



By Loretta DeLozier

How long does it take to get a little information from one of our parks?

This morning I decided, just out of curiosity, to find out. I telephoned three parks and asked for their current visitor counts. Including one wrong number, an unhappy FTS operator, a short personal chat and two solicitations for space in the NEWSLETTER, the average time for each call was eight minutes.

Not bad.

However, had I wanted (or worse, needed) the same information from every park, monument, battlefield, recreation area, etc. in the U.S. and its territories, I would have had to make 263 telephone calls. At 8 minutes per call, that's 2,104 minutes or over 35 hours—almost a full week's work.

Not good.

Apparently I'm not the only one concerned with this problem of communication. According to the April issue of GOVERNMENT EXECUTIVE, the Government telecommunications policies have been criticized for some time as "embracing a hodgepodge of internal agency voice and teleprinter networks that have proliferated without much rhyme or reason over the years to meet specific agency needs."

Help is on the way, however, via the Budget Bureau and the General Services Administration who are conducting a study of the flow of information within the government family—Federal, state and local. Called Project RIMS (Record Information Movement Study), it covers 15 Federal agencies including the Department of the Interior.

NPS participation has been limited to WASO, the Regional Offices, National Capital and Urban Park Affairs and the three Service Centers—thus avoiding duplication in the parks and substantially reducing our overall workload.

The immediate purpose of the study, according to C. P. Montgomery, assistant director for Administration, is "to provide a basis for negotiating new Federal telecommunications contracts which will best meet the increasing data transmission needs of Government agencies."

The RIMS co-ordinator for the Park Service is H. Wayne Weagly, chief of the Division of Management Analysis. According to Weagly, "We're only concerned with information such as documents, special reports, messages and forms that cross zip-code lines. Today we usually use telephones or telegrams to transmit this special data. But long distance calls are expensive and limited to a certain number of calls on a line. What we want to know is if it is economically possible to make a closed, automated Government network instead.

"This would give us the ability mechanically to pose a question from Washington to Alaska by wire and within minutes to receive a written, error-free reply in comprehensive detail. For example, visitor counts would be kept on a standard form that could easily be retrieved, saving many manhours of work."

In conducting the study, Weagly originally distributed 9,000 forms within the Park Service. Two copies of each form must be sent to GSA and one each

RIMS, Cont'd on page 4.

SILHOUETTE

NPS Photo by W. H. Spradley



The Cool Lady of NCP

Carol J. Smith's office is a montage of bright colors and lively sounds. You see a desk over-loaded with letters, photographs and brochures and a well-stuffed file cabinet dripping ubiquitous pieces of paper. You hear typewriters clatter, telephones jangle and secretaries chirping crisp replies to visitors' questions.

And then you meet Carol.

Tranquil and serene, she smiles slowly and speaks clearly but softly. She is gentle, patient and kind. She is also the assistant to the general superintendent of National Capital Parks (public affairs) and head of its information office.

Born in Ames, Iowa, Carol spent most of her childhood near Falls Church, Virginia, where she attended elementary and high school. She graduated from Strayer Business College and later studied at George Washington University and at the Department of Agriculture Graduate School.

Carol's career has been a long and productive one. Beginning her Federal Service with the Public Works Administration in 1934 as a stenographer, she joined the Park Service at NCP in 1936 as assistant clerk-stenographer. She then worked her way up from secretary for the administrative assistant of public relations to information specialist in the same office. In 1958 she was appointed chief of the information section in NCR and, when the region was reorganized in 1963, she became its public information officer.

Carol attended the NPS general administrative training course in 1964, the second woman in the Service to be admitted to the course. She also received a superior performance award for her work with the Division of Conservation, Interpretation, and Use, NCR.

Carol is retiring from the Park Service on May 29. She and her husband Frederick, who retired last February from the Federal Aviation Agency, are planning a long trip across country early this summer. Afterwards they will return to Washington and catch up on many of their home projects, including Carol's organ and sewing lessons.

"Eventually we hope to work again part time, at something entirely different. But first we just want to relax," she concludes happily.

SEE HERE, LADIES

Environmental Awareness: How to Begin at Home

The Women's Organization of Everglades National Park has a unique approach to environmental awareness. Suggested by Mrs. Richard A. Stokes and enthusiastically endorsed by Mrs. George B. Hartzog, Jr., their project this year is composting.

"Environmental awareness means doing something to improve our world as well as to know it, and it starts with each of us in our own kitchens, backyards and neighborhoods," explains Mrs. Stokes. "Composting is something each of us can do."

A compost is simply a mixture of vegetation or other organic matter which is heaped and allowed to decompose. It can consist of grass clippings, leaves, weeds, garden refuse, kitchen wastes, old sod or turf and manures of all types.

The organic matter should be stacked in layers in a bin approximately five feet wide and no less than four feet high. A six to twelve-inch layer of green matter or refuse is followed by a two-inch layer of manure or other material containing nitrogen, topped by a layer of soil and phosphorous. The layers are then repeated until the desired height is attained. Finally, a layer of soil is applied over the entire surface, forming a shallow basin to collect and distribute water.

The heap is turned after three weeks and again four weeks later. In three months the rich compost is ready for use on lawn or garden.

Mrs. Stokes urges others to join the project. "A compost heap in every backyard across our nation could produce a lot of fertilizer, conserve a lot of water, and get rid of a lot of garbage."

D. James Lindsay, chief horticulturist at National Capital Parks agrees. "By making and using compost we provide a means of disposing of much refuse that would otherwise, in its raw form, contaminate our environment."

A Call to the Wild

"Di-Dah-Di-Di." Have you heard that from a car behind you? Hopefully not, because that means that someone in your car is a litterbug. The signal is Morse code for "L," and L stands for Litterbug. And if you hear two L's, that's really bad—it means LOUSY Litterbug.

The American Family Camping Federation (headquartered in Martinsville, Indiana) recently adopted this signal at its convention in St. Louis. The idea is catching on with camping and conservation groups.

Anyone seen throwing trash on the highway or waterway may be labeled Litterbug in Morse Code. Most litterbugs are just unthinking persons; if they are blasted enough by automobile horns on the highways or by boat horns on the waterways, maybe next time they'll think first before they litter.

Let's give 'em L!

The New Salary Increase: Some of Its Effects

If you are wondering how the recent salary increase will affect your retirement and life insurance, the following may answer your questions:

Federal Employees Group Life Insurance

All changes in rates of pay, compensation, and salary which result from the enactment of the Salary Act of 1970 shall be held and considered to become effective as of the date of such enactment, April 15, 1970. The Act does not operate to change the amount of insurance for employees who

1) were separated before the date of enactment (including cases of separation for retirement or death where there is entitlement to retroactive salary payment), or

2) completed one year in a nonpay status before the date of enactment.

In such situations, the amount of annual compensation for insurance purposes must not include any salary increase granted by the Act. Where the salary increase provided by the Act operates to increase the amount of insurance for an employee, the corresponding increases in withholdings from his salary and in the agency's contributions are effective and must be made for the full pay period in which the enactment date falls.

CSC Retirement

The Act provides for retroactive pay in cases of employees who retired or died between its effective date of December 28, 1969, and the date of enactment, April 15, 1970. However, the law stipulates that retroactive pay due retired or deceased employees shall not be considered as basic pay for Civil Service Retirement purposes. Also, the law requires that retirement deductions made from retroactive pay to a person who was an employee on or after the effective date be at the rate in effect on April 15, 1970.



Vacancy Announcements

Foreman III (Maintenance), WS-10, \$4.17 to \$5.09 per hour, Blue Ridge Parkway, Balsam Gap, North Carolina. CLOSING DATE May 25, 1970.

If you are interested and have up-to-date Forms 10-180, 10-181, and 10-182 on file in Washington, you may apply by memorandum through channels to the Branch of Employee Evaluation, WASO, Room 3210. If you have not submitted current forms, send them with the memorandum. Applications must reach WASO by the closing date of the announcement.

PROFILE

By - George F. Emery



Met Sheads Tips His Hats - All Three of Them!

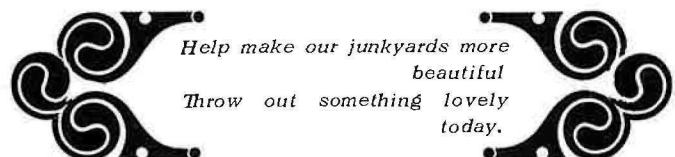
Jacob Melchoir "Met" Sheads is indeed a man with three hats, as his photograph indicates. With service dating back to 1935, he wears his first hat as the senior employee at Gettysburg National Military Park, having worked 31 summers as a seasonal ranger-historian. (He had other seasonal work prior to that at Fort McHenry and Fort Necessity.)

His second hat is for a brilliant teaching career with the Gettysburg High School, where he has taught since getting his masters degree in history from Gettysburg College in 1933. Met has achieved a tremendous following of devoted students and alumni for his popular history courses. In addition, an adult course that he teaches in the night high school on the Gettysburg Campaign is always oversubscribed.

Met's third hat is from the Army, in which he served during World War II and the Korean War as military historian. Having attained the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, he is now on the retired reserve list and wears his third hat only on special occasions.

Because of his long experience and vast knowledge of park interpretation, Met is assigned many of the "specials" such as a recent park tour with Secretary of Labor, George P. Shultz. He regards his August 1963 trip over the battlefield with President and Mrs. John F. Kennedy as a highlight of his career.

Met takes special pride in being a charter member of both the Civil War Roundtable of Gettysburg and the Adams County Historical Society. Commenting on his approach to the teaching of history he says, "I've tried to bring American history down to the level of the student and to emphasize, when possible, local connections with the fuller sweep of history. Of course, the battle of Gettysburg and the Gettysburg Address offer exceptional opportunities in this regard."



PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

New Faces

Barlow, William O., to Caretaker, Mammoth Cave NP
Byrd, Jesse B., to Bldg. Repairman, Cape Hatteras NS
Clark, Charles A., to Bldg. Repairman, Cape Hatteras NS
Colon-Horales, Guillermo, to Pk. Techn., San Juan NHS
Crouch, John E., to Pk. Aid, Petersbrug NMP
Del Rio, Marcos R., to Pk. Techn., San Juan NHS
Holsinger, Billy E., to Painter, Mammoth Cave NP
Logsdon, Daymond, to Enrollee WorkSupv., Mammoth Cave NP
Munez, Armando, to Pk. Aid, San Juan NHS

New Places

Albright, Stanley T., from Supt., Bandelier NM, to Pk. Mgr., NWR
Ames, David B., from Pk. Ranger, Albright TC, to Pk. Mgr., City of Refuge NHP
Atwood, Charles F., from Foreman III, B&U, Cape Cod NS, to Maintenance Suprv., Isle Royale NP
Crudele, Marcel F., from Landscape Artch., ESC, to same, Natchez Trace Pkwy.
Cunningham, Richard L., from Supv. Pk. Ranger, Organ Pipe Cactus NP, to Pk. Ranger, Cape Cod NS
Elms, Wallace B., from Supv. Pk. Ranger, Mount Rushmore NM, to same, Herbert Hoover HNS
Fisher, George A., Jr., from Admin. Off., Badlands NM, to Proc. & Prop. Mgmt. Asst., MWRO
Godfrey, Joseph, from Constr. Rep., ESC, to same, George Washington Mem. Pkwy.
Harris, William A., from Supv. Pk. Ranger, Mount Rushmore NM, to Pk. Mgr. (Supt.), Custer Battlefield NM
Iorio, Ralph, from Mgmt. Asst., NERO, to Admin. Off., Fire Island NS & NYC Group
Iversen, Phillip R., from Pk. Mgr. (Supt.), Dinosaur NM, to Pk. Mgr. (Asst. Dir.), MWRO
Jackson, Linwood E., from Admin. Off., Virgin Islands NP, to Pk. Mgr. (Supt.), Bandelier NM
Kerr, Robert I., from Pk. Ranger, WASO, to Pk. Mgr. (Supt.), Zion NP
Kurtz, Edward J., from Supt., Point Reyes NS, to Ch. Off. Oper., NWR
Luedon, Billie, from Fire Dispatcher, Natchez Trace Parkway, to Pk. Techn., Russell Cave NM
Rasp, Richard A., from Pk. Mgr., Shenandoah NP, to same, Hot Springs NP
Reynolds, James T., from Student Trainee, Everglades NP, to Fire Dispatcher, Natchez Trace Pkwy.
Rowe, Charles A., from Instructor, Mammoth Cave NP, to Corpsman Asst. Supv., Harpers Ferry JCCCC
Specht, Lee A., from Maintenance Supv., Coulee Dam NRA, to Constr. Rep., WSC
Stanton, Linda I., from Hist., Cumberland Gap NHP, to same, Colonial NHP
Wiggins, James P., from Pk. Ranger, Great Smoky Mtns. NP, to same, Cumberland Gap NHP

Joining the Alumni

Belcher, Joseph A., from Foreman III (Maintenance), Blue Ridge Pkwy.

Bolton, Kenneth O., from Cook, Harpers Ferry JCCCC
Borroughs, Carroll A., from Pk. Mgr. (Supt.), Flagstaff Group Office
Brooks, Lionel A., from Group Leader, Great Smoky Mtns., NPS
Day, George D., from Gardener, Landscape, NPC-East
Ford, Adelia B., from Clk., Everglades NP
Furlong, Arthur F., from Supv. Pk. Guide, Mammoth Cave NP
Gray, James I., from Foreman II (Caretaker), Cape Hatteras NS
Hanna, Frank M., from Pk. Ranger, Cape Hatteras NS
Heppel, Monica L., from Clk. Typist, WASO
Himes, William R., from Maintenceman, Natchez Trace Pkwy.
Hopkins, Barblia M., from Clerk, NCP
Jones, W. Lawrence, from Supv. Pk. Ranger, Chickamauga-Chattanooga NMP
Keathley, Shirley A., from Hist., Stones River NM
Lamb, Charles A., from Pk. Ranger, Yellowstone NP
Lindemann, Marvin C., from Supply Asst., Olympic NP
Moore, Charles P., from Maintenceman, Moores Creek NMP
Payne, Alvin L., from Caretaker, Chickamauga-Chattanooga NMP
Puncell-Bauza, Runs, from Admin. Asst., San Juan NHS
Samuels, Irvin E., from Foreman III (C & M), Virgin Islands NP
Seaton, Timothy J., from Hist., Kennesaw Mountain NBP
Storm, Darrell, from Corpsmen Supv., Great Smoky Mtns. NP
Wallace, Charlene E., from Clk. Steno., Boston Group

RIMS, Cont'd from page 1.

to the agency coordinator and the reporting agency—a total of 36,000 forms.

"It's fantastic," Weagly exclaims. "If you stacked them up, 36,000 pieces of paper would stand 12 feet and fill three 5-drawer file cabinets. And that's just for the Park Service—we're only one bureau of the Interior, which is only one of fifteen agencies participating!"

When the project is completed, GSA will provide participating agencies with a print-out summary of each agency report. Management will then have an overview of the movement of all their data and the opportunity to streamline their own operations, to make them more economical and timely.

The deadline for the Park Service reports was the end of April. Final tabulation may take several months.

NPS NEWSLETTER



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