



NEWSLETTER

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Udall Orders Cutbacks in National Park Service Operations

Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall has approved a series of cutbacks in National Park Service operations, including a reduction in visitor hours and off-season closing of campgrounds.

The action was taken, he said, because of personnel reductions ordered by the Congress and imposed by the Bureau of the Budget at a time when both visitations to the National Park System and the numbers of areas in operation are at an all-time high.

"Under the new manpower restrictions," Udall said, "the National Park Service faces the distressing alternatives of tailoring its operations to fit available and anticipated staffing by reducing some visitor services, or continuing to temporize with lowering standards of service and protection for park visitors and park resources.

"We believe it is preferable to curtail the length of operations and maintain quality service in the National Park System."

Udall approved a nine-point program of reduced operations proposed by George B. Hartzog, Jr., director of the National Park Service, that will be placed into operation between Oct. 15 and Nov. 15.

In a letter to Udall outlining the cutbacks, Hartzog noted that during the past five years, visitation to the National Park Service increased 48 percent from 103 million in 1963 to an expected 152 million in 1968 and 42 new areas were added to the National Park System, while permanent employment increased by only 13 percent. In addition, Congress authorized a greatly expanded program of historical preservation, he noted.

"Our projections show," he added, "that the gap between the visitation workload and actual manpower will widen even more in the immediate future under newly imposed personnel ceiling restrictions."

Hartzog pointed out that under the Revenue and Expenditure Control Act of June 28, 1968 (P.L. 90-364), the Park Service must roll back permanent employment from the present authorized strength of 7,575 employees to the June 30, 1966, level of 5,998 by filling only three out of four vacancies until the new lower level is reached. The Bureau of the Budget subsequently restricted filling of vacancies to seven out of 10 until the rollback is accomplished, he added. This will involve a net loss of 292 permanent jobs from the June 30, 1968, total of 6,290 full-time employees on the payroll.

The nine-point program, recommended by Hartzog and approved by Udall provides for the following:

1. Consistent with reasonable protection of human life and park values, defer further permanent staffing of National Park Service areas where public use facilities are inadequate to support an effective operating unit in this fiscal year.

2. Where feasible, consolidate management of two or more small areas in close proximity to each other under a single administrative staff.

3. Assign NPS campgrounds to concessioners for operation on a fee basis wherever possible. (See Point 8 for campgrounds not operated by concessioners.)

4. Establish split positions, i.e. a permanent position assigned a portion of each year to two or more areas.

5. Place visitor centers and similar information services on a five-day, eight-hour-per-day operation, except where they can be manned with seasonal employees. The five-day schedule will be programmed to serve the greatest possible number of visitors. Thus, it is expected that the majority of closures will not be on weekends.

6. Where it is possible to close an area by locking gates, as at some historical areas, the entire park operation will be placed on a five-day, 40-hour week, except where it can be manned for longer periods by other than fulltime, permanent employees.

Where national cemeteries are involved, the gates will be left open for visitors, but no burials which will necessitate overtime or prolonged park operation with permanent, full-time employees will be allowed, except in emergency situations. Burials are now limited to specific days at many private and other memorial parks, Hartzog said.

7. Roads, trails, checking stations and visitor centers at many Parks that have been kept open in the past both before and after the peak visitor season by permanent uniformed personnel, will be closed during the off-season, when seasonal personnel are not available. This will result in some reduction of receipts to the Land and Water Conservation Fund through loss of sales of Golden Eagle Passports and collections of daily admittance fees, Hartzog pointed out.

8. Seasonal campgrounds that have been kept open by permanent NPS employees for longer periods in the past, will be fully closed during the off-season unless temporary employees are available to operate them, or unless concessioners take over their operation.

Cutbacks—Cont'd on page 2.



Gertrude Hieb, wife of Supt. David L. Hieb of George Washington Carver National Monument and Wilson's Creek Battlefield National Park, is "Mrs. National Park Service" in southwest Missouri. Her background of more than 30 years as a Service wife stand her in good stead for public contact and volunteer work, as does her status as a registered nurse.

Gertrude is a graduate of the Swedish Covenant Hospital School of Nursing in Omaha. She was most recently actively employed in her profession for six and one-half years while Dave was a Park Planner in Midwest Region Office in Omaha. On coming to George Washington Carver National Monument and finding the nearest hospitals more than fifteen miles distant, she elected to "retire". However, she helps regularly with the Red Cross Bloodmobile on its visits to Neosho, Mo., and has made many friends through that work.

Many of the blood donors are repeaters, and one of her best friends has donated over eight gallons of blood. All of this blood is urgently needed and made available to hospitals for surgery as well as in cases of blood disease, childbirth, burns and accidents.

Gertrude is also active in the Diamond, Missouri Extension Club, the PEO Sisterhood and the Neosho Presbyterian Church. Her major hobbies are knitting and doing needlework. She knits many of her own clothes as well as gift items. Many of her needlepoint pictures are also used as gifts, while she is continually complimented on her needlepoint handbags and matching hats. She also loves to cook and bake, and true to her Swedish descent, homemade rye bread and Swedish pastries are common fare in the Hieb home. She enjoys playing cards, hiking and traveling, especially to other National Park areas.

The Hiebs' have two children. Their son, the Rev. Louis A. Hieb, holds degrees from Grinnell College, Yale Divinity School, Rutgers University; and after three years on the staff of Princeton Theological Seminary, is now a Fellow of Princeton University working full time on a doctorate in Anthropology and Primitive Religions. Lou, as he is known to more of his friends, put in three seasons as a seasonal archeologist at Mesa Verde and is well known to many Service people. Louis, his wife, Sue, and Matthew Alan, the Hiebs' only grandchild, live in Princeton, N.J.

The Hiebs' daughter, Rena Jean, also a graduate of Grinnell College, put in several summers working for the concessioner at Bryce Canyon and the North Rim of Grand Canyon. She is now married to Dr. Earl M. Murman, an aerospace engineer with Boeing in Seattle. They are active members of the Sierra Club in that area, and Rena also works in the Mathematics Section of the Pacific Science Center in Seattle.

Cutbacks - Cont'd from page 1.

9. As a last resort, some areas may be deactivated and placed on a full-time custodial basis. Sufficient custodial staff will be provided to insure reasonable protection of human life and park values during the period of deactivation, Hartzog said. This was the wartime program of the Service, for example, during World War II.

Hartzog pointed out that in addition to the reduced operating program in the field areas, cutbacks have been ordered in the staffing of such Washington office operations as landmark studies, master plans, new area studies, and construction.

"It is hoped," he added, "that the combined effect of reductions in Washington office operations and the first eight items of the program will achieve our objectives within the manpower ceilings imposed without having to resort to deactivation of any park areas."

Cutbacks for individual NPS areas will be determined by the Regional Directors following reviewing of each area program with the Superintendent. The agreed-upon changes in operating schedules will be announced locally by each Superintendent.

In his letter to Udall, Hartzog pointed out that permanent employment ceilings have been restricted for several years below those authorized by Congress.

"In the meantime," he said, "the Service has been charged with the responsibility for new functions, as well as a number of new areas. The combined effect of these actions has put a serious strain on our ability to accomplish our overall job at an acceptable standard."

He noted that as of June 30, 1963, the last year before the Bureau of the Budget imposed permanent position ceiling control, the Park Service had 5,578 permanent employees on the payroll, or 92 percent of the authorized staffing of 6,156, and had management responsibility for 222 areas.

"As of June 30, 1968, permanent employment was 6,290, or 84 percent of authorized staffing of 7,343 positions. Meanwhile," he added, "42 new areas were added to the System for a total of 264, and the Congress also had authorized a greatly expanded program of historic preservation."

Hartzog said he and his executive staff, including the six Regional Directors, have spent many hours during the past three months studying the problem and reached the conclusion that curtailing the length of operations would be the best method of achieving the Park Service objective of maintaining "quality service during the time that we are able to operate the areas of the National Park System."

See here, Ladies

The volunteer Kiosk Program has been operating successfully now for several weeks in the National Capital Region. Recently, Regional Director Nash Castro and Superintendent William R. Failor sent letters to each of the volunteer ladies, expressing heartfelt thanks of the Service and pointing out that their work in the kiosks has made it possible to continue serving many visitors during the fall season. "We are sure," the letters stated, "that the hundreds of visitors who have received information from you had a more enjoyable visit to our Nation's Capital because of your efforts."

Among the ladies volunteering for kiosk duty this fall are: Mrs. William Bahlman, Mrs. Floyd Ewalt, Mrs. William Failor, Mrs. Arthur Gilmore, Mrs. Chester Harris, Mrs. Edward Hummel, Mrs. Ralph Lewis, Mrs. Jennie Lucas, Mrs. Ray Martinez, Mrs. Richard Montgomery, Mrs. Dave Ochsner, Mrs. Joseph Prentice, Mrs. Robert Rose, Mrs. Willard Sheeler, Mrs. Howard Stagner, Mrs. Curtis Thoen, Mrs. Harry L. Thomas, Mrs. Robert Utley, Mrs. Charles Watson, and Mrs. Edwin Winge.

THE KIOSK BIT

By Harriet Sheeler

What happened to the little English boy who planned to sleep on the bus? How was it when the man from Sydney, Australia finally saw his sister in Toledo after fourteen years? Did all those people make the turn at 16th and Irving to find the Shrine? What fun to use Spanish again! And pity the poor Belgian girl as we struggled out high school French! These and many others are little left-over thoughts from doing volunteer work in the Park Service kiosks.

Recent Legislative Action

REDWOOD NATIONAL PARK: PL 90-545. Signed by President Johnson, October 2, 1968. Nelson Murdock named as 1st Supt.

NORTH CASCADES NATIONAL PARK: (Including Ross Lake and Lake Chelan NRA's) PL 90-544. Signed by the President on October 2, 1968. Roger Contor assigned as 1st supt.

NATIONAL TRAILS SYSTEM: PL 90-543. Signed by the President on October 2, 1968. Authorizes establishment of Appalachian Trail in the East and Pacific Crest Trail in the West, and study of others. Trail routes designated for study include the Potomac Heritage Trail, 825 miles from the mouth of the Potomac River to its sources in Penn. and W. Va., including the 170-mile Chesapeake and Ohio Canal towpath.

NATIONAL WILD and SCENIC RIVERS SYSTEM: PL 90-542. Signed by the President, October 2, 1968, preserves sections of eight rivers and provides for studies of 27 other potential rivers.

BISCAYNE NATIONAL MONUMENT: Passed by the Congress and now on President's desk.

CARL SANDBURGH HOME NHS: Passed by the Congress and now on the President's desk.

If one enjoys people, finds satisfaction in helping them and is still honestly enthusiastic about the really marvellous tourist attractions that Washington has to offer, the kiosk is the place to be.

We have a hot line to the central office, two visits a day from perky Mary Lou Zurenda and innumerable passing visits from the Park Police. Never have we felt so secure and protected in our lives!!!

The tourists are great fun to talk with, and being outdoors in the midst of their coming and going is a delightful change from running a home in suburbia.

The White House, the space displays, the Hope diamond and the costumes of the wives of the various presidents have evoked the majority of questions since we've been here. The sightseeing buses that the Park Service runs are a real joy for the tourists, and the prehistoric animal in front of Natural History Building is unique creative thinking on somebody's part. Surely he is the most crawled on, up, over animal in existence.

The only disadvantage—the only time we feel really inadequate is when somebody asks, "Where can I park?"

We get that question all day, every day. Parking spaces are all but gone by the time we arrive in the morning, and the poor tourists who technically own the places are angry, hurt, sad and in utter despair. We commiserate! Parking is pathetic.

We want to go on helping people like the little German lady who wanted to go to the University of Maryland—but not on the beltway.

"Go here and there," we said, "and then, on your map the street seems to end, but . . ."

"Ach, yes," she interrupted, "that's the damnt trouble with your streets in Washington!"

But, everything else is great! How about it, Supt. Bill Failor, could we do it again next year?



Scholarship for Orla



Orla Zabriskie, daughter of Mayo Zabriskie, maintenance supervisor at Badlands National Monument, recently won a Home Study Scholarship Award from Brigham Young University. Orla, who is physically handicapped, was given free tuition awards toward four hours of Home Study Credit.

People on the move

NEW PLACES

Adams, Earl B., from Supv. Pk. Ranger, Blue Ridge Pky., to same, Hot Springs NP
 Allen, Peter B., from Pk. Ranger, Albright TC, to same, Yosemite NP
 Arnott, James D., from Supv. Pk. Ranger, Wind Cave NP, to same, Padre Island NS
 Aubuchon, John A., from Supt., Mammoth Cave NP, to Spec. Asst. to the Asst. Director (Admin.), WASO
 Banta, Alford J., from Pk. Ranger, Albright TC, to same, Glacier NP
 Boughton, Robert D., from Carpenter, Yosemite NP, to Foreman II, MG, B&U, Lassen Volcanic NP
 Brooks, Myrl G., from Supv. Pk. Ranger, Theodore Roosevelt NMP, to Pk. Planner, WASO
 Brown, James L., from Hist., Albright TC, to same, Natchez Trace Pky.
 Burke, William J., from Pk. Ranger, Albright TC, to same, Glacier NP
 Burns, Robert L., from Supt., Nez Perce NHP, to Asst. to the Reg. Director (CA), NERO
 Church, George D., from Pk. Ranger, Cape Hatteras NS, to Supv. Pk. Ranger, Christiansted NHS and Buck Island Reef NM
 Cloutier, Arthur R., from Pk. Ranger, Grand Teton NP, to same, Blue Ridge Pky.
 Cover, Richard G., from Land Use Spec., WASO, to Mgmt. Asst., Curecanti RA
 Dalton, Luke E., from Pk. Ranger, Albright TC, to same, Yosemite NP
 Dame, Vernon D., from Supv. Pk. Nat., Cape Cod NS, to Pk. Nat., NERO
 Dyer, William E., from Center Director, Great Smoky Mtns. NP, Tremont JCCC, to same, Mammoth Cave NP, Great Onyx JCCC
 Evans, R. Scott, from Pk. Ranger, Albright TC, to same, Yosemite NP
 Gay, Gordon V., from Hist., Albright TC, to Pk. Hist., SWRO
 Giddings, Roger E., from Pk. Ranger, Colonial NHP, to Supv. Pk. Ranger, Natchez Trace Pky.
 Haraden, Robert C., from Asst. Supt., Grand Teton NP, to Supt., Natchez Trace Pky.
 Hepburn, James R., from Mechanic HD, Yosemite NP, to Mechanic, Automotive, Sitka & Glacier Bay NM
 Hernandez, Felix, III, from Pk. Ranger, Albright TC, to same, Yosemite NP
 Holmaas, Julia R., from Pk. Nat., Albright TC, to same, George Washington Mem. Pky.
 Johnson, Robert G., from Ecologist, WSC, to Pk. Nat., WASO
 Koeppe, W. Philip, from Pk. Ranger, Albright TC, to same, Glacier NP
 Larson, William A., from Pk. Ranger, Albright TC, to same, Yosemite NP
 Leake, James T., from Operator, General, Sequoia & Kings Canyon NP, to same, Yosemite NP
 Leblond, Richard J., from Pers. Mgmt. Asst., Glacier NP, to Admin. Off., Cape Cod NS
 McMullen, Richard J., from Admin. Off., Dinosaur NM, to same Great Smoky Mtns. NP, Oconaluftee JCCC
 Mebane, R. Alan, from Supv. Pk. Nat., Mammoth Cave NP, to Pk. Nat., SERO
 Miller, Roger R., from Supt., Andrew Johnson NHS, to Mgmt. Asst., Great Smoky Mtns. NP
 Moore, David E., from Pk. Ranger, Albright TC, to same, Yosemite NP
 Moore, Robert B., from Asst. Reg. Director (Oper.), WRO, to Asst. Director (Oper.), WASO
 Murphy, Eleanor F., from Sec. Steno., SSC, to same, Glen Canyon NRA
 Nichols, Emmet A., from Hist., Gettysburg NMP, to same, Fort Clatsop NM
 Nunn, Robert L., from Asst. Center Director, Harpers Ferry NHP, JCCC, to Education Program Admin., WASO
 Price, Jackson E., from Reg. Director, SERO, to Spec. Asst. to the Director, WASO
 Rawlings, Harry V., from Admin. Off., Manassas NBP, to Pk. Ranger, Yosemite NP
 Reed, John C., from Pk. Ranger, Grand Teton NP, to same, Prince William Forest Park
 Reish, Roger E., from Pk. Ranger, Carlsbad Caverns NP, to Supv. Pk. Ranger, Padre Island NS
 Riebe, Charles F., Jr., from Center Dir., Mammoth Cave NP, Great Onyx JCCC, to Program Anal., WASO
 Ronsheim, Robert D., from Hist., Minute Man NHP, to Mgmt. Asst., Salem Maritime NHS
 Rudolph, Roger A., from Pk. Ranger, Albright TC, to same, Yosemite NP
 Ryan, Matthew H., from Supv. Pk. Ranger, Canyonlands NP, to Supt., Organ Pipe Cactus NM
 Siler, Nelson W., from Pk. Ranger, Albright TC, to same, Yosemite NP
 Slonaker, John J., from Hist., Natchez Trace Pky., to same, Christiansted NHS
 Smith, Ben M., from Pk. Hist., Chickamauga and Chattanooga NMP, to Hist., Colonial NHP
 Smith, Dorothy D., from Clk. Steno., SSC, to same, WSC
 Soule, Parke W., from Admin. Off., Grand Canyon NP, to Mgmt. Asst., WASO
 Stratton, John W., from Supt., Death Valley NM, to Chief, Br. of Employee Evaluation, WASO
 Taylor, T. B., from Off. Services Supv., Cumberland NHP, to Admin. Off., Prince William Forest Park
 Thompson, John C., from Pers. Off., Rocky Mtn. NP, to Pers. Mgmt. Spec., SERO
 Tracy, Bernard G., from Foreman II - Maintenance, Capitol Reef NM, to Construction & Maintenance Rep., Navajo Lands Group
 Trout, Edward L., from Hist., Albright TC, to same, Natchez Trace Pky.
 Wadase, Donald S., from Center Director, Acadia NP, JCCC, to Asst. Center Director, Harpers Ferry NHP, JCCC
 Wallace, David H., from Supv. Museum Curator, Independence NHP, to Staff Curator, WASO
 Weaver, Richard K., from Hydraulic Engr. Technician, SSC, to Civil Engineering Technician, SSC
 Weaver, Roy W., from Pk. Ranger, Yellowstone NP, to same, Scotts Bluff NM and Agate Fossil Beds NM
 Whitehead, Loren S., from Pk. Ranger, Yellowstone NP, to same, Blue Ridge Pky.
 Zollar, Lawrence J., from Asst. Supt., Fire Island NS & NY City Group, to Asst. Pers. Off., WASO