

Director commits NPS to helping visitors get to parks, save energy

National Park Service Director Ronald H. Walker has ordered all 298 NPS areas to develop "detailed plans for helping Americans visit the national parks with a minimum use of gasoline and other forms of energy."

"I am confident that we can develop new ways—matched with systems now in use—to help reduce gasoline consumption in getting to parks and to reduce private auto traffic within the parks as well," Walker said.

The contingency plans, covering all NPS areas are being reviewed in Washington.

In spelling out the challenge to national parks posed by short supplies of gasoline, Walker said, "We think that there will be little change in park visitation this year, but Americans will take shorter trips and will stay longer in each park they visit. Visitation should increase greatly in those areas close to urban centers, and 205 of them are less than 100 miles from such centers. The National Parks have got to be ready to make this new pattern of visitation work—to provide energy-saving ways of seeing the parks and to make the extended visits more meaningful to the visitor.

"In many ways I think this new trend will be a real blessing for the park visitor. Get away from your automobile and there is a whole new world of beauty and discovery waiting in the parks. Part of our new effort will be to make sure the trails and other backcountry facilities are ready for increased use."

Walker noted that alternate transportation systems have already gone

into operation to conserve park resources while saving fuel. These range from the horsedrawn vehicles serving visitors to Lyndon B. Johnson National Historic Site in Texas to the mini-trains carrying visitors to widely spaced points of interest in Mesa Verde National Park in Colorado.

Some energy-saving solutions are new, like the electric bus being tested in the National Capital Parks to provide quiet, pollution-free travel within Washington, D.C. Others are old, like the fleet of pre-1937 buses which are used in Glacier National Park to move visitors over the road from Lake McDonald to Logan Pass, a road too narrow for more modern vehicles.

Walker said that the National Park Service is working with the Department of Transportation and the Department of Housing and Urban Development to provide mass-transit links between the railroads and the

New York Gateway recreation areas, and to extend the existing tourmobile service in Washington's National Capital Parks.

Stressing that mass transit systems help to protect the environment of the park from damage associated with heavy automobile traffic, Walker was optimistic about the Service's ability to meet the challenge.

"No matter how long the gas shortage continues," Walker said, "Americans know that they must reduce wasteful uses of energy which now sees six percent of the world's people using 30 percent of the world's energy. We can save energy and at the same time make sure that Americans are not denied the opportunity of enjoying their national parks, recreation areas, monuments and historic sites. We'll preserve our heritage by giving people new and better ways to see the most glorious places in America—the national parks."

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Let's Make a Difference

“Oneness”

As a recent arrival on the Washington scene who has spent nearly all of his Park Service career in the field, I am aware of a rather prevalent attitude in the field that goes something like this:

“The field is where the action is, and a Regional or WASO assignment is a dead end that is to be avoided at all costs.” This philosophy is lovingly and jokingly perpetuated by all of us—even those people who have spent much of their Service career in Washington.

The fact that I am here, of course, demonstrates that I don't buy this philosophy. But even before I accepted this new assignment from Director Walker, I held some rather strong convictions on the roles of the Regional and Washington offices, and on the necessity for staffing critical positions with people who have had field experience.

When we first accept appointment to the National Park Service, we accept implicitly also the fact that there will be a certain amount of variety in our assignments. In fact, if we were restricted to one region or area with no chance for mobility we probably wouldn't have the caliber of personnel applying to the NPS that we have. Our people seem to look forward to the challenge of a new area and a new set of circumstances. What I don't understand is why this concept of “oneness” doesn't extend to the central office positions. Most people don't object to park-to-park transfers—even if they are clear across the country—but too many balk at going into a Regional office or central headquarters.

Yet these same people sit out in the field where the so-called “action” is and carp at those people who “are so far removed that they have no idea what it was all about.” I, too, have been guilty of this.

It seems to me that if WASO and the Regional Offices are to be truly responsive to the needs of the field, then these offices should be manned by people who know and understand those needs.

From the standpoint of the individual who aspires to a responsible management position, central office experience in a staff assignment would seem to be an essential element in rounding out that person's career. To me, the best way to achieve this is to plan early in your Service career and determine at what point such an assignment would best help you achieve your career goals and also benefit the Service. My feeling would be that this would be a time when enough experience has been gained so that you have a basic understanding of what the Park Service is and, more importantly, that you have formed ideas on what you would like the Service to be. What new paths would you like to see us embark

on and what old directions need their course altered. Without this kind of input the Service will become static and unresponsive to the crises and challenges of our fast-paced and changing society. More importantly, if you don't do your own planning—someone else will do it for you. These positions **must** be staffed and without sufficient voluntary rotation, the decisions on who will staff them will be made at other levels. Then, my friends, what we will, in effect, have produced will be a “hardship” tour that may come at the most inconvenient time. Whom do you want to be in charge of your career? Who knows your needs best? **You** can make the decision or **we** can make it for you.

A central staff position, if viewed in the right context, can be one of the most exciting and worthwhile assignments you can have in the Service. It may not be as exciting and rewarding in the same sense as a field position would be. The field, of course, will always be the true love for many of us. This is where the people are, where the land and the resources are, and where it's “at” for us. But at the same time, any of us in the NPS who does not want to make a contribution to the future of the Service, in helping to set the goals and policies that will guide us through the difficult years ahead, does not really have the good of the Service at heart. Not only is it a selfish attitude to want to spend all one's time in the field, but it is self-defeating. If you never make the effort to serve in the central staff positions—then you don't have the right to complain that things are not to your liking.

I would like to make one last point: both field and staff positions have their unique rewards. Many people refer to the field as “where the action is.” This is true in many respects. But I can state for a fact that there is a lot of “action” going on around here, too. The action in the field is out there with the people and their problems.

The action in Washington is of a different sort. We rub shoulders here with the powers that be, the movers and shakers. Those who shape the future of us all. It's exciting and it's fun. No where else in the Service can you be so deeply involved in planning our future. And each of us should be deeply committed to helping chart this course.

In closing, I would like simply to say that if our central headquarters and regional office staffs are enriched by the talents of bright, energetic people from the field—who have carefully planned their careers as to when they can best serve in these positions—then we can do the job. With this attitude we can really institute our desired rotation concept of moving from the field to a central office, serving an appropriate time, and moving back to the field, and so forth. We can all truly be a part of **one** National Park Service. Now is the time like never before—

Let's Make A Difference.

John E. Cadh
Associate Director, Park System Management

De Soto NM opens Camp Ucita

De Soto National Memorial in Bradenton, Fla. recently opened its replica of the 16th-century Camp Ucita which Spanish explorer

Hernando De Soto is believed to have established on the southwest coast of Florida.

Local dignitaries and visitors



Seasonals Ken Ervin (left) and Bernie Harris in Camp Ucita.

Management Institute sponsors awards

The Maintenance-Management Institute, conducted by North Carolina State University and affiliated with the National Recreation and Park Association, is now sponsoring Awards for Excellence for contributions made to the Park Practice publications—TRENDS, GRIST, DESIGN and GUIDELINE.

Certificates for Excellence will be presented to 10 finalists. From the 10 finalists, three top selections will be made and awarded checks for \$100, \$75 and \$50.

The awards will be given for original ideas which improve the quality of park and recreation maintenance, with the determining factors being the degree of practical application at the field level, time and money saved, and increased efficiency of operation.

All federal, state, local and private employees are eligible. Announcement of the winners will be made by the Board of Regents at the annual banquet of the Institute which is held every January. Ideas and material should be submitted to

the Managing Editor, Park Practice Program, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240. Deadline for this year's awards is Oct. 31, 1974.

Using the Service Incentive Awards System, the National Park Service has expanded the \$25 awards for contributions to Park Practice GRIST to include contributions made to all the Park Practice publications.

To be eligible, the idea contributed cannot have been a previous winner. The awards are made for original ideas which improve the quality of park and recreation operations, with the determining factors being the degree of practical application at the field level, time and money saved, and increased efficiency.

Ideas and material should be submitted to the above address. For more information, call—(202) 523-5169.

witnessed the "passing of command" performed by Floridians in the roles of De Soto and his lieutenant, Captain Calderon. De Soto left Calderon in command before starting his famous inland march, July 15, 1539.

The main camp structure is a thatched hut of cabbage palm and red cedar logs. It shelters 16th-century-style clothes on loan from the Bradenton little theater. The aroma of vegetables and strings of onions and garlic hanging from the hut's rafters add realism. The vegetables are used for cooking by those depicting Spanish conquistadors and others in this Living History scene.

An open pit fire and barbecue rack near the hut are used for daily cooking demonstrations. Corn, a mainstay of the Indians and later of the Spanish, is ground by mortar and pestle methods and cooked in a multitude of ways. Many of the other foods used are gathered in the park.

Demonstrations by marksmen armed with crossbows similar to those used by De Soto's men are conducted hourly. The bows, bolts (crossbow arrows) and bowstrings are made by park employees. All costumes are in the manner of 16th-century Spanish soldiers with high boots, loose smock shirts and short breeches. The men make most of the tools used in the camp. Other props, such as the brass and copper cooking pots are purchased locally and "aged" to give them the proper 16th-century look and style.

The memorial, always a popular winter attraction, drew 143,600 visitors in 1973 and 139,200 in 1972. Camp Ucita's open-air cooking aromas immediately attract many people entering the area.

Area residents return frequently to the camp and it's ever-changing activities. Ucita often outdraws the Visitor Center in weekly visitation. Many Bradenton citizens have thanked the park staff for providing an innovative and stimulating way of learning more about the area's history.

Camp Ucita gives De Soto National Memorial an added dimension to the interpretation of De Soto's historic expedition.

Anne D. Castello
Historian

Yellowstone cuts energy losses



Seven buildings were closed for the winter to conserve heating fuel.

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK, Wyo., — When the President asked all Government agencies to turn down thermostats and reduce use of electrical energy the employees of Yellowstone National Park responded quickly. Supt. Jack K. Anderson appointed Chief of Maintenance Dan Nordgren as the park's "energy czar," with instructions to devote all his time to developing ways of conserving energy.

It didn't take Nordgren long to discover there were many ways to conserve energy, with only a minimum of expenditure and with full cooperation of all employees. To conserve heating fuel and still turn down the thermostats, it was first necessary to prevent loss of heat from buildings.

In spacious, high-ceilinged buildings, constructed in the early 1900's with cracks around the doors and windows wide enough to throw a snowball through, this was no easy task. However, the Maintenance Di-



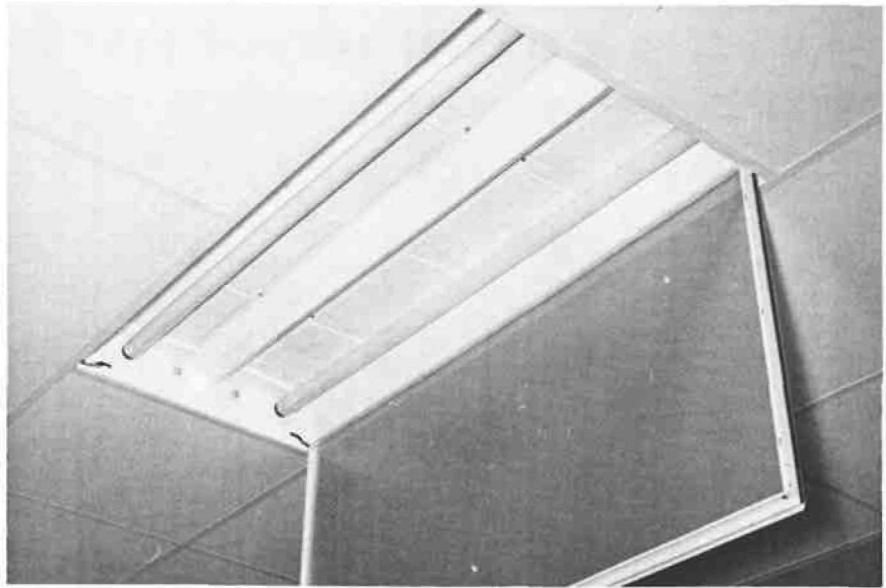
Metal window frames were replaced with wooden frames to prevent loss of heat through conduction.

vision attacked Old Father Winter with caulking guns and plastic sheetings, and the battle was on.

Windows were covered with clear plastic to allow light in and keep cold out. Cracks around door frames and window frames were caulked. To eliminate unnecessary use of electricity, portable electric heaters were removed from offices.

Outside lighting in the area was reduced to a minimum and all office lighting was checked and adjusted to the recommended level. A total of 150 40-watt bulbs were removed from various offices because the light intensity at the working level was brighter than recommended.

All office employees were instructed to turn off lights when leaving the office for even a few minutes.



Fluorescent tubes were removed from many light fixtures to reduce the light intensity to the recommended level.



Clear plastic sheeting was placed over the windows of all shops, office buildings, and many residences to prevent the escape of heat.

A survey was made to determine if buildings were being heated which were not essential to the operation—structures housing functions which could be conducted elsewhere during the winter. Seven buildings were closed, resulting in a saving of 6,000 gallons of heating fuel per month.

Examples of closed structures are the employees recreation building, and training rooms. Activities were moved to the multi-purposed room of the Mammoth Hot Springs grade school which was being heated for the school children.

Other energy-saving steps taken include driving Government vehicles at the reduced speed limit and delaying spring snow removal operations to get some help from warmer weather.

What has all this meant in energy savings? Sharpening his pencil, Nordgren did some computations and came up with the statistics. For the period July through December of 1973, electrical consumption was down 13 percent, gasoline consumption down 17 percent and fuel-oil consumption down 27 percent.

Superintendent Anderson said that, without exception, the residents of Mammoth Hot Springs reduced heating-fuel consumption from 15 to 20 percent. He said the overall energy consumption for Yellowstone, during a six-month period, showed a reduction of 19 percent.

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Grand Canyon observes 55th year



Grand Canyon National Park, South Rim.

GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK, Ariz.,—Since establishment as a national park by Act of Congress in 1919, this part of the Grand Canyon of the Colorado has witnessed many changes by man. When viewed in the context of change wrought by the patient, persistent river, man's influence on the canyon has been immediate and intense.

From 40,000 visitors in 1919, park use has increased to nearly three million people per year. With people come problems, the solution of which brings progress.

The National Park concept was a revolution in land use philosophy, a system of managing resources for the enjoyment of the people and passing them on, unimpaired, to future generations. That this idea of non-consumptive use of the public domain was engendered in a capitalistic and materialistic society during the era of expansion and exploitation (1872) bespeaks unselfish foresight.

When the National Park Service was established in 1916, Congress assigned the new agency the herculean task of providing maximum protection for the nation's parklands, while allowing maximum use of them by the public at large. Ever since its inception, the Park Service has been faced with the challenge of

"where do you draw the line?" At what point does public enjoyment seriously endanger the integrity of the resource? The decisions made determine not only opportunities for present-day visitors, but options available to generations as yet unborn.

In meeting its responsibility to the American people, NPS at Grand Canyon has in the past, is now, and will continue in the future to consider carefully the many individual and group proposals concerning park use and policy. Future public meetings on the Grand Canyon Backcountry Use and Management Plan and the South Rim Village Development Concept Plan will provide opportunities for public involvement and input in the decision-making process affecting the use of their park.

Psychological as well as physical needs of the visitor are being taken into consideration in an attempt not to compromise the individual's park experience. Current controls on camping and restrictions on river running were designed and imposed to "buy time" in which to complete ecological and sociological studies by competent researchers to determine the carrying capacity of the canyon. Results of these investigations will insure realistic decisions

based on sound scientific data, rather than arbitrary "snap judgments."

The initiation of a mass transit system on the South Rim this summer is a reaction to the traffic congestion, air and noise pollution, and parking problems, any of which could impair a pleasant park visit. Mini-buses will provide free, frequent transportation along the West Rim Drive and around the Village during the heavy travel season. Eventually, this system may be extended to include service to the Desert View and South Entrance areas, as well as intermediate points.

Population dynamics of the big-horn sheep and wild burros of Grand Canyon and the ecological role of fire in the North Rim forest are currently under study to gain knowledge essential to the effective management of the park. Every attempt is being made to provide a meaningful and enjoyable park experience for the visitor, consistent with resource protection.

In celebrating Grand Canyon's 55th anniversary as a national park, Superintendent Merle E. Stitt and his staff are rededicating themselves to continuing progress in resource management, fully aware that true "progress" often means knowing when to "stop!"



Getting the latest in NPS public information--the 1974 edition of 'Camping in the National Park System'--from Paula Penny, public inquiries specialist, WASO, are six Washington and regional public affairs staffers. They are (from Left) Jim Carroll, division of media information, WASO; Jim Harpster, assistant to the regional director for public affairs, Rocky Mountain Region; Grant Midgley, chief, publications and public inquiries, WASO; Charles Cadieux, Division of Media Information, WASO; Sandra Alley, assistant to the regional director for public affairs, North Atlantic Region; Tom Wilson, chief, division of media information, WASO.

Public affairs assistants named for new regions

Secretary approves adding 14 caves to National Registry

Secretary of the Interior Rogers C.B. Morton has approved the addition of 14 limestone caves to the National Registry of Natural Landmarks. The caves, five each in West Virginia and Tennessee, three in Virginia and one in Alabama, join 20 others named to the National Registry as an outgrowth of Richard L. Powell's study of Limestone Caverns and Springs, completed for the National Park Service in 1970.

The addition of these 14 caves brings the total of registered natural landmarks to 270. Maintained by NPS, the National Registry is a listing of significant areas of exceptional value in illustrating the nation's natural heritage. Both public and privately owned lands are eligible.

Staff development at the two new National Park Service Regional headquarters continues with the appointment of assistants to the regional director for public affairs in the North Atlantic and Rocky Mountain regions.

Sandra Alley has been appointed to the public affairs position in Boston. She has been assistant to George Berklacy, public affairs officer, National Capital Parks. Sandy has also been a newspaper and radio-TV reporter in Atlanta.

In Denver, the Assistant to the Regional Director for Public Affairs is Jim Harpster. A former public information officer for the Bureau of Reclamation, Jim spent more than ten years with the Associated Press in Denver and United Press International in Los Angeles.

Several changes have been made in the WASO public affairs office under the direction of Charles Keely, assistant to the director for public affairs. Tom Wilson succeeds

Gerry Waindel as Chief of Media Information. Gerry transferred to the Office of Communications in Secretary Morton's office.

Grant Midgley has been named Chief, Publications and Public Inquiries. Paula Penney has been promoted from media relations assistant to public inquiries specialist. She now supervises the NPS public inquiries staff in Room 1013 of the Interior Building.

Two vacancies in the Division of Media Information have been filled by the hiring of Charles L. Cadieux and James W. Carroll. Chuck was chief of information for the Office of Saline Water and had worked 18 years for the Fish and Wildlife Service. He is president of the Outdoor Writers of America. Jim is also an alumnus of the Fish and Wildlife Service public affairs office. He was a newspaper reporter in Albuquerque before coming to Washington.



Employees living in Gardiner leave their cars parked in favor of riding school bus in an effort to relieve the fuel shortage.

Query answered

To the Director, Public Affairs, WASO,

We all enjoy reading your "Editorial Briefs." However, it seems to me that a much more attractive format and a much less expensive one to produce would be simply a direct copying of the newsclip. This would eliminate the need for re-typing every news item and would be presented to the reader in its original format with the appropriate newspaper heading attached. Please note the enclosed copy as an example.

Sincerely,

John W. Bright

Chief, Office of Quality Control

Dear Mr. Bright,

Thank you for your recent suggestion for improving the "Editorial Briefs." The system you suggest would, of course, reduce production time by eliminating retyping as you suggest. It would, unfortunately, not achieve the purpose we seek.

First, our primary goal is to achieve widest possible distribution of material of interest to the employees and managers of the National Park Service. We recognize that all of us face a massive daily volume of reading material and we do not want to burden people with extraneous material and information which members of the organization are already fully aware of. Most news stories are rewritten for the general public and contain substantial material of little or no interest to our readers. Therefore, rather than

give you complete news stories, we give you edited versions of news accounts, frequently eliminating as much as 75 percent of the material in the original copy. This, in turn, should help you by providing a maximum amount of information with a minimum consumption of your time.

Second, we frequently have to work from photocopied material which would not reproduce well and have even found that original copy from many newspapers is poorly enough printed to make clear reproduction difficult. Here again, we strive to provide copy which is clearly legible so that the "Editorial Briefs" can easily be read by all who receive it.

I hope the fact that you report enjoyment of our end product is proof that we have successfully developed readable copy with a minimum of irrelevant material.

We are always in the market for constructive criticism and appreciate your suggestion.

R. Duncan Morrow
Division of Media Information

(Continued from page 5)

Many employees of Yellowstone National Park live in Gardiner, Montana or along the Yellowstone River Valley five to 10 miles from park headquarters. Few joined carpools. Over the same route a high school bus traveled empty from Gardiner to Mammoth Hot Springs, the park headquarters, to pick up students every morning, then returned empty from Mammoth to Gardiner each day after school.

Arrangements were worked out with officials of Gardiner High School. NPS and concessioner employees living in and around Gardiner catch the bus in Gardiner and ride to Mammoth mornings. After school the bus picks them up and delivers them to Gardiner—thus making full use of the bus and eliminating the need of driving many private cars.

Superintendent Jack K. Anderson said the park entered the program with some apprehension because it began the first day after the Christmas holidays and there was no way of predicting how many people would take advantage of the service.

"However," he said, "on the first day, we knew we had a winner. The temperature was 20 below zero, a light snow was falling and the hour was well before sunrise when the bus stopped behind the Administration Building and the employees began disembarking. Some 30 people used the bus the first day."

Since the program started, the number has varied from 40 to 50. This represents an average of 35 fewer cars per day being driven to work and 2,100 fewer miles per week, or a saving of approximately 175 gallons of gasoline per week.

Vern Hennesay
Asst. Superintendent



U.S. Department of the Interior
Secretary Rogers C.B. Morton
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