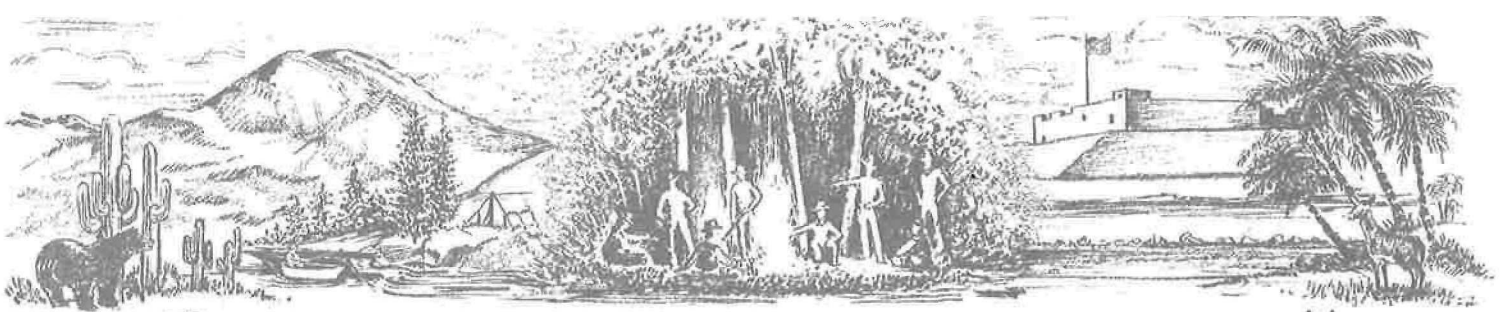




NEWSLETTER

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service



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APRIL 6, 1967

Grim Account

After enduring 72-degree below zero temperatures and hurricane-force winds, three men out of a party of eight climbers became the first to conquer the highest peak in North America in the winter. Dave Johnston, 24, Ray Genet, 35, and Art Davidson, 22, reached the summit of Mount McKinley at 7 p.m. on March 1, and stayed there just long enough to bury the cap of one of their comrades, Jacques Batkin of France. Batkin plunged 50 feet to his death in a crevasse hidden by snow and ice on the second day of the ascent.

The eight climbers began the ascent on January 30, led by Gregg Blomberg, 25, and landed by airplane on Kahlina Glacier at an altitude of 7,250 feet. Twenty-seven days later the seven remaining climbers reached the 17,300-foot level, just 3,000 feet from the summit. They were forced back by blinding snow and winds, but the next day the three made it to the top.

The 150-mile-an-hour winds had torn away their tents, packs, and cooking gear earlier during the climb, and as the three started to descend, their supplies ran out. Johnston, previously employed as a Seasonal Park Ranger at Devils Tower and Glacier Bay, found food and gasoline left by previous expeditions and managed to keep the party alive. The four climbers below, unaware of the food cache, gave their companions up for lost. At the 10,000 foot level, Blomberg and John Edwards stamped out a message in the snow which was spotted by an observation plane.



Pan American Airways Photo

A large-scale rescue operation began, and Genet, Johnston, and Davidson were picked up by helicopter and flown to the Arctic Institute at the University of Alaska for extensive physical tests. Blomberg and Edwards made it back to the base camp and the two other climbers, Shiro Nishimae, 31, and Dr. George Wicham, 39, were found in an igloo at 10,200 feet.

They were cold and a little frightened, but none the worse for their experience.

National Park for Russians



Soviet Life

When one of the Soviet Union's greatest natural wonders was threatened by industrial pollution, the Russians solved the problem by drawing up plans for their first national park. The park, to be completed by 1980, will initially cover an area of 5,000 square miles around Lake Baikal, and will include camps, motels, resort hotels, hunting lodges, and hot springs spas.

Lake Baikal, situated in the southeastern part of Siberia, has been an enigma for centuries, and, according to one of its first explorers, Benedikt Dombrowski, the lake is associated with something "mysterious, legendary, awe-inspiring." The world's deepest fresh water lake is inhabited by many strange species of fish, such as the omul and the golomyanka, and by seals, even though the lake is hundreds of miles inland. The water of Lake Baikal is uniquely rich in oxygen, even in the great depths of up to 5,712 feet.

The park is to be managed by a scientific center, and laboratories will be established for marine research. It is estimated that Baikal National Park will be visited by half a million tourists a year. The Soviet Union has 66 natural preserves located throughout the country, totaling 10.5 million acres, but a park of these dimensions is a new venture for the Soviets.

People on the move . . .

NEW FACES

Corson, James W. to Reg. Coordinator (JCA), NERO
Dell, John A. to Principal Teacher, Harpers Ferry
JC Cons. Center
Farmer, Mary Jane to Writer-Editor, WASO
Wimer, Henry D. to Appraiser, SFSC

NEW PLACES

Abel, Leland J. from Archeologist, Minute Man NHP
to Supv. Archeologist, WASO
Aho, John H., Jr. from Pk. Ranger, Horace Albright
TC to same Fire Island NS
Ayers, James L. from Civil Eng., MWRO to Mech.
Eng. (Utilities), PSC
Barlow, Melvin E. from Electronic Eng., WASO to
Supv. Civil Eng. (Asst. Chief of Park Maintenance),
Lake Mead NRA
Benton, Dorothy W. from Clk.-Steno., East Nat. Cap.
Pks. to Sec. (Steno.), WASO
Conner, Cyrus Y. from Cartographic Tech. (Drafting),
WSC to Cartographic Tech., WASO
Cooke, Irene E. from Clk.-Typist, WASO to same WSC
Fultz, Robert E. from Pk. Nat., Chiricahua NM to
same Acadia NP
Galvin, Denis P. from Civil Eng., Mt. Rainier NP to
same SWRO
Gilbert, Karl T. from Supt., Cape Hatteras NS to
Supv. Pk. Ranger (Chief, Div. of Resources Mgmt.
& Visitor Protection), WASO
Hambly, Franklyn N. from Staff Pk. Ranger, Mammoth
Cave NP to Supv. Pk. Ranger, Richmond NBP
Iorio, Ralph M. from Admin. Asst., Badlands NM to
Admin. Officer, Liberty Pk. JC Cons. Center
Jacobsen, Robert R. from Supt., Chalmette NHP to
Pk. Planner, WASO
Lancaster, John O. from Admin. Asst., Div. of Inter-
national Affairs, WASO to same duty station Amman,
Jordan
Metherell, Robert D. from Pk. Ranger (Wildlife
Mgmt.), Yellowstone NP to Staff Pk. Nat., WASO
Moffitt, David L. from Supv. Horticulturist (Mgmt.),
Prince William Forest Park to Horticulturist, NERO
Morgan, James R. from Carpenter, Grand Teton NP
to Maintenance, Point Reyes NS
Noreau, Gordon U. from Pk. Ranger, Fire Island NS
to same Assateague Island NS
Ochsner, David C. from Naturalist (Instructor),
Stephen T. Mather TC to Staff Pk. Nat., WASO
Wagers, Jerry D. from Supv. Pk. Hist., Stephen
Mather TC to Staff Hist., Fire Island NS & New
York City Group

JOINING THE ALUMNI

Delano, Miles M. from Sergeant, Motorcycle Officer,
NCR - U.S. Park Police
Filadelfia, Samuel J. from Voucher Examiner, NCR
Mills, Earl W. from Foreman II, North Nat. Cap. Pks.
Weigman, Evelyn R. from Accounting Tech., NERO

Recent Awards

Congratulations are extended to the following employees:

MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARDS

John E. Kell, retired Chief of Lands for the Southwest
Region
Homer W. Robinson, retired Regional Director, West-
ern Region

QUALITY INCREASE

Norma H. Rowland, Division of Park Practice

New Uniforms

Maintenance employ-
ees in the National
Capital Region reported
to work last February
13 dressed in spruce
green. All permanent
and long term seasonal
employees with a tem-
porary appointment of
more than four months
are required to wear the
uniform, and, according
to Alva D. Conner, Chief
of Maintenance, East
National Capital Parks,
the men are giving the
uniform a "test run"
before adoption on a
Servicewide basis. The
uniform is expected to extend to all regions by fiscal
68, if appropriation requests are approved by
Congress.



John Proctor Alva Conner

"Sure they get dirty," was Conner's reply when
asked how the employees were expected to keep that
fresh, straight-from-the-laundry appearance. "If
all the men looked spotless all day long, I'd think they
weren't doing their jobs."

Workers, nonetheless, are expected to maintain
uniformity of appearance and to look as neat as pos-
sible. For extra "dirty" jobs, they are allowed to
wear coveralls or to change into another outfit. Wives
will be glad to learn that the workers' uniforms are of
washable, "stay-pressed" fabric.

The supervisors' uniform is an extension of the
regulation NPS uniform, except for a forestry green
cap instead of the "Smoky Bear" hat and an Eisen-
hower jacket in place of the dress coat. Workers
wear spruce green pants, shirt, cap, and jacket and
a dark green web belt with brass buckle. Painters,
plasterers, and stonemasons wear white pants or white
bib overalls, white shirt, shop style cap, and web belt.

The winter jackets are lined, and a yellow hard hat
is available for hazardous work. Arrowhead patches
are supplied by the Service and are worn on the sleeve
and cap by supervisors and on the cap by the workers.
Both wear a name plate over the right pocket, and
workers receive a shirt and jacket patch spelling out
"National Park Service."

Workers receive an initial cash allowance of \$40.00 with a subsequent replacement allowance of \$20.00. Supervisors receive \$80.00 initially and \$40.00 each succeeding year. The J.C. Penney Company stores will stock the workers' uniforms, and supervisors will order their uniforms from regulation NPS uniform suppliers.

According to Asst. Reg. Director, Fred Binnewies, "The purpose of prescribing the wearing of a distinctive uniform is to symbolize our Service and to identify the wearers as members of our organization to all visitors, and to promote pride in the National Park Service among all of its employees. It is our belief that the wearing of uniforms by maintenance employees will serve to increase employee morale, contribute to greater work efficiency, develop greater pride in workmanship, establish a feeling of belonging, and result in a better image in the public eye." So far the reactions among the men have been "We like 'em." Well--so do we!

See here, Ladies - - -

Evelyn Grater was elected to the top position in the Federal Women's Club at the meeting held at the Kowski home on Tuesday evening, March 14. She took over from Una Stalcup, who held that position for the last Club year.

March 2, 1937, 30 years ago, Federal women of Sequoia National Park organized the Federal Women's Social Club. Since that time, the Club has been an effective working organization, having its ups and downs, but always coming out on top. A number of times it looked like the group would fold, but someone was there to ignite the fires again and away the women would go again.

Thirty years of service is quite a record, and we salute the Federal Women's Club! Each woman has earned personal thanks for her part of the work accomplished and the contribution made to social enjoyment.

The full slate of officers installed by Irma Buchholz on March 14 is:

President - Evelyn Grater
1st Vice President - Martha Johnson
2nd Vice President - Pam Woods
Secretary - Marilyn Riegelhuth
Treasurer - Sandy West
Historian - Helen Grenfell
Director - Doris Cowle
Director - Una Stalcup
Director - Peggy Burns
Honorary Director - Lois Kowski

Hostesses Lois Kowski, Vi Martin, and Dee McLaren topped off a lovely evening serving delicious cake roll from a table decorated in the St. Patrick's Day motif.

New Tour Buses

Starting around May 1 Washington visitors will travel along the Mall and the Tidal Basin in the new train-like 'tourmobile.' The new shuttle service will replace the minibuses introduced by the Park Service last fall.

Profile . . . Howard B. Stricklin



Supt., Grand Canyon National Park

Howard B. Stricklin, Superintendent of Grand Canyon National Park, was born December 17, 1907 at Gretna, Nebraska. He received his B.A. degree from Black Hills State College in 1929 and following his graduation taught high school journalism, English, and public speaking until 1936.

Mr. Stricklin joined the Service in 1925 as a seasonal Park Ranger at Wind Cave. He was transferred to Jewel Cave as Park Ranger in Charge in 1935 and returned to Wind Cave in 1937. In 1941 he was appointed Acting Custodian at Badlands and in 1944 left the Service for a two-year duty in the Navy. Upon his return to civilian life Mr. Stricklin took up his former position at Badlands. In 1948 he was appointed Chief Park Ranger at Grand Canyon. He spent seven years at Blue Ridge Parkway as Assistant Superintendent beginning in 1955 and subsequently was assigned Supervisory Park Planner, Task Force, Washington. Mr. Stricklin has held his present position, Superintendent of Grand Canyon, since 1964.

Since starting his career with the NPS, he has held offices in a long list of associations. Among his current affiliations are: Executive Board Member, Grand Canyon Council, Boy Scouts of America; President, Grand Canyon Rotary Club; Past Master, Grand Canyon Lodge of Masons; Chairman, District II, Arizona Parks and Recreation Association; Member, Governor's Advisory Study Group on Highway Safety.

Mr. Stricklin served on the Servicewide Personnel Evaluation and Placement Committee in 1965 and the following year received the Unit Citation, Long Range Requirements Task Force.

Mr. Stricklin and his wife, Alta Rooth, have two children: a daughter, Alta (Mrs. Henry George), who resides in Albuquerque, New Mexico; and a son, Michael, a Civil Engineer in Anchorage, Alaska.

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Washington, D.C. 20240

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REDWOOD PARK BILL

The Redwood Park Bill is still at an impasse, and no compromise is expected for some time. Acquisition of the redwood area by the federal government poses special problems to the local timber industry, including the loss of 234 jobs. Governor Reagan has requested the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs to postpone hearings so that he may become familiar with park plans. The Committee has set the date for April 18, provided the delay does not disrupt the moratorium on timber cutting in the areas proposed for a national park. So far, no date has been set by the House.

WATER FOR PEACE CONFERENCE

Seventy-four nations will attend the Water for Peace Conference to be held at the Sheraton-Park Hotel in Washington on May 23-31. According to Secretary Udall, 'Invitations have been sent by the Department of State to all nations with whom the United States conducts diplomatic relations.' It is expected to be the largest intergovernmental meeting ever held in the Nation's Capital with attendance well in excess of 5,000 anticipated.

UNDERWATER EXPLORATION

The Council of Underwater Archaeology reports that a major exploration is being conducted at Drake's Bay, California. Two important wreck finds are located in the bay—a ship of Sir Francis Drake, sunk in 1579, and a Manila galleon, in 1595.

PARK POLICE HALT SUICIDE ATTEMPT

At approximately 9:44 a.m. on March 27, Private Robert K. Cornwell, a motorcycle officer at the National Capital Region, was returning to Park Police Headquarters when he was stopped by an unidentified taxi driver. The driver notified Cornwell of a despondent gray-haired woman presumably in her late 60's, whom he had just taken to the seawall at Buckeye and Ohio Drive. When Cornwell first glanced towards the river, he distinguished the figure of a woman standing by the rail on the seawall. A few seconds later, he could see a coat draped across the railing, but the woman had disappeared.

Cornwell immediately radioed for assistance and ran to the seawall. After shedding his outer clothing and boots, he leaped into the icy, polluted Potomac and swam towards the woman. The woman was bobbing in the water 12 feet away and was making no effort to save herself. Cornwell grasped the woman and managed to pull her to the wall, clutching her with one hand until help arrived.

The D.C. Rescue Squad #1 transported the woman to George Washington Hospital for observation. Private Cornwell was placed in the Washington Hospital Center for a general check-up.

This is the second suicide attempt along the Potomac in the past two months. Private Carl R. Holmberg rescued a drowning woman from the Tidal Basin last February 6.

"MOONSHINING" AT CUMBERLAND



George Davidson

Hershel Jones

The creation of Cumberland Gap National Historical Park was no boon to at least one local businessman. Some fifteen years ago he apparently had a lucrative operation by a creek just 300 yards above the present park picnic area.

The hidden, hand-made copper still shown above was found by Park Historian George Davidson while on a survey for a new trail. In the photo, Fire Control Aid Hershel Jones (right) is explaining to northerner Davidson the fine points of its operation. A mountain man of the old school, Jones is the expert in this bit of Gap history. Said Jones, "Some * * # * 0 fine corn came out o' that."

Chief Park Historian Lloyd Abelson remarks that the forty gallon contraption, being hand-made, is a rare find. The interpretive staff plans to display this bit of Cumberland "Gapiana."

TERMITES

Termites have infested Gila Pueblo, and experts have prescribed complete fumigation. The entire building will be encased in a plastic envelope to be fumigated with deadly gas.

PROPOSED AREA

A proposed 43,020-acre wilderness area within Petrified Forest National Park is now under consideration. A public hearing was held May 23 at Holbrook, Arizona.

REVISED FEE

The revised recreation fee regulations for 1967 will go into effect on April 1. The 'Golden Eagle Passport' will be basically the same as in past years.

PRAISE FOR TRAINING COURSE

Participants are praising Dr. Earle S. Hannaford's presentation of the 'Safety and Supervision Training Course' given the week of March 5 at Mather Training Center.