

interpreters
information
exchange

IN TOUCH

produced
by and for
nps people
concerned with
interpretive
and visitor
services

Number 14

July 1976



A note to all you potential contributors. As you can see in this issue, most of the contributions we received are not illustrated. Of course, illustrations are not appropriate for all articles, but we think that illustrations make a snappy and more useful publication and want to include them whenever possible. How about giving us a hand by including photos or other illustrations with your contributions whenever possible and appropriate.

ed.

Vol. 1

No. 14

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Design Keith Hoofnagle
Coordinator Roy Graybill
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Washington, D. C. 20240

The first article for the first issue of In Touch was written by Pete Shedd. He was doubtless the consensus choice of the editors, for Pete's approval would be worth considerably more for a shaky new venture than a ghost-written endorsement from the Hall of Heroes.

But nobody could ever hustle Pete. While acknowledging (with tongue in cheek) the deep debt of gratitude that interpreters would forever owe to the "Venerated Saints of Interpretation" for launching In Touch, he proceeded to calmly warn said Saints they had better abandon any idea of using the publication as a soapbox for extolling the exquisite professionalism of Harpers Ferry or drumming up field support for the inevitable New Programs conjured up at predictable intervals by the Division of Interpretation.

Changing his windage, he zeroed in on the field: if this is to be your publication you have the choice of getting involved or else consigning appeals for articles to the Outrageous Demand file - and continuing to gripe about the need for better communications among interpreters.

But it was all done with the wry and delicate Shedd touch. Both Saints and field interpreters profited from Pete's advice, and so too has In Touch.

Shaping up In Touch was a typical Pete Shedd contribution. Those who knew Pete soon realized he was wholly lacking in personal ambition, but unswerving in his efforts to improve interpretation. Deep down, his commitment to

his work was total, but devotion to the cause of the parks did not seriously interfere with his frequent and gleeful campaigns against bureaucratic cant.

Many thought Pete could have enjoyed a successful career as a stand up comedian. Properly stimulated, he could reel off Gilbert and Sullivan patter songs or relate uproarious, if imaginary, episodes from wars in far off places.

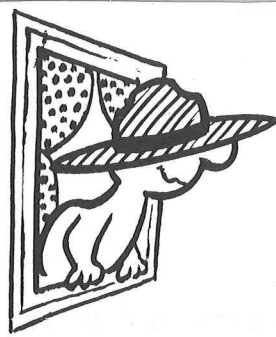
Then, the unexpected news last December of Pete's tragic illness left his friends numb. But the correspondence, which continued from his home, was cheery and irreverent, and totally lacking in self pity. Courage - or guts - is grace under pressure.

One is reminded of the poignant closing scene from that wildly hilarious, but often moving classic, The Last Hurrah. As Skeffington's comrades pass by his bed to say goodbye for the last time, he murmurs to a faithful colleague, "How do you thank a man for a million laughs?"

It would be difficult to decide which of Pete's many accomplishments deserve our thanks the most. Most of us would be content to express appreciation for a friend who unfailingly brought warmth and wit and intelligence to every Park Service meeting he ever attended. A delightful companion, one who never bored anyone in his life.

(Pete Shedd died on May 28)

ON THE OUTSIDE



INTERESTING TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

A number of interesting training opportunities have been received and reviewed recently. The quality and personal value of the courses cannot be ascertained from a brochure, but the descriptions are intriguing.

Funds must come from your operating unit; approval and selection for any opportunity will be through normal channels, and documented according to instructions in the 1976 Training Opportunities Booklet.

The following are brief outlines of four available programs:

"Working Together" - a 1-day seminar offered by California State University, Los Angeles, California. Teamwork, TA, interpersonal communications will be stressed. Cost \$40.00. (California State offers a number of short seminars on subjects of interest to NPS employees.)

Practical Management Associates, 20929 Ventura Blvd., Woodland Hills, Calif., 91365, offers a series of 1-day seminars: "Motivation and Discipline," "Communicating Through Objectives," and "The Job of Supervision," at various locations and times throughout the year. Employees who have attended PMA courses recommend them. Cost: \$55.00 each.

Leadership Development Associates of Westwood, New Jersey, offers a four phase Leadership Workshop involving two separate weeks of formal classroom activity in managerial skills, interspersed with on-the-job testing, and final follow-up phase. Total cost: \$675.00.

Power and Systems Training, Boston, Massachusetts, offers 1-week laboratories in dealing with the "issues of power in human interaction." They also offer a course dealing with Social Systems and "how they really work." The labs are offered at Cape Cod, Massachusetts, and Soquel, California in the Spring and Fall.

For brochures, more information, phone numbers, other locations, and cost breakdowns, please call Mike Strock, Division of Training, WASO (202) 523-5166.

Tom D. Thomas
Chief Training Officer
WASO

U. S. FOREST SERVICE INTERPRETIVE PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Since the creation of the Visitor Information Service (VIS) in the early 60's, the U. S. Forest Service has done a great deal to provide expanded interpretive services in our National Forests. A number of publications dealing specifically with visitor services and interpretation have been developed. I have devised a small list of useful Forest Service interpretive publications to share with you. Perhaps an energetic NPS interpreter could devise such a list of his agency's general interpretive publications.

1. U.S. Department of Agriculture -- U.S. Forest Service, Conservation Tools for Educators, Pacific Northwest Region--USFS, P. O. Box 3623, Portland, Oregon 97208, 76 pp., 1970.
2. Developing the Self-Guiding Trail in the National Forests, Miscellaneous Publication 968, USDA-Forest Service, Washington, D.C., 18 pp., 1964.
3. Educational Principles and Techniques for Interpreters, General Technical Report PNW-9, Pacific Northwest Forest and Range Experiment Station, Portland, Ore., 24 pp., 1973.
4. Explore! A Visitor's Guide to Discovery in the National Forests, Program Aid 983, USDA-Forest Service, Washington, D.C., 13 pp., 1972.

5. Forest Interpreter's Primer on Wildlife, TT-52 (1660/2330), USDA-Forest Service, Washington, D.C., 53 pp., 1976.

This publication is first in a whole series of VIS training booklets to be released later. This primer presents ecological principles, interesting facts, and an extensive bibliography useful to the naturalist interpreting Forest Service wildlife management programs. Silviculture, fire control, range, watershed, and recreation will be dealt with in future primers for interpreters.

6. Naturalist Notes, USDA-Forest Service, Washington, D.C., 27 pp.
7. Outdoor School Songs, Pacific Northwest Region, U.S. Forest Service, 47 pp., 1970.
8. Teaching Conservation Through Outdoor Education Areas, PA-837, USDA-Forest Service, Washington, D.C., 23 pp., 1970.
9. Visitor Information Service: Pictorial Review 1960-70, Pacific Northwest Region, USFS, 17 pp., 1971.

Joseph Ross
Forester Interpreter, USFS
Lake Tahoe Visitor
Center

UPCOMING MEETINGS OF INTEREST TO NPS
INTERPRETERS

August 15-18, 1976

CONSERVATION EDUCATION ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL CONFERENCE
University of Portland
Portland, OR

Theme: Education role in land use
planning.

Contact: Jim Unterwegner
Gifford Pinchot National
Forest
500 West 12th Street
Vancouver, Washington 98660

Early September, 1976

AIN GREAT LAKES REGIONAL WORKSHOP
Southern Illinois University
Carbondale, IL

Contact: Paul Yambert
Rt. 1, Box 205-1
Carbondale, IL 62901

September 9-12, 1976

ORAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION (Annual Meet-
ing)

Montebello, Quebec

Contact: Ronald E. Marcello
P. O. Box 13734, N.T. Station
North Texas State University
Denton, TX 76203

September 16, 17, 18, 19, 1976

AIN NORTHEAST REGIONAL WORKSHOP

Thomtson Education Center

Thomtson Island, Boston, MA

Contact: Robert Stanhope
Blue Hills Trailside Museum
1904 Canton Avenue
Milton, MA

September 21-24, 1976

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR STATE AND
LOCAL HISTORY (National Meeting)
Albany, NY

September 27 - October 1, 1976

SOCIETY OF AMERICAN ARCHIVISTS (Nat'l.
Meeting)
Washington, D. C.

September 29 - October 2, 1976

ASSOCIATION OF CANADIAN INTERPRETERS
FOURTH ANNUAL WORKSHOP

Brundell, Prince Edward Island

Theme: Interpretation, Programming,
Promotion

Contact: Diane Griffin
c/o Dept. of Tourism and
Parks
Box 2000
Charlottetown, P.E.I.

Early October, 1976

AIN SOUTHEAST REGIONAL WORKSHOP

The Citadel, Charleston, SC

Contact: Dennis W. Gunter
1747 Haviland Circle
Columbia, SC 29210

October 6, 7, 8, 9, 1976

AIN NORTHWEST REGIONAL WORKSHOP

Providence Heights Education and
Conference Center

Off I-90, 20 Miles East, Seattle, WA

Contact: Jocko Burks, Forester
Weyerhaeuser Company
CH3-24
Takoma, WA 98401

October 6, 7, 8, 9, 1976

AIN ROCKY MOUNTAIN HIGH PLAINS
REGIONAL WORKSHOP

Sonora Desert Museum

Tucson, AZ

Contact: Doris Ready
432 North La Cholla Blvd.
Tucson, AZ 85708

October 13-16, 1976

WESTERN HISTORY ASSOCIATION (National
Meeting)

Denver, Colorado

October 17-22, 1976

NATIONAL RECREATION AND PARK ASSOCI-
ATION CONVENTION

Boston, MA

Contact: NRPA
1601 N. Kent Street
Arlington, VA 22209

October 27-31, 1976

NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRE-
SERVATION

(National Meeting)

Philadelphia, PA

November 10-13, 1976

SOUTHERN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
(National Meeting)

Atlanta, GA

December 6-8, 1976

PUBLIC INFORMATION & PUBLICATIONS

Smithsonian Institution - Washington,
D.C.

Materials Fee: \$5.00

Enrollment Limit: 18

Apply by November 6

Contact: Workshop Series
Office of Museums Programs
Arts and Industries Bldg.,
Room 2235
Smithsonian Institution
Washington, D. C. 20560

FORUM



Dear Editor:

As always "In Touch" continues to be an important interpretive communication to the field in its role as a forum. Along these lines I'd like to offer a suggestion for your consideration.

Perhaps, a small corner in each issue could be devoted to a sort of "Have You Tried?" or "How About?" listing of five or six new or even reworked suggestions for interpretation--ideas to experiment with, interpretive programs to try, interpretive "nit grits" etc., a kind of "Sparks" corner that isn't a written column, but gives some succinct, solid, even far-out ideas to think about. We've all had some pet interpretive dreams that we'd like to try one day. Why not share them?

"In Touch" itself tends to lean toward longer, letter or essay-type articles. These are valuable. They have their place, but I'll bet the first thing we all turn to is the latest Hoofnagle cartoon. Why not have an idea primer section that does the same for offering interpretive ideas as a cartoon does for a humorous idea i. e., distill it into something short and compact. As the cartoon tickles our funny bone, have something tickling the old creative imagination. Maybe Keith could create a "Sparky" cartoon character for it!

People are reluctant to sit down and write something long to In Touch, but perhaps they wouldn't hesitate to write a sentence or two for such a corner and slip it in the mail. Five or six items like this listed every month might create all kinds of refreshing interpretive waves.

Samples might be:

1. Have you tried giving a "sounds only" interpretive program for an historical talk, describing history through the sounds an historical figure would have heard?
2. Have you tried describing a beach in terms of a visitor's house--as the front porch leading into the main life of the house, indoor activity in the ocean's rooms, sun as the heating system, etc., etc., ?
3. Have you tried letting a visitor help you give a talk or a tour?
4. Have you tried having a special night program in an historic house? Most of our interpretation is given in the daytime, but historic families lived in their houses in the evening too!

5. Have you tried giving an historical talk backwards--starting at how the historic event survives and influences today and threading back to when it actually happened?
6. How about a nature's hardware talk? What plants were used for lubricant, building materials, scrapers, string, etc.

Anyway, there's the idea for what it's worth. Maybe someone on your staff might be interested in pursuing it.

Cynthia E. Kryston
Chief of Interpretation
Minute Man NHP

Right on, Cindy. You've summed up beautifully what we have been hoping for since In Touch began. All we need are the "sparks" from our readers. We know there are lots of good things going on out there. Let's hear about them!

ed.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

IT AIN'T NECESSARILY SO!

While Ms. Sherfy makes many intelligent points in her May article "The Craft of History" that should further pledge us to historic accuracy and restraint, I believe she is beating a philosophical dead horse. I think by now field managers and interpreters realize the excesses of living history programs that mislead or presume too much. Except for the few glaring exceptions that inspire a kick to the corpse it is simply

not being done. Ms. Sherfy may imagine many horrors of distortion to the past being practiced in the field but it ain't necessarily so.

Ms. Sherfy's article reminds me of the purist academicians who can't accept much of anything about the real world because it isn't operating perfectly by all standards of their own theories. I know because I have been there, listened, and left for the challenges of an imperfect world that includes the National Park Service.

Out here in the flawed West at Pipe Spring National Monument we present an interpretive program that does not presume too much. Like many other historical areas we offer costumed interpretive demonstrations that extend to our visitors a glimpse of life in the 1870's at the Pipe Spring Community. Our demonstrations are of the most basic variety (quilting, baking, rugmaking, and spinning) and are observed during a guided tour.

We cannot recreate the total fabric of life at Pipe Spring but I question whether we are misleading our visitors by eliciting a quiet feeling of reality by performing time honored domestic activities in a once lively place. Also our horse worked gardens are growing but not quite in the same way as in the 1870's given environmental changes over the years. Nevertheless, they present an historic scene that sensitizes the visitor to our interpretation of life at Pipe Spring.

Should we lay waste to our gardens, cool our stove, and still the nimble hands of our interpretive demonstrators? My answer is an emphatic no because we are not pretending to be the people of Pipe Spring in the 1870's. We know who we are and we do not mislead. We are sim-

ply offering an interpretive atmosphere that does not say "there are the dead remains of Pipe Spring, once a community but now a museum of forgotten articles and skills". Those who remember the past fairly accurately because they were there are the ones who appreciate most the living activities at Pipe Spring.

Finally, I think we thoroughly know the excesses of the debate between the living history advocates and historic preservationists. I am certain we should perform with a sound pragmatic professionalism that accepts neither extreme. Let us get on with it.

Glenn O. Clark
Supv. Park Ranger
Pipe Spring NM

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After working as a seasonal interpretive naturalist in one of our national parks, I realized that the average national park visitor does not know what an interpretive naturalist is, or that one even exists! Why is this?

One reason that the public may not know of the interpretive naturalist is the fact that there is no way to tell a law enforcement ranger from an interpretive naturalist by looking because the uniform is usually the same. In some parks the uniforms of park aids, fee collectors, or V.I.P.'s may be the same as the naturalist uniform, as well.

Ignorance due to lack of education may constitute another reason for this situation. Many visitors never know about the interpretive programs that are offered in some of our smaller parks. If they do not know about the programs, why

should they know what an interpretive naturalist is?

What are some of the possibilities for the resolution of the situation? One possibility might be to change the uniform of the naturalist to one that is different from that of the law enforcement rangers, fee collectors, etc. This would give the public a way to differentiate, at a glance, and perhaps provoke some questions about the difference. This change in uniform may be only in the color of the shirt or trousers or a different badge or hat.

Another possible resolution might be to get more cooperation from the law enforcement rangers and fee collectors. If they mention the interpretive programs to the visitors or remark that there is an interpretive naturalist in the park who would be happy to answer any questions they may have about the area's history, the environment, etc., the visitor may be forced into realizing the difference in the roles of these other persons and the interpretive naturalist.

These changes could have some very positive effects, as far as the naturalist not having to push himself or herself onto the the visitors. The changes could also show the visitors that there is more to the system than the park rules and regulations and fees that must be paid. They could show them that there is a big, exciting, and perhaps unseen world that stretches far beyond the boundaries of the park. The eye-opening adventures that the average visitors can choose to go through might be the biggest reason of all to make sure that they know that there is someone there who is willing to help them experience them.

Amanda Garcia
College Station, Texas

GAIN EFFECTIVENESS THROUGH INFORMALITY

With the Bicentennial year upon us, interpreters are busier than ever. A predicted 252.5 million people will visit our National Parks this year--almost 14 million more than in 1975. Interpreters are given limited time with an audience and rarely confront the same visitors twice. Seldom do we get the opportunity to become acquainted with members of the audience. In spite of these complaints we can be extremely effective if we let informality prevail during interpretive presentations.

An informal atmosphere encourages involvement. Try leading a song or taking a group picture on your historic walk. During discussions, have your participants arrange themselves in a circle with you among them. A visitor's motivation for learning increases with participation. Furthermore, the individual will more often retain knowledge gained through group interaction and active involvement.

Visitors come to their forests and parks in search of a relaxing and enjoyable time. Informality prevails and socialization with strangers is acceptable. The values of leading a five minute name-learning game are great. Group feeling will prevail; your audience will be more receptive; new friends are made. It is truly unfortunate that many interpreters treat visitors as "x number of faces" rather than as individuals. We must realize that each person has unique experiences valuable to the group. Many interpreters are message regurgitators, as "distant" from our visitors as possible. This year we should try harder than ever to provide availability to a real live naturalist. Informality is the solution. In 1976 we'll be serving an increased number of visitors, but is this justification for throwing out our

informal campfire programs for formal lectures to large audiences seated neatly in row after row? I don't think so! I plan to strive for face to face interpretation and constant availability of the naturalist to the visitor. Try moving among your visitors while presenting a topic. Informal contacts with interpreters are the most rewarding and enjoyable for visitors.

I would like to see most amphitheaters equipped with informal but comfortable seating. Interpreters should avoid the stage now and then. Encourage discussion and questions, if possible. During your talk, invite visitors to come up later and see those pictures, maps, or special reports that you're referring to. Converse with visitors before and after the program. We must actually work harder to create an informal atmosphere which encourages involvement, interaction, and participation.

Innovative programs such as raft trips, bike trips, ski tours, boat cruises, marshmallow roasts, auto tours, puppet shows, as well as litter incentive programs motivate visitors to become involved and participatory. In the informal interpretive situation face-to-face feedback becomes readily available. The interpreter can easily determine the visitor's comprehension and interest by listening, observing, and asking questions. The interpreter can use this feedback to become more effective.

Could it be that wearing a tie as part of our uniform discourages some interaction and detracts from the informal atmosphere? For me a tie is formal dress. I feel that informality, to an extent, is lost. Perhaps we should consider revamping our uniform standards.

The interpreter can increase his effectiveness by striving for informality.

Informal contacts are the most rewarding, provide motivation for learning, and enhance visitor experience in our forests and parks.

Joseph Ross
Forest Interpreter
U.S. Forest Service
Lake Tahoe Visitor Center

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EARTHWORKS AND BATTLEFIELDS,
with a glowing apostrophe on the
benefits of token reconstructions

On the 12th of May in 1864, a thousand Confederates and two thousand Federals waged an incredible fight for twenty hours at arms length from each other, near Spotsylvania Court House, Virginia. Both armies had exhausted their momentum in struggling for an immense line of works in the form of a salient angle--and an equilibrium born of inertia had developed.

The savage, close-in, continuous fighting achieved a ghastly prominence. The nom de guerre "The Bloody Angle" is as familiar to many Americans today as it was to the contemporary generation; the mutilated stump of a two-foot-thick oak, whittled through by swarms of rifle balls, is prominently displayed to the view of millions of visitors to Smithsonian; and, most important, the National Park Service owns the sanguinary ground.

The primary non-human element on that brutal day was a line of Southern earthworks of tremendous size and sophistication--the most complex field fortifications ever produced on the continent, these were. They were so deep that firing steps were required, and such luxuries as head logs and stout log

traverses every ten yards were provided. A dense screen of abatis to the front completed a very imposing spectacle of log-revetted earthen strength.

A modern visitor to the Bloody Angle will find the merest vestige of the works which were the piece de resistance in 1864. The wood fibers disappeared in short order, of course, and the blood-soaked soil began a decline dictated by soil factors and the like, unhindered by any efforts of man. What remains today is an inarticulated lump of earth, of perhaps 18 to 24 inches in height.

The works, let me hasten to admit, are not our story. That the story of the men who fought and endured behind them is our story, none can dispute. It is equally clear, however, that the spectre of these men does not appear readily to most NPS visitors, at least not in a form which is adequately discernible.

One of the best interpretive stratagems available in historical sites is provision for an approximation of the scene at the moment (or era) to be interpreted. Then the objects in view can become touchstones, points of departure, for establishing empathy with the past.

The point is well overdue. I suggest that all of us involved in historical programs--both interpretive and preservative programs and all that each connotes--all of us should pay some mind to the potentially great positive impact which would result from reconstructing very small portions of military works in selected representative locales of many parks.

There is opposition to earthwork reconstruction in many quarters, and to historical reconstructions in general, beyond that warranted by a loose interpretation of the NPS management policies. This

opposition is the logical outgrowth of projects which reconstruct a faint facsimile of the smokehouse of unsuccessful vice-presidential candidate Roscoe Voigt, so that girls in old-timey bonnets can give blacksmithing demonstrations for busloads of environmentally aware youth en route to the ESA.

It is rumored that one earthwork reconstruction project in a Bicentennial area won approval on the claim that it was truly only a restoration, all original materials being still on hand (the berm and the ditch just traded places, you see). If this amazingly subtle sophistry set a precedent, its potential is limitless. There are also at least two fixed fortification reconstructions of truly mammoth proportions in the works. None of this is likely to be of immediate use to those who deal in battlefields where George Washington never slept, or anything.

Let us reconstruct some fragments of earthworks in key places, for interpretive profit, while protecting the original remains with care.

Robert K. Krick
Fredericksburg and
Spotsylvania NMP

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Having tapes in foreign languages to describe the individual parks is excellent, and this should be done everywhere routinely. If they're advertised in the same language, and their availability is common practice, all by themselves they are sufficient interpretation effort and expense for the low percentages of our visitors who do not speak English. Over

emphasis on bilingualism is unnecessary and inappropriate in visitor centers of the National Park Service.

Writing job descriptions so that people working information desks must be bilingual is going too far. An interpreter who is Finnish/English bilingual isn't going to be any great help to a visitor from Turkey, after all. Here in the Southwest it is a considerate gesture if desk personnel are capable in Mexican border Spanish, as long as NPS supervisors recognize that this is what it is: a gesture. Mexican border Spanish bears only passing resemblance to New York Puerto Rican Spanish or European Spanish. Why else have Spanish-speaking parents with children in U.S. schools insisted that the Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children Revised be translated into each?

We have the sad examples of Canadian problems with bilingualism in modern society, and the intense feelings over "mother tongues" leading sometimes to wars in emerging societies, for any of us to believe that multi-lingualism could solve more problems than it can create.

If communication is the supreme goal, seasonal training sessions should include working out a program to be presented while wearing a gag. Having worked on an information desk for about two years, I've found my travel experiences in India, Asia, and Micronesia permitted me to convey more information to more visitors in international sign language than either of the two foreign languages I speak could have. A willing attitude is where it's at for all our visitors: bilingualism isn't.

Carol Farris
Intermittent Seasonal
Saguaro National Monument

COOPERATING ASSOCIATIONS



PUBLICATIONS COMPETITION

Entry forms for the 1976 Cooperating Association Publications Competition are in the mail. Deadline is Monday, September 27.

COOPERATING ASSOCIATION TRAINING

There will be only one training session this year: August 30 - September 3, Albright Training Academy, Grand Canyon, AZ. This class is being restricted to the independent associations and those small amalgamations whose agents are also business managers. Deadline for all applications is July 12.

COOPERATION ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

At our invitation, the Office of the Superintendent of Documents will be represented at the November conference. Mr. William J. Barrett, Deputy Assistant Public Printer, will address the associations on matters pertaining to NPS publications and the new order procedures.

There is a very good opportunity that John Richardson, professional photographer and specialist in wildflower photography, will attend the conference and present a brief seminar. John is a professor in the Department of Botany, Southern Illinois University, photographer of several new wildflower books, and presently engaged in a project for Big Bend Natural History Association.

Remember: Attendance at the conference by both association and NPS personnel representing associations must be financed by associations.

SUPERINTENDENT OF DOCUMENTS

By the time this is read, you should have received from the office of Cooperating Association Coordinator a letter concerning recent discussions with the Superintendent of Documents. This communication is of vital importance to your future sales. If it has not reached your desk, please check.

The essence of the letter is a new ordering system for all cooperating associations. Beginning July 1, 1976, a new order form for all and only GPO publications is to be used by the associations in accordance with an agreement with the Superintendent's office. Copies of that special form and special envelopes were distributed with the letter. The form has room for only one publication and only one item should be listed per form. You may send several order forms in one envelope though. SupDocs informs us that one item orders are processed more efficiently than multiple listings on one form. This form, set up as an experiment for college bookstore ordering, is being adapted for our use on a trial basis from July 1st until November 8th. We are being guar-

anteed special attention on all orders using this form. Sometime during the week of November 8th, the week of the Association Conference in Albuquerque, the Deputy Assistant Public Printer, Superintendent of Documents, will appear before us in a special session to personally report on the success of the trial run.

Soon, if not already in your hands, you will receive a listing of all NPS publications with carton lots. This means that in the future you will be able to order by the box or carton--the warehouse carton in which SupDocs received the publication. This is guaranteed to give faster service because all carton orders will go directly to the warehouse for fulfillment. For example, if you need 450 books, but they come 500 to a carton, it would make sense to order the extra 50. In addition to the faster service, we are hoping that this might take care of some of the damaged carton complaints of the past.

The Superintendent's office has informed us that the use of the Stock Number (S/N), rather than the catalog number or job jacket number of a publication, facilitates ordering procedure to a degree that we are herewith recommending that only the stock number be used in the future. Where a publication does not list a S/N but does list a catalog number, and you cannot reach this office, then use the catalog number. To help you, however, we suggest that if there is a question contact this office and we will locate a stock number for your use. Catalog numbers on NPS publications are preceded with "I29". Do not confuse stock numbers with job jacket numbers which are usually printed on the last page--"U.S. Government Printing Office 1972 0-782-456" or "GPO 1975 782-456." We further recommend that if there is any question in your mind about GPO's

stock quantity or price of a publication you contact this office and we will call GPO. These little tricks--the new order form with one item per form, ordering carton lots, using correct stock numbers, price, etc.--together will help speed up your GPO order.

The Superintendent has asked again that only our office call them. They stress that working with phone messages is inefficient and would like future complaints put in writing to the Superintendent. In our letter to all associations we have asked for all unusually outstanding back orders (problem orders, etc.) and we will forward these to GPO for special attention in solving.

While SupDocs will be monitoring the new ordering system, we would like to keep tabs on it from this side of the fence. Let this office know if you have problems (i.e., send us a carbon copy of your complaint letters to SupDocs), or if you see a noticeable change in the service.

Remember that March 1975 issue of IN TOUCH when, after the visit to GPO, we indicated that some of our problems might be solved? This office took a lot of good-natured ribbing about being the "eternal optimist". Perhaps we put too much faith in the intent of the people at GPO than in the realities. We have to go that route one more time. There has been a big change in their attitude and procedures and we do feel that the most recent meeting with the new Superintendent and his staff went a long way in establishing a more solid footing for associations. Let's try one more time. On your behalf, we guaranteed your cooperation in using the new order form.

Jim Murfin
Cooperating Association
Coordinator, WASO

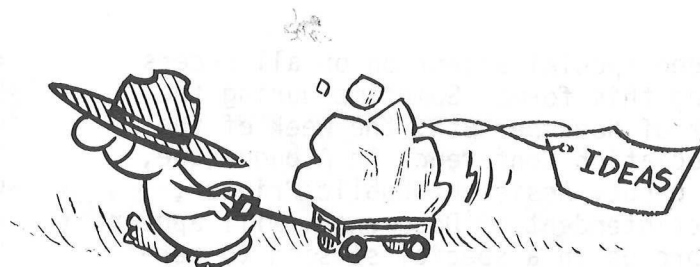
RAP UP

ADVICE FOR SEASONALS ON THE BICENTENNIAL

Last year money was being allotted for specific Bicentennial projects in the parks. The permanent personnel in each park were having to think about Bicentennial projects or events that could relate to their area. It is now time for the seasonal (usually) to implement these ideas. The seasonal may be called upon to come up with programs that "have something to do with the Bicentennial" or lead nature walks and tours that at least mention the National Park Service as the Federal agency which has been asked to help our nation celebrate its 200th Birthday.

As Bicentennial Interpreter for Timpanogos Cave National Monument this spring, I feel I should relay my experiences. I present Bicentennial programs for local schools. To cover the age span from kindergarten to seniors in high school, I have made three different programs.

At first I thought, "what a task!!!" How do I make programs on the Bicentennial that are interesting (children usually expect a ranger to talk about animals), relevant, and tie all of this some how to the National Park Service and Timpanogos Cave National Monument? But, when I found that the theme of the Bicentennial is: "Heritage, Future, & Festival", the task seemed simpler. I just broke the theme down. (It also helped to read Who Am I? -- "Reflections on the meaning of Parks on the Occasion of the Nation's Bicentennial", by Freeman Tilden.)



Heritage--this one was easy. What are our greatest pieces of natural heritage? I hope you will agree when I say our National Parks. So one of my programs is on the National Parks and the National Park Service, stressing their value.

Future--no one can tell us the future but, what we do today influences the future. This makes it easy to deal here with conservation and the environment. Myself, I approached the future by talking about the past. By using living history program slides, I present a slide program that compares and contrasts the lifestyles of 1776, 1876, and 1976; all the time reminding the audience to think about 2076. By looking at the past, we can reflect on the future, learn the mistakes made in the past so we do not repeat them, and realize that what we do today influences the future.

Festival--just by providing programs and outdoor recreational experiences and facilities, people visiting parks can get in a festive mood. Can you refer people to Bicentennial oriented activities going on around your area? What are other National Park areas around you doing for the Bicentennial? Don't forget the Bicentennial Travelling Performing Groups: "People of 1776" and "We've Come Back for a Little Look Around". Are they coming to your area or close to it?

Last of all, I think we must all remember to stress that it is not just the American

Revolutionary War that we are celebrating this year (a great misconception on some people's part). One year is just as important as another in making America what it is today. This is a good reason to have the National Park Service help celebrate our Nation's 200th Birthday. National Park sites encompass areas that have to do with: events that happened before white men came to America (Mesa Verde National Park), people who recently played a part in America (Lyndon B. Johnson National Historic Site), and events that were going on before America was a country and are still going on (nature's works and wonders).

If you are a seasonal confronted with the Bicentennial, remember the theme and keep a goal in mind. Stress that one year is as important as another in making America what it is today (this is easy to tie in with National Park areas that are monuments to events and people). Make the visitor think about the future. What ever your goal, I believe with a little thought it will not be hard to work up programs, walks, or tours which touch the Bicentennial.

Chris M. Olsen
Bicentennial Interpreter
Timpanogos Cave National
Monument

CURATOR'S CORNER

ARCHIVAL PHOTOGRAPHS

This is the first in a series of articles on archival photographs and negatives. This article deals with criteria for designating photographs as archival. Subsequent articles are designed to serve as a guide to proper storage, care, and treatment of archival photographic collections.

What is an archival photographic print or negative? It is any photograph that has value as a museum object. It may be valuable because it was taken by a certain individual, because it was collected by him, or because it pictures him or his environment. Or it may be significant because it relates to the history of an area, an industry, or a park. It is important as an historic or artistic interpretation of its creator and time. In addition to the pictorial information conveyed, the photographic method, the tone, and the paper are of historic significance.

The matting and framing materials of the period may be an integral part of the historic object. Likewise a photographic album should be preserved intact. Its value lies not just in individual photographs, but in their selection and arrangement, not to mention notes which reflect the viewpoint of the compiler at that time.

Photographs and negatives may be copied as a safeguard to preserving information, but whenever possible, the original should be preserved as the historic object.

All the photographs and negatives which are of museum or archival significance should be stored separately from those pertaining to park business, such as accident reports, construction photos, publicity, etc.

The separate storage is necessary because archival material should receive optimum care, which requires expensive envelopes not necessary for short term storage and because archival material should receive a minimum of handling involved with current files.

Janet L. Stone

SHARING A PROGRAM IDEA WITH OTHERS

Last year I made a photographic record of a road-killed deer's decay over a two month period. I've turned the story into an evening program and have been getting enthusiastic responses from the audiences (despite the talk and pictures of bloat and maggots and vultures entering the body through the anus).

There are two aspects of the program I especially like. Our culture tends to ignore death and decay. But it is easy to get around this prejudice by approaching the subject as a very integral, very natural, very essential part of the world. The same fascinating, miraculous complexity is in a dead deer as in a flower and when we talk of blow fly life cycles and how vultures find carrion, we soon forget that the subject is supposed to be repulsive.

The second aspect I like is so often we speak of death (or many aspects of ecology) in abstract cycles and glib terms. It all seems simple and can lead us into believing we really understand how the world works. As Aldo Leopold complained, "In our attempt to make conservation easy, we have made it trivial." But by looking at one example closely, seeing how bacteria and ants and flies and beetles and vultures and coyotes and who knows what else live and interact, thinking of other possibilities (What if it had died in December when the vultures were gone? What if it had died during the rainy season? What if it had been killed by a mountain lion?), one starts to appreciate how complicated the process is, how little we really understand, and how humble we should be when we start to manipulate our surroundings.

I would enjoy sharing ideas with those interested in this program or those already giving similar programs.

Paul Krapfel
Seasonal Technician
Big Bend NP

THE MAGIC OF AMERICA Learning Can Be Fun!

When everyone, everywhere, is trying to incorporate the Bicentennial into programs and products, it is difficult to offer something unique and meaningful. Our solution: a Bicentennial magic show designed for elementary school children called "The Magic of America."

The Pacific Northwest Regional Office contracted with a professional magician and created a 45-minute magic show for children in grades K through 6. Using large illusions and sleight of hand tricks, magician Don Arthur portrays major events in the past 200 years of United States history. His show tells of colonial days, the Civil War, the opening of the Pacific Northwest, and the Klondike Gold Rush. It also demonstrates that the wilderness which the pioneers faced is the same wilderness now preserved in our national parks. Audience participation is emphasized in order to make the show educational and fun.

With the help of a graphic artist we designed a poster to advertise our presentation, serve as a program, and be a keepsake. Illustrated on the rear of the poster is a magic trick a child can perform. (See illustration). Each time a child performs this trick he will be retelling a story with an important message for him and his audience.

"The Magic of America" was an interesting program to develop, but there were some minor obstacles. One was contracting the magician. We originally thought that by going through a local nonprofit, tax-exempt organization we could sign on the talent and avoid contract hassles. In the end, however, it was easier to issue a request for proposals from magicians

and then review the responses and audition the contenders. By clearly specifying our needs (i. e., a professional, full-time magician with at least two years experience performing for grade school children, etc.), we avoided an unnecessarily lengthy reviewing period.

We originally sought to book our program through a central agency that schedules school assemblies throughout the state. We found, however, that it is easier to contact individual principals directly. School administrators were quite receptive, especially since no cost was involved.

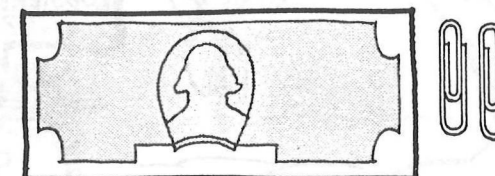
We wanted to reach the children who do not usually get a chance to see this type of assembly program. We booked "The Magic of America" in rural ele-

mentary schools near Olympic, North Cascades, and Mount Rainier National Parks, as well as in the central area schools of Seattle. The tour reaches two or three schools a day for five weeks in the spring, and again in the fall. Throughout the summer "The Magic of America" will also be presented at county recreation centers, community folk festivals, and local day camps. We've received many enthusiastic letters from teachers, principals, and the students themselves. The most rewarding response, however, has been the squeals and laughter from the kids at each performance! Learning can be fun!

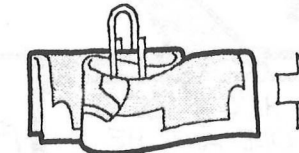
Barbara Diltz-Siler
Park Technician
Pacific Northwest Regional Office

The story is written above the boxes and the instructions are below them.

This bill with a picture of George Washington on it represents America and the paper clips are the American people.

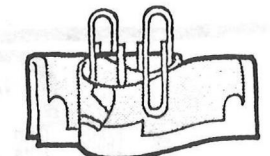


This paper clip is the founding fathers who became quite ATTACHED to their country.



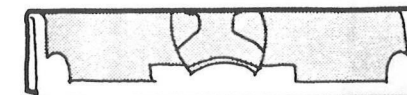
Fold the bill into an "S" and put the first clip on it as shown.

And the other clip stands for the immigrants who came from all over the world. They also became quite ATTACHED to the new land.

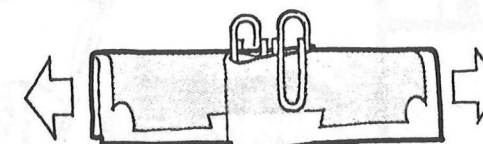


Put the second clip on the bill as shown.

Fold the bill in half as shown.

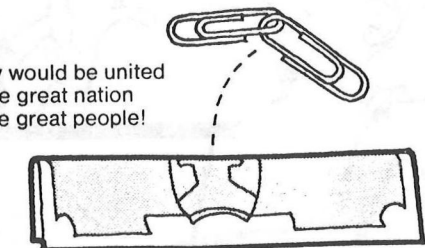


The founding fathers and the immigrants worked side by side and they found that by PULLING TOGETHER...



Pull the two ends of the bill away from each other as shown.

... They would be united into one great nation and one great people!



The clips jump off and are found hooked together!

IT'S MAGIC !!

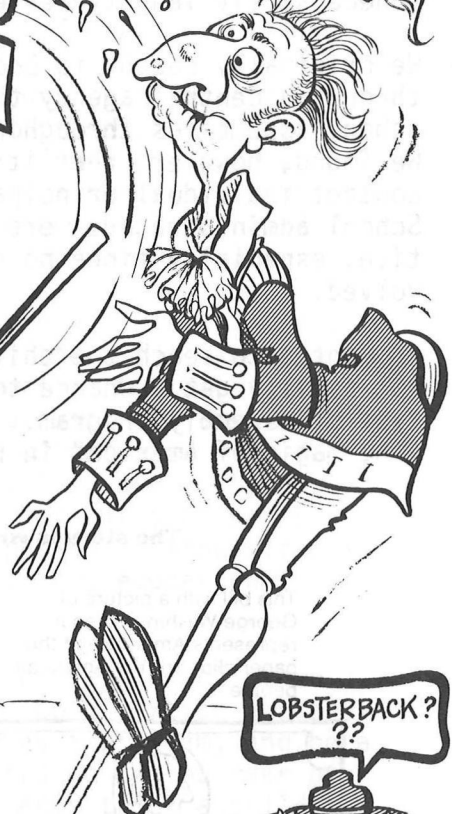
a Bicentennial Potpourri

hoofnagle
HAVO

IT'S MARVELOUS!
YOUR REINACTMENT
OF THE CONTINENTAL
ARMY'S VICTORY AT
SARATOGA IS SO
REALISTIC!
I LOVE IT - I LOVE IT!

© ☆ # ✖ ☆
LOBSTERBACK!

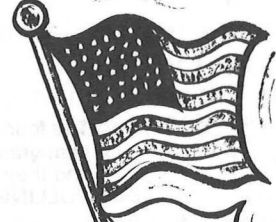
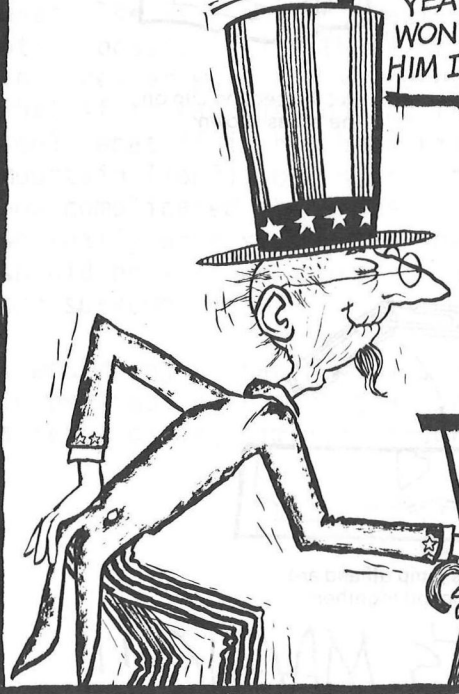
WHUMP!



LOBSTERBACK?
??



HE CLAIMS HE'S 200
YEARS OLD AND HE
WONDERS IF WE'LL LET
HIM IN THE PARK FOR FREE!



THE WHITE
FLAG? OH, THAT'S
THE
BICENTENNIAL
FLAG!

WHEN!
FOR A MINUTE
THERE I
THOUGHT YOU
GUYS WERE
SURRENDER-
ING!

