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Albright receives '74 Cosmos Award; named NPS 'First Chief Ranger'

The second director of the National Park Service and one of its co-founders, Horace M. Albright, received the Cosmos Club Award of 1974 in evening ceremonies held at the club in Washington, D.C. April 15.

Albright was recognized for his more than half century of contributions in the field of conservation of natural resources. The Cosmos Club, which Albright has been associated with since 1929, is

a private organization composed of nationally recognized individuals in the fields of art, science and literature.

The citation stated:

"Conservationist at a time when the word was hardly known he realized the immense value of preserving our natural resources for posterity. He saw that these precious possessions would be soon destroyed unless powerful forces were mustered in their defense.

Being endowed with a love of nature, he later acquired the legal training which made it possible for him to deal with political problems.

"At a time when there is a rapid erosion of natural assets of all kinds, the Cosmos Club honors a man who had the foresight to sense their value, the courage to protect them, and the ability to persuade legislators to support conservation.

"For these invaluable qualities and for the masterful way in which

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Conrad L. Wirth, left, shares Horace Albright's pleasure on being named "First Chief Ranger" of the National Park Service. Performing the honor, which included presenting the "number one" badge and a certificate is Director Ron Walker.

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they were applied, the Club bestows on Horace Marden Albright the Cosmos Club Award of 1974 and basks in the reflected glory of one

of its truly distinguished members."

Horace Albright and Stephen T. Mather (1st NPS director) are considered the two individuals most influential in the establishment of

the National Park Service in 1916. Albright served as assistant director (1917-19), superintendent of Yellowstone NP (1919-29) and NPS director (1929-33).

Three Presidents were members of the Cosmos Club, Wilson, Taft and Hoover.

The club was founded in 1878. One of the organizers was Major John Wesley Powell, who led the first party to navigate the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon. During the Civil War, Powell lost a forearm at the Battle of Shiloh. Lake Powell, in Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, is named for him.

Two days later, at a testimonial dinner for Albright given by NPS Alumni at the headquarters of the National Geographic Society, Director Walker presented an award with this citation: "First Chief Ranger Award—Horace Marden Albright is hereby designated Chief Ranger in recognition of 60 years of dedicated service to, and pioneering influence on The National Park Service."



Horace M. Albright and Herbert Hoover, then Secretary of Commerce, at Yellowstone in 1927.

'The old man is keeping track'

Horace Albright stopped by the Office of Public Affairs during his trip to Washington, D.C., "just to let you all know the old man is keeping track of things."

Discussing his current activities with the public affairs staff, Mr. Albright said preparation of his 4,000-volume library for donation to the University of California at Los Angeles consumes a great portion of his time these days.

He is also a frequent speaker at Rotary, Kiwanis, DAR, and other groups where the most frequent question he is asked is: "Is it true our National Parks are too crowded? Should we not visit them?"

Mr. Albright said that he answers this question by stating that "the parks today are as beautiful as they ever were. Too much publicity is going into the overcrowding of parks. Some may be crowded at mid-summer, but none have been harmed and I wouldn't suggest anyone stop going to them."

He added that in his opinion there are only two "overcrowded" park areas in the entire 30 million acre system: the Yosemite valley and the Yellowstone geysers. "But the main features of all the parks have not been damaged because of crowds in the slightest degree," he said. "This causes people to believe more and more that you have to go outside a park, to the forests, to find wilderness any more. It's not true. After all more than 90 percent of Yellowstone is still wilderness and there are parts of Yosemite no one has ever used."

Mr. Albright said his two yearly traditional trips take him to Washington and Williamsburg in the Spring and Grand Teton and Yellowstone in the Fall. He also has four grandchildren and three great grandchildren to visit.

The Wyoming trip, he explained, is usually to attend to affairs concerning the three Rockefeller corporation boards on which he sits,

including the Jackson Hole Preserve, Inc. He was a member of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation for 25 years.

At home, in Los Angeles, when not speaking on conservation, the environment or historic preservation, Mr. Albright reads a variety of magazines dealing with conservation matters and says his library on which he works constantly, "is one of the most extensive collections existing."

In addition, Mr. Albright is active in many organizations including, Desert Protective Council, Sierra Club (member for 60 years), Death Valley 49ers, Nature Conservancy, and E Clampus Vitus—"revival of gold days fun outfit."

Mr. Albright stops for one reminder before he leaves. "When I first came to this Interior Department in Washington it was one year before Secretary Morton was born."

Then he's off to another series of business appointments in the capital.



Frank Kowski inspects some of the gag gifts he received at his retirement party.

Frank Kowski passes the torch

By Ben Moffett, SWRO

Frank F. Kowski, a self-proclaimed "kid from the wrong side of the tracks" who became a legend in 36 years with the National Park Service, bowed out at a banquet attended by 300 friends at the Hilton Inn in Albuquerque, N.M.

Kowski, Southwest Regional Director for the past seven years, and his wife, Lois, blinked back the tears as they were besieged by well-wishers at the retirement party, which came at the end of a three-day superintendents' conference marking Kowski's final official National Park Service duties.

Kowski, 64, long noted for his poker playing expertise, his affinity for big cigars, his penchant for Indian jewelry and his ability to take and dish out Polish jokes was thoroughly roasted on all four counts at the banquet.

The 1933 graduate of Iowa State University accepted the plaudits and barbs with a moist grin. "To think that a kid like me from the wrong side of the tracks could fall in with a great bunch of people like this," he said.

Among those on hand was Deputy Director Russ Dickenson, who served as master of ceremonies for the event. Director Ron Walker and Secretary of the Interior Rogers C. B. Morton were unable to attend, but sent letters.

Walker's letter was in a light vein, in keeping with the general mood of the gathering: "When I became director I was told there were some unusual people in the National Park Service," Walker wrote. "Several people said that, but I think all of them were thinking of you.

"You are unusual in many ways—all of them good. You have an unusual concept of time—40 hours seems to be just the beginning of your work week. You have an unusual concept of truth—you don't only think it but you speak it regardless of the consequences.

"And you have an unusual concept of public service—somehow you regard serving the public and the nation as the only way to judge success.

"You were always considerate enough to tell me not what you thought I wanted to hear but what you knew I must know. That is the mark of an honest man. Rude—but honest."

Morton said that Kowski is someone who "never lost sight of the goal of service to the people.

"You have a quality somewhat

rare in many circles...a willingness to speak the truth when all about you others are ducking for cover."

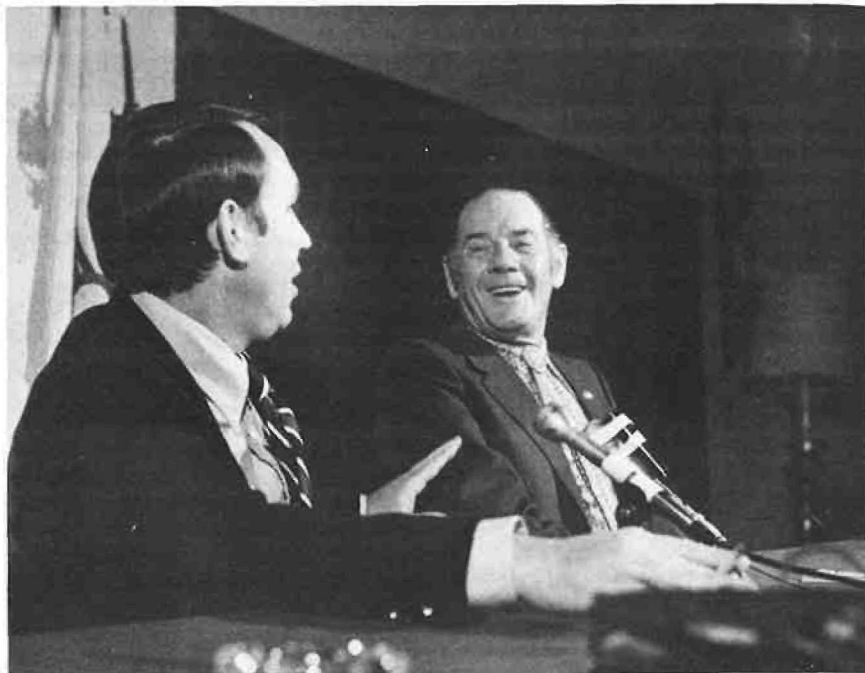
One of the warmest accolades came from Wilson Skeet, vice chairman of the sprawling Navajo Nation.

Skeet praised Kowski for his work in helping to provide equal employment opportunities for Indians. "I've worked with Mr. Kowski for a long time, Skeet said, "and we've made great progress together.

"There are now many Navajos in the National Park System. There are Navajo superintendents," he said. "I want to thank Frank on behalf of the entire Navajo Nation—140,000 strong."

Skeet presented Kowski a Navajo rug. And the Southwest Region's Indian Assistance Team gave him a Sioux star quilt on behalf of the Standing Rock Sioux.

Joseph Rumburg, who took Kowski's place as Southwest Regional Director, made the introductory remarks: "Frank Kowski takes big steps," Rumburg noted. "I'll have to take two steps to his one to keep up."



Ron Walker and Frank Kowski sharing the mike at a Santa Fe press conference

Other speakers at the banquet were John C. Cook, associate director, Park System Management; Ted Thompson, Kowski's deputy director and Howard Chapman, Western Region director.

Needling Kowski via skits were Hank Schmidt and Lon Garrison, a pair of former Northeast Region directors and a trio of southwest superintendents—Derek Hambly of Fort Davis NHS, Walter Herriman of Chaco Canyon and Frank Hastings of Navajo National Monuments.

The skits poked fun at the Burlington, Iowa native from the beginning of his federal career at Flathead National Forest in 1929.

He joined the National Park Service as a ranger at Yellowstone in 1937 and he remained there until 1951 with time out for service as a lieutenant in the U.S. Coast Guard in Hawaii and the South Pacific (1942-1945).

He was Assistant Chief Ranger when he left Yellowstone to become Placement and Training Officer in Washington, D.C. in 1951.

Kowski's next assignment, beginning in 1957, was supervisor at the Horace Albright Training Center at Yosemite National Park. When the center was relocated at Grand Canyon, he became the first supervisor there.

His work at Albright earned him the Distinguished Service Award in 1964.

In 1966, Kowski was named superintendent at Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. He became Southwest Region director in 1967.



New Regional Director Joseph Rumburg talks to Lois Kowski. Frank is in the background.

Park Service recommends against extension of Grand Teton runway

The National Park Service has released a final environmental impact statement on the proposed extension of the airway runway at Grand Teton National Park, Wyo.

In the 331-page statement the Park Service recommended against extension of the existing 6,305-foot runway to a proposed length of 8,000 feet. It did recommend that

the existing runway be improved, taxiways constructed, support facilities strengthened and an instrument landing system installed at the present airport site.

The statement also recommended that a regional transportation study be undertaken for the Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Park areas to "identify the extent, type,

nature, location and timing of airport development needed in the region to establish a viable and balanced system of public airports."

The present airport located in the southern section of the park about eight miles north of Jackson, Wyo. was established in the 1930's. It was incorporated into the park in 1950 when the boundaries were enlarged to include the scenic valley floor. Use of the airport has grown rapidly. Several near accidents and numerous overflights have occurred; most of the latter in cooler months of the year.

Discussions of possible improvements have been under way for several years, and the NPS has evaluated various alternatives, looking to safety, reliability and improved access and parking facilities.

The environmental statement said that the release of the draft impact statement in July 1973 "revealed that additional studies would be required prior to any (runway) expansion...The Federal Aviation Administration requested that considerably more detailed information should be developed on proposed or other potential sites in order to clarify their feasibility..."

Funds for extension of the runway were appropriated by the Congress December 1971. Supporters of the extension, which would permit use of pure jet commercial aircraft at the site now limited to propeller driven airplanes, argue that it is necessary to provide safe and reliable year-long service to the Jackson area. Opponents contend increase in aircraft size and usage would result in unacceptable levels of air and noise pollution in the park.

After publication of the draft environmental statement in July a public hearing was held at Jackson on September 11. The final statement has been filed with the Council on Environmental Quality. Notice of availability was published in the Federal Register on March 13.

A final decision on the airport proposals will be made by the Secretary of the Interior. The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 requires a 30-day waiting period after publication of final impact statements before administrative action may be taken.



Clay Cabeen, mail clerk at the Ashville office, Blue Ridge Parkway, with boxes of paper to be recycled. The office has established a paper conservation program under which every piece is used on both sides, then kept for recycling.

Park extends cultural enrichment to blind

The National Park Service's ongoing cultural enrichment program has been extended to blind children through "Finding a Way with Clay" at Glen Echo Park, Md.

Twelve students at Jackson Elementary School, Washington, D.C. and their teacher Grace Stevenson, will be taught ceramics, instructed by National Park Service artist, Wendy Ross. These workshops, designed to increase the children's

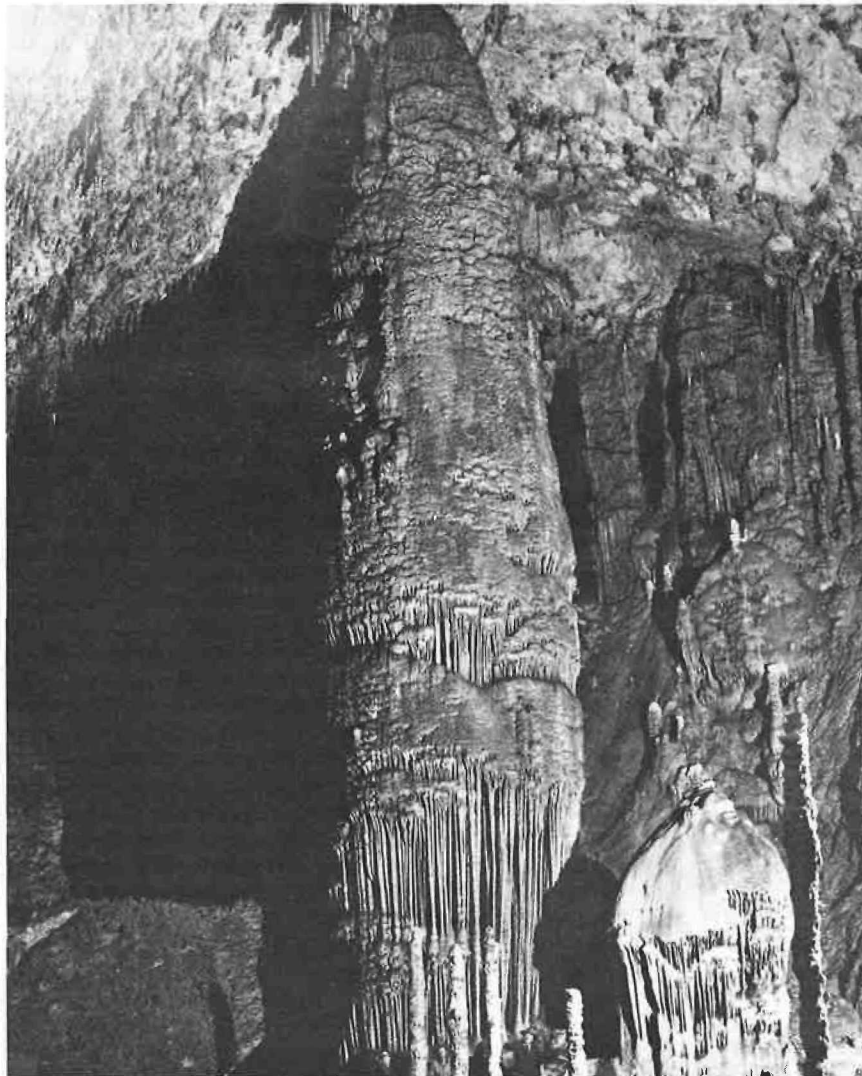
untapped three-dimensional tactile senses, offer a new outlet in the arts for the youths, ages 11 to 15.

Another purpose of the program according to Jack Fish, director of the National Capital Parks, is to provide an exchange between teacher and professional artist and to explore the possibilities of applying similar curricula to a public school system.

Carlsbad Caverns NP opens 'New Cave'



"Klansman"



"Monarch"

Carlsbad Caverns National Park will host news media representatives from throughout New Mexico and West Texas on May 11, as the park participates in Carlsbad's Annual Press Day. Coinciding with the day's activities will be the official spring opening of New Cave.

Activities include breakfast at the park's Rattlesnake Springs picnic area, and tours of New Cave, McKittrick Canyon (in nearby Guadalupe Mountains National Park) and Carlsbad Cavern.

Although visited periodically since 1959, New Cave was first opened to scheduled tours last September when a new county access road was completed to the park boundary. Trips were discontinued for the winter season. It is the first cave in the park other than the "main" caverns to be opened to the public on a regularly scheduled basis.

The New Cave trip is both primitive and strenuous, and the park's master plan calls for keeping it that way. A round-trip hike of three-and-one-half-miles, which includes a steep climb up the side of Slaughter Canyon, is required, and the cave tour is by lantern light.

Among New Cave's outstanding features are the Christmas Tree, Klansman, Tear Drop, Monarch, and Chinese Wall formations, and remnants of guano mining operations which were carried on there until 1957. Old timers may remember the cave scenes in the movie "Solomon's Mines." The scenes were filmed in New Cave.



Formations and guano in New Cave, Carlsbad Caverns National Park.

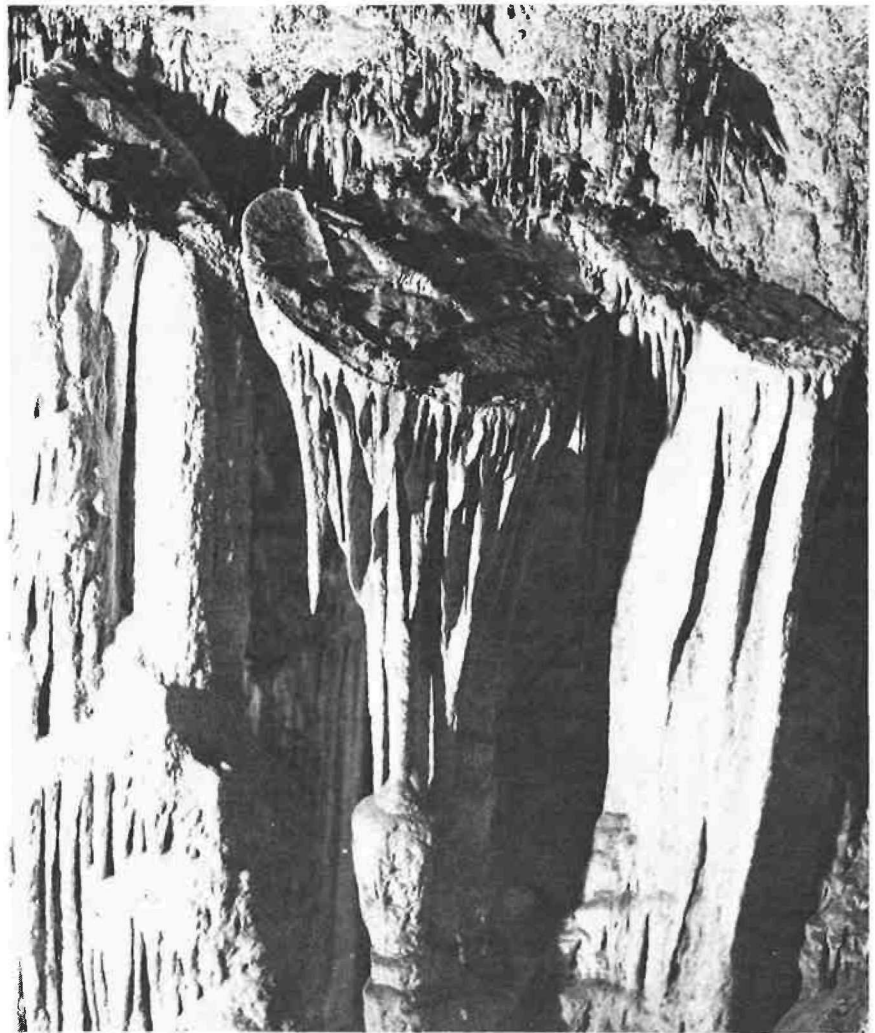
In order to insure a quality trip for visitors, and adequate protection for New Cave's delicate features, a limit of 25 persons per trip has been established, with reservations being required.

For thousands of years, bats that winter in Mexico have used New Cave as a summer home. From late spring until autumn's first major frost, usually in October or early November, incredible numbers of these tiny flying mammals spiral out of the cavern entrance en masse at sunset each evening.

They fly southeastward over the escarpment rim to feed during the night on flying insects along the Black and Pecos Rivers. Before sunup the colony returns to the cavern where the bats sleep during the day. Size of the massed flight varies with weather conditions and the insect food supply, but at its peak, as many as 5,000 bats per minute boil up through the cavern opening.

Settlers were attracted to the caves during their arrival in the area after the Civil War, by what appeared to be smoke against the sky. They discovered that the dark cloud consisted of literally millions of bats streaming out of the opening.

Later these settlers, upon finding huge quantities of guano beneath the bat roost and learning of its value as a natural fertilizer, took a commercial interest in the caves.



"Shields"



Richie shows schoolmates his award.

Olof Anderson appointed Kennedy Center site manager



Anderson

Olof R. Anderson has been appointed Site Manager for John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

Mr. Anderson, 49, succeeds W. Douglas Lindsay, Jr., who has been reassigned as Bicentennial Coordinator for National Capital Parks.

Kennedy Center—through its magnificent Eisenhower Theatre, Opera and Concert Halls, and panoramic Grand Foyer—has attracted more than eight million visitors and

patrons since its opening in 1971.

As National Park Service manager, Mr. Anderson will direct a staff of specialists in grounds and buildings maintenance, U.S. Park Police and security guards, and guide-narrators, who work closely with the volunteer "Friends of the Kennedy Center" to meet the public's information and tour needs.

A career staffer of the National Park Service, and multi-lingual, Anderson comes to his new post from the Office of Special Events of the National Capital Parks, where he was assistant chief.



Supt. Leslie P. Arnberger presents Richie Rhoan a Park Service Appreciation Award.

Life-saving act earns youngster NPS award

Nine-year-old Richard D. Rhoan has earned the National Park Service Appreciation Award for saving the life of a playmate. Richie, son of George and Betty Rhoan of Yosemite, was lauded for "quick thinking and positive action" when Mark Conway, also of Yosemite, playfully stuck his head in a rope noose, lost his footing, and was rendered unconscious.

Before running for help, Richie released Mark from the noose. "Most nine-year-olds would have run for help first," said investigating Ranger Dan Sholly. "Richie's taking the time to release Mark before going to get his teacher probably saved Mark's life."

Yosemite National Park Superintendent Leslie P. Arnberger presented the award at a Yosemite Elementary School assembly.

Ed. Note: Flying United during May or June? Director Walker is interviewed on the airline's Magazine of the Air stereo programming.



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