

1973 report*State of the Parks***Director's message**

This issue of the Newsletter is devoted entirely to the report of the State of the Parks. It is a report of the year of 1973, my first as Director and the 102nd of the National Park Idea which began with the creation of Yellowstone National Park on this date, March 1, in 1872.

This report is printed in our NPS Newsletter so that it might reach all of you who work for the National Park Service—the people who protect and maintain the priceless heritage of so many of America's Natural, Historic, Cultural and Recreational areas: you whose lives are so closely tied to the best interests of our 298 National Park areas.

There are no shortages of challenges for any Director of the National Park Service. In meeting each of these challenges during my first year I found always a reservoir of support from you, its employees. You were of great assistance to me while I went through a crash learning process, learning much of what to most of you is 'old hat.' During this period I frequently turned to the Organic Act of 1916, which created the National Park Service, which spells out so eloquently what our responsibilities are to the areas we are charged to protect.

I want to urge each of you to read and to reflect often on that Act. I want you to share my pride in knowing that such responsible leaders almost 60 years ago had the foresight and wisdom to create basic and far reaching principles which today we still turn to again and again.

In January of 1973, the parks were suffering from growing pains. Staffing and development had not kept pace with the very gratifying increase in park areas. I can see quite vividly the rationale behind the important expansion during the 1950s and the 1960s. But I believe that now, well into the 1970s and even more importantly the "Second Century of Parks," that the time has come to stabilize our efforts, regroup, so to speak, and consolidate our position. It is time now to perfect all the gains made since 1872.

The size of the challenges we face is well known. When Secretary of the Interior Rogers C. B. Morton announced my appointment he said, "The mission of our Park Service to conserve and preserve our natural and historical her-

itage and to provide educational and recreational opportunities for its millions of visitors is one of the great challenges of our time."

The response which you—the people of the parks—gave to these challenges, these new directions, has far exceeded my expectations. Your professionalism and expertise, matched by your dedication and enthusiasm, made possible the past year's substantial gains recorded in this report. But next year we must do even better.

We have completed the basic work of reorganization. I am encouraged by an NPS attitude of quiet confidence in its own ability—a confidence based on a solid record of achievement. America is fortunate that this is the prevailing attitude of the Park Service. Without it, opportunities of this second century could not be realized. But again, we cannot rest on this confidence. We cannot become complacent. The real work begins now, based on the firm foundations of our past accomplishments.

The recent reorganization and the current in-depth study, park by park, of our estimated \$2.5 billion development backlog will take us a long way toward properly placing in perspective that which is to be the true thrust of the second century of parks. These efforts will certainly enable us to better discuss our goals within the Department of the Interior, with the Office of Management and Budget, and with members of Congress.

We are preparing now for the challenges which will be so quickly upon us—the proper celebration of America's 200th Anniversary in 1976—the potential doubling of the National Park System if Congress adopts the program which President Nixon has set forth for Alaskan lands—the necessity to do an even better job of interpreting America's heritage to all the visitors to the 298 areas of the National Park System.

I am also very proud of the work that has been accomplished by the National Park Service during this past year. You too should be proud. You all were part of this year of progress. I hope with this report that each and every one of you will understand the full scope of the accomplishments of 1973 as well as how much remains to be done.



Decentralization

In carrying out my directives to streamline and decentralize the National Park Service operations, the most obvious change has been the redrawing of regional boundaries resulting in the creation of new regional offices in Denver and Boston. Denver is the nerve center of the new Rocky Mountain Region which includes the states of Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, Montana and the two Dakotas. These six states were a part of the Midwest Region (Omaha).

To adjust for the loss of these six states, the reorganization added five Great Lakes states to the Midwest Region. The five Great Lakes states came from the old Northeast Region.

The remaining part of the Northeast Region was subdivided into the North Atlantic Region with headquarters in Boston and the Mid-Atlantic Region with headquarters remaining in Philadelphia. Philadelphia now supervises National Park Service activities in the states of Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia.

Why did we make these changes?

The change in regional boundaries is a solid step toward the creation of uniform federal regions which has long been an aim of President Nixon's. It brings the action authority as close to the local level as possible. It more evenly distributes the work load of supervision between regions.

There is no problem that gives us more concern than that of staffing. We must have the people to get the job done. As a start in the park staff rebuilding process the reorganization trimmed 97 positions from the Washington office and reassigned them to the field. To make sure that the increased manpower went where it was most needed, Regional Directors selected the spots which received the personnel help. Each region worked up a list of priority needs and assigned their additional personnel to meet these needs. The transfer of personnel helped, but we still are working to bring National Park Service staffing up to even minimum levels. The need for

increased staffing can be seen in the fact that the number of park areas to be manned increased from 1964 to 1973 by 36 percent and the visitation to the parks increased by 101 percent—yet total National Park Service personnel increased only 21 percent. We have a long way to go to properly staff our nation's parks, and we will continue to work toward satisfactory staffing patterns.

Internal reorganization in Washington

Moving 97 positions from Washington to the field coincided with restructuring of the Washington staff to provide clearer lines of authority and to eliminate "layering" of responsibility. As a result of these changes, operations have been streamlined toward the goal of having one focus of responsibility—only one phone call or one letter to one person to get an answer, to reach a decision, to solve a park problem. And there should be no mystery, now, about who to call to get the job done.

Reemphasis on interpretation

One of my main concerns has been the need for emphasis on our interpretive program, the key to our great tradition of public service. In the last two decades, interpretation too often had to be subordinated to other park management needs. The doubling of the visitor

load and the addition of so many new areas to the park system forced the parks to assign priorities to cover the infinite needs of the park program with the finite funds available.

In earlier years, good interpretation provided the most memorable experience gained by a park visitor. The park ranger, naturalist and historian were able to give time to the individual needs of each visitor. As the rising flood of visitation continued, other needs became more pressing—because they could not be delayed. Time and funds which had been spent on interpreting the parks to the visitor often were diverted to providing for the immediate and essential physical needs of the new millions of visitors.

It was not only the shortage of funds and personnel which downgraded our interpretive efforts. Just as important was a diminished identity of the interpreter who more frequently was asked to take on "managerial" tasks which tended to reduce his effectiveness as an interpreter. The National Park System is taking steps to restore the identity and is asking Congress to provide the funding to give interpretation its rightful position as a park function.

Another facet of the reorganization has been the strengthening of our interpretive program by establishing a WASO office of interpretation and corresponding offices in each region. Already, the results are beginning to show:

Everglades and Yosemite National Parks have outstanding and varied programs which may well become prototypes for other park areas. Cumberland Gap increased its weekly programs from 55 in 1972 to 123 this year. Twenty-five other field areas inaugurated new living history programs, and parks throughout the country began placing a greater emphasis on services that directly involve visitors as participants in interpretive programs, rather than as mere spectators. New demonstrations of crafts and cultures by American Indians were begun in the interpretive program of eight parks, while existing Indian cultural programs were expanded in many other parks.

We should be proud of new directions in our interpretive programs which involve new segments of the American public. Examples are the

[illegible]

Legend

- INTERNATIONAL PARK
- NATIONAL PARK
- NATIONAL MONUMENT
- NATIONAL LAKESHORE
- NATIONAL SEASHORE
- NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK
- NATIONAL SCENIC RIVERWAY or RIVER
- NATIONAL MILITARY PARK
- NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD SITE
- NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD PARK
- NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE
- NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD

MAJOR AREAS ADMINISTERED BY
NATIONAL CAPITAL PARKS
AND LAND AROUND WASHINGTON D C

NOT SHOWN ON MAP

Antietam Park	White House for Ft
Belmont House & Cemetery	Muse Crater Park
Belmont House	Ballston Parkways
Benning Park	Boundary Reservoir
Beltsville Natl Cem.	The Water
Blair Park	Washington Monuments
C&O Canal NHP	Wolf Trap Farm Park
Park Theatre NHP	
Fl Washington Park	
Frederick Downsides Home	
Ge. Wash. Man. Pier	
John Elms Park	
Great Falls Park	
Greenbelt Park	
Harmon Memorial	
JFK Ctr for the Performing Arts	
James Monroe	
John F. Kennedy's Farm	
Lincoln Park	
Piscataway Park	

SOUTHEAST
PUERTO RICO AND THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

Braille mini-folders prepared for Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park and Ocmulgee National Monument, which bring new enjoyment of their heritage to the blind who come to "see the parks," as well as increasing overall programs for the handicapped in general.

Environmental educational pro-

grams, which are an integral part of parks interpretive activities, continued to grow. Twenty-eight new National Environmental Study Areas were established in the parks and 275 workshops were held for teachers. Environmentally trained teachers, using the parks as outdoor laboratories, are able to greatly

expand and diversify environmental education programs and multiply the effectiveness of National Park Service interpretive personnel.

Park areas can no longer afford to ignore such new developments. They cannot maintain a "we've always done it this way" program which stands in the way of innovation.



Living history programs which add a dimension of authentic re-creation of early American life have been expanded in many parks.

Concessions in the parks

In the reorganization completed this past year, I designated an Assistant Director for Concessions Management, to place greater emphasis on this function and to recognize its importance in the Service's mission as a people-serving agency.

Services provided to the visitors in the National Parks range from small saddle horse operations to the large operations in the biggest parks, such as Yellowstone and Yosemite, where the concessioner operates hotels and restaurants ac-

commodating thousands of visitors.

At the end of 1973, there were 320 separate concessioners operating in 82 areas of the parks. Their gross sales amounted to about \$108 million with a net profit of about \$5.9 million. These concessioners had a capital investment figured at \$42.5 million, and they have invested \$10.5 million in improving visitor facilities and their own equipment during the year. They paid franchise fees to the government totalling \$1.9 million during the year.

The entire concessioner operation of the parks will be given a thorough review in Fiscal Year 1975, which begins July 1, 1974. This review is the recommendation of the Special Concession Committee of the Secretary's Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings and Monuments as well as that of the National Parks Centennial Commission. Both have taken note of some long term problems in the concessions area which can be solved by some new directions and policies.

Moving people

I have often heard park managers say, "It's easy to manage a park. What's rough is managing people."

How do you change the visitor's desired destination from a park that is overcrowded to a park that is undervisited—while at the same time conserving gasoline?

How do you make it possible for people to come to a scenic natural area in the tremendous numbers promised in the second century of parks, without changing the natural scenic area into an area of wall to wall campgrounds and parking lots?

How do you present the glories of the high mountain meadows and the uplifting of the spirit produced by a wilderness hike, without hiding wilderness beauty under the litter of too many humans?

How do you transport people through a National Historic Site, while still maintaining the historic realism which the automobile destroys by its very presence?

The people of the parks have come up with some of the answers to these tough questions, and the results of their innovative planning

are now on display. A few examples are:

The use of horse-drawn trash collection wagons at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, and the horse-drawn vehicles which move visitors from point to point at Lyndon B. Johnson National Historic Site in Texas. Mass transit facilities—buses and wagons combined—carried 169,000 passengers on the Lyndon B. Johnson area alone.

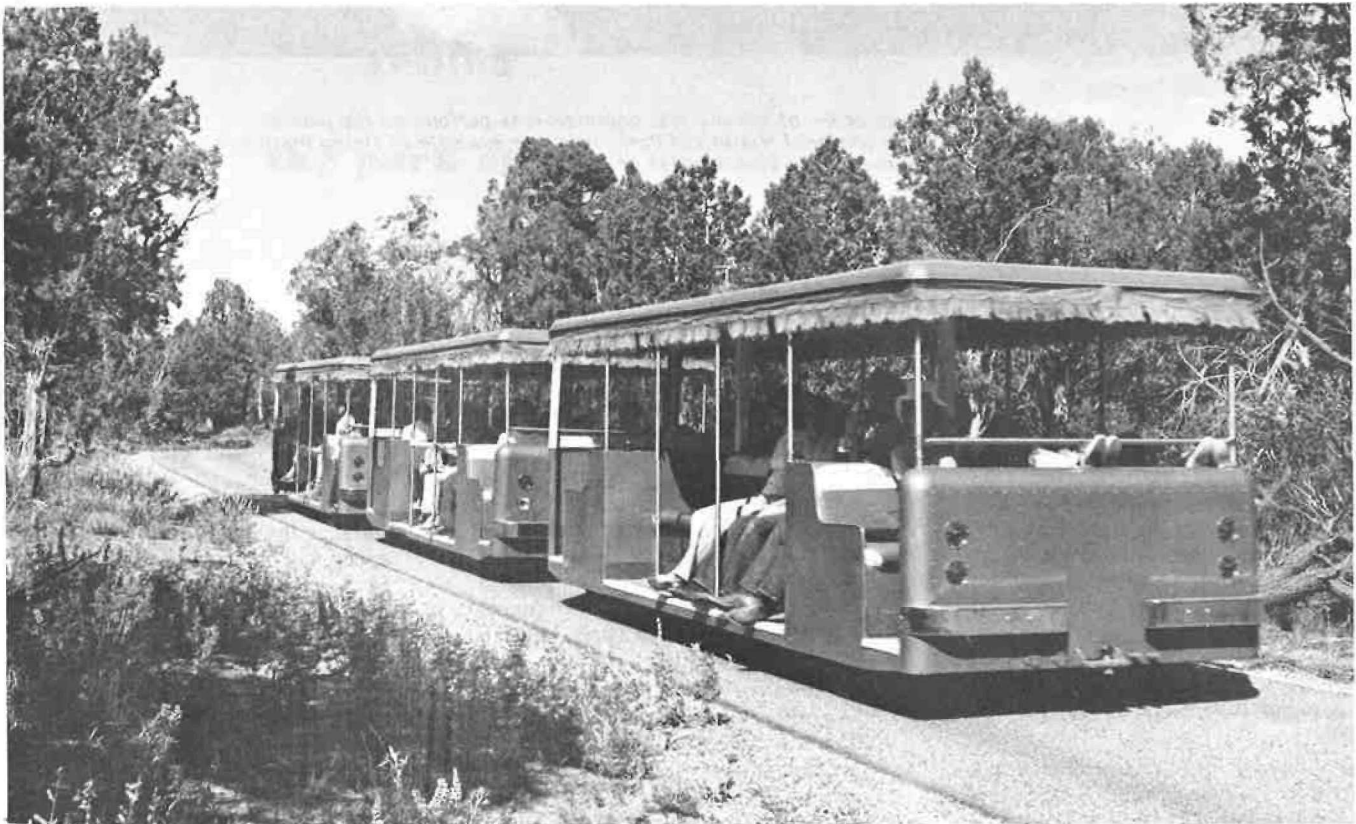
Shuttle buses bring visitors to and/or through the attractions of Yosemite and Everglades National Parks, to Dinosaur National Monument and to Mount McKinley National Park, to the Grand Canyon and to Point Reyes National Seashore.

Mini-buses carry visitors to widely separated parts at Mesa Verde National Park, while bigger buses move visitors through the Nation's Capital City parks. These buses allow visitors to leave the car in the parking lot while they travel—reducing pollution, crowd-

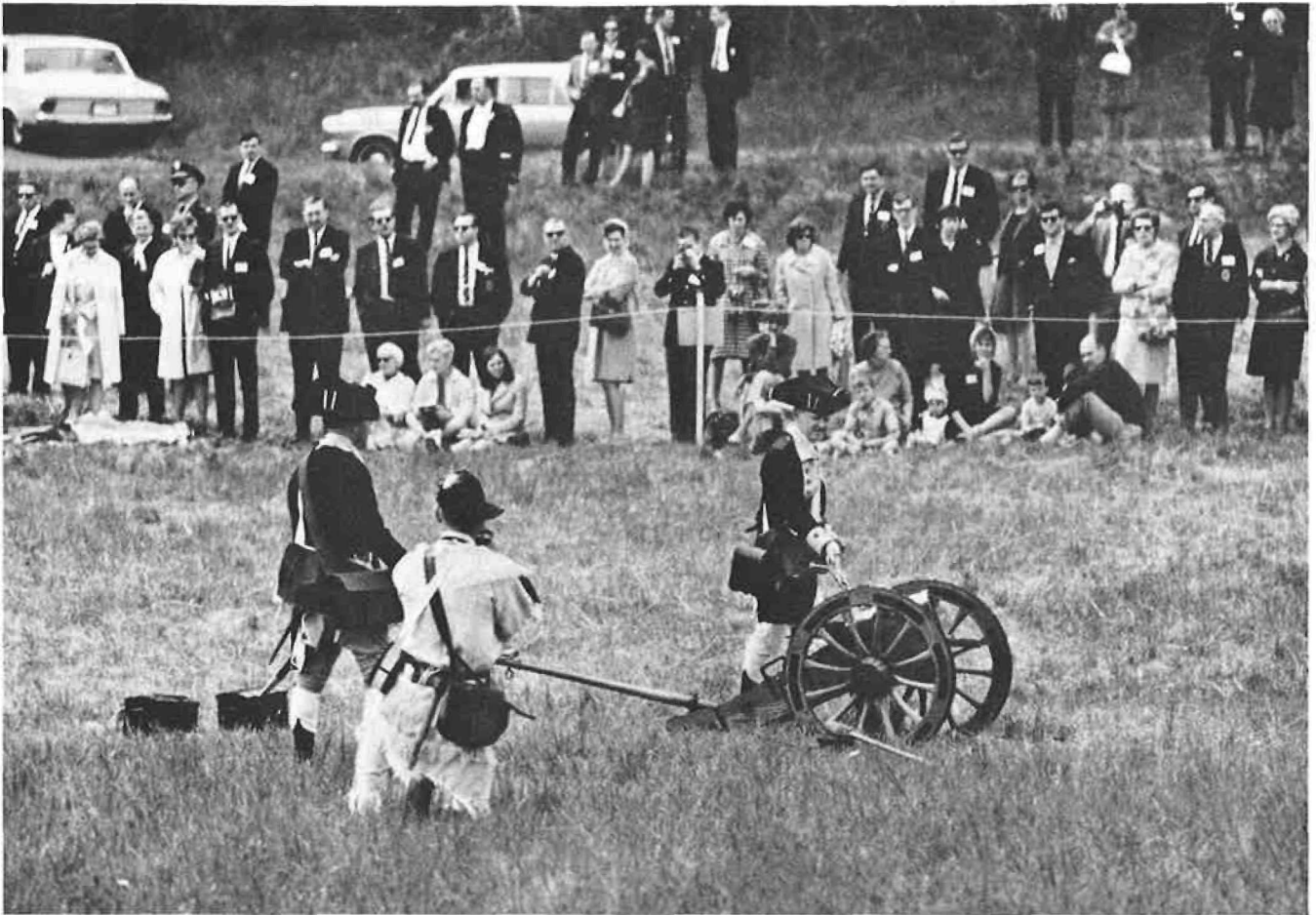
ing and gasoline consumption.

Our public affairs programs have constantly pointed out that 200 of the national park areas are within 100 miles of one or more metropolitan areas, encouraging visitors to see the parks closest to them. This reduces gasoline consumption and spreads the visitation more evenly among all parks.

To prevent damage to fragile park environments, many National Park System areas have completed back-country management plans. Based on the determined carrying capacity of the land to be managed, we have begun pilot programs which make sure that the over-use of the parks does not damage the parks or lower the quality of the experience. These pilot programs use a free permit system to spread hikers' use of the back-country trails to avoid the environmental damage caused by overuse of some trails while others are not being used. The system is working well in Yosemite, Yellowstone, Great Smoky Mountains, Shenandoah, Big Bend, Carlsbad Caverns, Grand Canyon and many more. However, some parks still are unable to put this system into effect because they lack the personnel. The resource suffers as a result.



At Mesa Verde, mini-buses were first used in 1973 to transport visitors to out-of-the-way ruins on Wetherill Mesa.



Small detachments of Revolutionary War organizations perform on the parade ground at Morristown National Historical Park. It is one example of living history which may be seen during the Bicentennial celebration.

Bicentennial planning

America will celebrate her 200th birthday on July 4, 1976. As custodian of America's historic heritage, the National Park Service will face a tremendous challenge in 1976—the necessity of faithfully interpreting the years of the American Revolution—the years in which America's desire to be free, as stated in the Declaration of Independence, was tested in the crucible of war. Twenty-three of our national park areas are directly connected with persons and places of the Revolution.

Although those 23 areas plan special commemorations of their own roles in America's Birthday Party, all 298 national park areas are taking part in the Bicentennial.

The National Park Service attaches the greatest importance to the proper observance of the Bicentennial, and I am maintaining a close watch on our entire effort since some planning has been slower than necessary. Funding requests to the Congress for 1976 reflect the size of the work to be accomplished in that year. Obviously, we cannot wait until 1976 to get ready, and we have not been idle.

The major thrust of our interpretive effort of 1973 was in preparing for the American Revolution Bicentennial observances. Ten Bicentennial plans were completed and another 16 are underway. Major wayside exhibits are being produced for ten Bicentennial areas and 48

audiovisual projects for 16 areas are in various stages of production. Bicentennial films have been completed for showing in Federal Hall, Minute Man and the National Visitors Center.

Independence National Historical Park, the principal Bicentennial area, will have entire exhibits featuring a film showing in twin theaters in the new visitor center.

In addition to our own people, we expect a great influx of foreign visitors to the national park areas in 1976. We are making preparations—and the National Parks will be ready in '76. Our budget requests reflect the nature of the task ahead of us, both in preparation for the Bicentennial and in hosting the Bicentennial Observance.

Consolidating our position

During this consolidation period, eleven new areas became operative in the National Park System. These areas, funded and staffed for the first time, were:

Golden Gate National Recreation Area in California.

Gateway National Recreation Area in New York and New Jersey.

Buffalo National River in Arkansas.

Cumberland Island National Seashore in Georgia.

Fossil Butte National Monument in Wyoming.

Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site in Montana.

Hohokam-Pima National Monument in Arizona.

John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway in Wyoming.

Thaddeus Kosciuszko Home Na-

tional Memorial in Pennsylvania.

Longfellow Home National Historic Site in Massachusetts.

Puukohola Heiau National Historic Site in Hawaii.

Though not all of these eleven areas were authorized in the past year, they were funded and staffed for the first time, because funds were available for that purpose. The cost of funding these eleven areas, all worthy additions to the National Park System, was \$9.8 million.

Obviously, initial funding is a far cry from "open and operating" for many of these new units. It will take a lot of hard work and ingenuity before the public can even set foot in some of them. Development work is always needed before a new area can carry out its role in the National Park System.

Telling the park story

It has always been difficult to tell the entire story of the National Park Service, because of the great diversity of our activities. The Service preserves the remnants of an ancient culture in the deserts of the West, but it also operates the bike trails which carry people to Mount Vernon. The Service operates parks protecting the grandeur of waterfalls and mountains, but it also exalts the human spirit in other ways—as at Wolf Trap Farm Park for the Performing Arts where more than 450,000 people attended musical programs during 1973.

The park story includes glaciers falling into the sea in Alaska, but it also includes seaside interpretive talks on Fort Jefferson in the sun-drenched Gulf of Mexico.

It is a complex story, but it must be told, because I believe that a well-informed public is the greatest asset the National Park Service can count upon as we go about our important work. To achieve this goal of better telling the park story, I have strengthened and emphasized the public affairs section of the National Park Service. We are now telling our story!

The "lesser used parks," still uncrowded and often not widely known, were publicized at every opportunity—the Saturday Evening Post printed an illustrated article on this subject which I wrote; a major newspaper syndicate began a weekly column, "Know Your Parks," which I write for distribution to 800 newspapers; a number of corporations, ranging from a major airline to a

nationwide retail food chain—began public service promotion of National Park issues.

We receive an average of 800 inquiries each week by mail to the Public Inquiries section of our Information Office. Each of these inquirers receives the park information sought, and also receives a letter detailing some of our new practices, policies and procedures.

Our public affairs office has given special emphasis to the system-wide program aimed at making the parks a safer place—to visit and to work in; to the Secretary of the Interior's plans for adding Alaskan areas to the parks and to the Service's plans for the Bicentennial observance. NPS's active role in the energy crisis received national attention from the press, focussing on our efforts to provide visitors with an enhanced park experience in the face of gasoline cutbacks.

As part of our internal communications, we are revitalizing our Newsletter and beginning to communicate management philosophy through a continuing, "Let's Make a Difference" column which will help all our employees understand our thinking in important areas.

The weekly "Editorial Briefs" received by each park since last April 24 have given our managers an opportunity to see how we are mirrored in the eyes of the public. More than any other innovation of this year of changes, this weekly service has been mentioned to me by superintendents. They say it is "must reading" on their part.

I feel, selfishly perhaps, that the National Park Service has the most innovative and creative public affairs operation in government—given its relatively small size and limited resources. In 1973, I have stressed this function over and over again and I plan to increase the emphasis in 1974. The story we have to tell is not self-serving. On the contrary, it serves the public in providing millions of park visitors with information we have too often kept to ourselves.

In the past, the Park Service has functioned in an informational vacuum. We began to turn this around in 1973. This year, the National Park Service will step out, not only from Washington, but from each regional office and park as well. The result will be an American public better able to appreciate, understand and enjoy their wonderful heritage of parks.



Grant-Kohrs Ranch

Land acquisition

The Land and Water Conservation Fund was established in 1965 by action of Congress. An amendment to the Act in 1970 provided for annual income to the fund of three hundred million dollars through June 30, 1989. Normally, 60 percent of this fund goes to the states each year, and 40 percent to the Federal government. Historically, 75 percent of the federal share has gone to the National Park Service, providing all of the funds for the parks' land acquisition program.

From its beginning in 1965 through the current fiscal year which ends on June 30, 1974, the parks have received appropriations totalling \$432.5 million from this source. We have used \$351.9 mil-

lion of this sum for the purchase of approximately 448,000 acres for the parks. This left a total of \$80.6 million available this year for acquisition. We are using this money to acquire lands in recently authorized areas and to purchase inholding areas in park areas authorized prior to 1960.

Because the funds were available this year, we have emphasized the acquisition of lands at recently authorized areas such as Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, and Ozark National Scenic Riverways. By the end of the calendar year 1973, we had succeeded in obligating \$36.8 million for this purpose; leaving \$43.8 mil-

lion for the second half of the year's acquisition program.

Inholding areas—lands still in private ownership within the boundaries of an existing park area—reduce the effectiveness of the park. They restrict our ability to manage the area. The opportunity inholding program—which purchases lands only when the owner is willing to sell, rather than by the right of eminent domain—has been particularly successful during the past year. The Administration has agreed to support a request for \$20 million for this purpose in the next fiscal year, which gives us reason to hope for elimination of these non-Federal parcels of land within six to ten years time.

Review of development requirements

Apart from reorganization and decentralization efforts last year, a number of other areas received emphasis. One was our development backlog.

During the past 15 years, nearly 100 new areas have come into the National Park System. Each of these new areas was welcomed into the system, although it was obvious that each new addition brought with it the need for development—and development costs money.

Over the years of the last decade, development has not kept pace with need. In performing even the most fundamental development work on new areas, we fell further behind in the work of developing older areas. Periodic replacement and reconstruction needs caused even more development delays.

To get started on the important work of catching up on the backlog of development, I ordered the parks and the regions to carefully survey their development needs. At the beginning of 1973, this backlog had reached approximately two and a half billion dollars! After receiving the field reports of backlog in development at the end of 1973, we began a Washington Office appraisal of the problem, and this appraisal—an agonizing appraisal—is continuing into 1974. We are conducting a system-wide review of all planned development work to guide us in the expenditure of our limited funds. First priority is going to the work which is necessary for the protection of visitors to the parks. Projects necessary to protect the natural and historic park resources were also being assigned top priority.

This review of development needs helped eliminate projects which, although desirable, were prohibitively expensive. It weeded out developments which were environmentally unsound in light of today's increased attention to the entire ecosystem. Even after completion of this review, it is still apparent that the development needs of the National Parks are far beyond our capacity to fund in one year, two years, or even in a decade—under present levels. I have asked that priorities be set in construction

and development needs which will get the most benefit from each dollar of funding.

International park concept progresses

Yellowstone Park started an international movement when it was established more than a century ago. Today, more than 100 countries have established more than 1200 national parks and related reserves. The United States of America has reason to be proud of its position of leadership in this field. The satisfying growth of our park system to its present 298 areas encompassing 30 million acres, places it among the largest in the world. American "know-how" in this field has become one of our most productive exports. Americans have served as advisers and planners to the parks people of many nations.

The United States shared its knowledge with the parks-conscious nations of the world through continuing cooperative programs. Long term agreements with Mexico and Spain call for exporting national park expertise. Joint planning and advisory programs are continuing with Japan, Canada and with the United Nations. It is encouraging to note that several nations have developed their parks expertise to give assistance to us.

The United States remained in the forefront of international park work as host to the Second World Conference on Parks at Yellowstone and Grand Teton in 1972. The United States was the first nation to ratify the UNESCO Convention for the Preservation of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage. President Nixon, who proposed the idea, signed this historic document on Nov. 13, 1973. The National Park Service will play a key role in selecting United States areas for inclusion in the list of world sites identified for preservation, and in continuing to provide leadership for this work.

The United States joined with Canada many years ago to form the Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park, which has delighted visitors of both nations. The proposed Wrangell-St. Elias area in Alaska may provide us with another

opportunity for American-Canadian cooperation across an international boundary.

We are currently engaged in discussions with Mexican authorities on two proposed international parks, one in the vicinity of Big Bend National Park in Texas and the second in the vicinity of Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument in Arizona. Working sessions are being held with Mexican park planners and progress has been made.

Preservation and stabilization

The archeological treasures of Bandelier National Monument were threatened by water standing in stone depressions which housed relics of the past. The problem of draining the water from these sumps was solved by the cooperation of the nearby Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory. Using an electrically heated penetrator, called a "subterrene," holes were bored down through solid rock to a drainage stratum below. This newly developed process melts the rock and lines the inside of the hole with glass as the melted rock congeals. Thus the water was given an outlet without unsightly pumps and piping which would have destroyed the "untouched" appearance of Bandelier's Ruins, and without the problems of ruins-destroying vibrations from a jackhammer.

Although this was the first time that the subterrene has come to the aid of our archeological treasures, it is not the first time that Park Service people have used imagination and innovative methods to solve preservation and stabilization problems.

New areas have doubled the work of preserving the historic buildings as a part of the priceless American heritage. Allocation of funds for preservation and stabilization has not kept pace with the expanding need for this work. I have asked for greater emphasis on this work, and intend to do all I can to find sufficient funds to bring the National Park Service once again up to date in this crucial area. I hope not to have to receive any more reports of buildings or ruins collapsing or condemned because of neglect.



Proposed Wrangell-St. Elias National Park. Glaciers feed off 18,000 ft. Mt. St. Elias in the world's greatest coast range.

Computing the parks

In 1973 the National Park Service streamlined its record keeping and financial accounting with computers. Servicewide financial data was automated first with the Service Incident Reporting System data following closely. Implementation was begun of the RICHES (Resource Inventory of Cultural, Historic, and Environmental Sites) System, a program to permanently record data necessary to protect the national treasures for which the Park Service has the responsibility. Additionally, changes made in the program to report visitation to the parks have made that procedure more efficient with a reduction of paper work.

We experimented with a computerized reservation system at six national parks, handling reservations for campgrounds on a contract basis. The pilot program was so

successful at those six areas that we hope to increase the number of areas served to 20 in 1974. This improvement holds promise of sizable gasoline savings—simply because it prevents many people from making a long drive to a campground, and then finding the campground filled to capacity.

Alaska—challenge and opportunity

On Dec. 18, 1973, Secretary Morton published proposals for additions to the four systems—national parks, national wildlife refuges, national forests, and national wild and scenic rivers—which would add 32.26 million acres to the national parks.

The Secretary's recommendations came after two years of intensive study in Alaska, conducted by an inter-bureau Alaska Planning

Group, reporting to Assistant Secretary Nathaniel P. Reed. The recommendations were pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act which President Nixon signed into law on Dec. 18, 1971.

Although two years of study have gone into formulation of the Secretary's proposals, the law provides for further input concerning the proposals on the part of any interested individual or organization. The Department of the Interior has invited comments upon the draft environmental impact statements which affect the national parks.

Under the terms of the law, final decision on each and every park proposal will be made by the Congress of the United States. The Secretary's proposals hold so much promise for the future of America that we have urged all those who are interested in the national parks to become acquainted with them. Many park employees will be asked about the Alaskan proposal—all employees should be prepared to comment intelligently upon the situation as it unfolds. These dramatic proposals rate the support of all



Increased use of back-country areas threatens fragile environments.

who care for the future of America's natural and scenic values.

During the next five years, the Congress of the United States will consider Secretary Morton's proposals. The Congress has the unique opportunity to seize hold of history and ensure the future of Alaska's scenic, recreational and natural treasures proposed for inclusion in the National Park System.

Secretary Morton's proposals for the Park System would:

- Establish three entirely new national parks—Gates of the Arctic, Lake Clark, and Wrangell-St. Elias, with a total area of more than nineteen million acres.
- Increase the area of Mount McKinley National Park by 3.18 million acres.
- Make a National Park out of Katmai National Monument and increase its area by 1.87 million acres.
- Create a new National Monument

named Kobuk Valley, with an area of 1.85 million acres.

- Create a National Monument named Cape Krusenstern with an area of 350,000 acres.
- Create a National Monument named Aniakchak Caldera, with an area of 440,000 acres.
- Create a National Monument encompassing the Harding Icefield-Kenai Fjords area, of 300,000 acres.
- Designate the entire Charley River watershed and part of the Yukon River as a National River.
- Designate the Chukchi-Imuruk Reserve in the far northwestern part of Alaska, to be administered jointly by the National Park Service and the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife.

Wilderness areas

The Wilderness Act of Sept. 3, 1964, designated a total of 64 areas in the national parks to be

studied for possible inclusion in the Wilderness System, with a combined gross total of 28.5 million acres. Fifty-seven of these areas were mandated for study completion before September of 1974, including a joint study with the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife of Assateague Island National Seashore.

Of the 57 areas with a 1974 deadline, 39 have been submitted to Congress; four of these have been officially designated as wilderness by act of Congress. The areas designated as wilderness to date are: 43,243 acres of the Craters of the Moon National Monument in Idaho; 50,260 acres of the Petrified Forest National Park in Arizona; 78,982 acres of the Lassen Volcanic National Park in California; and 28,640 acres of the Lava Beds National Monument in California. The National Park Service has recommended against Wilderness status for four units. Thirty-one areas, with our recommendation for designation as Wilderness, are awaiting congressional action.

Of the remaining 18 areas, recommendations for three have been sent to the Department, and public hearings have been held or announced for nine more. That leaves only six, and studies have been completed for five of those. The only area upon which we will not meet the deadline of Sept. 3, 1974, is Mount McKinley National Park in Alaska. We are requesting a deferment on that study, because the Secretary of the Interior is recommending a 3.18 million-acre enlargement which, if accepted by Congress, will require a second study.

The National Park Service has completed work on 39 units totaling 9,254,192 acres and of that total area, 6,244,090 acres have been designated or recommended as wilderness. The areas still under some stage of the Wilderness Study procedure total another 16,876,707 acres.

Separate legislative action, subsequent to the Wilderness Act of 1964, have mandated Park Service study of seven more areas totalling 2,123,732 acres.

The National Park Service can be proud of its record in completing the required wilderness studies, and owes a debt of gratitude to Assistant Secretary Reed who contributed so significantly to this project.

Campgrounds and user fees

During the year just passed, Congress enacted Public Law 93-81 which set new high standards for campground facilities on public lands. According to terms of the act, only completely equipped campgrounds could charge fees for their use. Because almost no campgrounds in the National Park System areas met these greatly heightened standards, user fee collection was stopped in all national park areas.

This deprived us of approximately six million dollars in revenue which had been earmarked for construction and maintenance of park campgrounds. Without this campground user fee income, the parks are severely handicapped in their program to provide service to the camping public.

Congress is now considering changes in the law which would reinstate the authority to charge user

fees in the campgrounds. The National Park Service feels that the reinstatement of the fees is vitally necessary and that such fees have the support of a great majority of our clientele—the millions of Americans who camp in the national parks.

Planning

Planning for parks—plans for new parks—plans for better operation of existing parks—the Service's planning section had a busy and profitable year in 1973. They prepared 22 master plans which chart the development and operation of parks; 35 special park studies; 52 action plans; 33 wilderness studies; 19 new area studies and many environmental impact statements.

Cooperating associations

Public Law 633 of 1946 authorized the cooperating associations which work so closely with many of our areas. They exist solely to assist the park in interpretation. Non-profit organizations, they provide other materials which explain the park to the visitor. Monies received, over the cost of producing their interpretive materials, are invested in the interpretive work of the National Park Service. In 1973, these funds amounted to approximately \$700,000. Although this is a very considerable sum, the real worth of the cooperating associa-

tions, which cannot be measured in dollars and cents, is far greater. The membership of the cooperating associations give generously of their time and money to assist the National Park Service in telling the story of the parks. All America owes them a debt of gratitude.

Volunteers in parks

Finally, I want to recognize the great contribution made by the public-spirited people we call Volunteers in Parks.

Volunteers in Parks are the very important people who volunteer their time and their knowledge to help us interpret the national park areas. Almost all of them are local people, but one came from Switzerland this past year. He helped us write, narrate and record taped interpretive messages in French.

VIP's help by firing the cannon at Richmond Battlefield, by baking cornbread at Booker T. Washington, by loading a covered wagon at Homestead National Monument. They shear sheep and they imitate a British officer surrendering to Colonial forces at Yorktown. One of them even teaches visiting children how to milk a cow! In countless ways, they assist interpretation and contribute to the effectiveness of the park—we owe them a tremendous vote of thanks for the more than a quarter of a million hours they worked—without pay—during the year just past.



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