

UNIFORMS AND INSIGNIA
PRELIMINARY INVENTORY

A. Provenance

Much of the material in the uniform boxes came from Jack Williams who wrote a brief history of the NPS uniform, badges and insignia in 1968. The rest has been gathered piecemeal, without any large accession. "Current" material such as the R&R Uniforms Catalog will continue to be added when available.

B. History

Jack Williams' unpublished History of the NPS Uniform, Badges, and Insignia, written in 1968, is the standard work. A copy of his manuscript is available. Evidently the first uniforms came into use in 1911 through the efforts of Major W. R. Logan, Superintendent of Glacier National Park. Mark Daniels, General Superintendent of National Parks designed and wore the first regular uniform in 1914. With the establishment of the NPS, a uniform committee, chaired by Superintendent W. B. Lewis of Yosemite, was formed. Through its efforts by 1919 the standard uniform consisted of stiff brim hat, blouse, green riding breeches, shirt, and either boots or shoes with puttees.

Embroidered cloth sleeve patches were worn on the uniform from 1920-1925. Length of service stripes were also worn. In the 20s a gold star for ten years service was authorized but by 1933 it was replaced by a silver star for each five years. These stripes and stars continued to be worn on the lower sleeve until 1957. Collar ornaments have been worn since 1919 and the buttons have had a design since 1912. The previous year (1911) the first badge was adopted although scout badges had been worn in Yellowstone since 1894. A two-piece badge was in use from 1921 to 1928. Officials had round badges while those of rangers were shield-shaped. These distinctions continued when the single piece badge was adopted in 1930. Trousers were approved in 1935 but breeches continued to be worn until 1947. Grey shirts with pleat pockets and shoulder straps also became official in the mid-30s. The 1935 standards gave Washington Office employees permission to wear "civilian" clothes. Prior to this everyone, even women, wore the same uniform.

World War II saw many more women employed and they began to wear green skirts. The 1947 option for women includes skirts and

Women's Army Corps-type coats. After the war, all men wore trousers and the shield badge became curved rather than flat. A big distinction was added in the mid-50s when the NPS arrowhead, first used in 1954, was authorized as a shoulder patch. The women's uniform of skirt, white blouse, jacket and hat patterned after the airline stewardesses of the 40s, finally became "regulation" in 1959 having been worn since the war. The next year (1960) saw the "officials" give up their round badges. All badges were changed to have the eagle face the other way and the inscription now said either "National Park Ranger" or "National Park Service".

The departmental seal was changed in 1968. As worn on the ranger badge it had a small circle and 11 small triangles framed by a stylized pair of hands. This was not well-liked and in 1970 reverted to a more traditional buffalo, mountains, and rising sun. The women moved away from tradition in 1970 and were authorized new outfits of beige double knit polyester which were worn in the field from 1971 to 1974. The color was then changed to green but the women's uniform were still polyester. This uniform was not considered practical. By 1980, men and women were wearing the same outfit (with modifications) standardized in 1919.

C. Summary

There are two boxes of materials pertinent to uniforms. One contains the standards and the photos while the other has folders, articles, catalogues, etc.

D. Dispersal

The uniforms themselves are in the museum collection. Catalog Numbers 2-51, 118-203, 211-214, 240-339, 346-351, 361-364, 377-386, 388-391, 450-452, and 568 are either uniforms or uniform paraphernalia. In addition there are several "extra" shirts, dresses, jackets, skirts, etc., that are not catalogued but are listed with a reference to the catalogued item.

The periodicals, especially In Touch and the Courier contain many references to and pictures of the uniforms. Also some of the books refer to the uniform. Occasionally the oral history interviewee will mention what he or she wore.

Many of the portraits in the Portrait File were taken in uniform. The slide collection has another set of the "uniform show." Some of Albright's films include rangers in uniform. The Springfield Collection is a rich source for photos.

E. Folder List

Uniform Standards

1923
 1928 Sketches
 1935 Memo
 November 22, 1940
 1947
 December 2, 1959 with Amendments to 1964
 July 2, 1969
 Women, December 1970
 Men, January 1971
 February 1974
 June 1976 Memo
 October 1977

Uniform Photos

Small polaroid - 1977 "maintenance" man and female "ranger"
 Lila M. - 1931, Carlsbad Caverns
 Overcoat (and knee boots with breeches) ca1940 with negative
 Standard Overcoat for NPS Rangers, side view (1940s) with
 negative
 Standard Overcoat for NPS Rangers, rear view (1940s) with
 negative
 Standard Outfit for NPS Rangers, ca1940 with negative
 Standard Outfit for NPS rangers, ca1940 backview, with
 negative
 Standard Outfit for NPS Rangers, side view (1940s) with
 negative
 Standard Raincoat for NPS Rangers, front view (1940s) with
 negative
 Standard Summer Uniform for NPS Rangers, front view
 negative)
 Standard Boot for NPS Rangers, front view (1940s) negative
 Standard Boot for NPS Rangers, rear view, (1940s) with negative
 NPS Buttons Negative
 Small snapshot - 1932, T. C. Worley, Carlsbad Caverns
 Small snapshot - 1931 without jacket, T. C. Worley, Carlsbad
 Caverns
 Closeup small snapshot - 1931, T. C. Worley, Carlsbad Caverns
 Small snapshot with flashlight - 1931, T. C. Worley, Carlsbad
 Small snapshot with elevator shaft building in background -
 1932, T. C. Worley, Carlsbad
 Small snapshot with hats on - 1931, Carlsbad staff, T. C.
 Worley

Yellowstone Park Scout Badge with negative
 Photocopy - Aztec Ruins National Monument Staff, 1940
 Photocopy - Grand Canyon Staff, Spring 1927 with shoulder
 patch
 Photocopy - 1926 Yellowstone (summer?) Staff
 Photocopy - Al Heyne with Fire Control Badge
 Woman in beige zipper dress with man "ranger"
 Award photo showing man wearing "praying hands" badge
 Ranger Chance Beebe - 1920 Glacier National Park
 Historical Uniforms Glacier 1915 with negative
 Male ranger with summer visitors
 Effigy Mounds male ranger, 1957
 Closeup showing collar ornament
 Closeup showing pins, collar ornaments, buttons, part badge,
 1972
 Male ranger in summer field uniform, 1965
 Male ranger with stetson on boat, 1958
 Male ranger using radio from patrol car, 1958
 Close up seasonal patch
 Close up ranger patch
 Centennial (1972) scene with woman's optional dress and man's
 blazer
 Photocopy - Albright and Hoover, 1927 (patch)
 Photocopy - Superintendent E. B. Rogers and Drury, 1940
 (superintendent badge)
 Photocopy - C. R. Vinten and Charles V. Robshon, Jr. (service
 stripes)
 Photocopy - Y. Lowell White (blazer)
 Photocopy - Paul Washington (maintenance uniform)
 Photocopy - Colonel John R. White, 1929
 Photocopy - Fran Naylor (praying hands badge)
 Photocopy - Sgt. John Thrift and horse (Park Police uniform)
 Photocopy - U.S.P.P. Chief Jerry Wells
 Photocopy - Dress Park Police uniform
 Photocopy - One Lick Evergreen
 Rear view - uniform (male ranger), Saguaro National Monument,
 1939
 John S. Mason, Richmond National Battlefield, 1957?
 Susan Estes with snake and visitors - Rock Creek Park, 1949?
 Governor Nellie Ross (Montana) Ranger Freida Nelson and
 Superintendent Horace Albright, 1925, Yellowstone
 Claire Marie Hodges seasonal ranger, Yosemite, 1918
 Martha Bingamen, Yosemite Park Ranger, 1926
 Freida Nelson, woman ranger, 1926, Yellowstone (suspenders)
 E. Elaine Russell, 1963, Andrew Johnson National Monument
 Ranger Naturalists and naturalist staff - Yellowstone, June
 13, 1933

Custodian Mattes; Junior Clerk-Stenographer Ethel L. Neinzer;
 Ranger Sneddon, Scotts Bluff, c1944
 Camille Ellis, 1960
 Arlington House outdoor full dress woman ranger, 1968
 New uniforms unveiled at INDE, 1970
 1975 new uniforms
 Herma Albertson (Baggley), 1929, Yellowstone
 Photocopy - Enid Michael (1930s)
 Photocopy - Polly Mead Patraw (1920s)
 House Where Lincoln Died (with female ranger, pre-1968)
 Woman ranger giving indoor tour (pre-1968)
 New Woman's Uniform, 1970 (culotte, tunic, boots)
 Award photo - 1957 with 2 seasonal women, 3 men, 1 civilian
 man
 Photocopy - Women's beige maintenance uniforms

"Folders" in Uniforms Box

Official Bicentennial Graphics Standard Manual
 Jack Williams Uniform History
 The NPS Uniform Slide Program, Master Script (and slides), May
 1960
 Uniform changes article and responses, 1935 with uniform memos
 Article - Brief History of NPS Uniform, Midwest Staff Minutes,
 September 21, 1982
 NPS Official Uniform Catalog, R & R Uniforms (1982)
 NPS Official Uniform Catalog, R & R Uniforms (1981)
 NPS Insignia and How the Uniform Grew, Williams, Kowski and
 Haines
 Uniform allowances
 Buffalo Seal, USDI
 Ordering uniforms
 CCC Uniforms
 Arrowhead Symbol
 Letters about Williams Uniform Study
 Women's Uniform

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