

1999 NARRATIVE

FOR

KENNESAW MOUNTAIN NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD PARK
905 KENNESAW MOUNTAIN DRIVE
KENNESAW, GA 30152

PERSONNEL

The park historian position became vacant in August 1999. We hope to fill the position by August 2000. Kennesaw Mountain participated in the Southeast Regions Intern Program, hosting an intern who began full-time work in the park in July. The year prior to that, she participated in the training mandated for these interpretive positions. A seasonal law enforcement position was filled in May to assist the small law enforcement staff. We continue to use the student appointments to supplement the maintenance staff.

BUDGET/FINANCE

The parks ONPS budget for 1999 was \$1,011,300, and was spent to one-half of one percent. The parks total budget for construction, equipment replacement and donations was \$1,243,800. Donations were again down this year because of the visitor center being closed until mid-June. An effort was made to contract the new visitor center cleaning with the Tommy Nobis Center, a training facility for handicapped individuals. The program lasted for about four months when were unable to rely on the program to complete the necessary cleaning each day. The additional funding received in 1999; to hire someone to clean the building was put back into maintenance and the stay in school appointments now clean the building. An increase will be sought for 2001, for additional bus transportation costs on weekends.

The park has reduced its cash imprest fund to \$100. 477 third party drafts were issued in 1999, as compared to 281 in 1995.

AUTOMATED DATA PROCESSING

Fiscal 1999 brought many changes to computer use within the park. The administrative division was charged with changing over the Y2K process for computers. Nine computers needed to be replaced. The move into 2000 was smooth with no serious problems.

Each year the park is required to master new computer programs, complete with software. These new programs require time and often-heavy research. More and more time is also needed for trouble shooting the new programs, requiring the administrative staff to provide assistance to other divisions. If this trend continues, we will have to hire a part-time person to assist with routine duties, allowing the permanent staff the time to assist other divisions.

PROPERTY

Major changes have occurred in property management. The administrative division is now keeping records on all property valued at \$5,000, or more. The lesser items are maintained on an informal list with each division. These items are surveyed at the same time as Fixed Asset inventories.

INTERPRETATION

The first half of the year the visitor center operated out of a trailer located near the parking lot. By the first of June, the new center was opened and operations began from the new addition. The staff is to be commended for their efforts in making the changeover to the new center with few problems.

The new exhibits are still in the planning stage and the hope is they will be installed before the first of 2001. The interpretive staff was very busy in 1999, presenting 95 formal talks and 50 black powder demonstrations. 129,648 visitors attended these on and off-site programs and demonstrations. In addition,

5410 visitors attended black powder demonstrations. 21 infantry programs and 27 artillery programs were presented to these visitors. Not one accident was recorded. During the 135th Anniversary of the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain, a six gun battery program was offered, medical programs were offered as well as cavalry programs. Nearly 300 Confederate infantry volunteers presented programs at Cheatham Hill during the 135th. Despite the cool wet weather, crowds were huge. The largest single sales day ever recorded at Kennesaw Mountain was Saturday June 26, 1999. During this event, three additional black powder supervisors were brought in for safety. In addition, three additional law enforcement officers were brought in as well. The first class of inters in the Southeast Region were also brought in for additional interpretive support in the new center.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Law Enforcement personnel continued to provide a high level of public service while looking out for those who had criminal intent. Thefts and assaults were the major crimes committed in the park, however the regular and recurring problem was the parking on weekends and holidays. Although there are approximately thirteen million visits by road count, there are major crimes. There were 255 citations issued for incidents or warnings with a field interview.

One patrol car was totaled during the year in an accident on Burnt Hickory Road. There were only minor injuries to the occupants of the other vehicle.

The new traffic light at the intersection of Old US 41 and Stilesboro, reduced the number of accidents there from 41 in 1998 to 21 in 1999. There was one fatality on Dallas Highway, when a motorist who ran off the roadway to avoid an accident with the vehicle in front hit a construction worker.

KENNESAW MOUNTAIN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Kennesaw Mountain Historical Association (KMHA) completed its 51st year of service to the park in 1999. In the new building, they have greatly increased their sales area, they now have plenty of office and storage space and the results of the sales reflect these needed changes. Sales were up 20%, over 1998, to \$217,000.

KMHA sponsored the March for Parks program raising over \$5,000 during the event. They purchased a collection of research books used by the park staff and public.

KMHA provided staffing almost 100% of the time at the information desk. In addition their employees presented many of the programs and staff rides for the military.

MANAGEMENT

The park continues to be swamped with boundary and development related issues. Dallas Highway widening will be again on the front burner soon because of the new Marietta High School being developed less than one-half mile east of the park boundary. A major development was headed off on the southeast corner of the Kolb Farm intersection when Speedway Oil Company placed a development package to the Cobb County Commission for a zoning change. The park was successful in defeating the plan. A new major development is going in along Barrett Parkway and Stilesboro Road, which will add additional vehicles to park roads and visitors wanting to use the park, lands.

With the exception of a park vehicle being totaled, there were no lost time accidents reported among park workers this year. The park employee involved in the accident was not injured. This is a record for the park especially in a year when there were so many projects and people working in the park. All toll, there were nearly one thousand different volunteers working during celebrations, construction, national trails day, civil war park day and those giving regular and recurring programs on the mountain top and at Cheatham Hill.

There were many special requests for use of park grounds during 1999. Most involved some form of active recreation. Also, there was a Public Service Announcement completed by WESTWAYNE, a commercial

advertising company. The purpose was to promote historic preservation and it depicted several battlefields in the Atlanta area during the civil war and what they look like now.....totally developed. Then a historic photo of Kennesaw Mountain was shown, and the one following it shows the same area now preserved. We had hundreds of positive comments from it.

The park management continues to support local preservation efforts through the Georgia Civil War Commission and Cobb County Preservation Council. In addition, the park supports the efforts of local neighbors and organizations like PEOPLE LOOKING AFTER NEIGHBORHOODS (PLAN), and Cobb County Preservation Society. The park superintendent completed many appearances before planning and zoning boards.