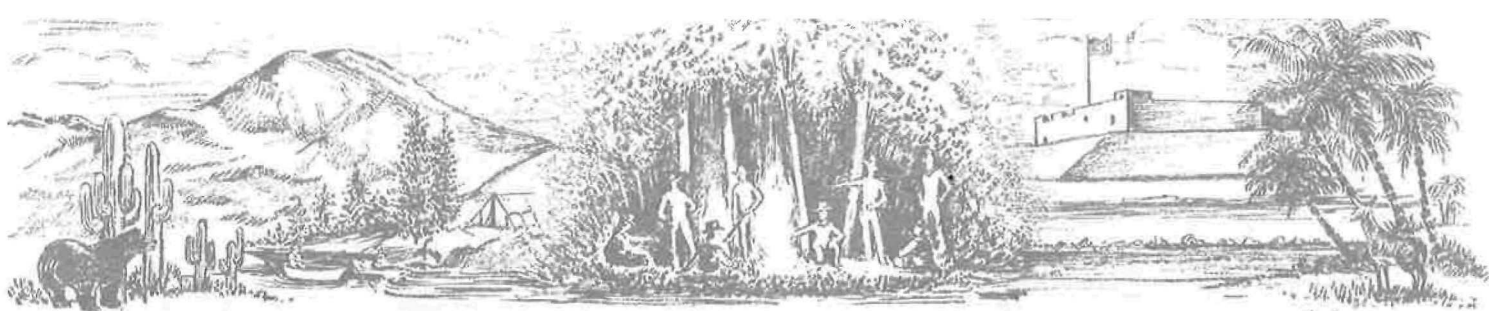




NEWSLETTER

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Proposed Parks for Ethiopia

For centuries Ethiopia, a nation composed of 477,000 square miles of ruggedly beautiful terrain in north-eastern Africa, has held the secrets of ancient Abyssinia — stories of the queen of Sheba, of the Lost Tribes of Israel, of churches carved out of solid rock. Until recently, Ethiopia's 22 million people pursued their livelihood relatively undisturbed by foreigners — that is, until tourism began to change the face of the Dark Continent.

A few months ago the Ethiopian Government invited a team of U.S. specialists to study the natural resources of Ethiopia and aid in the establishment of a national park system. Gordon Fredine, Chief, International Affairs, WASO, and head of the study team, emphasized the value of the international cooperative programs in saying that "the lessons learned and the mistakes made by the United States should be shared with other nations."

Mr. Fredine and the other two members of the team, Assistant Superintendent Bill Briggie of Lake Mead National Recreation Area and former Advisory Board member Frank E. Masland, Jr., spent six weeks in Ethiopia investigating the country's park and wildlife conservation potentials. The problems encountered were carefully scrutinized by the team and discussed with Emperor Haile Selassie during an audience he granted them at the end of their mission.

At the fourth planning seminar for the Office of Cooperative Activities, WASO, held last May 16, Mr. Fredine outlined the team's preliminary thinking for the park system plan and discussed the resources of the country. After describing the eight major groups of people in Ethiopia, their relationship to the land, their agricultural practices, the effects of the cattle, camels, and goats on the land, and the beneficial and deleterious effects of tourism, Mr. Fredine pointed out that "the sociological as well as the economic aspects are very important in the establishment of a park" and that "planners must be careful not to upset an entire culture, particularly where very primitive tribes might be affected by increased tourism."

Among the several national parks proposed are a large park to be established in the Awash Valley and an adjacent plains area to be formed into a wildlife preserve. Other areas being considered are the

Simien Mountains, the Rift Valley Lakes, the Bale Mountains, and the Omo River area in southern Ethiopia. Of special interest are the rare and endangered species of animals found only in Ethiopia, such as the Walia Ibex, the Mountain Nyala, and the Simien Fox. Most of the areas mentioned above would protect one or more of these species.

The study team is now preparing its report and recommendations for consideration by the Director and the Secretary of the Interior. The principal aim is to develop an effective cooperative program with Ethiopia so that the scenic, biological, and historical resources, which are of great scientific and educational significance, can be protected and managed for the benefit of all peoples.

This is Spring ? ? ?



Most park employees are busy preparing for the iced tea and air conditioning season just around the corner, but the folks at Yellowstone, Mount Rainier, and Lassen Volcanic National Parks are reluctant to pack away their mittens. In the Western Area heavy snow this spring has buried campground tables and delayed the opening of many park roads, including Stevens Canyon Road at Mount Rainier which was buried in snow

buried under 40 feet of snow. Maybe Mount McKinley will send a few huskies and dog sleds and give the maintenance crews and snow plough operators a rest!

Benefits

FEDERAL EMPLOYEES HEALTH BENEFITS

In a recent news release the Civil Service Commission announced that the number of persons covered under the Federal employees health benefits program increased by 700,000 in 1965-66 for a total of 7.5 million—about four percent of the total population of the United States.

Enrollment in the program, as of November 30, 1966, includes more than 2.4 million employees and annuitants and 5.1 million dependents. It is the largest voluntary employer-employee contributor program in the world.

Currently benefits provided by the program are running at about \$41 million a month. Approximately 1.6 million covered persons receive benefits each year, and the total monthly cost of the program is \$52.5 million, with employees paying 66 percent and the Government the remaining 34 percent.

SOCIAL SECURITY FOR FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

The Civil Service Commission has proposed legislation to Congress to give Federal employees survivor, disability, and retirement, protection at the level provided by social security. Under the proposal employees who do not complete five years of service will have credit for their Federal service transferred to social security. Those employees who are eligible for benefits under civil service retirement will be assured of an income at least at the level that would be payable if the Federal service had been covered under social security.

JOB-INJURED WORKERS TO GET HELP

The Civil Service Commission has issued new regulations to help job-injured employees find new jobs. The Commission in Washington or in any one of 65 metropolitan centers have an Interagency Board of Civil Service Examiners to accept applications from Federal employees who are receiving employees' compensation as the result of injury sustained after July 3, 1966. Employees are covered, even though they are on active duty, if their position is at a lower grade level than the one held at the time of injury.

Applicants will be examined under competitive standards, including written tests when required. In general, height, weight, physical fitness, and residence requirement will be waived. Those employees having regular appointment will be placed at the top of the list of eligibles in any examination for which they qualify. Others will be ranked according to their test scores.



CHANCE TAKERS GET IT

IN THE END

National Safety Council

NIPS

MURDER — American Style

Last year 52,500 persons were killed in traffic accidents and more than four million were injured. Four out of five accidents occurred in clear weather on dry roads—84.9 percent of the fatalities were male—41.4 percent were caused by excessive speed. The predictions for 1967 don't look much better. The next time you put a leaden foot on the accelerator, ask yourself — "What are the odds?"

RIGHT TO PETITION

Recently a Washington columnist wrote that "Members of the House Civil Service Pay Subcommittee have expressed concern over government employee complaints that their bosses are trying to intimidate them from writing letters to Congress urging pay raises more liberal than those proposed by the administration." While we doubt very much that any of these complaints originated from Service employees, we want to take this opportunity to make sure that all employees are advised that they do have the right to write to members of Congress on behalf of legislation affecting pay, working conditions, etc.

Title 5, U.S.C. 7102 provides that "The right of employees, individually or collectively, to petition Congress or a Member of Congress, or to furnish information to either House of Congress, or to a committee or Member thereof, may not be interfered with or denied."

WATER FOR PEACE "MISS"

Pretty Barbara Jenkins, Secretary for the Division of Archeology, WASO, has been named 'Miss Water for Peace.' Miss Jenkins is a former 'Miss Interior.'

EGG SNATCHERS

Biologists from the United States and Canada are staging a "robbery" in the north Canadian bush area. Within the next few weeks a joint egg snatching project will be underway in hopes of augmenting the population of the world's last 43 whooping cranes. The eggs of the rare birds will be jetted to Patuxent Wildlife Research Center near Laurel, Maryland for incubation.

TI TIME FOR TEMPLE

Over 2,000,000 ti leaves will be needed to thatch Hale-o-Keawe temple in City of Refuge National Historical Park, Hawaii. Many Hawaiians, working through the Associated Hawaiian Civic Clubs, have agreed to gather and ship the leaves to aid in the reconstruction of ancient Hawaii's most sacred temple.

NEW RECORD SET

Visitor use of the National Park System set new records again in 1966 with visits totalling 133,081,100, an increase of 11.5% over the 121,312,000 visits recorded in 1965.

GETTYSBURG TOUR



Last April 25, nearly 104 years after one of the most crucial battles of the Civil War, Gettysburg National Military Park welcomed a busload of employees from the Washington Office. Superintendent George F. Emery greeted the group and gave them a rundown on how to operate an area with over three million visitors a year--over 1.6 million coming during the months of June, July, and August--and with only 35 permanent and 25 seasonal employees.

The group was treated to an audiovisual presentation and a view of the cyclorama, narrated by Historian Milton E. Thompson. After luncheon the trip was highlighted by a tour around the battlefield and an interpretation of the three-day battle by Historian Thomas J. Harrison. The trip was sponsored by the Division of Personnel Management and Manpower Development.

See here, Ladies . . .



We all know that Park wives can do just about anything they set their minds to, and the wives at Theodore Roosevelt Nat. Memorial Park have proved that the men folk should never underestimate the power of woman! Park wives Alice Kile (front row, extreme left), Judy Wintch (back row, extreme left), and Reta Huntzinger (back row, extreme right) recently participated with five local women of the Medora, North Dakota, Ladies Basketball team, sponsored by the Medora Community Club to raise funds for community beautification projects.

The Medora team arranged a series with the Belfield Phantoms, a ladies team from neighboring Belfield, North Dakota, and Medora won 35-17 the first time around, and in a re-match one week later again came out on top for a 31-17 score. More than \$ 80.00 was raised at each game, of which Belfield's share will go toward the construction of a swimming pool.

Profiles Chester A. Thomas



Chester A. Thomas, Chief, Southwest Archeological Center, was born on June 22, 1904 on a cattle ranch in Fowler, Colorado. He majored in Anthropology at the University of Denver, graduating in June, 1936 with a B.A. degree in Social Science, and went to work as an Archeologist and Excavator for the Smithsonian Institution.

Mr. Thomas' colorful career includes two years with the U.S. Forest Service at Medicine Bow National Forest, Wyoming, ten years as a teacher and school administrator in the Colorado Public Schools, and thirty years in management of parks in Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Arizona. His list of ventures and interests is endless: "I have carried on various activities such as editing and publishing a country newspaper, washing dishes, working on the railroad, working as a lineman for the telephone company, farming with my father, and running a spread of cattle in eastern Colorado."

Mr. Thomas joined the Park Service in 1937 as a Seasonal Park Ranger at Mesa Verde National Park and two years later moved up to Superintendent, Bandelier National Monument, Sante Fe. In 1947 he became Assistant Superintendent of Zion-Bryce Canyon National Parks and in 1958 was assigned Superintendent, Mesa Verde. He has served as Chief, Southwest Archeological Center since 1966.

Mr. Thomas has had a life-long interest in conservation and protection of wildlife and natural resources and served as President of both the Utah and the Southern Utah Wildlife Federations. He has held offices in many civic organizations, including the Presidency of the Zion Park Rod and Gun Club, the Kolob Recreation Association, and the Lions Club, and has served on the Utah Governor's Committee on Safety and the Governor's Committee on the Evaluation of School System and Curricula.

Mr. Thomas is married to the former Iola O'Dell Carroll. The couple has a son, Chester A. Thomas, Jr., a Test Engineer for Link Development Company, Rockets and Space Engineering; and a daughter, Catherine (Mrs. William Krupp), whose husband is a Development Engineer for Lockheed.

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The What and Why of the Incentive

Awards Program

(This is the fourth in the Incentive Awards Program article series. It is a continuation of the Honor Awards System)

The Distinguished Service Award represents the highest honor which the Department can bestow on any employee. It is granted to an employee who has made an outstanding contribution to science, demonstrated outstanding skill or ability in the performance of a major project, or has had an eminent career in the Department which had gained recognition from high level Department officials, professional groups and organizations or other Government agencies. An employee who has had an outstanding record in administration that enhanced the prestige of the Service and the Department, or any other outstanding or exceptional contribution to the public service which received National acclaim or which was international in scope is also eligible for this award.

The Distinguished Service Award is presented at the Department's Honor Award Convocation in Washington, D. C., by either the Secretary of the Interior personally, or by one of his Assistant Secretaries.

The Honor Awards Convocation on June 8, 1967, will witness the presentation of the coveted DSA to the following distinguished gentlemen:

Leo J. Diederich, formerly Assistant to the Regional Director, Western Regional Office—for an illustrious career in the field of National Park System Planning.

Allen T. Edmunds, Chief, Office of Resource Planning, Philadelphia Planning and Service Center—for leadership in the field of park conservation throughout the Eastern United States and an outstanding career in the field of recreation resource planning.

William C. Everhart, Chief, Division of Interpretation and Visitor Services, in recognition of outstanding contributions to interpretation and visitor services in the National Park Service.

Fred C. Fagergren, Regional Director, Midwest Region—for contributions which furthered the goals toward which conservationists and the Department of the Interior have leaned in their struggle for the preservation of the Nation's wilderness and unique areas.

C. Gordon Fredine, Chief, Division of International Affairs—in recognition of outstanding contributions in the fields of biological science, public relations, and international cooperation.

Edward A. Hummel, Assistant Director, Policy and Program Analysis—for services which improved management techniques. At Colonial National Historical Park he initiated a new approach to park management involving system of manpower utilization which increased managerial skills throughout the

supervisory force, improved performance standards, and promoted greater teamwork throughout the park organization.

George D. Marler, formerly Park Naturalist, Yellowstone National Park—in recognition of contributions in the field of hydrothermal geology at Yellowstone National Park.

Clarence P. Montgomery, Assistant Director, Administration—in recognition of a distinguished career with the National Park Service in financial management and other administrative programs.

People on the move . . .

NEW FACES

McKeehan, Kenneth F., to Appraiser, Office of Land and Water Rights, WSC

NEW PLACES

Cabe, T. Reid, from Mgmt. Asst., Arkansas Post NM, to Maintenance Supt. (Gen.), Chesapeake & Ohio Canal NM

Cheesman, Robert D., from Supv. Pk. Ranger, Natchez Trace Pky., to same, Cape Hatteras NS

Glass, Carl W., from Adm. Off., NERO, to Supv. Accounting Spec., MWRO

Johnson, Forrest E., from Pk. Ranger, Albright Training Center, to same, Shenandoah NP

Ladd, Edmund J., from Archeologist, City of Refuge NHP, to same, SFPSC

Lee, Micky O., from Pk. Ranger, Ft. Pulaski NM, to same, Natchez Trace Pky.

Lowman, Leon B., from Training Instr. (Industrial Arts), Great Smoky Mtns. NP, to Pers. Mgmt. Spec., SERO

Miller, George A., from Maintenance man, Chaco Canyon NM, to same, Saguaro NM

Ritchie, Norman N., from Archeologist, Walnut Canyon NM, to same, Ocmulgee NM

Robinson, Donald M., from Asst. Supt., Crater Lake NP, to Supt., Channel Islands NM

Rose, Larry L., from Supv. Pk. Ranger, Olympic NP, to same, Sequoia-Kings Canyon NP

Shaw, Bruce W., Supt., Muir Woods NM, to same, Bighorn Canyon NRA

Soper, G. Gilbert, from Pk. Ranger, Natchez Trace Pky., to same, Pinnacles NM

Stitt, Merle E., from Staff Pk. Ranger, WASO, to Supv. Pk. Ranger, WRO

Trexler, Keith A., from Ch. Pk. Nat., Petrified Forest NP, to Staff Curator (Museum Design), WASO

Warner, Keith H., from Supply Clk., Glacier NP, to Gen. Supply Asst., Yellowstone NP

JOINING THE ALUMNI

Berry, Elmer P., from Cartographic Technician, WASO

Spurgeon, Stanley H., from Special Asst. to the Supt., Rocky Mtn. NP-Shadow Mtn. NRA