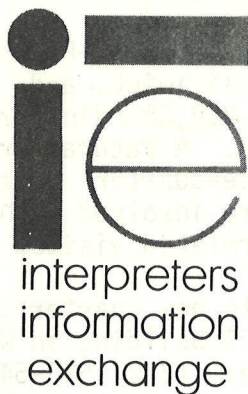


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IN TOUCH

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

Number 16

November, 1976



WE'RE REORGANIZED

From the long-heralded WASO reorganization, three things new have emerged for your home-office team: a new name, a new function and a new location.

As to name, we've gone full circle, for Division of Interpretation and Visitor Services is precisely the organization title of this outfit in the late 60's (followed by Office of Environmental Interpretation and, most recently, Division of Interpretation). Combining Visitor Services with Interpretation in title portends no earth-shaking change; it merely reflects more accurately the nature of our responsibility, which always has transcended interpretation per se. Our counterpart Division, Ranger Activities and Protection, will continue to be concerned with policies and operations of traditional ranger duties -- fee collection, campground operation, and the like. But we've picked up one new function.

The Servicewide Volunteers-In-Parks program is now in our bailiwick, and Betty DeLongchamps, VIP Coordinator these past years, joins us. A natural grouping, since more than three-quarters of the VIPs in the parks are involved with interpretation and related visitor services.

And, we've moved into new quarters at the 1100 L Street NPS building in Washington with a new phone: (202) 523-5444.

The rest of the staff and our basic goals remain the same. We're here to develop policies and priorities for interpretation and visitor services for the Service. Equally important, we are the WASO representatives for all of you interpretive rangers, technicians, naturalists, historians, and archeologists out there in the parks. It's a responsibility we don't take lightly.

Bill Dunmire
Chief, Division of
Interpretation and Visitor Services

Special Note

You will notice that there is no Cooperating Association Section in this issue. Because of the Cooperating Association Conference which is taking place at the time we are going to press, your Coordinator, Jim Murfin, has decided to skip this issue and provide a full report on the conference in the January issue.

Vol 1

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More than three hundred of you responded to the questionnaire in the last issue of IN TOUCH. I am pleased that so many of you who are the recipients of this publication felt strongly enough to respond. Most of you were in favor of keeping IN TOUCH and indicated it was a real value to you in your work, particularly as a means of communicating with other interpreters. Many of you took the time and effort, not just to mark the appropriate block, but to give substantive reasons for your choice. I was particularly delighted to see the numerous suggestions for improvement in the publication.

Due to your interested and informed responses, we will continue to publish IN TOUCH. I have discussed the responses with the Division of Interpretation and Visitor Services. They will be going over your comments in depth and you will soon see many of your ideas reflected in IN TOUCH.

As the Service faces hard choices in the months ahead on how to allocate its limited dollars, we may again have to reevaluate such publications as IN TOUCH. For now, however, those of you who use this magazine have given good reason for it to be continued. You have been a vital part of the decision-making process. Your time and interest are appreciated.



John E. Cook

The following three articles on extending the park's message beyond the park experience compose our special feature for this issue. We have received these articles during the past several months but have saved them until this issue, when hopefully you will have more time to consider this important element of your interpretive program.

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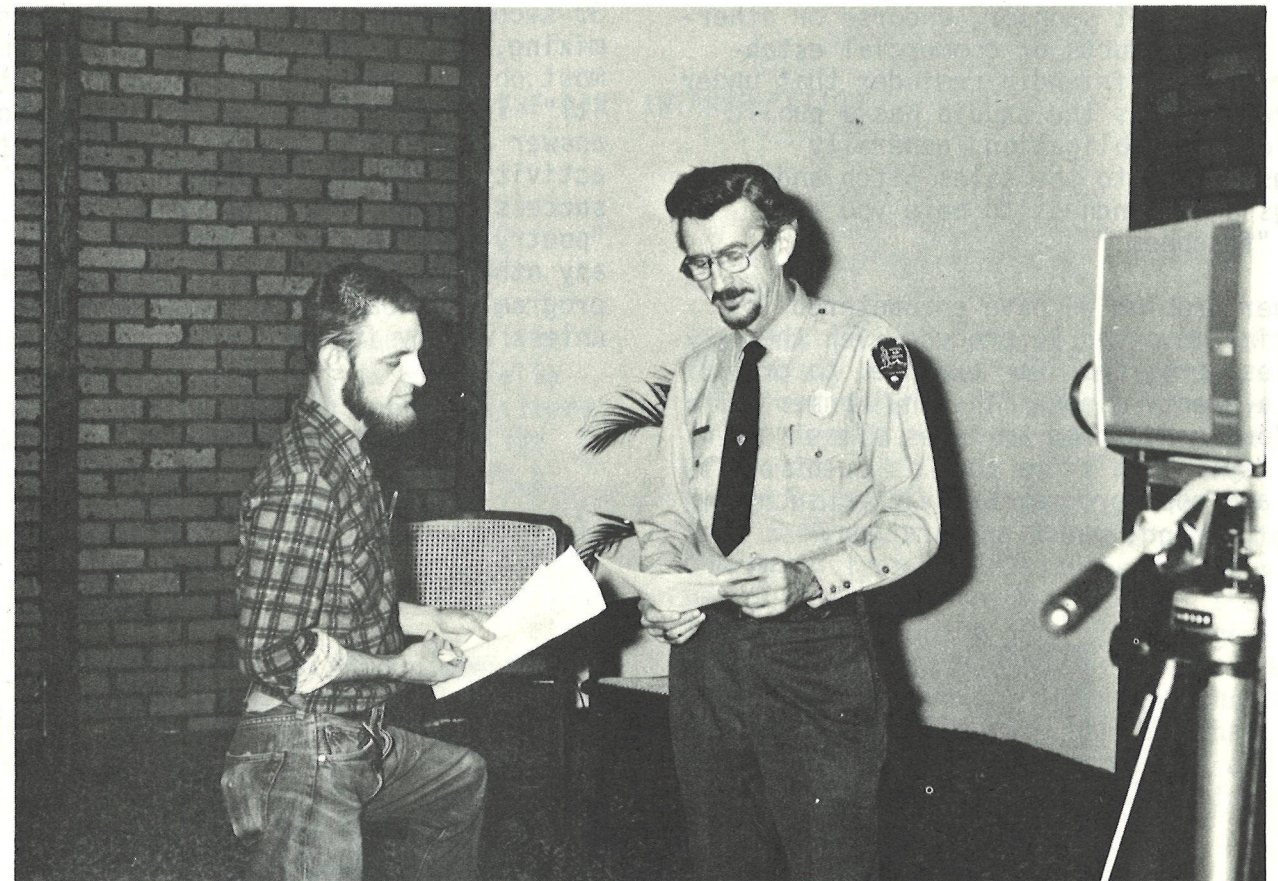
MEDIA AND THE INTERPRETER

"THREE, TWO, ONE!...Good afternoon and welcome once again to KMTN's 'The Environment and You'." So begins one of the new interpretive programs offered by Grand Teton National Park, a weekly radio show. The use of broadcast media is not new to the National Park Service; however, using radio and television as an interpretive tool is something we often overlook. An interpreter leading a walk may tell the Park story to thirty visitors, a campfire talk may draw several hundred; a radio program or television spot, on the other hand, has the potential of reaching thousands. In addition to the "numbers game" media, interpretation allows the Park to reach the people before the people reach the Park. Most "gateway" community broadcasters readily accept any and all information you can supply. In fact, we have found that the media can become an all-consuming monster demanding more than what can reasonably be supplied. The programs can vary from simple informational update spots (campground filling times, etc.), which can be called in and recorded directly from the phone, to a very elaborate studio production with prebroadcast promotion, music, professional announcer, etc. Grand Teton's "The Environment and You" falls somewhere in between. The program, broadcast weekly, does have its own time slot, music and daily promos, which gives it at least a hint of professionalism. The general format is a timely interview

which emphasizes environmental awareness. Guests on the program have ranged from Park personnel to members of Congress to teachers and university professors. Some of the subjects touched upon have included: what youth can do for the environment; the artist and nature; the college grad and the resource job market; federal land use planning--how does it affect me; and many others.

The Park is also experimenting with television as an interpretive tool. In the past, the Park has produced safety and interpretive spots through the assistance of a local broadcast T.V. studio. The color videotape (which was shot on location in the Park) was then reproduced and made available to television studios in the surrounding communities. This project was only partially successful. The amount of time needed to produce a good spot resulted in a midsummer shooting schedule and end-of-summer release. Material which has to be shelved for nine months by a studio is likely to be looked upon as stale and not used the following summer. We also found that material should be reviewed and rereleased every season to avoid distribution of outdated information (last year's fishing regulations, discontinued naturalist activities, etc.).

Last winter, a new approach was investigated and a one hour pilot was produced. The new format was similar to that of



Grand Teton Management Assistant Joe Shellenberger going over script with local television personnel.

other early morning news-talk shows (The Today Show, etc.) but confined its subject matter to local Park and national Bicentennial activities. It has been proposed that we produce a series of seven such programs called "This Morning," which would be broadcast on cable T.V. daily and rerun weekly. All of the local motels are hooked up to cable and every room would have a card on the T.V. stating: "For National Park information, tune in on Channel 4 between 7:30 and 9:30 a.m." The viewer would see a hosted show with interviews, slide programs, films, etc. Current information and new material could be interjected as the summer progressed.

"Growing pains" at the station and funding may well prevent production this summer; however, the idea still burns bright and "This Morning" may well premiere in the summer of 1977.

The use of broadcast media has unlimited opportunities as an interpretive tool. We have found that studio personnel are generally more than happy to assist Park people in the production of public information materials.

There are a couple of things to watch out for. Commercial broadcasting companies will try to "sell time" on a sponsored program basis. The Park Ser-

vice should not sponsor, endorse or otherwise sell products or commercial establishments. A friendly reminder that under FCC regulations the studio has a public service time obligation, generally brings an end to the sales pitch and brings a willingness to help you with your "freebees."

Another problem we have encountered is the time involved to produce even the simplest program. For example, to produce a twenty-minute "The Environment and You" radio program takes almost one full day. That extra time is spent on pre- and post-program activities such as scriptwriting, guest preparation,

30-second promo productions, voice/music mixing, travel and so on. The next and most obvious question is: "Is it worth it?" That question is as difficult to answer as it is with any new interpretive activity. How do you measure the successfulness of a "rock-walk" or "poetry talk" or an "animal stalk" or any other "nontraditional" interpretive program? It basically comes down to: unless we try it, we'll never know.

Bob Huggins



Bob Huggins (right) interviews Wyoming's Senator Clifford Hansen on "The Environment and You."

"ON THE AIR" INTERPRETATION

Getting visitors to "think safety" is a problem for any area, but is especially difficult in a recreation area. Visitors who are not interested in interpretive programs are even less interested in a safety program. But how can the rangers warn them about potential dangers? Lake Meredith's favorite way is with PSAs.

PSAs are Public Service Announcements that are broadcast on commercial radio stations. Your park may have received copies of the National Park Service PSAs sent out from Washington in spring. When we began taking them around to our area stations, the reaction was not overwhelming. Some of the stations would take them, but all the stations preferred something more directly related to our local NPS areas.

Since they were interested, we tackled the project. We decided our PSAs would concentrate on safety tips for using Lake Meredith. The spots would be highly topical and change about every 20 days. We also wanted to establish an identification of Lake Meredith as a National Park Service area, rather than a Texas state park. And, we wanted to add a touch of the "friendly Ranger" to our law enforcement image. All that had to fit into 20 seconds!

Our procedure for preparing PSAs is fairly simple. The interpreter and the law enforcement rangers decide what is the most pressing problem, and, what we want

visitors to do to correct it. We write the safety tip into three slightly different PSAs so that each can be read in 15 seconds. We set up appointments with each radio station to tape the "spots" usually visiting a different town each day. Some of the stations use the music from the NPS record, others use just the NPS voice. Most of the stations like using our "Lady Ranger," not only for the variety in voices on the air, but also to "localize" the announcement. The only station that does not use our "Lady Ranger" at all has a format that does not allow for pretaped PSAs.

Writing PSAs is a challenge. The time must be consistent, the words must be easy to say, and the message has to come out clearly. In other words, the PSA is really a commercial. PSAs can "sell" a park, an interpretive service, or anything else. We concentrate on selling safety and have found that the radio stations are selective in what they want to run. For example, none of the stations used the safety PSAs off the NPS record, but they run our PSAs that give specific safety rules applicable to Lake Meredith.

PSAs are the most recent addition to Lake Meredith's "on the air" interpretive system. We are regular visitors on talk shows in three cities; we tape feature news stories, and we maintain a fast, accurate system for releasing information concerning drownings or other

news. By maintaining contacts with individual stations, we can tailor our message to their medium. We may not be able to get two people together for a program at the lake, but we frequently hear, "I listened to you on the radio," from our visitors.

Working with broadcasters has opened up a whole new approach to interpretation for Lake Meredith. We strive to contact our visitors at home, and make them aware of who we are and how we can help them have fun. We have made some of our radio stations more safety conscious about water activities. We have a communications

network established for releasing information quickly and accurately when needed.

If you want to try "selling" your park, get on the radio. It's fun, it's challenging, and it's really a kick to hear a visitor's radio tuned to the local radio station broadcasting, "This is your friendly Park Ranger with a tip for your safety..."

Alice M. Allen
Interpretive Specialist
Lake Meredith NRA

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS ANOTHER INTERPRETIVE DIMENSION

Can we use public media to better advantage in interpretation? We in the Southeast Regional Office think so. To take advantage of public media for interpretation we are producing eight television Public Service Announcements (PSAs or spots) and several for radio use. The Washington Office has produced and distributed several good ones lately, too.

On-site interpretation reaches people in the parks; environmental education links the schools and communities to the parks. Radio and television PSAs can add another dimension by reaching viewers in their homes and automobiles.

Our PSAs differ from commercial advertisements in that they need not advertise a "product" (park) to "buy" (visit). Our objective may simply be to inform....to interpret. On the other hand, an objective common to both commercial advertising and interpretation is that we seek to motivate viewers to act on the subject. An important part of the action involves our viewers with the individual park, or the entire park system.

We want our 30-second or 60-second PSA to express the primary significance of our areas. We use them also to set a receptive mood, and provoke viewers to touch their cultural and natural roots.

In the Southeast we are using PSAs to interpret the park system in the region. We are also designing PSAs to inform local viewers of specific parks--i.e. the Bicentennial areas. We are using PSAs to reach local communities, to improve community relations and to show local people how the park is special to them.

On a cost-effectiveness basis, we know of no other way we can reach such a large public so cheaply. For example, we produced a one-minute spot and a 30-second spot; 50 copies of which were distributed at \$15 per copy to TV stations throughout the Southeast. For about \$2,000 we bought an interpretive tool with the potential to contact thousands of people. If it succeeds simply in creating in viewers a curiosity to know more, we feel that the money was well spent.

If you have any ideas about how to use radio and TV in interpretation, please share them! This is a new interpretive

arena for all of us. Not only can we use the media to tell the public about individual parks or the park system, but we can and should use them to help shape an environmental ethic in the public.

We want our parks to be examples of a quality environment. We want our park programs to inform and motivate visitors to act to preserve these and other quality environments. But by contacting only visitors to our parks, we are missing a staggering proportion of the public. If we see the message of interpretation extending beyond the park experience, then we must use every means of communication to carry that message. Public Service Announcements can be an essential part of that communication process.

Rita Cantu
Park Technician
Southeast Regional Office

FORUM



OPEN LETTER

Dear Mr. Ross:

I certainly agree with most of your letter in the September issue of In Touch. However, I have to disagree that few educational guidelines exist. These have been published by AIN ("Preparation of the Interpretive Naturalist"), researched and published in theses, including Juan Oltremari's "A Survey on Desirable Preparation and Career Development of Interpretive Personnel," and written up by various educators, including Ben Mahoffey's "Curricula Recommendations for Environmental Interpreters" and Paul Risk's chapter "Educating for Interpreter Excellence" in Interpreting the Environment by Grant Sharpe (Ed.).

You also sound critical of college preparation of interpreters. I have to take exception to this too, especially since you offer no reason for your statement. Many schools that prepare interpreters already incorporate the several things mentioned in your letter and existing guidelines. If improvement is needed, I would be open to specific suggestions. We would like to think we are attuned to the field and are doing our best to produce quality interpreters. Unfortunately, our main problem is getting agencies to hire the individuals who have the preparation you suggest. Last summer I listened to a NPS "interpreter" with a police science background make a mockery

of a campfire program on ecology. And I have seen timber-oriented foresters repeatedly turned loose on audiences, and P. E.-trained state park managers attempt to provide interpretive services. I am all too aware that unqualified people are hired, promoted or transferred into interpretive positions while many highly trained interpreters can't find a job.

Under separate cover I am sending a student handbook that outlines our program in Wildland Recreation Management, including our Interpretation/Communication Option. Any specifics on how we might better meet the needs of the federal agencies will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

James R. Fazio
Assistant Professor
Wildland Recreation
Management Program
University of Idaho

I certainly hope with all of the speculation concerning job openings within the next year, long-term or full-time seasonals will be given as much consideration as possible. The saga of the seasonal is always a topic of discussion. One really must have some type of devotion for the Park Service to work as a seasonal for a long period of time, paying his own moving expenses, working without insurance or retirement benefits or training and career opportunities. I am

not necessarily saying seasonals are doing the National Park Service a big favor or that the National Park Service is doing seasonals a big favor; what I am saying is that those of us who have stuck through the thick and thin should be remembered when those jobs become available. From all indications there seems to be a lack of field interpreters in the 025 Ranger Series. Why not convert qualified technicians to Rangers then bring qualified seasonals to fill the technician ranks? It only makes sense to hire qualified people with Park Service experience than those from a Civil Service register with no experience and little or no idea of park operations. I'm not going to give up--one day I will be a permanent employee.

Randy W. Turner
Seasonal Interpreter
Fort Caroline N Mem.

The necessity that forced Mr. Mastrangelo to use women employees in Antietam National Battlefield's living history cannon-firing demonstrations is understandable. Unfortunately, many aspects of interpretation have been affected by cutbacks in federal allocations to the National Park Service. However, I feel that it is undesirable for women to attempt to portray men in living history programs. This attitude does not stem from a prejudice towards women in general. I am of the opinion that women are equal to, but not the same as, men.

Living history demonstrations, such as cannon firing, should ideally be more than the burning of black powder. Living history personnel need to learn to interpret for the visitor the attitudes and actions of people from past experiences.

Already, living history programs must make compromises with historic reality. Interpreters can never hope to understand completely others' actions, especially when concerned with historic figures and forgotten motivations and attitudes. Individuals in living history programs must not offend visitors by avoiding personal hygiene, and assuming vulgar mannerisms, as did many of those whose lives are being interpreted. The weave and color of modern cloth, different tailoring techniques, necessary and important safety regulations, and even levels of education and appearance remove us further from the past. The donning of military uniforms of earlier times by women only serves to further complicate matters. The particular sex is important in the carrying out of commands (contrary to the opinion of Mr. Mastrangelo) because those interpreters must portray real people, not order-giving machines. These real people were men, not women.

I say again that Mr. Mastrangelo's actions were forced by necessity and hence understandable. However, it would be an unfortunate trend to have women portraying men in living history programs. After all, what would be the reaction of the public and interpretive staffs if men used the same logic and put on dresses? It would cease to be viewed as "'refreshing'" and "'thoroughly enjoyable'" as Mr. Mastrangelo reported it to be. Women have truly been important in American history. Therefore, there are ample interpretive roles, even in a military setting. Let interpreters maintain as great a degree of historical accuracy as possible, for that is of the utmost importance in understanding the past, and proceed from the point that men and women are equal, but not the same.

Scott Culclasure
Seasonal Park Technician
Guilford Courthouse NMP

RAP UP

INTERPRETATION IN BRITAIN



Their morning coffee finished, sixty people settled into their chairs as the Principal of Losehill Hall introduced the first speaker. Reg Hookway, Director of the Countryside Commission for England and Wales, tactfully complimented U. S. National Park Service interpretation for professionalism and for gaining acceptance by managers and public alike. But, he cautioned his audience, he had also observed overly-standardized techniques and services and a depressing tendency to organize and control the visitor's park experience. He advised his listeners to be careful in applying American interpretive approaches to British situations.

The warning seemed unnecessary to me, as all I'd met in the first month of my exchange assignment were a canny lot. Park planners, interpreters, educators, and local officials made up the audience at the Day Conference on "Interpretation in Practice in American National Parks," held June 14 at the Peak National Park Study Centre in Derbyshire, England. And the rest of the day confirmed my impression of intense British interest in (and critical evaluations of) interpretation in America. Questions arose frequently about our assessment of the American park visitor, how much staff our programs required, and whether an independent experience of park resources was still possible.

In spite of the sometimes undeserved credit given to interpretation in America, interpretation in Britain gives us no

cause for complacent self-satisfaction. With its national park system not beginning until the 1950's, and a clear policy direction for interpretation absent until the later 1960's, Britain has come a long way in a short time. Compared to the U. S., Britain is of a relatively more understandable and manageable scale, their people enjoy the outdoors and value its accessibility, the schools prepare citizens for fairly knowledgeable participation in environmental planning and management, and private conservation efforts are a national tradition.

In relatively few years, with limited central direction and funding, Britain has made a number of notable achievements in interpretation:

- professional interpretive staffing at each national park, often with a wide range of subject and communication skills (each park is a local government function doing its own hiring, and professional qualifications are usually quite high);
- central government grants for up to 75% of the interpretive planning, development, and operation costs of adequately justified projects;
- the beginnings of regional interpretive planning with participation by all interested parties to avoid costly overlap and promote cooperation;
- a nationwide system of "country parks" near cities, managed and interpreted to serve urban recreationists and absorb some uses that would be inappropriate in national parks;

- a professional Society for the Interpretation of Britain's Heritage to promote communication among planners, designers, and managers of interpretation in England, Scotland, and Wales;
- a full time school liaison person on each national park staff;
- coordinated research on the interpreter's audience and effectiveness.

An American interpreter in Britain obviously cannot rest on his country's laurels. Once you overcome your feelings of being mistaken for the guest of honor at an awards ceremony, and finish your modest denials, there's a lot to be learned from interpretation in Britain that is applicable to the challenges we face today.

The British people have long accepted that there are limits to growth on their "little island," and that a mixture of central direction and local decision-making is practical. The resulting conditions do not encourage complacency or comfort for interpreters. Lean times breed caution; progress seems slow; professional isolationism becomes an unaffordable luxury. But if you sometimes get discouraged by bleak prospects for funds and staffing, or if you feel afflicted by professional tunnel vision, then Britain's experience offers cause for hope.

Steve Lewis

CURATOR'S CORNER

ARRANGING YOUR PHOTOGRAPHIC FILES

Some kinds of films, negatives and prints should be isolated from others because they give off fumes which cause deterioration. The worst of these offenders is nitrocellulose film once used for negatives and movies. It should be stored in noncombustible containers in a separate room from all archival papers. Polaroid prints also give off chemicals damaging to other prints and should be stored separately.

Colored prints and negatives should be stored separately. These are not considered permanent. They may be preserved for posterity by having color separation negatives made.

A set of color separation negatives consists of three black and white photographs of the original each made with a color filter to isolate a primary color. A faithful color print can be made by superimposing prints from each of these negatives again using the appropriate color filters.

All of the above should be stored in cabinets which permit the circulation of air with the air in the room. This will prevent the buildup of destructive gases.

Janet L. Stone

Anything happening in your area that could be shared with the visitors? That sounds like a stupid question, I know, but read on. Here at little old Tumacacori (where?) we've hit on something that is a runaway smash success.

First of all, we're a Spanish colonial area in southern Arizona, where cultures - Indian, Spanish, Mexican, Anglo - have for centuries been meeting and trying to understand one another, a process that's still going on. We have a lot of activities and projects, but a couple that tie together later in this letter are these: crafts demonstrations, usually on weekends, of things that relate to the history of the area; Papago Indian basketry, Papago pottery, Mexican cooking, woodcarving, leatherworking, and things like that. We also have what are known as cultural live-ins, a program working with schools that many of you know as environmental live-ins. Ours is focused on the lives of the area residents during the 18th and early 19th centuries. We were bemoaning the fact that the adult visitors couldn't somehow participate in the latter, and from this emerged the following: Why not teach a class in Papago basketry, which is so little understood? Usually all anyone sees is the price, rather than the time and effort needed to produce a beautiful basket. So we did, and it was a huge success.

One small article in a nearby local paper brought in more applicants than we could handle. We limited the course to ten people. The cost was \$15 for three days and all the money went to the Papago weaver who taught the class. An instruction sheet was prepared and sent to each student, telling all the whens, wheres, hows, whats and so on we could think of. The class began at 9:00 each morning and ended around 4:00 in the afternoon. Everyone showed up early and eager.

The first day was spent in a brief get-acquainted period over coffee, with a little history of Papago basketry and a discussion of materials. The rest of the morning and part of the afternoon was devoted to a field trip to gather materials, with everyone bringing their lunch. The remainder of the day and the following two days were filled with preparation of materials, instruction and practice in weaving two different kinds of baskets. Most finished at least one small basket and had a good start on a second one by the end of the course.



for the name and address of the NPS area nearest their homes, in the hope that something similar would be offered there. The students remarked that talking to visitors about what they were doing was a bonus they hadn't anticipated, and they liked it. The students also learned a lot about the NPS; we were asked about all sorts of things. I have never seen ten people so excited and enthused about anything as were these apprentice weavers. In fact, six or seven of them want to sign up for the next class.

We'll repeat it, of course. And we're thinking about a course in Mexican cooking, to include shopping across the line in Mexico for food; a class in Papago pottery, one on culinary and medicinal use of native plants. There are lots of possibilities. And all of them give everyone involved a chance to understand a little more about a culture other than their own.

Nicholas J. Bleser
Interpretive Specialist
Tumacacori National Mon.



Give and Take (or: Marble Mania)

Here are some of the exciting results. First, everyone who attended stated that they had come not to learn a craft, but to learn more about Papago culture through their basketry and through working with the instructor. This was the whole idea of the course, but we never said so. The students worked seated by the pool in the monument's patio garden; visitors were fascinated. They asked the students question after question, and learned quite a bit about Papago culture themselves. Hearing it from someone of their own culture somehow made it more real. We had several visitors who asked

Mark E. Randall, of the Museum of Northern Arizona, is interested in hearing from any parks that may have marbles in their collection for which they can provide fairly accurate dates. He is developing a classification and dating system which will be a help for collections of historical materials.

Mark is also willing to share his knowledge with any parks which may have marbles of uncertain age or about which they would like to know more. He can be reached at the Museum, RTE-4, Box 720, Flagstaff, Arizona 86001.

Elsie Roach's article in the September issue came to me at a time when I have been thinking hard about interpretation for the hearing impaired. My niece has gone into the field of audiology and is teaching sign language. Her interest is most catching. We were talking about the subject up at our cabin last weekend, as a matter of fact!

We have come up with (could it have been her idea?) the idea of a simple signing (hand signs) handbook for each park giving the signs for a basic introduction to that specific park. Anyone would be able to pick up the book, learn a few signs, be able to give a familiar basic introduction to deaf visitors, and show them that we care.

These basic signs, combined with a specially written brochure would provide a program that would somewhat compensate for the deaf person's lack of understanding of complicated concepts put down in writing. Elsie says "...the average deaf person doesn't completely understand all written information, because his knowledge is related to concrete ideas with very basic terminology." The signs and brochure would give them understandable "concrete ideas" in "basic terminology."

Granted there would be some fumbling, but I feel the interpreter, whoever they are or whatever their background, would also learn a great deal about communications in the process. Our desire and ability to learn new ways of communicating can never lose its first place priority--maybe this is yet another way to make new contacts with visitors, hearing impaired or not!

It is absolutely wonderful to know what people in the parks are doing. In Touch made it possible for me to know about Elsie's commendable "personal objective"

and to apply my niece's personal objectives in a new direction. The issues of In Touch and the issues that are being addressed are getting better and better the more interpreters get involved --LET'S HEAR IT FOR INVOLVEMENT IN IN TOUCH!!!!

Jean R. Swearingen
Interpretive Planner
Denver Service Center

AN OLDY BUT GOODY INTERPRETIVE TECHNIQUE

Did prehistoric man have a pocket in his skin clothes? What did Abraham Lincoln have in his pocket the day he gave the Gettysburg Address? What did the explorers have in their knapsacks going West, or the Indians in their parfleche cases, a Confederate soldier in battle, a sailor in his seabag, or a Minute Man leaving to confront the British in 1775? What do you have in your pocket today or what special things did you take with you the last time you went to visit your grandparents?

This "What's in my bag?" gimmick is a sure crowd gatherer for both children and adults. It is instant curiosity and an excellent attention holder with school groups. For use at Minute Man National Historical Park in Concord, Massachusetts the linen haversack contains dried apples rye 'n injin bread (petrified), flints, musket balls, and cartridge papers in leather or linen bags - along with a jackknife, pipe, and tobacco. Everything can be touched, smelled, and passed around. I stress that each person would have had something different with them.

"What would you take with you if you had to get up in the middle of the night and you didn't know how long you would be gone or what would happen?" I get a variety of interesting answers from a flashlight to a jelly sandwich. This is a start to a personal identification with the farmers of Concord. Then we are off into our special story of what happened on April 19th, 1775.



This is how I use my surprise bag and it could be adapted for almost any story - natural or historic - in our National Parks and Sites.

Sue Buckborough
Park Aid
Minute Man NHP

SHIPWRECK RESCUE

Anyone working in a recreation area realizes the challenge to schedule an interpretive program to meet the needs of the visitor and to provide adequate interpretation of the area. The typical approach of nature walks or slide programs can be disappointing. Often the interpretive activities must be centered at the beaches and marinas where the day visitors and boaters are concentrated.

The Sunken Forest walks at Fire Island always attract a segment of visitors interested in natural history. But most visitors are here for physical recreation associated with the water resource. To reach the sunbather, swimmer, or surfer, usually not exposed to interpretation, a breeches buoy rescue demonstration was organized in the protected beach area. Rangers, Naturalists, and Lifeguards participated in depicting rescue techniques used by the U. S. Life Saving Service between 1871 and 1915 to bring shipwreck victims safely to shore.

The shipwreck victim in our demonstration is one of our lifeguards clinging twenty feet above the beach on a practice mast. The activity of setting up line and hauling the victim back down to earth provides the visitors with an exciting and physical experience. It also leaves them with a feeling for the history of Fire Island. Anyone interested in information on setting up such a demonstration may contact me.

Gary Vequist
Park Ranger
Fire Island NS

BOOK REVIEW

A new book, Manual for Museums, was published by the National Park Service in October, which will be of great value to all people involved in any way in the management or operation of museums. Mr. Ralph H. Lewis produced this comprehensive work subsequent to his retirement from the National Park Service in 1971.

Mr. Lewis served as an outstanding museum administrator and proponent of professional museum work from 1935 to 1971. This long period of experience and responsibility for establishing museum work in the Service on a sound basis has served him well in gaining the broad perspectives necessary to write such a comprehensive work.

The book is an important companion to the NPS Museum Handbook, also written in large part by Mr. Lewis. The descriptive narrative is written to appeal to the non-professional reader as well as to the professional curator who might want to brush up on certain techniques.

Official distribution of the book has sent a limited number of copies to the Regional Offices and to a few individuals who helped in review and preparation. The parks can expect to receive their copies sometime in December. Distribution will be made by the Division of Museum Services, Harpers Ferry Center.

Arthur C. Allen

PLACING THE PARK REFERENCE COLLECTION BEFORE THE VISITOR

Every park in the system has some form of reference or study collection which for the most part seems to just sit there and hopefully be self-preserving. What use can be made of these items and at the same time help rid the appearance of the permanent museum exhibits of the often expressed visitor reaction that "nothing's changed"?

In a small way, this situation has been overcome at the Chickamauga Visitor Center through the addition of a portable, temporary exhibit case. Study collection artifacts of unusual interest with accompanying descriptions are placed in the case for display on a monthly basis. Presently, four relics from the Civil War are being temporarily exhibited none of which are duplicated in the permanent exhibit cases. October's display, for example, will feature 8 X 10 photographs of U. S. Army activity at Chickamauga Park during the Spanish-American War era. Possibilities for temporary exhibition cover every primary and secondary interpretive theme in the park.

The exhibit case weighs approximately 220 pounds, stands 48" above the floor, and measures 48" X 24" X 12". Besides its use in the Visitor Center, it proves handy at numerous and varied off-site presentations.

Paul Ghioto
Park Historian
Chickamauga Battlefield

The following is an edited version of an article by Mr. Allan Fox, Chief Wildlife Officer with the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NSW) in Australia. Mr. Fox is especially interested in the educational aspects of nature conservation and his thoughts on resource management can perhaps provide us with a new perspective through which to view the park visitors' needs and our interpretive services.

THE WARRUMBUNGLE MOUNTAINS: A PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

Frequently one is asked, "What gave you your interest in nature conservation?" Obviously there is no single, clearcut answer, for an interest in nature conservation involves a host of interacting intellectual and personality factors. However, I recently have become aware that the impact of Oxley's "most stupendous range"--the Warrumbungle Mountains--has been profound.

Looking back, there appear to have been three periods of perceptual growth. The first was childhood when the field of view was just a few kilometres, when an intense interest was stirred by the continuous and exciting discovery of new sights, sounds, tastes, odours, textures, and forms...and of plants and animals. The second period was one of broadening horizons in a largely physical context--of walking and climbing, of physical exhaustion, of lying against warm rock, of campfire smoke and bright stars. The third, rising from these earlier experiences, was a strong yearning to understand the why and how of the mountains; and with this intellectual involvement came a strong urge to preserve the integrity of the interacting natural processes within which the Warrumbungle systems evolved. And now, I suspect a fourth period of attitude to the mountains

is emerging--that of an 'old friend,' which will require quiet association--to be one with the living systems.

My earliest impressions were focused about Timor Rock, a spine of trachyte which had been intruded into the Jurassic sandstones that underlie the mountains, and the great pile of volcanic debris above, that has since been almost completely removed by erosion and transported down Shawn's Creek to the Castlereagh Valley. About it were scattered the residual sandstone sugarloaf hills, while the Castlereagh River broke into the local area by way of a gash in the hills. The southern horizon was set by the Tableland, a peninsula of horizontal sandstones and dryness.

On the flats and slopes of the stream valleys, squeezed in by the steeper slopes of the residuals, land had been taken up for mixed wheat and sheep production. Little of the land was productive, being derived from the infertile sandstones, but one of the farms here was our 'mecca,' its well trimmed deep-green orange and mandarin trees looking out of place among the tussled grey-green of white box and white gums. Above loomed Timor Rock, so high that, to the five-year-old, its rounded crest seemed to reach

for the clouds with only the wedge-tailed eagles threading the space between. In those prewar days--before legal protection--the high tops were the only safe places for the eagle; it was the rare bird that reached the black phase of old age.

So far as I can remember, on our early years' walks into the bush we met no one who wished to eradicate the grey kangaroo or wallaroo, though they constantly broke down the fences to move into the flats for their feeds, a routine which long predated settlement. We did always carry a rifle and had a shot at any 'roo that came into range. It wasn't until we had maimed, in error, an old pet 'roo which we had released into the bush after it became too large to maintain at home, that we came face-to-face with the barbarity of loose amateur shooting.

Our walks after that became excursions into discovering the secrets of plants and animals, made more fascinating by the observational games we played along the track. My father would lag behind and hide a coin. Fifty or so metres along, he would pronounce that the scribbles on the white gum were, in fact, a message left by the Aborigines, which he would proceed to decipher using the objects of the track as landmarks. In this way we learned to recognize the rocks, trees, and a variety of animal tracks and faeces. Once the process of observation had been awakened, our awareness of the mountains and their life systems became open-ended. The same process spelt early doom for the game when we had a long look at the scribbles with a hand lens and discovered that they were in fact insect tunnels.

Evenings by the log fire in the homestead were no less wonderful, when Bill Conn would recount his conversations with geologist Dr. Osborne, who also made the farm his base. In the flames we imagined

fiery volcanic pits and boiling caldrons of lava, a dramatic and simplified picture indeed. And when we tired of volcanoes, there was the story of Ben Hall's loot, buried in a cave high on the wall of The Canyon beside a gaunt and deformed cyprus pine, and talk of the once-high populations of koalas and 'pademelons' driven to extinction by organized drives.

Long before sunrise many mornings, while the frost was still forming, we would round up the little black mare, 'Maydell, and with two of us aboard bareback, and a dozen clanking rabbit traps, we would steam off down the track to the Castle-reagh, kangaroos thumping away as we approached. How brilliant were the stars, before the east began to glow along the horizon.

The early days in the Warrumbungles were these things and much more--but always beyond the western horizon lay the mystery of the big mountains, the spires, the bluffs, and Terra Terra (Mt. Exmouth).

My first view of the spires came twelve years after I first heard of them, while on a Caloola Club bicycle trip. The Caloola Club, a forerunner of the National Parks Association, and its founder, Allen Strom, were instrumental in broadening the horizons of and inspiring hundreds of teachers to a deeper insight into their land, its processes, and its management. The Club provided a social environment for the common enjoyment and critical analysis of the landscape and its use by man, while Strom provided inspiration, knowledge, leadership and actively fermented critical analysis. Facts became pivots for discussion, not sacred ikons.

In the year between skirting the mountains and walking into them (1949), the Caloola Club extended the view of its members from coast to plains and from

subtropics to the alps. The broad mosaic of vegetation was discerned and relationships between landscape features and underlying geology began to gel. Regional differences in vegetation and wildlife became more apparent.

Our approach to the mountains in that May, 1949, was by air to Toorahweenagh followed by a walk into Tundebrine Creek via the trachytic columns of the Mount Naman dome. After breaking our first camp, the hills soon pressed tightly in, and river oaks gave way to the bright green and gnarled canopy of rough-barked apples, while legions of scribbly gums, mugga ironbark, and cyprus pines strode up the slopes.

The final climb to the Grand High Tops was up a steep field of loose trachyte blocks. Nothing can adequately describe the first time one looks into the amphitheatre-like Wombelong Valley from these tops. Here was the sheer exuberance of sitting on the edge of the world with the wind whipping at one's face. Belougery Spire, the Breadknife, Bluff Mountain, Mount Exmouth, and Siding Spring line the rim with rugged slopes dropping into chasms which open into the broad Wombelong Valley. As we lounged there, the questions came crowding in: why the great variation in rock resistance, the soft tuffs and breccias, the hard trachytes and fine grained basic lavas? Had the centre of an old volcano collapsed after many cubic kilometres of lava had been ejected? Where had all of the rock gone which had been removed by erosion and transport? Where from and how did the figs, cycads, and snow grass arrive on the mountains? And the rock wallabies, where were their links with other populations? So the questions came, followed by discussions, with the group's total experience flowing into a common pool of knowledge.

Answers to many of these questions are still unclear though this early trip and the many since have added to the growing pool of research information which helps build a coherent dynamic picture of the living mountains, their geology, geomorphology, and biogeography.

That evening, after slipping and sliding at a bounding gait down the block stream behind 500-metres-high Belougery Spire, we camped by Hurley's Spring. Long into the night talk continued of the biogeographic problems posed, and of the absolute need and the processes required to set this area aside for all people to discover--and themselves as well. Shades of Yellowstone!

According to Oxley's descriptions in 1818, the mountains were covered by a woodland with heath on the exposed and drier aspects. Since then, the clearing of the valleys for wheat and sheep farming has added a grassland community--not very remarkable in itself. What is remarkable, however, is the mixing of the species within these communities.

It seems clear now that erosion over the past thirteen million years has removed much of the bulk and height from the mountains--after all, the spires were once fully enclosed within the volcanic pile. Yet the mountains today lie like an island in a subdued landscape. How did the rich flora and fauna originate?

Over the very long term, contradiction of the continent and major fluctuations in climate caused a continual movement and sifting out of species. Now, because of its very diverse set of environmental niches, the Warrumbungles have provided a refuge for both arid and humid-adapted species.

A week later during that trip in '49 we were back at the Teachers' College

writing our reports while Allen Strom penned strongly worded representations from the Caloola Club to the Under-Secretary for Lands suggesting that something be done to ensure the future security of the area for the nation.

Many more trips followed, refining our impressions, building up the information pool, and repaying us with the deep satisfaction of knowing nature.

But changes were coming which were significantly accelerated by the Club's efforts, by the later National Parks Association, and by the development work and publicity of the Trust. In 1952, eleven people visited the area during Easter; by 1966 more than 2,000 camped and walked the tracks, while forty climbers queued for four hours at the base of Belougery Spire, and fifty climbers shared the cliffs of Bluff Mountain with the eagles. The annual figures for the period 1968-73, while they indicate greater mobility, affluence, and interest in National Parks, give rise to the fear that unless the mountains are strictly managed, the only animals we will see or hear there will be humans.

How does one balance accelerating use with the maintenance of the integrity of natural systems? Clearly, locking up the system and excluding people is not facing the task of letting people know how beautiful, how wonderful this land is or, for that matter, giving them the opportunity to find their affinity with nature.

Fortunately, New South Wales has a dual system of protected natural areas. Nature Reserves, where maintenance of pristine communities may be paramount, can largely carry the pressure of scientific research from the National Parks, so some diminution of the integrity of the natural systems in the Parks by their primary 're-creation' role may be acceptable as visitation climbs.

Ultimately, usage limits must be set by the management. If not, the natural process itself will certainly take a hand by downgrading the quality of the resources. The National Parks and Wildlife Service's management planning process accepts this responsibility.

Resource management is a conscious process, involving judgment, preference, and commitment, and tends to emphasize rationality over emotionalism, ethics over economics, and ecology over engineering. The process should be dominated neither by the market place nor the quasi-political forum, but by a combination of social, cultural, economic and institutional processes.

Having said that, I would make a plea that in managing the National Parks, space be allowed within the Park to satisfy the phases in the development of the kinds of ethics which stem from Aldo Leopold's Sand County Almanac and which I believe have arisen in me by way of the activities described in this article. Such ethics involve a sense of responsibility and regard for the interests of other users and society, and toward the fundamental processes of the biophysical environment.

Let us have specially selected, stimulating, small-scale space for testing child senses and capacities, and for his discovery of himself...

Let us have sensitive teachers tuned to the needs of the child, or if missed as a child, to the underprivileged adult...

Let us have large-scale space without any trails whatsoever where the mind and the body can wander at will and where the body can feel its elemental environment...

Let us have free space enough to light a campfire and to smell woodsmoke in communion with companions...

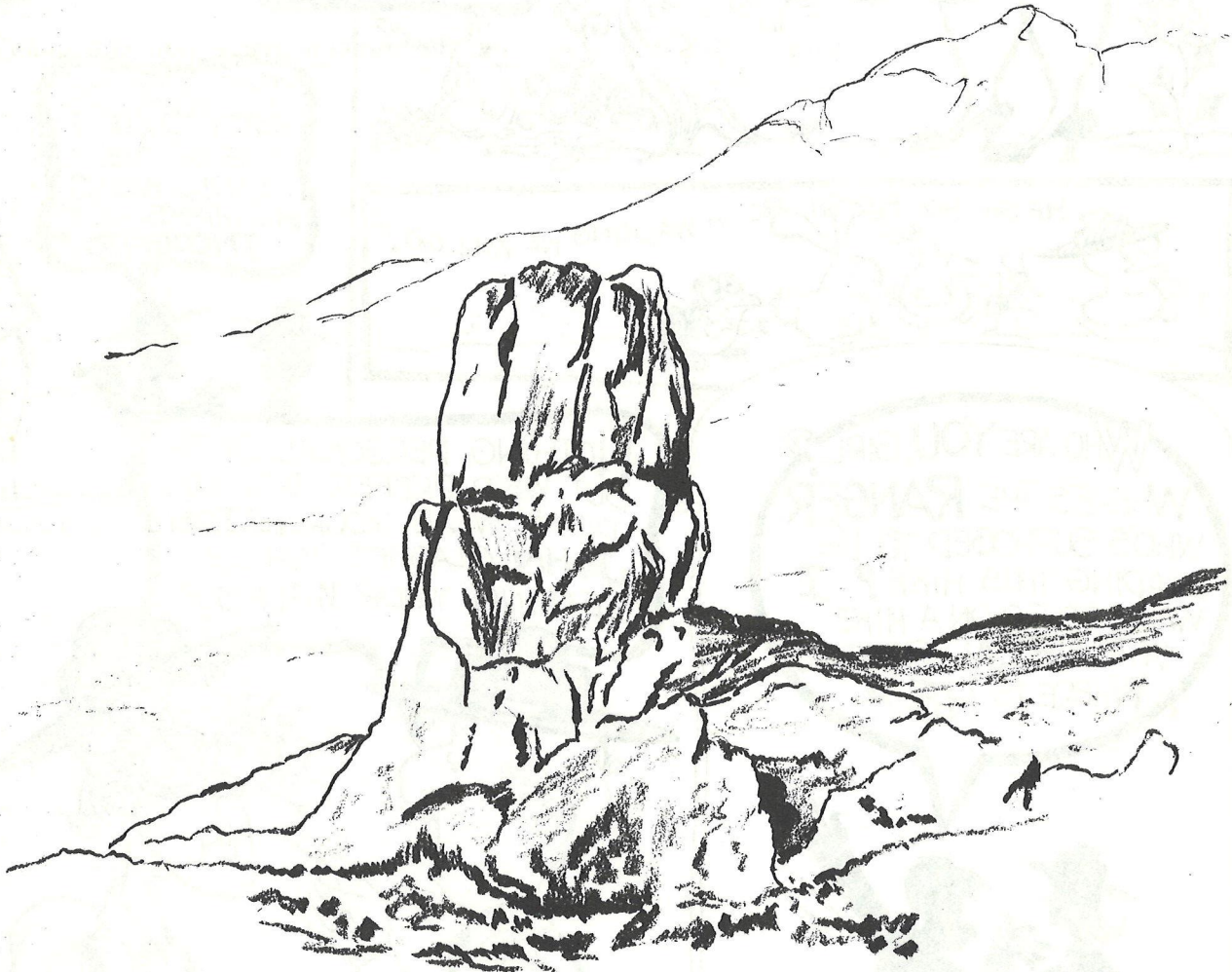
Let us have some danger, some excitement...

Let us have access to the wisdom of the hills, plains and seashores...

And finally, as our bodies tire, let us have the tranquil site where we can dream of our past association with nature.

The responsibility in managing such a resource to be used and yet kept sacred is quite a new and daunting task for which we, as yet, have little skill.

Allen M. Fox



Guided Walks

