



NEWSLETTER



U. S. Department of the Interior National Park Service

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RETIREMENT QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Q. Can federal employees who retire by Feb. 28 or those already retired receive the anticipated 4 percent or more annuity increase, March 1 if this brings their annuities above the 80 percent-of-salary provision?

A. Yes, the law merely provides that employees on retirement cannot draw an annuity higher than 80 percent of their high-five-year average salary. But the law permits subsequent increase in annuities as a result of legislation enacted by Congress or automatic increases based on price index rises, regardless of the 80 percent limitation.

Q. When the congressional and government executive pay increases go into effect the middle of next month, will additional legislation be required to lift the \$28,000 federal career ceiling?

A. No. A new federal career ceiling of \$30,239 a year was authorized last year by Congress, and when congressional and executive salaries are increased next month the salaries of GS-18 will be raised automatically to \$30,239, with salaries of \$28,162 and \$28,923 for the top two steps of GS-16, and salaries of \$28,014, \$28,889 and \$29,764 for the top three steps of GS-17.

Q. What kind of chance is there this year for the bill to raise the present \$16-a-day official travel allowance for government employees to at least \$20?

A. A good chance.

Q. What are the possibilities of the bill to liberalize the retirement computation rate by computing annuities on the basis of a high-three-year salary average instead of the present high-five, and also to compute on the basis of 2 percent on all periods of service?

A. There is a definite chance for such legislation, although next year probably would be more likely than this year.

Q. Will there be renewed action this year on Sen. Sam Ervin's "bill of rights" for government employees?

A. Yes. Sen. Ervin plans to reintroduce his bill soon and is lining up bipartisan support for it.

Q. My supervisor says he never heard of the law permitting departments and agencies to waive collection of overpayments to employees. Can you give me the number of the law and tell me how to apply for a waiver?

A. The law is PL90-616, enacted last year. Your agency should be well aware of the law by now—the General Accounting Office has issued regulations to put it into effect. Apply to your personnel office.

Q. Will the forthcoming pay raise for government employees be retroactive to mid-February, the same as for members of Congress, cabinet officer, agency heads and other top officials?

A. No. The automatic increases for federal classified and postal workers go into effect on the first pay-day on or after July 1.

Q. What's the chance of legislation this year to allow optional retirement on full annuities after 30 years of service at any age, or at a reduced annuity after 25 years?

A. Nil.

Prompt Annuity Payments Assured

The Civil Service Commission has set up a new procedure for processing nondisability retirement applications which will assure prompt payments of annuities for employees following their final separation. For this procedure to be fully effective, however, employees must submit their applications for retirement approximately two months in advance of their final separation dates. The procedure is as follows:

1. Three biweekly pay periods before the scheduled date of separation for optional retirement, the National Park Service will submit a preliminary Individual Retirement Record to the Commission together with the employee's application for retirement.
2. The CSC will immediately process the application to assure that all service has been verified, to resolve claim discrepancies, and to complete other adjudication processes in advance of the employee's separation.
3. Five days after the pay date of the final salary check, the Service will forward the final retirement records with the basic documents required to transfer health benefits and life insurance to the Civil Service Commission.

The new procedures should result in substantial gains in claims processing time and the issuance of the initial annuity checks upon actual retirement.

Silhouette

Amy Binnewies

By Pat Binnewies
(Daughter-in-law of Amy & Fred)

Editor's note: The name "Binnewies" is not only well known throughout the National Park Service, it is downright "synonymous." And none of the Binnewies family is more dedicated to the Service, more talented, more colorful or more loved than Amy, wife of Fred Binnewies (who, incidentally, is about to retire as assistant regional director, Operations, NCR). All of this is beautifully documented by the following letter received by your editor from their daughter-in-law, Pat:



"As a park wife, Amy has had some memorable experiences, and has always been most helpful to other wives and ladies in each area in which she has lived. She has been most helpful to her two daughters-in-law—Midge and myself—as our husbands began their careers as park rangers.

Amy Binnewies' Park Service life began in 1936 when Fred became chief ranger at Mammoth Cave National Park, Kentucky. One of the events Amy participated in here was a live radio broadcast from within Mammoth Cave. I think it had something to do with Mammoth Cave being dedicated as a national park. (You can check with Annie Laurie Ledford about this as I believe she was at Mammoth Cave then.)

After eleven years at Mammoth Cave, they transferred west to Bandelier National Monument, New Mexico, where Fred became superintendent. Amy made many friends in the area and at Los Alamos their closest town where their children attended school. She fell in love with the southwest and has tried to learn everything possible about its culture and way of life.

She really thought she was moving to the "end of the world" when Fred transferred to Death Valley National Monument, California as superintendent in 1954. They spent one summer at the summer "headquarters" at Wildrose and decided to brave the rest of the hot summers in the valley itself, below sea level. Amy helped to boost spirits and morale as all the park people spent the year round living in "temporary houses" built twenty years ago. Amy was on the first advisory committee for the new houses built by Mission 66. All park families enjoyed moving into those new houses

completed while Amy was still there. Amy and Fred helped organize the "Death Valley Booster Club" which included members from the concession and park people. She helped to live up the "49er's Celebration" held each fall by organizing a troop of "Can Can Girls" to entertain in true western style. She also helped to start the "Death Valley Heat Wave" a newsletter of the area.

In 1960 Fred transferred to Glacier National Park as assistant superintendent. They moved in February of that year from warm Death Valley to West Glacier where temperatures were 40 degrees below 0! Amy soon adjusted to the colder climate and participated in the women's activities there including the ceramic group. (Becky Hummel headed this group and can give you more information about it.)

After two years at Glacier, Fred transferred to Point Reyes National Seashore. They made their home in Novato, California. Amy enjoyed the convenience of town living and they joined an active local group, the Hostess Club. Two years later, Fred transferred to Washington, D.C. where he is now assistant regional director for Operations of the National Capital Region. They live at 4103 Mason Ridge Drive, Annandale, Virginia 22003.

Amy and Fred have one daughter, Carolyn Ruth Binnewies, who is a junior in college at Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, Arizona. Carolyn is a member of the Cardinal Keys, an honorary society for junior girls, and holds offices in her sorority and campus activities. They have two sons, Bill, the older, my husband, who is superintendent at Navajo National Monument, Arizona, and Bob, the younger, who is chief ranger at Acadia National Park, Maine. Amy is a grandmother five times. They are Heidi age 3, Dougie age 22 months, children of Bob and Midge Binnewies and Deborah 6, David 4, and Diana 2, children of Pat and Bill Binnewies.

Amy was born and raised in Greeley and Denver, Colorado. She met Fred while attending Colorado State Teachers College, Greeley. She graduated and taught music one year. She almost didn't accept Fred's proposal after watching Fred try out for the 1934 Winter Olympic Team ski team at Hidden Valley, Rocky Mountain National Park. He didn't make the team but married Amy instead.

I gleaned this information from my husband amid grunts and groans so don't know how accurate it is!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Bill Binnewies

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Profile

Bruce J. Miller



Bruce J. Miller, now clearing his desk as superintendent of Isle Royale National Park, has been appointed to succeed retiring Associate Director Allen T. Edmunds of the Great Lakes Area Office; NERO at East Lansing, Michigan.

A native of Barrington, Illinois, Miller attended Chicago Technical College for one year. He then transferred to the University of Michigan where he graduated with a B.S. in Forestry in 1949. During World War II, Miller served a thirty-eight month assignment with the Third Air Force.

Miller's National Park Service career began at Glacier National Park in 1949. After nine and a half years at Glacier, he transferred to Great Smoky Mountains National Park where he served three years as park forester and assistant chief ranger. After Great Smoky Mountains, he moved to the Washington Office and served two years as training officer for the Protection Division.

Miller's next four years were spent at Yosemite National Park as assistant chief ranger for the Branch of Park Protection, with responsibility for forest management, fire control, wildlife management, and land acquisition activities. In 1965, he became assistant chief of the Office of Land and Water Rights in San Francisco.

Superintendent Miller came to Isle Royale in September 1967. He makes his home on Mott Island during the period the park is in operation. His wife, Lee, and their five children, Calvin, Russell, Anita, and twins Laura and Lawrence, join him on the island during summer vacation from school. In winter they reside in Hancock, Michigan.

Miller is a graduate of the F.B.I. National Academy and a member of the National Academy Associates. He is also a member of the American Legion, Society of American Foresters, Society of Les Voyageurs (U. of M.), Kiwanis Club, B.P.O.E., and Lions Club.

The "Isle Royalty" would like to wish the Millers well in their new assignment.

See Here, Ladies

LETTERS TO JO ELLSWORTH
SE REGION CHAIRMAN, NPS, WO

Dear Jo,

Thank you for sending me all the information on the National Park Service Women's Organization. It has been helpful.

Next month, the Ladies of Colonial have election of officers, and I'll suggest that they select a lady to send you information for the "Newsletter."

In the meantime, I can tell you briefly some of the things the ladies have been doing in the past six months—I have been here only six months.

Along with the "Ladies of Colonial" the park has an association of members which includes the ladies, namely, the Colonial Park Employees Association. Each year the Association puts on a chicken fry in the spring and an oyster roast in the fall. Park Service people from nearby parks and the regional office are invited to these.

The "Ladies of Colonial" meet each month. They have put together a very attractive booklet on the park and the surrounding area to send to new members.

This year, the Ladies, redid their constitution and by-laws to clarify some sections.

Each year, Christmas is celebrated with a party—the men are invited. This year, the "stables" were, upon request, made available for parties. The Christmas Party and the Santa Claus Party for the children were both held there. Prior to them, a Halloween Party for teen-agers was sponsored by the "Ladies of Colonial" in the "stables."

The park teen-agers strung popcorn and cranberries which were used to decorate an old fashioned Christmas tree for the visitor center.

Our group will cooperate in any way we can with the National Park Service Women's Organization.

Sincerely,
Barbara Corson

Elephants & Hippos

Jerry Glenn, who worked at Custis Lee, Roosevelt Island and on the C & O Canal, wrote on Dec. 31, 1968:

"You naturalist types would blow your minds here—I've got elephants about ten miles away and hippos five miles from my house. The insects are fantastic and I've got a pet chameleon in my living room.

Nkhota Kota is also a historian's delight for this was one of the great cross-roads of history in Africa. This is where Dr. Livingston made peace with the Africans. This is where the African slave market was located and here the Aribis invaded the Chewas. The first mission was located here and is still operating.

Seriously I have an interesting post and the TB and leprosy work I direct for two districts is going quite well."

His address is Jerry Glenn, Peace Corps, Box 11 Nkhota Kota, Maliwi, Africa. Postage-Air Mail 25 cents for each half ounce.

People on the Move

NEW FACES

Delaney, Dyrel P., to Appraiser, SFSC, Land & Water Rights

NEW PLACES

Anderson, Melford O., from Supt., Independence NHP, to Asst. to the Assoc. Dir., Planning & Development, WASO
Beal, Merrill D., from Ch. Pk. Nat., Grand Canyon NP, to Asst. Supt., Great Smoky Mtns. NP
Chapman, John F., from Pk. Ranger, Crater Lake NP, to Supv. Pk. Ranger, Glen Canyon NRA
Davis, Daniel E., from Asst. Supt., Great Smoky Mtns. NP, to Supt., Cape Lookout NS
Engquist, Dale B., from Ch. Pk. Nat., Hot Springs NP, to Asst. Ch. Pk. Nat., Everglades NP
Farrell, Daniel J., Jr., from Realty Spec., WSC, to same, SFSC
Favour, Paul G., Jr., from Supv. Pk. Nat., Acadia NP, to Spec. Asst. to the Reg. Dir., NERO
Featherstone, William L., from Supt., Bent's Old Fort NHS, to Pk. Ranger, Rocky Mtn. NP & Shadow Mtn. NRA
Fields, Jack H., from Supv. Pk. Ranger, Grand Canyon NP, to same, Bandelier NM
Foust, Ray C., from Supv. Pk. Ranger, Muir Woods NM, to same, Bighorn Canyon NRA
Hawkins, James D., from Pk. Ranger, Blue Ridge Pkwy., to Supv. Pk. Ranger, Antietam - C & O Canal NPS Group
Knowlton, Richard M., from Safety Off., National Capital Parks - East, to same, Catoclin Mtn. Pk.
Kozar, Leland J., from Legal Asst., WSC, to same, SFSC
McClure, John M., from Realty Spec., WSC, to same, SFSC
Rine, Alexander L., from Pk. Ranger, Chickamauga-Chattanooga NMP, to same, Natchez Trace Pkwy.

Shakespeare, Preston L., Jr., from Forestry Tech., SWRO, to Maintenance Man, Canyonlands NP
Shimoda, Jerry Y., from Supv. Hist., Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt & Vanderbilt Mansion NHS, to Hist., Mather T.C.
Whitehouse, James R., from Pk. Planner, NERO, to Environmental Education Specialist, WASO

JOINING THE ALUMNI

Beard, Roy C., from Enrollée Work Supv., Great Smoky Mtns. NP, Oconaluftee JCCCC
Bunger, Willie, from Laborer, NCR
Ely, Robert L., from Laborer, Cabrillo NM
Foley, Joseph V., from Foreman II (Plumber), Shenandoah NP
Fugate, Clayton A., from Digital Computer Systems Oper., WRO
George, Wilson H., from Concessions Analyst (Ch., Br. Contracts), WASO
Glassbrook, Lee E., from Supv. Pk. Ranger, Sequoia & Kings Canyon NP
Grater, Russell K., from Supv. Pk. Nat., Sequoia & Kings Canyon NP
Holmes, Eugene L., from Const. Rep., SFSC
Inscoc, Carroll R., from Gardener, Landscape, National Capital Parks - Central
Lewis, John G., from Asst. Supt., Sequoia & Kings Canyon NP
Meredith, Walter M., from Guard (Guard & Spec. Policeman), NCR, U.S. Park Police
Pinkney, John B., from Maintenance Man, NCR
Stalcup, Vondlee R., from Foreman I Carpenter, Sequoia & Kings Canyon NP
Swab, Frank G., from Grader Operator (Motor), Mount McKinley NP
Taggart, Harriet I., from Off. Ser. Supv., Yellowstone NP
Willett, John T., from Supt., Petersburg NB

ARE YOU AN E & AA MEMBER?

Ray G. Martinez, Treasurer
Employee & Alumni Association
National Park Service
1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20242

Date: _____

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With former Associate Director Baker at the helm, the E&AA is set to launch some fine projects in the near future. Your membership will give the new Chairman moral support, help to provide a bigger and better "Courier," and give you a voice in the shape of things to come.

Why not join today?