

Photo Librarian Comes Up With Missing Names

The George Wright Society story in the last issue (p. 14) was accompanied by a photograph of the U.S.-Mexican Border Commission, three of whose members were unnamed. The caption asked "Does anyone know the names of the other three men in the picture?"

To the rescue rode Tom Durant, picture librarian for the Branch of Graphics Research, Harpers Ferry Interpretive Design Center, Springfield, VA. Durant has been sifting through 80,000 nitrate-based negatives – part of the historic photograph collection in his care at the Springfield facility, and when he saw the *Park Science* story he recognized the picture as one he had recently seen.

The original nitrate negative, in his files, lists the three "missing men" (left to right in the photo) as Daniel Galicia, Santos Ibarra, and Juan Trevino. All three were Mexican members of the Border Commission.

The photo is listed as part of the Roger Toll collection, but since Toll is in the picture, Durant opined that the photograph probably was taken by George Grant, official NPS photographer at Big Bend when the group was there. Big Bend was authorized as a National Park on June 20, 1935; the photo was snapped on Feb. 18, 1936.

Grant became one of the first official NPS photographers in the 1920s. With stout backing from then Director Horace Albright, the idea of making a photographic record of the System finally received an appropriation, and Grant worked until his retirement in 1954 as a tireless recorder of the System's back country.

Durant reports that 1,000 of the 80,000 nitrate negatives have been selected for conversion to safety film and will form the basis of a permanent pictorial record of much of the National Park Service's history.