."

Presidential security was a constant concern and private airplanes had been spotted flying over Catoctin RDA. Letters to airfields at Taneytown, Frederick, Baltimore and Waynesboro from Earl Ward, Chairman of the Interdepartmental Air Traffic Control Board requested to voluntarily restrain pilots from flying over Catoctin RDA.<sup>38</sup> Ward's letters failed to attain the desired cooperation and the problem of planes buzzing Catoctin RDA was addressed again on July 22, 1943, by Secret. Service Chief Reilly, who requested that orders be sent to Gettysburg and Hagerstown airports prohibiting pilots from flying over Catoctin RDA<sup>39</sup>

The first serious breach of secrecy occurred in press articles, published October 15, 1943, headlining a Presidential hideaway at the Catoctin Recreational Area<sup>40</sup>. The news, carried by both the AP and UPI wire services, was the "subject of a conference" between Michael Reilly and Mr. Byron Price, Director of the Office of Censorship. The latter had decided the articles on Catoctin RDA weren't within jurisdiction of the

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<sup>36</sup>Ibid, p. 709.

<sup>37</sup>Ibid, p. 712.

<sup>38</sup>Earl F. Ward, Letter to airports, 14 May 1943, FDR Library, Secret Service File; 103A-3.

<sup>39</sup>Reilly, Letter to Ward, 22 Jul 1943, FDR Library, Secret Service File, 103A-3.

Censorship Act as they made no mention of a specific trip taken by the President. But Reilly was furious and commented that the "exact location may be censored, but any foreign agent could find the camp after reading the idem [sic] herewith."<sup>41</sup>

Among FDR's personal papers at Hyde Park Library was a letter from a concerned "neighbor" expressing her feelings about the press's publication of the secret site of Shangri-La. Proud that FDR had chosen her mountains as a resting place from his rigorous schedule, she wrote a letter to FDR, expressing her belief that "outsiders" who had recently moved to the Catoctin RDA area had spread news of the location. She noted that even "Republican Thurmont had been equally pleased and silent towards outsiders" regarding Shangri-La. Her family had lived near Catoctin RDA for over 100 years and along with the community, knew through the "grapevine" when FDR first came and "were thrilled to have history being made at our very door." She felt that perhaps if the news was important, the papers would not have printed it, but expressed regret that through carelessness, the Catoctin RDA community might have been responsible for the slip<sup>42</sup>

Thurmont residents knew when a visit by the President was imminent, for a Marine guard appeared on the bridge crossing Hunting Creek just outside of town. Official cars zipped through town, usually on warm summer Fridays, and turned up the dirt road to the mountain. Project Manager Williams often kidded FDR about the roads and tried to convince him to provide money for paving them to keep the dust down. But

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<sup>40</sup>Frederick News, 1 s Oct 1943, Washington Daily News. 15 Oct 1943 and Washington Times Herald, 16 Oct 1943.

<sup>41</sup>Reilly, SS Report. filed 1\$ Oct 1943, FDR Library, Secret Service File, Box 16, File 103A-3.

<sup>42</sup>Louise McPherson, Letter try FDR, 21 Oct 43, FDR Library, Presidents Personal Papers, File 8086.

FDR always went up the road first and had no trouble with the dust.<sup>43</sup> Townspeople speculated on the occupants of the cars and those that missed the event could catch the news later on the telephone. Visits by FDR remained the topic of conversation for years in Thurmont.<sup>44</sup>

The glamour and excitement for Thurmonters was coming to an end, for FDR only visited Shangri-La three times in the spring of 1944.<sup>45</sup> Election campaign trips for his fourth term of office required considerable time and his health was failing rapidly. Can April 12, 1945, Roosevelt died of a cerebral hemorrhage in Warm Springs, Georgia, and Shangri-La belonged to President Harry Truman.

Reporters got their first glimpse of Shangri-La September 16, 1945.<sup>46</sup> A large map on the wall of the retreat designated various areas by names of those who usually occupied the buildings. President and Mrs. Truman used Shangri only a few times each summer during his Presidency, preferring Key West, Florida or their Independence, Missouri home. Mrs. Truman caught a cold at Catoctin RDA on her first trip in August of 1945, which may have set the tone for the rest of the Truman's visits to Catocti RDA.<sup>47</sup> Margaret Truman considered Shangri-La damp and cold because it was so deep in the woods and judged it a "terrible place" and "went there as little as possible."<sup>48</sup>

When President Eisenhower was elected, he changed the name to Camp David, his grandson's name, thinking the name Shangri-La too grand. Previous to Ike's first visit to Camp David, the White House called Catoctin RDA requesting the name on the sign

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<sup>43</sup>Personal interview with Conrad Mirth, 10 Mar 86.

<sup>44</sup>Baltimore Sun, 16 Sept 1945.

<sup>45</sup>U.S.S. Shangri-La Log.

<sup>46</sup>Baltimore Sun, 16 Sep 1945.

<sup>47</sup>Telephone interview with John Boley, 15 Dec 86.

be changed in time for the President's arrival. Park staff nailed a piece of plywood over the Chinese red letters, "Shangri-La," flipped the plank over, and routed "Camp David" into the back of the old sign. Silver paint was added and the sign rehung.<sup>49</sup> Camp David was used as a jumping off place for the refurbishing of Ike's farm near Gettysburg. With the help of a horticulturist from Florida, sycamores and shrubbery from Catoctin RDA were transplanted to Gettysburg.<sup>50</sup>

Many changes have taken place at Camp David over the years, but the atmosphere of informality and escape appears to persist. The main lodge was called Aspen, another structure named Laurel, after native flora. At various times in the 50 years of the camp's existence, security has dictated the sign on Park Central road read Camp Three. President Carter enjoyed fishing in Hunting Creek and may have used the park itself more than any other recent President.

#### Military Activity at Catoctin Recreational Demonstration Area

Catoctin Recreational Demonstration Area (Catoctin RDA) played an active support role in World War II. The military decision to begin planning for the invasion of France across the English Channel, the survey conducted by Wirth of sites for FDR's retreat and arrival of the Army at Catoctin RDA all took place the month of April 1942. In a letter to Interior Secretary Ickes on May 3; 1942, Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson requested permits to occupy lands and facilities at Catoctin RDA for the "duration of the

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<sup>48</sup>Margaret Truman, Harry S. Truman (New York: William Morrow & Co., Inc., 1973), p. 334.

<sup>49</sup>Telephone interview with Marc Sagan, 12 Feb 1987.

<sup>50</sup>Ibid.

present emergency.”<sup>51</sup> Acting Secretary of the Interior John J. Dempsey forwarded the permits with maps by mid-May. He added that any construction and development, or alterations as to design and location should be subject to approval by the National Park Service (NPS),” and promised prompt consideration to all requests submitted. The War Department intended to purchase lands within Catoctin RDA that would later be transferred to the Interior Department and Dempsey promised cooperation if legislation was needed in the future <sup>52</sup> Permits to the War Department were to expire on June 1, 1943, and Interior Secretary Ickes hoped that other arrangements could to made by the Army, so the park could resume its 'originally intended use.’<sup>53</sup>

The Army lost no time in altering the landscape of Catoctin RDA to suit it`, needs. A pistol range and target pits were bulldozed out of the forest, bombing ranges were set up for explosives, and several obstacle courses were constructed. By June 11, 1942, plans were in effect “to move the stuff from the crippled children's camp to French Creek" near Reading, Pennsylvania with drivers, trucks and gas provided by Fort Belvoir.<sup>54</sup> Williams was obviously getting ready for Roosevelt's first. visit slated for July, 1; 1942, and want Greentop vacated to make way for military occupation. Route 77 from Thurmont caused Williams concern before Roosevelt's visit as well, for increased traffic by the Army and construction of Shangri-La had damaged the road.<sup>55</sup>

Williams's job at Catoctin RDA, in addition to full cooperation with staff

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<sup>51</sup>Dempsey, Letter to Stimson, 1 6 May 1942, CMP.

<sup>52</sup>Ibid.

<sup>53</sup>Ickes, Letter to Stimson, 10 Jun 1942, CMP.

<sup>54</sup>Evison, Memo to Williams, 11 Jun 1942, CMP.

<sup>55</sup>Williams, Letter to Roger H. Willard, Frederick County Roads Department, 26 Jun 1942. CMP.

at Shangri-La, evolved into protection of the camps he had built from abuse by Army personnel and enforcement of safety measures to protect local civilians affected by the warfare exercises. Speeding military vehicles and overzealous army guards at entrances to the park became an irritant. Williams called a halt to demolition demonstrations threatening the pumping station and utilities and requested guards be posted to stop traffic on county roads when hazardous operations were being conducted.<sup>56</sup> (Wild Bill Donovan's Office of Strategic Services had redesignated Greentop as Camp B-2.) An Army unit vacating the camp on Oct. 2, 1942, was thanked by Williams for cooperation by the officers and men and wished them "every success," since they were perhaps leaving to participate in the invasion of North Africa on November 7.<sup>57</sup>

The Army used the former Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp to house Troops the summer of 1942. A letter to Frederick County Commissioners announced the closing of the mountain road from Foxville to Lantz to the general public with a postscript adding that anyone wishing to protest could contact Project Manager Williams.<sup>58</sup>

Williams turned over responsibility for maintenance of camps to their occupants the winter of 1943<sup>59</sup> and eventually all utilities fell under the jurisdiction of military commanders. The NPS ceased paying for any utilities. Use by park personnel Interior Department offices was minimal and was supported by the War Department while they were using most of the facilities.<sup>60</sup>

Year-round use of the camps introduced new logistical problems and stressed

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<sup>56</sup>Williams, Letter to Commanding Officer, Area B-2, 31 Aug 1942, CMP.

<sup>57</sup>Williams, Letter to Capt. Chas. M. Perkins, Jr. 2 Oct. 1942, CMP.

<sup>58</sup>Letter to Frederick County Commissioners, 22 Jun 1943, CMP.

<sup>59</sup>Williams, Letter to Commanders, 13 Feb 1943, CMP.

the facilities meant. for intermittent use by children and families. A large garbage dump used by the Army and Marines required periodic burning. Marines detailed to guard Shangri-La. used trucks provided by the NPS to haul sewage four and three-quarters miles from the camp to protect the watershed supplying drinking water to the camps. Fuel was in short supply and Williams estimated at one point that the park would run out of gas within 24 hours if the Marines didn't provide gasoline for their own use and reimburse the park the 169 gallons loaned to them.<sup>61</sup>

Army and Marine personnel occupied Catoctin RDA throughout World War II, the OSS for training purposes and Marines for security of Shangri-La. A Secret Service Report filed March 23, 1944, listed 132 enlisted men stationed at Catoctin RDA, four officers and 13 patrol dogs who worked four hour on and eight hours off duty patrolling the 15-mile perimeter. When the President was not in residence there was rigid training and "all personnel except two officers are physically fit and ready for combat." The Marine detail rotated constantly and all men assigned in March 1944 were in their late 30's.<sup>62</sup>

On May 31, 1944, six days before D-Day, Acting Interior Secretary, Abe Fortas, wrote War Secretary Stimson, acknowledging receipt of notice by the Army that Catoctin RDA was no longer needed by the Office of Strategic Services. A new permit. was issued on June 1 to cover the remaining Marines at Camps: #1 and #2 and use of

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<sup>60</sup>Stuart, Letter to Williams, 6 July 1943, CMP.

<sup>61</sup>Williams, Memo to Commander #1, 5 Mar 1943, CMP.

<sup>62</sup>Secret Service Report, 23 Mar 1944, FDR Library, Secret Service File, 103-A.

2,000 acres at Catoctin RDA.<sup>63</sup> The Real Estate Branch of the War Department accepted the permit on July 25, 1944.<sup>64</sup>

War in Europe ended May 1, 1945, with the fall of Berlin and suicide of Adolph Hitler. Fighting continued against the Japanese on the Pacific Front. General MacArthur had entered Manila February 6, and Island hopping began: toward the Japanese homeland. Iwo Jima fell the middle of February and Okinawa was captured June 22, 1945.<sup>65</sup> The Marine Corps requested use of Camp #2, Greentop, for the "physical rehabilitation" of men -returning to the U.S. after long periods of combat duty in the tropical islands of the Pacific.<sup>66</sup> The Marines may have been from the Baltimore, Washington D. C. area, as the War Department did its test to send men to rehabilitation centers near their homes to recover from battle fatigue.<sup>67</sup>

War in the Pacific ended on September 1, 1945, with surrender ceremonies held on board the U.S.S. Missouri in Tokyo Bay. Within two months Catoctin RDA had been "classified as surplus to War Department needs effective 31 Oct. 45." The Corps of Engineers requested the Interior Department send information on the restoration of permitted areas or alternatives to physical restoration.<sup>68</sup>

By November 1945, Williams was back in charge of Catoctin RDA and supervising the "rehabilitation" of Camp #2. A progress memo to Region One Reported the Army spent the six weeks between Thanksgiving and the first week in

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<sup>63</sup>Fortas, Letter to Stimson, 31 May 1944, CMP.

<sup>64</sup>Stimson, Letter to Fortas, 25 July 1944, CMP.

<sup>65</sup>The Lincoln Library of Essential Information (Buffalo: The Frontier Press Company, 1964), p. 548.

<sup>66</sup>Request, Marine Corps, 3 July 1945, CMP.

<sup>67</sup>Telephone interview with Mr. & Mrs.D.L. Marshall, 4 Feb 1987.

<sup>68</sup>C.J. Blair, Jr., Corps of Engineers, Letter to Department of Interior, 3 Dec 1945, CMP.

January 1946, staining buildings, replacing plumbing, repairing door and windows, installing new power lines and clearing downed timber from two severe ice storms. Target pits, log obstacle courses, the 500' rifle range and demolition areas were all regraded and returned to their original condition. Marines continued to use the 300' rifle range, playing field, recreation hall, exchange and movie theatre, but the buildings were removed when they left. A log and earth embankment 10' high and 300' long used for shelling practice was removed and the ground was regraded. Williams recommended retaining the CCC camp buildings, since new plumbing had been installed by the Army and there might be a future use for the site.<sup>69</sup>

On February 26, 1946, Williams furnished Charles E. Spear of the Army Bomb and Shell Disposal Team with maps of tracts 104, 106 and 226. The three tracts had been used by the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) and Military Intelligence Training Center for mortar, rocket and grenade firing. After searching the area visually and with mine detectors and finding no duds, the site was declared safe for use by the NPS for public recreation.<sup>70</sup>

The NPS granted a Special Use Permit for Camp #2 (Greentop) to the Marines Guarding Shangri-La on October 19, 1945.<sup>71</sup> The Marines vacated Camp #1 (Misty Mount) in January 1946 and moved to Camp #2 giving Williams the opportunity to prepare Misty Mount for a normal summer camping season. He hoped that the White House would grant permission for the Salvation Army to use Misty Mount as it had before World War II.<sup>72</sup> Acting Director of Region One, Elbert Cox, relayed Williams'

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<sup>69</sup>Williams, Memo to Region One, 7 Jan 1946, CMP.

<sup>70</sup> Charles E. Spear, Letter to Real Estate Office, 4 Mar 1946, CMP.

<sup>71</sup>Use Permit, 19 Oct 1945, CMP.

<sup>72</sup>Williams, Memo to Region One, 7 Jan 1946, CMP.

request to A. E. Demaray, Associate Director of the NPS, on January 21, 1946, and urged that permission be granted for immediate resumption of organized group camping.<sup>73</sup> The Salvation Army was granted permits for Misty Mount the summer of 1946 but they were cancelled<sup>74</sup> and the camp was unoccupied until the summer of 1947.

While Williams was busy refurbishing Misty Mount, the Marines were doing some unauthorized work at Greentop. To Williams' dismay, the Marines appropriated without permission 15 truckloads of stockpiled stone to crush for roads from Greentop to Mt. Lent. He was furious when he returned from a two-week trip on NPS business to find 150-year-old stone walls the NPS had preserved to mark park boundaries used for road crush. Eight large oak trees had been felled and roads cut for the Marines convenience without consulting NPS officials. Williams lodged a formal complaint with Major W. J. Dickinson on October 2, 1946, for violation of their special permit.<sup>75</sup>

### The Beginning of the End of World War II

By the fall of 1946 the Maryland League for Crippled Children (MLCC) began to lobby for the return of Greentop to their program, no doubt with Williams's blessing. H. T. Thompson, Assistant Superintendent of National Capital Parks (NCP) circulated a memo dated December 4, 1946, noting a series of letters from Maryland Senators and Congressmen who initiated an inquiry to the White House administrator of the Catoctin RDA orations, Commander Rigdon, about the return of Greentop to use by the MLCC the

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<sup>73</sup>Eibert Cox, Letter to Demaray, 21 Jan 1946, CMP.

<sup>74</sup>Lisle, Memo to Director, 21 Aug 1946, Nat]. Arch., RG 79, Entry 54, Box 60.

<sup>75</sup>T Williams, Letter to Major Dickinson, 2 Oct 1946, CMP.

summer of 1947. President Truman had been consulted and had directed Naval Hide Rear Admiral James H. Foskett to discontinue the use of Greentop in time for the children's, use.<sup>76</sup> An article in The Washington Post on January 17, 1947, indicated the White House was considering relinquishing Greentop to the MLCC, but park correspondence revealed that terms for canceling the special permit were already being negotiated with the Marine Corps by that date.<sup>77</sup>

Williams began negotiation with the Marines for vehicles and equipment needed at Catoctin RDA. He wanted to trade the Marines' two trucks, a tractor and a Quonset but for an estimated \$1,500 worth of labor needed to renovate Greentop after the Marine occupation. He further proposed that the vehicles would be available to the Navy at Shangri-La on demand "within the boundaries of Catoctin RDA."<sup>78</sup> By the end of January the Marines made an offer, the Navy at Shangri-La would keep the vehicles and Williams could use them on demand.<sup>79</sup> The Navy would be responsible for maintenance and provide drivers, as there was a shortage of NPS personnel. In addition, Williams received authorization to accept the Quonset but and all valuable electrical and plumbing work done within the park if he could negotiate with Shangri-La to use the equipment.<sup>80</sup> The agreement was negotiated when Williams and Marine 1st Lt. Carroll D. Rowe toured Greentop on March 28, 1947. It was agreed the NPS would "accept the property (Greentop) in its present condition" and cancel the permit. A puzzling statement ended the official release letter from the Interior Department to the Commandant of Marines. It read, we "sincerely regret that for economic reasons it has become necessary to abandon

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<sup>76</sup>H. T. Thompson, Memo 4 Dec 1946, CMP

<sup>77</sup>.Williams, Letter to Commandant, Camp #217 Jan 1947, CMP.

<sup>78</sup>Ibid.

<sup>79</sup> Naval Aide to President, Letter to Commandant of Marine Corps, 22 Jan 1947, CMP.

the camp.<sup>81</sup> The way was now clear for the refurbishing of Greentop for use by the MLCC the summer of 1947. In the future the Marine contingent guarding the President was transported between Catoctin RDA and Washington, D.C. as needed.<sup>82</sup>

### Land Acquisition--1940's

For security reasons during World War II, the War Department acquired eight tracts of land totaling 274.75 acres, within the boundaries of Catoctin RDA that could not be originally purchased when money ran out in the 1930's. The Real Estate Section of the War Department allotted \$13,000 for the purchase of the tracts optioned by June 4, 1942, one month before Shangri-La was completed. In December of 1945, Interior Secretary Harold Ickes began efforts to transfer the acreage from the War Department, citing the Act of June 6, 1942, (56 STAT. 326) "which authorized transfer without consideration" of lands to the Interior Dept.<sup>83</sup>

But it was not so easy; justification statements were necessary to support the claims that the lands acquired by the War Department were essential to the "proper development and administration of the area."<sup>84</sup> Although the War Department had declared Catoctin RDA surplus and had been "relieved of custody and accountability," legislation had to be proposed and passed by Congress for the transfer to take place.<sup>85</sup> It was also necessary for the Department of Interior to circulate a notice of intent to transfer

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<sup>80</sup>Irving Root, Memo to Williams, 28 Jan 1947, CMP.

<sup>81</sup>Dept of Interior, Letter to Gen. A. A. Vandergrift, Commandant of Marine Corps, 28 Mar 1947, CMP.

<sup>82</sup>Telephone interview with Garland Williams, Jr., 1 Mar 87.

<sup>83</sup>Ickes, Letter to Secretary of War Patterson, 19 Dec 1945, CMP.

<sup>84</sup>Tolson, Memo to Demaray, 26 Feb 1946, CMP.

<sup>85</sup>Oscar L. Chapman, Acting Secretary of Interior,

the land among other government agencies to ensure there was no other agency whose need for the property was more important.<sup>86</sup>

HR 3807 was introduced 12 Jun 1947 to the first session of the 80th Congress by Glenn Deall and referred to the Committee on Public Lands. The bill provided for the land transfer from the War Department to the Interior Department approximately 280 acres at Catoctin RDA to be administered by the NPS. On April 24, 1946, Public Law 497 was passed by the 80th Congress, declaring that property appraised at \$500,000 or less and declared surplus by a government agency, could, with the President's approval, be transferred to the Department of Interior "without reimbursement of funds in order to Consolidate Federal holdings within such areas." By mid-May an appraisal of the approximately 280 acres was requested for Catoctin RDA and paperwork was being processed.<sup>87</sup> In June, Paul L. Mather, Associate Administrator of War Assets Administration, notified C. Girard Davidson that three criteria had to be fulfilled before the property could be transferred: (1) Proof provided that the properties were within the boundaries of Catoctin RDA; (2) Proof the Secretary of Interior felt it was in the best interest to consolidate holdings; and (3) proof that the Department of Interior was authorized to receive the property. When the above were satisfied Mather stated the process would proceed on the "desired property", and noted the land had been purchased for \$5,165.

In July, J. A. Krug, Secretary of Interior, sent a request to President Truman for the transfer of the property at Catoctin RDA along with a history of the request. He

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Letter to Rbt. P Patterson, Secretary of War, 18 Nov 1946, CMP.

<sup>86</sup>Chapman, Letter to R.M. Littlejohn, Administrator, War Assets Administrator, 18 Dec 1946, CMP.

<sup>87</sup>C. Girard Davidson, Assistant Sec. of Interior, Letter to Jess Larson,

rioted that Presidential approval amounted to giving the Interior Department authority to acquire the property and the Secretary of Interior's request was proof that Krug felt it in the best interest of the Park to consolidate holdings. Krug recommended the transfer and confidently enclosed a draft of a letter to be sent to the War Assets Administration giving approval.<sup>88</sup>

Bill 3807 was a catalyst in Maryland's renewed efforts to secure Catoctin RDA for a state park and is discussed in Chapter Six on the formation of Cunningham Falls State Park.

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Administrator, War Assets Administration. 13 May 1948, CMP.

<sup>88</sup>J. A. Krug, Secretary of Interior, Letter to President Truman, July 1948.

## CHAPTER VI

### CREATION OF CUNNINGHAM FALLS STATE PARK

From the beginning of the recreational demonstration area program it was intended that lands and improvements would be turned over to state park systems.<sup>1</sup> Both the National Park Service (NPS) and Maryland had been involved in selection, acquisition and development plans, but World War II and President Roosevelt intervened to change the original plans for the area north of Route 77. The Act of June 6 1942 (56 Stat. 326), was the basis for recreational demonstration area transfers to respective states and ultimately the southern portion of Catoctin Recreational Demonstration Area (Catoctin RDA) in 1954 to the state of Maryland.

Lobbying by Maryland state officials for possession of Catoctin RDA began shortly after World War II when Joseph Kaylor, Director of Forests and Parks, noted in a NPS annual report that 13 RDA's had been released to their respective states. Kaylor wrote to NPS Director Drury on May 26, 1945, indicating his department was ready to administer Catoctin RDA and asked to be advised when he could expect transfer of the park.<sup>2</sup> Senator Millard E. Tydings of Maryland sent a letter of the same nature to Drury and received notice that Catoctin RDA was still being used by the military and the NPS would not make a commitment try Maryland.<sup>3</sup> On December 0, 1945, President. Truman notified Maryland Governor Herbert R. O'Coner that:

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<sup>1</sup>Conrad Wirth, *Parks, Politics and the People*(Norman, Univ. of Oklahoma Press, 1980), p.169.

<sup>2</sup>Joseph Kaylor, *Letter to Newton Drury, 28 May 1945, CMP.*

<sup>3</sup>Drury, *Letter to Tydings, 5 June 1945, CMP.*

“because of historical events of national and international interest now associated with Catoctin Recreation Area this property should be retained by the Federal Government and made a part of the National Capital Parks System under the administration of the National Park Service of the Department of the Interior.

This action is in accord with the position expressed by the late President Roosevelt before his death.

The Catoctin Area is not now available for public use but eventually under the policies of the National Park Service, Maryland residents will be urged to enjoy the many recreational opportunities which that beautiful area affords.”<sup>4</sup>

Truman's letter put a hold on transfer efforts by Maryland officials, but in 1948 Congress authorized a survey of the Chesapeake & Ohio (C & O) Canal for a possible parkway from Cumberland to Great Falls, that included a width of 100 acres per mile of parkway of Maryland countryside.<sup>5</sup> About that same time Rep. Glenn Beall of Maryland introduced a bill in Congress to transfer parcels of land at Catoctin purchased by the War Department to the Interior Department. With two Federal land use bills in Congress, Maryland officials became very sensitive to potential encroachment within the state. Support from Justice William O. Douglas, who hiked the length of the canal to protest the "desecration of the old canal,"<sup>6</sup> did not relieve Maryland's sensitivity to the issue and

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<sup>4</sup>President Harry S. Truman, Letter to Maryland Governor O'Connor, 6 Dec 1945, CMP.

<sup>5</sup> John Ise, *Our National Park Policy* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Press, 1961), P. 52 9.

<sup>6</sup>*Ibid.*

officials continued to level charges at the NPS concerning continued federal presence at Catoctin RDA.

Beall's bill, H. R. 3801, was perceived by H. C. Buckingham, State Forester, as an effort by the NPS to permanently administer Catoctin, in violation of the agreement to turn the park over to Maryland.<sup>7</sup> Buckingham notified Conrad Wirth that his department opposed Beall's bill. He felt the people of the state of Maryland would oppose permanent federal presence in their park system and would want the land returned. Wirth replied that the intent of Beall's bill had been misunderstood, that the bill merely would "facilitate administration and budgeting" of the park, not put the NPS in the business of managing a state park. He reminded Buckingham that the original agreement committed Maryland to "accept and maintain" the federally developed and funded area when the NPS received authorization to transfer the park and that the word "return" was not appropriate. Wirth went on to say that Congress gave transfer authority in 1942, but World War II intervened and prevented action on the matter. Wirth also reminded Buckingham that the NPS had "willingly and cheerfully cooperated with the state in the development and planning of its state park system when requested by the state" and would continue to do so, as each state should take care of its own needs.<sup>8</sup>

The Frederick Post on June 15, 1945, reported Maryland Park Director Joseph Kaylor's testimony opposing the proposed C & O parkway and comments on Catoctin RDA. Kaylor charged that the NPS had no intention of "returning" the park to Maryland, but would keep it "to the exclusion of Marylanders who needed the recreation facilities."

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<sup>7</sup>H. C. Buckingham, Telegram to Wirth, 31 Mar 1948, Copy CMP.

<sup>8</sup>Wirth, Letter to Buckingham, 1 Apr 1948, CMP.

He further charged that the park had become a haven for “all kinds of vermin to the annoyance of Frederick County farmers” since no hunting was permitted.<sup>9</sup>

C & G Parkway hearings were not Kaylor's only vehicle for denouncements of NPS management of Catoctin RDA. In 1951, before the Maryland Senate Finance Committee of the Maryland General Assembly, he chose to attack the litter problem along Route 77. Harry T. Thompson, Acting Superintendent of National Capital Region (NCR), in attendance at the above hearing, wrote Project Manager Williams on March 22, 1951 requesting letters be solicited from Maryland based groups using Catoctin RDA. Thompson wanted descriptions of the "nature and kind of service" rendered by the NPS to benefit Marylanders free of charge. He requested that Williams "undertake this mission on behalf of clearing the record" and that copies be sent to him and the Senate Committee.<sup>10</sup>

Williams called a conference with directors of the organized camps and requested an "honest" appraisal of the service received by the NPS at Catoctin RDA. In April Girl Scout Councils of Prince Georges, Frederick and Washington Counties responded to Williams's request with letters citing regular maintenance of camps, splendid services of the Naturalist, new kitchen facilities and porches, high standards and cooperation of the NPS staff. The Maryland League for Crippled Children and the Carrollton Church of God in Westminster, Maryland sent similar letters of praise. Williams assembled data on use of the park by Maryland groups and watched local newspapers for information to rebut Kaylor 's charges.

Thompson received a letter from Williams, dated March 27, answering point

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<sup>9</sup>Frederick Post, 15 Jun 1948.

<sup>10</sup>Thompson, Letter to Williams 22 Mar 1951, CMP.

by point Kaylor's charges for future information and use. Route 77's right-of-way was maintained by Frederick County and the area discussed by Kaylor as being littered. Williams felt he couldn't expect his crews to police the litter problem on a county road. As to inspections of camps by the health department, they had given such a clean bill of health to Catoctin's camps that they deemed it unnecessary to even do the periodic inspections. Williams felt strongly that the camps were well kept and invited official visits from any Maryland agency so the "statements may be visually repudiated."

William's 13 page letter further cited visitor statistics for organized groups using the camps by state as well as estimates of the numbers of Maryland residents using the picnic areas. Maryland Senator Barton of Maryland had claimed the state was losing needed tax dollars because of the presence of the federal park and Williams computed the amount of taxes lost to Frederick and Washington Counties as he had in 16 years before. Deemed nominal, they amounted to under \$1000 a year for both counties and state.<sup>11</sup>

The League of Maryland Sportsmen, led by Baltimore airplane manufacturer Glenn L. Martin, joined the fray in October 1951 by appointing a committee to "facilitate the transfer' of Catoctin RDA to Maryland and added that it should be open to hunting. The Baltimore Sun reported on October 28, 1951 that Representative Glenn Beall had been negotiating with the NPS for the "return" of Catoctin RDA. Beall had gotten the impression that the area south Route 77 might be considered for transfer if Mr. I. Alvin Pasarew, State Planning Commissioner, made an official request on behalf of Maryland and President Eisenhower approved the transfer.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>11</sup>Williams, Memo to Harry T. Thompson, Associate Supt., NCR, 27 Mar 1951, CMP.

<sup>12</sup>Baltimore Sun. 28 Oct 1951.

In December 1951, Conrad Wirth became Director of the NPS and within three months he notified Maryland Governor Theodore R. McKeldin that the President had approved the transfer of the southern area of Catoctin RDA to the state of Maryland. As directed by Secretary of Interior Chapman, Wirth inquired if Maryland would accept the lands under the "provision of Act of June 6, 1942 (56 Stat. 326). If this was acceptable, meetings could begin between Wirth and Governor McKeldin or his designated representative.<sup>13</sup> Joseph Kaylor, upon hearing the news, commented that the state would be "only too glad to accept the land" because of the shortages of recreational areas in the state for public use. With the addition of the acreage south of Route 77, Maryland State parks would total 5000 acres, including Sandy Point.<sup>14</sup> Kaylor announced that fees would be charged for parking, use of fireplaces and other special services at the new park, for state appropriations were too low to maintain the area.<sup>15</sup> Williams forwarded the above information to Thompson noting that Maryland would charge for facilities the NPS had provided free of charge.<sup>16</sup>

Maryland officials citing Eisenhower's press secretary's comment that the President "had no specific plans to use the Catoctin mountain retreat" began pressure in the spring of 1953 for possession of all of Catoctin RDA. President Eisenhower had given up the yacht Williamsburg as an economy measure and Maryland Senator Beall hoped he would do the same with Shangri-La.<sup>17</sup> Dean proclaimed "the people of Maryland would be proud to have the President as a summer resident" and that the agreement with the Interior Department stated that when the President no longer needed

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<sup>13</sup>Wirth, Letter to McKeldin, 26 Mar 1952, CMP.

<sup>14</sup>Baltimore Sun. 30 Mar 1952.

<sup>15</sup>Frederick Post 14 May 1952.

<sup>16</sup>Williams, Letter to Thompson, 14 May 1952, CMP.

the retreat it would transfer to Maryland.<sup>18</sup> Harry T. Thompson, Associate Director of the NPS, announced that the NPS would keep Shangri-La, as: he had stated two years previously in a letter to State Senator Hubert P. Barton of Baltimore.<sup>19</sup> Barton was angry at the NPS refusal and used the occasion of a hearing on the C & O Parkway for expressing his indignation. State Senator Jacob R. Ramburg (Republican-Frederick) decided not to press for the “return” of the northern portion of Catoctin RDA.<sup>20</sup>

On December 9, 1953, Williams forwarded to Harry Thompson the deeds, plats and two court records of condemnations on the land tracts transferred to Maryland, that were without title, as none could be established. Part of tract '98 was retained as it was the site of the Hunting Creek pump house bringing water to Misty Mount, Blue Blazes Visitor Center and the manager's residence. Williams requested that Mr. Fish (Manus J.)<sup>21</sup> be sent to survey the boundaries on the retained portion of tract 098 in time for the land transfer.<sup>22</sup>

In ceremonies held June 11, 1954, NPS Director Conrad Wirth presented the title of 4,446.879 acres to Maryland Governor McKeldin for inclusion in the Maryland State Park System.<sup>23</sup> Governor McKeldin's introduction to the Catoctin Mountain came when his car over heated while driving to the West Picnic area for the ceremony, arriving an

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<sup>17</sup>Baltimore Sun. 24 Apr 1953.

<sup>18</sup>Washington Times Herald. 15 Mar 1953.

<sup>19</sup>Frederick Post. 15 Mar 1951.

<sup>20</sup>Frederick Post. 19 Mar 1953.

<sup>21</sup>In 1987 Mr. Fish was Regional Director of National Capital Region.

<sup>22</sup>Williams, Memo to Thompson, 9 Dec 1953.

<sup>23</sup>NCR press release, 11 Jun 1954, CMP.

hour late.<sup>24</sup> Catoctin Recreational Demonstration Area became Catoctin Mountain Park on July 12, 1954 and new signs erected in appropriate places.<sup>25</sup>

Maryland officials were not familiar with maintenance requirements for the facilities at the new state park. Less than three weeks after the official transfer Thompson received reports from NPS Chief Engineer, Robert C. Horn, about tree "filthy" sanitary conditions of the picnic areas and relayed results of inspections to the Maryland Department of Health and Joseph Kaylor. The NPS was getting the blame and Horne suggested additional signage was needed to differentiate between the two jurisdictions.<sup>26</sup> The state park officially opened the weekend of July 4, 1954, to campers and picnickers. Joseph Kaylor asked the public's cooperation in keeping the area clean, as budgetary provisions were not in place for maintenance and manpower. The State Board of Public Works had been asked for a "guard, equipment and labor to take care of the area."<sup>27</sup>

The name of the new state park was to be Cunningham Falls State Park, after the main scenic feature, the cascades "from the Foxville Plateau down a rocky gorge to the valley below." Joseph Kaylor announced the name in the September issue of "The Old Line Acorn" and stated that \$10,992 had been allotted to maintain the area for 1954.<sup>28</sup> Marc Sagan was hired by the state of Maryland as the first administrator and guard for Cunningham Falls State Park.<sup>29</sup>

Under Maryland jurisdiction the land south of Route 77 was opened to hunters in the fall of 1954. Williams objected strenuously when he heard hunting would be allowed

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<sup>24</sup>Hagerstown Herald, 12 Jun 1954.

<sup>25</sup>Edward J. Kelly, Superintendent, NCP, Memo, 26 Jul 1954, Suitland Records Center, RG 79, Box 18, item 36.

<sup>26</sup>Robert C. Horne, Memo to Thompson, 30 Jun 1954. CMP

<sup>27</sup>Hagerstown Herald. 3 July 1954.

<sup>28</sup>Catoctin Enterprise. 3 Sept 1954.

and solicited letters from groups using the campgrounds at Catoctin MP to protest the policy. 90% of Cunningham Falls State Park was opened for the fall hunting season in 1954, except for 375 acres of the West Picnic Area, Cunningham Falls and the 55 acres of picnic area near Catoctin Furnace west of the stone wall.<sup>30</sup> Cunningham Falls State Park was deeded to Maryland with the condition that it be used "exclusively for public park, recreational and conservation purposes . . ."<sup>31</sup> It was Williams opinion that the area had been opened to hunters to "appease" the League for Maryland Sportsmen headed by Glenn Martin. He felt that the examples of "conservation and preservation" set by the service were being contradicted and was upset that they could be set aside so arbitrarily when the need arose. Williams further suggested that Maryland but would abide by the conditions of the deed but interpret the "conservation" clause narrowly as it applied to soil and forest, but not to the hunting of wildlife.<sup>32</sup>

H. E. Corner, Executive Director of the Maryland League for Crippled Children (MLCC), protested the new hunting regulations in letters to Governor McKeldin and Joseph Kaylor. <sup>33</sup>Kaylor replied that the entire federal park area had previously been closed to hunters by "recreation minded people" but that now the land was "thrown open" to hunters since a large number had no place nearby to engage in their recreational pastime of hunting. He further noted that the Frederick and Thurmont watersheds and areas surrounding the park had always been used for hunting. Kaylor could see no way that the winter hunting season would interfere with the children camping at Catoctin MP in the summer. Management of Cunningham Falls State Park would be "for the greatest

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<sup>29</sup>Sagan resigned to work for tree NPS in Nov 1955.

<sup>30</sup>The Frederick Post. 27 Oct 1954.

<sup>31</sup>Quitclaim Deed, 2 June 1954, CMP.

<sup>32</sup>Williams, Memo to Thompson, 12 Nov 1954, CMP.

common good of the largest number of citizens of the state" and hunting was a "fair policy for public lands acquired through tax dollars."<sup>34</sup>

Hunting continued to be legal within the boundaries of Cunningham Falls State Park during hunting season and the perimeter of Catoctin MP vigorously patrolled for violators of the no hunting regulations within the federal area Williams predicted that the regulations would be nearly impossible to enforce and suggested that security around Camp David would be threatened along with the wildlife of the area.<sup>35</sup> With the first allegation Williams hoped to alarm the Secret Service enough that they would join in protesting the hunting, the second concern came to pass, but not because of hunters.<sup>36</sup>

In 1987 Cunningham Falls State Park provided two concentrated use areas; for over 300,000 visitors a year.<sup>37</sup> One, the William Houck Area containing camping and picnic areas and a lake for swimming, boating and fishing. The second, Catoctin Furnace and Manor Area, was developed by the Works Progress Administration in 1938, near Route 15. Considerable collaboration between Cunningham Falls State Park and Catoctin MP in the areas of interpretation and programming forged a cordial relationship between the two parks. Visitors expected that each know details about the other and efforts were made by all to keep the relationship healthy. A unified master plan for both parks was proposed, but the bureaucratic structure of the two facilities was so different that it was impossible to achieve.<sup>38</sup>

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<sup>33</sup>H. E. Corner, Letter to Governor McKeldin, 8 Dec 1954, CMP.

<sup>34</sup>Kaylor, Letter to H.E. Corner, 14 Dec 1954, CMP.

<sup>35</sup>Williams, Memo to Thompson, 12 Nov 1954, CMP.

<sup>36</sup>See chapter on Natural Resources Management.

<sup>37</sup>Catoctin Furnace and the Manor Area of Cunningham Falls Stag Park Master Plan, April 1983.

<sup>38</sup>Personal interview with Superintendent Tom McFadden, 22 March 1987.

## CHAPTER VII

### AT CATOCTIN MOUNTAIN MISSION 66 PARK

When Conrad Wirth was promoted to Director of the National Park Service (NPS) on December 9, 1951, it was his opinion that "people were loving the parks to death."<sup>1</sup> Lack of funding for park maintenance and personnel during World War II led to deterioration of roads and facilities that was exacerbated by an enormous influx of peacetime visitors. Between 1945 and 1955 park visitation had doubled and traffic of tourists caused old asphalt roads and neglected trails to crumble; moreover there was a severe shortage of trained personnel.

A large amount of money was necessary to bring the parks up to acceptable Condition standards.<sup>2</sup> After analyzing the problem, Wirth realized the NPS always went to Congress for funding of relatively small projects and he decided to follow the example of other agencies who addressed their funding problems with large monetary requests and long range timelines. In February 1955, a committee composed of branch office heads in the Washington office were relieved of their regular duties and instructed by Wirth to meet and come up with a plan to revitalize the national parks. Initial meetings produced the short and easily remembered title 'Mission 66.' It expressed the direction and goals of the mission to refurbish the parks and projected a deadline of 1966, the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the National Park Service.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Conrad Wirth, *Park, politics and the People*(Norman, Oklahoma Press, 1980), p. 234.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>3</sup>*Ibid.* p. 240.

Mission 66 was intended to be a study of problems in the national parks, rather than a specific, definite plan. Wirth's select committee looked at "protection, staffing, interpretation, use, development, financing, needed legislation, forest protection, fire and all other phases of park management." visitor use had a high priority; information centers, accommodations and activities were closely examined.<sup>4</sup> Wirth and his staff presented their ideas to President Eisenhower and his Cabinet on January 27, 1956, and after 20 minutes of discussion the president approved the plan.<sup>5</sup> Further presentations at Congressional budget hearings were supported by a specially commissioned movie by Walt Disney, a special booklet entitled Our Heritage outlining the program's objectives and popular publications designed by the NPS. Mission 66 was funded with \$786,545,600<sup>6</sup> and officially began on July 1, 1956, or Fiscal Year 1957,<sup>7</sup> though Congress had given the NPS an increased appropriation in FY 1956 to get the process started immediately.<sup>8</sup>

### Mission 66 and Catoctin Mountain Park

A Mission 66 prospectus for National Capital Parks (NCP) arrived in Williams's office at Catoctin Mountain Park (Catoctin MP) on November 25, 1955. The prospectus inventoried the major problems of the National Capital Parks system, especially highlighting the tremendous increase in population of the Washington area which had

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<sup>4</sup>John Ise, Our National Park Policy: A Critical History (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Press, 1961 ), p. 547.

<sup>5</sup>Wirth, 1980, pp. 254, 255.

<sup>6</sup>Norman T. Newton, Design on the: The Development of Landscape Architecture (Cambridge: The Belknap Press, 1971), p. 552.

<sup>7</sup>Wirth, 1980, p. 262.

<sup>8</sup>Ibid, p. 258.

grown from 972,198 people in 1940 to 1,452,349 people in 1950. A population of 2,000,000 people was predicted for 1980.<sup>9</sup>

Though Catoctin MP was "not officially a part of the National Capital Parks System",<sup>10</sup> its administration was the responsibility of that office and was included in the action plans. Most of the facilities at Catoctin MP had seen no major maintenance or rehabilitation since they were built in the 1930's, and Mission 66 proposed to spend \$17,200 on resurfacing roads within the park, paving the utility area and rehabilitating trails at a cost of t 15,000. An addition to blue Blazes visitor center had high priority and \$29,400 was allotted for construction. Planned new construction also included a nature museum, another cabin unit for Misty Mount, two more 96 person camps, two primitive camps, a recreation building for Greentop and a ranger's residence. All the swimming pools and camp utilities were to be upgraded when the new facilities were built. Cost of the above construction and renovations totaled t 1,730,000.<sup>11</sup> Also included in the total was money to acquire two inholdings: tract #21 comprising 8 acres belonging to Stanley E. Hoover and tract # 149, five acres in size belonging to the Church of the Brethren.<sup>12</sup>

Wirth directed each park to plan a celebration to kick off Mission 66 and Catoctin MP held ceremonies on August 22, 1956 at Blue Blazes and Greentop.<sup>13</sup> A Navy Color Guard from the Naval Gun Factory in Washington, D.C. raised an American flag at Blue Blazes donated by the Maryland League for Crippled Children. Guest speaker for the day, Dr. J. Walter Coleman, Superintendent of Gettysburg National Military Park, addressed 115 invited representatives of camping organizations using the park and local

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<sup>9</sup>mission 66 Prospectus, National Capital Parks, 1955 p.9, CMP.

<sup>10</sup>Ibid. p. 5.

<sup>11</sup>Ibid. p. 7.

<sup>12</sup>Ibid. p. 5.

civil officials who later toured facilities at Greentop.<sup>14</sup> Photographs of the event were taken by Fred Schumacher of the Thurmont Photo center, since Marc Sagan was participating in the ceremony and couldn't take the pictures.<sup>15</sup> Complimentary photographs were mailed to various dignitaries after the ceremonies by Asst. Manager Boley. NCP's Superintendent Edward J. Kelly complimented Catoctin MP staff on their "ingenuity and foresight" for inviting Dr. Coleman to be their guest speaker.<sup>16</sup>

Fiscal Year 1956 money for Mission 66 reached Catoctin MP the end of summer 1955, and the Chimney Rock Trail parking lot and trail sign project was started. A nearby spring eras improved, adding beauty to the spot.<sup>17</sup> By April 1956, Chimney Rock Trail had been cleared, its entrance and parking lot completed and trailside information, including a photographed hiking map, installed.<sup>18</sup> Just before Mission 66 ceremonies, the main park road between Camp 3 and Blue Blazes was resurfaced and a new 126 foot well dug near me entrance to Misty Mount.<sup>19</sup> The injection of funds provided new trail signs, traffic control signs, bulletin board displays and posters for the park and several miles of trails were refurbished by the Park crews.

Work at Catoctin MP in the early years of Mission 66 consisted of renewing buildings, rehabilitating old trails and building new ones, installing interpretive signs, and planning park circulars for visitor information. Soon after Catoctin MP's inauguration of Mission 66, several boxcar loads of shingles arrived to reroof all 121 buildings in the

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<sup>13</sup>Williams, Memo to Supt., NCP, 16 Aug 1956, CMP

<sup>14</sup>The Frederick Post. 22 Aug 1956.

<sup>15</sup>Williams, Letter to Fred Schumacher,

<sup>16</sup>Aug 1956, CUP. <sup>16</sup>Edward J. Kelly, Memo to Williams, 19 Sept 1956, CMP.

<sup>17</sup>Sagan, Naturalist Activity Report 30 Sept 1955, CMP.

<sup>18</sup>Sagan, Naturalist Activity Report, 30 Apr 1956, CMP.

<sup>19</sup>Sagan, Naturalist Activity Report, 1 Aug 1956, CMP.

park.<sup>20</sup> Beginning in August, 1956, crews spent two weeks rehabbing the maintenance area, the carpenter's shop received new plumbing and insulation.<sup>21</sup> A new map sign was routed and placed outside at Blue Blazes and work began on a new nature trail.<sup>22</sup> The kitchen and dining hall at Greentop was replaced with Mission 66 funds after an earlier fire and completed before the 1957 camping season.<sup>23</sup> Throughout the winter of 1956-1957 trail and sign work continued and the new Frederick County Outdoor School program students took advantage of renewed facilities and hiking trails the following spring. Heavy use by school groups kept the trails in such good shape that the usual spring clearing was not necessary.<sup>24</sup> Sagan chose Hog Rock Trail as the new nature trail and planned interpretive signs for a self-guided tour. By fall 1957, more than 20 signs had been erected on Hog Rock Trail and a small shelter at Blue Blazes displayed a map of the trail together with information circulars for visitors.<sup>25</sup>

During the fall of 1957 a major administrative change occurred at Catoctin Mountain Park. In August of 1957, Project Manager Garland B. 'Mike' Williams went on sick leave and retired after serving 22 years at Catoctin MP.<sup>26</sup> Williams had guided the formative years of the park, protected it during World War II and finally supervised its refurbishing during Mission 66. Williams was absent from his post for weeks at a time in his later years with health problems and passed away shortly after his retirement on March 1, 1959;<sup>27</sup> Garland Williams, Jr., Catoctin MP's Chief of Maintenance for ten

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<sup>20</sup>Telephone interview with Garland Williams, Jr., 1 Mar 1987.

<sup>21</sup>Sagan, Naturalist Activity Report, 3 Sept 1956, CMP.

<sup>22</sup>Sagan, Naturalist Activity Report, 31 Dec 1956, CMP.

<sup>23</sup>General Information for Management Review, Catoctin Mountain Park, 1963, CMP.

<sup>24</sup>Sagan, Naturalist Activity Report, 11 June 1957, CMP.

<sup>25</sup>Sagan, Naturalist Activity Report, 9 Sept 1957, CMP.

<sup>26</sup>Sagan, Naturalist Activity Report, 14 Aug 1957, CMP.

<sup>27</sup>Telephone interview with Garland B. Williams, Jr, 1 Mar 1987.

years, became superintendent of the upper C & O Canal; Mr. Jack Boley, assistant manager of the park since 1945, left September 15, 1957, to take a position with NCR in Washington, DC..<sup>28</sup> Marc Sagan left Catoctin MP to take a position on the Regional interpretive staff. Sagan wrote his final naturalist's report summarizing the 1957 summer camping season and made suggestions for future interpretive development. In his report, Sagan stated that Assistant Manager Jack Boley "was always helpful"<sup>29</sup> in program development and problem solving. The Frederick County Outdoor School program was in its second pilot season and Sagan remained with the park until the end of their camping season.

#### Catoctin Mountain Park's Administrative Transition

Charles E. Shank became Catoctin MP's new project manager the first week in September 1957.<sup>30</sup> He had been assistant manager of Prince William Park since 1954, having joined the Service as a clerk and assistant interpretive specialist after World War II.<sup>31</sup> Shank was a logical choice for Catoctin MP's project manager, as Prince William Park's programs and facilities were similar and Sagan had visited there to glean ideas for his own interpretive programs.

A boundary-marking project begun by park naturalist Sagan was completed by his

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<sup>28</sup>Sagan, Naturalist Activity Report, 9 Sep 1957, CMP.

<sup>29</sup>Seasonal Report of Park Naturalist Marc Sagan, Resident Camps, Summer 1957, 11 Oct 1957, CMP.

<sup>30</sup>Sagan, Naturalist Activity Report, 9 Sept 1957, CMP.

<sup>31</sup>NCR news release, 18 July 1961, CMP.

successor Derek Hambly who continued to interview neighbors adjacent to the park to determine the park's boundaries.<sup>32</sup> Elderly people who had the needed information were not going to be available much longer and both naturalists felt a need to hasten the project. Hambly proclaimed the entire boundary marked with "no hunting" signs on November 1, 1960, the first since the park was originally marked.<sup>33</sup> He had found original markers by accident on the northwest corner of the park which completed the job.<sup>34</sup>

During his administration, Shank provided services and amenities to Visitors but undertook no major building projects within the park to upgrade the interpretation or provide more short term camping. New picnic tables set along park roads attracted families and were usually occupied each weekend.<sup>35</sup> Poplar Grove overnight campground was completed as previously planned on Manahan Road the fall of 1958.<sup>36</sup> By August 1959, no new facilities were planned for Catoctin MP, but a Statistical Statement of Program Elements for the park noted a need for a new public campsite and visitor or nature center.<sup>37</sup> A visitor auto counter was installed the fall of 1960, to verify the needs provided inaccurate readings due to weather and technical problems.<sup>38</sup>

In their 1958 Annual Report the Maryland League, lauded Mr. Shank on the excellent condition of Greentop (especially the plumbing) when they returned for the camping season. They appreciated his willingness to accommodate their special needs.<sup>39</sup>

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<sup>32</sup>Hambly, Naturalist Activity Reports 4 Jan 1960, CMP.

<sup>33</sup>Hambly, Naturalist Activity Report, 1 Nov 1960, CUP.

<sup>34</sup>Hambly, Naturalist Activity Report, 3 Oct 1960, CMP.

<sup>35</sup>Hambly, Naturalist Activity Reports August 1959, CMP.

<sup>36</sup>Hambly, Naturalist Activity Report, 1 Dec 1958, CMP.

<sup>37</sup>Statistical Statement of Program Elements, Catoctin Mountain Park, 28 Aug 1959, CMP.

<sup>38</sup>Hambly, Naturalist Activity Report, Nov 1961, CMP.

<sup>39</sup>Camp Greentop Annual Report, 1958.

His death in 1961 was heartfelt by the staff and children of Greentop, who found him the "kindest most sincere, and hardest working man in the interests of the National Park Service and our handicapped children."<sup>40</sup>

Charles Shank died unexpectedly on July 17, 1981, a few days after surgery at Frederick Hospital. His position was filled by Paul Webb who arrived October 19, 1961.<sup>41</sup> The arrival of Paul Webb signaled major changes to Catoctin MP' administrative practices. A botanist who had begun his career at Glacier NP in 1942, Webb was an accomplished administrator, familiar with the bureaucratic methods of the NPS.<sup>42</sup> Within a month of his arrival all trails had been inspected with repairs and improvements listed. All park buildings had been measured and counted to bring the park's square footage up to date for accurate reporting.<sup>43</sup> Within 18 months a contract had been let to J. B. Ferguson & Co. for a professional survey of Park boundaries.<sup>44</sup>

A management appraisal was done November 6-8, 1963, to measure management effectiveness, policy conformation, internal controls and pressing problems of the park.<sup>45</sup> The appraisal noted that Webb felt key Regional staff had treated Catoctin MP indifferently by not visiting and taking an interest in the park. Since Catoctin MP was used by the highest officials in the government, the appraisal report recommended a schedule for the development of visitor facilities should be drawn up and the Mission 66

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<sup>40</sup>Camp Greentop Annual Report of Business and Maintenance, 16 Aug 1961.

<sup>41</sup>Hambly, Naturalist Activity Reports Oct 1961, CMP.

<sup>42</sup>Catoctin Enterprise. 12 Aug 1966.

<sup>43</sup>Hambly, Naturalist Activity Report,, Nov. 1961, CMP.

<sup>44</sup>I.J. Castro, Assistant Regional Director, Letter too J. B. Ferguson & Co, 14 Mar 1963, Suitland Record Center, D24. (hereafter referred to as SRC)

<sup>45</sup>I. J. Castro, Assistant Regional Director, Administration, Memo to Regional Director, SCR, D24.

program accelerated to put the Service's "best foot forward" for important guests.<sup>46</sup> New park staff quarters were recommended, as both the naturalist and the Park Ranger lived in 28 year old log buildings, one the former headquarters building the other a converted lodge at Greentop. Neither building was suitable for year round occupancy nor provided much privacy for families.<sup>47</sup> Road maintenance budgeting needed to be increased from \$7,000 to \$19,000, as 11 miles of paving and two graded roads required snow removal and sanding in the winter months. Civilian Conservation Corps barracks at Round Meadow were recommended for rehabilitation in preparation for use by the Youth Conservation Corps program.

Webb's claim that Catoctin MP had been neglected by officials at Region Seemed to strike a sensitive area and correspondence thereafter addressed remedies to the situation. A follow-up report from Operations and Maintenance recommended several visits to assess problems with trails, Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) buildings, and the trash dump. Visits were made and plans drawn up for rehabilitation of the old CCC area and it was noted that with little notice a Youth Conservation Corps program of 50 people could easily be activated at Catoctin MP.<sup>48</sup> Indeed, within four months the site was being investigated by Office of Equal Opportunity (OEO) as a possible site for the first job Corps Conservation Center<sup>49</sup>

Webb began a master plan for Catoctin MP to reinforce the changes he

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<sup>46</sup>Management Appraisal Report, SRC, RG 77, 68A 3201, Box 18, Item 18, p. 4.

<sup>47</sup>!bid. p. 20. Both buildings were standing in 1987.

<sup>48</sup>Rudolph R. Bartel, Assistant Regional Director, Operations and Maintenance, Memo to Regional Director, NCR, 7 Feb 1964, SRC, D24.

<sup>49</sup>Robert E. Kloske, Memo for the record, subject Job Corps, 17 Jun 1964, RG 79, Box 3, SRC, D 24.

believed were needed at the park and laid the groundwork for remaining development under the Mission 66 program. Initial development of the master plan began in March 1963<sup>50</sup> and the process stepped up in July of 1964 to adhere to NCR schedule for meeting master planning objectives. Catocin MP was in the "Recreation Area" management category and used the new Master Plan Handbook as a reference for preparing their document.<sup>51</sup>

Work Started in March 1964 with tables, trash receptacles and fire places installed throughout the Park. By June, electricians began a two-year, \$30,000 project to wire Misty Mount for electricity. During the winter of 1964/65 the utility system for Owens Creek Campground was installed and the first of three comfort stations started. Begun in April, two comfort stations were completed by December 1965,<sup>52</sup> the third was never built.

Preliminary drawings for the rehabilitation and enlargement of Blue Blazes into an administrative and visitor's center were approved by Sutton Jett, Regional Director of NCR, in June of 1964.<sup>53</sup> Work began in early spring.<sup>54</sup> Costs more than doubled during the ten years that elapsed between the original estimate of \$30,000 in 1955 a \$70,000 cost when the job was completed by Rockwell Construction Company of Mercersburg, Pennsylvania in November 1965.<sup>55</sup> Blue Blazes, principally used as an office and contact

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<sup>50</sup>Raymond L. Freeman, Assistant Regional Director, Resource Planning, NCP, Letter to Mr. Davenport, 25 Mar 1963, SRC, D24.

<sup>51</sup>Sutton Jett, Regional Director, NCR, Letter to Webb, 1 July 1964, SCR, D24.

<sup>52</sup>Catocin Mountain Park, Monthly Progress Reports December 1965, SRC, RG 77, Bog 3, Item 41.

<sup>53</sup>Chief, Program Coordination, Letter to Chief, NCDC, 26 June 1964, SRC, D24.

<sup>54</sup>Robert C. Horne, Acting Regional Director, NCR, Memo to Director, 7 Aug 1964, SRC, RG 79 Box 3, D 3415.

<sup>55</sup>Ibid.

station for 25 years, received a new wing measuring 22' x 72,' constructed of materials compatible with the original 1939 building. The addition housed a naturalist room, ranger's office, superintendent's office, and a visitor's lobby with an information desk and orientation map.

The former ranger's office in the old section became exhibit space.<sup>56</sup> With backlighted transparencies to offset the dark paneling in the room and keep costs to a minimum<sup>57</sup> Exhibit plans the new visitor's center were initiated by Naturalist Duncan Burchard in 1963 who made suggestions for titles, text, illustrations and materials.<sup>58</sup> The project was stepped up in priority the summer of 1964 and Marc Sagan of the Museum Lab was "loaned" to Catoctin MP to assist Naturalist Duncan Burchard and expedite the interpretive prospectus<sup>59</sup>. The exhibit planning team was alerted to the changed time frame.<sup>60</sup> A rough draft of the prospectus was reviewed in January of 1965 and approved by Sutton Jett, National Capital Region Director, with his editorial changes and comments within a week. Jett agreed with the interpretive story and the topical approach, since there was "no central theme or story which must be told through a series of exhibits." He further congratulated Burchard on 'a very fine piece of work" and asked

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<sup>56</sup>The Morning Herald. 28 May 1965.

<sup>57</sup>Drew Chick, Memo to Semingsen, 2 Dec 1965, CMP.

<sup>58</sup>Chief Branch of Museums, NPS, Memo to Drew Chick, Regional Chief, Division of Interpretation, NCR, 11 April 1963, SRC, RG 79, Box 28, D6231.

<sup>59</sup>Marc Sagan had been the Park Naturalist at Catoctin MP and had begun a museum prospectus for Blue Blazes in 1957. Sagan, Naturalist Activity Report, 11 Oct 1957.

<sup>60</sup>Robert C. Home, Acting Regional Director, NCR, Memo to Director, 7 Aug 1964, SRC, RG 79 Box 3, D 3415.

that the review be hastened, as the Museum planning team was scheduled the end of January.<sup>61</sup>

Interpretive exhibit plans were interrupted when Superintendent Paul Webb left Catoctin MP in May 1965 to become Superintendent of Carlsbad Caverns. Webb was replaced by Earl M. Semingsen(Tiny), former Superintendent at Dinosaur National Monument. Exhibit plans and lab memoranda were sent to Semingsen for review September 10, 1965, and held for two months while he compiled his comments. He stated that the exhibits had to be first class. The President, Secretary Udall, Cabinet members and foreign dignitaries stopped at the visitor center and judged the exhibits to be typical of those produced by the Service.<sup>62</sup> After a meeting in December with Dr. Alan Kent and Ed Bierly of the Eastern Museum Lab, plans were finalized and seven exhibits installed. The staffs of the park and the lab were complimented for an “imaginative and effective solution to a difficult exhibit problem.”<sup>63</sup> The visitor center at Blue Blazes along with grading, seeding and paving the parking area were completed by the end of December 1965.<sup>64</sup> Formal landscaping was done by job Corpsmen in the spring of 1968<sup>65</sup>

Semingsen held the position of Superintendent for six months before retiring to Homestead, Florida Jan 15, 1966.<sup>66</sup> Harold R. Jones, appointed Catoctin MP's superintendent by NPS Director George Hartzog as of February 24, 1966, was formerly

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<sup>61</sup>Sun Jett, Regional Director, NCR, Memo to Webb, 13 Jan 65, RG 79, Box 28, Item 36, WASO.

<sup>62</sup>Semingson, Memo to Chief, Eastern Museum Lab, 1 Oct 1965, SRC, RG 79, Box 28, Item 36.

<sup>63</sup>Regional Chief, Division of Interpretation and Visitor Services, Memo to Semingsen, 2 Doc 1965, SRC, RG 79, Box 28, Item 36.

<sup>64</sup>Monthly Progress Report, Catoctin Mountain Park. Doc 1965, SRC, RG 77, Bog 3, Item 41.

<sup>65</sup>Federal Times. 12 June 1968.

on Hartzog's new park planning staff.<sup>67</sup> A graduate forester with background in resource management, park planning and park administration, Jones had served the NPS for many years<sup>68</sup> and remained at Catoctin MP until June 1968.

Picnic areas, ranger residences, visitor center, trails and parking lots, sewer systems, electrical systems, swimming pool rehabilitation and a new campground with three comfort stations were built between 1955 and 1966. When Supt. Webb was transferred in 1965 he left a list of further improvements needed, including some new construction he thought necessary. But it would be many years before his recommendations were realized and extensive maintenance performed.

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<sup>66</sup>Catoctin Enterprise, 21 Jan 1966.

<sup>67</sup>Frederick Post. 24 Feb 1966.

<sup>68</sup>Frederick Post. 7 May 1966.

## CHAPTER VIII

### JOB CORPS AND YOUTH CONSERVATION CORPS

#### Catoctin Job Corps Conservation Center

Investigation of Catoctin Mountain Park (Catoctin MP) as a possible site for the first job Corps Conservation Center began in May 1964, six months before the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 was passed in November of 1964. The Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) inspected both the Central Garage Unit Area and the unfinished Camp 4-G location as possible choices.<sup>1</sup> Photographs were taken and plans developed for the expansion of utilities. A Job Corps Conservation center at Catoctin MP was judged “realistic and adequate” as existing facilities provided the flexibility necessary for the fledgling program.<sup>2</sup> Within a month ORO began to convert the 60-acre Central Garage Unit Area (eventually Round Meadow) into a job Corps Center.<sup>3</sup>

Catoctin MP Superintendent Webb received authorization for new personnel slots, justified by the anticipated work load of the job Corps and the existing increase in visitation brought on by Mission 66 improvements. A Property Clerk position with 700 hours and a clerk typist limited to \$1000 in the fiscal year were added to his staff.<sup>4</sup> Webb

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<sup>1</sup>Rest E. Kloske, Memo for the record, subject Job Corps, 17 Jun 64, Suitland Records Center, RG 79, Box 3, D24. (hereafter known as SRC)

<sup>2</sup>T. Sutton Jett, Regional Director, NCR, Memo to Director, 28 May 1964, SRC, D24.

<sup>3</sup>History of the Planning, Construction and Administration of the Catoctin Job Corps, Vol. 1, FY 1965-1966, p. 1, CMP. (hereafter called History)

<sup>4</sup>I.J Castro, Assistant Regional Director for Administration, Letter to Regional Chief,

Division of Budget and Finance, 15 Jul 64, SRC, RG 79, Box 3, D24.

and his staff conducted a Community Survey in August of 1964 and several projects were proposed for the new program.<sup>5</sup> OEO, National Park Service (NPS) and Interior Department officials met with officials of nearby towns, since good relations were necessary if Corpsmen were to be welcome in their free time. Mayors, police, schools, churches and service organizations in Thurmont and Hagerstown were contacted early in the planning process. Job Corps staff spoke at over 100 meetings in the first 18-month of the Catoctin job Corps' existence.<sup>6</sup> Thurmont merchants were wooed by an expected \$200,000 in revenue from supplies, equipment and food sold to the camp for the program.<sup>7</sup>

Webb conducted tours of the proposed campsite for local elected officials and officers of several nearby fraternal associations. William Houck, the area's state delegate was in close contact with Webb during this time and arranged a meeting in Annapolis with Governor Tawes' Executive Assistant, Edmund C. Meister.<sup>8</sup> Local doctors and dentists were contacted to care for the new recruits. Dr. Gray from Hagerstown supervised the medical facilities and had performed the same function for the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp when they were at Catoctin RDA.<sup>9</sup>

Stewart Udall, Secretary of Interior, sent a memo to NPS Director Hartzog stating that Catoctin MP's choice as the first center was a "major honor of highest significance" and that he wanted it finished on time. Park staff worked ten hour days, seven days a

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<sup>5</sup>Robert Horne, Acting Regional Director, NCP, Letter to Director, NPS, 6 Aug 64, SRC, RG 79, Box 3, D24.

<sup>6</sup>History, FY 1965-1966, p. 5.

<sup>7</sup>The Washington Post. Sec. B, 13 Dec 1964.

<sup>8</sup>T. Sutton Jett, Regional Director, NCR, Memo to Associate Director, 15 Sept 64, SRC, D24.

<sup>9</sup>Clyde A. Maxey, Center Director, Memo to Webb, May 1965, Box 3, Item 41.

week to prepare the job Corps Center and meet the deadline.<sup>10</sup> Between May 1964 and January 1965 Round Meadow was transformed into the first job Corps Center in President Johnson's "War on Poverty." President Johnson had been "Texas director of the National Youth Administration, a New Deal program similar in objective to the Job Corps" and convinced Congress it could work again.<sup>11</sup>

The NPS hired construction workers from nearby towns to build the laundry building, administration building, a wood frame dorm and a 190' long concrete block and brick work area. Magnolia Mobile Homes of Virginia received the contract for six prefab trailer units, 52' long and 10' wide, to be delivered and set up on site by January 1965. Two prefab units served as dorms, one as an educational building and three were used for staff housing.<sup>12</sup> Constant maintenance of the Magnolia buildings became a major project within a year, when the roofs began to leak, locks and screens began to break and continual painting was needed to keep them looking presentable.<sup>13</sup>

On January 15, 1965, 85 young men between the ages of 16 and 21 arrived at Catoctin MP to inaugurate the job Corps Program at a site "largely unimproved" since the CCC left in 1941.<sup>14</sup> The Catoctin Job Corps Conservation Center was dedicated on February 27, 1965 at 10:45 AM, in a ceremony preceded by a concert given by the Thurmont High School Band. R. Sargent Shriver, Jr., Director of the OEO, presided and introduced distinguished guests who each made salutary comments. They included: Otis Singletary, Job Corps Director, Hon. Orville L. Freeman, Secretary of Agriculture, Hon.

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<sup>10</sup>Personal Interview with Ken Morgan, 22 Mar 1987.

<sup>11</sup>Christian Science Monitor. 22 Mar 1965.

<sup>12</sup>History, p. 6.

<sup>13</sup>Ibid., p. 15.

<sup>14</sup>Baltimore Sun. 9 Jul 65.

Stewart L. Udall, Secretary of Interior. The dedication was followed by a tour of the Catoctin Job corps center.<sup>15</sup>

Staffing problems and a steady stream of dignitaries hampered the first year's program and led to a high drop out rate of recruits. Continual recruitment brought a total of 157 recruits into the program but 57 left before the end of June. The bleak winter contributed to homesickness; stark conditions of the camp without indoor recreation facilities and high expectations added to the general 'depressive atmosphere.'<sup>16</sup>

Television, magazine and newspaper reporters' interviews with staff caused many interruptions. The educational officer's position was filled by five different people in the first five months of the Camp's existence and not until September 1965 was a permanent staff of adequate size provided. Visitors within the first 18 months included: President Johnson, Vice-President Humphrey, Secretary of State Rusk, Secretary of Defense McNamara, Maryland Senator Daniel Brewster, seven Congressmen from four states, Maryland officials Finan and Goldstein and groups from Japan, Canada, British Guinea, England, Israel, the Philippines and the Ivory Coast.<sup>17</sup>

Personality problems, camp conditions, national attention and visitors contributed to a rocky first year at the Catoctin Center. C. A. Maxey, the first camp director, cited 'temperamental and emotional problems in boys who had known little but failure' in their lives as a major problem.<sup>18</sup> Like the CCC's before them most did not know what it was like to get out of bed in the morning and go to work. The camp placed emphasis on developing good "work habits and a good attitude about work." Job Corpsmen were

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<sup>15</sup>Program of Dedication Ceremony, 27 Feb 65, CMP.

<sup>16</sup>Baltimore Sun. 9 July 65.

<sup>17</sup>History, App. IV.

<sup>18</sup>Baltimore Sun. 9 Jul 1965.

recruited from families earning less than \$3000 a year and most averaged a 9th grade education.<sup>19</sup> Corpsmen earned \$32 a month plus \$50 banked for them. If they made a family allotment of \$25 from the \$50, the government matched it with another \$25.<sup>20</sup> Of the 80 Corpsmen in camp in October 1965, none had a high school diploma.<sup>21</sup>

Job Corpsmen spent the early months of 1965 completing the camp by building sidewalks, underpinning the trailers and landscaping. The program consisted of one half day of work and one half day of education during winter months, changing to full days of each as the weather improved. Projects performed for the Park in the next ten months included 15 miles of trail repair and a new storage area completed December 1966, to replace the one taken over by the center.<sup>22</sup> During the winter of 1965/66 Corpsmen built 150 picnic tables for National Capital Region (NCR) parks in Washington, D.C. and had orders for 300 more.<sup>23</sup> Two large fireplace circles were constructed for use by the organized camps using skills needed to build with native stone and cinderblock.<sup>24</sup>

As the young men became more skilled, staff members developed more meaningful and complex projects requiring leaders among the Corpsmen to schedule and complete tasks on a production line. A sign construction program teaching printing, mechanical drawing, hand routing, measurement skills, painting, and organizational skills produced 225 signs for Catoctin, Greenbelt, Cunningham Falls State Park and Antietam Parks in Fiscal Year 1965-1966. In May of 1965 Catoctin MP Supt. Webb was

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<sup>19</sup>Christian Science Monitor. 22 Mar 1965.

<sup>20</sup>Baltimore Sun. 8 Jan 1966.

<sup>21</sup>FrederickPost. 25 Oct 1965.

<sup>22</sup>History, p. 9.

<sup>23</sup>Ibid. p.10.

<sup>24</sup>Ibid. p. 11.

transferred to Carlsbad Caverns, leaving a long list of signs needed for Catoctin MP.<sup>25</sup>

Community oriented work included building a ball field and picnic complex for the Thurmont Community Park Development Board, taking 42 man days for grading and clearing the site. Corpsmen built and delivered two elaborate sandboxes for use by children of migrant workers of the Frederick County Migrant Workers Association. Catoctin Corpsmen participated in recruitment efforts for the Maryland and Pennsylvania Bureaus of Employment Security and acted as guides when the Harper's Ferry Center opened.<sup>26</sup>

Work and academics were supplemented by recreational activities in nearby towns and large cities. Good relations were fostered with soldiers from Fort Ritchie, local colleges and YMCAs, where dances were a favorite activity. Corpsmen played baseball and basketball in local leagues and attended athletic and cultural events in Washington and Baltimore.<sup>27</sup> By January of 1966, what had started out as a "boondoggle and a farce" had become a "place of hope", in the opinion of new center director Jack Wheat.<sup>28</sup> Volunteers were solicited to help with the reading program and a stable staff was established. More rural young men were being recruited and the job Corps established a policy of assigning Corpsmen near their homes, contributing to a sense of community lacking at Catoctin.<sup>29</sup> For the first 18 months ending June 30, 1966, 439 young men had come to the 100 person capacity Catoctin Center, 102 had transferred out,

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<sup>25</sup>Clyde A. Maxey, Memo to Webb, May 1965, SRC, RG 77, Box 3, Item 41.

<sup>26</sup>Ibid, p. 5.

<sup>27</sup>Ibid, p. 12.

<sup>28</sup>Baltimore Sun. 8 Jan 1966.

<sup>29</sup>Hagerstown Morning Herald. 26 Apr 1966.

165 had resigned, 24 graduated, 16 went back to school or jobs, leaving 111 Corpsmen in camp at the end of June 1966<sup>30</sup>

By summer 1966, the job Corps program became an election year issue and received heavy criticism in Congress.<sup>31</sup> A staff reduction of 20% resulted from a funding cut and Catocin suffered though they were solving many of the problems experienced by other Centers. Discipline problems plagued many centers and Congress was not pleased with the management of the camps. Community relations received much attention in the press and many detractors saw the program as a "large flop." Racial tension was an element in some camps as the job Corps program was functioning at the height of the civil rights movement.<sup>32</sup>

Catocin job Corps Center experienced its share of problems but by spring of 1967 had performed many useful projects. Three large projects for Gettysburg National Battlefield included the removal of six miles of modern fencing and installation of 2,300 feet of mid-nineteenth century style fencing. A vista comprising 35 acres was cleared to recreate an area similar to Civil War battle years and a general improvement work on the grounds of the battlefield was performed. Teams of 16 Corpsmen rotated in and out of Gettysburg, alternating with a week of classroom work<sup>33</sup>

During the spring of 1967 Frederick County Outdoor School principle, Roy Okan proposed a cooperative venture with the job Corps to give on the job experience to job Corpsmen in the school system camps at Catocin MP. Two Corpsmen selected by job Corps Camp Director Jack Wheat worked six weeks in the Frederick County Outdoor

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<sup>30</sup>History, Appendix.

<sup>31</sup>The Washington Post 10 June 1966.

<sup>32</sup>Wall Street journal. 10 Aug 1967.

<sup>33</sup>Gettysburg Times. 21 Apr 1967.

School as handymen, kitchen help, and general maintenance personnel. The program benefited both organizations and after a successful trial run two other young men were assigned.<sup>34</sup>

February 1968 found another new director of the Catoctin Job Corps camp when Glenn Hill, a guidance counselor at Harper's Ferry camp, became the new Director.<sup>35</sup> Meanwhile Superintendent Frank Mentzer proposed a new four year project for the job Corps developing a large building complex planned as a conference center for NPS environmental education on the Camp Peniel site, formerly owned by the Church of the Brethren of Hagerstown, Maryland.

### Camp Peniel

A major and lasting contribution by the job Corps to Catoctin Mountain Park (Catoctin MP) was the present administrative office at Camp Peniel. Originally owned by the Church of the Brethren of Hagerstown, Maryland, Camp Peniel was an inholding not available when land was being purchased in 1935. The five acre campground was offered to the NPS in 1950, but no funds were available to acquire lands at that time.<sup>36</sup> The church negotiated a land exchange in 1959 and acquired a good spring and additional road frontage on Rt. 77 that included portions of the Chimney Rock Trail. At the time of the exchange, church officials verbally agreed to offer the government first right of refusal when the land was sold. In a February 6, 1962 memo to NCR, Supt. Paul Webb

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<sup>34</sup>The Frederick Post. 17 May 1967.

<sup>35</sup>The Frederick News. 1 Feb 1968.

recommended negotiations be started for acquisition of Camp Peniel when it was offered for sale at that time, but no definite word of government interest was received in response to this suggestion.<sup>37</sup>

Two years elapsed when Webb again wrote on February 3, 1964, explaining that the church had not heard from the federal government and was offering Camp Peniel to "any interested party." Webb considered purchase of the camp vital to Catoctin MP and alluded to "undesirable enterprises" rumored for the property. Church officials had scheduled a board meeting for February 20, 1964, and asked for "definite commitment" on the camp, appraised at somewhat less than \$35,000.<sup>38</sup> When the sale was finally negotiated and the deed signed for 19.5 acres on August 19, 1964.<sup>39</sup> W Buildings on the property included an auditorium, dining hall and nine cabins:<sup>40</sup>

In June of 1965, Supt. Webb was transferred before plans for Camp Peniel could be finalized for a third organized camp.<sup>41</sup> After Superintendent Mentzer was assigned the job Corps razed the old cabins and wooden toilets, saving salvageable materials.<sup>42</sup> The dining hall was stripped to the stone walls.<sup>43</sup> Plans for Camp Peniel lay dormant until July 17, 1968 when Wayne Miller, Special Assistant to Director Hartzog for Special Projects, visited Catoctin MP. Superintendent Frank Mentzer proposed to Miller that a

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<sup>36</sup>Leo J. Diedrich, Acting Chief of Land Planning, NCP, Letter to Mr. Paul D. Horst, Secretary, Brethren Mutual Fire Insurance Co., Hagerstown, MD, 4 May 1950, CMP.

<sup>37</sup>Webb, Memo to Regional Director, NCR, 3 Feb 1964, SRC, D24.

<sup>38</sup>ibid.

<sup>39</sup>Acting Attorney General, Letter to Stewart Udall, Sec. of Interior, 19 Jan 65, SRC, RG 79, Box 18, item 36.

<sup>40</sup>Frank Mentzer, A Proposal to Create at Catoctin Mountain Park a National Park Service Environmental Conservation Program Center. date post-June 1968, CMP.

<sup>41</sup>Wayne Miller, Special Assistant to the Director, Special Projects, Letter to NPS Director, George Hartzog, 26Dec 1968, CMP.

<sup>42</sup>Maxey, Memo to Webb, 9 April 1965, SRC, RG 77, Box 3, Item 41.

<sup>43</sup>Mentzer, Environmental Conservation Program Center, CIO Miller, 26 Dec

NPS Environmental Education Conference and Resource Center be established at Camp Peniel,<sup>44</sup> to include a repository for environmental materials and a staff to research and develop environmental education programs and curricula.<sup>45</sup> In February of 1967, NPS Director George Hartzog had proposed new guidelines for Service participation in environmental education by establishing a Cooperative Program for Environmental Education. The new program would provide NPS leadership to encourage education, communication and cooperation among the many private Sector groups such as fishermen, campers and birders to preserve and enhance the environment.<sup>46</sup>

The nature of the program appealed to Mentzer, who saw Catoctin as a potential model in the new program. He envisioned a cultural and environmental center working just outside the door of a national resource center located in a metropolitan area. Mentzer proposed to take advantage of Catoctin's proximity to Washington D.C. and the presence of job Corps labor to put Camp Peniel on the map. At this time the NPS was encouraging a national program of Environmental Study Areas (ESA) for school children in each park and by 1970, 63 ESA's were in place and 25 more planned.<sup>47</sup> The NPS was also encouraging parks to include environmental themes into their interpretation programs. Courses for park personnel were offered to implement the educational approach complete with a consulting service contracted to develop curriculum materials and train park rangers. Mentzer envisioned Camp Peniel and Catoctin MP as a national center for ESA staff and an adult conference center.

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1968, CMP.

<sup>44</sup>Miller, 26 Dec 1968, CMP

<sup>45</sup>The Frederick Post. 29 May 1969.

<sup>46</sup>The Frederick Post. 10 Aug 1968.

<sup>47</sup>Barry Mackintosh, Interpretation in the National Park Service: A Historical Perspective (Washington, D.C., History Division, 1986), p.68.

Drawings, cost estimates and job Corp schedules for the re-direction of the project were assembled. Plans included an auditorium/recreation building for 200 people, a dormitory for 50 persons, a cafeteria seating 100, and an employee residence. With Job Corpsmen providing the labor to build the facilities the auditorium was slated for a June 1969 completion, dorms by Fiscal Year(FY)1970, cafeteria by FT 1971 and residence by FY 1972. Miller recommended that the Master Plan be changed to "designate Camp Peniel as Environmental Education Conference and Resource Center." He also recommended that the Job Corps schedule reflect priority of the project<sup>48</sup> and that the Job Corps start the "rehabilitation of the auditorium into a mess-recreation hall."<sup>49</sup>

Richard Nixon's election to the U.S. Presidency resulted in the abolishment of the job Corps, and Mentzer's vision for Camp Peniel died with it. Catoctin MP's new master plan, so dependent on the job Corps, had become a worthless document. Supt. Mentzer in an April 17, 1969, letter to the NCR Region Director, stated that 'it was assumed the job Corps program would continue in perpetuity at the time the plan was developed and approved," and no provisions or plans were made if the program was discontinued. The unexpected closing of the job Corps' program at Catoctin MP left Camp Peniel incomplete and Mentzer requested "immediate consideration" for the best use of the facility. Mentzer recommended three steps to continue the Environmental Conference Center: (1) convert the job Corps Center into the conference center, (2) transfer from OEO to NPS equipment and supplies to operate the center and (3) provide funding in FT 1970 for operation of the center.<sup>50</sup>

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<sup>48</sup>Ibid.

<sup>49</sup>Mentzer, Environmental Conservation Program Center, CMP

<sup>50</sup>FrankMentzer, Memo to Regional Director, NCR, 17 Apr 1969, CMP.

By the end of September 1969, Mentzer had received approval to use the job Corps Center buildings for a living history program. Funds were made available from the Regional Offices to "upgrade the facilities and maintain the program." Buildings not used were declared excess and turned over to the General Services Administration who would then offer them to the NPS. At that time they would either be accepted or removed.<sup>51</sup>

Office of Equal Opportunity property from the Catoctin job Corps Center was transferred to the park on November 28, 1969 for use in a new program.<sup>52</sup> Catoctin MP would house a program endorsed by the Director of Management Operation "designed to reach disadvantaged youth."<sup>53</sup> This arrangement was still in existence in the summer of 1987.

Environmental programs were held in the auditorium at Camp Peniel the after its completion in early 1970,<sup>54</sup> but never achieved the attendance or scope hoped for by Supt. Mentzer before he left in September of 1972. New Supt. Frank Pridemore, looking for new administrative space, considered adding on to blue Blazes Visitor Center until a \$50,000 estimate for the addition was received. Pridemore decided to renovate and partition the auditorium at Camp Peniel to create new offices at that site, making more space available for visitor services at Blue Blazes.

### Youth Conservation at Catoctin Mountain Park

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<sup>51</sup>Harthon L. Bill, Acting Director, NPS, Memo to Regional Director, NCR, 22 Oct 1969, CMP.

<sup>52</sup>William F. Hagan, Department of Labor, Division of Administrative and Property Management Services, Letter to Russell Dickenson, Supt, NCP, 18 Feb 1970, CMP.

<sup>53</sup>Luis A. Gastellum Assistant Director of Administration, NPS, Memo to job Corps Program Office, 25 Mar 1970, SRC, File Code A6423-APJ.

The Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) was established by Public Law 93-408 within the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture to provide a program to hire young people, age 15 through 18, to perform conservation projects on public lands. The enabling legislation stressed three objectives of the program: (1) to provide a paying summer job for teenagers in a healthful outdoor atmosphere; (2) to give an "understanding and appreciation of America's outdoor heritage and environment;" (3) give the nation's youth, who would eventually have responsibility for their country's resources, a first hand experience in resource maintenance and development.<sup>55</sup>

YCC camps were located in areas that had facilities available for housing of residential programs and potentially meaningful projects that met the objectives of the program. Geographic distribution was also considered when choosing sites. Personnel supervising camps were drawn from federal and state employees who could be detailed to the program and temporary employees or other personnel hired through cooperative agreements with local government agencies.<sup>56</sup> The latter arrangement was used at CMP. Projects at Catoctin MP considered for the YCC program had to meet the objectives of the program and were judged for their "honest and valuable contribution toward the quality of our public lands and waters."<sup>57</sup>

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<sup>54</sup>The Hagerstown Morning Herald 15 May 1970.

<sup>55</sup>U.S. United States Department of the Interior and United States Department of Agriculture, *United States Youth Conservation Corps* (Washington, D.C.: Jan. 1975), p. 2.

<sup>56</sup>*Ibid.* p. 3.

<sup>57</sup>*Ibid.* p. 4.

Unlike the Civilian Conservation Corps and Job Corps, the YCC was organized as a coeducation program. Young people were considered for the program who had no history of serious crime, were physically able to handle the strenuous work and had a current work permit. Recommendations by an adult other than their parents, such as a school administrator or teacher, were required. Individuals provided their own clothing and suitable footwear except in the case of a true hardship. Maryland youths were recruited for work in their state with considerations given to equitable "racial, economic and social" distribution as well as a mix of those from urban and rural areas.<sup>58</sup> Information ways distributed on camp locations and recruiting was done through the local news media, school guidance offices and a national office in Washington, D.C.

The first YCC camp at Catoctin MP was held for eight weeks in the summer of 1971 and administered by Ken Morgan. Fifty Frederick County young people lived at Round Meadow and were led by a staff of teachers contracted from Frederick County Schools and professional park personnel. A variety of projects initiated by the YCC the first summer included trail work, camp ground clearing, park maintenance, research on the vertical saw mill site, and preparation of 14 miles of snow mobile trails.<sup>59</sup> Hikes on the Appalachian Trail, trips to Baltimore Harbor, western Maryland mines and Assateague Island further inculcated the objectives of the program.

After a successful first summer, Frederick County YCC members and staff found themselves testifying in front of the U.S. Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Full Committee in favor of expanding the YCC program from 2,600 youths to 100,000. Of 50 YCC members at Catoctin the first summer, 30 made the trip to Washington D.C, along

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<sup>58</sup>Ibid. p. 6.

<sup>59</sup>Frederick Post, 20 July 1971.

with Supt. Frank Mentzer and Paul Lambertson, director of the YCC camp at Catoctin MP and a social studies teacher at Catoctin High School. Two Frederick County youths, Nancy Croghan and Richard Love, spoke before the committee and told of their historical research on the sawmill, conservation projects performed at the park and their overall experience. While the hearing did not result in expansion of the pilot program, a one million dollar increase in appropriations was promised to support the 1972 summer program.<sup>60</sup>

Sawmill restoration begun in 1971 continued in 1972 along with trail work, maintenance and community projects. Several young people who had been corps members in 1971 returned as youth leaders for the crews the second year.<sup>61</sup> The assistance of YCC crews was requested by the Frederick County Parks and Recreation Council and Army Corps of Engineers to clean-up debris at Pine Cliffs Park after hurricane Agnes. YCC members voted it a worthy project and spent three days clearing storm damage. The Army Corps of Engineers appraised the value of the teenagers' work, based on comparable cost estimates if done by professionals, at \$15,000.<sup>62</sup>

Frank Pridemore was assigned to Catoctin MP as Superintendent in the fall of 1972 and during the winter of 1973 became the director of the three YCC Camps in Maryland.<sup>63</sup> 1973 projects at Catoctin MP included building an Adirondack shelter in the Raven Rock Area and work at Cunningham Falls State Park. Crews accomplished erosion control on Hunting Creek lake, maintenance on Cat Rock Trail and stream improvement on Little Hunting Creek. The YCC reconstructed water boxes at springs

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<sup>60</sup>Frederick Post, 15 Oct 1971.

<sup>61</sup>The Frederick Post. Aug 1972.

<sup>62</sup>Orientation Packet for Corpsmembers, 1973, CMP.

<sup>63</sup>Personal interview with Bart Truesdell, 26 Aug 1977.

near Lantz, Camp Peniel and the Wolf Rock Parking Area. Rain shelters along Wolf and Chimney Rock, Hog Rock and Thurmont Vista Trails at Catocin MP added to facilities for hikers.<sup>64</sup> A spike camp, made up of a single team of YCC campers, was located on the C & O Canal and an improvement project in the Woodsboro Community Park served as the YCC's community contribution. YCC teams also reconstructed the tailrace for the pond of the sawmill to begin its recreation.<sup>65</sup>

During the three-year pilot program the YCC was being evaluated for Congress by researchers from the University of Michigan. Reports to Congress at the end of 1973 indicated significant positive changes in participant attitudes and that project values more than equaled operating costs. The monetary value of completed projects was computed and compared to operating costs. Pre and post camp tests were given each year to measure gains by participants in "environmental knowledge" and changes in "social attitudes." The positive results of these test results enabled Congress to justify increased funding for the program at Catoctin MP and seven new day-camp operations were added in Maryland for the summer of 1974.<sup>66</sup>

University of Michigan staff continued to monitor YCC camps and 1974 developed into a banner year when Catoctin MP camp was rated 'first among all federal and state camps in corps member satisfaction." A large gain in environmental knowledge at Catoctin MP supported the theory that "a high level of satisfaction in participation, interpersonal relations, quantity and quality of work /learning projects completed, and a gain in environmental knowledge will increase the value of work/learning."<sup>67</sup> Survey

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<sup>64</sup>Ibid.

<sup>65</sup>Catoctin Enterprise, 31 Aug 1973.

<sup>66</sup>The Frederick Post, 13 June 1974.

<sup>67</sup>Catoctin Enterprise, 14 Mar 1975.

questions also revealed that participants put high value on the four-day spike camps. The next year YCC Director Pridemore scheduled spike camps at Greenbelt Park, Fort Ritchie and the C & O Canal.<sup>68</sup> Much of the success of the YCC program in Maryland was attributed to the leadership and interest of Pridemore.<sup>69</sup>

The arrival of Tom McFadden as Superintendent of Catoctin MP in 1975 continued the emphasis of YCC maintenance of trails and buildings at the park. Environmental work on trails and streams still predominated, but painting windows, signs, buildings, and chinking and staining cabins, building park gates and repairing the floor of the old blacksmith shop appeared on the work lists.<sup>70</sup> Trail maintenance, research and work on erosion control, construction and improvement of bridges, and painting buildings were included in the 44 projects completed in 1975, at a value of \$68,152.93. Education and recreation activities supplemented the work program for YCC members who came from Montgomery, Frederick, Carroll, Anne Arundel and Baltimore Counties and two Virginia schools that season.<sup>71</sup>

During the 1976 season, the YCC became entirely administered by the Department of Interior<sup>72</sup> and administrative responsibilities shifted to National Capital Region.<sup>73</sup> That year crews began a four-year project at Poplar Grove Campground that included a picnic pavilion and stone fireplace. Ramps for wheelchairs, a trail from Greentop to the Chestnut Picnic Area,<sup>74</sup> stream flow study and stream rebuilding at

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<sup>68</sup>Catoctin MP YCC Annual Report, 1975, CMP.

<sup>69</sup>Truesdell, 1987.

<sup>70</sup>Catoctin Mountain YCC Press. 18 Aug 1981, CMP.

<sup>71</sup>Ibid.

<sup>72</sup>The Frederick Post. 12 July 1976.

<sup>73</sup>Truesdell, 1987.

<sup>74</sup>The trail from Greentop to the Chestnut Picnic area had been proposed in the 1965 Master Plan as it was smooth and had a gentle grade, unlike most trails within the park.

Owens and Hunting Creek and work on the gym at Round Meadow were major projects completed in the summer of 1976.<sup>75</sup> A wide range of electives became available for YCC members covering health topics, photography and first aid. Classes in air and noise pollution, water shed protection, timber and wildlife management rounded out the program of work, education and recreation.

Decreases in the 1981 budgets for the YCC changed the Catoctin camp from a Residential one to a day camp and shortened it tea six weeks. Even with the budget crunch the program remained a successful and viable source of labor for the park and enrichment for the members of the crews.<sup>76</sup> Yearly fall planning meetings generated lists of projects and appropriate ones were chosen for the YCC matching the skill and capability levels. It was estimated in 1981 that the YCC accounted for 12% of the "financial maintenance budget in on-going maintenance projects at Catoctin MP."<sup>77</sup>

Professional teachers from Frederick County Schools continued to provide the leadership in camp to fulfill the goals of educational and work projects. Ken Morgan justified the non-competitive awarding of the camp contract to the Frederick County Board of Education by citing the value of civic involvement. Many local teachers returned to the park as volunteers and overall had the interest of the park at heart after working with young people. YCC members also returned to the park as members of the volunteer group Catoctin Area Mountain Park Environmental Resource, Inc. (C.A.M.P.E.R.) and contributed as adults to the park where they worked as youths.<sup>78</sup>

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<sup>75</sup>Interview with Tom McFadden, 26 March 1987.

<sup>76</sup>Ken Morgan, Project Manager, Catoctin MP YCC Memo to Chief, Division of Youth Accounting, NCP, 31 Aug 1981, CMP.

<sup>77</sup>McFadden, Memo to Chief. Division of Youth Accounting, NCP, 16 July 1981, CMP.

<sup>78</sup>The Frederick News. 2 July 1980.

Erosion control, trail work and stream improvement continued as the primary projects for the YCC in the 1980's. Energy concerns at the park led to the installation of wood stoves to heat administrative buildings and the jobs of splitting and stacking wood from dead trees were added to the list of needed projects. Gypsy moth research and other survey work begun in the park in the early 1980's benefited from the time spent by the YCC.<sup>79</sup> Veteran YCC campers in the summer of 1986 claimed work in the out of doors much better than that in fast food restaurants and applications received were three times the number of slots available. Like their counterparts in the 1970's the experience of group living and hard work were judged by the young people of the 1980's as the most rewarding aspects of the program.<sup>80</sup>

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<sup>79</sup>Ibid.

<sup>80</sup>The Frederick News. 2 July 1986.

## CHAPTER IX

### INTERPRETATION AND USE

#### Environmental Interpretation

Environmental interpretation by NPS personnel began in organized camps and at picnic grounds after World War II. Before that time any programming within the organized camps was planned and presented by camp staff and interpretive services at picnic areas were nonexistent. William E. Randall, the first Interpretive Specialist assigned to Catoctin Recreational Demonstration Area (Catoctin RDA), arrived in the summer of 1948 and filed a report on September 10, 1948. The report outlined programming objectives and established basic natural resources interpretation at Catoctin RDA<sup>1</sup> that continued into the 1980's. William Randall's objectives the first summer were to provide "information and ideas to the counselors of Misty Mount and Greentop and instill, the children with an appreciation of nature." He tried to spend every spare minute working individually with the leaders, since many were overwhelmed by the amount of information to learn. Greentop's campers were given the same programs as Misty Mount's and though they couldn't run or walk fasts they "were mentally awake, interested and capable (for the most part) of walking about unaided." Wildflower walks, scenic hikes, illustrated flora and fauna talks, bird watching, stream exploring, berry picking, butterfly collecting, geology, nature crafts with native materials, knife use, nature stories

and animal study comprised Randall's program. An overnight hike with Scouts explored the difference in flora at different elevations and studied the stars. He commented that campers appreciated plant life's struggle for existence and that they understood the principles of light tolerance, erosion, seed dispersal and concerns of forest management.<sup>2</sup>

In addition to initiating lasting interpretive programs at Catoctin RDA, Randall supervised crews clearing overgrown trails cut by the CCC to Black, Wolf, Chimney and Hog Rocks and Cunningham Falls. He began observation lists of flora and fauna, had the grass cut at the picnic areas and made two herbarium collections, one for the Park and one for the Smithsonian. In his report conclusion, Randall wrote that he felt he had made a real difference in leaders' and campers' awareness of nature and recognition of outdoor education. He especially noted a spark of interest in the campers at Greentop and was pleased that a camp counselor from the Virginia Military Institute had decided to take up public school camping studies because of his experience at Catoctin MP and was changing schools; another had decided to become a forester and was entering college.<sup>3</sup> Randall went on to earn his Ph. D. and eventually became a professor in the Recreation Department at the University of Massachusetts.

No naturalist was assigned to Catoctin RDA in the 1949 season, but the Position was reestablished permanently June 15, 1950 by Interpretive Specialist Evan A. Hayes and Marc Sagan<sup>4</sup> who arrived in early July, 1950.<sup>5</sup> Hayes's bimonthly report mentioned for the first time the potential need for interpretive services to visitors at the Manor picnic area, where hundred's of people gathered each weekend. Since Project

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<sup>1</sup> William E. Randall, Season Naturalist Report, 10 Sep 48, CMP.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid.

<sup>4</sup>Marc Sagan would one day be Director of Harper's Ferry Design Center.

Manager Williams requested equal weight be given to each of the areas, Hayes suggested organized camps begin providing their own nature craft counselor, allowing park naturalists time to work with all groups. Many local people still thought the park was closed to the public and it became an additional job of the naturalist to encourage park use and dispense information. Marc Sagan became Catoctin RDA's year round naturalist at the beginning of the 1954 season.

Beginning in 1956, Mission 66 provided funds for an addition to the visitors center at Blue Blazes, increased exhibits, services and tenting sites. Many of the same activities offered to school groups and Scouts were then offered to weekend campers. A newly constructed amphitheater provided a site for Ranger interpretive programs at Owens Creek Campground. Campfire programs, nature walks and orienteering were scheduled services for the public. Seasonal festivals celebrating spring wildflowers and fall tree colors brought tourists viewing scenery. Year round use of Catoctin MP arrived with cross country ski trails and a winter carnival.

### Interpretation in Seasonal Organized Group Camps

#### Misty Mount

By 1948, Girl Scouts were again camping at Misty Mount, 65 girls and 20 leader's stayed for two week periods from June 15 to mid-August, totaling 260 Scouts and 40 leaders for the camping season<sup>6</sup> Miss Katherine McCullough directed the Scout camp in 1951 and was very cooperative, participating in precamp training sessions

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<sup>5</sup>Segan, Report of Naturalist-Sponsored Activity at CRDA, 15 July-July 7, 1950, 31 Aug 1950, CMP.

<sup>6</sup>Randall, 1948.

consisting of orientation walks and nature game demonstrations. Marc Sagan established an elaborate nature crafts program and constantly combated craft programs involving commercial materials. In August of 1954, at the suggestion of camp counselors he spent time making a "project specimen" collection of honeysuckle and grapevine baskets, cat-tail mats, totem poles, basswood whistles, witch hazel and birch brooms, leaf prints, floating candies and acorn lapel pins as examples so nature counselors could, see the numerous possibilities within the Park.<sup>7</sup>

Organized groups signed contracts the winter of 1956, formally agreeing to hire a nature counselor, instead of having a regular staff member take that on as an extra duty.<sup>8</sup> The next summer produced nature programs of high standards<sup>9</sup> Nature counselors were usually college students with either biology backgrounds or a great willingness to take direction and learn the information. At this stage the park naturalist contacted the camps weekly after an initial pre-camp orientation.<sup>10</sup>

Beginning on May 29, 1961 until the spring of 1978, the Washington County School System held its outdoor school program at Misty Mount,<sup>11</sup> modeled after The Frederick County Outdoor School at Greentop. Washington County started building their own camp in the early 1970's and were negotiating to have Misty Mount's cabins helicoptered out to their new site when Supt. Tom McFadden was assigned to Catoctin MP in 1975 and called a halt to the plans.<sup>12</sup> Misty Mount closed between 1978 and 1982 for installation of a new sewer line. The cabin camp was reopened in 1984 as a seasonal family camp for rental by the day and weekend between mid-April and mid-October.

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<sup>7</sup>Sagan, Monthly Naturalist Report, 14 Aug 1954, CMP.

<sup>8</sup>Sagan, Naturalist Activity Report, 31 Oct 1955, CMP.

<sup>9</sup>Sagan, Monthly Naturalist Report, July 1957, CMP.

<sup>10</sup>Sagan Monthly Naturalist Report, 14 Aug 1957, CMP.

Local Girl Scouts camp in the summer. All permitting and maintenance was coordinated by the Catoctin Area Mountain Environmental Resource Corporation (C.A.M.P.E.R.). Nomination to the National Register for Historic Places was also prepared for the cabins at Misty Mount and Greentop.

### Greentop--Maryland League for Crippled Children

Immediately following World War II, efforts began to reopen Camp Greentop to campers of the Maryland League for Crippled Children (MLCC). Marines guarding Shangri-La, the presidential retreat, occupied Greentop and Maryland Congressmen, Rotary clubs, and other service organizations joined the MLCC in lobbying the White House to relinquish the camp. The MLCC had camped five seasons at Hopewell RDA, near Reading, Pennsylvania, but the park was turned over to the state of Pennsylvania in 1946 and the League wanted to return to Greentop, the camp especially designed for their program. By December 1946, President Truman had ordered the transfer of the Marines occupying Greentop in time for use by the children in the summer 1947.<sup>13</sup>

Mary Church, executive director of the MLCC was elated and declared Catoctin RDA “ever so much more suitable than the camp near Reading, Pa.”<sup>14</sup> Campers arrived at Greentop July 1 for an eight-week stay, continuing the policy that the most benefit was reaped by the extended stay.<sup>15</sup> Many things were different, the cabins had been winterized and with lack of NPS staff many maintenance jobs were left undone,

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<sup>11</sup>Monthly Naturalist Report, 3 June 1961, CMP.

<sup>12</sup>Personal interview with Tom McFadden, 26 Mar 1987.

<sup>13</sup>H.T. Memo, 4 Dec 1946, CMP.

<sup>14</sup>Washington Post. 17 Nov 1946, p. 19m, col. 1.

especially the plumbing which was a real trial that first summer back. The staff removed boards from the craft shop windows and cleared debris before the shop could be used by the children.<sup>16</sup> An outdoor chapel used at Hopewell RDA was recreated at Greentop.

A Quonset hut left by the Army became a new and spacious recreation hall for rainy days. A stage had been requested for the Quonset hut, but was not built because lumber was in short supply. Thurmonters welcomed the campers home by taking the entire population of the camp on trucks to see the fireman's parade and treated them to ice cream cones. Scouts from Misty Mount visited and presented a program that first season back at Greentop.<sup>17</sup> Renewed relations with Shangri-La excited campers who invited President Truman to their "camp just down the road." Mary Church, spending the week at camp, took the letter to guards at the gates of Shangri-La. At 10 AM on a Sunday morning Truman driving a green convertible and accompanied by Admiral Leahy and staff stopped and shook hands with all the children, then toured the camp and walked back to Shangri-La.<sup>18</sup>

Nature activities were integrated into Greentop's programs when the MLCC accepted Project Manager Williams offer of Naturalist William Randall's services in 1948. Catoctin RDA's first naturalist coordinated presentations of nature lore, crafts, slide programs and special camp events available for the first time at Greentop. Counselors and campers spent the entire camping season at Greentop, instead of weekly sessions like the Girl Scouts at Misty Mount. Ongoing projects and themes developed an appreciation for the out-of-doors and gave the children a real experience in the field of natural history.

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<sup>15</sup>Camp Greentop 1947 Annual Report, The Baltimore-Central Maryland League for Crippled Children and Adults, Inc.

<sup>16</sup>Ibid.

<sup>17</sup>Ibid.

Campers were given bird picture cards before bird watching rides and naturalists followed up with bird song records and games. During the 1948 season the totem pole was built and erected outside the camp office, symbolizing the Coordinated work of campers who planned and executed the idea.<sup>19</sup> The totem pole still stood in the summer of 1987.

NPS naturalists, Hayes and Sagan were complimented in Greentop's 1950 annual report for "humbling their scientific knowledge to establish a good rapport with the entire camp" and for their "understanding and willingness to comply with the business policies of the camp." Park naturalists accompanied campers on 40 hikes during the summer of 1950 and took cabin groups in station wagons to hike outside Catoctin RDA's boundary. Hikers were grouped by the distance they were able to hike. Children in group A were able to hike a half a mile, B one mile, C a mile and a half, D two miles and those in E group were able to hike three miles or more.<sup>20</sup>

Project Manager Williams Circulated Greentop's 1952 annual report among officials in the NPS "so they would be aware of the benefits being derived from NPS facilities by the handicapped children."<sup>21</sup> Circulation of the report resulted in a special commendation to the Baltimore League for Crippled Children and Adults, Inc., from the Department of Interior for their excellent program, including Greentop, "social services in hospitals, clinics and nursery schools for cerebral palsied children and training workshops for adults."<sup>22</sup> The organization's name had been changed the previous year.

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<sup>18</sup>Baltimore Evening Sun. 6 Aug 1947, p. 36, col. 6.

<sup>19</sup>Greentop Annual Report, 1948. Eleanor Wolfe, Camp Director, Camp Greentop:

<sup>20</sup> The Report for the 1950 Season. Baltimore League for Crippled Children and Adults, Inc, CMP.

<sup>21</sup>Williams, Letter accompanying 1952 Greentop Annual Report to Drew Chick, Naturalist Division, NCR, 19 Feb 1953, CMP.

<sup>22</sup>Catoctin Enterprise. 10 Apr 1953.

Live animals, pictures and a craft display formed a "zooseum" set up on the porch of the boy's Lodge, and trips were taken to jungle Land Snake Farm and Lily Pons fish farm.<sup>23</sup> A contest entitled Bring 'em Back Alive Live<sup>24</sup> was an enthusiastically received new innovation in 1952 that involved points for live specimens brought by children to the "zooseum." On one trip several snakes were donated to the reptile farm and two tame descended skunks were presented in return.<sup>25</sup> Campers using wet and dry thermometers, a weather vane and a barometer made weather predictions and raised appropriate flags each morning.<sup>26</sup>

By 1953, adults with disabilities were camping at Greentop for a two-week session in August. An adaptation of the children's program that provided 35 campers aged 16 and older with an "economical recreation and health-building holiday too seldom available to adults handicapped by crippling."<sup>27</sup> Adults enjoyed seated activities in the evenings such as star gazing and tall tale telling. Hand shadows, car caravans and recorded music of nature sounds were very popular. A flexible schedule with leisurely breakfasts and late summer evenings was available for \$35 for two weeks camp. The original dining hall burned in 1955 and was replaced by a more modern structure more suited to the uses of the campers. Easily accessible, it became a programming asset in concert with the Quonset hut.<sup>28</sup>

Two years of hard work by NPS Naturalist, Marc Sagan, paid off when nature counselors became required by contract for the 1956 season. The MLCC hired a nature counselor versed in all facets of crafts, museums and hiking.<sup>29</sup> Camp administrators were

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<sup>23</sup>Wolfe, Camp Greentop, 16th Annual Report. 1952 Season. CMP.

<sup>24</sup>The name of a book popular at the time.

<sup>25</sup>Sagan, Monthly Naturalist Report, 24 Jun 1954, CMP.

<sup>26</sup>Wolfe, Camp Greentop, 16th Annual Report, 1952 Season, CMP.

sold on the value of natural science programs and integrated them into every aspect of camp life. Greentop's 1956 Annual Report. reflected campers' and staffs' real eagerness to learn about their surroundings and the popularity of the hikes and programs.<sup>30</sup>

Although the gimp, leather and beads were not totally left in the city, real inroads had been made in natural science programming. Park naturalists continued to contribute to the programs at Greentop, but on a special event basis. Nature council fires, indoor evening programs and animal displays were conducted by naturalists, featuring the history of the Catoctin area, primitive tools and bird banding.<sup>31</sup>

Catoctin Mountain Park (Catoctin MP) personnel assisted the MLCC with maintenance of the camp, pool operation, garbage pick-ups, grass cutting and wood supply for fires being the principle contributions.<sup>32</sup> In 1960, Mission 66 projects were making a noticeable difference and Greentop's Annual Report noted the superb condition of the camp on opening day. The YIPS, Mr. Shank and his crew were much appreciated by those in the organization who remembered "the not so good old days" when money and staff were short at Catoctin MP.<sup>33</sup>

By 1965 hikes and programs taking advantage of newly built Mission 66 facilities broadened Greentop camper' hiking and natural science experience. Cunningham Falls, Wolf Rock Nature Trail, Thurmont Vista, Hog Rock, Chimney Rock via Camp Peniel, Charcoal Trail and Chestnut Picnic Area weather Station were part of the summer

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<sup>27</sup>Brochure, Maryland's 1st Summer Camp for Crippled Adults. Greentop "Senior Camp," 1953, CMP.

<sup>28</sup>Personal interview with Ralph Smith, former counselor and Director of Greentop, 6 Feb 1987.

<sup>29</sup>Sagan, Monthly Naturalist Report, 34 Jun 1956, CMP.

<sup>30</sup>Greentop Annual Report, 1956 Camping Season, The Baltimore-Central Maryland League for Crippled Children and Adults, Inc.

<sup>31</sup>Greentop Annual Report, 1957 Camping Season, The Baltimore-Central Maryland League for Crippled Children and Adults, Inc.

<sup>32</sup>Ibid.

<sup>33</sup>Ibid. 1960.

agenda. Wheelchair outings were arranged to Owens Creek, Hunting Creek and the weather station. Children hiked on the Appalachian Trail and Cat Rock in Cunningham Falls State Park and used Catoctin MP for berry hikes, sassafras tea hikes, fishing and daily outings. The 1969 Annual Report affectionately referred to the Park and its inhabitants as "the glorious flora and fauna of Burchard's wonderland."<sup>34</sup> Blue Blazes Still, the Deerfield Nature Trail and Folk Craft Center were destinations of the early 1970's. Park Rangers led leaf identification at Chestnut Picnic area and conducted treasure hunts following the program <sup>35</sup>

Program innovations in 1964 introduced a split session for campers, reflecting an increase in the "more severely involved child who imposes multiple stresses on staff" and a change in camp philosophy. Camp Greentop had evolved from a physical health camp to one of social rehabilitation." Statistically, the camper population included approximately 66% campers with cerebral palsy and 35% all other disabilities combined.<sup>36</sup> Another change of a social nature took place in 1973, when a teens session and a younger children's session was introduced. Deemed very successful by staff and campers, the innovation mad planning easier for each group.

During the 1973 session the wheelchair campers were again distributed between cabins in a successful mainstreaming experiment.<sup>37</sup> Ramps for Greentop's buildings and the Spicebush Nature Trail to the Chestnut Picnic Area were completed by the Youth Conservation Corps in 1976. The Spicebush Nature Trail, built for wheelchair

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<sup>34</sup>Duncan Burchard was Park Naturalist at the time.

<sup>35</sup>Greentop Annual Report, 1970.

<sup>36</sup>Camp Greentop, Director's Report, 1964, The Baltimore-Central Maryland League for Crippled Children and Adults, Inc.

<sup>37</sup>Greentop Annual Report, 1973 Camping Season, The Baltimore-Central Maryland League for Crippled Children and Adults, Inc.

hiking, enabled more children increased access to the park<sup>38</sup> was an especially positive addition to the program at Greentop.<sup>39</sup> In 1980 “severely profoundly handicapped” youngsters went to camp for a week and a special session was held for the deaf in addition to regular sessions.<sup>40</sup>

Catoctin Mountain Park, its' staff and many volunteers continued to an integral part of camp life at Greentop, providing the children with special programs and physically maintaining the camp. "Programs are adjusted to the abilities of the campers and abilities, not disabilities are stressed."<sup>41</sup> In 1982 the volunteers of the C.A.M.P.E.R. organization introduced an innovative and successful horseback-riding program. C.A.M.P.E.R. also was responsible for maintenance of the camp and handles all administrative duties. In August of 1987, the Baltimore League celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary at Greentop.

#### Frederick County Outdoor School at Camp Greentop

Catoctin Mountain Park's Camp Greentop became the site of the first outdoor Education program in Maryland and one of the earliest in the United States when the Frederick County School Board established their program in the spring of 1957. When first contacted in October of 1956 the park staff was unsure of the nature of the program and its relationship to the park, but they soon learned they were involved with an energetic and enthusiastic educator. Dr. Warren Evans, Frederick County Supervisor of

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<sup>38</sup>The Frederick Post. 12 July 1976.

<sup>39</sup>Smith, 1987.

<sup>40</sup>Camp Greentop, Information Brochure, 1980.

<sup>41</sup>League Lineup, Vol. 1, No. 1, June 1982.

Health and Physical Education had attended a Virginia State Workshop in Outdoor Education in September 1956 along with Herbert Stiener, State Supervisor of Health, Physical Education and Recreation. While at the workshop they learned of California's successful outdoor school program begun in San Diego, in 1947, as an 'addition to the Yosemite Field School of Natural History.<sup>42</sup> In October 1956 Evans suggested a similar outdoor curriculum to Dr. James A. Sensenbaugh, Superintendent of Frederick County Schools.<sup>43</sup> With Sensenbaugh's approval, Dr. Evans took charge of the program and began groundwork for its implementation by reserving Misty Mount from May 20 to 30, 1957. They ultimately would camp at Greentop.

Jack Boley, Assistant Project Manager and Park Naturalist Marc Sagan met with Frederick County School Board officials on December 7, 1956, to describe camp facilities at CMP.<sup>44</sup> The Frederick Post, December 8 issue reported at length the attendance and contents of the meeting. In addition to Dr. Evans and the Frederick County School Board, Albert M. Powell of the Maryland Game and Inland Fisheries Division, Jack Karnig, Frederick County Assistant Forester for the State Department of Forests and Parks, George Swartz, Federal Soil Conservationist for Frederick County and Baron Ashbaugh, Educational Assistant try the Board of Natural Resources of the State Department of Resources and Education attended the meeting as consultants from their departments.

At the meeting, Dr. Jackson Anderson, an expert in recreation and outdoor education from the American Association of Health, Physical Education and Recreation

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<sup>42</sup>The Frederick Journal 1 Aug 1984.

<sup>43</sup>Dr. Warren R. Evans, Report on Frederick County Outdoor School to Board of Education of Frederick County, Dec 1956, CMP.

<sup>44</sup>Monthly Narrative Report, 30 Nov 1956, CMP.

presented the philosophy and background of existing outdoor programs. He defined outdoor education as “simply the provision for educational experiments best conducted out of doors,” an actual experience in a natural climate with hands-on, organized learning and stressed that outdoor education was not new. New Jersey school systems first experimented successfully with outdoor education in the 1940's, sponsored by Life magazine and the Kellogg Foundation. After Anderson's presentation Dr. Evans called on state and local experts to give their time to implement the program in their respective fields at Catoctin. Stream ecology and fishing, water shed studies, fire prevention, and tree planting were elements of the program that could be taught by those present at the meeting. Maryland Department of Resources and Education representative Ashbaugh warned that the children needed to come to camp in good physical condition and suggested good preparation before "pushing out the school walls all the way into the mountains.”<sup>45</sup>

Two committees emerged from the December 7 meeting. A program committee to plan the curriculum and trips for the students and an administrative committee to handle the logistical operations of the site. Jack Boley acted as a special advisor to the administrative committee. Professors and students from Johns Hopkins, Hood College and the University of Maryland were invited to participate, with credit offered if arrangements could be made with their respective schools.

Evans was heartened by the enthusiasm for the program. By December 10, 1956 he had chosen the two classes to attend the pilot camp in the Spring of 1957, based on their teachers' enthusiasm for the program.<sup>46</sup> Miss Janet Wickless and Mrs. Juanita

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<sup>45</sup>Frederick Post. 8 Dec 1 956.

<sup>46</sup>Frederick News. 10 Dec 56.

Shanholtz would "live and learn" at camp, advised by Marc Sagan, Park Naturalist and former school teacher, and other experts. Audio visual programs and field trips to points of interest in the area were planned to supplement the out of doors. The cost per student was estimated at \$7-10 a week for food with the board of Education paying the rest of the expenses of curriculum, staff and transportation.

Within a week of the initial meeting, Dr. Evans had his camp staff appointed and a list of planned activities. The two committees had met on December 10, 1956 at Catoctin MP and made progress on the problems confronting the new program.<sup>47</sup> The Frederick News reported on December 15, that his administrative staff would consist of a Director, Program Chairman, Food Service Director, Camp Clerk and Camp Nurse. Three local boy Scout officials and five physical education teachers were to be cabin counselors for the boys, the women teachers and administrators doubled as cabin counselors for the girls.<sup>48</sup>

The program committee proposed hikes to Chimney Rock and Cunningham Falls, Nature walks to study birds and trees, illustrated lectures, movies, a trip to the Lewistown Hatchery, campfires, folk and square dances, cook outs, bait and fly casting, tree planting, erosion studies, softball, horseshoes and archery<sup>49</sup>

Throughout the winter Sagan prepared illustrations for talks and Frederick County Outdoor School teacher's booklet.<sup>50</sup> On April d b, 1957, a training session for the new staff was held at Catoctin MP and Sagan visited the two 6th grade classes in early May to

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<sup>47</sup>Monthly Narrative Report, Jan 1957, CMP.

<sup>48</sup>Frederick News. 15 Dec 1956.

<sup>49</sup>Ibid.

<sup>50</sup>Monthly Narrative Report, 5 Feb 57, CMP.

introduce the children and teacher to their camping experience at Catoctin MP and reviewed park regulations. Preparation activities were chosen from lists provided by the teachers and involved compasses, topographic maps and road maps to compute travel time and teach the use of compasses.<sup>51</sup> Teachers and children participated in menu planning, a student operated store and classroom work related to special activities at camp.

The first session of the pilot outdoor school was held the last two weeks in May. Daily programs varied with the weather. Park Naturalist, Marc Sagan did most of the instructing and held a hike a day, to dispense a "maximum dose of trailside interpretation."<sup>52</sup> Campers were briefed on safety and given a special poison ivy identification session. Teachers were encouraged to take a bigger part in the next sessions. Sagan judged the program "highly successful and an enlarged program was planned" for the next fall. Increased use by the campers kept the trails open and they were in unusually good condition for the spring, with no need for park trail clearing crews.<sup>53</sup>

A second probationary two week session was held in the fall of 1957. After the two sessions of camping at Catoctin, Dr. Evans felt the educational theory that "conservation and democratic living can best be taught in an outdoor setting" was alive and well. Students learned about nature and getting along with one another. New skills and exciting stories were carried home and Evans tried to make sure that no one did anything at camp that they could do just as well in school.<sup>54</sup>

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<sup>51</sup>Sagan, Memo to Park Naturalist, NCR, Oct 57, CMP.

<sup>52</sup>Sagan, Memo to Park Naturalist, NCR Oct 1957, CMP.

<sup>53</sup>Monthly Narrative Report, 11 Jun 1957, CMP.

<sup>54</sup>Baltimore Sun, 23 June 1957.

Two reports were filed after the second camping period in the fall of 1957, one by Park Naturalist Marc Sagan, the other by Dr. Evans, Camp Director. Each reflected their area of expertise and described the activities and philosophy of the camp during its first two seasons and as it continues today with minor changes. Marc Sagan considered the Frederick County Outdoor School camping program to be "the best experience of wise park use" he had seen. He reported that the camper's week began with treasure hunts to orient the children with their temporary home and continued the games with the use of compass relays, leaf relays, and bird card games. Crafts included track casting, ozalid printing, nature collections, and Indian loom grass mat weaving. Children hiked to Thurmont Vista Overlook, Cunningham Falls, a fire tower and collected specimens at Owens Creek that were examined and discussed before being released. Roadside hikes "examined trash for evidence of the offender's identity." Sagan thought this latter hike one of the more worthwhile teaching activities since no single class of park user could be pinpointed as the offender and the children learned a lot. A trip to Catoclin Furnace included nature study, folk lore, exploring and adventure. A fishing trip featured State Fish and Game officials plus "local casting enthusiasts." Fire making demonstrations, tree plantings, snake exhibits, stargazing and a slide presentation on local mammals rounded out the activities. Sagan described the camping as "a learning experience of the kind that will shape attitudes towards the Park and its use." The report concluded with the suggestion that in the future the naturalist should concentrate efforts on teacher training so the school system could take charge of its own program with NPS assistance for

special events only.<sup>55</sup>

Dr. Evans's report to the Board of Education of Frederick County accented the administrator's view of the camp. He presented lists of goals and objectives, long range planning ideas and staffing suggestions discovered over the weeks of camping. Five objectives of the curriculum included: (1) Recognition of the value of natural resources and "learn to use them wisely; (2) Emphasis on science education and the kindling of children's interest in science; (3) Provide a hands on experience; (4) "Learn to live democratically with other children and with adults through experiences in outdoor living;" (5) Learn outdoor living skills and interests that have a lasting effect on adult life.

Evans reported that eight classes of sixth graders totaling 300 children had camped at Catoctin MP from September 23 to October 18, 1957. Staffing had changed from volunteers to salaried personnel who provided continuity throughout the eight weeks. Frostburg State Teachers College assigned student teachers as camp counselors for a week at a time on a cooperative agreement. Long-range plans called for every sixth grader in the Frederick County School System to attend the Outdoor School by the fall of 1958 and for every teacher attend as well. Teacher attendance was not mandatory, but was "key to the effectiveness" of the program, as cooperative student/teacher preparation for camp was part of the curriculum of the classroom and a component of the school year.

In conclusion, Dr. Evans wrote that the program had potential as a great educational tool, as children found the experience very motivating. He felt that the "conservation of natural resources, the natural sciences, democratic living and wholesome use of leisure can be taught most effectively in a outdoor setting." Evans

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<sup>55</sup>Sagan, Memo to Park Naturalist, NCR, Oct 1957, CMP.

emphasized the obvious need for science education and that the Outdoor School could provide such a program.<sup>56</sup>

The Frederick County School Board agreed with Dr. Evans and the Outdoor School opened again the spring of 1958. Catoctin MP had experienced a full administrative staff turnover the end of the 1958 summer camping season.<sup>57</sup> Dr. Evans requested a meeting with W. Drew Chick, Jr., Interpretive Branch Chief and Maurice Sullivan to discuss National Park Service(NPS) park naturalist assistance during the spring of a 1958 for the Outdoor School. Evans also wanted to discuss a permanent permit for use of Catoctin MP for the School. Chick in a memo to the Superintendent of National Capital Parks (NCP) highly recommended continued use for the “wholly worthwhile activity” with the stipulation that the programs follow NPS regulations concerning resource protection. Chick was concerned about the fire line construction demonstrations and planting of exotic species in the tree planting programs.<sup>58</sup>

With the blessing of the NPS and the School Board, the Frederick County Outdoor School grew within five years to serve 1300 sixth graders each year at Greentop. A press release dated July 25, 1961 reported that teachers colleges and high schools provided 65 student teachers and 16 volunteers by the spring of 1961, providing a student/teacher ratio of one teacher for every eight students.

A permanent principle, Roy Okan, was hired to oversee four permanent teacher, a nurse, four cooks and a handyman. Okan, a high school history teacher, had previous experience with similar programs at Battlecreek, Michigan and a master's degree in

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<sup>56</sup>Evans, Report on Frederick County Outdoor School to Board of Education of Frederick County, Oct 1957, CMP.

<sup>57</sup>Mike Williams retired, Jack Boley transferred to NCP in Washington and Marc Sagan transferred to museum services.

guidance counseling. In the off season he traveled to various schools as a visiting science teacher. Students reported they were willing to go to school from 7:30 am to 5:30pm if it could always be like the Outdoor School.<sup>59</sup>

At the end of its first decade of operation, the Frederick County Outdoor School was more than able to take its rightful place in the forefront of the environmental movement developing in the United States. The program had changed little from that established in 1956, but class labels reflected the new philosophy, becoming geology, botany and wildlife management.<sup>60</sup> In addition to the 12,000 Frederick County sixth graders, 500 high school seniors and 500 college student teachers acting as counselors had been influenced by attending camp, many of whom had attended previously as campers. The job Corps program benefited too, as Corpmen from the Catoctin Center were hired to perform the heavy work in camp and worked in the kitchen.<sup>61</sup> Six other Maryland counties had established outdoor classes modeled after the "pioneering Frederick County program" and educators from Norway, India, Philippines and Australia had visited over the years.<sup>62</sup>

At the twenty year mark the original program was still intact and the camp proclaimed an "educational 'piece de resistance'" by the Frederick News on June 9, 1976. The newly impounded lake at Cunningham Falls State Park enabled campers to benefit from U. S. Coast Guard water safety classes in canoes. For the first time, at \$.50 fee for each camper's meals was levied. High school student still acted as volunteer counselors and parents still were encouraged not to visit camp except in emergencies. Reflecting the

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<sup>58</sup>W. Drew Chick, Jr., Memo to Supt, NCP, 21 Jan 1958, CMP.

<sup>59</sup>Press release. NCR, 25 July 1961, CMP.

<sup>60</sup>Frederick Post, 7 July 1965.

<sup>61</sup>The Frederick Post, 17 May 1967.

increased community activities for children, sports events, recitals and parades were not considered acceptable excuses for leaving camp. No candy, comics, money, radios, stereos or knives: (not even pocketknives) were allowed in camp.<sup>63</sup>

The pattern of camp life and natural science principles established in 1956 continued into the eighties in the Frederick County Outdoor School Program. Interrelationships between man and nature studied in the out of doors became environmental education and ecological theories in the 1970's that taught man's place in the environment. Children through the years learned by doing; to absorb common sense rules they needed to preserve their environment and get along with others.

### Round Meadow Camp

Round Meadow camp evolved from the original Central Garage Area chosen by Project Manager Mike Williams as a park headquarters and staging area for the development of Catoctin Recreational Demonstration Area (Catoctin RDA) in 1935. Originally the site of garages, oil pit, sawmill and rock crusher, the first modification of the complex began when a Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp was built nearby in April of 1939. The former CCC technical service quarters site became a trailer park for Navy personnel and their families at Camp David. CCC buildings had been sold to the highest bidder and removed. Initial opposition by the NPS to the trailers was overcome

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<sup>62</sup>Newspaper clipping of unknown date, post May 1967, CMP.

<sup>63</sup>The Frederick News. 9 June 1976.

and a community of four portable structures was agreed to on November 9, 1955 for a fee of \$6.00 a month for utilities.<sup>64</sup>

Additional construction in the winter of 1964 of a brick and block work shops and portable dorms by the job Corps further changed the Central Garage Area and added to the traffic, general congestion and conglomeration of different building types. After the Job Corps Center closed in May of 1969 the Folk Culture Center was created at Round Meadow and the complex of buildings assumed a new purpose. Job Corps dorms continued as a year round camp for a variety of social programs serving disadvantaged youth, as dictated by the Office of Economic Opportunity. Young people from the Youth Conservation Corps began an eight week summer residential camp at Round Meadow in 1971. The Mid-Atlantic Conference on Outdoor Education was held at Round Meadow as was a Maryland Biology Teacher's Association meeting.

A "Summer in the Parks" program occupied Round Meadow in 1969 as part of a National Capital Parks summer program for inner city youngsters. Summer in the Parks, initiated by the NPS in the summer of 1968 to "lure people to the parks," was modeled after a program developed by NPS consultant and industrial designer Russell Wright in New York City's Central Park. NPS Director, George Hartzog presented plans for the program in February 1968 at a meeting with representatives of Congress, Defense Department, Smithsonian, Boy Scouts, Girls Scouts and Washington Mayor Walter Washington. The program bused children to a "mystery" campsite in three Washington D.C. area parks, Catoctin MP, Greenbelt and Prince William Park in 1969. Hartzog

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<sup>64</sup>Harry T. Thompson, Associate Superintendent, NCP, Letter to Navy Administrator, U.S Naval Gun Factory, 9 Nov 1955, CMP.

planned to borrow buses from the Department of Defense and recruit volunteers to get inner-city children out of the city and “acquaint them with life in the out of doors.”<sup>65</sup>

Though plans for the Summer in the Parks program were well underway in the spring of 1968, tension after the assassination of Martin Luther King in April of 1968 increased the urgency to implement the program and it was given priority.<sup>66</sup> Round Meadow welcomed 30 inner city children at a time for seven day periods of camping, fishing, hiking field trips and swimming in July and August of 1969, six weeks after job Corpsmen vacated the camp. The program was so successful that officials extended it to include weekends in September.<sup>67</sup> The 1970 camping season featured a three-week cultural arts camp staffed by music and dance professionals with an educational background supported by a \$75,000 budget.<sup>68</sup>

At the same time Summer in the Parks began, NPS Director Hartog involved District of Columbia schools. A pilot National Environmental Education Development (NEED) program developed by the University of California was proposed to send school children to camp for a week at Prince William Forest Park with intentions to expand the school program if successful.<sup>69</sup> The program was a success and District of Columbia school children came to Catoctin MP under this program for an outdoor school in 1971. The curriculum was similar to the Frederick County Outdoor School and took advantage of the Folk Culture Center and Environmental Museum. A cooperative agreement was signed with the District of Columbia School system in October of 1979.<sup>70</sup>

Funding was jeopardized in 1980 but the National Football League Players

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<sup>65</sup>The Washington Star. 12 Feb 1968.

<sup>66</sup>Personal interview with Bart Truesdell, 11 Mar, 1987

<sup>67</sup>The Morning Herald. 3 Sept 1969.

<sup>68</sup>Washington Afro-American. 1 Sept 1970.

Association rescued the program with a grant of \$900,000, one of eleven in the nation and the only one to emphasize environmental education.<sup>71</sup> A cooperative agreement with the Players Association was signed in October of 1980<sup>72</sup> and lasted for two years. District of Columbia Schools resumed their camps the summer of 1984 with a six and eight week summer computer/nature camp.<sup>73</sup>

### Living History Interpretation

Park Naturalist Marc Sagan introduced living history interpretation to Catoctin Mountain Park (Catoctin MP) 1956 with an "illustrated talk on Catoctin Coal Hearths" and a land use history." After talking to local residents and recording interviews "about the steps involved in the process of charcoal production," Sagan presented his program on the subject to 150 members of the Maryland Ornithological Society in Baltimore.<sup>74</sup> The next summer he adapted his presentation for children in the organized camp programs at Misty Mount and Greentop.<sup>75</sup> Ranger programs integrated local history, charcoal hearths, and local customs into Catoctin MP's environmental interpretation of the park.<sup>76</sup>

Catoctin MP's 1965 Master Plan highlighted potential living history themes in park interpretation. Charcoal hearth waysides were already established near Hog Rock

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<sup>69</sup>The Washington Post. 28 Feb 1968.

<sup>70</sup>Annual Report, 1979, Catoctin Mountain Park.

<sup>71</sup>The Hagerstown Daily Mail. 14 Oct 1980.

<sup>72</sup>McFadden, Memo to Chief, Division of Management Consulting, NCR, 7 Oct 1980, CMP.

<sup>73</sup>Voight, 1988.

<sup>74</sup>Marc Sagan, Monthly Narrative Report, 30 Nov 1956, CMP.

<sup>75</sup>Greentop Annual Report, 1957 Camping Season, The Baltimore-Central Maryland League for Crippled Children and Adults, Inc.

parking lot, "pre-park farm ruins", the Emmitsburg mileage marker near Ike Smith pumphouse, and the sawmill site on Owens Creek and George Washington's survey marker near Camp Peniel were noted. Superintendent Webb was deeply interested in the blacksmith shop, and considered it a valuable and significant structure.<sup>77</sup> Living history formally came into favor in the NPS when George Hartzog succeeded Conrad Wirth as Director in January 1964. Beginning with living farm programs the NPS broadened the concept to include military sites and demonstrations in period dress.<sup>78</sup>

Living history became a major interpretive theme at Catoctin MP with the arrival of Superintendent Frank Mentzer in June 1968. illustrator, advertising executive, and self described "shade tree historian," Mentzer had six years experience as "assistant for public affairs to the Regional Director of the NPS's 16 state NE region" in Philadelphia. He had edited Family Camping magazine before going to work for the NPS.<sup>79</sup> In mid-September 1968 Mentzer took initial planning steps for a feasibility study to explore a living historical mountain farm project." Tasks included examination of base maps to locate potential restorable farms in the park, research on farm practices and ultimately a farm prospectus and chronology for reconstruction<sup>80</sup>.

Mentzer enlarged and broadened the interpretation and public awareness of Catoctin MP within months of his arrival. He was shocked his first summer at the park to realize that many people still thought the park was closed to visitors. "Local people remembered when the road was fisted with no admittance signs' during World War II."<sup>81</sup>

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<sup>76</sup>Statistical Statement of Program Elements, 28 Aug 1959, CMP.

<sup>77</sup>Catoctin MP Master Plan, 1965, CMP.

<sup>78</sup>Barry Mackintosh, Interpretation in the National Park Service: A Historical Perspective (Washington, D.C.: History Division, 1986), p. 6

<sup>79</sup>Frederick Post, 10 Aug 1968.

<sup>80</sup>Planning Form for Project 68-5, 18 Sept 1968, CMP.

<sup>81</sup>Frank Mentzer, Letter to Barbara Kirkconnell, 1 Sept 1987.

When Mentzer arrived two campfire programs a week were held during the summer and a Sunday morning nature walk with a ranger comprised the interpretive program, supplemented with fall and spring special events. Mentzer's use-oriented background was challenged by the situation anti he began to focus on adding park interpretation for day-use visitors.<sup>82</sup> From "first hand experience" the new superintendent knew that urban populations needed "destinations and reasons" to visit natural environments. He intended to provide the destination and attract visitors to Catoctin MP with programs targeting nearby metropolitan areas.<sup>83</sup>

Mentzer began by interviewing his staff, giving special attention to local people who worked in the park. Research into the history of the area led to the rediscovery of the charcoaling industry within the park boundaries.<sup>84</sup> Mentzer had found his interpretive vehicle and began to develop it in earnest, to the consternation of Duncan Burchard, chief naturalist of the park. Burchard insisted that only nature-oriented interpretation was appropriate, but Mentzer prevailed, arguing that the "recreational area" management status of the park described in the 1965 master plan permitted the additional focus.<sup>85</sup>

Mentzer had experience with the coaling industry after working on a project at Hopewell Village and pursued the subject at Catoctin MP with the help of local people on the staff and members of Catoctin Tourist Council. The Council had been formed by former superintendent Harold Jones in the spring; of 1965 and consisted of representatives of businesses, service clubs, churches, camp grounds, orchards and motel

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<sup>82</sup>Ibid. p. 3.

<sup>83</sup>Frank Mentzer, Letter to Barbara Kirkconnell, 13 Sept 1987, p. 6.

<sup>84</sup> Mentzer was unaware of the initial work done by Marc Sagan in 1957.

<sup>85</sup>Mentzer, 1 Sept, 1987.

owners who organized to promote the Thurmont area.<sup>86</sup> An elderly coalier, Elmer Cole, was borrowed from Hopewell to supervise the recreation of a charcoal hearth and but to be built by tile maintenance staff of the park. The local men on the maintenance staff became enthused about the project and soon other residents were participating, appreciating the interest of a locally bred superintendent in their heritage.<sup>87</sup>

The formal dedication of outdoor living history exhibits on the Charcoal Trail and the new visitor center expansion coincided with the annual Colorfest, on October 20, 1968.<sup>88</sup> An article by Anne Burnside Love in The Baltimore Sun described the trail as featuring a mule drawn sled, a restored section of the old charcoal road to Catoctin Furnace, a charcoal hearth stacked with several dozen cords of wood arranged for burning and a replica of a coalier's hut.<sup>89</sup> Russell E. Dickenson, Associate Regional Director of National Capital Region (NCR) spoke and tours of the new facilities were held every half hour. A choral group from Frederick, Maryland completed the dedication and Blue Blazes visitor center exhibits received new installations to complement the outdoor interpretation.<sup>90</sup> Mayor Weddle of Thurmont issued a proclamation recognizing Catoctin MP's special programs and contributions to citizens of the area and articles appeared in local papers publicizing Catoctin MP's virtues, features of interest and programming. Large picture spreads of Catoctin's vistas, wildlife and camping enticed newspaper readers to "get away from the hustle and bustle of everyday

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<sup>86</sup>Catoctin Enterprise. 25 Apr 1968.

<sup>87</sup>Mentzer, 1 Sept 1987, p. 4. Mentzer grew up in Waynesboro, Pennsylvania and his wife was a graduate of Thurmont High School.

<sup>88</sup>Catoctin Enterprise, 18 Oct 1968.

<sup>89</sup>The Baltimore Sun. 21 June 1970

<sup>90</sup>Catoctin Enterprise. 18 Oct 1968.

living."<sup>91</sup> Mentzer contributed a weekly newspaper column to the Catoctin Enterprise to publicize the park to Frederick County residents and let them know the park was open and available.<sup>92</sup>

### Folk Culture Center

Within a year of Mentzer's arrival at Catoctin MP the rural job Corps Conservation Camp located at the Round Meadow was eliminated by President Nixon. The unexpected closing of the job Corps program left vacant buildings, prompting a request for "immediate consideration" for the best use of the facilities.<sup>93</sup> Supt. Mentzer, in an April 17, 1969 letter to the Regional Director, stated that "it was assumed the job Corps program would continue in perpetuity" and no provisions or plans were made at Catoctin MP if the program was discontinued. Several state agencies expressed interest in the Job Corp site for a possible drug rehabilitation center or prison facility.<sup>94</sup> Following visitor service trends within the NPS, Mentzer himself proposed a living history program in the complex of buildings vacated by the Job Corps.

Mentzer's newspaper column on the history of the area paid dividends when he proposed the formation of a Catoctin Heritage Association to assist in living history programming at Catoctin MP. The Association's first meeting was held on May 22, 1969

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<sup>91</sup>The Frederick News. 6 Aug 1969.

<sup>92</sup>Mentzer, 13 Sept 97.

<sup>93</sup>Mentzer, Memo to Regional Director, NCR 17 April, 1969, CMP.

<sup>94</sup>Personal interview with William Gray, Chief Ranger, Catoctin MP, 4 Dec 1986.

at Catoctin High School, thus beginning the interaction of the community with programming at the park.<sup>95</sup> Group organizers, citing other successful programs recognizing distinctive American sub-cultures, hoped to gather resources for the program through oral interviews, local period photographs and artifacts. Proposed geographic boundaries included Catoctin Mountain from the Pennsylvania line to the Potomac River and the area east to the Monocacy River<sup>96</sup> Planning also involved the Catoctin Mountain Tourist Council.

Mentzer forwarded a memo dated July 23, 1969 to NCR recommending a "conservative trial effort too test the validity of the living history idea and identify problems." Approval was received in September and funds made available from the Regional Offices to "upgrade the facilities and maintain the program."<sup>97</sup> Wasting no time, the concept was tested the weekend of the October 1969 Colorfest. A blacksmith and apple butter demonstration attracted 1400 visitors that fall Sunday, a 400% increase in visitation and an all time high for attendance. The program also received gratifying response and participation from local residents. Tools and other artifacts were loaned, time donated and a "tide of local interest" existed<sup>98</sup>

Encouraged by the crowds and citing Interior Secretary Hickel's general memo of June 18, 1969, "calling for program innovations that will enhance the "educational, inspirational and recreational values of all parks, especially for our youth,"

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<sup>95</sup>Personal interview with Ken Morgan, Administrative Officer, Catocatin MR 26 Mar 1987.

<sup>96</sup>The Morning Herald. Hagerstown, 22 May 1969.

<sup>97</sup>Harthon L. Hill, Acting Director, NPS, Memo to Regional Director, NCR, 22 Oct 1969, CMP. Office of Equal Opportunity property from the Catoctin job Corps Center was transferred to the Park on November 28, 1969 for use in a new program.

<sup>98</sup>Request for Modified Master Plan, 30 July 1970, CMP.

Mentzer requested permission to create a "Folk Culture Center" (Folk Culture Center). A justification statement for proposed construction at Catoctin MP to support the new program was compiled and forwarded too NCR on November 3, 1969.<sup>99</sup> Permission was granted on February 4, 1970 to open tree Folk Culture Center every other weekend during the summer visit-or season of 1970.<sup>100</sup>

Works Progress Administration and Job Corps buildings at the Service area were adapted to house activities and the area was renamed Round Meadow. Williams's original headquarters building became a country store and the blacksmith shop was integrated into the interpretive program. Existing park personnel and budgets were used.<sup>101</sup> The long brick and block building constructed in the winter of 1964 for job Corps training was subdivided into a series of demonstration spaces for mountain crafts by park crews under the direction of Ray Nogle. Arthur Webb, park carpenter, contributed many hours to the sets, working from perspective drawings by Superintendent Mentzer.<sup>102</sup> Staff members visited Hopewell Village National Historic Site's costumed interpretation program as a resource for the Folk Culture Center at Catoctin MP.<sup>103</sup> NPS historian and wool spinner, Janet Chess, was assigned to Catoctin MP for a short while to get the program off the ground and see it through the first three weekends.<sup>104</sup>

On the weekend of June 20, 1970, set against the backdrop of cinder block walls, urban trainees and volunteers from the Catoctin Mountain Heritage Association opened

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<sup>99</sup>Mentzer, justification of proposed Catoctin Mountain Park construction projects to Regional Director, NCR, 3 Nov 1969, CMP.

<sup>100</sup>Request for Modified Master Plan, 30 July 1970, CMP.

<sup>101</sup> Ibid.

<sup>102</sup>Mentzer, 13 Sept 1987.

<sup>103</sup>Morgan, 26 Mar 1967.

<sup>104</sup>The Frederick News, 1 1 July 1970.

the Folk Culture Center.<sup>105</sup> Catoctin High School students staffed the General store where visitors could purchase candies and preserves and items similar to those made in the craft demonstrations. Proceeds from the sale of crafts financed materials needed by demonstrators through the Parks and History Association. Paul Lewis, a local resident, rived shingles in the “carpentry Shop” with a shaving horse and drawknife. Tyson Welty manned the forge in the blacksmith shop, 9th grader Elizabeth Anderson dipped candles, and Melissa Weinstein quilted. Ken Morgan, Catoctin MP Administrative Officer, demonstrated a broom-making machine after being taught to use it by Mr. Jess Willard of Catoctin Hollow Road.<sup>106</sup> The park carpenter had patterned the broom making after a picture<sup>107</sup> and measurements taken from a machine owned by Willard. Volunteers in the kitchen exhibit stirred applebutter in iron kettles, made soap and demonstrated apple peelers.<sup>108</sup>

Also opening June 20, 1970 was a whiskey still demonstration at the reputed site of a Frederick County Sheriff's raid on a large commercial still in 1929, locally called the "Blue Blazes." Mentzer's research and talks with local people had revealed that such a site existed within the park. At a Job Corps meeting in Washington he learned that the Smoky Mountain National Park had several stills in a warehouse that had been obtained in raids.<sup>109</sup>

NPS policy dictated that stills had to be part of an integrated program of living history, to dispel the idea that the demonstration was "a monument to the distilling industry, legal or otherwise." The Women's Christian Temperance Union had protested

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<sup>105</sup>Request for Modified Master Plan, 30 July 1970, CMP.

<sup>106</sup>Mentzer, 13 Sept 87, p. 6.

<sup>107</sup>The Baltimore Sun. 7 Jan 1971.

<sup>108</sup>The Frederick News. 11 July 1970.

the operation of whiskey stills in other parks and the Service was especially sensitive to the appearance of the interpretive device.<sup>110</sup>

Mentzer felt the living history program at Catoctin MP fulfilled the NPS requirements for an integrated program and made arrangements to obtain a copper still from Tennessee where it had been seized in a raid at Cades Cove. Using diagrams from Foxfire magazine, Mentzer's maintenance staff assembled the still and permission was received from the Alcohol Tax Division of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to run it. The IRS required "bitrex"<sup>111</sup> be added to the mash to make people vomit if they drank the product. Trial runs at the still were held in late May of 1970, before the first weekend of demonstrations.<sup>112</sup> Park staff later appeared on the Gary Moore Show, "To Tell the Truth" as legal moonshiners and their winnings were donated to Eyler's Valley Chapel to fence the site.<sup>113</sup>

Mentzer felt confident enough after the third trial weekend of the living history program to request a modification in Catoctin MP's master plan to include a Folk Culture Center.<sup>114</sup> June 20, 1970 the first weekend of the pilot program, attracted 609 visitors. Subsequent weekends of July 3 and July 18 attracted a total of 4973 visitors.<sup>115</sup> Mentzer's plan proposed a cooperative agreement with the Catoctin Mountain Heritage Association and the Catoctin Mountain Tourist Council for operation of the Folk Culture Center during the 1971 tourist season. Volunteer participation had been good and plans included establishment of an apprenticeship program "by cooperating organizations to

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<sup>109</sup>Mentzer, 1 Sept 87.

<sup>110</sup>Mackintosh, 1986, p. 61.

<sup>111</sup>Ipecac syrup used in 1987.

<sup>112</sup>The Evening Star, 1 June 1970.

<sup>113</sup>Mentzer, 1 Sept 1987.

<sup>114</sup>This Master Plan revision did not receive final approval.

perpetuate the skill we are endeavoring to save." Future plans included the addition of music and dancing, a "cooperative agreement with the National Folk Festival Association" and consideration of another site within the park.<sup>116</sup> Tree season's series of six weekend trials were successful and plans were made to add a cider press and pottery demonstration for the 1971 season. The Catoctin Mountain Tourist Council hoped to enlarge the inventory of the store by seeking related items from local handcrafters.

Alice Allen, a cultural anthropologist and historian from the University of Texas with a specialty in traditional folk crafts, transferred from Gettysburg to Catoctin MP in December of 1970. As park historian she promoted and expanded the Folk Culture Center at Round Meadow and researched of the theme 'Man at Catoctin Mountain.'<sup>117</sup> Elaborate settings built over the winter for craft exhibits transformed the interior of the subdivided Job Corps building. A barn interior housed the broom-making machine and settings for a carpenter's shop were built. Other sections featured a mountain home with a quilting frame set up in the living room, a bedroom and a country kitchen.<sup>118</sup>

Interpretive problems, costuming and themes were discussed over the winter as construction proceeded. Dating each exhibit was particularly difficult. Staff decided that unless a major technological advancement served as a demarcation or an obvious reason existed to date a craft no arbitrary date would be assigned. The approximate era depicted encompassed the 118 years from 1732 to 1850, as "it was soon after this latter date that the major changes in lifestyle occurred." Mentzer reasoned that each exhibit

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<sup>115</sup>Request for Modified Master Plan, 30 July 1970, CMP.

<sup>116</sup>Ibid.

<sup>117</sup>Catoctin Enterprise. 18 Dec, 1970.

<sup>118</sup>Alice Allen, Notes on the Catoctin Mountain Folk Craft Center, to Mentzer, previous to the 1971 season, CIO.

would evolve into its own cut-off date, but meanwhile "functional accommodations" were made until they could be corrected.<sup>119</sup>

Costumes reflected the early 19th century and a need was expressed "to be quite definite in the costuming details that will distinguish costumed craftsmen from visiting Georgetown hippies."<sup>120</sup> Interpretive themes fused on man's uses of mountain resources and their effect on the environment. Interpreters emphasized life styles and the interdependence of man and nature to tell the story of Catoctin Mountain. Mentzer considered the human element of the Folk Culture Center as opposed to static displays, to be a most effective and unique aspect of the working craft program.<sup>121</sup>

The Folk Craft Center grew and matured over the next two seasons to include more elaborate and refined exhibit areas, more crafts presented and dancing and singing. Folk music, introduced on a trial basis at the COLORfest in October of 1971, explored the requirements for public address systems, platforms and accessories. No budget existed for the activity so performers donated time while staff explored ways to finance recognized performers for its programs.<sup>122</sup> A seasonal demonstration of hog butchering<sup>123</sup> was presented on the weekend of November 20 and 21, 1972, along with blacksmithing, pottery making, shingle riving, spinning, weaving, broom making and kitchen craft demonstrations.<sup>124</sup> Teacher's manuals, brochures and movies were produced to add to the educational value of the Folk Culture Center with contributions from staff and energetic leadership from Frank Mentzer.

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<sup>119</sup>Mentzer, Memo to Mr. Gray, Chief Urban & Environmental Activities, Catoctin MP, 21 July 1971, CMP.

<sup>120</sup>Ibid.

<sup>121</sup>The Washington Post, 14 Jan 1971.

<sup>122</sup>1971 Folk Culture Center Operation, Fall 1971, CMP.

<sup>123</sup>The hog wasn't killed publicly.

<sup>124</sup> The Gettysburg Times, Nov. 1972.

Another project initiated by Frank Mentzer was the recreation of a vertical saw mill located in the vicinity of Owens Creek Campground. Begun in 1971 by the Youth Conservation Corp, and dedicated in 1973, the sawmill depicted a mill used on Catoctin Mountain at the turn of the century. Mentzer researched vertical sawmills and drew plans for reconstruction from Oliver Evan's Millwright's Handbook. The park maintenance crew under direction of expert carpenter Arthur Webb built the mill from hand hewn beams with traditional building methods.

Mentzer also found the site of a gristmill near Deerfield -Manahan Road and began plans for reconstruction on the site.<sup>125</sup> Mentzer had selected this portion of the park as the future site of a larger living history farm reconstruction. The nature trail behind Owens Creek Campground wound through the site of an old farmstead that Mentzer proposed to reconstruct for Folk Culture Center's new home.

In September of 1972 Frank Mentzer was transferred to Santa Fe, New Mexico. Park development plans abandoned when Mentzer left Catoctin MP included the rebuilding of Owens Creek Campground into a picnic area and a 350-site camp to be built elsewhere in the park to accommodate anticipated visitor increases.<sup>126</sup> He had proposed a public transportation system for the park that linked the various points of interest with those at Cunningham Falls State Park. Cabins at both Misty Mount and Greentop were slated for removal and replacement with more modern structures, sacrificing the ambiance but providing more space for people to enjoy the facilities of Catoctin MP.

Frank Pridemore replaced Mentzer as Superintendent of Catoctin MP and

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<sup>125</sup>Mentzer, 13 Sept 1987.

<sup>126</sup>Mentzer, Justification of proposed Catoctin Mountain Park construction projects to Regional Director, NCR, 3 Nov 1969, CMP.

served until August 1975 when Tom McFadden was appointed.<sup>127</sup> The living history program continued to be a viable and valuable program throughout the 1970's, serving school children and weekend visitors. University of Maryland drama department students contributed to the program in 1976 when a cooperative program researched and presented sketches 'indigenous to the Western-Central Maryland region.'<sup>128</sup> A Maryland Folklife Festival at Catoctin MP sponsored by the Maryland Arts Council was attended by 20,000 people in September of 1977 and brought 70 craftsmen.<sup>129</sup>

The Folk Culture Center at Catoctin MP functioned smoothly until NPS trends, park maintenance and budget constraints forced an examination of the program. As early as 1972 a Conservation Foundation report recommended management decisions be based on -physical, ecological and psychological carrying capacity- indicating a swing in emphasis toward consideration and protection of park natural resources. The report urged that visitor statistics be a secondary criterion for funding allocations and that parks should emphasize their 'dominant values' through participation activities rather than spectator experiences.<sup>130</sup> With the growth of urban centers parks were seen by the authors as places where people could escape from noise and crowds to natural, quiet and open space.<sup>131</sup>

At Catoctin MP the impact of tourists on the natural environment of the park became a concern. Traffic jams on weekends, trampled vegetation, and overuse of trails threatened resources. The Denver Service Center examined the carrying capacity of the

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<sup>127</sup>Catoctin Enterprise. 15 Aug 1975.

<sup>128</sup>Catoctin Enterprise. 6 Aug 1976.

<sup>129</sup>Frederick Post. 20 Sept 1977.

<sup>130</sup>The Conservation Foundation, National Parks for the Future. 1972, p. 2.

<sup>131</sup>Ibid. p. 7

park in 1977.<sup>132</sup> The peak visitation year for the Folk Culture Center was in 1977 when 73,000 people attended the demonstrations.<sup>133</sup>

Other factors influenced the decision to study and eventually close the Folk Culture Center Program. Craft festivals and shows became a very popular commercial venture during the late 1970's and many communities around Catoctin MP and throughout the region sponsored their own shows. Catoctin MP's operating budget supported the Folk Culture Center at the expense of maintenance items and new priorities needed examination.<sup>134</sup>

Budget cuts and increased program costs in 1980 closed the Folk Culture Center on weekends and shortened its weekday hours. Reacting to a memo from Region calling for budget reductions, Catoctin MP's FT 1980 Financial Plan also Cited rising supply costs, step increases for salaries and general cost increases in to justify the reduction. The Country Store closed, ending the Park and History Division involvement. Interpretation at Blue Blazes Still and budgets for interpretive brochures were cut.<sup>135</sup> Public hearings, held in October 1980 on planning alternatives for Round Meadow, reviewed management objectives as outlined in the 1965 Master Plan. The hearings identified “park needs, potential and impacts on the local Community” and mailings informed the public about alternatives at Round Meadow.<sup>136</sup>

Ultimately the Round Meadow Folk Culture Center was not reopened the 1981

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<sup>132</sup>Survey, Development Concept Plan and Comprehensive Design, Round Meadow Center, Catoctin Mountain Park, Feb 11, 1977, CMP.

<sup>133</sup>Craft Center Attendance Graph, CMP.

<sup>134</sup>McFadden, Memo to Regional Director, NCR, Record of Decision, 17 July 1981, CMP.

<sup>135</sup>McFadden, Memo to Regional Director, NCR, 15 Jan 1980.

<sup>136</sup>Ibid.

season.<sup>137</sup> An attempt was made to relocate the Folk Culture Center outside the park when Maryland Park Service officials were approached about creating a craft center near the Manor area at Cunningham Falls State Park. After discussion among state officials the idea was deemed not feasible at the state level. No storage facility was available for artifacts, no money was available for salaries and the whole program was duplicated at Steppingstone Museum in Susquehanna State Park.<sup>138</sup>

Finally three exhibit areas were donated to the Frederick County Parks Department and reconstructed at Rose Hill Manor in Frederick Maryland for use in their living history program. Remaining materials and artifacts from the Folk Culture Center were cataloged and sent to Museum and Archeological Regional Storage (MARS) in Greenbelt, Maryland.

### Recreation Management

The 1965 Master Plan was an important document that broadened the Interpretive programming at Catoctin MP by recognizing the year round use of the park for day-use visitors. Previously, interpretation had focused on the organized camps but when Superintendent Webb compiled the 1965 plan he recorded for the first time that Catoctin MP's mountains, forests and streams provided a scenic experience for general visiting public year round. In addition Catoctin MP's interpretive prospectus recognized the opportunities and developed programs for those using the park, but not attached to the organized camps of Misty Mount and Greentop.

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<sup>137</sup>Attendance figures for the last full year of operation totaled 45,000.

The Master Plan noted that scenic auto touring was the main use of Catoctin Mountain Park by the greatest number of visitors. "Panoramic views of the Piedmont Plain could be seen from "trail vistas at Thurmont Vista, Wolf Rock and Chimney Rock."<sup>139</sup> The Master Plan proposed a turn out near Thurmont Vista parking lot so motorists could look toward Sabillasville and Eyer's Valley. Frank Mentzer formalized a self-guided motor tour along an unpaved backroad beginning at the intersection of Park Central and Manahan Road in the fall of 1970. A mimeographed guide sheet identified points of interest, provided a history of the area's industry and gave an environmental lesson on man's relationship to the land,<sup>140</sup> but the turnouts were never formally constructed.

Superintendent Webb instituted seasonal festivals to showcase the scenic wonders of Catoctin MP and at the same time take advantage of auto touring. Spring wildflowers were featured on special interpretive hikes, photography Jaunts and slide presentations. A wildflower information center at Blue Blazes Visitor Center identified what flowers were blooming and their location. Blue Blazes also provided keys, guides and checklists of flowers found within the park. Self-guided trails and ranger led walks filled the weekend of recreation at Catoctin MP.<sup>141</sup>

Fall color walks began on a limited scale in 1963 to celebrate the changing colors of the leaves on the mountain trees and encourage families to visit the mountains to see the leaves and visit the orchards. After the Completion of Owns Creek Campgrounds and amphitheater, evening campfires continued after Labor Day.

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<sup>138</sup>Master Plan, Catoctin Furnace and the Manor Area of Cunningham Falls State Park(Annapolis: Maryland Department of Natural Resources 1983), pp. D-1, 2.

<sup>139</sup>1965 Master Plan, CMP. 140The

<sup>140</sup>Gainesville Sun. 14 Nov 1971.

Superintendent Mentzer's arrival in 1968 signaled an increased interpretive program of weekend hikes, fly tying, and living history demonstrations that produced the largest crowds of the tourist season at COLORfest fall activities. More than 25,000 visitors enjoyed Indian Summer weather at Catoctin MP during the fall of 1974 when the Catoctin Mountain Tourist Council and communities surrounding Catoctin MP participated in the event with parades, Civil War skirmishes and flea markets.<sup>142</sup>

The 1965 Master Plan also noted the potential for winter sports and Catoctin MP arrived as a four seasons park when snowmobile trails opened with the first snowfall of 1971. An eight to ten mile loop of hiking trails linked together by Youth Conservation Corps labor the summer before provided a new use for park facilities. Snowmobiling continued until the mid-1970's when horse trails were instituted. A winter festival was organized by the Catoctin Mountain Tourist Council in February of 1972 at Round Meadow. Dog sled running, cross country skiing, and free snowmobile rides were featured outdoor activities. Displays by businesses selling winter sports equipment filled the gymnasium and attracted 8,500 visitors.

Catoctin MP's winter facilities attracted national attention when the New York Times and Glamour Magazine included the park in their lists of cross country skiing areas. Glamour listed the 16 miles of ski trails in the same billing with Lake Placid, NT and St. Moritz, Switzerland.<sup>143</sup> Twelve miles of trails were “brushed out” and provided a good place for intermediate and advanced cross-country skiers.<sup>144</sup>

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<sup>141</sup>The Frederick Post. 16 May 1973.

<sup>142</sup>The Frederick Post. 14 Oct 1974.

<sup>143</sup>The Westminster Evening Sun. 6 Nov 1971.

<sup>144</sup>The Washington Post 25 Nov 1973.

Following scenic auto touring, hiking rated the second most popular activity at Catoctin MP. "From Hog Rock a view of Hunting Creek Valley with the Piedmont Plain beyond" had been a favorite of hikers for years.<sup>145</sup> Self-guided nature walks, the charcoal trail and a trail to Cunningham Falls offered information and specific destinations. A 1974 summer schedule of hiking events featured insects, geology, fungi, photography, stream ecology, edible plants, berries and even a graveyard hike within the confines of the park.<sup>146</sup> Trails of several difficulty levels catered to different age and ability levels and rangers considered hiking the number one visitor activity by the summer of 1987,<sup>147</sup> taking the place of auto touring. Rock climbing gained popularity in the late 1970's and attracted another level of expertise. Picnicking and fishing rounded out the top four activities of visitors to Catoctin MP, offering something for everyone.

### Volunteers at Catoctin Mountain Park

Figuring into the recreational activities and facilities of Catoctin MP were a large corps of volunteers who spend many hours assisting the NPS staff. Park historian, Alice Allen considered volunteers to be the mainstay of the Folk Culture Center. From January 1 to June 1, 1971 volunteers gave a total of 370 hours of their time to ready the Folk Culture Center and included teenagers and grandparents in their ranks.<sup>148</sup> Volunteers assisted at the Blue Blazes still, manned the environmental center, the visitor center and Country Store.

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<sup>145</sup>1965 Master Plan, CMP

<sup>146</sup>Schedule of events, 29 June-31 Aug, 1974, CMP

<sup>147</sup>Jim Voigt, Jan. 1988.

At a time of severe budget cuts at Catoctin MP in 1975, Executive Director of the Appalachian Trail Club, Les Holmes, supplemented the recreational program with a successful orienteering program.<sup>149</sup> This program began a liaison with volunteers and staff of Catoctin MP's recreation outside the Folk Culture Center. With Mr. Holmes help an organization named Friends of Catoctin Mountain formed to assist. The staff and management of Catoctin MP.<sup>150</sup> Budget cuts continued to plague the NPS as: a whole and the "Friends" group incorporated in March 1982 to take on some major projects: within the park. The resulting organization, was named C.A.M.P.E.R., an acronym for Catoctin Area Mountain Park Environmental Resource.<sup>151</sup> C.A.M.P.E.R. took on the task of revitalizing Misty Mount, which had been closed for four years due to sewer problems and lack of money for maintenance. Misty Mount was reopened as a family camp for the 1983 season under the management of C.A.M.P.E.R. and realized a profit after expenses. The organization sponsored a horse patrol within the park, and an Explorer post.<sup>152</sup> Volunteers of C.A.M.P.E.R. spent their recreation time working thousands of hours so Catoctin MP can serve its visitors. In 1982, 350 volunteers contributed 5000 hours in the visitor center, resource management projects, cabin camp maintenance, horse patrol and regularly scheduled interpretive programs.<sup>153</sup> The volunteer effort has grown to include all aspects of park operations. By 1986, C.A.M.P.E.R. members contributed 14,000 hours and approximately \$180,000 to park programs.<sup>154</sup>

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<sup>148</sup>Alice Allen, Historian, Report to William Gray, Chief of Urban and Environmental Activities, Catoctin MP, 21 Jun 1971, CMP.

<sup>149</sup>Annual Report, 1975, Catoctin Mountain Park, CMP.

<sup>150</sup>Hand In Hanoi. The Catoctin Volunteer Newsletter, Vol. 1, No. 1, 10 Jun 1982.

<sup>151</sup>Annual Report of Volunteer Activities for Catoctin Mountain Park. 1983.

<sup>152</sup>Ibid.

<sup>153</sup>Catoctin Mountain Park 1982 Volunteer Report, CMP.

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<sup>154</sup>Jim Voight 1986.

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## CHAPTER X

### NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Relations between federal, Maryland State and Frederick County officials have been generally cordial, but history has revealed disagreement on matters of natural resources management and development. Fishing regulations, road building, hunting, impoundment of Big Hunting Creek, and widening of State Road 15 were the major areas of contention impacting the environment in and around Catoctin Mountain Park (Catoctin MP).

#### Fishing Management

Big Hunting Creek, running through Catoctin Recreational Demonstration Area (Catoctin RDA), was one of Maryland's the most respected trout streams in the 1930's. Anglers arrived on April first, opening day for fishing in Maryland, knowing the size of their creel take would more than pay for their license. Fishermen were known to fish with blankets wrapped around them to keep warm in the cold and blustery dawn.<sup>1</sup> Many had camped the night before along the banks of the stream, cooked their breakfast and were ready to fish at day break. Big Hunting Creek was a typical mountain stream with

rapid descents, pools and variations in water flow. Stream temperatures supported Brook trout, though the summer temperatures reached the upper tolerance level for the species. The creek, easily accessible from Route 77, had been named a "key" stream by the state and traditionally received a larger stocking because of the number of anglers.<sup>2</sup>

As early as June 1936 fishing on Big Hunting Creek and Owens Creek was recognized as an important recreational feature in the development of Catoctin Recreation Demonstration Area (Catoctin RDA).<sup>3</sup> Frederick Tresselt, wildlife technician from Region One, made recommendations for improvement of the six mile section of stream between the municipal power dam at Thurmont and the source of Big Hunting Creek near Foxville to increase the recreational fishing potential.<sup>4</sup> Proposals included: 1) deepening of existing pools and building of new ones with naturalistically built dams to a total of 250; (2) deflection of the current from the exposed clay banks and side channels which would inhibit erosion and cut off the shallows contributing to rises in water temperature; 3) clean side springs and branches to permit the flow of cold water into Big Hunting Creek, as some spread out too form marshes that seeped warm water into the creek and finally the construction of rearing pools for trout conveniently located nearby.

Frank L. Bentz, Chief Clerk of the Conservation Department of Maryland and Lee LeCompte, state Game Warden were quick to register their concurrence with the recommendations at a meeting held at Catoctin on July 7, 1936.<sup>5</sup> LeCompte's followup letter expressed confidence that improvements too Big Hunting Creek would "materially increase" the fish population if implemented and noted that the Maryland Conservation

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<sup>1</sup>Telephone interview with John Boley, 15 Dec 1986.

<sup>2</sup>The Sun Magazine. p. 11-12, 2 Apr 1933. Thurmont, Md. June 1936, CMP.

<sup>3</sup>Frederick Tresselt, Recommendations for Stream Improvement of Hunting Creek,

<sup>4</sup>See chapter on Civilian Conservation Corps projects.

Dement maintained rearing pools near the Manor Day Area. The six additional could be supervised by the caretaker already on site.

Though all the land along Big Hunting Creek had been optioned, only the 2000 feet west of the highway had been paid for by March 31, 1937.<sup>6</sup> The delay in the purchase of the land affected issuing fishing regulations for the April 1, 1937, opening of the trout-fishing season in Maryland. Williams heard through press and phone calls that the Maryland State Game Commission and Federal government had been discussing a cooperative venture to devote streams in his project area to fly-fishing only.<sup>7</sup> While Williams didn't disagree with the fly fishing concept, he felt the timing was inappropriate, since fishing season had already started and most local anglers fished with bait. Enforcement of the new regulation would mean his men would have the unpopular duty of patrolling private lands.

After observed two fishing seasons at Catoctin, Williams concluded that an effective introduction to Special Park fishing regulations would be a program stressing the conservation of the streams and their surroundings. Since camping along streams resulted in destruction of cover, he suggested that during the 1937 season campfires and night fishing be prohibited. Further regulations reduced the creel limit from 10 to 5 fish, and legal fish size raised from 7" to 9".<sup>8</sup> Suggestions for the prohibition of fires and destruction of property were approved within four days by Region One.<sup>9</sup> State regulations were followed in all other instances.

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<sup>5</sup>Frank L. Bentz, Letter to Williams, 9 Jul 1936, CMP.

<sup>6</sup>Arthur E. Hungerford, Letter to Herbert Evison. 31 Mar 1937, CMP.

<sup>7</sup>Williams, Letter to Region One, 3 April 1937, p. 1, CMP.

<sup>8</sup>Ibid. p. 2.

<sup>9</sup>H. K. Roberts, Letter to Williams, 7 Apr 1937, CMP.

The next year fishing enthusiasts proposed regulations for Catoctin RDA modeled after a successful experiment on Pennsylvania's Spring Creek called "Fishing for Fun." Baltimore sports writer, Peter Chambliss, referred to the potential program at Catoctin RDA as a "Fisherman's Paradise," where 100 fresh water anglers a day could pay \$0.50 above the cost of a Maryland fishing license to fish only with artificial flies.<sup>10</sup> Three and one half miles of Big Hunting Creek was to be set aside for fly fishing in a cooperative program between the Maryland Conservation Commission and the U.S. Bureau of Fisheries who would provide brook and brown trout from the Leetown, West Virginia hatchery.

Director of the NPS Arno Cammerer disappointed those from Maryland who hoped for a full blown program like the one in Pennsylvania. On March 31, 1938, the day before fishing season was to start, he sent a telegram approving the use of artificial flies and a 6:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. fishing day. The more elaborate system of number controls and fees was not approved.<sup>11</sup> Owens Creek was to be left to bait fishermen and stocked. Maryland participation in the program was limited to stocking the streams. On the first day of the 1938-fishing season, 50 signs went up on trees announcing the new regulations.<sup>12</sup> Williams must have had some prior notice of the new regulations, or a printing press at his disposal for overnight work, as Cammerer's telegram came at the eleventh hour.

Williams's main concern for the 1937 and 1938 fishing seasons had been enforcement of rules and regulations on big Hunting Creek that were different from those

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<sup>10</sup>Peter C. Chambliss, "A Stream to Keep Maryland Fisherman at Home," The Baltimore Sun, 5 March 1938.

<sup>11</sup>Arno Cammerer, Letter to Williams, 31 Mar 1938, CMP.

<sup>12</sup>Peter C. Chambliss, "Fisherman's Luck", TheBaltimore Sun , 3 April 1938.

followed in the rest of the state of Maryland. Complaints about the new program filed with the NPS and local newspapers by fishermen over the two-year period were addressed at the end of the 1938-fishing season. Williams was asked to prepare a letter for Acting Region One Director Herbert Evison's signature to Arno Cammerer, explaining the situation.<sup>13</sup>

The resulting letter to Cammerer on June 18, 1938 stated that fishermen's complaints mainly concerned abuse of the rules, such as 'robbing' of streams by fishermen who took their limit, went home, dumped the fish and returned for more. Others claimed never to have seen a warden in all their trips to Catoctin RDA and said signs along the creek did not discourage bait fishermen. Evison reported that there was no basis for complaints after the first few violations in April and that project personnel who made rounds of the streams each day usually heard of the inability of fishermen to catch their limit rather than about the use of bait. Evison concluded that since only 50% of the stream from Thurmont to the western boundary of the Catoctin RDA was under the program, assumptions could have been made that anglers in other parts of the stream were under the same constraints. "We have attempted to pursue a tasteful course in carrying out the regulations governing Recreational Demonstration Project Areas . . . in view of the customs that have been recognized as law in this section for several generations, we are of the opinion that all Federal regulations affecting these customs adversely have been observed to a remarkable degree."<sup>14</sup>

Enforcement was aided by the state of Maryland in July 1938 when three game Warden commissions were offered to Catoctin RDA personnel, pending approval by the

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<sup>13</sup>Fred T. Johnson, Acting Asst. Director, NPS, Letter to Region One, 1 Jun 1938, CMP.

<sup>14</sup>Herbert Evison, Acting Region One Dir., Letter to Director, NPS. 18 Jun 1938, CMP.

Secretary of the Interior. While state authorities could not be involved in prosecution of a violation of a federal regulation, project personnel, who were also state game wardens, would be of benefit to enforcement.<sup>15</sup> Williams' formal recommendation that himself, J. C. Goldsborough and Frank, McAfee accept commissions as Maryland state game wardens to assist in the prevention of violations was sent to the Director of the NPS for approval and forwarding to the Secretary of the Interior.<sup>16</sup>

Williams hoped early planning for the 1939-fishing season would preclude the embarrassment of the last minute confusion experienced in 1938. In mid-January 1939, he requested that 1938 regulations be enforced with only a change in the fishing hours.<sup>17</sup> Five days later he met in his home with sportsmen and officials from the state of Maryland who still pushed for the original stream improvement planned for Catoctin RDA in 1936 and Pennsylvania's "Fishing for Fun" concept. Recommendations from that meeting included barbless hooks and a five fish creel limit in addition to the already existing artificial flies regulation. Frank Bentz of the State Conservation Commission offered to print regulations for public distribution without cost to the federal government. Williams disagreed with barbless hooks from an enforcement standpoint and requested two additional men if new restrictions were imposed.<sup>18</sup>

Five days before the beginning of the 1939 fishing season regulations covering the fishing at Catoctin RDA were received, with a note that signs were being prepared.

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<sup>15</sup>C.H. Gerner, Acting; Asst. Director, NPS, Letter to Region One Director, 22 July 1938, CMP.

<sup>16</sup>Herbert Evison, Letter to Director, NPS, 4 Aug 1938, CMP.

<sup>17</sup>Williams, Letter to Region One Director, 19 Jan 1939, CMP.

<sup>18</sup>Williams, Memo to E. M. Lisle, 13 Feb 1939, CMP.

The only change from previous years was a creel limit of five fish per day.<sup>19</sup> Newspapers were informed of the regulations setting fishing hours from 7:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. and stating only artificial flies could be used on Big Hunting Creek within park boundaries.<sup>20</sup> Fishing was poor early in the season, even though streams were fully stocked.<sup>21</sup>

Williams began his yearly requests for a decision governing the 1940 fishing season in September, 1939, stating in a memo to the Region One Director that regulations had been received hours before the 1938 and 1939 seasons had opened and had caused a delay in notifying the public.<sup>22</sup> Williams had observed the streams within the Catoctin RDA for four years and concluded that poor fishing and cold weather justified moving the opening date of fishing season to April 15th. Use of artificial lures were difficult to enforce, as anglers became discouraged with their low catch in the still cold weather and used bait. In addition, Maryland was the only state in the region with an opening date of April 1. On January 11, 1940 Williams wrote again, requesting an answer to his September letter, stating that Regional Wildlife Technician, Willis King concurred and requested approval for the plan.<sup>23</sup>

Tree well intentioned recommendation to change the opening of fishing season was met with a storm of protest from officials of the State Game and Inland Fish Commission. Warden Lee LeCompte felt his office had been left out of the decision making process and should be consulted more often.<sup>24</sup> LeCompte requested a meeting

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<sup>19</sup>F. T. Johnston, Acting Supervisor of Recreation and Land Planning, Region One, Letter to Williams, 25 Mar 1939, CMP.

<sup>20</sup>Frederick Post, 11 Apr 1939.

<sup>21</sup>Baltimore Sun, 16 Apr 1939.

<sup>22</sup>Williams, Letter to Region One Director, 22 Sept 1939, CMP.

<sup>23</sup>Williams, Letter to Region One Director, 11 Jan 1940, CMP.

<sup>24</sup>C. P. Russell, Supervisor of Resources and Information, Memo to Regional Director, Region One, 27 Feb 1940, Natl. Arch., RG 79, Entry 54, Box 56..

with A. E. Demeray, Acting Director of the NPS, to discuss the date change.<sup>25</sup>

Objections to the isolated opening date focused on the confusion of having two opening dates in Maryland and the overburdening of other streams in the State on April 1, if Big Hunting Creek within Catoctin RDA opened April 15. Director of State Parks Pfeiffer pushed for an early decision since he had sportsmen “clamoring” for a date so they could make their plans.<sup>26</sup> J. Hammond Brown wrote in his fishing column that informed circles felt that state officials would succeed in their efforts.<sup>27</sup>

Game warden Lee LeCompte, a “staunch supporter of state's rights in the matter of administering its own fish and game”<sup>28</sup> challenged the federal government's right to set fishing dates, saying only the State of Maryland had that authority.<sup>29</sup> LeCompte, in a letter to Arno Cammerer, NPS Director, claimed Maryland had sole authority to vary fishing dates and cited a Supreme Court opinion that fish and game were the property of the people. He spoke highly of the cooperation between Maryland and Federal officials at Catoctin RDA, but declared all opening dates must remain the same.<sup>30</sup>

Region One Director Tillotson notified LeCompte that opening day for fishing at Catoctin RDA would remain April 1 and apologized for not consulting him on the initial study.<sup>31</sup> Two days later Williams received notice from Conrad Firth that subsidiary regulations approved March 25, 1939 for Catoctin RDA had been revoked. New regulations at Catoctin RDA and 30 other RDA's would conform to an April 19, 1937 decision made by the Secretary of the Interior that no subsidiary regulations could be at

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<sup>25</sup>LeCompte, Letter to Demeray, 21 Feb 1940, Natl. Arch., RG 79, Entry 54, Box 58

<sup>26</sup>Pfeiffer, Letter to Cahalane, 21 Feb 1940, Natl. Arch., RG 79, Entry 54, Box 58.

<sup>27</sup>Baltimore American, 3 Mar 40.

<sup>28</sup>Maryland Conservationist. Vol 182, p. 1.

<sup>29</sup>Hagerstown Morning Herald, 1 Mar 40.

<sup>30</sup>Baltimore Sun. 3 Mar 1940.

“variance with the state laws and regulations governing fishing.”<sup>32</sup> Williams received a telegram from NPS Director Cammerer the same day with the message that "CRDA regulations approved 25 March 1939 (Sec. 20, 24, Chapter I, Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations) revoked-as were regs at 30 other RDA's."<sup>33</sup>

Peter Chambliss' Baltimore Sun article of March 10, 1940 reported that Cammerer had “consigned to purgatory” the experiment at Catoctin RDA and that state laws would be followed from now on. Big Hunting Creek was now just another trout stream, a result of the “contention” over the proposed opening date. The article further noted that the NPS could exclude all fishermen from the park and Lee LeCompte did not want that to happen to the popular stream.<sup>34</sup>

Ever optimistic and privy to inside information, J. Hammond Brown reported the same day in the Baltimore American, that the NPS had followed the recommendations of their wildlife technicians, but rather than get into a controversy with state officials had temporarily dropped the program altogether. Brown stated that the abolishment of the Catoctin RDA experiment would be mourned by a large majority of trout fishermen and three years of hard work to improve Maryland fishing had gone into the trash bin. "The experiment was going along nicely and there was a healthy increase in the numbers of those who vent trouting for the sake of the sport alone and not for the size of the creel." He noted that interest in trout fishing had increased and tackle stores sold more "trouting paraphernalia in one year than in the last five." It was his opinion that if the State Commission would act, the experiment at Catoctin could be saved.<sup>35</sup>

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<sup>31</sup>Tillotson, Letter to LeCompte, 6 Mar 1940, Natl. Arch., RG 79, Entry 54, Box 58.

<sup>32</sup>Wirth, Letter to Williams, 8 Mar 1940, Natl. Arch., RG 79, Entry 54, Box 58.

<sup>33</sup>Cammerer, Telegram to Williams, 8 Mar 1940, Natl. Arch., RG 79, Entry 54, Box 58.

<sup>34</sup>Baltimore Sun. 10 Mar 1940.

Within three days of Cammerer's telegraphed message, the Maryland State Game and Inland Fish Commission "assumed jurisdiction of big Hunting Creek from the federal government," reinstating the program at Catoctin RDA with an April 1 opening date. Cammerer informed LeCompte that Maryland would control the fishing in Big Hunting Creek rather than the NPS "infringe on state's rights."<sup>36</sup>

Although Lee LeCompte disagreed with the federal government changing the fishing season within Catoctin RDA's boundaries without consulting state officials, he evidently was convinced that the opening date for fishing season should be moved to April 15.<sup>37</sup> A bill was introduced to the Maryland General Assembly to change the fishing date in December of 1940. Regulations adopted by the Maryland State Game and Inland Fish Commission on February 12, 1941 declared that opening day of fishing season for waters within the boundaries of Catoctin RDA was 7:30 A.M. on April 15. State game wardens and federal personnel would "cooperate in the enforcement of the regulations."<sup>38</sup> But the General Assembly voted the date be effective June 1, 1941 and the new law did not affect the 1941-fishing season.<sup>39</sup> A creel limit of five fish a day still stood, as did the use of artificial lures.

Maryland State Inland Game and Fish Commission kept figures used to estimate the angler use days on Owens Creek and Big Hunting Creek. Wardens counted cars parked along the stream every third day and estimated two persons per car. Since 1/7<sup>th</sup> of the Big Hunting Creek flowed through Catoctin MP that figure was used to calculate the

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<sup>35</sup>Baltimore American. 10 Mar 40.

<sup>36</sup>Frederick Post. 13 Mar 1940.

<sup>37</sup>Lee LeCompte had served as State Game Warden of Maryland since the formation of the position in 1916. A report of his retirement celebration was given in the Spring 1941, issue of Maryland Conservationist, to which he was a frequent contributor.

<sup>38</sup>Williams, to Region Cane, Report to Accompany Master Plan of CRDA, 24 Feb 1942, p. 13, CMP.

number of use days. A Fisheries Resources Report for 1960 estimated 423-angler use days for the park, with 100 days at Owens Creek and 323 at Big Hunting Creek. The latter had a more stable water flow and tying more heavily stocked.<sup>40</sup> Stocking was accomplished by parking a tank truck close to the stream and fish were hand carried in buckets to the stream. Stocking for a "put and take" fishery program was seen as the only feasible one for the mile and a half stretch of stream given the large population of anglers.<sup>41</sup> Fishing was interrupted in May of 1960 by "heavy soil pollution" resulting from road work done on the entrance to Cunningham Falls State Park. Widening the road at that site had stripped a large area of vegetation and rain was eroding the soil into Big Hunting Creek.<sup>42</sup> The creek would suffer the same fate over the next 15 years with the building of a dam to impound water for Cunningham Falls State Park.

In 1965 the Department of Game and Inland Fish instituted a successful "catch and return" program on big Hunting Creek for one-mile from Camp Peniel east to Crows Nest Lodge,<sup>43</sup> the first change in fishing regulations at Catoctin MP since 1942. Planning for the change began on May 5, 1964 when federal arid state officials met at Catoctin MP and agreed to a "Fishing for Fun Program." They reasoned that since fishermen had been using only flies on the stream for 27 years such a program as Big Hunting Creek would find favor with the public Owens Creek would remain as it had been since the park was founded.

The new program called for fishing on Big Hunting Creek to follow the general state fishing regulations requiring that all Maryland streams be closed for stocking

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<sup>39</sup>W. S. Dahlman, Memo to Director NPS, 10 Apr 1941, Mail. Arch., RG 79, Entry 54, Box 58.

<sup>40</sup>Annual Fishery Resources Report for 1964, 12 Jan 1961 CMP.

<sup>41</sup>Ibid.

<sup>42</sup>Ibid.

between April 15 and May 1. Streams opened May 1 on a "catch and take" basis. All other regulations agreed with those in the rest of Maryland except at Catoctin anglers were permitted to "fish only with one artificial fly armed with a single barbless hook," some 40 years after it was proposed.<sup>44</sup> State game wardens enforced the rules and signs came from park funds.<sup>45</sup>

The Frederick Post on December 26, 1973 reported that the fishing season of 1974 would extend catch and release restrictions to Big Hunting Creek from Cunningham Falls to the Crow's Nest Lodge campground (This coincided with the opening of the lake at Cunningham Falls State Park to the public for the first season.) Also regulated were the materials used to make the fishing fly. Only "conventional materials-fur, feathers, hair, tinsel, etc." could be used. "Spincasting gear" was banned and rules stated that the "method of angling where the fly is cast directly from the reel is prohibited."<sup>46</sup> One fish could be kept per day if it measured 15" or more.

Between 1975 and 1979 a stream bred brown trout (*Salmo trutta*) population developed in Big Hunting Creek from the stocked population. The Youth Conservation Corps began a stream improvement program the summer of 1976 on Owens and Big Hunting Creeks and continued each summer to improve fish habitat. A survey in 1979 indicated that some natural reproduction had occurred in the rainbow trout (*Salmo gairneri*). To promote the breeding of the wild trout general stocking was limited except

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<sup>43</sup>C. Boyd Pfeiffer, *Outdoors in Maryland*. published by Maryland Wildlife Federation, Vol 9, #4 p. 1.

<sup>44</sup>O. L. Wallis, Aquatic Research Biologist, Resource Studies, NCR, Report on May 5, 1964 meeting on Fishing for Fun Program at Catoctin MP, SRC, D 24.

<sup>45</sup>Catoctin MP Master Plan, 1965, CMP.

<sup>46</sup>The Frederick Post. 26 Dec 1973.

for light stocking of "trophy fish over 15 inches."<sup>47</sup> Stocking took place from the lake outlet to Crow's Nest Lodge, and it was hoped that the wider distribution would relieve fishing pressure on the area of Big Hunting Creek West of Camp Peniel.<sup>48</sup>

### Brotherhood of the Jungle Cock

In the midst of the disagreements over the fishing regulations in 1939, the Brotherhood of the Jungle Cock was established at Catoctin RDA at an April 1939 Angler's Campfire. Attended by many luminaries of the sports writing world, the new environmental group sought to further the principles of sport fishing and resource protection.

When the federal government began developing Catoctin RDA an idea to establish Big Hunting Creek exclusively for fly fishing was proposed to Williams by prominent sportsmen from Baltimore who saw an opportunity to further their sport and preserve the fish. At the forefront of the effort was the Maryland State Game and Fish Protection Association, a private organization established in 1895, to develop outdoor recreation facilities and protect wildlife.<sup>49</sup> J. Hammond Brown, President of the organization during the development of Catoctin RDA, was also director of the Catoctin RDA's Camping Advisory Committee. Brown, Joe Brooks, nationally known author, journalist and eventual TV personality on "American Sportsman," along with Jack Bentz of the Game and Inland Fisheries Commission, gained Williams's support for the idea that originated in Pennsylvania.

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<sup>47</sup>Catoctin Mountain Park Natural Resources Management Plan, 1981, CMP.

<sup>48</sup>Catoctin Enterprise. 27 Feb 1971.

To promote the concept of fishing for sport instead of the frying pan, the organizers of the movement for fly fishing on Big Hunting Creek created a brotherhood to further their aims of conservation and preservation of the environment. The Maryland Conservationist in its Spring issue of 1940, announced the formation of the Brotherhood of the Jungle Cock at a campfire meeting at Catoctin RDA on April 12 through the 14. Newspapers in the area advertised the weekend event, offering cots, cabins and six meals available to those reserving space in advance. Nationally recognized outdoor writers and sportsmen were invited as special guests and most reportedly had accepted. Sponsored by the Maryland State Game and Fish Protection Association, the new national organization's purpose was the "promulgation by personal example of better trout ethics on our streams, and whenever it is possible to take a boy a-fishing."<sup>50</sup>

The Maryland Conservationist reported the first meeting was held April 12-14, 1940, after a three day blizzard swept Maryland. Over 100 anglers and invited guests from the Mid-Atlantic Region, Ohio and New York gathered for the "gala opening" of the Catoctin area. Officers of the Maryland State Game and Fish Protection Association and Joseph W. Brooks, chairman of the organization's Fresh Water Committee, arranged an Angler's Campfire at Misty Mount.

Those attending from Virginia, New York and Ohio made plans to hold similar campfires in their states and members hoped the conservation Credo would spread as far away as Alaska. Clark Venable of Virginia composed a creed for publication and distribution to all who requested it. It was resolved at the first meeting that they would

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<sup>49</sup>Letter head, 18 Feb 1941.

<sup>50</sup>Maryland Conservationist, Spring 1940, p. 18.

gather again the following year to “rededicate and redramatize their movement and affirm their creed.”

Membership in the Brotherhood required nothing more than taking the creed to heart and practicing the conservation ideals of the organization. There were no membership rolls and no dues, an angler had only to place a white-eyed black feather from the neck cape of the Jungle Cock in his hat band to proclaim his membership. The Jungle Cock lives in the forests of India and before importation was prohibited, its feathers were popularly used in tying trout and bass fishing flies.<sup>51</sup> Officers elected at the first campfire read like a who's who of American sport fishing journalists:

“President: Van Campen Heilner, sportsman and noted sports writer

Vice Presidents: Ozark Ripley, of Chattanooga, Tenn., sportsman and writer about the out-of-doors; Talbot Denmead of Baltimore, Md., sportsman and member of the staff of the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries.

Executive Secretary: J. Hammond Brown, of Baltimore, sportsman author and Outdoor writer for the Hearst newspapers.

Board of Directors: Dan Holland of New York, sportsman and trouting editor for Field and Stream; Ray Camp, of New York, sportsman, author and outdoor writer for the New York Times; Joseph W. Brooks, Jr., of Baltimore, sportsman and active in conservation projects for inland fisheries for the Maryland State Game Association; John Alden Knight, of Orange, New Jersey, sportsman, trouting authority and originator of the Solunar Theory; Dave Roberts, of Cincinnati, Ohio, sportsman, author and President of the Outdoor Writers Association of America; Clark Venable, of Potomac Beach, Virginia, sportsman and writer of outdoor subjects; Percy T. Blogg, sportsman and head

of juvenile activities for the Maryland State Game Association; Paul Townsend, of Delaware and Washington, D. C., sportsman and pioneer in deep-sea angling; Charles E. Jackson, of Washington, D. C., acting head of the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries; Lynn Bogue Hunt, of New York, sportsman and famous illustrator of wildlife.”<sup>52</sup>

The Brotherhood of the Jungle Cock's mission was the dramatization of the environmental movement. The members' access to the publications of the sporting world put them in a unique position to accomplish their goals. In a speech delivered at the annual meeting of the Izaak Walton League in March of 1941, J. Hammond Brown declared the printed word would lead the fight for preservation of the nations natural resources. He lamented the fact that the word “propaganda” had gained such a bad connotation in recent years, for it was a good word to describe the conscious effort made by sports journalists seeking to turn the tide of resource abuse. He cited the Brotherhood of the jungle Cock and its name as the type of "Mumbo jumbo" needed to get the cause into the paper:: and dramatize the conservation efforts of the men who formed the organization.

He declared that individuals had to dedicate themselves to spreading the gospel of conservation. Personal example was by far the best method of publicity and he stated that "a good sportsman makes a good conservationist." Warning that industry in the "guise of ‘National Defense’" could damage natural resources in time of war, Brown urged members of the Izaak Walton League to be especially watchful and to communicate with others of like sentiments.

The Brotherhood of the Jungle Cock held its second annual Angler's Camp at

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<sup>51</sup>Ibid. Fall 1941, p. 18.

<sup>52</sup>Maryland Conservationist, Spring 1940, p. 18.

Catoctin RDA May 2, 3, and 4, 1941, with “most of the best known fresh water anglers in the east” in attendance. The fall issue of the 1941, Maryland Conservationist reported the meeting and election of new officers, including several additional writers of prominent newspapers from Delaware and Florida to the Board of Directors. A reported 125 anglers attended the camp to fish and plan publicity crusades for conservation. Members fished Big Hunting Creek and held a memorial service for two colleagues who had died the previous year.

In addition to the Brotherhood of the Jungle Cock annual campfires, the Maryland State Game Association provided camping throughout the trout season at Catoctin. To accommodate fishermen, Williams's long range planning included a Fisherman's Club Lodge "north of the access road between the project office" and Misty Mount and possibly a two-unit camp “east of the access road.”<sup>53</sup> The Lodge and camp were never built, as economy and World War II intervened to stop development of planned camps at Catoctin RDA. Association members supported the revolutionary fishing program at Big Hunting Creek and provided moral support for Mike Williams, who had to enforce the regulations.

Except during the war years, the Brotherhood of the Jungle Cock continued to meet at Catoctin Mountain Park. The Spring 1966, Maryland Conservationist highlighted the unique conservation organization and reported 426 men and boys from nine states and the District of Columbia registered for the campfire held May 13-15, 1966. Featured at the campfire were instructions by Lefty Krey in the art of fishing and dedication of a memorial pond at Mount Airy and tablets. Ideals of the Brotherhood were renewed and transmitted to future fishermen:

## Creed of the Brotherhood of the Jungle Cock

We who love angling, in order that it may enjoy practice and reward in the later generations, mutually move together toward a common goal--the conservation and restoration of American game fishes.

Toward this end we pledge that our creel limits shall always be less than the legal restrictions and always well within the bounty of Nature herself.

Enjoying, as we do, only a life estate in the out-of-doors, and morally charged in our time with the responsibility of handing it down unspoiled to tomorrow's inheritors, we individually undertake annually to take at least one boy a-fishing, instructing him, as best we know, in the responsibilities that are soon to be wholly his.

Holding that moral law transcends the legal statutes, always beyond the needs of any one man, and holding that example alone is the one certain teacher, we pledge always to conduct ourselves in such fashion on the stream as to make safe for others the heritage which is ours and theirs.

## Wildlife Management

Wildlife management began at Catoctin Recreational Demonstration Area (Catoctin RDA) when the land was set aside for recreational purposes and allowed a rest from its commercial and farming purposes. Cooperative efforts between federal and state wildlife management officials were instituted at Catoctin RDA from the first publication of the project, as the original intent was to turn the developed facility over to Maryland for a state park. Local forestry representatives participated in plans and decisions about wildlife habitat and restoration. Works Progress Administration (WPA) labor began clearing slash from the forest to lessen the danger of fire, but hollow trees, old snake fences and snags were left as habitat for wildlife at the direction of state wildlife

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<sup>53</sup>Williams, Memo try Schenck, 1 Jun 1939, CMP.

officials.<sup>54</sup> The arrival of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in April of 1939 provided a work force to sow grain supplied by the state of Maryland on perimeters of open fields to support small mammals and birds. States had been helped to fund such projects when President Roosevelt signed on September 2, 1937 the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act, or the Pittman-Robertson Act("P-R"). The "P-R" levied a 10% federal tax on ammunition and guns used by sportsmen that would be distributed to states for restoration of wildlife. Research, restocking and habitat management were funded under the program. The Dingell-Johnson Act in 1950 achieved the same for sport fishing in 1950.<sup>55</sup>

After World War II, park naturalists assigned to Catoctin RDA developed observation card and slide files of flora and fauna recording reptiles, flowers, herbs, birds, small mammals, and stream life. Live animals were captured for short periods of time for interpretive purposes in organized camps.<sup>56</sup>Sagan introduced a "staff wildlife observation record" in 1956 that was left at Blue Blazes and the Service Area.<sup>57</sup>

Hunting and trapping were prohibited at Catoctin RDA from its inception and the area was maintained as a wildlife sanctuary. Williams's sanctuary plan called for nurturing white-tailed deer, bobwhite quail and wild turkey populations that would then spread and reestablish populations outside the park boundaries. White tailed deer and wild turkey, extirpated from the mountain by hunting and habitat destruction, hadn't been seen in years when Williams and his crew arrived. Deer and quail reestablished themselves naturally as habitat became available within the park. A marked increase in

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<sup>54</sup>Herbert Evison, Letter to Williams, 9 Oct 1936, CMP.

<sup>55</sup>U. S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Fifty Years Restoring America's Wildlife, 1937-1987 pp. 3 & 15.

<sup>56</sup>Sagan, Naturalist Report, 14 Aug 1954, CMP.

deer, mountain grouse and quail wars noted in early 1942 due to the three year winter feeding effort supported by Maryland state officials and CCC labor.<sup>58</sup> Wild Turkey raised by the state of Maryland were released experimentally in 1952.<sup>59</sup>

Naturalist reports submitted in March of 1960 noted meetings between Park Naturalist Hambly and "local game reps" to discuss the "large deer population." Hambly had judged the many questions about the deer to be "a lot. of wishful thinking by hunters," that the deer were in good condition and noticed no browse lines.<sup>60</sup> "No formal management" plan was in place or needed for the deer, but vegetation within the park warranted observation for any signs of concern. Packs of wild dogs roamed the park threatening deer, and were captured periodically by Frederick County dog catchers.<sup>61</sup>

As forests at Catoctin MP matured and changed, turkey and deer populations grew but were not formally "managed." The first natural resource management plan approved in 1981 reported that deer and turkey were "under consideration" for management, as the numbers of deer were coming close to the carrying capacity of the park.<sup>62</sup> Harvest by hunters on lands adjacent to the park controlled the deer, but not sufficiently to keep the population down. Development activity in other parts of Frederick County drove the deer to the forests of the park where browse lines began to appear and less favorite flora was being eaten by the deer.<sup>63</sup> Future research was needed

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<sup>57</sup>Sagan, Monthly Narrative Report, 30 Nov 1956.

<sup>58</sup>Supplementary Report on the Master Plan, Catoctin RDA, 1941 Edition, 24 Feb, 1942, CMP.

<sup>59</sup>Appendix, Catoctin Recreation Demonstration Area, Summer 1952, CMP.

<sup>60</sup>Hambly, Monthly Report of Naturalist Activities, 1 Mar 1960, CMP.

<sup>61</sup>Catoctin MP Master Plan, 1965, CMP.

<sup>62</sup>Catoctin MP Natural Resources Management Plan, 1981, p. 12, CMP.

<sup>63</sup>Personal interview with Supt. Tom McFadden, 15 March 87.

to keep a close check on the condition of deer killed by cars in late winter and on browse lines. Turkey population was expected to rise, since a climax forest was prime habitat for eastern wild turkey.<sup>64</sup>

### Soil Conservation

Commercial and farming practices in the early 20th century accelerated the natural erosion of Catoctin RDA's thin rocky soil and beginning in 1936 recreational use continued the process, though at a slower pace. Located within the park were 800 acres of recently abandoned cultivated land, some on hillsides. Four different habitat for flora existed at Catoctin RDA: (1) ridge and upper slopes, (2) lower slopes, (3) cones and bottom lands, and (4) clearings.<sup>65</sup> The Soil Conservation service classified park lands as entirely "rough and stoney" and frost permeation averaged 30". To prevent sheet erosion on slopes, associate Maryland forester V. W. Saari recommended planting grains for wildlife and the preservation of some open spaced for diversity of habitat. Korean Lespedeza sp. was planted on hillsides along with 10"-12" strips of various grains sown along contours.<sup>66</sup>

Erosion from man's recreational use began as the park was used and developed. Campgrounds, picnic sites, a service area and a visitor center totaling about 500 acres plus hiking trails were subjected to erosion and compaction. In the 1960's primary and

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<sup>64</sup>Catoctin MP Natural Resources Management Plan, 1981, p. 12, CMP.

<sup>65</sup>Catoctin MP Master Plan, 1965, CMP.

<sup>66</sup>V.W. Saari, too Stuart M. Woodward, Inspector, NPS, 6 Dec 1937, CMP.

secondary paved roads totaling 21 miles and three paved trails traversed the park causing gullies from the rain run-off.<sup>67</sup> The Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) contributed many hours of work to trail maintenance by building water bars and other water diversion devices. Trails built by the CCC from 1939 to 1941 had seen many years of heavy use by hikers and experienced severe compaction leading to vegetation loss, compounding the erosion. Proposed in the 1981 Resource Management Plan was a trail maintenance and rehabilitation program to be formulated with the aid of NPS designers and experts.<sup>68</sup>

Heavy use of campgrounds and picnic areas from April through November caused erosion on designated footpaths and "social trails." Misty Mount, Greentop, Round Meadow and Owens Creek campground experienced considerable soil compaction and vegetation recovery had to be assisted with winter fertilizers and spreading organic material. The two camping loops at Poplar Grove group tent campground were rotated on a three year cycle to allow recovery of vegetation. The worst sites at Owens Creek Campground were closed during rehabilitation work plus a one year rest period, with signs explaining the erosion management plans.<sup>69</sup>

### Fire Protection

Fire protection was high on Project Manager Williams's list in the winter of 1936 and among the first jobs assigned to Works Progress Administration workers in the new park was clearing of slash to prevent forest fires. Williams again had fire control in mind when he negotiated for equipment surplus by the military when they left Catoctin RDA

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<sup>67</sup>Catoctin MP Natural Resources Management Plan, 1981, p. 20, CMP.

<sup>68</sup>Ibid, p 22.

after World War II. The 1948 cooperative agreement signed with the Navy at Camp David mentioned fire protection assistance to the park by military personnel. Early orientation of camp staff at Misty Mount and Greentop stressed fire control measures and the Frederick County Outdoor School curriculum included a class on the effects and prevention of forest fires.

Though no formal fire records were kept before 1962,<sup>70</sup> correspondence revealed three major structure fires took place within Catoctin RDA before 1955. The first was the accidental destruction of Mt. Lent allegedly by gun fire when British troops were in the park<sup>71</sup> Another fire in 1945 destroyed Williams home near Blue Blazes, though Marines tried to extinguish the blaze.<sup>72</sup> The dining hall at Greentop burned in 1954 and was replaced in time for the 1955 season.<sup>73</sup> The new facility was still in use at Greentop in 1987 and much more accessible than the original building.<sup>74</sup>

Catoctin MP's 1965 Master plan noted that a major forest fire would destroy the hardwood forest covering the mountain, the principle reason visitors came to the park. The Plan stressed thorough orientation of campers, the general public and park staff. Maintenance of fire fighting equipment and continued cooperation with the state of Maryland and local fire officials under the proprietary jurisdiction was stressed. The process of preparing a fire protection plan according to the NPS's "Fire Control Handbook" had been started in the park and more fire control equipment was needed.<sup>75</sup>

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<sup>69</sup>Ibid, p. 23.

<sup>70</sup>Catoctin MP Master Plan, 1965, CMP.

<sup>71</sup>Ibid.

<sup>72</sup>Many records and photographs of the development of the park were lost.

<sup>73</sup>Harry Corner, MLCC Executive Director, Letter to Williams, 10 Dec 1954, CMP.

<sup>74</sup>Personal Interview with Ralph Smith, 6 Feb 1987.

<sup>75</sup>Catoctin MP Master Plan, 1965, CMP.

The 1981 Natural Resources Management plan stated fire protection was second in priority only to "safeguarding human life" and reiterated the importance of the forest as the most valuable resource to visitors. "Without these natural values and related facilities, or with them seriously damaged or depleted, the park would become unsuited for the purpose for which it was intended."<sup>76</sup> Users of the forest resources also caused the most hazards--campfires and trash fires. The 500,000 visitors generally used a campfire to some extent during the most dangerous times of the year for fires, fall and spring.<sup>77</sup>

The front line for fires in the park has always been the park staff, with action plans published for each personnel classification and division within the park. The 1981 plan listed the following fire fighting resources: (1) Thurmont Volunteer Fire Department, (2) U. S. Navy, Camp David, (3) Maryland Park Service, CFSP, (4) Maryland Forest Service, Frederick County Warden, (5) Frederick County Central Alarm System, (6) U. S. Army, Fort Ritchie. Responsibilities within the park were divided as follows: Chief of Interpretive Resources and Resource Management--park fire chief, Chief of Ranger Division--fire prevention and Chief for Maintenance--equipment maintenance.<sup>78</sup>

### Forest Protection

Once the Civilian Conservation Corps and Works Progress Administration left Catoctin RDA little was done to change the natural course of events in plant succession until the Youth Conservation Corps supplied a new source of labor. Early relief

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<sup>76</sup>Catoctin MP Natural Resources Management Plan, 1981, p. 38; CMP.

<sup>77</sup>Ibid., p. 39.

programs instituted fire protection, closed old logging roads, planted roadsides to prevent cars from pulling off and planted trees and grains for erosion control. Conservation projects sought to reverse the effects of commercial timber operations and allow the original climax forest to regenerate itself. By 1963 the forest was in its second growth and "striving toward a climax forest," the dominant species being red oak and yellow poplar.<sup>79</sup>

Several diseases and insects invaded the park in the 1970's, threatening the forests. Among them, resource managers judged the gypsy moth had the most potential for harming Catoctin MP's forest. The Maryland Department of Agriculture surveyed the park in 1978 and discovered isolated infestations of the moth. In June 1981, the management staff began a "control program" for gypsy moth in cooperation with the Maryland Department of Agriculture and U.S. Forest Service by monitoring the density of eggs and larvae. Visitors and staff reported the infestation of larvae were becoming a nuisance as they crawled over cars and buildings and tree defoliation was noticeable.<sup>80</sup>

In 1981 three alternatives for the control of gypsy moth were available: (1) no treatment which could lead to loss of the forest as the larvae defoliated, weakened and killed the trees, exposing the soil to erosion and loosing forage and cover for animals; (2) disparlure tape, known to be effective for low populations of moths; (3) biological control with *Bacillus Thuringiensis* application through aerial application in the spring of the year when the larvae hatch, at approximately \$30 an acre.<sup>81</sup> The later choice was made and spraying commenced in a regional program with the state of Maryland.

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<sup>78</sup>Ibid., p. 40.

<sup>79</sup>Catoctin IMP Master Plan, 1965, CMP.

<sup>80</sup>McFadden, Memo to Regional Director, NCR, 24 June 1981.

<sup>81</sup>Ibid.

## Outside Threats

### Route 77

Fall 1941 found Catoctin officials recommending consideration of an offer from Frederick County Roads Engineer, Roger H. Willard to pave the section of Route 77 that bisected Catoctin RDA. Willard proposed to provide equipment, supervision and asphalt if the NPS would provide the crushed stone and labor.<sup>82</sup> At this time Route 77 was paved from Thurmont try 1/2 mile inside the eastern boundary of the park. Where it became a dirt road maintained by the NPS for its own equipment and visitor use. Williams estimated that maintenance on the two mile stretch from Thurmont to the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp entrance could be reduced by accepting the offer from Frederick County and asked that the matter be decided quickly, as state budget hearings were scheduled for early October<sup>83</sup>

The bureaucracy of the regional office in Richmond determined that use of CCC and Works Progress Administration labor was not appropriate to building major roads and the project was disapproved, even though Catoctin RDA was the destination of 90% of the traffic and \$4200 in maintenance was expended in 1939. Williams continued to press the issue and estimated the road would cost 12400 in "LD labor"<sup>84</sup> and stated that a similar amount would be required each year to keep the road serviceable. NPS Director Drury concurred with Regional officials and the effort was dropped for the time being.<sup>85</sup>

Within six weeks a larger road project for Rt. 77 loomed when Williams

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<sup>82</sup>Williams, Letter to Willard, 11 Sep 1940, CMP.

<sup>83</sup>Williams, Memo to Region One Director, 19 Sept 1940, CLIP.

<sup>84</sup>Williams, Memo to Heinrich, 3 Oct 1940, CMP.

<sup>85</sup>Lisle, Memo to Heinrich, 26 Nov 1940, CMP.

encountered a Maryland State survey party looking over the area “in connection with a proposed road through the Catoctin RDA.”<sup>86</sup> Inquiries revealed plans for an "east-west highway across the northern portion" of Maryland leading to the new Susquehanna River bridge at Harve de Grace. The new road would eliminate Route 77's dangerous curves and steep grades, to meet modern standards of design for secondary roads.<sup>87</sup> Williams began gathering allies to oppose the “speedway” through Catoctin RDA. Maryland State Park director, Carl Pfeiffer, Frederick County officials, the Maryland State Game and Fish Protective Association headed by J. Hammond Brown and the Izaak Walton League joined forces to prevent the destruction of the scenery and fishing along Big Hunting Creek.

Ezra Whitman, Chairman of the Maryland State Roads Commission, replied to the Maryland State Game and Fish Protective Association with a letter stating that the proposed road would serve all of Maryland's residents and that it was “not a local road serving local people.” The improved road was part of a larger system that would provide a direct route across the northern portion of Maryland and local traffic was considered incidental.<sup>88</sup>

Carl Pfeiffer, who initially felt the state's plans, could not be stopped, soon realized that the highway could be blocked by refusing to grant permits for the 60 foot right of way necessary to build the state road.<sup>89</sup> Inspector Heinrich, who felt the issue was a tempest in a teapot, passed the tip on to Williams who was preparing an information package for Richmond Regional officials. High speeds, stream pollution

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<sup>86</sup>Williams, Letter to Austin Shure, Engineer for Maryland Roads Commission, Frederick, MD, 22 Jan 1941, CMP.

<sup>87</sup>Shure, Letter to Williams, 3 Feb 1941, CMP.

<sup>88</sup>Whitman Letter to Kolmer, 20 Feb 1941, CMP.

from cuts and fills, pedestrian safety and increased traffic were cited by Williams as the main objections to the proposed road that would detract from the primitive atmosphere of Catoctin RDA and ruin Big Hunting Creek.<sup>90</sup>

Williams noted in his four page report to Region One that the State Road Commission knew of the concerns four years previously when they proposed to build a 1/2 mile road from the Washington County line to Foxville. Pfeiffer's objections were cited in the report along with his suggestion to refuse the right of way. Williams requested that the NPS contact the Maryland State Roads Commission with the stated objections and inform them that the right of way would not be granted for the type of road being proposed.<sup>91</sup> Bursley of the Regional office forwarded Williams's memo along with a cover letter to NPS Director Drury on March 6, 1941.

For the second time in 12 months the NPS Director intervened to settle a Dispute between state and NPS officials. NPS Director Drury in a letter to Ezra Whitman, Chairman of the Maryland State Roads Commission on April 6, stated how "surprised" he was that the NPS had not been consulted on the matter of Route 77 since the highway seriously affected use and planning at Catoctin RDA. He argued that the trout stream, wildlife, scenery and recreational planning of the "narrow and picturesque Big Hunting Creek valley" would be damaged by the proposed state highway and pose a rife hazard to the area. The NPS would gladly assist in a solution that wouldn't harm the Park's program or environment, but opposed the highway as presented.<sup>92</sup> No mention was made of refusing the permits for the right of ways.

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<sup>89</sup>Pfeiffer, Letter to Heinrich, 20 Feb 1941, CMP.

<sup>90</sup>Williams, Memo to Region One, 3 Mar 1941, CMP.

<sup>91</sup>Ibid.

<sup>92</sup>Drury, Letter to Whitman, 3 Apt 1941, CMP.

Whitman's reply to Drury was much different in tone than the heavy-handed reply to the Maryland State Game and Fish Protective Association. He expressed astonishment that the matter had gone beyond Williams and assured Drury that the plans were just on paper. Whitman wrote that the Commission's work on defense highways was keeping it very busy and they would forego "any idea of building any roadway in the area for the present year" and would consult the NPS when plans developed later "for getting through the Catoctin Recreation Area."<sup>93</sup>

Thirteen years later in 1954, as Cunningham Falls State Park was being formed, Route 77 was paved by Frederick County still under the direction of Road Engineer Roger Willard, using the same permits issued in 1941. Paperwork for special permits was finished September 13, 1954.<sup>94</sup> Twenty-five years later with the growth of population in Frederick County and increased traffic, Route 77 was again considered for widening and straightening. Large tractor-trailers and commuters discovered a short cut to newly widened Route 15. Beginning in 1985 truck weight limits were enforced on Route 77.<sup>95</sup> Maintenance edged the asphalt closer and closer to the creek, killed trees and caused cave-ins on the banks of Big Hunting Creek. As trees died, water exposed to the sun warmed up and jeopardized trout habitat and the scenic beauty of the drive between Catoctin MP and Cunningham Falls State Park.<sup>96</sup>

### Impoundment of Big Hunting Creek

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<sup>93</sup>Whitman, Letter to Drury, 9 Apr 1941, CMP.

<sup>94</sup>Williams, Letter to Willard 13 Sep 1954, CMP

<sup>95</sup>Voight, 1987

<sup>96</sup>Personal interview with Thomas McFadden, 26 Mar 87.

A second environmental threat to Big Hunting Creek was initiated in 1961 by the Maryland Department of Forests and Parks who proposed the impoundment of Big Hunting Creek to form a lake within Cunningham Falls State Park.<sup>97</sup> Superintendent Paul Webb recommended a professional study of the proposed impoundment as it could drastically change the ecology of the creek as drought had already decreased the creek flow and water tables were low in the summer.<sup>98</sup> Ronald F. Lee, Third Regional Director in Philadelphia, received the "Feasibility Report for Construction of an Impounding Dam at Cunningham Falls State Park" in January of 1965 along with a Master Recreational Plan. A cover letter from William Parr, Maryland Supt. of State Parks, requested comments on the plans. State officials had been working with the planning division of NCP staff on plans for the dam, the relocation of Catoctin Hollow Road to accommodate the dam. Improvements on Route 77 were planned for a proposed visitor center.<sup>99</sup>

Six months later Region Three answered Parr's inquiry, stating they were pleased with plans to increase public recreation at the former Catoctin RDA and complemented the state on its coordination with the NCP staff in plans to meet the recreational needs of the public. In their opinion the dam "would be consistent with the purposes for which the property was transferred to the State of Maryland."<sup>100</sup>

But sportsmen did not agree and efforts to stop the dam began immediately. Dr. H. Hanford Hopkins wrote Sen. Joseph Tydings alleging that siltation from the dam building would destroy the "only decent free-stone trout stream within one and one-half

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<sup>97</sup> Donald L. Lewis, President, Board of Commissioners, Thurmont, Maryland, Letter to Director of the NPS, 22 Jan 1963, SRC, RG 79, D 24, Box 3.

<sup>98</sup> Catoctin MP Master Plan, approved 1965 CMP.

<sup>99</sup> Parr, Letter to R. F. Lee, 20 Jan 1965, CMP.

<sup>100</sup> Edwards, Letter to Parr, 6 Jul 1965, CMP.

hours of Washington and Baltimore.” He stated that recreational uses of the dam were a smoke screen for the town of Thurmont to gain a water supply and sewage treatment plant with state money and asked for an investigation.<sup>101</sup> These allegations were not without foundation, as Donald Lewis had requested information from the NPS in December of 1961 about the possibility of a dam as "new source of water for Thurmont."<sup>102</sup>

C. Boyd Pfeiffer, President of the Baltimore Chapter of Trout Unlimited, appealed for a review of the proposed darn and urged anglers write to public officials and attend hearings to speak against the planned impoundment. Dr. James Gilford, chief of the Entomology Division at Fort Detrick and a prominent regional sportsman, took up the fight and published strident articles in local newspapers against the certain ruin of Big Hunting creek and its many fine fishing pools. Dam opponents cited similar facilities 15 miles away at Greenbrier and felt that recreation was not the real reason the dam was being pushed through the legislature by local delegates. They worried about the "free and uninterrupted flow of waters in Big Hunting Creek."<sup>103</sup>

Throughout the summer Gilford bombarded federal officials with letters trying to elicit a response. The Dept. of Interior and NPS were officially silent, except to transfer periodic inspections of Cunningham Falls State Park from Region Three to National Capital Region to more efficiently handle data gathering and the many objections to the dam by sportsmen.<sup>104</sup>

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<sup>101</sup> Dr. H. Hanford Hopkins, Letter to Sen. Joseph Tydings, 6 July 1965, CMP.

<sup>102</sup> Donald L. Lewis, President, Board of Commissioners, Thurmont, Maryland, Letter to Director of the NPS, 22 Jan 1963, SRC, RG 79, Box 3.

<sup>103</sup> C. Boyd Pfeiffer, Potomac Sierran. Vol. 1, No4, 14 Sept 1966.

<sup>104</sup> A. Stratton, Associate Director, NPS, Memo to Regional Directors of Northeast and National Capital Region, 26 Aug 1965, CMP.

Proponents of the dam felt the water based recreational advantages far outweighed potential damage to Big Hunting Creek. The dam was slated to cover 43 acres of swampy land and a small picnic area, less than 1% of the total park acreage.<sup>105</sup> Delegate WM. M Houck (Dem. Frederick) blessed the project and proclaimed more people could enjoy the lake and benefit from the added recreation opportunities without detriment to fishermen. The stream was 100% "put and take" and as such would not affect the trout population. Houck denied that the dam's purpose was to supply water to Thurmont.<sup>106</sup>

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) granted a permit for the dam on March 5, 1967, but Baltimore Attorney Lloyd Gerber filed an appeal on behalf of Maryland sportsmen, trying to block the permit on a technicality.<sup>107</sup> The DNR refused to hold hearings and six months later Gerber took the matter before judge Meyer M. Cardin, who ordered new hearings.<sup>108</sup> The commission for Maryland State Water Resources, headed by Maurice Siegel, heard the appeal of dam opponents the end of January 1968, and voted to support the dam, contending; that any more delay would create more problems.

The contract to build the dam was awarded to the M. J. Grove Lime Company's with a bid of \$848,000. A threatened lawsuit by sportsmen did not materialize.<sup>109</sup> Catoctin Hollow Road was moved 600' to the east to make way for the dam and erosion from that project caused Big Hunting Creek to "run mud red", since nothing was done to

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<sup>105</sup>The Daily Mail Hagerstown, 14 Feb 1967.

<sup>106</sup>The Daily Mail. Hagerstown, 20 Feb 1967.

<sup>107</sup>Washington Post. PP. C8, 5 Mar 1967.

<sup>108</sup>Frederick Post. 7 Sept 1967.

<sup>109</sup>Frederick Post 23 Mar 1968.

control the erosion. Siltation began as land clearing for the dam began, amid charges that the State did not put in appropriate catch basins.<sup>110</sup>

Eight years after the first funds were appropriated for the dam, it still was unfinished. Bureaucratic delays, weather, and no time limit on the contract pushed the opening of the facility back, until officials hoped that the lake would be open to the public during 1974. More pessimistic people thought 1975 was more likely.<sup>111</sup>

Since 1975 the lake has proven too be a great magnet attracting many people. However Big Hunting Creek has suffered as a result of the dam. Lack of a constant water flow has evolved as the biggest problem on the creek for dry, hot periods of weather result in less water released from the dam into Big Hunting Creek.<sup>112</sup> A C.A.M.P.E.R. stream committee, headed by Dr. James Gilford, has worked to coordinate efforts to minimize the effects of the dam and improve stream habitat for the benefit of sportsmen and fish.

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<sup>110</sup>Frederick Post. Jim Gulford, 5 July 1968.

<sup>111</sup>The Frederick News pp. A9, 31 July 1973.

<sup>112</sup>Personal interview with Chief Ranger William Gray, 4 Dec. 1986.

## CHAPTER XI

### PROTECTION

Two objectives of equal importance were recognized in Catoctin Mountain Park's 1965 Master Plan that expressed the purpose of the park and dictated the extent of protection services: (1) to provide outdoor recreation and education to the public while preserving and interpreting the environment; (2) to act as a buffer for the Presidential Retreat by providing both privacy and security.<sup>1</sup>

#### Visitor Safety

In the years before Mission 66, visitor safety at Catoctin Mountain Park (Catoctin MP) involved principally campers in organized camps, fishermen, and hikers in the warmer seasons of higher use. Picnicking and a high percentage of day use traffic became the jurisdiction of Maryland State officials when Cunningham Falls State Park was formed in 1954. Catoctin MP naturalist reports from the 1950's discussed protection matters such as littering, vandalism, feral cats and dogs, traffic and hunting violations. Speeding by Navy personnel was often mentioned as an offense. Trash dumping on Route 77 received much concern in Naturalist reports, but Williams steadfastly refused to put trash barrels at strategic places, as they encouraged illegal picnicking.<sup>2</sup> When Shank

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<sup>1</sup>Catoctin Mountain Park Master Plan approved 1965.

<sup>2</sup>Sagan, Monthly Narrative Report, 11 July 1957, CMP

became superintendent the policy changed and in 1959 picnic tables and trash receptacles were installed on many park roads.<sup>3</sup>

The Master Plan approved in 1965 contained the first formal discussion and description of Catoctin MP's protection services. At that time the park maintained a proprietary jurisdiction, meaning the park had the same rights as any home owner if there was a fire or help was needed.<sup>4</sup> Violations were ticketed by Rangers under Title 36 of the code of Federal Regulations. Military personnel from Camp David were cited and/or referred to the camp commander for discipline. Maryland State Police handled serious felonies and U. S. Park Police efforts were supplemented with police and detective services when necessary.<sup>5</sup>

Mission 66 development of Owens Creek Campground, Poplar Grove youth group tent campground and Chestnut Picnic Area increased visitation to Catoctin MP and protection duties. In the years between 1960 and 1963 hiker increased from 45,000 to 70,200, picnickers increased from 22,500 to 42,500, visits to Blue Blazes more than tripled from 3,000 to 10,000 and year round automobile sightseeing almost doubled from 60,000 to 106,000.<sup>6</sup>

### Camp David

From the time of its selection by Franklin Roosevelt, Shangri-La, later Camp David, was discreetly but firmly guarded by the United States Navy. The end of World

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<sup>3</sup>Hambly, Monthly Report of Activities, May 1959, CMP.

<sup>4</sup>Personal interview with Tom McFadden, 26 Mar 67.

<sup>5</sup>CatoctinMountain Park Master Plan, approved 1965.

<sup>6</sup>Ibid.

War II lessened the need for closing the park to the public but. privacy and security needed to be maintained. During the summers of 1947 and 1948 organized groups of campers from The Maryland League for Crippled Children and the Girls Scouts returned to Misty Mount and Greentop and overall use of the park began to increase.

A formal arrangement was deemed necessary for security within the buffer zone of Catoctin MP. In a November 1, 1948 cooperative agreement, the park area outside of Shangri-La was defined as the 24-hour responsibility of the National Park Service (NPS). The NPS agreed to maintain park roads and utilities, especially in winter when snow, downed trees and power failures were common. The land at Shangri-La remained under the jurisdiction of the NPS and the rules governing the land followed “where applicable and not inconsistent with the use and occupancy of the ‘Shangri-La’ area by the Navy Department for the purpose contemplated by this agreement.”<sup>7</sup>

Under conditions of the agreement the NPS was no longer responsible for "administration, protection, operation" or for making improvements at Shangri-La. The Navy agreed to cooperate when necessary to fight fires and would assume responsibility for the swimming pool, all roads and costs of utilities within the compound. Another item in the agreement obligated the Navy to maintain a historical record of the use of the presidential retreat by “important. historic and eminent personages.”<sup>8</sup>

A paragraph from Catoctin MP's 1976 Statement for Management sums up the impact of the cooperative agreement: Camp David

“receives priority treatment in matters of park facility use,  
access, protection and any other assistance the park is

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<sup>7</sup> Agreement, National Park Service with the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Department of the Navy, 1 Nov 1948, p. 1, CMP.

capable of rendering. On the occasion when such treatment is requested and pre-empts the use of previously reserved facilities, park personnel are required to tactfully resolve any conflicts to the satisfaction of all parties.”<sup>9</sup>

The presence of Camp David within the buffering boundaries of Catoctin MP increased the responsibility and awareness of the protection function enormously. Quarterly meetings were instituted with security officials at Camp David in 1975 to improve cooperative efforts and “create a harmonious working atmosphere” between the agencies involved with protecting the retreat and maintaining privacy.<sup>10</sup> Primary NPS staff duties were investigation of intrusions of privacy, escorts and 24 hour availability of specified park personnel with law enforcement qualifications.<sup>11</sup>

Tom McFadden became Superintendent of Catoctin MP in August 1975<sup>12</sup> and soon realized that fulfilling the terms of the 1948 agreement would be expedited if the protection category was changed from proprietary to concurrent. A memo to the Regional Director requested a change of status,<sup>13</sup> to give Catoctin MP's protection force and local police officials equal authority. Eighteen months later, in June of 1977, the Regional Director named McFadden “individually responsible to the Regional Director for the law enforcement. within his area.”<sup>14</sup> His jurisdiction; governed under Section 2 of

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<sup>8</sup>Ibid. p. 3.

<sup>9</sup>Catoctin Mountain Park, Statement for Management, June 1976, p. 6, CMP.

<sup>10</sup>McFadden, Memo to Regional Director, 30 Apr 1979, CMP.

<sup>11</sup>McFadden, Memo to Chief, Division of Resource Management and Visitor Protection, NCR, 20 Jan 1981.

<sup>12</sup>Catoctin Enterprise. 18 Aug 1975.

<sup>13</sup>McFadden, Memo to Regional Director, NCR, 30 Sep 1982, CMP.

<sup>14</sup>McFadden, Memo to Steve Williams, Chief, Employment Placement, NCR, 17 June 1981, CMP.

the Code of Federal Regulations, included 185,000 square feet of cabin and full-use facilities, a 51 site campground, two primitive camp areas and three overnight facilities that housed up to 500 guests.

In 1980 traffic back and forth from Camp David increased and presidential visits included 26 continuous weekends.<sup>15</sup> Vandalism, poaching and hunting along park boundaries increased to the point where more personnel hours were needed to protect the park and support the presidential retreat.<sup>16</sup> Even with Park Police supplements, and overtime paid by the Secret Service, six full time positions were needed. State police were unavailable and the involvement of the County Sheriff's Department was impractical.<sup>17</sup>

McFadden and National Capital Region solicitors began researching a solution to the problem and found it in the state and federal laws.

"The laws of the state of Maryland (Sections 28,32 and 46, Article 96, Maryland Code, Annotated 1951 ) permit the assumption of concurrent. federal jurisdiction over lands within the state acquired by the U.S. for public purposes."

Further, federal law stated:

"under Section 355, Revised Statutes, as amended by the act of February 1, 1940,(54 Stat. 19), and by the act of October 9, 1940 54 Stat. 1083 40 U.S.C. 255), it is provided in effect that unless and until the United States has accepted land acquired after February 1, 1940, it shall be conclusively presumed that no such jurisdiction has been accepted."

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<sup>15</sup>Ibid.

<sup>16</sup>Ken Morgan, Catocin MP Administrative Officer, Memo to Personnel Office, NCR, 13 Feb 1981, CMP.

<sup>17</sup>McFadden, Memo to Steve Williams, Chief, Employment Placement, NCR, 17 June 1981, CMP.

McFadden requested a letter drafted by the Secretary of the Interior to the Governor of Maryland accepting such jurisdiction.<sup>18</sup> Solicitors eventually took the process a step further and interpreted the above laws to mean that lands acquired by the U. S. for public use prior to February 1, 1940 were under the jurisdiction of the federal government and thus McFadden had exclusive jurisdiction within Catoctin MP.<sup>19</sup>

### Boundary Protection

Boundary marking for wildlife protection was an early priority in April 1936 and \$1971 was approved for marking the 60 linear mile boundary of recently purchased land for the Catoctin Recreation Demonstration Area (Catoctin RDA) project with stones at the corners. The Land Utilization Division of the Resettlement Administration estimated the job for the Works Progress Administration (WPA) project and Williams hoped to begin before tree foliage became too thick. This project was not executed and was ultimately delegated to the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in April of 1941. 400 locust posts were prepared to allow for stapling of nine gauge smooth wire four feet above the ground along property lines that were "difficult to control, especially during hunting season."<sup>20</sup> Though job approval had been given and the wire purchased, CCC labor soon became uncertain due to the beginning of World War II<sup>21</sup> A supplemental

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<sup>18</sup>McFadden, Memo to Regional Director, NCR, 30 Sept 1982, CMP.

<sup>19</sup>Personal interview with Tom McFadden, 26 Mar 87.

<sup>20</sup>CCC Job #57 application approval, 28 April 1941, CMP.

<sup>21</sup>Evison, Letter to Williams, 5 May 1941, CMP.

work application for job #57 was filed on October 27, 1941, for 40 miles of work, 1400 man days, and \$783.39 for wire, indicating some work was done. The CCC camp closed on November 7, 1941<sup>22</sup>

Marc Sagan began a boundary project in September 1955 To better acquaint himself with the general area of the park and define its perimeter.<sup>23</sup> He posted "No Hunting" signs on the eastern boundary below the Mt. Lent are, and Camp David and replaced some in other areas.<sup>24</sup> Several important corners had been found through interviews with adjacent land owners in the spring of 1956 before the project was shelved for the summer camping season.<sup>25</sup> Sagan started the boundary survey again in September and estimated that two more weeks would be needed to complete the job. He noted that those elderly people who had the needed information would not be available long and the project should not be delayed.<sup>26</sup> Posting continued during the winter of 1956. Interviews conducted during the boundary project led to Sagan's initiating the Charcoal Hearth interpretive program.<sup>27</sup> Sagan left the park naturalist position in the fall of 1956.

Naturalist Derek Hambly continued the boundary work with the help of park neighbors and discovered some bones of contention about who owned what land. Four miles of boundary were marked in October of 1959 with the help of G. Wilhide who lived along Route 81 (now Maryland Rt. 550).<sup>28</sup> Two more miles, were marked with Mr.

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<sup>22</sup>Supplemental Application, 27 Oct 1941, CMP.

<sup>23</sup> Sagan, Naturalist Activity Report, 30 Sep 1955, CMP.

<sup>24</sup>Sagan, Naturalist Activity Report, 30 Nov 1955, CMP

<sup>25</sup>Sagan, Naturalist Activity Report, 31 Mar 1956, CMP.

<sup>26</sup>Sagan, Naturalist Activity Report, Sep 1956, CMP.

<sup>27</sup>Sagan, Naturalist Activity Report, 30 Nov, 1956, CMP.

<sup>28</sup>Hambly, Monthly Report of Activities, Oct 1959, CMP.

I. McPherson and J. Willard in January of 1960.<sup>29</sup> Hambly declared the entire boundary of the park marked for the first time since the origin of the park in October of 1960:<sup>30</sup>

Boundary survey work continued to be important to park staff. A professional survey was ordered in 1964 and 1965 by Superintendent Webb and a contract signed with J. B. Ferguson & Co. A resurvey of the eastern park boundary in 1956 identified errors in earlier surveys and the information used to justify the need for new surveys of the remaining park boundaries.<sup>31</sup>

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<sup>29</sup>Hambley, Monthly Report of Activities, 4 Jan 1960, CMP.

<sup>30</sup>Hambley, Monthly Report of Activities, 1 Nov 1960, CMP.

<sup>31</sup>Voight 1988.

## SUMMARY

The administrative history of Catoctin Mountain Park chronicled a cooperative effort between state and federal officials who participated in a New Deal land program to rehabilitate worn out farm land for recreational purposes. A major element of the story was Garland G. (Mike) Williams, who as Project Manager acted as midwife and father of the Catoctin Recreational Demonstration Area. Hand picked by Conrad Wirth, Williams consulted local officials and residents to determine their recreational needs and chose the land to be purchased for the park. Though frustrated by bureaucratic requirements of the National Park Service, Maryland government and the Works Progress Administration (WPA), Williams orchestrated the building of three complete group camps, on time and in a workmanlike fashion. Hiking trails and roads were created from old logging and charcoaling roads.

In the years before World War II Williams worked with many different officials from all levels of government to develop all facets of Catoctin RDA. He had a working relationship with conservation, recreation, wildlife and highway officials from state and local offices. Several hundred men from different New Deal programs were under Williams's supervision, including, those of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, the WPA, and the Civilian Conservation Corps. The Maryland League for Crippled Children had a friend and mentor in Williams when he planned their camp in 1936 and convinced the Regional office in Richmond that building designs should accommodate the children.

Wildlife and conservation were served by Williams's pragmatic supervision. An innovative fishing program on Big Hunting Creek served as a model conservation effort. The Brotherhood of the Jungle Cock was founded and flourished at Catoctin RDA when sportsmen from Baltimore contacted Williams about an organization for fishermen. The Civilian Conservation Corps improved the streams and the state of Maryland stocked them in a coordinated effort to improve fishing at Catoctin RDA.

World War II came to the Catoctin RDA when British sailors were hosted in the camps while their ships were refurbished in Baltimore. The U.S. Army was accommodated in 1940. In the spring of 1941 Williams received a visit from his long time boss Conrad Wirth, who proposed to remodel Catoctin RDA's Camp Hi-Catoctin into a wartime retreat for President Roosevelt. Wirth recognized and respected Williams's accomplishments during the development phase at Catoctin RDA. Williams ability to work with other agency officials and his track record for meeting deadlines strengthened the case for Catoctin RDA as the choice for the President's hideaway. Wirth was not disappointed. As scheduled, the weekend of the 4th of July, 1941, Roosevelt made his maiden voyage on the U.S.S. Shangri-La. A cooperative agreement between the Navy and the National Park Service signed in 1948 was still the basis for the relationship between the two agencies in 1987.

In 1950, near the end of Williams's career, the Frederick County Outdoor School was instituted at Catoctin Mountain Park. One of the first in the United States, and the only one in Maryland at the time, the program taught environmental science to County 6th graders in the spring and fall at Camp Greentop. By this time Williams had a larger staff that included full time naturalist, Marc Sagan and Jack Boley, the assistant manager.

Sagan had considerable latitude in creating interpretive programs for the school program and other groups using the camps. He visited numerous museums on the east coast and had the opportunity to make use of the Regional museum resources, thus enlarging on the work done by the first seasonal interpreter at Catoctin RDA, William Randall. Before his retirement in 1957, Williams supervised the beginning of the refurbishing of the park under Mission 66.

Mike Williams would still recognize the cabin camps at Misty Mount and Greentop. The Frederick County Outdoor School and the Maryland League for the Handicapped still send children to camp at Greentop. Scouts still camp in the summers at Misty Mount. Fish are still caught by anglers with artificial flies, though now with barbless hooks. The President of the Unified States continues to relax in the quiet retreat at Camp David. Deer, turkey, grouse and other wildlife thrive on the mountain.

Buildings and innovative programs that have stood the test of time are Mike Williams's legacy to Catoctin Mountain Park. A summary of deeds certainly does not tell all about the man, his personality, foibles or flaws, but those fine achievements were instrumental in producing a unique national park. Catoctin Mountain's forest forms a superlative natural and recreational area that still serves the metropolitan area identified by planners in 1935. The cooperative effort between man and nature rejuvenated unique animal and plant life. Fishing streams, ridges and hiking trail vistas, combined with the scenery of changing seasons now offers visitors an atmosphere of serene beauty only achieved in nature.

Originally planned as a park for organized group camping and picnicking development during Mission 66 altered the focus by adding more visitor services.

Camping facilities, an enlarged visitor's center and paved roads encouraged a steady increase of park users who enjoyed the natural wonders so close to the growing metropolitan areas of Baltimore and Washington. As visitation increased the interpretive program expanded beyond the traditional environmental education emphasis. Crowds, attracted by the Folk Culture Center at Round Meadow Camp, stayed to hike and picnic within the park. Weekend campfire programs, living history, seasonal festivities and new recreation facilities combined to attract families, sportsmen and craft enthusiasts from the Mid-Atlantic region.

In the past decade the pendulum of use versus protection has moved in favor of resource protection. The Leopold Report of 1963 advocated an administrative policy that allowed nature to manage itself, but man's influence is everywhere and without appropriate intervention ecological islands such as Catoctin MP will not exist. Commuters utilize Route 77 more frequently, growth of facilities at Cunningham Falls State Park and increased population in Frederick and Washington counties threaten the natural environment of Catoctin Mountain Park. Management has had to respond to these external forces. Developments outside park boundaries affect the park and add to the stresses. The story of the administration of Catoctin's natural resource; for recreational purposes illustrates the paradox of use and preservation purposes expressed by Congress in 1916 when the National Park Service was formed.