



Lois Kowski

Mary Fitch

A CHRISTMAS SEW-IN

Christmas will be merrier this year for over 1700 underprivileged children in Santa Fe, New Mexico, thanks to the nimble fingers and open generosity of Park Service wives in the Southwest Region.

Joining with the Santa Fe Women's Organization, they have made teenage girls' dresses for the community-wide "Christmas Store" which provides gifts to poor families in the area. Although the Santa Fe women have been participating in the project for several years, this is the first time that they have asked for "outside help."

"As a group we're the largest contributor in the city," says Marilyn Smebakken, wife of Classification and Wage Specialist C.D. Smebakken and a coordinator of this year's project.

"Last year we donated almost 100 outfits by ourselves, but that still wasn't enough. We needed help."

So in August, Betty Peterson, Southwest regional chairman and wife of Big Bend Superintendent Luther Peterson, spread the word to the other parks and, as a result, 45 outfits were added to the collection to help make up the shortage.

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NEWSLETTER



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E&AA CHANGES RATES & LAUNCHES LOAN FUND

A change in the membership rates and launching of the E&AA Educational Aid Fund were among the top actions taken by the Board of Directors of the Employees and Alumni Association at their annual meeting in Washington, D.C., December 9-10.

Henceforth, the fee for Regular Membership will be \$5.00 for one year, \$9.00 for two years, and \$13.00 for three years. For alumni, the rate will be \$3.00 for one year, \$5.50 for two years, and \$8.00 for three years.

Consideration is also being given to a proposal to provide 1 year's free subscription to the COURIER for all new permanent NPS employees, and for all newly retired NPS employees. For E&AA members hospitalized for over a year, no further charges would be made. Life Memberships are still available for \$100 and Founder Memberships for \$1,000.

Howard W. Baker, chairman of the E&AA Board of Directors, was particularly pleased to announce the unanimous action by the Board that now makes the Educational Aid Fund available for initial loans. According to Baker, the Fund provides for no-interest loans to the parents of any child of an NPS employee or alumnus who is in good standing as a member of the Employees and Alumni Association, and who can demonstrate a need for financial assistance in carrying out the educational program for his children.

The loans will be confined to assistance for children who are 21 years of age or younger for such items as tuition and books or other educational supplies, and for transportation, board and room when the student is required to live away from home to obtain adequate educational facilities.

Parents interested in obtaining a loan may request application blanks from the Executive Secretary, NPS Employees and Alumni Association, Room 106, NCP Building, 1100 Ohio Drive, S. W., Washington, D. C. 20242

SOURCES OF FUNDS

The E&AA Educational Aid Fund will be developed through:

- Donations in lieu of flowers or gifts
- Voluntary cash contributions
- Beneficiary designations in Insurance Policies and Wills
- Bequests
- Contributions in forms other than cash
- Loan Repayments.

The principal and such interest as the fund may derive will be administered by an Educational Aid Fund Committee consisting of the E&AA Executive Secretary, the E&AA Treasurer, and the E&AA Trust Fund Officer. Contributions to the Fund will be accepted at any time by the Treasurer or the Trust Fund Officer. (See COURIER Masthead for addresses.)

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It was especially appropriate during the 1969 centennial ceremonies at Dinosaur National Monument that Patricia Swain Iversen unveiled the plaque honoring her great uncle, John Wesley Powell.

Pat inherits her uncle's broad abilities and his delight in adventurous exploration, leading to the establishment of many worthwhile community programs. Some of the same indomitable spirit of her famous ancestor has spurred Pat in all of her activities—not only in her efficiency and attention to detail as a doctor's receptionist, nurses aide or clerk typist but also in her participation in many park activities.

Pat was born in McNabb, Illinois. She met her husband, Phillip, during high school, and they were married in 1950. Private business ventures proved

rewarding but thoughts of a Park Service career persisted, and Phil accepted a position as tour leader at Carlsbad Caverns in 1956.

Through the years the Iversens have served at Grand Canyon, C&O Canal, Petrified Forest, Shadow Mountain, Canyonlands and their present home at Dinosaur where Phil is superintendent. They have three children: Paul (18), a college freshman; Patrick (14), a football-playing high school freshman; and Pamela (5).

During their tour of duty at Grand Canyon, Pat was one of the founders of the presently active Community Church Choir. She not only sang but assisted as accompanist on piano and organ. She has worked with all the usual scout groups, the PTA and 4-H Club, taught Sunday School and taken an active part in church guild groups.

Pat laughingly states that she is a Jill-of-all-trades and master of none with hobbies that include sewing, arts and crafts, music, crossword puzzles and "class taking." If there is a class, she'll take it—whether tailoring, ceramics, religion or millinery.

A cheerful and dedicated worker who takes the positive approach when things become difficult, Pat has achieved a trim figure through participation in an organized weight reducing program. She has been a TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) leader for three years beginning with the group at Moab, Utah, called the Zipper Rippers. Pat has presently established a chapter in Dinosaur called the Tri Sara Tops. Her enthusiasm and sense of humor have inspired many women and kept them within their diet and exercise program.

See Here, Ladies

FORT LARAMIE'S OLD TIME CHRISTMAS

The staff at Fort Laramie is used to being asked for all sorts of information and for special assistance, such as guiding tours or giving talks. But this spring they received a request that was unique.

It had to do with the Burt House, so called because it is refurbished to the 1887 occupancy of Lieutenant Colonel, later Brigadier General, Andrew Burt and his family. His granddaughter, Mrs. Dorothy Watts of Washington, D.C., a staunch friend of the Fort's, wrote to ask if the staff would set up a Christmas tree in the back parlor and have it photographed. The picture would be made into Christmas cards for her uncle, General Reynolds Burt. General Reynolds, who celebrated his 94th birthday in August, is the only living child of General Andrew.

The tree, which had to be set up early, caused some surprise among the visitors. One small boy wondered aloud how it had been made to grow through the floor.

Naturally none of the Fort staff had seen an 1887 Christmas tree but they met the challenge with gusto, doing the work on contributed time.

For decorations red and green paper strips were



Standing, left to right, Erma, wife of Caretaker Charles Potter; Sylvia, wife of Historian Tom White; Lois Woodward, Administrative Assistant (behind the snowball); Frances, wife of Superintendent Charles Sharp. Seated, left to right, Isabel, wife of Guard George Hill; Beth Eaton, Clerk Typist; and Blanche Holtzclaw, Janitor.

"Nothing good ever happens unless someone gets excited about it," Bill Everhart declares, his face crinkling into a boyish grin. "With enthusiasm, you can do anything!"

Bill is an example of his own maxim. Relaxed and slightly pensive behind his black horn-rimmed glasses, he looks like a wise, young owl. But as he talks his pace quickens, and, beginning to gesticulate, he becomes the Park Service's ebullient and enthusiastic assistant director for Interpretation.

"Our purpose is to tell the parks' story," he says, eagerly describing his job. "Whether it's history or geology, we try to put it in terms that people can understand."

Bill's pet project has been the new center at Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, for which he was recently appointed director. He has prepared the plan to consolidate all Park Service interpretive functions—museum, film, publications, graphics, planning—in the center, to be opened in January.

"Even our building is special," he says, happily clutching a stack of architect's renderings. "It's on the top of a cliff over-looking the Shenandoah, and when you drive up, you just know that something exciting is going on up there!"

Bill's enthusiasm began in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, where he was born in 1921. He attended college there, majoring in English, and then joined the U.S. Army, serving in Germany during World War II.

He received his M.A. in education from Columbia University and an M.A. in history from Penn State. Originally planning a career in college teaching, he completed the residence requirements and course



work for his Ph. D. at the University of Pennsylvania.

After working as a seasonal park historian at Gettysburg in 1950, Bill was offered a permanent position with the Service, which he readily accepted. Since then he has supervised museum planning, written book and magazine articles, produced several films, and developed other projects designed to promote "living historical interpretation" in the parks.

Bill became chief of the Division of Interpretation in 1964 and was named assistant director three years later. In 1967 he received the Department's Distinguished Service Award.

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pasted in chains, and popcorn (at least that which escaped a gastronomic fate) was strung. In a burst of inspiration construction paper birds, bells and snowballs appeared among the branches. The one thing the staff could not find or duplicate were the old style red and green paper ropes. But when 19th century tree colored candles were fastened to the branches with fine wire, the tree was complete.

Different sized boxes simulating presents were wrapped and tied with ribbon. These were piled on the center table where an unwrapped toilet water bottle sat next to the Burt silver bowl. At the base of the tree a horse and cart toy was set in its wrappings.

Then a photographer from nearby Torrington took a picture of the tree in all its glory. The Fort Laramie ladies thoroughly enjoyed the project. They hope the General will, too.



CARRICO'S CHRISTMAS CHEER

Place in blender: 2 oz. lime juice, 4 oz. white rum, 2 oz. cranberry juice, 2 Tbs. sugar, 1/2 cup crushed ice (2 cups if you want a "frozen" drink).

Blend all ingredients 10 to 20 seconds. Makes 2 drinks.

—Ginny Carrico, Great Sand Dunes, N.M.

A CHRISTMAS SEW-IN

Cont'd from page 1.

"You should see them," Marilyn exclaims enthusiastically. "They're really beautiful! And some of the women have also included jewelry, slippers and hair curler bags. The response has been wonderful."

The Christmas Store is itself a rather wonderful, unique project. It was begun twelve years ago to help maintain the dignity of low-income residents at the holiday season by providing free gifts for each child.

Teachers, school nurses and others in close contact with children submit names of needy families to a selection committee which screens them carefully. Parents are invited to the store to choose a gift for each of their children: pants and shirts for boys, dresses or skirts and blouses for girls. Each child under 16 also receives one "fun item" and a sack of candy.

The NPS women's contribution was started by Helen Canfield, wife of Dave Canfield, when the store originated.

Emma Joy Barrel, wife of Robert Barrel, regional chief of Interpretation and Visual Services, quietly sums up the feelings of all the women when she says, "This is a most meaningful experience for us at Christmas time."

People on the move—

NEW PLACES

Abrell, Robert J., from Pk. Ranger, Albright TC, to same, Cabrillo NM
Brunson, R. Felton, from Civil Engr., WSC, to same, MWRO
Dierks, Ralph G., from Civil Engr., MWRO, to same, Bighorn Canyon NRA
Downes, George G., from Writer-Ed., WRO, to Technical Pub. Writer-Ed., Harpers Ferry Center
Ellis, Robert V., from Pk. Ranger, Albright TC, DS: Grand Teton NP, to same, Klamath Falls Cluster, DS: Lava Beds NM
Fairchild, Wayland P., from Const. Rep., WSC, to Maintenance Supv., Yosemite NP
Fox, James E., from Pk. Ranger, Albright TC, to same, Yellowstone NP
Hall, Willard L., from Const. Rep., WSC, to same, MWRO
Harrington, Thomas L., from Civil Engr., WSC, to same Yellowstone NP
Henry, B. William, Jr., from Hist., Custer Battlefield NM, to same, Fort Laramie NHS
Huff, Richard L., from Civil Engr., WSC, to same, Bighorn Canyon NRA
Kaas, Edward F., from Landscape Arch., ESC, to same, MWRO
Larson, Jon R., from Supv. Landscape Arch., WSC, to same, Yellowstone NP
Martin, James F., from Pk. Ranger, Cabrillo NM, to same, Hawaii Volcanoes NP
Newcomb, Forrest D., from Const. Rep., WSC, to same, Yellowstone NP
Russell, Richard W., from Nat., ESC, to Pk. Ranger, MWRO
Scheffler, Ernest C., from Landscape Arch., WSC, to same, MWRO

EMPLOYEES & ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Cont'd from page 1.

OTHER BOARD ACTION

Other major action taken by the Board of Directors at the December meeting included:

- Amendment of the E&AA Bylaws to provide an employee representative for each of the following: Eastern Service Center, Western Service Center, and the Harpers Ferry Center.
- Recommendation that a key E&AA representative be designated in areas of the U.S. where large clusters of NPS retirees are located.
- Authorization for publication of a monthly COURIER with a minimum of 12 pages and a maximum of 16 pages.
- Recommendation for inclusion of a CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING section in the COURIER. Advertising space would be free to E&AA members.
- Consideration of E&AA-sponsored Travel Tours with special emphasis on DISCOVER AMERICA.
- Recommendation for early action on the development of an overall program that will provide the incentive and opportunity for every employee and retiree to become an active member of the Employee and Alumni Association.

Soubier, L. Clifford, from Hist., Homestead NM, to same, Custer Battlefield NM
Thurston, Dow L., from Const. Rep., WSC, to same, MWRO
Townsend, Curtis K., from Civil Engr., MWRO, to same, Glacier NP
Weeks, Thomas L., from Supv. Landscape Arch., to same, MWRO
Whitaker, Fahy C., from Hist., Albright TC, to same, Homestead NM

JOINING THE ALUMNI

Cornwell, Julian J., from Supv. Const. Rep., ESC
Dennin, William A., from Arch., NCP
Gallant, Francis E., from Foreman III-Painter, WASO
Gordon, Arthur D., from Pk. Guide, NCP
Jenkins, George R., from Janitor, NCP
Johnson, Jacob, from Laborer, NCP
Johnson, James, from Pipefitter Helper, NCP
Johnson, Wallace A., from Landscape Arch., ESC
Lancaster, Ruth C., from Mail and File Supv., NCP
Mont, John W., from Gardener Landscape, NCP
Murdoch, Gertrude O., from Admin. Asst., ESC
Murdock, Nelson, from Supt., Redwood NP
Nusbaum, William P., from Supv. Horticulturist, NCP
Roberts, John C., from Arch., ESC
Rollins, Clinton M., from Safety Off., NCP
Schlueter, John E., from Foreman IV-Painter, NCP
Stack, Edmund F., from Foreman II-Gardener, NCP
Thomas, Kathryn, from Employee Relations Spec., WASO
Wimer, Henry D., from Appraiser, ESC

HAPPY 80th BIRTHDAY (Jan. 6th) to Horace Albright, 427 Landfair Avenue, Los Angeles, Cal. 90024
HAPPY 50th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY to John & Robbie Coffman, 1759 Spruce St., Berkely, Cal. 94709

BILL EVERHART

Cont'd from page 3.

Bill and his Canadian wife, Mary, were married in 1955 and are now living in Reston, Virginia. They have two children—daughter Kim (13) and son Robbie (11).

Bill's enthusiasm is contagious. According to his long-time secretary, Mary McCann, he is "The kind of person who brings out the best in people. He demands perfection—but he never gets mad if you make a mistake."

Bill also has a sentimental streak—what he calls "a time for the oldies"—and a mischievous love for the unexpected. On the window behind his desk, for example, a large American Eagle kite hangs precariously from the venetian blinds—while across the room a well-stuffed Snoopy the Red Baron peers dolefully out of an old Indian clay pot.

Bill's essential view of life, however, is more serious. He believes that the most important thing is to be able to relate to people openly and honestly.

"In the end, that's all we have. I guess you'd call it our humanity. At least, that's what I'd like people to remember me for."

And, according to his enthusiastic friends, they probably will.