



NEWSLETTER

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service



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AUGUST 8, 1968

Standby for Camper Reaction !



For years, journalists have had a literary field day criticizing bear jams at Yellowstone, hippies at Yosemite Valley campgrounds, bumper-to-bumper traffic on Great Smoky's transmountain road, and hordes of mobile camping outfits parked helter-skelter along park roads — in response to "campground full" signs throughout the National Park System.

ONCE AGAIN, the spotlight is on the parks — this time in the form of a series of articles in the *Christian Science Monitor*. Fortunately, CSM writers are able to note some very positive changes in park management — largely in response to previous constructive criticism by members of the fourth estate.

HARD DECISIONS

To bring order out of the present camping chaos, the Service has had to make some hard decisions recently with respect to overcrowding and overuse of campground facilities. It is axiomatic, we believe, that the public gets what the public deserves, or is concerned enough to demand. We credit public pressure to a great extent, for our recent action program with regard to camping and campgrounds. Public opinion and public pressure have given us the reassurance to get tough in our camping policy.

"FREE CAMPING" MYTH

First, the Service had to tackle the myth that "free camping" is the birthright of every American citizen. It still is, of course, if the camper is willing to accept nature on her own terms and backpack into the wilderness, with only the most primitive facilities. On the other hand, when the camper demands more and more amenities of civilization, he should expect to pay for these additional services.

CARRYING CAPACITY

Then there is the question of "carrying capacity." At Great Smoky Mountain National Park, the Service is not only charging a campground use fee — something we've never done before — but we're no longer allowing latecomers to park along the roads or use overflow campgrounds.

If you have read the June 27 Newsletter, you know that the "carrying capacity" of campgrounds is a matter of utmost concern at Yosemite National Park. Here, the public campground capacity in the Valley is being cut virtually in half by a policy of marking out definite campsites, as opposed to the former permissive attitude of allowing campers to pitch their tents tent-peg to tent-peg on any available plot of ground.

This is a move toward quality rather than quantity. Those who are accommodated will find their stay much more satisfying. As at the GSMNP, all camping will be confined to designated public campgrounds. With a curtailed number of campers, the park will be able to cope more efficiently with campground cleanup and other housekeeping chores. In general, the campers will come closer to enjoying the quality outdoor experience that they have a right to expect in a National Park.

It should be noted that overflow camping has also been entirely eliminated at Everglades National Park, and will be phased out as a standard procedure or eliminated entirely at many other parks this year.



CONCESSIONER-OPERATED CAMPGROUNDS

Now, we approach an entirely new concept in campground management — at least, insofar as the Service experience is concerned. As an experiment this summer, campgrounds at Crater Lake National Park, and Everglades National Park are being concessioner-operated.

Reaction cont'd on pg. 4.

See here, Ladies

F'heaven's sake! Of course the Newsletter hasn't abandoned the "See Here, Ladies" column. We only left it out of one little old issue, and did we hear about it! Rest assured, the ladies will continue to get star billing, because the Newsletter has been, is, and always will be greatly concerned with their interests.

Now, if you ladies will please join your ad hoc editor down by the local quandry, perhaps you can help him out of his present dilemma. As you may or may not know, Phil Jacobsen isn't going to be able to continue working on the Newsletter as author of "See Here, Ladies," and "Silhouette." We may eventually find a successor, but it will be very difficult, indeed to find a replacement. Phil has done a magnificent job for the Newsletter, and on behalf of the National Park Service Women's Organization, we wish to express our great appreciation.

During the interim — and thereafter — here's how you ladies can help. Without delay — Please WRITE TO YOUR REGIONAL CHAIRMAN (listed below), giving her either completed stories for and about Service women, or "tips" on sources of good stories. This will serve as grist for future "See Here, Ladies" columns. Also, please submit copy (or suggestions) for future "Silhouettes." At a later date, more detailed instructions concerning material for the Newsletter will be supplied to you by your National Chairman, Mrs. Carolyn Shaw.

NPS WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION

- National Chairman - Carolyn Shaw
Big Horn Canyon Recreation Area, Box 458 YRS,
Hardin, Montana 59035
- Western Region Chairman - Muriel Kennedy
Lava Beds National Monument, Box 867, Tule Lake,
California 96134
- Southwest Region Chairman - Nancy Dayton
Petrified Forest National Park, Holbrook, Arizona
86025
- Northeast Region Chairman - Suzanne Banton
Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial, Lincoln City,
Indiana 47552
- Midwest Region Chairman - Shirley Holder
Scotts Bluff National Monument, Box 427 Gering,
Nebraska 69341
- Southeast Region Chairman - Jo Ellsworth
Richmond National Battlefield Park, 3215 East
Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia 23223
- National Capital Region Chairman - Kay Steele
7721 Bellington Court, Springfield, Va. 22150

The Smoke Signal

Have you seen THE SMOKE SIGNAL sent out of the southwest? It's worth watching for!

The first year of this little regional-quarterly newsletter is almost over and the women of Sanford Recreation Area - Alibates National Monument are preparing to hand over their publishing duties, which include hours of work interlaced with fun and laughter, to another group of NPS women.

Each Park Service area in the southwest sends in a page of news, plus a contribution to the special nature page which appears in each issue. Some of the special features have been "Recipes", "An interesting Ex-

perience of Mine", "Household Hints", and "Entertaining Ideas".

The annual price of each newsletter is \$1.00, this covers the cost of materials and postage. A card file has been set up to keep subscribers (individual and park) up-to-date.

If you have something you would like to say to the women of the southwest, write to THE SMOKE SIGNAL, c/o Mrs. Donald Dayton (Area Chairman), Petrified Forest National Park, Holbrook, Arizona and they'll puff out your message. If you would like to start a regional newsletter in your area, the ladies of the southwest will be happy to give you the details on how it can be done.

SILHOUETTE

Mrs. Stanley C. Joseph, wife of the superintendent of the Cape Cod National Seashore, enjoys being an amateur puppeteer. Some may remember her as the Chairman of the Women's Group at the 1965 NPS conference at Gatlinburg.

Besides being a puppeteer, she is active in the community life on Cape Cod. She is Chairman of the Fine Arts Department of the Orleans Women's Club, Secretary of the League of Women Voters of the Lower Cape, member of the Provincetown Choral Society, gardener, photographer, and embroiderer of "reverse applique", if you know what that is.



Ruth makes hand puppets. She has made 25 or 30 over the last eight years, and has presented the puppet plays with the help of Park Service friends. When a portable puppet theater became necessary, her husband built it. The puppet shows have been given for many organization benefits.

Having worked for 10 years in Girl Scouts while her two daughters were growing up, she now likes to help as consultant to troops working on the puppeteer badge. The best part of being a puppeteer, says Ruth, is that it makes her so popular with her two grandchildren in California.

Ruth first became interested in puppets when she and Stanley were stationed at Big Bend National Park. As she says, "We were a good way from town and a little extra self-organized entertainment seemed to be in order. While there, the children of the Big Ben grammar school worked with me on the puppet shows and some of them were very good puppeteers."

Recent Legislative Action

FEDERAL AID HIGHWAY ACT (S-3418 -Conference Report as approved by both House and Senate) is now at the White House awaiting Presidential action. It contains, among other things, authorization for completion of the G.W. Memorial Parkway. In Prince Georges County this section will be known as the Fort Washington Parkway. Appropriations authorized provide for an amount substantially below that necessary to purchase lands that must be acquired in fee. There is considerable Departmental concern about certain provisions of the bill with regard to completion of the Interstate System, mainly because the Committee report is so specific as to location and construction of roadways.

FOUR DAYS OF HEARING-Since the last Newsletter, Dept. and Service personnel attended hearings on eleven legislative proposals, July 24, 25, 26 and 29:

1) Glen Canyon NRA; 2) Canyonlands NP Bdry Rev.; 3) International Peace Gardens; 4) Gulf Islands NS; 5) North Cascades NP & Ross Lake NRA; 6) Flaming Gorge NRA; 7) Apostle Islands NL; 8) Sleeping Bear Dunes NL; 9) Chickamauga & Chattanooga land Acquisition; 10) Chickamauga-Chattanooga land disposal; 11) Upper Mississippi NRA Study, 12) Police Commissioner for the District of Columbia.

REDWOODS & NORTH CASCADES -No further information as this issue of Newsletter goes to press.

CONGRESS EXPECTED TO RECESS on or about August 2 for the political conventions. House Majority Leader Carl Albert (D.-Okla.) states that Congress will be back in session September 4.

Training Highlights

Seven Service employees have been selected to participate in the 1968-69 Departmental Training Programs (Five in the Departmental Manager Development Program and two in the Departmental Administrative Management Training Program). The seven employees will transfer to WASO the latter part of August to begin their assignments. The seven employees are as follows:

Departmental Manager Development Program

Franklin G. Collins, Landscape Architect, D & C-SSC
Thomas D. Monroe, Supervisory Park Ranger,
Mammoth Cave

Warren H. Patton, Civil Engineer, Resource Planning,
SSC

James A. Richardson, Chief Park Naturalist, Lassen
Volcanic

Richard V. Stenmark, Assistant Chief Ranger, Sequoia
& Kings Canyons

Dept. Admin. Mgmt. Training Program

Billy H. Edmondson, Administrative Officer, Oconaluf-
tee CCC

Charles D. Wyatt, Administrative Officer, Timpanogas
Cave

CORRECTION re. E & AA DUES

In the latest issues of the Courier and the Newsletter we reported that new membership dues would be \$3.00 for those with 10 years or less of "federal" service. This should read "10 years or less of employment with the National Park Service." O.K.?

Profiles

George A. Palmer



George A. Palmer, associate regional director with the Northeast Regional Office, was born at Columbia City, Indiana on December 18, 1907.

Palmer received his AB degree from De Pauw University in 1929 and his AM degree in History from the University of Minnesota in 1932.

His Park Service career started in June of 1933 as history technician at Fredericksburg National Military Park. In 1934, he transferred to the same at Morristown National Historical Park. From 1935 until 1955, he served as superintendent at Statue of Liberty National Monument, Fort McHenry National Monument & Historic Shrine, again at Statue of Liberty National Monument, at Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site, and when the two were combined at Vanderbilt Mansion and Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Sites. In 1955, he was promoted to assistant regional director for administration in what is now the Northeast Regional Office. Palmer was appointed to associate regional director in 1966, the position he now holds.

The high performance of his duties while at the Northeast Regional Office, earned him two superior performance awards in 1961 and 1967.

He is a member of the American Society of Public Administration and the Phi Beta Kappa Fraternity.

Palmer has two sons. Frank Newton, the older of the two, is married and is an assistant buyer at Strawbridge and Clothier in Philadelphia. His second son, William H., is married and has one small daughter. William graduated from Rutgers University this past January, and has entered the Albright Training Center as an intake trainee (historian). So, he is following in his father's footsteps.

Palmer resides at 707 Everett Avenue, Collingswood, New Jersey.

NPS NEWSLETTER

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All items of general interest to NPS personnel concerning management, operations, economics 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.

From CRATER LAKE NATIONAL PARK, Supt. Donald M. Spalding reports that since June 15, Crater Lake Lodge, Inc., the park concessioner, has operated all of the developed campgrounds in the park. At the three campgrounds involved—Rim, Mazama and Annie Springs—there is a charge of \$1.50 per site, and advance reservations may be made.

This constitutes a change in National Park Service policy regarding free use of campgrounds. Crater Lake represents the first implementation of this policy and is, in a sense, experimental. If this experiment at Crater Lake is successful, the policy will be carried out—where practicable—in all national parks. Private enterprise will not only operate existing campgrounds but will, also, build and operate most of the future campgrounds.

High construction costs and tight budgets have contributed to this policy but aside from these financial factors we hope to be better able to serve the camper through better service.

Doubling-up and overflow camping will not be permitted. We feel the advantages of having a better camping space will compensate for the loss of flexibility in the schedule of the camping family.

CONTROVERSIAL PRECEDENT?

This precedent will not come about without some controversy. In the minds of many visitors, camping is a fundamental service that should be provided by the National Park Service. To others the development of campgrounds in national parks is in question. "Where does it end?" If we are able to preserve ecosystems, we should rein back on overnight accommodations and discourage attempting to supply the demands of accelerated visitation by a public that can travel 500 miles in a day with ease.

New ideas and new methods are needed to meet constructively, not only the present demands of campers but future demands as well. Camping in an overcrowded slum does not provide the park visitor with a rewarding experience for which the park is intended. Unlimited expansion of camping facilities could destroy the resource itself. Where possible, beyond park boundaries, we wish to encourage development of more visitor services. If the services are required in the park they are to be provided by private enterprise. The modern developed campground is a visitor service which logically should be provided by private enterprise as is now done with hotels, cabins, and merchandising.

Primitive campgrounds, backpacking, and wilderness camping where few or no services are provided will continue to be free.

At Crater Lake, a joint meeting produced press release distribution to 500 new media, organizations, and national park supporters. Before other parks adopt concessioner-operated campgrounds it would be most desirable to provide nationwide publicity.

AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

A carefully planned Memorandum of Understanding was prepared defining the areas of responsibility. The National Park Service maintains the roads and all protection and law enforcement authority. The concessioner maintains all comfort stations, water and

sewer lines, handles all trash hauling, provides power and replaces and repairs campsite equipment when necessary.

OBJECTIONS?

Crater Lake expected objections to be voiced, and they have been. Both Service and concessioner personnel have been carefully coached to be especially attentive to complaints. This is an extremely sensitive area of public relations, and it is important that everyone fully understands the reasonableness of this experiment that is being conducted in the public interest, and—as a matter of fact—an experiment that results from public demand for more sophisticated camping facilities.

FUTURE CAMPING PATTERNS?

In what way will camping patterns be affected? This summer should provide the answer. As one result, we may expect a much greater impact on the primitive campground—which is, of course, FREE. We may also anticipate more attempts by would-be campers to pitch their tents or park their camp vehicles in overlooks and parking areas. Moreover, we must be prepared to deal courteously but firmly with the displeased campers whom we will be redirecting to the designated, concessioner-operated, campgrounds. In the long run, however, we believe that this experimental program will be accepted by the majority of the traveling public.

People on the move

NEW PLACES

Bonifield, Milo M., from Foreman III (Roads & Trails), Grand Teton NP, to Maintenance Supt., Death Valley NM
Carlson, Edward R., from Supv. Pk. Ranger, Everglades NP, to Pk. Ranger, Grand Canyon NP
Fugate, Paul B., from Pk. Ranger, Navajo Lands Group-Navajo NM, to same, Carlsbad Caverns NP
Hollister, Alan D., from Landscape Arch., PSC, D & C, to same, WSC, D & C
Kime, Joseph G., from Gen. Supply Asst., WASO, to same, Grand Teton NP
Putman, Sylvester, from Pk. Guide, George Washington Carver NM, to same, Jefferson NEM
Reck, Samuel H., from Admin. Off., Cape Cod NS, to Mgmt. Asst., Morristown-Edison Group
Riley, James A., from Pk. Ranger, Everglades NP, to same, Cape Hatteras NS
Schober, Jerry L., from Supv. Hist. (Asst. Ch. Interp. & Res. Mgmt.), CNCP, to Supt., Abraham Lincoln Birthplace NHS
Sloat, Harry H., from Landscape Arch., SFSC, D & C, to Supv. Landscape Arch., WRO
Zerby, Benjamin J., from Supt., Minute Man NHP Project, to Gen. Supt., Boston Group

JOINING THE ALUMNI

Delgado, Ramon J., from Contract Spec., PSC-D & C