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Big Red Joins Service

When Big Red was formally accepted by the National Park Service, it was a happy day for all. But none could have been more pleased than Big Red himself.

Big Red is the 1,050-pound Grand Champion Steer of the 1968 National Western Stock Show, recently purchased by the Denver Hilton Hotel for a record \$10.35 a pound. Fortunately, Big Red, who was described by the judges as having "plenty of stretch and smoothness without excessive wasty fat," won't have to worry any more about winding up on the dinner table. The buyer donated the steer to Washington's Junior Village, and Big Red is now living a life of leisure at the Oxon Hill Children's Farm, operated by the National Park Service. Russell E. Dickenson, assistant director of the National Capital Region, took custody of Big Red at the presentation ceremony Washington on March 11.

In making the presentation, Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman referred to Big Red's history as a "Cinderella story." Twenty months ago 4-H'er Randy Helms of Holbrook, Nebraska purchased the one-day-old Hereford calf for \$46. Since then, Big Red's earnings have totaled nearly \$12,000.

"I am fed up to the teeth with the shrill, raucous, carping chorus of what's wrong with America and what's wrong with American youth," Secretary Freeman said. "I think it is important to give equal time to what's right in America — such as the accomplishment of 17-year-old Randy Helms and his family."



NPS photo by Jack Rottier

Brian Mulcahy ENCP Supt. Grover Steele Randy Helms

"Randy didn't win this Grand Championship with Big Red simply by wishing for it," the Secretary continued. "No, it came as the end result of a lot of preparation and hard work."

The gentle steer has already proved to be a major attraction at Oxon Hill. Over 100,000 visitors have come to the Children's Farm since it opened last July, and Big Red's presence is expected to draw even larger numbers.

"Grass Roots" Conservation



Assateague Island National Seashore has started its first dune stabilization project. A crew of six maintenance men has succeeded in planting 154,000 seedlings of American beachgrass. This plant is one of the few species which will take the adversities of an ocean-beach situation. It is successful in building dunes, which is so important to barrier beaches.

There have been 4,400 lineal feet of sand fence (similar to snow fence) placed on the fragment dunes. This practice allows for the rapid buildup of sand by knocking down wind-blown sand particles. The fencing also provides some protection to the planted grass.

The simple "grass roots" dune stabilization plan by adaptation, flexibility, and success far surpasses other costly and grand-scale projects.

4th MOVE FOR JOHN BROWN'S FORT

John Brown's Fort, one of the major historical structures at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, has been moved one mile from the campus of Stephen T. Mather Training Center to a new location at Old Arsenal Square. This is the fourth move for the brick building which was used as a stronghold by John Brown and his raiders in 1859.

Brown and his followers were captured in the building, then the fire enginehouse for the U.S. Army.

EVERGLADES EPIDEMIC OVER

The Avian cholera epidemic at Everglades has finally subsided. It is estimated that over 4,000 coots died, most of them at the western end of West Lake.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY AT CUSTIS-LEE

Irish music filled the parlor of the Custis-Lee Mansion, March 17, in celebration of St. Patrick's Day. The celebration was reminiscent of Custis' fondness of the Irish. Though not Irish himself, he was an advocate of the Irish cause for independence in the early 1800's and was a great friend of Irish-Americans.

VIRGIN ISLANDS REPORT RELEASED

A study report on the resources of the U.S. Virgin Islands and their relationship to recreation, tourism and open space has been released by the Interior Department. The study was conducted by the Department of Landscape Architecture, University of Massachusetts.

UDALL THANKS NPS EMPLOYEES



NPS photo by Jack Rottier

Last month Secretary Udall called to his office all those employees who had helped prepare for the Ford's Theatre dedication. Secretary Udall thanked the employees for the hard and fast work they had to perform to have the building and the Lincoln Museum exhibits ready in time.

Silhouette . . . Mary Ruth Chiles



Mary Ruth Chiles has worked as secretary to every superintendent of Great Smoky Mountains National Park, beginning with Major Ross Aiken in the early 30's. She has served as secretary to Superintendents Eakin, Ross, Hummel, Overly, and Fry.

Born in Knoxville, Tennessee on September 29, 19??, Mary Ruth holds B.A. and M.A. degrees in Greek and chemistry from the University of Tennessee and has done a year's post-graduate study. She attended Draughton Business College in Knoxville, is licensed by the Supreme Court of Tennessee to practice law in the State of Tennessee, and is a Certified Professional Secretary, Institute of Certifying Secretaries.

She began work at Great Smokies as an assistant clerk-stenographer, was reclassified as clerk, secretary (gen.), administrative aid, and administrative assistant, and at present is the superintendent's secretary, having the official title of secretary (steno.). In November 1960 she received a Special Act Award for renovation of GSMNP files and in December 1966 was granted a Quality Increase in recognition of her continued high performance of duties.

For many years she was very active in the Girl Scouts and various professional women's organizations. She has many interests and accomplishments, including sewing (she makes many of her own clothes, by hand) and knitting (sweaters, coats, hats, etc.).

She is a ham-radio operator, that is. She was licensed as a "ham" in 1963 and has built most of her radio equipment herself. The earning of that call - WA4AKF - represents a great deal of time, work, study, and TLC, and is an accomplishment of which she undoubtedly feels justly proud.

(Writer's note: We wanted to print more specifics about her radio equipment, but the only person who has this information is Mary Ruth herself, and for obvious reasons we couldn't ask her. For further details, contact her. We're sure she'd be delighted!)

Mary Ruth owns her own home in Gatlinburg, where she resides with her mother. She is known in the neighboring areas by her distinctive mode of transportation. Mary Ruth travels by jeep—a white one, with white top and bright red interior!

Hyde Leaves Acadia

Superintendent Thomas B. Hyde, Acadia National Park, has announced his resignation effective in early April. He has accepted a position as Assistant to the Director, The Jackson Laboratory, Bar Harbor, Maine.

Tom began his career with the National Park Service in 1955 as an engineer at Yellowstone. He also served at Grand Teton National Park and Bandelier National Monument prior to assuming his duties at Acadia.

Without exception, Tom has displayed outstanding ability as a park administrator. Local residents and officials in Maine reflect this ability through their unanimous praise for the job he has done while at Acadia. This is strongly seconded by the park staff.

Tom, his wife, Norma, and son, Scott, plan to make their home in Bar Harbor. They are looking forward to the construction of a personally designed house on a lot dominated by views of Cadillac Mountain and beautiful Frenchman Bay.

Although Tim is leaving, he is certain to maintain his interest in the National Park Service and the field of conservation. We, at Acadia, look forward to a continuing close association with Tom and his family.

Those friends throughout the service who wish to contact the Hydes may do so by sending letters to: Acadia National Park, P. O. Box 338, Bar Harbor, Maine 04609, Attention: Andra Tarbell

All correspondence received will be presented at a farewell dinner.

Award

William J. Shay, seasonal ranger historian at Fort Laramie National Historic Site, received a Superior Performance Award last month at a surprise ceremony held in the site's staff room. A \$350 check was presented by Superintendent Charles Sharp in special recognition of Shay's contributions to visitor services, assistance in training interpretive personnel, and in sustaining high morale at Fort Laramie.



Profiles

Jerome C. Miller



Jerome C. Miller, assistant to the regional director for development, Southwest Region, was born in Eldora, Iowa on February 23, 1906. He attended Iowa State College, receiving the B.S. degree in landscape architecture in 1929, a fellowship for further study in 1930, and the M.S. degree in 1932.

In 1933, after a year's employment with Jacob Crane, City planner for Chicago and Des Moines, Jerry accepted a position as landscape foreman, CCC, with the U.S. Forest Service in Boone, Iowa. The following year he began his career in the National Park Service and was assigned landscape architect at Platt National Park.

In 1936 Jerry became associate landscape architect for all state park work in Oklahoma and Arkansas under the CCC program. Two years later he received his first assignment to the regional office in Santa Fe as associate landscape architect.

He moved across the Rio Grande to Los Alamos in 1943 to work as mechanical engineer designer for the University of California. Returning to the Park Service in 1944, Jerry was appointed landscape architect at the Lake Texoma project. The next year he was promoted to regional landscape architect for Region Two in Omaha, where he served for four years.

In 1950 he began a series of assignments in the regional office in Santa Fe. He served as regional landscape architect from 1950 to 1959 as well as chairman of the MISSION 66 Regional Committee. He moved up to regional chief of operations and maintenance in 1959 and to regional director for development in 1964.

"I am not a joiner," Jerry says. But he is a former member of the American Society of Landscape Architects and of Phi Kappa Phi, an honorary scholastic fraternity. His major outside interests are photography and gardening.

Jerry and Madelyn Murray were married on July 4, 1930 at Ames, Iowa. Their daughter, Ann (Mrs. LaVell Baugh), resides at Grand Canyon.

People on the move

NEW FACES

Hess, Beecher M., to Tech. Pub. Ed. (Natural Sci.) WASO

NEW PLACES

Arnold, Charles E., from Asst. Personnel Off., NERO, to Admin. Off., Fire Island NS-NYC Group
Clark, Larry D., from Pk. Ranger, Petrified Forest NP, to same, Lake Mead NRA
Davis, John H., from Supv. Pk. Ranger, NERO, to Asst. Supt., Blue Ridge Pky.
Martin, Herbert F., from Visual Info. Spec., WML, to same, WASO
Nelson, Delores, from Clk.-Typist, NCR, to Sec., WASO
Petersen, Grant A., from Pk. Ranger, Glen Canyon NRA, to Recreation Resources Spec., Fire Island NS-NYC Group
Pimentel, Frank A., from Supv. Constr. Rep., SFSC (DS: Grand Canyon), to same, SFSC (DS: Grand Teton NP)
Ray, Francis G., from Maintenance Supt., WRO, to Constr. Rep., SFSC
Sims, Richard H., from Pk. Ranger, Badlands NM, to Supv. Pk. Ranger, Shenandoah NP
Walker, Carl O., from Budget-Finance Off., WASO, to Asst. Reg. Dir., Admin., SWRO
White, Arthur H., from Reg. Coord. (JC Act.), SERO, to Asst. to Reg. Dir. (Coop. Act.-Pub. Affairs), SWRO

JOINING THE ALUMNI

Chappell, Laura M., from Clk.-Typist, Guilford Court-house NMP
Havly, Fern A., from Mail Clk., MWRO
Lamb, Charles G., from Pk. Ranger (Forestry), Yellowstone NP
Miller, George W., from Asst. Reg. Dir., Operations, SWRO
Rattler, Alfred W., from Laborer, CNCP
Strickler, Maurice H., from Gardener (Landscape), NNCP
Strock, Ruth S., from Admin. Off., Coulee Dam NRA

Anticipated Increase in Annuity

This is to advise employees who are eligible to retire optionally that if the cost of living increase for annuitants goes into effect as anticipated, they will probably have to submit their applications for retirement effective April 30 to take advantage of the increase. The information we now have indicates that the increase will probably go into effect May 1 and reflect in the retirees' annuity checks on June 1. As soon as definite information and instructions on the above are received from the Civil Service Commission, they will be announced to all employees. In the meantime all those who will be interested in taking advantage of early retirement to receive the cost of living increase to annuitants should keep in close touch with their personnel offices.

Hanging at Grand Canyon

For those elite few who can claim service as chief park naturalist at Grand Canyon, a hanging is something to look forward to. Merrill D. (Dave) Beal recently became the sixth in the honorific "hanging" line-up, joining such distinguished men as Glen E. Sturdevant, (1925-1929), Dr. Edwin D. McKee (1929-1940), Dr. Harold G. Bryant, Superintendent, (1941-1954), Louis Schellbach (1941-1957), and Paul E. Schulz (1957-1960).

The "hanging", in this case, refers to a long-standing tradition at Grand Canyon. Beginning with the first chief park naturalist, the hats of all those to occupy the post have been mounted and "hung", and can now be seen on display in the study collection room of the Grand Canyon visitor center.

The display tells quite a story. Glenn E. Sturdevant's hat is noticeably missing. In its place is a bronze tablet with the words "Died in line of duty, February 20, 1929 while crossing the Colorado River at Horn Creek Rapids." Dr. McKee's hat has that Northwest Mounted Police look about it, reminiscent of the Park Service's "glamour" years. The hats of Dr. Bryant and Louis Schellbach sport a few Navajo additions. Dr. Bryant's hat is further distinguished by a bronze plaque inscribed with "Ex-Chief Naturalist of the National Park Service, Pioneer of Nature Interpretation", and Mr. Schellbach's by several good sized dents. The hats of Paul Schulz and Dave Beal demonstrate the well-kempt, uniform appearance of NPS men in the present period of history.



Jett Sends Thanks

Martha and Sutton Jett and their family express their warmest thanks to all who attended and had a part in the Retirement Party staged in their honor on Friday evening, February 23.

The turnout in such large numbers, the beautiful and thoughtful decor, the very impressive program, the elegant gifts and the excellent dinner and drinks made the evening one which will be long remembered by the Sutton Jetts.

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