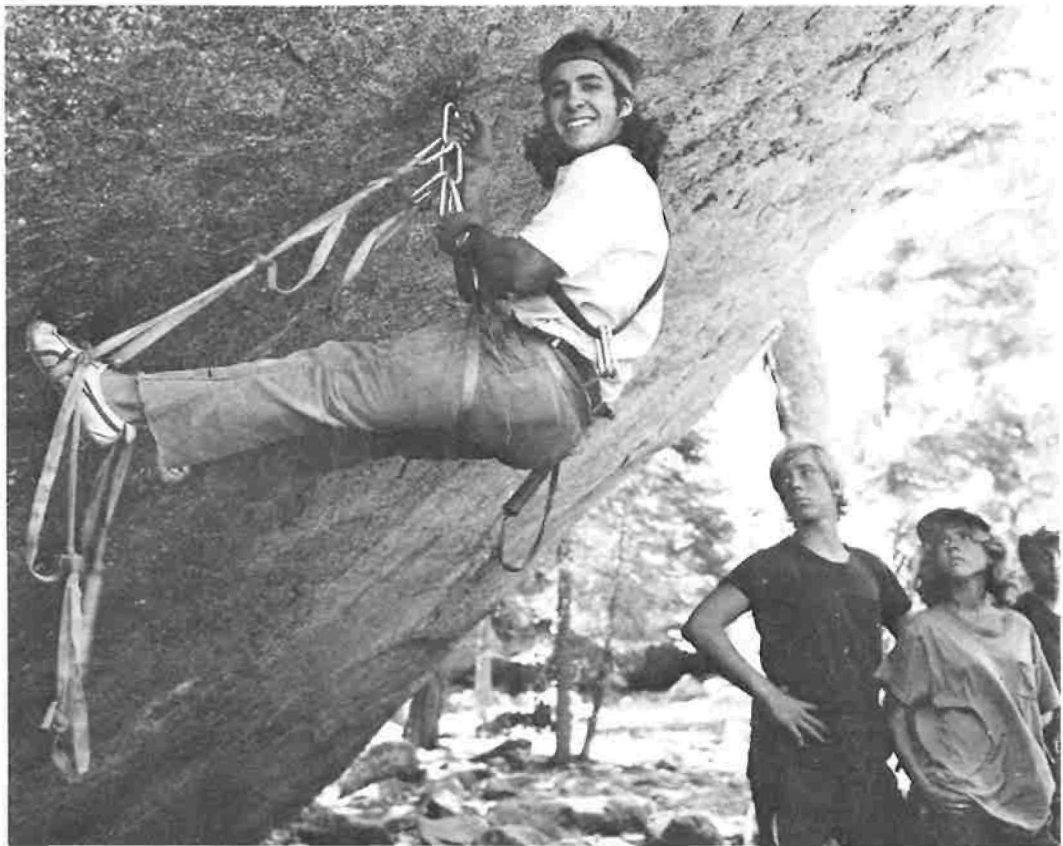


YOSEMITE FINDS A WAY

Programs for All People

Part 2 of Two Parts
By Loretta DeLozier



YOUNG VOLUNTEER: Eric Sanford, a student from New Hampshire and an experienced climber, assists with a mountain climbing demonstration. Says Ken Thelen; "One of our major goals was to set up an atmosphere of communication with youth. We wanted to involve them in every aspect of their programs, from planning to execution."

Question: How do you set up a new interpretive program for one of our country's biggest and busiest parks—do it in just a few weeks—all under the scrutinizing eye of skeptical press, public and (yes, even) park personnel?

Answer: You arrive one night, start jogging the next morning and don't slow down until you're finished.

That's what Ken Thelen, director of the 15 urban interpreters sent to Yosemite this past summer, did.

His group surveyed a cross section of visitors and then tailored new programs (or revamped old ones) around visitor needs, gearing them to specific age or interest groups. Their focus was on "humanizing" the park experience, at making the visitor's response more

personal and more involved.

Many of the programs were aimed at visitors aged 18 to 25.

"One of our major goals was to set up an atmosphere of communication with youth," Ken explains. "We wanted to involve them in every aspect of their programs, from planning to execution. They even helped us clean up after the programs were over."

(See Yosemite Page 2)

YOSEMITE...

(Continued from Page 1)

Youths helped plan and build a new campground, "Yellow Pines," which opened Labor Day and continued through October.

Although open to everyone, it was planned for visitors who lacked cars or could not afford the four-dollar camping fee at other valley sites.

Located over a mile from the other campgrounds, Yellow Pines has walk-in sites and costs only 25 cents per night. More primitive than the others, it can hold about 125 campers--25 at each of 5 group sites.

Informal programs were held at night this summer with discussions on park management and ecology around each campfire. Ranger Mark Forbes lived at the campgrounds to take fees, help the campers and act as general problem-solver.

"Some people view this campground as preferential treatment," Mark comments. "However, we draw the kids who are already camping out on off-site places.

"Also, it's a place for kids to go that's really theirs. They don't have to feel they're imposing on any family groups, and the families won't feel bothered by them."

Another popular program focused at young visitors was "A Natural Experiment," held at Camp 14. John Carrington assisted in the program which included soft rock music, multi-media shows, talks on park issues and demonstrations on subjects like yoga and astronomy. Each aimed at a special form of park interpretation.

Some of the leaders of the programs were recruited from among youths themselves. Dave Vassar, a student at San Francisco State, helped plan several, including the weekly showing of a very powerful and moving film which he made during Yosemite's 1970 riot.

The film was followed by a "rap" session with a park ranger. One such session, conducted by Ranger Pete Thompson, ended after four intense hours with both sides amazed at the other--the youths at Pete's sincerity and candor; Pete, at their concern and interest in the park.



RANGER PETE THOMPSON: "We must relate people to what a park experience is."

GUIDED WALKS AND TALKS

Not all programs were directed at one particular age group. For instance, each evening Bob Kempf led a one-hour stroll from Yosemite Lodge, a leisurely walk which appealed to older visitors staying at the lodge.

"Some of these people have never taken a walk in the woods," Bob explains. "They don't know where to go."

Bob also conducted a three-day course for youth aged 13 to 17 called "You Want to Be a Ranger?"

For the really young set, Diana Graves led a group of five to eight year olds on a three-hour environmental study walk through the valley, and Mary Dodd conducted scenic bike rides for cyclists of all ages.

Bruce Fincham organized two-mile, three-hour float trips down the Merced River. A naturalist at Yosemite for six years before transferring to National Capital Parks, Bruce is excited about the educational possibilities of the river.

"The river was at one time considered only a scenic resource, no swimming or rafting. Now we realize that it also has tremendous potential for teaching environmental concepts in an enjoyable way."



PHOTOGRAPHY: Dana Morgenson tells visitors how they can best photograph (and enjoy) the park.

Bruce also worked with the local Mariposa Indian Council to arrange for Indian cultural demonstrations and plan for a Miwoh Indian Cultural Center in the park. Miwoh Indians performed dances, sang chants, played Indian games and demonstrated crafts such as cooking and making arrowheads and hatchets.

"The Park Service has a vital responsibility in helping the native Americans recapture and preserve their unique culture," Bruce explains. "The Indian culture can teach modern man many important lessons about his relationship to the environment."

Several programs appealed to hikers and climbers, such as those given by Warren White, Mary Bradford and Eric Sanford, a student volunteer. They demonstrated climbing, mountain rescue and fire control techniques.

Roger Rudolph led an overnight backpack for inexperienced hikers who might never attempt it on their own. "It's not so much my teaching them as just being there to help," Roger explains. The emphasis was on minimum impact back country use: "How to use the wild places without leaving your mark."



GAIL RITCHIE

At Happy Isles Trail Center, Gail Ritchie gave a backpacking demonstration with advice on what to wear and take, information on minimum impact and free samples of "gorp," a delicious lunch-on-the-

trail made of nuts, grain, raisins, seeds and M&M's.

Steve Smith spent most of his weekends camped at Nevada Falls where he warned visitors of safety hazards, gave on-sight interpretation, taught minimum impact backpacking and how to cope with bears. At night he led an informal campfire program.

Steve also led special children's ecology walks and developed the first National Environmental Study Area (NESA) in the valley.

Square dancing instruction was held three nights a week in one of the Curry Village parking lots, and musical programs ranging from baroque to soft rock were conducted in its amphitheatre.

CONCESSIONERS HELP TOO

In a unique cooperative effort with the Park Service, the Yosemite Park and Curry Company also began some special interpretive programs last year.

The Art Place displayed Yosemite-inspired art and featured crafts demonstrations by NPS interpreters. Marley Thomas made silk screen posters, Gentry Davis taught general creativity classes and Julia Parker taught Indian basket weaving.

In the future the shop will also be used by visiting artists who will present special programs throughout the year.

At Yosemite Lodge, photographer Dana Morgenson led daily camera walks in the valley, and interpreters gave evening slide programs in the amphitheatre. Concerts were held in Wawona Hotel in the southern area of the Park.

"Our emphasis is on participation," says Jan Studebaker, public relations manager for the Yosemite Park and Curry Company. "Our programs are designed to deepen visitor enjoyment and understanding of the beauty of the park. We plan to offer year-round activities for people who come to Yosemite in all seasons."

Jan is also excited about the development of the Yosemite Institute, a joint venture between NPS and the Curry Company. It will offer week-long programs for stu-

dents and two-day to one-week courses for adults. Later plans include semester-long courses in conservation subjects for high school groups.

"The program will complement the visitors' use of facilities," says Don Rees, the Institute's director. "Students will be here from September to June, during the periods of least visitor attendance."

Students will use the park for study and the Curry Company facilities for room and board. The Institute will have its own advisory board made up of representatives from education, industry and ecology.



PRESERVING INDIAN CULTURE: Julia Parker teaches Indian basket weaving at The Art Place and gives demonstrations at the park's visitor center.

"This will be a great place to try environmental education programs," says Bill Jones chief park naturalist.

He also notes that the Yosemite Natural History Association also sponsors activities, such as field seminars and the junior ranger program. Urban interpreter Susan Hepler worked with the association to set up a YNHA-NPS weekly newspaper for park visitors, to highlight events in the park.

RESPONSE IS MIXED

As might be expected, response to the new programs at Yosemite has been mixed, ranging from one

(See Yosemite Page 4)

YOSEMITE...

(From page 3)

young "freak" who exclaimed, "Things are so much better this year," and another who declared, "Rangers aren't pigs after all," to a middle-aged church leader who grumbled, "This ecology stuff is a bunch of garbage!"

A superintendent at another park called the youth programs "discrimination," and a couple of backpackers in Yosemite's high country complained, "It's too organized for us."

The basic dilemma is the old one between use and preservation: How to provide parks for the people and yet "leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

The dilemma is compounded by social problems—the "generation gap" described in the *New York Times* article—and by the recurring question posed by several rangers: "Is the Park Service providing a park experience or just recreation?"

Ken Thelen answers by saying, "Some people think of a park experience only in terms of a visual experience. But there are so many other ways to interpret a park."

"For instance, some people thought that square dancing wasn't appropriate here. However, our problems last year were people conflicts—people weren't in contact with each other, or what contact they had was negative. Our programs bring them together, and they have a better appreciation for the park, too."

"Each individual sees the park differently," adds Dr. Carl Sharsmith. A seasonal naturalist for over 30 years and professor of botany at San Jose State, he has been called "A Latter Day John Muir."

Dr. Sharsmith says that the problem is in how to manage the park for different individuals, including youth. "The kids are here, and we have to reach them in terms they understand."

On the other hand, Ranger Pete Thompson feels that parks should not try to accommodate special



groups of any kind, young or old. "We must relate people to what a park experience is, to show them that Half Dome is really there, and not on television!"



Several rangers have reservations about the new gun regulations. As Jim Gallaway, a law enforcement ranger, says, "Taking away our weapons hurts law enforcement. Rangers are hesitant to make car stops or to visit campgrounds at night."

Veteran seasonal naturalist Bob Fry says, "We tolerate variety in the park, and we should tolerate variety in people. Every visitor should feel as much a part of the park as the rocks and trees. To treat Yosemite just as a place is as dehumanizing as treating another human just as a tool."

NATURALIST CARL SHARSMITH:

"Each individual sees the park differently."

Ansel Adams, the famous nature photographer who runs a studio at Yosemite Village and has been a yearly visitor to the park since 1916 says, "Yosemite is a microcosm of the whole country. Every kind of person comes here."

"Not long ago they came primarily for entertainment and the place had a resort feeling. But lately there's been a tremendous change in the character of the population."

"The feeling I get this year is a fine appreciation for the place. For instance, I've never seen so many backpackers—and yet, several years ago some of the trails weren't kept up because nobody used them!"

Adams feels that one of the problems has been "bad press," such

PHOTOGRAPHER ANSEL ADAMS:

"Yosemite is a microcosm of the whole country. Every kind of person comes here."

as the articles in the *New York Times*. "Reporters haven't given the whole story. Some people think this is a hippy haven; others, that it's a ranger gestapo. Those are exaggerations; really its becoming a smooth, well-balanced situation."

Wayne Cone, former Yosemite superintendent, agrees adding: "The problems at Yosemite aren't unique, and eventually they may hit other parks too. You can look at the history of Yosemite and see that many of the problems it had 10 or 15 years ago are now happening in other parks. We all can learn from it."



Under our hat

CONTRIBUTIONS? Deadline for copy for the next contributor's issue of the NEWSLETTER is Nov. 18. Articles should be short (300-500 words) and, if possible, accompanied by black and white pictures. For more information, contact the editors.

SUPT. CONFERENCES: The Southeast Region's Superintendents' Conference will be held Nov. 10-12 at Everglades; Southwest, Nov. 2-4 at Phoenix; Pacific Northwest, Oct. 30-Nov. 1 at Spokane; and the Western Region's superintendents, Nov. 1-3 at Lake Mead.

EMPLOYEE OPEN MEETING: Anyone interested in the Employees & Alumni Assoc., and can get to the Rock Creek Nature Center, is invited to attend a program and party one evening during the week of November 15.

In addition to discussion about the E&AA and what it means to all of us, there will be a program of general interest. E&AA Exec. Sec. Dave Karraker is lining up a special guest speaker for the meeting and as soon as a date is firmed up it will be announced. Watch your bulletin boards, mail boxes and area newsletters for further information.

TRAVEL REVISIONS: The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has revised Governmentwide travel regulations, effective Oct. 10. However, because of the current Executive Freeze, any change that increases costs is frozen until after Nov. 13.

For instance, formerly an employee who drove his car to an airport was paid 10 cents per mile, not to exceed the cost of a common carrier. The new regulations increase the payment to 11 cents, but the increase is frozen until after Nov. 13. Also frozen is the new rule stating that an employee's per diem may be computed from the time he leaves home, rather than from the time the plane leaves the airport.

However, changes that DECREASE costs are now ineffect. For instance, as of Oct. 10 the Government will not pay or reimburse employees for cost of collision damage waiver or collision damage insurance. (As in the past, the Government will also not reimburse employees for personal accident insurance.)

A memorandum explaining the revisions was sent to WASO and field directorate. Booklets with the revisions will be distributed after Nov. 1.

TRAIL ROUTE PUBLISHED: The official route of the 2000 mile Appalachian National Scenic Trail has been selected. Narrative descriptions and maps fill nearly 100 pages in the Federal Register which can be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D.C. 20402. More detailed maps delineating the trail route are on display in the capitals of the 14 states which have portions of the trail and in Room 1210, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

SHENANDOAH PICNIC

The birds of Shenandoah were singing with special delight as they perched in the fall-tinted trees watching 101 NPS women gather for a picnic given by the Shenandoah Park Women's Club.

Tables were decorated with centerpieces of wind sculptured wood on which were perched colorful paper birds made by Brenda Jenkins. Picnic Chairman Sibyl Lowe coordinated the whole affair.

Women drove from over 200 miles away to attend, meeting friends and former neighbors with whom they had shared NPS areas in a past of frequent moves. Among the hundred women present many areas were represented: George Washington Birthplace 4; Harpers Ferry 9; Fredericksburg 5; Manassas 1; Richmond 16; Hot Springs 1; Washington, D.C. area 26; Booker T. Washington 1; Blue Ridge 11;



Highlight of the picnic was the drawing for the quilt, **Birds of Shenandoah**, on which the women had worked for almost a year. The colorful quilt was designed by Stanley Davis. Donation tickets were sold under the direction of Martha McHenry in many NPS areas. The amount collected for the Employees and Alumni Association Education Fund* was a spectacular \$1,163. Club President Thelma Warnock presided over the drawing.

Winner of the quilt was Roberta Crane, wife of the maintenance supervisor at Amistead Recreation Area in Texas.

Assateague 5; and 22 hostesses from Shenandoah.

* The E&AA Fund is available for loans without interest to any member needing financial help for his/her children. E&AA memberships which include the National Park COURIER are available from Box 3534, Arlington, Va. 22203.

Another major contribution to the fund has been made by the Harpers Ferry women who report a profit of \$513 for the fund from their bazaar (See NEWSLETTER, Oct. 18).

REORGANIZATION

Two major changes are taking place in the National Park Service: 1) The regional boundaries have been revised; and 2) The Eastern

and Western Service Centers have been combined into one Service Center to be located in Denver, Colorado.

The following explains why they occurred and what the Park Service has done so far to implement them.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE COMMON BOUNDARIES



○ Regional Offices

Region III, Philadelphia, Pa. (Departmental Regions I, II, III and V combined): servicing Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Vermont, Pennsylvania, New York, Virginia, West Virginia, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota.

Region IV, Atlanta, Ga.: servicing Kentucky, Tennessee, North and South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Florida, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

Region VI, Santa Fe, N.M.: servicing New Mexico, Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Arkansas.

Region VII, Omaha, Nebr. (Departmental Regions VII and VIII

combined): servicing Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, Montana, North and South Dakota.

Region IX, San Francisco, Calif.: servicing California, Nevada, Arizona and Hawaii.

Region X, Seattle, Wash.: servicing Idaho, Oregon, Washington and Alaska.

In March 1969 President Nixon began a major effort to improve coordination among the Federal government's field offices, to make them more accessible to state and local governments and to decentralize Federal programs. As part of this effort, the President set the goal to adopt a system of uniform regional boundaries for the Federal Domestic Agencies.

In support of the President's program and to improve the internal management of the Interior Department, Secretary Morton issued Order No. 2944 which established common regional boundaries for the Department, to be set by July 1, 1972.

The Department has not had a common regional structure in the past, and as a result some 20 different Bureau and Office regional patterns are now in existence. This complicates both internal operations and relationships with state and local governments and with the general public.

The Order states that "Some programs may not be large enough to justify ten regions. In those instances, additional overhead costs incurred whenever a new region is established would be out of proportion to the anticipated benefit. A lesser number of regions may be justified provided the boundaries are consistent with the ten-region pattern."

Thus, based on our distribution of field activities, the Park Service will have six regions instead of ten. (See maps) These will generally conform to the ten Departmental regions, with a few exceptions cited below.

Region III (Philadelphia) will include the Department's Regions I, II, III and V. Region VII (Omaha) will include the Department's Regions VII and VIII. (See box for

list of regional offices and names of states in each region.)

The only geographical change in the NPS regional offices is in Region IV (formerly the Southeast Region). It is moving from Richmond, Va., to Atlanta, Ga.

A state office in Richmond will be set up and will report to Philadelphia. It will be headed by an NPS state director, with supporting staff of a management assistant, a park planner to handle environmental and cooperative functions in Virginia and a secretary.

The field office at Denver is being elevated to a state office, headed by a state director who will have line responsibility over the superintendents and programs in Colorado. A field office will continue to operate in Salt Lake City.

The Blue Ridge Parkway, lying partly within Region III (Philadelphia) and partly within Region IV (Atlanta), will be administered in its entirety by Region IV. Because of recent legislation extending the Parkway from its present terminus at Great Smoky Mountains NP to Kennesaw Mountain NBP at Marietta, Ga., the Parkway headquarters will be moved from Roanoke to Asheville.

Field offices already in Chicago, Boston and Portland will continue to be primarily concerned with landmark inspections and planning assistance.

The New York office will be elevated to a district office having responsibility and jurisdiction co-extensive with the boundary of Region II (New York and New Jersey). The district director will report to the director at Philadelphia. The superintendents in the jurisdiction of Region II, however, will report in line responsibility to the district director at New York.

Glen Canyon NRA, lying partly within Regions VIII and IX, will be administered in its entirety by Region IX. Lava Beds NM, on the border between Oregon and California, will continue to be administered by Region X.

SERVICE CENTER CONSOLIDATION

As a result of Departmental budget restrictions on both positions and funds announced last August, the Park Service's permanent full-time employment ceiling has been reduced from 7,350 to 6,983 positions, a cut of 367 positions.

To avoid reductions in employment ceilings of full-time funded positions in the field areas, already severely understaffed, major cuts were made in the WASO and in the two Service Centers. The total reduction in positions in the Service Centers was 223 full-time positions. According to Director Hartzog, "A reduction of this size makes a continued operation of two Service Centers ineffective.

"Thus, to enhance our effectiveness and productivity with reduced staffing, I have recommended, and the Secretariat has approved, the consolidation of our two Service Centers into one Service Center in Denver, Colorado."

Director Hartzog asked Associate Director Joe Jensen and Personnel Director Larry Zollar to help implement his decision. They personally visited each center to help Service Center employees with their problems. Employees unable to transfer to Denver will be helped to find positions in the field, in other government agencies or in private industries.

The new Center will have 353 positions. It is expected to open on November 15.

Personal Touch

Dear Editor:

There is no device known that will completely replace a human.

We say this time and again; and yet too often we get away from one of the main reasons for our existence as public contact people.

We're using the same old sorry excuse that many park visitors use when they come running through the parks; and that is, "we don't have time."

I will not buy this—why don't we have time for the visitor?? Why do we exist? If we really care, let's do something about it.

Aside from our initial greeting when the visitor enters the building—we have another opportunity just before each slide or A.V. program. Very simply walk in, and really show your interest with a pleasing "Hy-ya doing," or "Hello," and a very short welcome.

One minute or 30 seconds is usually sufficient. (Remember you have a captive audience; don't give a speech.) Just let them know that you are interested in seeing that they have an enjoyable visit, i.e., a genuine "Hello folks, it's a pleasure to be with you today. Be sure and pick up the park folder at the information desk, so that you may better understand the area.

"Don't hesitate to check with us after the program, should you have further questions. We surely hope that you have an enjoyable visit."

MOST IMPORTANT: BE ENTHUSIASTIC AND SINCERE.

Henry Illenberger
Park Technician
Saratoga NHP

Shame!

Dear Editor:

I would like to say "shame" on the persons who had the time and the courage to answer

Mr. Ernest Scott's letter "EEO Discriminates" in August 23, 1971, issue of NPS Newsletter. I hope the "many" they refer to as sharing this opinion will all look into a mirror and see if they have the time or courage to care and worry about their fellow man (and not his status, sex creed, or color); or to practice God's golden rule of "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." Perhaps if they did



People On the Move

New Faces

Baldez, Thomas M., to Pvt., U.S. Pk. Police, NCP
Baldwin, Harold D., to Pvt., U.S. Pk. Police, NCP
Betz, James P., to Pvt., U.S. Pk. Police, NCP
Byrd, LaVerne B., to Clk. Typist, WASO
Gaskins, Walter M., to Off. Machine Operator, SERO
Hampton, Edward A., to Pvt., U.S. Pk. Police, NCP
Harris, Jimmie L., to Maintenance Worker, Andersonville NHS
Kittle, Ottis A., to Mining Engineer, ESC
Marionette, Vincent E., to Exhibits Spec., Harpers Ferry Center
Martin, Wilbert Kenneth, to Cartographic Techn., ESC
Pfister, Ralph T., to Pvt., U.S. Pk. Police, NCP
Ramsden, John H., to Pvt., U.S. Pk. Police, NCP
Satcher, Marvis, to Gardener, NCP-Central
Schaffer, Genevieve Y., to Realty Spec., ESC
Van Camp, William J., to Pvt., U.S. Pk. Police, NCP
Winkel, Edward F., to Pvt., U.S. Pk. Police, NCP

have the time or courage we wouldn't need programs like "Equal Employment Opportunity." SHAME! SHAME! SHAME!

Sincerely yours,

Sally F. Johnson
College Relations Officer,
WASO

P.S. I didn't ask anyone to co-sign this because I have the courage and the time to say it.

New Places

Castagna, Domenick S., from Mason, NCP, to same, Wolf Trap Farm Pk.
Corum, Elijah, Jr., from Pk. Techn., WASO, to same, Gettysburg NMP
Hibb, David L., from Pk. Ranger, George Washington Carver NM, to same, Herbert Hoover NHS

Out of the Traces

Breazeale, Patricia R., from Clk. Typist, Everglades NP
Corbin, Peggy G., from Sec. Steno., Shenandoah NP
Cunningham, Robert L., from Pvt., U.S. Pk. Police, NCP
Davies, Sharon R., from Pers. Asst., WASO
Dibble, Janet E., from Clk. Steno., MWRO
Doyel, Richard G., from Supv. Pk. Guide, Mammoth Cave NP
Dulaney, George C., from Pvt., U.S. Pk. Police, NCP
Goin, Catherine B., from Voucher Examiner, SERO
Griffin, Margaret A., from Clk. Steno., SERO
Haynes, Joan A., from Clk. Typist, U.S. Pk. Police, NCP
Hudgins, Frances G., from Voucher Examiner Supv., SERO
Jacobs, Barbara S., from Sec. Steno., SERO



NPS NEWSLETTER

U.S. Department of the Interior National Park Service



Issued biweekly by the Office of the Director as a communication medium for Service personnel. Edited and published by the Division of State and Private Assistance, WASO.

Loretta DeLozier Editor
Ron Greenberg Associate Editor
Jean Bullard Assistant Editor
Glenn Snyder Art Editor

Telephone: 202--426-6720 (IDS Code 118-66720)