

Beal appointed director of Midwest Region

Merrill D. "Dave" Beal, whose National Park Service career spans 32 years, is the new director of the midwest region with headquarters in Omaha. Director Gary Everhardt has announced.



Dave Beal

Beal served as deputy director of the region, and has been serving as acting director since the recent retirement of J. Leonard Volz.

The Omaha office administers 30 national parks, monuments, historic sites, riverways and lakeshores in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas and Nebraska.

Perhaps MWR's greatest challenge lies in the fact that nearly half of its park areas have been established within the past 10 years, and, says Beal, "this means we are faced with all the problems posed by parks in the development stage."

In addition, he notes, the 10-state region holds about 55 million persons, making it the largest in population of any NPS region. "We are where the people are," he told the Newsletter in an interview.

"The latest addition to the region alone, Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area in the Cleveland-

Akron area of Ohio, can count five million persons within 150 miles," he said.

Beal began his association with the park service at age 17 as a seasonal employee at Yellowstone National Park and became a full-time park ranger there in 1953. He has served as a Yellowstone naturalist, as chief naturalist at Grand Canyon National Park, and as assistant superintendent of Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

In further describing the challenge posed in his new position, Beal said that "What has to impress anyone familiar with the midwest region is the immense potential of its recreational areas.

"There is Voyageurs National Park in northern Minnesota, still pretty much a "paper park" but

straining to emerge. There are similarly new Great Lakes parks—Apostle Islands, Pictured Rocks, Sleeping Bear Dunes and Indiana Dunes National Lakeshores. Their scenic and recreational resources beckon to such large population centers as Detroit, Chicago and Minneapolis. And the beautiful St. Croix National Scenic Riverway has 9.5 million persons within 250 miles," he said.

Born in 1926 in Richfield, Utah, Beal holds a bachelor's degree from Idaho State College and a master's degree in zoology and resource management from Utah State University.

Beal and his wife, Jean, have two sons, John Davis and James Merrill. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1944 to 1946.



Assistant Secretary Nathaniel P. Reed (center) swore in four new members of the National Park Service's Rocky Mountain Regional Advisory Committee during that group's recent meeting in Denver. The new appointees are (left to right) Hoadley Dean of Rapid City, S.D.; D.C. (Del) Shipman of Watford City, N.D.; Jack Rosenthal of Casper, Wyo; and Samuel J. Taylor of Moab, Utah.

Cuyahoga and Canaveral join Park System

Legislation signed by President Ford has authorized addition to the National Park System of its tenth national seashore, Canaveral National Seashore, Florida, and its third major urban recreation area, Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area, Ohio.

Most of Canaveral's 67,000 acres consists of land within NASA's Kennedy Space Center, but 12,491 acres will come from the State and 892 acres will be acquired from private owners.

The 20-mile-long seashore area serves as a safety zone during launches, and NASA will retain the right to close beaches when space vehicles are taking off. The Fish and Wildlife Service will continue to administer its Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge within the seashore boundaries.

Construction of a visitor center is envisioned, but little additional development is anticipated, and no roads are planned.

The area provides habitat for more than 250 species of birds, in-

cluding three considered endangered, the southern bald eagle, the dusky seaside sparrow, and the brown pelican.

The act establishes an advisory council of five members and requires a completed master plan to be submitted to Congress within three years.

Cuyahoga Valley NRA will protect from further encroachment land between the outskirts of Akron and those of Cleveland.

The area encompasses some 29,000 acres along the Cuyahoga River, made up of parcels of state, municipal and private land holdings. Only 18,000 acres will be managed by NPS.

Subject to heavy industrial use, the Cuyahoga is best known as the "burning river," because it once caught fire. But though burdened with pollution where it empties into Lake Erie, a few miles upstream the waterway wanders through cornfields and forests in a sparsely populated section.

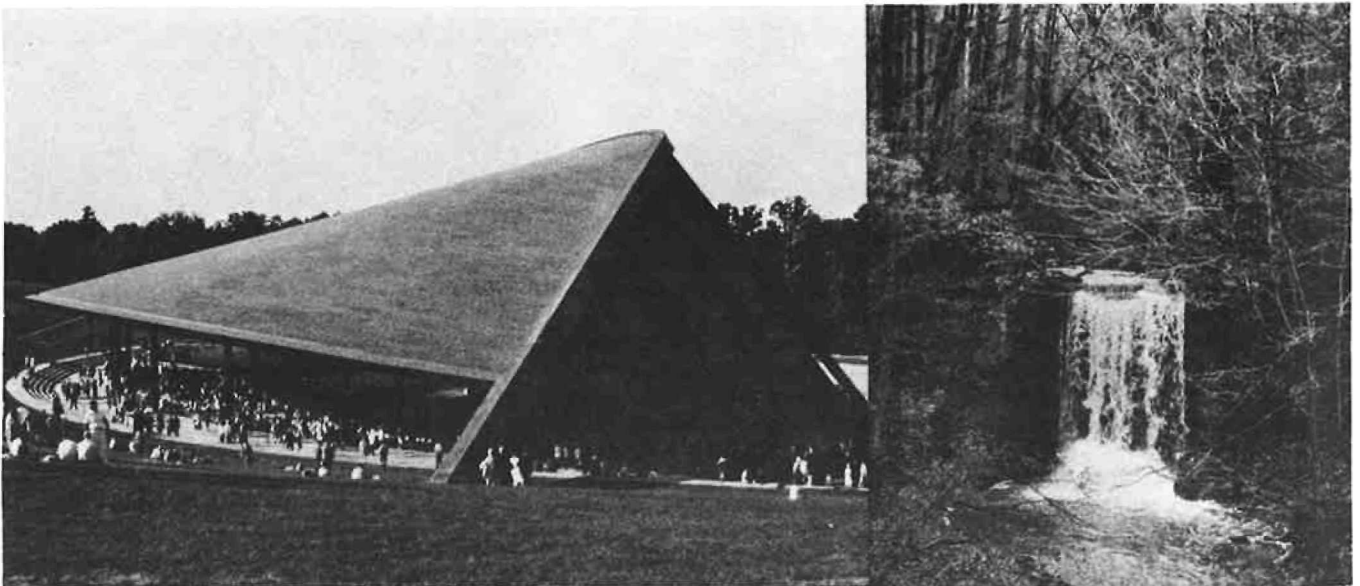
The national recreation area embraces several metropolitan parks, scout camps, and ski areas, plus a golf course and the summer home of the Cleveland Symphony.

The area is also rich in historical values. Building of the Ohio and Erie Canal, completed in 1827, opened up a colorful era in Ohio history, and remains of locks, mill-houses, quarries and portions of the canal itself serve as reminders.

NRA development possibilities include trail systems for bicycling and hiking, minibuses to transport visitors, replicas of canal barges drawn by mules, and river access for boaters, canoeists and picnickers.

The legislation provides that a plan for the coordinated operation of the area must be provided a year after establishment of the NRA by the Secretary of the Interior.

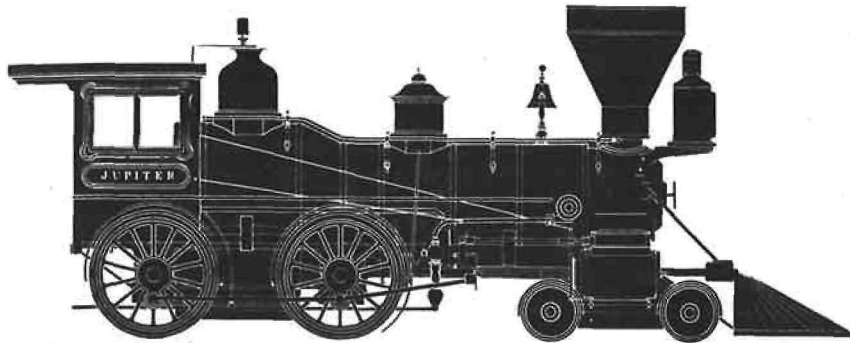
A 13-member advisory commission will be appointed, consisting of Federal, State and local officials, plus members of private Ohio conservation groups.



Blossom Music Center (left) summer home of the Cleveland Symphony, and Old Mill Falls in the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area. (Photos by Rep. John F. Seiberling.)

Golden Spike seeks replicas of vintage steam locomotives

By Jim Harpster, Public Affairs Officer, RMRO



"Jupiter"

With pennants flying, brass shining and bright red wheels and drive assembly riding true along the track, the vintage steam locomotives known as the "Jupiter" and the "119" may roll again at Golden Spike National Historic Site at Promontory Summit, Utah.

The original units were there on a spring day in 1869 when officials of the Union Pacific and the Central Pacific Railroads drove the Golden Spike that symbolized joining of the nation with iron rails, the completion of the first transcontinental railroad across any continent.

More than a century later, the National Park Service is taking steps to build replicas of the two locomotives and their tenders.

NPS has invited proposals from prospective bidders to prepare plans and specifications for the units, and to build and deliver them to Promontory, north of Great Salt Lake. They will be used for public display and on commemorative occasions.

What happened to the original units? George D. Church, superintendent of Golden Spike says they vanished into history, scrapped at the turn of the century.

The park area has used "borrowed" locomotives since early

1970. These were first placed on loan by Paramount Pictures and recently by their new owners, the State of Nevada

One was the "Inyo," built in 1875 for the Virginia and Truckee Line, known as the "Queen of the Short-Liners" and operated for years along the California-Nevada border. It has impersonated the "Jupiter," one of the original Golden Spike ceremonial units.

The other locomotive was the "Dayton," a Virginia and Truckee product built in 1874. At the historic site, it has masqueraded for the

past five years as the Union Pacific "119," the other locomotive that brought dignitaries to the spike-driving ceremony in 1869.

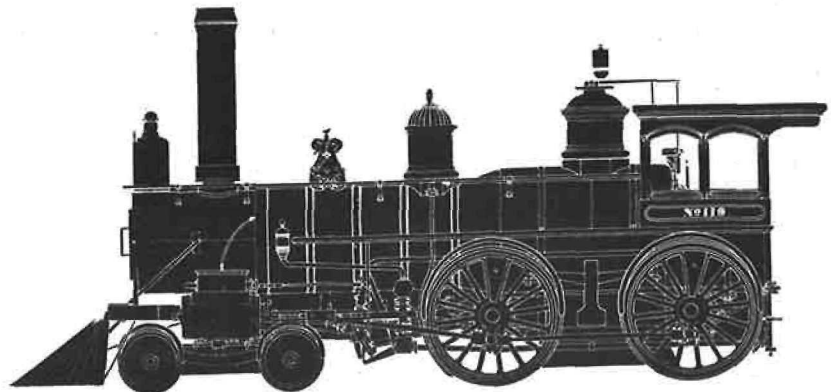
The locomotives and their tenders play a vital role in the Park Service's interpretive activities at the site, in re-enacting for visitors the historic occasion of the joining of the rails with a gold spike.

Now, however, the State of Nevada has asked for the return of the units for use during the State's bicentennial program in 1976. Faced with the loss of these vital machines, the National Park Service is preparing to replace them with replicas built by a capable builder.

"Difficult? You bet," assures Superintendent Church. "There are absolutely no known detailed plans in existence for the originals, and we don't know of any 1869-vintage 4-4-0 American type locomotives available.

"That means the replicas will have to be designed and built from an entirely new set of plans prepared from photographs and drawings and any other documents that the contractor will be able to locate."

No timetable has been developed for manufacture of the units, nor is there yet an estimate of the cost.



"No. 119"

Blind dispatcher at Assateague



Curtis L. Merritt at dispatcher post at Assateague.

The National Park Service has utilized the services of many handicapped people in its "Volunteers in Parks" program, but never before has the agency had a blind, 15-year-old eighth grade boy serve as a radio dispatcher.

Curtis L. Merritt of Chincoteague, Va. is no ordinary student. Blind since infancy, he has not let his handicap limit his pursuit of unusual activities.

Curtis' chance came thanks to the efforts of Melvin L. Olsen, Virginia district ranger, at Assateague Island National Seashore. Olsen knew the Eastern Shore blind boy to be industrious, intelligent, and anxious to help an island he could not see. Ranger Olsen encouraged the student to serve in his office as a volunteer radio dispatcher and telephone operator in the summer of 1974.

Using such aids as a faceless clock with raised letters to record the time of all incidents, Curtis handled his task with ease. With his Braille writer and tape recorder, he maintained an accurate log of data pertinent to the Virginia operation.

In his spare time, Curtis compiled in Braille a complete alphabetized law enforcement card file which lists previous violations of seashore regulations. The index is of great assistance to the ranger in the field who needs an immediate identification check on the individual for a possible previous violation. Using an ordinary typewriter, Curtis converted the daily Braille log into a typewritten record which all employees could utilize.

"This young man is to be commended for his ability and display of professionalism," said Ranger Olsen. "At Assateague we found his handicap to be one of inspiration rather than limitation, and the seashore staff hopes to see him in the dispatcher's chair again next summer."

Superintendents named at Grand Teton, Canyonlands

Robert I. Kerr, superintendent of Canyonlands National Park, Utah, has been named superintendent of Grand Teton National Park.

Kerr succeeds Gary Everhardt who was named NPS Director on Jan. 9.

Succeeding Kerr as superintendent of Canyonlands will be Peter L. Parry, currently chief of the branch of employee evaluation in the Washington office.

Kerr, 43, has been at Canyonlands since July 1972. The son of a ranger, he joined the agency as a seasonal employee in 1947 and was permanently assigned as a ranger at Great Smoky Mountains

National Park in 1956.

He has seen service at Sequoia, Shenandoah and Everglades National Parks, as superintendent at Zion National Park, and as resource management specialist in the Washington office.

Kerr is a native of Woodlake, California, and a 1956 graduate of Oregon State University. He served for two years with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

He is married and the father of three children.

Parry, also 43, has served in the NPS Washington office since July of 1972.

He previously was superintendent

at Joshua Tree National Monument, Calif., at Lehman Caves National Monument, Nev., and at Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial National Monument, Ohio. Earlier, he was a park ranger at Isle Royale National Park, Mich. and at Natchez Trace Parkway in Mississippi.

Parry joined NPS in 1950 as an engineering aide at Grand Teton. He is a native of Golden, Colo. and a 1954 graduate of Colorado State University.

Parry served as a captain in the U.S. Air Force.

He is married and the father of a daughter.



CSC acts to protect merit system integrity

The career Civil Service... "has proven... it can continue to function and move ahead even under the most difficult circumstances. This is due chiefly to more than two million career civil servants who, day-in and day-out, give of themselves in a thoroughly dedicated and efficient manner to assure this continuity," said President Ford in a memorandum on the career civil service Sept. 20.

To keep in the spirit of the President's message and assure the integrity of the merit system, the Civil Service Commission recently issued guidelines. These were issued with the understanding that by and large, the system works well and personnel responsibilities are faithfully discharged. But, "disturbing findings of some recent investigations make it clear that certain matters require additional attention on a systematic basis," CSC said.

The actions listed below are "intended to correct practices, whether willful or inadvertent, inimical to sound merit system operations," said CSC.

The Commission will require issuance of a new certification statement for use with official position

descriptions. This certification is being established to insure title accuracy of position descriptions.

CSC will restrict authority to make temporary limited appointments to meet special needs. Extensions of 30-day appointments will require "persuasive" documentation showing that initial appointment was proper when made, and that continued employment is essential to agency operations.

Agencies will be required to certify to the Commission all Schedule C (excepted) positions. The review process shall consist of a desk audit to see whether duties performed meet those described in the official position description and whether the position is correctly classified as to title, series and grade. Verification must be made whether the actual position warrants Schedule C classification and submission of these results to CSC.

CSC has also defined more explicitly standards of ethical conduct for Government officers and employees. CSC will require certification as to "financial interests," annual notification to employees of agency regulations regarding ethical conduct and compliance with

Part 735 of the Civil Service regulations.

Other actions designed to maintain merit system integrity include: A widespread dissemination of a one-page brochure to supervisors and managers pointing up the importance of their contributions to maintaining the merit system; distribution of the CSC Pamphlet 78, The Federal Managers' Responsibilities Under the Merit System, and a new training package designed to assist managers in applying and working with merit concepts in daily operations. In addition, employees will be made aware that there is someone in each department or agency to go to with complaints of merit violations. For NPS that person is Roscoe Alexander, Division of Personnel, WASO.

Individual agencies are encouraged by CSC to take steps to assure "the selection process remains free of preselection, that vacancies are accurately described to all interested candidates and that special job requirements are valid.

For further information on the new CSC guidelines contact Roscoe Alexander, personnel management specialist, WASO (202) 343-4383.

Safety: Always in Season



Explosion destroys Navajo NM building

By Ken Morgan

Tuesday started like any other work day. The cool but pleasant morning gave no indication of the disaster to come.

Upon arrival, the superintendent asked the maintenanceman to light a Liquid Petroleum Gas (L.P.G.) room heater and check the fuel oil furnace which had not been operating properly. The maintenanceman, who had just completed a fuel oil furnace school, worked on the unit most of the morning. But he couldn't locate the trouble.

At 11 o'clock he went upstairs, turned on the gas to the L.P.G. heater and lit it. He then returned to the furnace to work until lunchtime.

After lunch he found the problem—a small electric wire had burned in half. He replaced the wire and went upstairs to turn on the electricity. When the switch was thrown, the furnace arced properly to ignite the fuel oil. But it also ignited L.

(Continued on next page)

Editorial Briefs remodeled following field survey

Since April 24, 1973, the Office of Public Affairs in Washington has produced weekly editions of "Editorial Briefs" to inform NPS employees of press reaction to the policies and programs of the Service.

The Office has attempted to provide each park, office, and ranger station one copy for circulation. (If your station does not get a copy, you should request it through the park superintendent who should, in turn, notify the regional public affairs officer.)

In mid-November a readers questionnaire was distributed. The response has been gratifying. It is obvious that Editorial Briefs is well read and well liked throughout the National Park System.

But we have learned that some changes would be popular. In turn, we are striving to make the changes most desired—or to offer an explanation of the decision not to change.

Although many liked the feature stories on NPS employees, most felt such articles were more appropriate for the NPS Newsletter and unnecessarily lengthened the "Briefs." We agree and will follow the suggestion. (The Newsletter, by the way, is always in the market for features on field areas or employees. Both original material and articles from the press would be appreciated.)

Some were concerned at the frequency with which "Briefs" uses articles from speeches of senior NPS officials and excerpts from Washington news releases. We will try to avoid duplication, but feel an obligation to keep readers informed about the comments and opinions of Service officials. We will also occasionally duplicate portions of news releases which reflect important changes—or reaffirmations—of NPS policies.

Many readers made suggestions regarding length. Frequent com-

ments suggested tighter editing. These will be followed.

Some respondents were dissatisfied by the geographic balance of the articles. Many also noted they were unaware of WASO interest in having news clippings sent in from individual parks.

The Office is very interested in NPS-related news stories, particularly editorial comment and articles which reflect policies, problems, or innovative programs. Please forward clippings through your regional public affairs officer.

Most of all, we were pleased to find that the Editorial Briefs are valuable to our "front line" personnel.

The response to the questionnaire has been exceptional.

Please feel free to send additional comments.

--by Duncan Morrow
Public Affairs Office, WASO

P. gas fumes which had seeped into the basement. An explosion and subsequent fire destroyed the house and all its contents, while the maintenance man suffered extensive first and second degree burns.

An investigation revealed the following information:

1. The copper gas line was not installed according to code.
2. A nail hole was in the line to the heater.
3. An improperly flared fitting at the meter leaked gas.
4. After complaints about gas fumes, gas line joints and connections had been checked and leaks plugged.
5. There was no manual fuel oil shut-off except at the furnace itself, and leaking fuel oil fed the fire. The L.P. gas was manually shut off at the storage tank.
6. The L.P. gas lines had never been pressure tested.

Knowledge of the nature of L.P. gas might prevent other such incidents.

L.P. gas is a common name given



At Navajo National Monument, Ariz., this building was demolished by an explosion of Liquid Petroleum Gas.

to propane, propylene, butane, butylenes or a mixture of these. It is heavier than air and acts like water in seeking the lowest level. A mixture of approximately two to ten parts gas and 98 to 90 parts air needs only a spark to ignite it. Above and below this narrow range the gas won't burn.

L.P. gas for residential use is effectively odorized by an additive. If this odor is detected, any valve available which will stop the leak should be closed. A qualified serviceman should then inspect the system.

It is dangerous to take chances with L.P.G. or any other flammable gas. Lines should be pressure tested annually in order to locate leaks. Systems should conform to codes. Hopefully, we can all learn from this experience.

(Ed. note: At the request of WASO, Ken Morgan, safety officer at SWRO, prepared this account of an October 1974 incident.)

Public affairs opportunities course held

Participants at a January "Opportunities in Public Affairs" course at the Albright Training Center talk with Denver Post environmental editor Dick Prouty (second from right) during class break. Prouty was one of the three media representatives who participated in the four day session. Others, from left, are Dick Munro, Glacier National Park management assistant; Harvey Wickware, Mount Rushmore superintendent; Doug Warnock, Independence park manager; and Robert Harney, superintendent of Prince William Forest Park. (Photo by Norman G. Messinger, Chief of Interpretation, Cape Hatteras Group.)



Letter to the editor

(Ed. note: Publication of this reply to an article in our October 15 issue was delayed by prior space commitments.)

Dear Sir:

My in-basket runneth over. I have little time or inclination to embark on a debate. But Bob Utley's article in your Oct. 15 issue demands a response.

I will pass over the introduction and window dressing. All of us in the Service are aware of the great historic and natural heritage in which it is our good fortune to be immersed. Those in park operations and management have long been aware of the inadequacies of men, money and material, and I am certain many are puzzled that Bob felt he had to "sound the warning."

But what confuses and disturbs me is Bob's insistent argument that "preservation" be allotted first priority in the scheme of park management. His big pitch is summarized in the lead sentence of the last paragraph "Indisputably, preservation comes first in law."

He bases this profundity on the structure of a single sentence in the Organic Act—"which purpose is to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will

leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." Because the reference to "conservation" precedes the reference to "provide for the enjoyment," he reasons that Congress intended the Service to give eternal priority to conservation.

Following this premise to its logical (?) conclusion would mean that we would close considerable portions of most of our parks until we restored or rehabilitated all the park's resources. This would be a most unrealistic measure. The public and political pressures would be unbearable. The public, represented by Congress, owns these parks and expects to use them. Although they may not comprehend the complexities of management, they know these parks are theirs. It's our job to try to lead them along the proper trail to provide a measure of park use while simultaneously protecting and preserving the resource.

As Bob states and as we all know, competition for the buck is fierce. The manager must administer the park with an allotted number of dollars, must spread the thin bankroll over the entire spectrum of operations of which preservation is only one, albeit an important, element. He is obliged to fix priorities and must decide whether he should repair a visitor facility (yes even including a comfort station),

or a utility, or paint an historic woodshed that "was there at the time of the battle." This is not to belittle the shed but to illustrate varying degrees of importance in the business of managing a park. To anoint a single broad element at the total expense of all others, is both impractical and unwise. The question the manager must resolve is: Where does this fit in my management plan? Can I defer it; and what will the consequences be?

Perhaps the most astonishing statement lies in the last paragraph wherein we read a pontifical declaration which is intended to be a clincher: "Indisputably, preservation comes first in law. Indisputably, preservation comes first in logic." I submit that the law does not give indisputable and everlasting priority to "preservation." I submit that sound logic dictates that the park's manager must employ a flexibility to determine the priority and chronology of the park operation. I submit that a well-managed park is the result of the proper balance of all elements—services, as well as preservation. And I submit that, in view of the awesome problems that confront us, Servicewide we're doing a helluva good job.

Sincerely yours,

Nathan B. Golub
Associate Regional Director
Park System Management
Mid-Atlantic Region

People on the move

New faces

BOYLE, John E., to Maintenance Foreman, Gateway NRA
HOPLEY, Douglas E., to Admin Assist, Assoc Reg Dir Admin, SWRO
OKUSZKA, Joseph R., to Sewage Disposal Plant Oper, Gateway NRA
ROBERTSON, Robert M., to Water Treatm't Plant Oper, Gateway NRA
RYAN, Edmund B., to Utilities Oper, Gateway NRA

New places

BARNETT, Laurene L., Clk Steno, Colorado West Group, to Admin Clk, Colorado West
BLACKBURN, Stephen C., Realty Spec, Buffalo River Lands Off, to Same, Big Thicket Lands Off
BRADY, Walter J., Gen Facilities & Equipm't, Cape Cod NS, to Facility Mgr, Carlsbad Caverns NP
BROWN, Harold J., Visual Info Spec, Div Graphic Systems, DSC, to Landscape Architect, Assoc Mgr Prof Support, DSC
DODGE, Norman H., Supv Pk Ranger, Yellowstone NP, to Same, Acadia NP
DOUGLASS, John R., Supv Pk Ranger, Rocky Mountain NP, to Pk Ranger, Olympic NP
FRANKEL, Leah S., Supv Pk Ranger, Devils Tower NM, to Pk Ranger, Grand Teton NP
HELLICKSON, Sandra Kay, Pk Ranger, Richmond NBP, to Same, Ranger, Richmond NBP, to Same, Assateague Island NS

HERREA, Theodore A., Pk Ranger, Bandelier NM, to Same, Pecos NM

HURT, Vern E., Supv Pk Ranger, Yellowstone NP, to Same, Cape Cod NS

JOHANSEN, Rienhart, Realty Spec, Assoc Reg Dir Pk System Mgmt, SWRO, to Realty Off, Big Thicket Lands Off

MCCOLLOUGH, Jack D., Maintenance Worker, Chiricahua NM, to Same, Tumacacori

McGINNIS, Dennis E., Pk Ranger, Operations Eval
MARO, to Same, Fort McHenry NM & HS

NEWBY, Nanette, Clk Typist, Assoc Reg Dir Pk System Mgmt, SWRO, to Same, Hot Springs Lands Off

O'BRIEN, John C., Supv Pk Ranger, Wind Cave NP, to Same, Grand Canyon NP

RILEY, S. Calvin, Sec, Plan & Design Team Hist Preservation, DSC, to Admin Off, Custer Battlefield NM

RODGERS, Robert B., Pk Ranger, Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania Btld Mem NMP, to Supv Pk Ranger, Shenandoah NP

SCHARF, Janet G., Pk Ranger, Cumberland Gap NHP, to Same, Olympic NP

SHARPE, Marvin S., Admin Off, North Cascades NP, to Same, Mesa Verde NP

SMITH, Joseph W., Supv Pk Ranger, Glen Canyon NRA, to Same, Point Reyes NS

SNIDER, Lucia Cobb, Admin Tech, Montezuma Castle NM, to Same, Tuzigoot NM

STANELY, Gordon L., Admin Off, Sleeping Bear Dunes NL, to Same, Saratoga NHP

TURELLO, David, Landscape Architect, Assoc Mgr Prof, DSC, to Pk Planner, Gateway NRA

YAGER, Robert D., Motor Vehicle Oper, Zion NP, to Maintenance Worker, Grand Canyon NP

Out of the traces

BASNIGHT, Stephen G., Jr., Pk Ranger, Cape Hatteras NS

BEVILACQUA, John M., Jr., Private, U.S. Pk Police

BROEDER, Doris J., Clk Typist, JNEM

CLELAND, Douglas H., Supv Pk Tech, Virgin Islands NP

CONOVER, Verner A., Jr., Captain, US Pk Police

BROOKS, William P., Program & Budget Spec, Oper Eval, MARO

DAWKINS, Verna F., Clk-Typist, Everglades NP

DeFORD, Shirley M., Clk-Typist, Assoc Reg Dir Admin, MRMO

HERNE, Dorothy L., Payroll Clk, Yellowstone NP

JOHNSON, Brooks H., Gardener, Assoc Dir Prof Serv, NCP

MORGAN, Marilee S., Private, US Pk Police

PORTER, Jerry N., Laborer, Hot Springs NP

RENTERIA, Dorothy M., EEO Spec, NCP

RHINEHART, Doris A., Cartographic Tech, Div Graphic Serv, DSC

ROBINSON, Ben, Motor Vehicle Oper, Tree Group, NCP

SASSER, Bruce, Pk Tech, NCP

SPIER, Ann M., Clk-Steno, Cumberland Island NS

STRANKMAN, Richard W., Surveying Tech, Div Surveys, DSC

STRINGER, Kathryn A., Mail Clk, Glacier NP

VEGA, Marguerite E., Sec, Big Bend NP

YEARTY, Ed C., Account ANT, Assoc Reg Dir Admin, SERO



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