# National Park Courier

Volume 4 | Washington, D.C. | October, 1965 | Number 10

## PEAKS OF OTTER CAMP FIRE PARTY



It was around a camp fire at the junction of the Firehole and Gibbon Rivers in what is now Yellowstone National Park that Cornelius Hedges of Helena, Montana made the suggestion that the vast area the party had just explored be made a national park instead of members of the party collectively or individually endeavoring to acquire all or parts of it for themselves. This was on the 19th of September, 1870.

On the 19th of September, 1965, just 95 years later, a group of National Park Service folks on their way home from the Superintendents' Conference at Gatlinburg in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, found themselves together at the Lodge at the Peaks of Otter on the Blue Ridge Parkway. They decided to celebrate the 95th anniversary of the national park idea. Accordingly, they gathered in the room and on the veranda of Mr. and Mrs. Hillery Tolson for refreshments preceding the dinner which Sam Weems and his able assistant Jim Eden had quickly arranged with the lodge management. The party was a delightful success, and the next morning pictures were taken of the group on the shore of the lake in the foreground of the Lodge. Those present at this impromptu party recognizing perhaps the greatest event in national park history so far as the whole World is concerned were:

Superintendent and Mrs. Stanley Abbott,

Former Director and Mrs. Horace Albright

Asst. Sup't and Mrs. James Eden

Mr. Robert Hall, Chief EODC

Mr. and Mrs. Sanford Hill, Chief WODC

Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Miller, former Regional Director Southwest Region

Asst. Director and Mrs. Charles Montgomery,

Mr. and Mrs. Keith Neilson, Supt' Glacier National Park

Former Assistant Director and Mrs. Hillory Tolson

Superintendent Sam Weems

This happy group broke up on September 20th, some continuing north to Washington, others to Colonial National Historical Park.

## APACHE INDIANS DONATE NATIONAL CHRISTMAS TREE

The National Community Christmas Tree for 1965 which will be erected in the Ellipse, just south of the White House in Washington, is being donated by the White Mountain Apache Indians from the Fort Apache Reservation near White River, Arizona, Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall announced today.

Secretary Udall added that this marks the first time an American Indian Tribal Council has provided a Christmas Tree for the Pageant of Peace ceremony, and the first tree from the State of Arizona for this pageant.

The tree will be selected by Lester Oliver, chairman of the White Mountain Apache Tribal Council, from three specimens of Engelmann and Colorado blue spruce. These majestic trees tower to heights of 60 or more feet on the higher elevations--above 8,000 feet--in the 1,600,000 acre Apache Reservation.

Following its erection on the Ellipse, the tree will be decorated with thousands of colored bulbs and ornaments by National Park Service personnel.

The National Community Christmas Tree Ceremony has been an annual event in Washington since 1923. In 1954, the Christmas Pageant of Peace, Inc., was organized and the scope of the National Community Christmas Tree Ceremony was expanded to emphasize the desire of this nation and other nations to find peace through the spirit and meaning of Christmas.

The President's Christmas Message given at the tree lighting ceremony is broadcast throughout the Nation, and by the Voice of America to remote areas of the world.

## ASTRONAUTS GET FEEL OF MOON IN ALASKA'S KATMAI MONUMENT

Alaska's Katmai National Monument, the largest unit in the National Park System, has become a training ground for astronauts who may visit the moon.

The park, twice the size of Delaware, is a spectacular volcanic wilderness whose barren wastes suggest moonscapes. Astronauts from the Manned Spacecraft Center in Houston, Texas, have been studying a lava flow in the park.

The flow is the the Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes, where few men have walked and no man has lived, the National Geographic Society says. The valley was created by the explosion of the Novarupta Volcano on June 6, 1912. It was the biggest eruption since the explosion of Krakatau in Indonesia in 1883; no present hydrogen bomb could match these cumulative releases of energy. Novarupta is still smouldering.

Since one of the first tasks of astronauts reaching the moon will be to report on its surface, astronauts have been sent to Katmai for experience in describing geological surfaces and testing geological samples. At present, of course, no one is sure what the lunar surface is like.

Katmai (pronounced cat-my) long discouraged visitors by its inaccessibility. Even now, it receives fewer than 1,000 visitors a year. But an adventurous sightseer--or astronaut--can travel there comfortably nowadays by air, landing at Grosvenor Camp or Brooks River Lodge within the monument itself.

When Katmai's Novarupta Volcano exploded into history in 1912, seething debris poured over a 42-square-mile area and reached a depth of 700 feet in some places. Dust darkened

*(continued on page 2)*

## CONRAD WIRTH HEADS HUDSON RIVER BOARD

Former National Park Service Director Conrad L. Wirth is still hard at work on conservation projects, according to the article below by Roy T. Sniffen which appeared in the September 11 edition of "The Reporter Dospatch" of White Plains, N.Y.

By ROY T. SNIFFEN

Ask Conrad Wirth executive director of the Hudson River Valley Commission, to tell you his politics and invariably the answer is, "bureaucrat."

Mr. Wirth, who lives with his wife Helen at 10 Wellin Road, Yonkers, has good reason for answering that way.

For 36 years prior to his retirement in January, 1964, "Connie" Wirth was involved in federal projects ranging from membership on the D.C. Planning Commission in 1928, by appointment of President Coolidge, to his last post as director of the National Parks Service under Presidents Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy and Johnson.

**Strictly Nonpartisan**

"If there was a job to be done I wanted to be able to do it without being hampered by political affiliations," Mr. Wirth says. "I was too completely non partisan to join one side or the other."

Now he heads the commission set up to develop a master plan for the Hudson River drainage area, covering industrial development, park and historical site conservation and municipal expansion. And Mr. Wirth is also a member of the Commission for a More Beautiful Capital, headed by Mrs. Lyndon Johnson.

There is a legacy attached to Mr. Wirth's involvement in public conservation projects. His interest was inherited from his father who was a municipal landscape architect and horticulturalist in Hartford, Conn., and Minnneapolis, Minn.

Mr. Wirth, who was raised in "the land of 10,000 lakes," is a graduate of the University of Massachusetts. He worked for a time with a landscaping firm in San Francisco, and opened a business of his own in New Orleans in 1921.

When the call came from President Coolidge, it was an easy step up for Mr. Wirth. Three years after his assignment to the planning commission, Mr. Wirth was transferred to the Interior Department, and there he worked for the rest of his career.

**On Palisades Commission**

He claims to be no stranger to the problems of New York State, although he has lived here only a year. Besides his commission duties he is one of five directors from New York on the Palisades Interstate Park Commission,

*(continued on page 2)*

## REDWOODS NATIONAL PARK RECOMMENDED BY INTERIOR

Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall announced recently that following a final round of meetings in November recommendations regarding establishment of a Redwoods National Park will be made to the President for his consideration before the first of the year.

Secretary Udall also announced that the final meetings will include consultation with officials of the State of California, members of the Congressional delegation from California, conservation organizations, the timber industry and other landowners. Del Norte and Humboldt Counties, California, were the counties where the principal groves of Redwoods recommended for preservation were identified in a year-long study of the Redwoods of California by the National Park Service under a grant from the National Geographic Society. A preliminary report of this study was issued for public review and comment in September 1964.

The Secretary and members of his staff have had a number of meetings during the past year with groups interested in a proposed Redwoods National Park. It had been hoped that a final recommendation would be completed before now, Udall said. However, the numbers of proposals submitted and the difficult and complex issues involved in establishing the Redwoods National Park have delayed the report beyond the time when Congressional action could be taken on any proposals this year.

## SAINT-GAUDENS NHS TRANSFERRED TO NPS

The conveyance of title to the Saint-Gaudens Memorial, Cornish, New Hampshire, to the National Park Service was announced recently by the Department of the Interior. Dixon B. Freeland has been named superintendent of the new Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site, and will continue also to serve in his present position as superintendent of Saratoga National Historical Park, New York.

The Act of August 31, 1964, authorized the Secretary of the Interior to acquire, by donation from the Saint-Gaudens Memorial, for preservation in public ownership certain historically significant properties associated with the life and cultural achievements of Agustus Saint-Gaudens, one of America's foremost sculptors.

In his youth, Saint-Gaudens demonstrated an artistic aptitude

*(continued on page 2)*

### *WANTED!*

The National Park Service Employee and Alumni Association needs new members. Why don't you elect yourself a committee of one and ask your co-worker to join. If you are a retiree, perhaps you know another retiree who isn't a member. Won't you ask him to join. Membership dues are $2.00 per year, but this includes $1.75 for subscription to the National Park Courier. Send subscription to:

Floyd P. Hough, Treasurer, Room 246
National Capital Regional, Office Building
1100 Ohio Drive, S.W., Washington, D.C., 20242



Chief, Division of Resource Management and Visitor Protection, WASO Ira S. Lykes, (left) Chief, Division of Park Practice in the Washington Office, presents Life Membership Plaque to Horton L. Bill —Photo by M. Woodbridge Williams, NPS

# The National Park Courier

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## NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC BOOK ON WATER AND GAME BIRDS

Falcons dive-bomb their prey at 175 miles an hour; puffins and auks fly underwater to catch fish; and a goshawk can run down a rabbit in its own brier patch.

Some seabirds drink only salt water, and excrete salt concentrations through nasal glands over the eyes. Woodcocks can see better to the rear then ahead. A pelican's pouch holds 3.5 gallons.

Startling facts about the Nation's most spectacuiar winged creatures are presented in the National Geographic Society's newly published book Water, Prey, and Game Birds of North America. Dramatic accounts of 329 species are illustrated with 643 photographs, paintings, maps, and deagrams, mostly in color, and accompanied by an albym of recorded bird sounds.

The six long-playing discs with the book capture the sounds of 97 species across the continent. They were recorded with the same fidelity that caused one Society member to complain that its earlier bird recordings were "to realistic." In search of the tempting singers, his cat leaped into a costly record player and wrecked it.

In announcing the book's publication to the Society's 4,500, 000 member-families, President Melville Bell Grosvanor said: "You will find color pictures, life histories, breeding and winter ranges, lingths (male and female), and characteristics of 329 species--seabirds that roam the lonely oceans, sharp-eyed hawks and owls, soaring vultures, ducks and geese in all their colorful variety, plump grouse, tall and stately wading birds, little shorebirds that twinkly acress our beaches."

Water, Prey and Game Birds of North America is the work fo 20 leading scientists. Ornithologist Alexander Wetmore, a Society trustee who is former secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, served as chief author and consultant. The volume was edited by Merle Severy, chief of the National Geographic's Book Service.

To show birds in their natural settings, Frederick Kent Truslow, Eliot Porter, the late Arthur A. Allen, and other veteran wildlife photographers spent weeks and months to get an outstanding picture. In the Everglades, Turslow perched on a 20-foot-high platform in ovenlike heat to record the nesting habits of the national bird, the bald eagle.

Forty seven chapters delineate by family groupings all the major species of water, prey, and game birds normally found north of Mexico. The opening chapter by Dr. Wetmore traces the history if birds from lizardlike creatures that gradually developed feathers 200 million years ago.

In time Archaeopteryx, Adam of the bird world, sailed with clawed wings from its primeval perch. Today, its descendants number more than 8,600 species with an estimated 100 billion members. Birds range everywhere over the globe except at the heart of Antarctica.

Water, Prey, and Game Birds of North America with its album of bird sounds is available only by direct order from the National Geographic Society, Dept. 280, Washington, D.C. 200-26. Together with Song and Garden Birds of North America, published by the Society last year, the two volumes give the life stories of the 656 major species of birds inhabiting the United States, Candda, and parts of northern Mexico. The price is $11.95 each, or both volumes in a deluxe cloth slipcase, $25, postpaid anywhere in the world.

**Get your co-workers to subscribe to the NATIONAL PARK COURIER**

## RICHMOND NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD PARK

FOUNDERS DAY

Founder's Day was observed at Richmond National Battlefield Park on August 25, 1965 by holding open house at Park headquarters between 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. Park employees and staff members' wives provided and served cake, cookies, and punch to Park families and visitors during this time. Superintendent W.R. Hollomon gave a brief history of the National Park Service, then showed a film entitled "Another Cheer for Dixie."

CAMPFIRE DAY

Park neighbors were invited to attend our program in observance of Campfire Day. Approximately 150 persons were present for the lighting of the campfire in front of the 35 year old log cabin which served as Park headquarters for a number of years. Park Ranger Fauber began the program with the story of the significance of the campfire in the history of the conception of the National Park idea. Superintendent William R. Hollomon gave a brief history of Richmond N.B.P. After the showing of two National Park Service films, refreshments were served in the log cabin. A glowing fire in the fireplace helped to take the chill out of the fall evening air. One of the guests remarked "The clear star-filled skies, the stately loblolly pines, and the shadows and odors produced by the glowing campfire go together to create a nearly sacred effect to this gathering."

*(continued from page 1)*

## SAINT-GAUDENS

which lead him to study at Cooper Union and the National Academy of Design in New York City, and later in Paris and Rome.

In 1876, he opened a studio in New York, and in 1885 established his home at Cornish, where he was to live and work for part of the 22 years preceding his death. This is the property that has been conveyed to the National Park Service for administration as the Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site.

Among Saint-Gaudens' most notable works are the Farragut Monument, New York City; the Shaw Memorial, Boston; the Adams Memorial in Rock Creek Cemetery, Washington, D.C., the equestrian statue of General William T. Sherman, New York; and two statues of Abraham Lincoln in Chicago.

The Trustees of the Saint-Gaudens Memorial have donated the 83 acres of land and structures at Cornish and it is expected they will donate also about $100,000 of an endowment fund which is to be used for the National Historic Site.

The Trustees of the Saint-Gaudens Memorial will serve in an advisory capacity to the Secretary of the Interior in matters relating to preservation, development and use of the new site.

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## ASTRONAUTS

skies as far away as Nova Scotia, on the other side of North America.

Four years later Dr. Robert F. Griggs led a National Geographic expedition to Katmai to study revegetation in the area. He discovered the Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes. At that time, the whole valley seethed with thousands of smokes curling up from its fissured floor. Columns of steam shot up a thousand feet.

Dr. Griggs found not a vestige of the vegetation that had originally covered the valley. But new life had begun to assert itself: Around some of the smoke vents, moss and algae were spreading a faint carpet. By 1930, 18 years after the eruption, Dr. Griggs observed that liverworts had taken over vast areas which had been bare a decade earlier. Clumps of grass were first appearing.

In 1953 another biologist, Victor Cahalane, reported that the seed plants--including blue grass, housetails, and willows--had taken hold. Curiously, Alaska's brown bears had adopted a trail made by the 1930 National Geographic expedition and kept itvpen. These bears, the beggest meat-eating animals that walk the earth, are a prominent feature of Katmai. The males may stand nine feet tall and weigh 1,500 pounds--about three times the size of a lion.

Alaska Senator Earnest Gruening visited Katmai for National Geographic in 1962. He reported it was "a vast solitude of mountains and desert and desolation; a land of snowfields and glaciers and airy pumice stomes and deep crevices; a never-never land where sun and rain and fog and drizzle take turns and a volcano could go off at any time."

## HARRY WANDRUS, Dies

Harry Wandrus, Museum Specialist, Eastern Museum Laboratory, died of a heart attack at his home in Washington on November 14. He was 43 years old. Trained as a chemist at the University of Wisconsin, Mr. Wandrus joined the Park Service as chief of its field preservation laboratory at Jamestown, Virginia, in 1948. In 1949 he transferred to Washington and soon became the supervisory museum specialist in the restoration and conservation of historic and artistic objects. This position brought him into contact with a wide range of materials and specimen types among the 3,000,000 artifacts for which the Service is responsible ranging from pot sherds and other archeological fragments to the Liberty Bell, and he brought a scientific, as well as a practical, approach to the task. He was experimenting on new methods for the preservation of mid 19th century silk flags at the time of his death. In addition to his work for the National Park Service, Mr. Wandrus also undertook tasks for such organizations as the Smithsonian Institution, the Abby Aldrick Rockefeller Folk Art Collection at Williamsburg, Virginia, and the state of Georgia. His work in restoring the crushed medieval silver vessels at Dumbarton Oaks brought critical acclaim from his fellow conservators. He is survived by his wife, Marilyn, an Exhibit Specialist in the Eastern Museum Laboratory.

## Tragedy Strikes Spurgeon Family

Donald P. Spurgeon, 16-year-old son of Chief Ranger and Mrs. Stanley Spurgeon, Rocky Mountain National Park, was fatally injured early morning October 28, three miles west of Loveland, Colorado. Don was a junior student at Estes Park High School, where he was a member of the football team, the National Honor Society, and the Student Council. Last year he was president of the Sophomore Class. He was returning to Estes Park with a classmate, Jerry Peck, also killed in the accident. Young Peck was apparently driving the car which failed to make a curve.

Don was born in Whitefish, Montana, July 12, 1949. In addition to his parents, he is survived by a brother, David. David was seriously injured in an automobile accident in September. Dave has not regained complete consciousness, but his parents and doctors at Boulder Community Hospital feel optimistic about his progress.

## WIRTH

*(continued from page 1)*

and remembers the days of the Civilian Conservation Corps projects in the Adirondacks in the thirties.

Then came the war years, and the Roosevelt regulatory agencies. Mr. Wirth stayed with the Interior Department, working in the conservation service.

In 1951, President Truman made him head of the National Parks Service. When he appeared recently at the Westchester hearings of the National Parks and Recreation subcommittee of the House, he was one of the few speakers familiar enough with the committee to trade quips with the congressmen.

He had said that he doubted the necessity, though not the legitimacy, of federal intervention in the Hudson problem. He was asked by one of the legislators if he would use federal money for the state plans.

'I'll take all the money you want to give me," he answered.

**Water To Walk On**

Then later in the discussion Mr. Wirth, discussing pollution problems, observed "There are only two rivers' you can walk across without performing a miracle — the Hudson and the Potomac."

His friendliness with the committee was the result of his many appearances before them in his federal post — so many neither the committee nor Mr. Wirth could remember the number.

When asked how he envisioned the Hudson situation, Mr. Wirth responded with an analogy to a cluttered desk.

"You see this cluttered desk . . . It has letters that should go into an incoming mail box. It has pens and pencils to be put away and papers to be straightened out.

**Organization Needed**

"The Hudson, like that desk, has never had organization, or any one to look to see where these things could be placed, if given proper time. Well, this commission is charged with drawing the plan that will organize the river valley. We can't implement it, under the existing legislation, but we can plan it."

Now involved in a number of conservation projects, ("90 per cent for free") Mr. Wirth has handed the legacy down to one of his sons, Theodore, who has a landscape architecture firm of his own in Montana. Another of his sons is an Air Force fighter pilot.

Mr. Wirth didn't know if his son would venture into governmental projects, as he did, but because of "Connie's" success at it, he'd probably advise his offspring to be a "bureaucrat" and nothing else.

## Posthumous Award For JOHN JENKINS

John W. Jenkins, who lived at 603 Bercelona Drive in Millbrae has been posthumously awarded the department of the Interior's Citation for Meritorious Service by Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall. From 1956 until his death in September 1964, Jenkins was Chief of the Western Museum Laboratory. His knowledge and interest in high nuseum standards had influenced all phases of the creation of National Park Service museums. These museums are part of the visitor centers built during the last 8 years in national parks and monuments throughout the West.

## Canyonlands

Island in the Sky District Ranger Ed Rothfuss recently accepted a promotion and transfer to Chief Park Naturalist at Virgin Islands National Park. Ed and Marge were entertained at a buffet dinner party given by Canyonlands employees October 11, the evening before they started their journey from one island to another.

* * *

Park Ranger Eldon Reyer and family will soon be moving to Mt. McKinley National Park. Reyer, also of Island in the Sky District accepted the promotion and transfer to Headquarters District Park Ranger at Mt. McKinley to be effective November 7.

* * *

Dennis Carter of Arches is attending the current session of the Horace M. Albright Training Center at Grand Canyon.

* * *

Paul Fitz, Landscape Architect spent a week and a half in the Moab hospital this month. He had a hitch in the git-along. He's up and around now - spry and onery as ever.

* * *

The historic Scorup and Somerville Cattle Company was bought recently by Redd Ranches of San Juan County, Utah for a reported two million dollars cash. The Dugout Ranch portion of the property, adjacent to Canyonlands National Park may eventually be offered for resale.

* * *

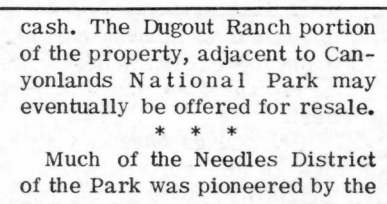
Much of the Needles District of the Park was pioneered by the S&S cowboys and many of their names for features in the Park still stick. Other names have been changed or slightly modified to suit the gentle taste of the American public.

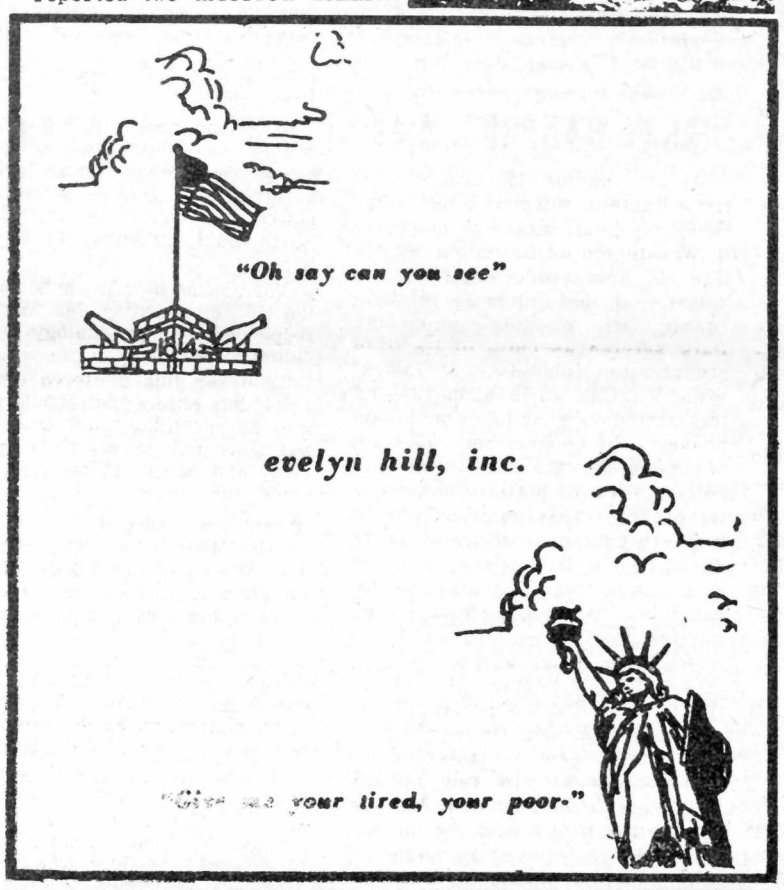
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They're finally moving out of the caves. -- After a year's residence at Cave Spring, the Needles personnel are moving into the trailer housing facilities at Pants Pocket.

* * *

Superintendent Bates Wilson, District Ranger Matt Ryan, and Ranger Secretary Sandy Holloway went on the annual Moki Migration (aweek-long vacation, exploration, orientation type of thing) into the country west of the Green River. Mokies from seven states gathered in Moab early in Obtober to make the trip. They returned to their respective states generously dusted with fine red sand.




**In New York**

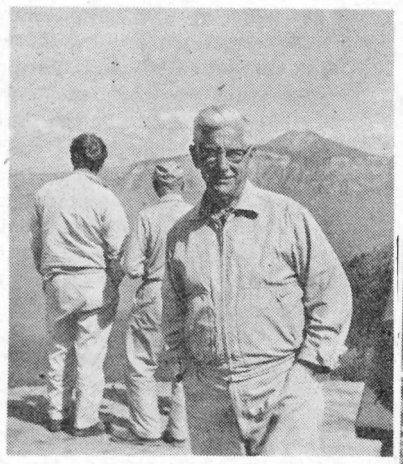
Not only is it our privilege to carry thousands of Americans and visitors from all over the world to the Statue of Liberty National Monument each year; we offer, too, a thrilling boat trip around Manhattan Island, one of the greatest experiences awaiting you on your visit to New York.

**Circle Line-Statue of Liberty Ferry, Inc.**

## Crater Lake



Scattered members of Lunar Geological Field Conference returning to busses in Rim Village to continue trip around Rim Drive.



Dr. Howel Williams, member of Lunar Geological Field Conference, at Wizard Island overlook. Crater Lake, Mt. Scott, and Kerr Notch in background.

On August 27, 1965, the Lunar Geological Field Conference visited the Park. The conference, headquartered in Bend, Oregon, for their six-day session, August 23 through 28, spent five days in field studies of nearby areas. Some 100 members of this distinguished and international group, representing no less than ten different nations, made the complete clockwise circuit of the Rim Drive and a side trip down to The Pinnacles. Members of the party descended from their three busses at each of the several stops along the route. On thses occasions, Dr. Howel Williams provided extemporaneous commentary on the local geology. Dr. Williams is the author of the monographic treatment, "The Geology of Crater Lake National Park, Oregon, and numerous other publications on volcanology. Dr. Williams' comments were recorded by a portable tape recorder and have been copied onto a master tape deposited in the local tape library.

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## Death Valley

Gilbert E. Blinn has been selected to fill the vacancy created by the transfer of District Park Ranger Ripley to Gran Quivira National Monument, Mountaineer, New Mexico. He will be assigned to the Wildrose District of Death Valley National Monument.

Blinn attended Washington State University, Pullman, Washington and received a degree in physical geography. While attending the University, he worked as laborer, mountain guide, seasonal ranger and seasonal ranger-naturalist in Mount Rainier National Park, Longmire, Washington. He also attended the Horace Albright Training Center, (Introduction to Park operations) Grand Canyon, Arizona in 1960.

Gilbert Blinn became a permanent Park Service employee as Park Ranger at Mount Rainier in June of 1961. but spent one intervening year in the U.S. Naval Reserve as Radio-teletype Operator SP/4 through August of 1962.

## Glacier



Carol Shew and Thomas Demmons married at St. Matthews Church, Kalispell September 12, 1965.

Carol Shew and Thomas Demmons were married at St. Matthews Church, Kalispell, September 18, with a reception in the Church Social Center. Carol is the daughter of Procurement Assistant Keith and Lorraine Shew and has been the Secretary for Chief Park Engineer Max Edgar for the past three years. Carol and Tom are at home in Missoula, Montana at 1500 Van Buren, and are both registered at the University of Montana. Tom will graduate in June.

* * *

There were two beautiful September weddings of two beautiful Glacier National Park girls.

Susan Bengtson, daughter of Foreman IV (Maint.) Clarence and Winnie Bengtson, was married September 12 at the Apgar Amphitheater to James McDonald, former seasonal Park Ranger at Clacier. Unpredictable weaterh cooperated just long enough to have this lovely outdoor wedding attended by close friends of Susan and James. The reception, however, was held at the Conference Training Hall at headquarters.

The McDonalds are living at Grand Junction, Colorado, where James is employed by Suburban Gas Company. Their address is 942 White Avenue, Grand Junction, Colo.

* * *

A replacement for the old outboard cruiser on Waterton Lake has been launched. This is a new 25-foot fiber-glass cruiser for use of the Rangers in their duties at Waterton.

* * *

Glacier's Superintendent Keith Neilson, following participation in the Superintendent's Conference at Great Smoky Mountains National Park, was detailed in Washington for the Servicewide Evaluation Committee.

* * *

Stuart Swanberg, recently retired on disability, Glacier National Park Signmaker, received the Department's Commendable Service Award from Acting Superintendent Jack B. Dodd at the September 14 staff meeting. Here Mr. Swanberg received the Award from Acting Superintendent Jack B. Dodd.

## Glen Canyon

Park Ranger Grant A. Petersen and Miss Donna L. Bloxton were united in marriage on October 2, 1965 at the First Southern Baptist Church, Page, Arizona. Both Mr. and Mrs. Petersen are employed at Glen Canyon National Recreation Area. After a honeymoon trip to Colorado, the Petersens will reside at Wahweap.

* * *

Three NPS Employees at Glen Canyon NRA, Richard J. Baker, Mirl W. Peninger and Richard T. Snow, along with two Bureau of Reclamation employees, James Shook and C.W. Chambers, were presented a $200 check each at a joint presentation at Wahweap.

These men were presented these awards for their efforts in placing a log boom on the San Juan River to prevent crude oil from entering Lake Powell after a break in a 16-inch comercial oil line near Aneth, Utah on April 3, 1965.

Upon notification of the break, these men loaded an NPS-owned LCM and after a hazardous night trip in snow, rain and high wind, arrived at the location and established a log boom before the crude oil could reach the lake.

## Lassen Volcanic

Park Naturalist Rob Milne has accepted a position in Nairobi National Park (yes - that's in Africa) as an interpretive specialist. The position is sponsored by the African Wildlife Leadership Foundation in cooperation with the Kenya Government. The Foundation has been engaged in establishing education centers in East Africa's national parks for the orientation of Africans, particularly students. These centers are intended to conduct essentially what are considered interpretive services in the United States and include exhibit rooms and lecture/film rooms.

Rob is very enthusiastic about this opportunity of working with the Africans to help promote, and install in them, the idea of conservation of their fabulous na-

tural resources. Naturally, Tobey, his wife, is also very excited about the experience. They left Lassen on October 19 for further orientation (mostly learning to speak Swahili) in Washington and expect to be in Africa for two years.

* * *

After snowstorms on the 1st and 5th of September, a few frosty days in the middle of September and another snowstorm on the 27th, the weather was very mild through the middle of October; in fact, some days have been as warm as summer. One of these days, though, we know that winter will be upon us, so, everyone is scrambling around getting outside jobs accomplished before the real snowstorms arrive. The largest construction project is at the southwest development area. Curbs have been put in and the road and parking areas have been paved in the winter use area. New entrance stations and a winter use building are under construction. If the weather holds out long enough, the winter use building may be in use this winter. At Sulphur Works, a bridge and new parking area are under construction and the fumerole under the road is being recapped, again, this time with a layer of cinders, tile and a slab of concrete.

## Petrified Forest

After two successive months of increase, travel to Petrified Forest National Park for the month of September showed a decrease. Superintendent Charles H. Humberger announced that nearly 65,250 persons visited the park this past month. He added however that this was 5% less than September 1964. Travel for the first nine months of the year has totalled 776,850, 5% below the same period in 1964.

* * *

Park rangers cited 23 persons for attempting to steal petrified wood during September and their fines totalled $262.00. Park Superintendent Humberger stated that through the first nine months of the year, 178 persons were apprehended for this same offense and fined a total of over $2000.00.

## Sequoia and Kings Canyon

Richard Riegelhuth, Park Biologist, is at Fort Collins, Colorado, for a year of graduate study in Wildland Resources Administration at Colorado State University.

* * *

Fern Gray, Clerk Typist in the Naturalist Office, who is on a year-long around the world tour, is having to spend several weeks in a hospital in Athens, Greece. Fern became ill with a bronchial infection while in Lisbon, Portugal. After treatment by doctors there, she continued her trip to Athens. At Seville, she became more ill but only surgical cases could be admitted to the hospital there so she flew on to Athens and directly to a hospital. When released, Fern will go to Cairo, India, Burma, Thailand, and then Hongkong where she will board the Taiping for the trip home by way of Japan.

* * *

Warren A. Johnson, Supervisory Civil Engineer, with his family, is at Ann Arbor, Michigan. Warren is taking the graduate course on Natural Resources Administration at the University of Michigan. He returns to the Parks in June.

* * *

A daughter, Janet Lee, was born August 7 to Barbara and Bill Wendt. This is their second child.

* * *

Valarie LaFrance, who is just nine, and her younger sister and some other children were playing at Lodgepole when they came upon some sticks of dynamite with some wires attached to them. She remembered what she had been told and would not let the other children touch them. She sent one of the children after her father, Bob LaFrance, Foreman I, B&U, at Lodgepole, who removed the dynamite. This is a splendid example of using safety rules.

* * *

Myrle and Don Raybourn have sold their home in Three Rivers. After the summer spend at their cabin at Silver City, they are moving to Santa Cruz, Calif., where they have leased a home for a year to see if that will be their permanent home.

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## Yosemite

Under the overall supevision of Park Ranger Robert D. Metherell, Park Biologist, two hunting teams have been busily engaged in the program of removing 1,075 deer from the high summer range by shooting them.

Park Ranger Ronald Truessel in charge of the South hunt, has with him Park Ranger Lewis S. Albert, and Deputy Park Ranger Steve H. Wight. Kenneth W. Wass is serving as packer and Martin H. Pleasant as cook. This past week they have confined their reduction activities between Buck Camp, their base camp, and Moraine Meadows. Through October 2 they had taken 92 deer. The quota for the South unit is 325 for the reduction program.

Supervisory Park Ranger George Goick is in charge of the North hunt, and working with him are Park Ranger Dave Butts, and Deputy Park Ranger Harold L. Hill, Jr. Walter C. Castle is doing the packing and Everett M. Gilbert is camptender and cook. They have enjoyed a wider range for their head reduction work and have been active in Tuolumne Meadows, Parker Pass, and on the Lyell Fork. They were at Tuolumne Meadows until Friday, Octover 1, when they moved to White Wolf. The North unit quota is 750, and by the night of Monday, October 4, 204 deer had been taken by this crew.

Arrangements have been made with the Sierra Conservation Center in Jamestown, to pick up the carcasses of all salvable deer. At the Conservation Center the field dressed carcasses are being processed for distribution to other State penal institutions.

The Rangers participating in the deer reduction program are doing a job which is plain disagreeable; dirty, hard work, but someone has to do the job and it had fallen to their lot to accomplish this necessary but unrewarding task. To get the job done calls for hours from dawn until dusk. The demands on the energies of each dedicated man in the group is far more than the casual observer might think. Guns must be cleaned; knives sharpened; stock fed; and the carcasses all adequately cared for before the night's rest comes, and then within a few hours, the routine starts anew the next day. These teams are to be commended on the dedicated effort they are making to get the job done.

## Zion

Zionites welcome our new superintendent, Warren Hamilton, and his wife, Elaine. Mr. Hamilton studies forestry at the University of California and began his Service career as a seasonal Park Ranger at Sequoia. During his 33 years with the Service he served 11 years as a ranger at Grand Canyon and for 5 years as Assistant Superintendent at Yellowstone from 1952 to 1958, Superintendent at Everglades from 1958 to 1963, and since 1963 he served as Assistant Regional Director for Operations of the Western Region. Warren Hamilton now fills the position just vacated by the retirement of Frank Oberhansley; the Oberhansleys now reside in Boise, Idaho.

In a sense, the Hamiltons are returning home. While stationed at North Rim, Warren met Elaine (then, Elaine Hartley of Hurricane, Utah). They were married in 1934 and their son and daughter were born in Kanab. Welcome home, Warren and Elaine, to the color canyons of the Zion region.

Zionites also welcome Allan Hillery and family to Zion from Badlands. Allan is our new R&T Foreman.

* * *

Early September floods of the Virgin River trapped 42 hikers in Zion's famed Narrows. Much concern was shown by Utah radio and newspaper personnel because of unpleasant public memories of the September, 1961, Narrows tragedy which claimed five lives. This year's flood story appeared in papers and on TV throughout the country for several days. The Salt Lake Tribune ran headline coverage for three days, and Life Magazine may feature a photo account. All in all, the press contributed substantially to making the story full of human interest.

Early Sunday morning (Sept. 5) a roily flood of possible record proportions swept through the Narrows and into lower Zion Canyon. The storm centered over the headwaters of the Virgin River; a 1.3 inch deluge fell on the Lava Point fire lookout. Visitors on the canyon drive stopped and stared in awe as the muddy mass thundered down the steep channel by the Great Landslide. New Landslides poured into the torrent as soft slopes were undercut. Huge "haystacks" of cocoa-colored water up to twenty feet high burst and boomed, and enormous logs crashed and upended time and again. The logs came in clusters as if large jams had broken apart suddenly. Judgin from the maximum height of the flood crest at the Watchman Residential Area bridge (about 12 feet), the water must have risen over 20 feet in the lower Narrows. According to at least one observer, this flood was higher than the disasterous 1961 flood that battered and drowned five hapless victims. To warn of the danger of floods, a sign telling of the 1961 tragedy was erected a few years ago at the end of the Narrows Trail. The bottom line of the sign admonishes the aspiring Narrows waders with these words: "DO NOT TAKE CHANCES". The flood line this year rose just to the bottom of those letters, as if to underline the warning.

Several hiking groups (or shall we say wading, swimming, and climbing groups) of differing size and composition were stranded temporarily in the Narrows beginning September 5. Flood crests subsided Sunday night, but renewed pulses Monday morning prevented many of the hikers from reaching safety at the end of the Narrows Trail. Seventeen of those trapped made it out on Monday, leaving 25 to emerge on Tuesday. Four children, ages 7 to 9, were among the 42 trapped; one child, on emerging, said that the three-day pleasure hike turned into a five-day nightmare.

Some Californian hikers lost all food and equipment when the flood hit and had to hang onto crevices and trees to avoid being swept away. One man climbed to the tippy topmost branch of a tree, but the water swirled up to his level; a log struck his leg and injured him.

In summary, it was quite an experience. The rangers were all fretted and fagged out, and the naturalists at the desk were all questioned and answered out. All's well that ends well and, as the Tribune said, the Narrows adventurers were "tortured", "disenchanted", and tired of a steady diet of boiled water, silt, and powdered milk.

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