



How Parks Conserve People

By Loretta DeLozier

"The Park Service can forget about conserving trees, if it doesn't involve itself in conserving people," declares Delmar Robinson. And, as director of the NPS Job Corps Center at Oconaluftee, North Carolina, that's his job—to conserve people.

"Our current problems are human ones, and we'll have to deal with them even more in the future. The Job Corps is a good place to learn how."

Although sometimes ignored and often misunderstood, the Park Service's involvement in the Job Corps is a strong and viable one. And, as Delmar indicates, it is increasingly important.

The purpose of the Job Corps is to help disadvantaged youths between the ages of 16 and 22 become employable.

Launched by the Equal Employment Act of 1964, there are two types of Job Corps centers: the massive urban centers contracted out to private industry or colleges, and the civilian

conservation centers run primarily by agencies in the Department of Agriculture and Interior, including NPS.

The first NPS center was built at Catoctin Mountain Park, Md., in early 1965. Although at its peak NPS operated nine centers, it now has only three: Oconaluftee, Harpers Ferry in West Va. and Great Onyx near Mammoth Cave, Ky.

Funded by the Office of Economic Opportunity through the Department of Labor, NPS received about three million dollars for the program this year. Direct benefits from work done by corpsmen will total about \$600,000. In return, the Park Service provides land and staff for operating the centers.

"Our program is stronger than ever," says Grover Barham, chief of the NPS Division of Job Corps.

"The smaller the center, the more individual attention the corpsmen get. And they need it. Just because they may be low in com-

munication skills doesn't mean that they are retarded. What most of them have lacked is opportunity, not ability. Several of our corpsmen have gone on to college, and many have received their high school equivalency diploma."

A SAMPLE PROGRAM

Although the following description is based on the author's recent trip to Oconaluftee, the basic format of the Job Corps program is the same at Harpers Ferry and Great Onyx.

"The corpsmen work at their own pace," says Clarence Rice, supervisory training instructor in education. "We use a ten-day cycle. A corpsman may start out spending 60 percent of his time (six days every two weeks) in education and 40 percent (four days) in vocational training. As he progresses he may spend 50 percent in each and then 40 percent in education and 60 percent in vocation."

WASHINGTON REPORT

LAND PURCHASE APPROVED

A measure authorizing appropriation of an additional \$20 million for the purchase of privately owned land (58,398 acres) within Everglades National Park, Fla., was signed by President Nixon. Congress in 1958 fixed the park boundaries and provided \$2 million for buying land. This measure increases the amount to \$22 million.

NIXON OKAYS APOSTLE ISLANDS & FREEMAN SCHOOL

President Nixon has signed the bills providing for the establishment of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore in Wisconsin, and for the addition of the Freeman School to the Homestead National Monument in Nebraska.

LAND PURCHASE

Secretary Hickel announced that the National Park Foundation is purchasing some 8,300 acres, or about two-thirds, of Cumberland Island, Georgia, with a grant of \$5 million from The Andrew Mellon Foundation. The land will be held in trust pending action by Congress to make a National Seashore on the island.

SEE HERE LADIES

HAP DODGE HONORED

By Mrs. M. J. Becker

Everyone who knows Mrs. Natt Dodge, better known to all her friends as "Hap", is well aware of how much she has contributed to the community activities in Santa Fe—in church work P.T.A. women's clubs, and to our own NPS Women's Organization.

The NPS women of Santa Fe were proud to submit her name to the Zonta Club for their "Woman of the year" award, and are even prouder to report that "Hap" was named first runner-up in this event.



Under our hat

CONTROL ON STUDIES:

Director Hartzog has become concerned over the amount of time spent by WASO and field offices in conducting service-wide studies. He states, "A good study as the basis of effective management of program action can be one of the most valuable efforts we can produce. But a study by itself is not an end product." As a result he has established definition and control of studies and requirements for their initiation and justification. Eight studies have been approved for completion during the 1973 budget cycle.

MORE ON DIPS: The payroll of the Midwest Region will be transferred to the DIPS (computer) system on November 1.

BBC SERIES: The British Broadcasting Corporation is planning to do a series of 13 hour-long documentaries on historical aspects of the United States. They will be covering many NPS areas, beginning with Minute Man, Independence Park and Cades Cove in the Great Smoky Mountains.

NPS ON TELEVISION: The University of Nebraska recently filmed portions of a four-part documentary on the Negro in the West, titled "The Black Frontier," at Fort Davis and Grand Teton. Showings began on Oct. 8 and will continue on consecutive Thursdays—Oct. 15, 22 and 29—over the Public Broadcasting System (formerly NET).

NEW CLUSTER: A new cluster headquarters has been located at Natchez Trace Parkway. Included in the cluster are Chalmette National Historical Park, La.; Shiloh National Military Park, Tenn.; Stones River National Cemetery, Tenn.; and Vicksburg in Miss.

Thank You Neil Phillips

The *real* story of the NPS Job Corps is in the corpsmen themselves.

I went to Oconaluftee with my defenses up, not knowing how 180 mostly underprivileged guys would respond to me. And, frankly, I was amazed.

At first they just stared. If they talked to me at all, it was shyly—and at a counselor's request. *Their* defenses were up too.

Then, while eating dinner in their cafeteria, I pulled out my camera. Suddenly



180 quiet, staring guys became 180 eager models. Everyone wanted his picture taken. And everyone (or so it seemed) had a story to tell.

What impressed me was their variety. Their gen-

eral background (poverty, lack of education) might have been similar, but the particulars of their lives were as diverse as their personalities, interests and ages would make them.



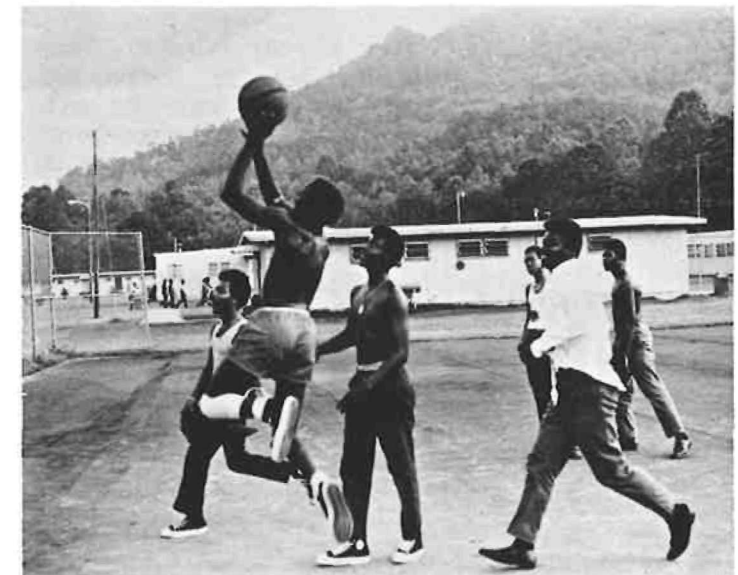
They were tall and short, fat and skinny, dark and light, cocky and shy. They came from places like Pittsburgh and Philadelphia and North Carolina and Florida. They told me about their homes and fam-

ilies, their hopes and fears, the things they like to do and the things they don't.

We shot pool (I lost) and played ping-pong (I think I won). I watched them practice football (they have a good team and are proud of it) and basketball and softball. But mostly they talked—and posed for pictures.

Some of them—perhaps many of them—were hostile to me, as I was an alien invading their territory. But always they were courteous, and helpful, and considerate.

I remember thinking how very much like a "normal" boys school the center seemed. It was set in a quiet, sleepy valley ringed by big gentle-looking mountains. Although the one-story buff-colored buildings were institutional in character, they were



toothy mascot was painted massively on the front wall and giant letters proudly proclaimed LUFTEE BEARS. (The only thing that gave them away was

the other big sign on the back wall—the red, white and blue Job Corps emblem with a ladder in the middle and an arrow pointing up.)

But to repeat—the real story is with the corpsmen themselves, and pictures tell it best. All I can do is say thank you to Neil Phillips and Michael Frazier and Theodore Johnson and Tony Pierce and Early Weston and Danny Williams and Ernest Boyd and Earl Greene and Harry Paul and Josh Painter—and the other 170 corpsmen who made this story possible.

By Loretta DeLozier



softened by sunny yellow flowers and a backdrop of tall, lush green trees.

The gym had the usual well-used basketball court, several pool and ping-pong tables, a juke box, candy and coke machines and a hobby shop in the back room. A rock band was set up for practice at one end of the gym while a big glass case displayed an impressive array of trophies at the other. Above it all, their



PROFILE

"Country-Boy" with Soul

Grover Barham is the kind of person you'd like to typecast—but can't. "I've got a tough hide," he says with salty candor while puffing on a fat cigar.

As a product of the hills of Arkansas, he's earthy, basic and blunt. As a former college instructor with his masters degree in education and credits toward his doctorate, he's bright, organized and articulate. And, as chief of the Park Service's Division of Job Corps, he is the champion of the underdog and the comrade of the disadvantaged.

"I know what it's like to be poor," he admits frankly. "We didn't even have electricity in our house till I was fifteen."

Born and reared in Arkansas, he graduated from high school and spent

over a year of active duty in the Marine Corps. He worked his way through school and graduated from Arkansas State College in 1956 with a degree in mathematics. He did graduate work at Arkansas State, the University of Missouri School of Mines and Metallurgy and Oklahoma State University, receiving his MS degree in combined science (mathematics and physics) from the University of Mississippi in 1962.

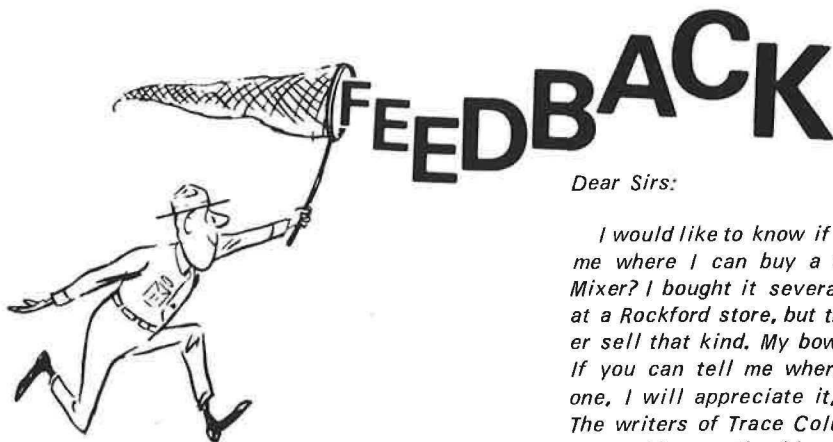
In 1962 he became head of the mathematics and physics department and athletic director at the Jimma Agricultural Technical School, Jimma, Ethiopia. He later became a writer/lecturer at the Goddard Space Flight Center.

Grover joined NPS in July 1965 as deputy director for education at Acadia National Park Job Corps Center in Maine and later became its center director. He was center director at



Liberty Park, a component of the Statue of Liberty National Monument. When it closed, he left to become an education specialist in the Washington Office and, later, chief of the Division of Job Corps.

Grover and his wife, Maudie Sue, a teacher in Prince George's County, Md., will celebrate their twentieth anniversary this December. "I've been married almost half my life," he laughs. The Barhams have four children: John (17), Ruth (13), Pete (12), and Jeff (10).



Our new "Feedback" column will not be just a gripe session, although controversy is welcome. We will also print bits of humor, too, as the following contribution from WASO's Information Office shows. (The woman originally wrote to "Trace," a column in the Rockford Morning Star newspaper.)

Dear Sirs:

I would like to know if you can tell me where I can buy a bowl for my Mixer? I bought it several years ago, at a Rockford store, but they no longer sell that kind. My bowl is broken. If you can tell me where I can buy one, I will appreciate it, very much. The writers of Trace Column sent me your address. Thanking you,

*Mildred Rever
Rockford, Ill.*

Mr. John G. Winning, Managing Ed.
Rockford Morning Star
Rockford, Illinois 61105

Dear Mr. Winning:

As custodians of some 29.5 million acres of national parklands—including the nations's heritage of natural, historical and recreational acres—and innumerable elk, alligators, moose and squirrels—the National Park Serv-

ice is justifiably mystified that the Rockford Star should advise one of its readers that we are the searchers—out of kitchen bowl replacements.

We enclose the message from your TRACE columnist who advises Mrs. Mildred Rever of 1524 Benton Street, Rockford, Ill., 61107, that the Department of the Interior's National Park Service is the place to find out where to buy a bowl for her kitchen aid mixer.

Sir, this ploy can work both ways. Be forewarned that in retaliation the National Park Service may consider sending to the Rockford Star the inquiries that come into us concerning the purchase of a pet bison, or how long the writer must wait for his seedling to grow into a redwood tree.

Yes-siree, two can play at the game. From now on it's off to the Rockford Star whenever we get a letter we don't know how to handle!

In the meantime, we are advising Mrs. Rever to write to the manufacturer.

With all good wishes.

**Gerald A. Waindel, Chief
Branch of Media Relations**

"Part of our success is that the classes are kept small and the corpsmen receive a great deal of individual attention."

The education program includes reading, math, language, enrichment courses and voluntary driver's education. A special feature is the World of Work course taught by Vernon Odell. It includes medical and civil defense information and employee skills such as how to fill out a job form, how to act during an interview and how to dress for work.

JOB TRAINING

The vocational training program at Oconaluftee, headed by Works Program Officer Jim Ray and Vocational Coordinator Joel Giffin, includes auto service repair, cooking, custodial maintenance, heavy equipment and welding.

Union representatives are teaching painting, carpentry, and plastering. Corpsmen who complete the union-taught courses receive union cards and become apprentices in union programs.

The corpsmen receive on-the-job training on park and community projects. Student plasterers at Oconaluftee recently partitioned several new rooms in the vocation building, and student carpenters are rehabilitating the visitor center.

GROUP LIVING AND RECREATION

As a part of group living, corpsmen must keep their dormitories clean. Counseling sessions are held in the evenings and dorm meetings are held each week. A Corpsman Council made up of elected mem-

bers from each dorm and a president take corpsmen problems to the staff.

Recreation includes intramural sports, organized athletics, monthly dances, weekend trips, arts and crafts, movies, television, card games and shuffleboard. A recreation committee, made up of two men from each dorm, suggests changes in activities and plans future events.

"When you have 180 guys, they want to do 180 different things," explains Joe Hipps, corpsman supervisor. "We try to offer a variety of activities."

PLACEMENT

Corpsmen who complete the program are readily placed into jobs in industry and government. Also, three former corpsmen are now group leaders on the Oconaluftee staff and another will be added in January.

For those unable to complete union programs, NPS has hired a union placement officer, Wade Anderson, to help them find other work in construction labor unions.

Larry Zollar, as director of the Eastern Service Center and former Job Corps coordinator for the Northeast Region, initiated a program in which two graduates of the Harpers Ferry JCCCC were trained for 90 days at ESC and later hired there—one as a machine operator, the

other a map and files clerk.

"The key to our success is that we work closely with the Civil Service Commission to make them eligible for career-conditional appointments," reports Lewis Farr, staff assistant to the associate director of Professional Services at ESC.

STAFF OPENINGS

NPS has a variety of positions open on Job Corps staffs. "We need people with a knowledge of the building trades to be enrollee work supervisors and work programs officers," says Bill Dyer, staff assistant to the Job Corps officer. "We also need administrators, teachers and people interested in the group living activities and recreation." Park employees should indicate their interest in these positions on their forms 10-180 and 10-182.

As Ivan Napier, assistant director of Oconaluftee concludes, "Because of our special work with people, the Job Corps is one of the best training grounds for staff interested in park management positions."

NPS Director George B. Hartzog agrees. "Our employees who have had the experience of an assignment in our Job Corps Program have enhanced their value to the new requirements brought about by the increasing interest of our urban citizens in the National Park System"



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LORETTA DeLOZIER Editor
GLENN SNYDER Art Editor

Room 106 - NCP Bldg. - 1100 Ohio Drive - SW - Washington, D.C. 20242