



NEWSLETTER

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service



VOL. 3

NO. 15

A SERVICE PUBLICATION FOR SERVICE PERSONNEL

JULY 25, 1968

Barnyard Sights and Sounds

Barnyard sights, sounds and smells are all being recreated at several areas of the National Park System as part of the new Historical Living Farm Concept — much to the delight of city-bred small fry who have never before milked a cow, fed chickens, watched the antics of a newborn colt, or felt the soft velvet muzzle of a horse. Many other areas of the System are also being studied to determine their potential for incorporating this new concept.

At Oxon Hill Children's Farm, near Washington, D. C., the National Capital Region's experimental project has been so well received that its operation has been extended from seasonal to year-round. Basically, a true farm scene has been established at Oxon Hill, avoiding any kind of zoo atmosphere. Animals graze in a nearby pasture. A windmill pumps water for the horse trough. Emphasis is placed on horse-drawn farm equipment, and children learn first-hand how a cultivator works, and how it feels to ride an old farm wagon and hold the reins. Out of sight is the familiar Park Ranger's hat. Instead, interpreters are dressed in overalls and straw hats!

At George Washington Birthplace National Monument near Wakefield, Virginia, the serene yet exciting natural atmosphere of the old colonial farm is being combined with an early 18th century working plantation to provide the total setting — the sights, the sounds and the smells that Washington experienced as a boy and as a young man — fields of corn, pumpkins, tobacco and hay — herb and vegetable gardens — sheep, horses and cattle grazing in a rail-fenced pasture. Pigs, geese and chickens lend their bit to the farm scene while a team of oxen trudges before an ancient two-wheeled cart. Interpretation of the story is carried out informally by NPS "farm hands" in costume, enthusiastically telling about their work. By recreating the total scene that Washington knew as a boy, perhaps we can better understand Washington the President.



NPS Photo by Jack Rottier

At Cades Cove in Great Smoky Mountains National Park, N.C. — Tenn., a considerable number of activities following the living farm concept are already in operation. Here, local farmers operate working farms under lease agreement. In the Oconaluftee area, a farm yard scene has been developed complete with a mule, ducks and chickens. Against this agricultural background, local artisans in period dress (circa 1825-1900) put on schedule demonstrations of shake and mallet making.

Along the Blue Ridge Parkway, the approach has been to lease agricultural areas to farmers under a land use plan that permits the National Park Service to manage the landscape.

George Washington Carver National Monument, Missouri, features an area of some 210 acres, 145 of which are leased under a land use plan that provides a managed landscape. Only hay and pasture are permitted. Adjacent to the visitor center area, a garden plot is devoted to growing cotton, peanuts, soybeans, cowpeas, sweet potatoes, and tomatoes — the plants with which Carver experimented.

The 70,000-acre Theodore Roosevelt National Monument in Dakota, is typical ranch country. Buffalo and a few long-horned steers provide a living dimension to the scenic vistas. Until recently, the master plan for the area called for restoration of the Lamb Ranch as an operating cattle ranch. This area provides an opportunity to establish a living historical ranch situation with the time-element centering around the year 1880.

Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial, Indiana, has a great potential as a living historical farm area. At present, the area features a typical period garden and a four acre field of "modern" corn. Research on period agriculture for the area has been completed to guide future development of the farm. Plans have also been made to locate and move a typical cabin and corn crib and other outbuildings to the area. Split rail fences suitable for containing livestock have also been erected at strategic places throughout the monument.

Recent Legislative Action

LAND & WATER CONSERVATION FUND: On July 15, President Johnson signed into law S. 1401, the Land and Water Conservation Fund Amendments. PL 90-401 provides that if sums now flowing into the fund, plus direct appropriations, do not total \$200 million a year, receipts from oil and gas leases on the Outer Continental Shelf will be drawn upon to bring the total up to that level.

NATIONAL TRAILS SYSTEM: The House vacated passage of H.R. 4865, and passed S. 827, in lieu thereof. The next step is for the Senate to request a conference. The bill, as passed thus far, provides \$50 million for four major scenic trails — Potomac Heritage, Appalachian, Continental Divide, and Pacific Crest. Combined these trails total 6,175 miles.

REDWOODS: Next move is up to the Senate. The House has passed S. 2515, with amendments, to authorize establishment of a 28,500-acre Redwood National Park in the State of California, and returned the bill to the Senate.

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK: Senate has passed H.R. 4739, authorizing long-term leases on lands in the El Portal administrative site adjacent to Yosemite National Park, Calif., thus clearing the legislation for the White House.

This legislation would authorize the Secretary to lease lands within the El Portal administrative site, near Yosemite Valley, to any operator of concession facilities within the park for periods of fifty years.

BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY: Senate subcommittee on Parks and Recreation held hearings of H.R. 1340, authorizing the extension of the Blue Ridge Parkway in North Carolina and Georgia.

Floyd Hough, Treasurer
Employees & Alumni Association
National Park Service
1100 Ohio Drive, S. W.
Washington, D. C. 20242

Enclosed is \$ _____. Please sign me up for E. & A. A. Membership and Subscription to the "Courier."

NAME: _____

Street & No. _____

City, State & Zip : _____

NPS Affiliation _____

Membership Dues

Less than 10 years. Federal Service: \$3.00
Over 10 years Federal Service: \$5.00

See here, Ladies

THE CONTORS IN AUSTRALIA

Julie Contor is used to frequent moves, wildlife, dense forests and a variety of birds and bugs, but even with this background she now finds park living different, exciting and often inconvenient.

Julie, her husband, Roger, and their children are now winding up a six-month tour of duty in the beautiful parklands of Australia. Roger, formerly Assistant Supt. at Canyonlands National Park, has been assisting Sam Weems, formerly Supt. of Blue Ridge Parkway, and now Director of Parks and Wildlife in Australia.



Gray kangaroos in front of our house in Kosciusko. Orphans tamed by park staff.

They spent their first two months at Kosciusko National Park, where the mountain scenery, with alpine lakes and rolling tundra, is magnificent. Strange trees give the forests an exotic flavor, and instead of the usual bears and deer, they had kangaroo and possum in their backyard. Quick glimpses of wombat and platypi added to the excitement of their stay. Julie now knows that Kookaburras are not fairy tale creatures. A real live pair landed on her clothesline and laughed at her as if they found her foreignness amusing.

After Kosciusko they moved to Armidale, in northern New South Wales. It's a university town enhanced by spectacular gorges and escarpments which offer lush forests, clusters of orchids and jungle vines perfect for the recreation of little boys. Long snakes (nearly all poisonous), great lizards and flying foxes were a constant fascination to them.

The Contors are presently working in Blue Mountain National Park. Their home is in a little tourist town called Blackheath, which is situated on the top of a mountain with sandstone cliffs dropping 2,000 feet on both sides, lovely waterfalls rivaling Yosemite's and dense gum forests below. Their address: Roger Contor c/o Nash Blue Mountains City Council Office, Katoomba, NSW 2780, Australia.

Julie is finding that English can be totally incomprehensible to another English speaking person. In Australia everyday words such as prang, risole, grog, crook, fortnight, stone, etc. present communication difficulties until the Contors learned that in American English they mean: wreck, hamburger, flu, ill, two weeks, weight unit (14 pounds). Their children learned the Aussie English with little effort.

Grocery shopping is a chore that takes several hours and much planning. The absence of supermarkets and

See Here Ladies Cont'd on page 3.

self-service can try the patience of a busy mother. Sacks are rarely provided for the shopper's convenience so if Julie forgets to bring her own shopping bag she finds the small bundles and fresh meat wrapped with old newspaper, totally unmanageable.

Julie writes, "We have been treated wonderfully well, with people eager to help. Conversations with wives turn to universal housekeeping and migrate to art, music, flower arrangement, tennis, hiking, skiing and . . . suddenly people have much in common no matter where they live. It has been easy to make good friends and it will be hard to leave them behind. But the good old USA looks fine from this side of the planet, and we will soon be going back. It has been a wonderful experience."

Profiles Nathan G. Baker



Nathan G. Baker, safety officer for the Service, was born at Woodsboro, Maryland on April 10, 1907. Raised on his Dad's dairy farm, Baker found that the hard work of farming kept him in good shape and well prepared for his high school years. While attending Frederick High School he made quite a name for himself as an athlete. He was on both the all-State high soccer and baseball teams, and later played semipro baseball there and in Pittsburgh.

A graduate of Marshall College, he also studied Civil Engineering at Carnegie Tech and George Washington University.

After receiving his AB degree from Marshall College, he returned home and took over the operation of the dairy farm but somehow it had lost some of its original fascination for him and he again deserted the farm to begin a series of new and interesting jobs including: instrument man and chief of party with the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey; draftsman with the National Resources Board; county engineering supervisor, equipment engineering aide, and director of safety with the Civilian Conservation Corps. In 1942, Baker transferred to the Public Building Administration as safety engineer until he entered the Army and

served as staff sergeant with the 85th Infantry Division supervising a 105th Howitzer crew. After his discharge on August 13, 1945, he was employed by General Services Administration, where he initiated that agency's first safety program. He served with GSA as safety and fire prevention engineer until 1959 when he joined the Park Service as safety officer.

A registered engineer in the District of Columbia, Baker is a past president of the Washington Chapter of the America Society of Safety Engineers. He has long been active in Federal Safety Council work and presently is a member of the Council's Coordinating Committee and chairman of its Standards Division. He is most active in committee work of the National Safety Council and the National Fire Protection Association. He is a full member of the Society of Fire Protection Engineers, and the Veterans of Safety Organization. Other activities included participation in the Civil Defense program where he served on the committee for plant protection in the Old Office of Defense Planning. Also very active in county and community affairs, he is representative for his area to the Montgomery County Civic Association, member of the Montgomery Safety Board and a member of the Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity.

Baker has prepared many safety articles for publication and is frequently called upon as a speaker before various groups and organizations.

He is married to the former Martha Thornburg, whom he met while attending Marshall College. They lived in the city until recently when nostalgia for the farm drew him "out in the county". The Bakers now reside on an acreage big enough, and then some, for him to exercise his talents as a farmer once again.

People on the move

NEW FACES

Altman, Sidney J., to Program Spec., WASO
Lesch, Robert P., to Realty Spec., MWRO
Whitman, Robert L., to Program Spec., WASO

NEW PLACES

Burgen, William N., from Supv. Pk. Ranger, Shenandoah NP, to Pk. Ranger, Horace Albright TC
Lusa, Joseph B., from Enrollee Work Supv., Harpers Ferry JCCC, to Constr. & Maintenance Rep., Cape Hatteras NS
Nelson, Lee H., from Hist. (Architectural), WASO, DS: Philadelphia, Pa., to same, DS: Washington, D.C.
White, Thomas E., from Hist., NCR, to same, Fort Laramie NHS
Wintch, Michael O., from Pk. Ranger, Theodore Roosevelt NMP, to Supv. Pk. Ranger, Dinosaur NM

JOINING THE ALUMNI

Bryant, Warren E., from Realty Spec., WSC, Off. Land & Water Rights
Cunningham, Matho O., from Blacksmith, NCR
Lyons, Leverett S., from Appraiser, WSC, Off. Land & Water Rights

E.&A.A. Board Meets

When the Board of Directors of the Employees and Alumni Association met in Washington, D.C., July 1, they were confronted with the following situation:

1. In the Association's 12-year history, its most noteworthy accomplishment has been the regular publication of the "National Park Courier." As valuable a contribution as this has been, there are obviously still greater opportunities for action, and this action can only come through revitalization of the Association.

2. With less than 3,000 members (out of a possible 10,000 to 12,000), E.&A.A. has to pay a proportionately higher price per copy for the "Courier" than if all employees and alumni were members of the Association.

3. At present, publication of the "National Park Courier" is costing the Association every cent collected in membership dues, plus whatever sums become available from advertising and interest on Trust Fund savings. Even with the "Courier" as its sole expense, the Association is going in the red. This leaves no surplus funds for financing other projects that the Association might wish to sponsor.

4. The Association's system for electing E.&A.A. members to the Board of Directors has been so cumbersome that for years the business of the Association rested on DEAD CENTER.

These and other vital Association matters were discussed at the July 1 meeting, with T. Sutton Jett presiding as Chairman, and the following Board members in attendance: Wayne Weagley (WASO); James Eden (SWRO); Joseph Cullen (SERO); Chester Harris (NCR); Bennett Gale (WRO) Burton Coale (MWRO); Mrs. O. F. Northington (NPS Women's Organization); and Herb Evison (Retired). Former Associate Director Howard Baker, and Deputy Director Harthorn Bill, Robert Landau, Ira B. Lykes (Retired), and Colin Ritter also attended the meeting.

SUMMARY OF ACTION BY THE BOARD

1. By unanimous vote, the Board revised the bylaws of the E. & A. Association as follows:

a. Whereas the old bylaws provided for a ten-member Board of Directors, the revised bylaws provide for a 15-member Board as stated below:

(1) One employee and one alumnus from each of six regions	12
(2) The Director of the National Park Service serving ex-officio as a voting member of the Board	1
(3) The President of the National Park Service Women's Organization, serving ex-officio as a voting member of the Board	1
(4) One employee representing WASO	1
Total Membership	15

b. Re. Section 3, Article V: It was decided that each Regional Director, initially, shall nominate 3 employee members of the Association and 3 alumni members of the association within his Region (including personnel of any Service Center or other special service units within such region) as expeditiously as possible but no later than August 15, 1968. This slate of

candidates will then be circulated to all E. & A. A. members for their vote.

c. Re. Section 11, Article V: Of those so elected, the three alumni directors and the three employee directors receiving the highest number of votes shall serve for four years, and the remaining elected Board members shall serve for a two-year term.

d. With further reference to Section 3, Article V: It was decided that, subsequent to the election of a new Board of Directors in accordance with the revised bylaws, the election of Board Members thereafter will be accomplished in the month of September in every even year. Unless otherwise provided for by these bylaws, directors shall serve for a term of four years, and thereafter until their successors shall have been duly qualified, and shall as their first order of business following election of directors, elect from their number a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman.

2. By unanimous vote, it was agreed to extend — free of charge — to every new permanent employee of the National Park Service, a one-year membership in the Employees and Alumni Association.

3. By unanimous vote, it was agreed to raise the rates for membership in the E. & A. Association from \$ 2.00 a year to a new rate of \$ 3.00 a year (for employees with less than 10 years of Federal Service) and \$ 5.00 a year (for employees with over 10 years of Federal Service).

4. The Chairman of the Board appointed a Committee to develop E & A. A. objectives and make recommendations on a future E. & A. A. program.

SERVICEWIDE ELECTIONS will be held some time in September. The new Board of Directors will then address itself to revitalizing the E. & A. Association. With the additional funds provided by increased Association dues, and — hopefully — with the number of memberships also increased, it is anticipated that there will be adequate financial support for a number of Association projects in addition to the primary project — the "NPS Courier."

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACTION discussed at the meeting included such projects as:

...Publication of an up-to-date list of Alumni with current mailing addresses.
 ...Maintenance of a "morgue" in conjunction with the "Courier" to provide current bio-data on members.
 ...Production of education aids, story lines and scripts about NPS for Educational TV.
 ...Compilation of a list of scholarships and other educational opportunities available to Service children.
 ...Through local screening processes, identification of Service youngsters who have demonstrated outstanding characteristics of leadership, scholarship and citizenship, and set up program encouraging them to follow Service careers.
 ...Sponsorship of essay and/or conservation project contests among Service children — with, perhaps, all-expense trips to various NPS areas as prizes.