

1974 report

State of the Parks

Director's message

This issue of the Newsletter is the second annual report on the State of the Parks. It is intended to cover the major events of 1974 and provide a useful look at both where we have been and where we must go.

Patterns of use and visitation are changing. For the first time since 1958 many major areas have experienced substantial downturns in visitation. Other areas had great increases. While the averages may indicate we are holding our own, there are basic changes occurring in visitation and many other areas that will really challenge us in many different ways.

Obviously, the Nation's fight to curb inflation and prevent recession involves the National Park Service directly. The employees of the Service will be expected to carry their share of this burden. I think that the National Park Service can react in ways that will be truly helpful and which will further our continuing efforts to make parks contribute more to improve the lives of all Americans.

There is no question but that your lives, as public servants, will become increasingly difficult in the months and years that lie immediately ahead. The National Park Service faces some exceedingly strong challenges. More must be accomplished with fewer resources than ever before.

If the National Park Service is to meet these challenges, we must be in a position to act, not just react. We must appreciate the difference. And we can only act wisely and well if we act from understanding. Working by habit, tradition, or trial and error will not get the job done. Innovation and imagination must be used as never before. We must know exactly what to do and how to do it.

I think that in the last two years the Service has developed a growing cadre of youthful, innovative, energetic and professional leaders with the training, the spirit, and above all, the good common sense to take on this increasingly complex job of managing the National Park System.

It will take all the dynamism and insight of every employee of the National Park Service to get the job done well. During my two years as Director I met a great many of you and I will carry with me the lasting impression of dedicated people who truly believe in public service. So I am optimistic!

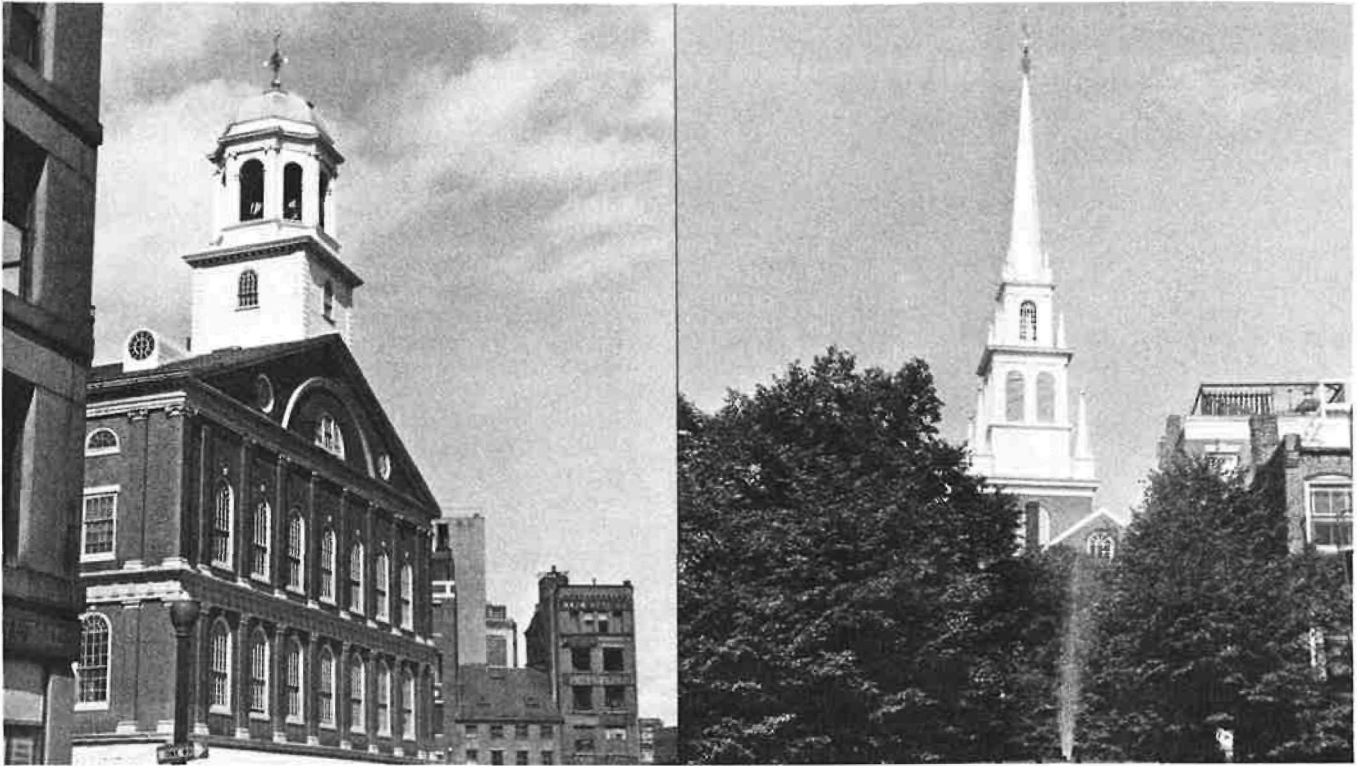
This dedication will be fully tested in the immediate months ahead. And it will survive only if the National Park Service functions as a team. I know that all of you will give your new director wholehearted support. He will be making harder decisions than you can always appreciate and then working with you to get them implemented. Your support is essential to his task.

While my tenure as director was relatively short, these have been the most gratifying and interesting two years of my life. There has been visible progress in many areas brought about because of the great response to the challenges I have thrown at you. I believe that the National Park Service is prepared to tackle the challenges it now must face.

Anne and I will miss the National Park Service very much. The Walker family will take every opportunity to be counted as visitors to the beauties and the heritage that is the National Park Service.

God bless you all.





Faneuil Hall (left) and Old North Church, sites intimately associated with the struggle for American independence. These are two of the seven sites which comprise Boston National Historical Park, Massachusetts.

New areas

During 1974, Congress authorized 11 areas for addition to the National Park System. Descriptions of these areas follow.

Big Cypress National Preserve, Florida, will safeguard the 570,000-acre watershed that serves Everglades National Park and Florida's southwest coast cities. Emphasizing the area's importance, Assistant Secretary Nathaniel P. Reed, a leader in the effort to preserve the great wetlands region, said "Big Cypress Swamp must be protected in its natural state—with its drainages unimpaired—or Everglades National Park will change drastically." Seminole and Miccosukee Indians share this, their ancestral home, with endangered animal species, among them the southern bald eagle, the Florida Everglades kite, and the Florida panther.

Big Thicket National Preserve, Texas, comprises 12 individual units totalling 85,000 acres. Conservationists long sought protection for this region which is a "cross-roads" zone between moist eastern woodlands, the arid southwest, tropical coastal marsh and central prairie. The largest known specimens of American holly and black

hickory grow in the Thicket. It is home to many animal species including alligators, bobcats and deer.

Boston National Historical Park, Massachusetts, incorporates seven individual areas in Boston closely associated with major activities leading to the independence of the colonies and the creation of the United States. They are Faneuil Hall, often called "the Cradle of Liberty," Paul Revere House, Old North Church, Old State House, Bunker Hill (Breed's Hill), Old South Meeting House, and Charlestown Navy Yard which will provide a permanent home for "Old Ironsides," the U.S.S. Constitution.

Clara Barton National Historical Site, Maryland, preserves the home of the founder of the American Red Cross.

John Day Fossil Beds National Monument, Oregon, incorporates 14,000 acres affording an extensive record of 37 million years of the earth's history.

Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site, North Dakota, preserves 1,293 acres near the confluence of the Knife and Missouri Rivers. These are the only remains of villages of the Hidatsa tribe.

Springfield Armory National His-

toric Site, Massachusetts, commemorates what was the small arms center of the world. The 55-acre site contains a parade ground and historic buildings.

Tuskegee Institute National Historic Site, Alabama, encompasses about 60 acres and includes the home of Booker T. Washington, founder of the prominent Negro school, and the laboratory where George Washington Carver conducted many of his experiments in agricultural science.

Martin Van Buren National Historic Site, New York, protects "Lindenwald," the home of Martin Van Buren, eighth President of the United States. This is the only remaining structure intimately associated with his life.

Sewall-Beumont House National Historic Site, District of Columbia, preserves the structure which has served since 1929 as the headquarters of the National Women's Party.

Lyndon Baines Johnson Memorial Grove on the Potomac is a 15-acre site in Lady Bird Johnson Park, D.C. Congress established the area by Joint Resolution. It will be a living memorial of trees, shrubs and trails, surrounding a 343-ton block of granite from the Texas hill country.

Preserving park resources

A basic mission of the National Park Service is the management, perpetuation, and protection of park resources. Because of the importance of this task, the reorganization initiated in 1973 created a Division of Natural Resources under an Assistant Director for Resource Management. This action made possible stronger centralized policy direction.

Of particular importance during the year was the development of policy guidelines and implementation procedures for the preparation of Resource Management Plans. The plans will allow for orderly and periodic review of park resources needs. They can be used readily for developing management and research and budget programming documents for each park.

A fire and vegetative management

program begun at Grand Teton National Park derived from Service policy on fire, was tested by a fire that started in Waterfall Canyon in July. Because it started naturally and was not endangering visitors, or facilities, or other resources, it was allowed to burn over 3,600 acres through most of the summer and fall, attracting national attention.

Yellowstone, Sequoia, Yosemite, Everglades, and Rocky Mountain National Parks continued natural fire management programs, gaining experience and confidence in predicting fire behavior in several fuel types and under varied conditions.

The number of parks and monuments with backcountry management programs has been steadily increasing, and 23 now require backpackers to obtain free permits

to camp in some sections. Permits are limited to the numbers which trails and campsites can accommodate without environmental damage. Backpackers arriving after one area is closed may have the alternative of using another.

This program has cut damage and pollution in fragile backcountry areas, and allowed the regrowth of vegetation, especially in campsite locations. It also enables NPS to know where backpackers are so that help can be provided faster should they need it.

To further preserve the pristine qualities of national park areas, NPS reached an agreement with the Federal Aviation Administration on a minimum altitude of 2000 feet for flights of civilian and military aircraft above selected system areas.

Historic preservation

Historical areas comprise well over half the units of the National Park System.

The job of the office of Park Historic Preservation is to heighten awareness of this fundamental NPS mission. During 1974, regional office professional support was strengthened by adding historians, historical architects and archeologists. Training center courses in resource preservation and maintenance for historical area managers and maintenance personnel were begun.

In the parks, there was renewed emphasis on historic resource preservation. The home of former President Taft was stabilized, and NPS had four field crews stabilizing prehistoric Indian ruins in New Mexico, Colorado, and Utah. Work on the restoration of the Freeman School at Homestead National Monument was completed. At Petersburg National Battlefield, NPS held an earthworks preservation conference to discuss methods of preserving historically valuable earthworks as well as ways to prevent damage from vandalism.

NPS started using x-ray machines to detect structural evidence concealed within walls and also the extent of decay in wooden structures, thus saving expensive inspection and repair costs. At Gulf Islands National Seashore, the Service is beginning to preserve and stabilize fortifications representing the Spanish Colonial period through World War II.

Responsibilities for preservation outside of the National Park System continued to grow during the year. Passage of the Archeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 will have an important impact on the National Park Service and on the work of the Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation. The law requires archeological surveys, investigation, and salvage for all Federal and Federally assisted construction projects.

To assist them in meeting the requirements of this law, Federal agencies will be turning to the National Park Service as the lead agency in matters of historic preservation. Many agencies will be transferring funds to the National Park Service so that it can contract

for the necessary archeological work.

The honorary program for recognizing landmarks of national significance received wide interest throughout the country during 1974. Among the potential National Historic Landmarks designated by Secretary of the Interior Rogers C.B. Morton were 13 sites associated with the role of black Americans in the history of the United States.

Altogether 188 properties were found eligible for designation as National Historic Landmarks this year, bringing the total number to nearly 1,200 properties.

In the documentation of the Nation's architectural heritage under the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS), comprehensive surveys were launched this year in 14 states by summer field teams composed of architectural professors, student architects, and historians. They prepared measured drawings and written documentation on historic structures for the HABS archives.

This represents the largest num-

ber of summer field teams ever supervised by the HABS office, and reflects the interest of communities and preservation groups across the country in the documentary program of HABS. Over \$112,000 in donated funds were supplied by cooperating organizations to aid in financing the field teams.

In addition to these 14 teams which were supervised and partially

funded by HABS, three field teams in Louisiana, New York, and New Jersey were fully funded by private groups.

Making steady progress in preserving records of America's technological and industrial landmarks, the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) completed inventories of historic engineering and industrial sites in seven states.

During 1974, nominations of historic places to the National Register of Historic Places continued to increase rapidly. By October, NPS had added 1,530 historic places to the Register, bringing the total to 9,656. Thus the National Park Service is able to assist private organizations and the states in historic preservation efforts throughout the country.



Visitors to Lincoln Boyhood National Monument, Indiana, gain an insight into life as it was lived on the American frontier when young Abe was growing into manhood.

Wilderness studies

During 1974, the great 10-year national park wilderness study program required by the Wilderness Act of 1964 was finished on schedule.

Over this period the Service examined 57 national parks and monuments and made recommendations as to their suitability or non-suitability for inclusion in the Wilderness System.

Portions of 49 park system areas

—totaling 15.5 million acres—have been recommended for wilderness designation.

Found presently to be unsuited for wilderness were Chaco Canyon, White Sands and Wupatki National Monuments, Padre Island National Seashore and Mammoth Cave National Park.

Recommendations on two areas—Lake Mead National Recreation

Area and Glacier Bay National Monument—are awaiting completion of studies related to non-park land uses. The Mount McKinley National Park study has been postponed because of the Alaskan national park proposals.

Wilderness recommendations remain to be made for 11 other areas authorized since passage of the Wilderness Act.



Recommended for wilderness designation are 120,588 acres of Isle Royale National Park, Michigan, considered to be one of the great natural areas of North America.

Acquiring park land

During 1974, NPS acquired 73,000 acres of prime parkland at a cost of \$75 million. Areas with major acquisitions were Buffalo National River, C&O Canal National Historical Park, Grand Teton National Park, Hot Springs National Park, Everglades National Park, Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, and Gettysburg National Military Park.

Legislation enacted this year will have a major impact on the land acquisition program. These laws authorized the acquisition of 691,815 acres in 23 areas, with a total funding authority of more than \$320 million.

Over \$223 million of this amount is for the acquisition of 673,079

acres of seven new areas in the National Park System. Two parks alone comprise 631,000 acres of this land—with funding authority of \$219,812,000—Big Cypress National Preserve in Florida and Big Thicket National Preserve in Texas. Legislation authorizing these areas requires acquisition to be substantially completed within six years.

NPS science program

Creation of an Office of the Chief Scientist recognizes the importance the National Park Service attaches to the solution of environmental problems.

Establishment of the NPS Science Center at the NASA National Technology Laboratory in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, provided the Service with access to remote sensing and data handling capabilities. The Resources Basic Inventory underway

for Great Smoky Mountains National Park is the first NPS use of these capabilities. Data acquisition and handling experience gained in the Smokies study is proving useful for Resource Basic Inventory projects beginning in Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area and Canyonlands National Park.

Part of the science program has been conducted under contract with other agencies. As a result of a

continuing controversy over the grizzly bear management program in Yellowstone National Park, Secretary Morton asked the National Academy of Sciences for a report on the population dynamics of bears in the entire Yellowstone ecosystem.

That report, completed in 1974, provided the basis for an NPS preliminary draft environmental impact statement on the management program. This program seeks to



Grizzly Bear (*Ursus horribilis*)

perpetuate a wild, free-ranging grizzly population in Yellowstone, and to minimize conflict between human visitors and grizzlies by minimizing man-generated food sources and by eliminating accidental man-bear encounters.

An Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Steering Committee comprised of representatives of NPS, the Fish and Wildlife Service, Forest Service, and the States of Idaho, Wyoming and Montana, was

established to oversee a joint research program on the grizzly in Yellowstone and its surrounding region.

NPS also has contracted with the Nature Conservancy to conduct a survey of the present status of the principal natural area preservation programs in the United States. This information may be used to develop a legislative proposal to establish a nationwide natural area preservation program.

Visitation

Last winter's energy shortage substantially changed park visitation patterns. Fewer people went to remote parks, although more went to NPS areas close to major cities.

In its public pronouncements, NPS encouraged travelers to the parks to conserve motor fuel. A list was provided of the 200 Park System areas which can be reached from metropolitan centers with less than a tankful of gasoline. Use of public transit was advocated. Most impor-

tantly, these public messages stressed advantages of longer visits to fewer parks.

Park attendance was down considerably during the first few months of 1974, but as gas supplies increased, more Americans began to travel. The result was an increase of more than 2 million visits, or 2.2 percent, during June, July and August. Parks near urban areas and recreation areas posted the largest gains.

Making the parks safer

A prime management goal of 1974 was to cut back deaths and injuries throughout the National Park System.

A safety task force was appointed early in the year. It analyzed the causes and main locations of accidents and made concrete recommendations in an April report.

During the first nine months of 1974, accidental deaths in the parks declined to 145 from 168 for the comparable period a year earlier.

Mostly through radio and television, visitors were bombarded with safety messages. Information supplied at park entrances was made more effective, with individual safety brochures being prepared by some parks. More and better warning signs were installed.

Internal communications were strengthened through safety messages in the NPS Newsletter. A visitor hazards list is being developed by each park.

Park Service efforts to aid lost or injured visitors have been doubled.

Search and rescue plans have been improved and cooperation strengthened with the Air Force which has countrywide responsibility for coordinating search and rescue missions.

In February, NPS began a Crime Prevention and Physical Security program, aimed at protecting both visitors and Service property.

Although NPS employees suffered more minor accidents in 1974, an encouraging statistic was the decline of accidental deaths. The figure stood at two for the first nine months of the year—down from nine for the same period of 1973.

Compliance with the Occupational Safety and Health Act progressed.

NPS increased safety training of supervisors, employees and safety personnel. Safety services were increased. Accident investigation and reporting were improved by revised guidelines. Safety inspections were increased and follow-up tightened. A Bureau-level safety committee was formed to direct and improve safety communications with the field. Safety and health standards were adopted and a record system developed to comply with the Act. Also progressing is compliance with Highway Safety Act provisions concerning road markings.

Visitor services

After successful experimentation with computerized campsite reservations in six large national parks in 1973, the decision was made to extend the system to 21 areas in 1974.

Largely due to the shortness of preparation time, many management problems were encountered, and the program was discontinued. The concept and operation of such a program is now under intensive study. Whether a system will be in operation in 1975 is undecided. But the experience showed that a substantial proportion of the camping public will use and appreciate a reservations system.

Also implemented in 1974 were two new programs for intensified visitor participation and training in backcountry-backpacking use and boating in backcountry water. Pilot programs, conducted in Shenandoah, Rocky Mountain and Olympic National Parks, gave inexperienced visitors an opportunity to learn basic skills required to enjoy the backcountry with minimum impact on the environment.

Concessioner services

A vital part of NPS service to the public is offered by private enterprise—the concessioner. Park concessioners supply food and lodging to thousands of visitors. And they offer numerous other services; for example, renting horses, mules, bicycles and canoes.

There are 338 concessioners operating in 86 areas of the Park System, with gross sales totalling more than \$120 million. They pay franchise fees to the government which this year totalled \$2.1 million.

A major concessions review, begun under the reorganization, continued this year. A Departmental study is underway to identify current problems and suggest courses of action. A report is expected early in 1975.

Maintaining park facilities

As part of the Washington Office reorganization late in 1973, the Division of Maintenance was reestablished and staffed to provide overall maintenance policy guidance; budget analysis and justification; and a Washington Office "point-of-contact" for the field maintenance organization.

Policy and program areas addressed in this year's operation include the mandated sign replacement and bridge inspection programs; maintenance and preservation of historic structures; a main-

tenance intake training program for engineers and technicians and the EPA generated pollution abatement requirements relating to water and wastewater treatment, solid waste, and air quality.

The Division also developed Service guidelines and basic policies for implementation of the Departmental Energy Conservation Program, through which the field areas were able to reduce energy consumption by 16 percent for the 1974 fiscal year.

Interpretation

A major thrust of the reorganization program was restoration of interpretation to its former pre-eminent place in the national parks. An Office of Interpretation was established in Washington with counterpart offices in the Regions. Recognizing that the most effective interpretation is accomplished by face-to-face communication, emphasis has been on improving ranger-conducted programs in the parks.

To help conserve energy, parks were directed to offer more interpretive services that incorporate walking and bicycling. Handlebar ecology trips were initiated in dozens of parks. Others found success in experiments introducing visitors to the park environment, ranging from interpretive hayrides offered nightly at Great Smoky Mountains National Park, to ecology float trips at Yosemite and snowshoe walks at Grand Canyon, Sequoia, Kings Canyon, and other parks. At Glacier National Park, interpreters assigned to "ride the Amtrak" along the 60 miles of park boundary on the daily run from Seattle to Chicago, gave special programs to 10,000 appreciative passengers.

A dramatic and popular element of National Park Service interpretation is the living history presentations. These bring alive to visitors ways of life of the past through historically accurate demonstrations of farming, early industry, crafts and folklife.

At Scotts Bluff National Monument, in a program explaining the Oregon Trail in the 1850's, visitors tasted camp coffee, salt pork, and sour dough pancakes. At Saratoga National Historical Park, visitors saw an Indian couple demonstrate the life of the eastern woodland native at the time of the Revolution. More than 105 parks conducted living history programs in 1974.

Throughout the country, park interpretation has gone a step beyond demonstrations to activities involving visitors as participants. With Creek Indians at Ocmulgee National Monument, visitors can create modern beadwork, weave cloth or pine needle baskets, or dance to native chants. At Homestead National Monument visitors are making soap and dipping candles, while at Blue Ridge Parkway they are churning milk, and spinning, carding and dyeing wool.

Visitors spending the night in areas of the Southwest Region are enjoying interpretation of the sky. Vacationers to the beaches of Gulf Islands may sketch dunes, net sea life, and sculpture sand. And in Rock Creek Park, D.C., woodland camps are being held for the mentally and physically retarded.

More attention than ever is being paid to young visitors. Parks in California and Arizona have developed an environmental living program in which school classes make overnight visits to sites where

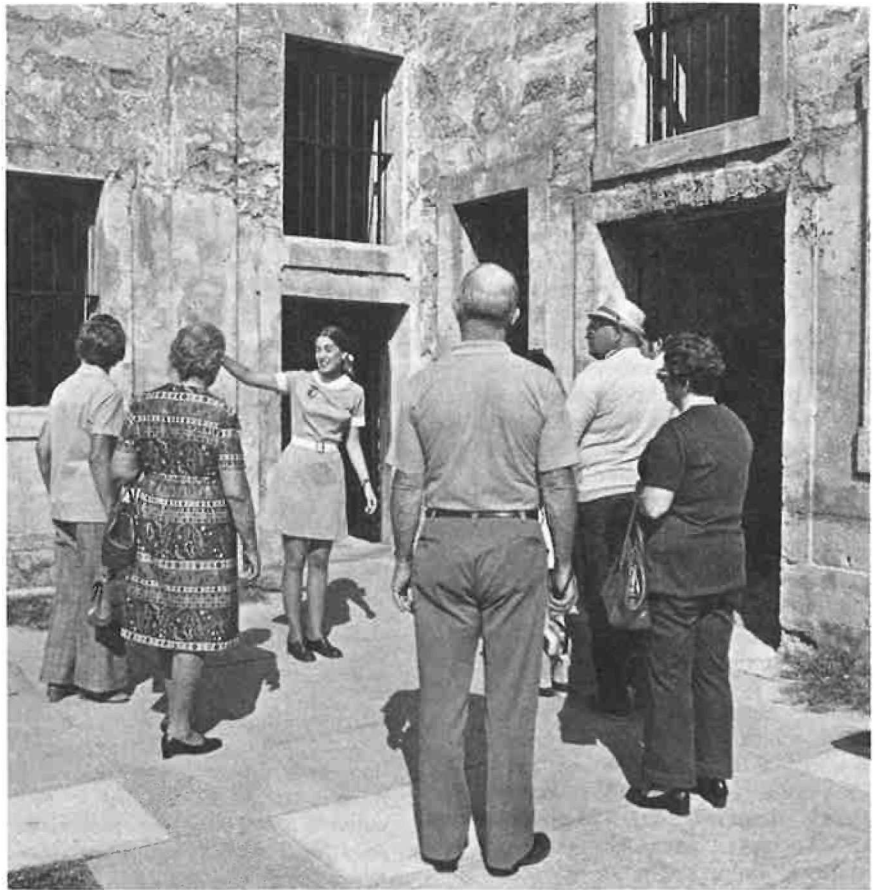
the children take on the role of people of the past. At Independence National Historical Park, children learn 18th Century games. At Cape Hatteras National Seashore they learn to make candles, or mosaics and collages of beach materials. City children participate in modern dance programs at Ford's Theatre, D.C., and go fishing at Golden Gate National Recreation Area in San Francisco.

The Service continues to place high priority on environmental education programs directed at school age youngsters. By the end of the year, some 120 Environmental Study Areas had been established and were used by more than 2,000 school systems.

Volunteers in parks

Again the Volunteers in Parks (VIP's) made an invaluable contri-

bution, giving of their time and talents to supplement the activities



At Castillo de San Marcos National Monument, Florida, an interpreter relates historic facts about the fortifications built by Spain between 1672 and 1695.



Volunteers in Parks at Cabrillo National Monument, California give visitors a view of life in 1887 at the Old Point Loma Lighthouse.

of the National Park Service in 145 areas of the System. Most volunteers live in the local areas near the parks they serve, although some travel across the country to apply specialized skills.

A husband and wife team, serving as volunteers in Great Smoky Mountains National Park, saved lives and property. Their quick action brought about the evacuation of nine persons from a campground lying in the path of a flash flood.

Other volunteers helped school children recall the past at Frederick Douglass Home, D.C., made visitors aware of the environment of Cape Hatteras National Seashore through the use of art media, and enabled visitors to understand more about the sky above Grand Teton National Park.

In 1974 over 5,000 VIP's donated more than 306,000 hours to work in the National Park System. The range of activities was wide: living history—48 percent; interpretation—24 percent; resource management—16 percent, other activities—11 percent.



A film crew from Harpers Ferry Center at work at Yorktown, Colonial National Historical Park, Virginia.

Telling freedom's story

To commemorate the 200th anniversary of the struggle for American independence, the National Park Service has created one of the most extensive programs in its history.

This program comprises two major efforts. One is to prepare for Bicentennial visitation the more than 20 historic sites NPS administers that are associated with the events and personalities of the Colonial period and the Revolutionary War.

This activity entails major work in archeology, historic studies and preservation. Visitor centers will be constructed, and facilities such as roads, trails and parking lots improved.

As the main technological center for research, planning, design and construction, the Denver Service Center has primary responsibility for this development activity. DSC is working on 200 projects.

Prominent among these are reconstructions or restorations of Fort Stanwix National Monument, N.Y., Fort Moultrie at Fort Sumter National Monument, S.C., several structures clustered around Independence National Historical Park, Philadelphia, and the siege

lines of 1781 at Yorktown, Colonial National Historical Park, Va.

Construction of the new Constitution Gardens and public facilities on the Mall will help ready the National Capital for the celebration.

Harpers Ferry Center has completed exhibits for new or remodeled visitor centers in 12 areas and films for four Revolutionary War sites. Films for 12 more are in process.

The second major NPS Bicentennial effort involves preparation for festivities in individual park areas across the country.

These park activities will encompass both Bicentennial themes and those evolving from each area's unique place in American culture.

To help the parks make the citizens, explorers, soldiers, Indians, trappers and pioneers of America's early years come alive for visitors, Harpers Ferry Center is involved in one of its largest interpretive activities.

Under construction are a hundred and fifty Revolutionary War cannon. Wall charts are being published, to supply facts about the Colonial period in a technique popular in those times.

Two general films are being made, one telling the story of the common American of the war period, the other relating the cultural diversity of the land that was to become the United States.

Our special interpretive items will include Bicentennial display banners, traveling exhibits, slide programs, traveling living history units, posters, brochures, and a film library. A major publications effort reflects the tremendous public interest in our 200th birthday.

Although the official Bicentennial period does not begin until March 1975, NPS activities began this fall with a commemoration at Independence NHP. There President Ford addressed an assembly honoring the convening of the First Continental Congress which met on September 5, 1774.

In October, the restored Second Bank of the United States was opened at Independence, displaying the noted Peale Collection of Portraits of the Founding Fathers.

The Service expects 270 million visits to the System in 1976. Substantial progress in getting the parks ready for this visitor tide was made during the past year.

Early in January the Bicentennial Action Group was appointed, headed by Deputy Director Dickenson.

This group, meeting throughout the year, was instrumental in bringing the number of Bicentennial development projects under construction from 10 percent to 90 percent, involving \$100 million.

An Assistant to the Director for Bicentennial was appointed to head the Bicentennial Coordination Office in Washington. In coordination with active Bicentennial Coordinators in all Regions, this group is cooperating on celebration activities for 250 units of the System.

This office developed lists of cooperative Bicentennial project suggestions for interested private organizations. Assisted by the Office of Public Affairs, a public and news media information program was developed. Special materials such as background kits and the Bicentennial edition of the NPS Newsletter have been issued.

Director Walker has emphasized that completion of Bicentennial tasks will require the involvement of every Park Service employee. "Only with such cooperation can a commemoration be conducted worthy of the sites in our care and the achievements of those we honor," he said.

Administering the service

During 1974, NPS took a new look at its investment in human resources.

An Executive Manpower Resources Board (EMRB) was established. Headed by the Deputy Director, its function is to devise training and development policies. Based

Planning and development

A major contribution this year has been the initiation of regional cooperation—working with other jurisdictions in our planning activities. This is expected to provide more economical development concepts as well as superior use of land resources.

The National Park Service areas do not exist within a vacuum. What goes on beyond park boundaries is of vital concern to visitors who are interested in transportation, food, lodging, regional attractions, and other facilities outside of the parks. NPS recognizes the interdependence of all parts of regional environments. Comprehensive regional plans will require more time for preparation, but should be far more useful.

As the Bicentennial report indicates, almost a lion's share of development has been for Bicentennial projects. While racing against this deadline, the Service worked on 450 environmental impact statements concerned with wilderness, master plans, legislative proposals, development concept plans, resource management plans, and construction projects.

Nearly 200 environmental assessments were prepared on projects not requiring full environmental impact statements. Nearly 1400 environmental impact statements by other agencies were reviewed, particularly those dealing with protection of the Nation's cultural resources.

In addition, the Denver Service Center has more than 150 master plans and many transportation studies in various stages of preparation.

on Board recommendations, Director Walker instructed the field to establish EMRB's at the regional level, establish full-time training officer positions in each region, and designate a coordinator in each area for training and human resources development.

The intake program for entry level positions was decentralized to each Region in the fields of Park Management, Administration and Maintenance.

For individuals at mid-career level, Occupational Advisory Groups were established for training in maintenance, administration, law enforcement, safety and resource management and interpretation. The new EMRBs will rely

on these groups in determining whether training funds are used effectively.

An Equal Employment Opportunity Week observed Servicewide and Women's Week meetings held for Washington and National Capital Parks personnel were highlights of efforts devoted to ending discrimination in NPS employment.

With improvements made to the Financial Management System, NPS now has an outstanding data communication system for general application, with a network reaching from Washington to eight Regional Offices.

Implementing the policy of decentralization, payroll operations under the DIPS System were moved to the field during 1974.

Planning and program policy

As part of the reorganization, Director Walker established an Office of Planning & Program Policy in Washington. That office provides the Directorate with an overview of the national economic, cultural, and social changes and their effects on Service policies. It provides a philosophical benchmark as to Service direction, and an overall perspective on the consequences of individual actions. It consolidates Servicewide requirements into future year program direction and coordinates special studies to outline, highlight, and

recommend decisions.

During 1974, with the cooperation of the managers throughout the System, the office coordinated the review and revision of administrative policies. A draft has been made available for review by conservation associations, Federal agencies, Members of Congress, and the general public.

The office also studied and analyzed the effects of the energy crisis on NPS operations, and is currently reviewing development and staffing needs.

The challenge in Alaska

In accordance with the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, Secretary Morton in December of 1973 sent to Congress his recommendations on the "four systems,"—national parks, national wildlife refuges, national forests, and national wild and scenic rivers.

The park proposals would add more than 32 million acres in Alaska to the National Park System, doubling its size.

Delivered with the legislative proposal were draft environmental impact statements on the 11 proposed park areas. For the first

six months of 1974 these were extensively reviewed by all segments of the public. The final EIS's have now been prepared.

Congress is expected to begin consideration of the recommendations in 1975. Assistant Secretary Reed has made the Alaska Planning Group, chaired by NPS, a continuing operation to provide legislative support material as requested by Congress.

At stake is a "last chance" effort to preserve for future generations land and water areas of such great size and pristine quality.

Cooperating with states and foreign governments

In addition to its role in historic preservation, the National Park Service has long been a leader in the preservation of this country's natural resources. NPS works with many public and private organizations in seeking conservation goals.

A landmark meeting was held this year between the NPS Directorate and several state park directors. It set the stage for sharing of information, ideas, concepts, problems and procedures. Task forces were established to carry out recommendations.

Another example of successful cooperation is the Training Institute for Park and Recreation Management. During the year, the Institute conducted several courses on maintenance, interpretation, visitor protection, and resource management. These are open to Federal, State, local, Indian, and foreign park and recreation personnel.

The National Park Service also has continued to move forward in international cooperation in the field of national park conservation. Active exchanges took place between the United States and the USSR. Soviet scientists joined U.S. representatives in studying Everglades National Park as well as selected wildlife refuges and other conservation areas. NPS representatives were active in both countries in the Working Group on the Enhancement of the Urban Environment, especially in matters relating to historic preservation.

During 1974, NPS took an active role in the U.S. implementation of UNESCO's international Programme on Man and the Biosphere (MAB). This intergovernmental program identifies and preserves examples of the world's biotic provinces, encourages research in biological reserves that may be designated by participating nations, fosters an international effort for environmental education.

At the third session of the International Coordinating Council of MAB, held in Washington in September, the United States designated 20 areas as "biosphere reserves."

Following an Agreement of Friendship and Cooperation between

the U.S. and Spain, a cooperative program in administration of national parks, refuges, and wild fauna and flora was inaugurated.

The Federal Republic of Mexico has formally joined the NPS, Parks Canada and the University of Michi-

gan as a co-sponsor of the International Seminar on the Administration of National Parks and Equivalent Reserves. The Seminar has fostered a closer working relationship with our neighboring park officials.

Informing and involving the public

Director Walker frequently has emphasized the importance of making NPS more aware of the public's view of the Service and of their concern for the National Parks. A policy of openness and frankness has been fostered—an approach to park planning which involves the public, and administration concerned with the visitor as well as the resource. Outside views are now solicited early in the planning process as opposed to getting public reaction after plans have been drawn.

The response to this approach has been gratifying.

The Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings and Monuments continued to provide top-level counsel. The two customary meetings were held in Washington, D.C. In addition, task forces visited Golden Gate National Recreation Area and Isle Royale and Voyageurs National Parks.

Valuable citizen input was achieved through meetings with the Southwest Regional Advisory Committee. Several meetings were held in the Rocky Mountain Region on various proposals in addition to wilderness and master plan matters. The Midwest Regional Advisory Committee has met with representatives of state and local governments, universities, conservation organizations and others.

New areas in particular have benefited from public participation in planning matters. Examples are well attended meetings on Buffalo National River and Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore.

Public meetings have been well publicized. With the cooperation of the Minnesota-Wisconsin Boundary Area Commission and the League of Women Voters, a brochure was distributed to landowners in the St. Croix River valley and to news media and organizations. Effective publicity for the twelve public meetings held in the Western Region assured excellent attendance.

An example of the value of the public involvement policy was the observance of the 100th anniversary of President Hoover's birth held at Herbert Hoover National Historic Site in Iowa. While NPS spearheaded the project, it involved the cooperation of the Hoover Library Association, the community of West Branch, state and local agencies, and pools of cultural talent drawn upon for a revival of the Chautauqua.

Two notable publications were issued having special relevance to the Bicentennial. These are "1776: A Guide to Historic Places of the American Revolution" and "Signers of the Declaration."

Several other books were published by the National Park Service during 1974, including "Yellowstone National Park, Its Exploration and Development," by Aubrey L. Haines; "The Steamboat Bertrand," by Jerome E. Petsche; "The Bertrand Bottles," by Ronald R. Switzer. "Planting in Urban Soils," a booklet by James C. Patterson also was published.

As part of NPS's continuing visitor information program, Harpers Ferry Center produced 188

information folders (20,422,000 copies) plus posters, and handbooks, several of which concerned the Bicentennial. The Center also provided wayside exhibits, films, sound/slide programs, and audio station messages to the parks. As part of the NPS program to accommodate foreign visitors, all new folders and wayside exhibits introduced the metric numbering system.

National Park Service increased its efforts to keep the American public informed of new and revised programs and activities throughout the National Park System. This activity was given impetus by the energy shortage and changing patterns in park use.

Many of the more than 100 national press releases issued from Washington concerned such topical issues as the energy crisis, the expansion of the campsite reservation program and its subsequent termination, fire management, expansion of the backcountry permit system, and the environmental impact statement release and/or public meetings on the extension of the Grand Teton airport, the NPS bear management program and the Yosemite master plan.

Feature releases were produced on the Bicentennial, park safety and such local celebrations as the Hoover anniversary and the inauguration of new visitor services such as the shuttle bus at Grand Canyon's south rim.

Many releases were modified for regional, state or local use by regional office public affairs officers.

Visual impact was added to the safety campaign with a series of five television public service announcements (PSA's) prepared in Washington for nationwide use. A series of nationwide radio PSA's were done by NPS celebrity "volunteers" Curt Gowdy and Jack Webb as a public service.

The Public Affairs Office continued to coordinate Director Walker's "Know Your Parks" column, which was distributed weekly to 800 newspapers. It also expanded its popular service, "Editorial Briefs," which now is available to all employees.

The Newsletter and Courier continued to keep employees, alumni and advisory boards informed of developments. Also, basic information on the System was provided the public in answer to the 700 letters which are received each week by the public inquiries section.

Private sector cooperation

During 1974, the Board of the National Park Foundation added seven new members, enhancing its geographical diversity.

The Board presently is developing a comprehensive, long-term fundraising program to enable the National Park Foundation to respond to the growing needs for preservation of National Park quality land in advance of legislation, as well as support for various National Park Service programs.

The Foundation also acted to preserve vital tracts in the Virgin Islands National Park; Fort Donelson National Military Park, Tennessee; Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site, New Hampshire; Fort Necessity National Battlefield, Pennsylvania; the proposed Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, Alaska; Antietam National Battlefield Site, Maryland; and Piscataway Park, Maryland.

In addition, the Foundation funded a study of the potential uses of the Plum Orchard Manor House on the Cumberland Island National Seashore, and an anthropological study of the dog sled trading routes in Alaska above the Arctic Circle.

In another Foundation activity, the final part of the grades three through six segment of the National Environmental Education Development (NEED) program was published and the development of the kindergarten, grades one and two material was completed. During the latter part of the year, work began on the NEED materials for grades seven and eight. The NEED program, a comprehensive environmental education curriculum for

kindergarten through the eighth grade, has been funded entirely by the Foundation.

Also in the private sector, more than 200 park areas are served by non-profit NPS cooperating associations which produce and sell such educational materials as publications, maps, visual aids and handicrafts directly related to the interpretation of parks. During the past year, Washington and Regional Office direction and coordination of these independent associations was strengthened to insure even greater service to the visiting public. This guidance has been toward helping associations upgrade the quality of their publications. Ten outstanding publications produced by cooperating associations in 1974 were given special NPS awards following competition and judging by an independent panel of seven experts. Henceforth such competition will be every two years.

Cooperating associations increasingly are contributing assistance to the Service in fostering public appreciation and understanding of the parks. Also, monies received, over the cost of producing their materials and which are invested in NPS interpretive programs, totaled approximately \$900,000 this year.

Finally, NPS is extremely grateful to Herman Edel Associates of New York City for composing, as a public service, "Treasures of America—A National Park Service song." This music has been used chiefly for NPS radio and television public service announcements.



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