

SUPERINTENDENTS' CORNER

The emphasis in this first issue of PPS is on the synergistic nature of the science/management process as it operates through the Cooperative Park Studies Unit concept. It seemed fitting then, that the first words from this corner should mirror the subject of CPSU's from a particular park superintendent's point of view.

The item comes from Fort Vancouver National Historic Site, where decay was found in king and gate posts and in palisade pickets that had been pressure-treated with pentachlorophenol in mineral spirits. A wood preservation expert, Prof. Robert Graham of the Oregon State University faculty (made available through the OSU-CPSU connection) went to the park, determined the exact nature of the problem, and prescribed a volatile fungicide that would control the internal decay.

Surface decay, a more difficult case, requires further research, but interim control techniques have been recommended and Supt. James Thompson is satisfied that the "stitch in time" could add substantially to the life of these wood structures.

"Now we know how to prolong the life of the wood," he said, "and we know too that replacement today would cost at least 30 percent more than the original construction."

Jim recalled the help provided by University of Texas faculty and students on a contract basis to White Sands, NM where he was superintendent from 1973-78. "They helped us manage kit foxes and carrion consumers," he said, "and gave us priceless advice in dealings with the Army over placement of a trench for the White Sands Missile Range.

"Put me down as a believer," he concluded. "Research pays off!"

