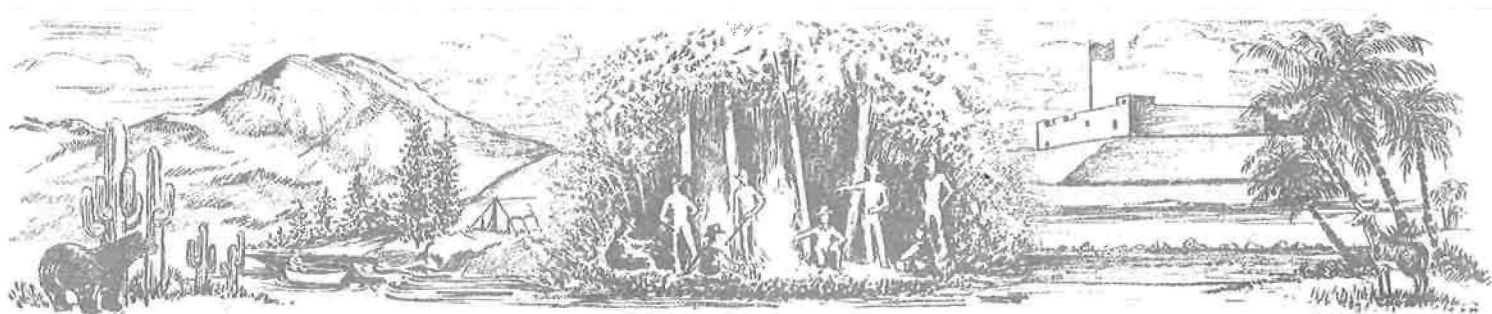




NEWSLETTER

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service



VOL. 1

NO. 8

A SERVICE PUBLICATION FOR SERVICE PERSONNEL

DECEMBER 1, 1966

Camping Committee Has Busy Schedule

What with the greatly increased interest being given camping as a family recreational activity, the limitation of park camping space agreeably to the purposes for which the parks were created, the grade and alignments of roads and trails which are expected to carry recreation vehicles, and the funds and personnel available to the Service for campground maintenance, the Service's camping committee has a full schedule of work cut out for it. Associate Director Howard W. Baker is chairman of the camping committee and he has gathered about him WASO and Service Center personnel representing many different interests which relate to campground design, development and operation.

All of the problems relating to family camping in the areas of the National Park System now of immediate concern, and those which shall arise in the foreseeable future, are being tackled at the regular meetings of the committee. A few problems now being actively worked on include:

Smoke abatement. This is directly related to air pollution and poses a serious problem, especially in the canyon portions of parks, such as Yosemite Valley. While the committee is genuinely sympathetic with that first love of the camper—the campfire—it may be necessary to forbid or greatly restrict use of wood as a fuel at each campsite in order to overcome the air pollution problem. One thing the committee does not want to eliminate is the evening campfire program where wood fuel is used. Yet the elimination of wood campfires at each campsite would make important inroads on the air pollution problem in the confined areas. Moreover, there are other and better fuels for campfire cooking including charcoal, and camp stoves operated by bottled fuel, which give off no smoke or fumes. A decision on the subject of campsite fires will be reached in the not too distant future and regulations, perhaps geared to local application, will subsequently be issued.

Campground Directory. The committee has under consideration a more comprehensive yet simplified campground directory for general distribution to the camping public. The committee believes that the present camping directory does not reflect all of the activities, facilities and services available to campers in

the areas of the National Park System and is presently more statistical than informative. In considering this problem, the committee also gave recognition to the work on the part of Service personnel in compiling the data which the camping public wants and needs in order to gain the fullest enjoyment from camping. A sample of the new camping directory sheet will be sent to each area offering family camping facilities with the request that each campground within the area be listed and the appropriate blocks under the several headings be either checked or appropriate figures added. From the information furnished by the returned sheets the pages of the new directory will be compiled and published in the same sheet arrangement. Annual revision of the directory will thereafter be a simple matter of changing a few basic figures or of inserting or deleting check marks wherever necessary.

Length of Stay in Family Camping Sites. When relating the matter of camping in National Park areas to the purposes for which the areas are visited, it may not only be necessary but could be desirable to limit the length of the camping stay. The committee believes that by so doing greater numbers of park visitors can be accommodated. Limiting the number of days any one group can camp will result in a larger turnover of family camping groups. This may be entirely proper in light of the fact that the primary purpose of visiting National Parks is to enjoy the superlative scenery or other phenomena to be found there. Such limitation of stay might not necessarily apply to recreation areas, providing existing accommodations are in sufficient numbers to meet demands.

New Concepts in Campground Design. Recognizing that the underlying purpose of families camping in the superlative areas of the System is enjoyment of the unusual features and scenic beauty, and in relationship to the length of stay, large individual campsites may not be essential. Since the campers will spend the daylight hours in the enjoyment of the areas' scenic offerings, the actual campsite need be adequate but not extensive. With the increased number of campers making demands upon the available space, large individual campsites are not in the best interests of campground operation. The committee is not unmindful of problems which smaller campsites bring

(Continued on page 4 col. one)

People on the move . . .

New Places

Bendt, Robert H., Asst. Supt., Mt. Rainier, to same, Grand Canyon NP
Bennett, Peter S., Pk. Ranger, Navajo NM, to Pk. Nat., Grand Canyon NP
Blasdel, Richard A., Supv. Pk. Ranger, Minute Man Nat. Hist. Pk. Project, to same, Platt NP - Arbuckle Recreation Area
Brecheisen, Samuel W., Adm. Asst., Ft. Vancouver NHS, to same, Assateague Island NS
Brown, Lenard E., Hist., Homestead NM, to same, WSC
Chamberland, Robert D., Land. Architect, WSC, to same, Internat. Affairs, WASO; Duty Station: Amman, Jordan
Chudele, Marcel F., Landscape Architect, Great Smoky Mts. NP, to same, WSC
Crane, Howard E., Foreman III, Roads, Grand Canyon NP, to Foreman IV, Maint., Platt NP - Arbuckle Rec. Area
Eliason, Alan D., Pk. Nat., Joshua Tree NM, to Supv. Pk. Nat., Curecanti RA
Elmore, Edwin J., Pk. Ranger, Blue Ridge Pkway, to Enrollee Wk. Supv., Cumberland Gap NHP
Excell, Ward L., Foreman II R & T, Bryce Can., NP, to Foreman III, Maint., Yellowstone NP
Fischer, George R., Archeologist, Ocmulgee NM, to same, Div. of Arch., WASO
Hall, Gilbert R., Pk. Ranger, Yosemite NP, to Supv. Pk. Ranger, Wupatki-Sunset Crater NM
Harrison, Ross D., Jr., Admin. Asst. Acadia NP, to same, Cape Cod NS
Higgins, John C., Supv. Pk. Ranger (Dist. Ranger), Grand Canyon NP, to Mgmt. Asst., Grand Teton NP
Hoogerwerf, Hubert J., Truck Driver (over 4T), Grand Canyon NP, to Airplane Pilot, Lake Mead NRA
Houston, Oni P., Jr., Civil Engineer, East. Office, D & C, to same, NERO
Hummel, Edward A., Reg. Director, WRO to Asst. Director, Policy & Prog. Analysis, Office of the Director, WASO
Iversen, Phillip R., Supv. Pk. Ranger (Dist. Ranger), Rocky Mt. NP, to Supv. Pk. Ranger, Canyonlands NP
Kaminski, Vance L., Supv. Architect (Gen.), WODC, to Architect, Internat. Affairs, WASO; Duty Station: Amman, Jordan
Keeler, Marilyn Anne, Clk. Steno., NY City NPS Group, to same, Liberty Pk. JC Con. Center
Lancaster, John O., Admin. Asst., Internat. Affairs, WASO, to same, Duty Station: Amman, Jordan
Lewis, James W., Operating Account., Div. of Budget & Finance, WASO, to Supv. Operating Acct., SERO
Liles, James E., Pk. Ranger, Mt. Rushmore NM, to same, Point Reyes NS
Maitland, Ronald S., Supv. Pk. Ranger, Hopewell Village NHS, to Pk. Ranger, Flaming Gorge RA Project
Montgomery, Richard T., Jr., Civil Eng., MWRO, to Highway Eng. SFPSC
Norman, G. Messinger, Museum Curator, Grand Canyon NP, to Supv. Pk. Nat., Yosemite NP

Peters, Robert W., Dist. Pk. Ranger, Cape Cod NS, to Supv. Pk. Ranger, Platt NP - Arbuckle Rec. Area
Ray, Richard G., Electrician, Yosemite NP, to Maintenance, Sequoia and Kings Canyon NP
Rector, Mary E., Clk.-Typist, Dinosaur NM, to Clk. (Typing), Yellowstone NP
Saha, William N., Pk. Ranger, Kennesaw Mt. Nat. Bat. Pk., to same, Sanford RA
Reed, Erik K., Res. Studies Adv., SWRO, to Res. Archeologist, Div. of Archeology Studies, WASO
Salisbury, Florence C., Prog. Clk., Yellowstone NP, to Admin. Asst., Platt NP - Arbuckle Rec. Area
Schwarz, Alfred P., NY City NPS Group, to same, (Admin. Officer), WSC
Spaulding, Linn S., Civil Eng., SFPSC, to Gen. Eng., Div. of Internat. Aff., WASO; Duty Station: Amman, Jordan
Stidham, Walter E., Foreman I-Maint., (R & T), Carlsbad Caverns NP, to Foreman II, Roads and Trails, Platt NP - Arbuckle Rec. Area
Scurlock, Gene W., Foreman II Mixed Gang (Roads), Mt. Rainier NP, to Enrollee Wk. Supv., Liberty Pk. JC Con. Center
Scovill, Douglas H., Archeologist, Gran Quivira NM, to Archeologist, Internat. Affairs, WASO; Duty Station: Amman, Jordan
Tagert, Charles L., Maintenance, Petrified Forest NP, to Caretaker, Ft. Caroline NM
Voll, Charles, B., Supt., Casa Grande Ruins NM, to Archeologist, Internat. Affairs, WASO; Duty Station: Amman, Jordan
Warner, J. Wesley, Admin. Asst., Central NC Pks., to Per. Mgmt. Spec. NCR.
Urbanek, John C., Civil Engineer, WSC, to same, Div. Internat. Affairs, WASO; Duty Station: Amman, Jordan

New Faces

Lucas, Jennie E., to Employee Relations Spec., Div. of PM & MD, Br. of Employment & Employee Relations, WASO

Joining the Alumni

Aaron, Alton from Admin. Officer, PSC
Johnston, Ralph C. from Fire Control Aid (Gen.), Everglades NP

Rate a One-Step?

Release No. FPM-71, DM addition to the "Federal Personnel Manual," 370 DM 531, 4, revised the regulations governing the processing of within-grade pay increases to implement recent revisions of Section 531.407 of Part 531 of the Civil Service Commission's regulations.

Basically, the revisions provide for reconsideration at a higher level of authority when a supervisor has made a negative determination concerning an employee's level of competence, and provide for appeal to the Commission after a negative determination is confirmed upon reconsideration. The revisions also increase the lead time for making a determination regarding the acceptable level of competence from 45 to 60 days.

Details & Details!

The Service frequently calls field employees into the Washington Office for short-term assignments to make use of the individual's particular knowledge and skills on various projects. Also this often provides the only means of getting a job done. The official term used to describe this type of assignment is "Detail" and is not to be confused with another use of this word which means something unimportant or at least of secondary importance. These assignments are always important, often vital, and provide real development opportunities.

There are numerous benefits both to the Service and the employee that outweigh the costs of inconvenience and minor hardships that sometimes occur. Each employee should indicate any interest in details to the Washington Office on Form 10-181 and indicate specific areas of interest to help WASO locate individuals with appropriate background and interest when opportunities arise.

A "fact sheet" on the subject of details to WASO is being prepared and will be sent to each park and office within the next few weeks.

Keep Holding Your Receipts

As mentioned in your Newsletter of Sept. 22, 1966, the Bureau of the Budget has recently released Circular A-56 setting forth Government-wide regulations implementing Public Law 89-516, the "Moving Allowances" Act which became law on July 21. However, until the Department of the Interior issues regulations covering how the law will be applied in this Department, the National Park Service will be unable to process vouchers for the new allowances contained in the law. All employees who have transferred since that date or are transferred in the future are cautioned to retain receipts for all expenses which may be allowable under the new law — such as expenses incurred in connection with real estate transactions and unexpired leases, bills for lodging, meals, and laundry at the new duty station before moving into permanent quarters, miscellaneous expenses, storage of household good, etc.

Travel advances will be made to the extent allowed in Circular A-56. Final settlement of the expenses, including liquidating the advance, will be deferred until after the Department and Service policies are promulgated.

NPS NEWSLETTER

Issued biweekly by the Office of the Director for personnel of the National Park Service.

All items of general interest to NPS personnel concerning management, operations, economies or service to the public should be sent to:

The Editor, NPS NEWSLETTER,
National Park Service
U. S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240
Edited and published by the Division of Park Practice, Cooperative Activities.

Profile . . . Howard W. Baker



Howard W. Baker

Associate Director Washington, D.C.

Howard Baker was born in Dorchester, Nebraska on November 6, 1906. He graduated with a BS degree in Landscape Architecture, from Kansas State College, in June, 1930. He entered the National Park Service in October, 1930, as a Junior Landscape Architect, in the old Western Field Office, in San Francisco.

Working out of that office, his official duties quickly took him to most of the parks of the West. In 1935 he was promoted to District Landscape Architect in the CCC program headquartered at Denver, Colorado. Subsequently he was appointed Resident Landscape Architect at Rocky Mountain (for all parks in Nebraska, South Dakota and Colorado). He was reassigned, in 1937, to the Regional Office in Omaha, Nebraska, where he later became Regional Landscape Architect.

His understanding of the professional aspects of design and construction projects, and recognized ability to handle field operations, led to his promotion in 1943 to Associate Regional Director, and in 1950 to Regional Director, a position which he held for the next 14 years.

As Regional Director during the 1950's, he skillfully managed a very active program of physical development and area operation in the Midwest Region. This included the initial development of Grand Teton, solution of difficult wildlife management problems at Yellowstone, planning and starting of construction of the famous Arch at St. Louis, and the accelerated development programs of the Mission 66 program throughout the eleven states in this Region.

In February, 1964, he was called to Washington, to serve as Assistant Director for Operations, a responsibility which he handled with distinction during a critical period of bureau reorganization. In October, 1966, he was promoted to his present post of Associate Director of the Service.

Mr. Baker and his wife, Doris, reside in Annandale, Virginia; and their son, Steve, married and living in Detroit, Michigan, is employed as an engineer with the Chrysler Corporation.

He is a member of many professional and conservation societies; a Fellow of the AIPE, and an Admiral in the Nebraska Navy!

(Continued from page one)

and is giving much serious consideration to new individual site arrangements employing vegetative screening and overstory cover as well as cost reduction in providing essential facilities for recreational vehicles and other camping equipment. An alternate member of the committee, Ira B. Lykes, is presently developing an audiovisual presentation suggesting how certain new campground design forms might be introduced in some localities. The tape and slides will be available to the field when completed.

Campground Maintenance. Campground maintenance guidelines are now being prepared. These should help to simplify the continuing problem of keeping campgrounds in an attractive, wholesome condition while relating it to the overall problem of park maintenance. The guidelines will be released in the near future.

Roads and Trails. The committee has taken full recognition of the impact recreation vehicles have made upon the roads and trails of park areas. The traffic congestion caused by the slower moving recreation vehicles, both self-powered and towed, when attempting to negotiate the steeper grades and winding roads within the park poses a serious problem which could result in limitations on such equipment, at least until such times as the road conditions can be remedied or more easily reached campgrounds can be established.

These are but a few of the pressing problems which must be solved as soon as possible. The solutions must relate to other factors, such as ranger protection, general administration, availability of development and maintenance funds, and so on. A number of National Park Areas in which camping is permitted have recently participated in an important statistical survey. The results will, in large measure, help to determine the future course of action in many matters relating to the pressing family campground problems.

The Camping Committee welcomes constructive statements on any aspect of this growing recreational activity; field personnel, through close daily association with campers and camping, are in a position to contribute information and suggestions which would help resolve many of the problems we face today.

Sound Off!

Dear Editor:

I would like to "Sound Off."

I have often wondered why we don't have a small popular publication designed to inform the general public of Service activities; policies, etc. The Bureau of Land Management has published their quarterly, "Our Public Lands," for a number of years and it has been very successful in informing and selling the general public on their programs.

The publication could be entitled "Your National Parks" and contain nontechnical articles written by Service employees on various interesting projects, or some interesting facet of a program, brief resumes of one or more Service areas, articles on history relating to an area or the Service in general, and, from time to time, an article or series of articles on

specific Service policies, plans and programs. Each issue would contain four to six short articles of approximately 1,500 words or so and be illustrated with many photographs and drawings.

We have within the Service, I believe, the basic organizational structure for producing such a publication.

1. The Director of Information (WASO), or some other individual of his staff designated as editor, would make up each issue. He would obtain articles on the WASO level.

2. Each Regional Office would submit one article every other month on some subject relating to a field area on some specific project, special event, or the like. Regional personnel would either prepare the articles themselves or request them from area personnel.

With WASO providing at least one article every other month and with one from each Region there should be ample material for an attractive and informative publication. From time to time, individual issues could be devoted to a specific subject or theme.

I feel very strongly that something needs to be done to get accurate and timely information to people who are friends of the Service. We have too long relied on someone else to sell us to the public. We have little to lose and much to gain if we produce and distribute on a regular subscription basis, a publication devoted to the National Park Service.

Jack R. Rudy

Chief Park Archeologist

Mesa Verde National Park

See here, Ladies - - -

National Park Service wives living in the Washington, D. C. area who are interested in being a part of the National Park Service Women's Organization may contact Mrs. Earl Steele (Kay), or Mrs. Ray Freeman (Marie). The Women's Organization frequently distributes questionnaires, reports and other interesting material and you will be included on the mailing list by making your interest known to Kay or Marie.

Each National Park Service Region has an Area Chairman. They are as follows:

Western Region

Mrs. Joseph Kennedy (Muriel)

Lava Beds National Monument, California

Southwest Region

Mrs. Thomas Walker (Lucille)

Timpanogos Cave National Monument, Utah

Midwest Region

Mrs. Stewart Maule (Maggie)

Effigy Mounds National Monument, Iowa

Southeast Region

Mrs. Ivan Ellsworth (Jo), Shiloh Nat. Hist. Pk., Tenn.

Washington Office

Mrs. Raymond Freeman (Marie)

8737 Susanna Lane, Chevy Chase, Maryland

National Capital Region

Mrs. Earl Steele (Kay)

7721 Bellington Court, Springfield, Virginia

All wives of personnel in the Regional Offices and Service Centers please contact your Area Chairman if you wish to be included on the mailing list.