

New Book Takes Look At How People Behave

On Interpretation: Sociology for Interpreters of Natural and Cultural History. Gary E. Machlis and Donald R. Field, editors, takes a sociological approach to the basic element of successful interpretation — namely, how people behave toward one another, how they live, how they work, how they enjoy themselves.

This 176-page paperback book, with a foreword by NPS Director Russell E. Dickenson, was published in 1984 by the Oregon State University Press in Corvallis. The book is divided into three sections: Toward Theory and Technique, Case Studies, and Essays; it even includes a "radical" (and dissenting) view — the paper by Kenneth L. Nyberg based on his 1977 presentation to the Association of Interpretive Naturalists.

Various authors examine a wide range of interpretive situations for useful strategies and approaches. Children, family camping, the elderly, the Japanese tourist, cruise ship travelers — these are just a few of the facets of interpretation covered in this collection. The overall thesis is that sociology and interpretation can be useful partners.

Machlis is an assistant professor in the departments of forest resources and sociology at the University of Idaho and is sociology project leader for the NPS Cooperative Park Studies Unit there. He co-edits the *Journal of Interpretation*. Field is senior scientist (sociology) for the NPS/CPSU at Oregon State University, a professor of resource recreation management there, and co-editor of the journal *Leisure Sciences*.

On Interpretation is available for \$11.95 from the Oregon State University Press, 101 Waldo Hall, Corvallis, OR 97331.