Courier

The National Park Service Newsletter

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Yosemite NP.

Director's Christmas Message to Employees:

During 1980, it has been rewarding to me personally to observe the commitment, dedication and resilience of this organization. Furthermore, I know we will continue, in 1981 and beyond, to create an enduring stewardship model, through protection of parks and provision for public use, despite changing times and sometimes difficult circumstances. We all know that the nurturing of a conservation and environmental ethic is greatly enhanced by faithful and enlightened administration of national park areas, and that effort will continue to command our highest priority.

I am grateful to each member of the organization, whether permanent, subject to furlough or seasonal, for your contribution during 1980, and I wish for each of you and your families a very Merry Christmas and continued success and happiness during 1981.

Russell E. Dickenson

Godspeed, Mr. Secretary

Secretary Cecil D. Andrus, who announced several months ago that he would not serve beyond 4 years, has been preparing to leave the Interior Department.

Although he was unable to attend the meeting of the National Park System Advisory Board held this fall in Port Angeles, Wash., the Secretary's interest in the Park Service, and his appreciation for the Board's work, were expressed in a message delivered by Field Representative Chris Carlson. Following are a few excerpts.

"Secretary Andrus has always referred to the National Park Service as 'the flagship of the Interior fleet.' Wherever he has gone in his travels throughout the country during the past 4 years he has consistently been impressed with the high caliber of people within the Service, their professionalism and dedication . . .

"I don't have to recite to this group the litany of advances, from the Redwoods expansion to the Executive Orders protecting approximately 110 million acres in Alaska. The Secretary has always felt that each part of the Park Service, not just the Alaskan wilderness set-asides, but each part was a jewel, to be treasured and passed on to succeeding generations . . .

"Throughout his public career the Secretary has dedicated himself to the so-called 'quality of life' issues."

Three of his statements in this vein are:

"Conservation is no longer a pious ideal, but a necessary element for our survival . . .

"We have to make a living, but after we make a living, we have to have a living that's worthwhile . . .

"To preserve is not to sacrifice or destroy. Wild rivers . . . parks . . . wildernesses . . . are assets, not handicaps."

Washington office employees of NPS will remember the Secretary for the sincere and emotional remarks he made off-the-cuff at the announcement of the appointment of Director Dickenson. Andrus showed then how seriously he took the matter of that selection, and how important he considers it to stop the "revolving-door" approach that has governed the selection of Directors for a decade.

The *COURIER* wishes Secretary Andrus success as he undertakes new tasks.

Interagency chopper fights Colorado fires

By Paul Broyles
Natural Resource Management
Mesa Verde National Park

Winter scene, Cliff Palace, Mesa Verde NP, Colo.

Somewhere in the Mesa Verde plateau, three Federal agencies are putting one helicopter to very good use.

In an effort to improve fire management, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (Ute Mountain Ute Indian Agency), the Bureau of Land Management (Montrose District) and the National Park Service (Mesa Verde National Park) are jointly participating in a "helitack program." The purpose is to share the aircraft and equipment costs, and jointly contribute to the program's manpower. Radio frequencies are shared as are portable radios and other helicopter and fire equipment.

The helitack idea originated with Jim Olsen of NPS, and Jim Schneider of BIA, fire specialists who were aware of the need to cooperate on fire and resource management on the Mesa Verde plateau. The program was launched by these two agencies in 1978. In 1979, BLM, which manages much of the adjoining land, joined the program.

The helicopter is used primarily for fire suppression, but it is also put to valuable use in rounding up trespassing cattle and stray horses, establishing boundaries for

fencing, insect and disease surveys, archeological site surveillance, search and rescue, law enforcement, wildlife surveys, and transport of archeology crews for site surveys.

The "protection zone" for which the interagency helitack crew is responsible, encompasses more than 800,000 acres within a 50-mile radius of Mesa Verde National Park. Most of this land is covered by sage, pinyon-juniper, and ponderosa forests.

The helicopter and crews are available to assist other agencies in the area, including the Forest Service, Colorado State Forest Service, and the Montezuma County Sheriff's Office.

During 1979 and 1980 there was extensive development of helitack facilities and personnel training was conducted. Ninety-five helispots (including a base, a "helihut," and a fuel shed) were constructed across the Mesa Verde plateau. Construction of these sites will allow ready access to the mostly roadless mesa.

The helitack crew, comprised of five NPS employees, three BIA employees and one BLM employee, received more than 120 hours of instruction in interagency helicopter training, basic firefighter and fire behavior, power saws, standard first aid and cardio-pulmonary resuscitation, helitack operations specific to this program, defensive driving, and technical evacuation/mountain rescue. Next year an additional employee will be added to the crew, and a larger helicopter with better performance capabilities will be contracted. Further training will be developed to add continuity to the program.

The managers of the helitack program are enthusiastic over its continued success, interagency cooperation in particular. With shrinking agency dollars and increased management problems, this cooperative program sets an example that will be repeated with greater frequency throughout the field of Federal resource management.

Interagency Helitack, Summer 1980. (Front row) Glen Cotonuts BIA crewman; Terry Lay, Evergreen helicopter pilot;, Bill Pool, NPS crewman. (Back row) Paul Broyles, NPS Interagency Helitack coordinator; Jim Tschetter, NPS, helitack foreman; Mark Harvey, NPS crewman; Charles Newmann, NPS crewman; Don Whyte, BIO crewman; Bill Collins, BLM assistant helitack foreman; and Eric Eyetoo, BIO crewman.

Aerial view, Chapin Mesa Heliport, located in an old 1880s burn site.

Ground view, Chapin Mesa Heliport.

Garbage supplies NCR energy

Kenilworth Park, National Capital Region, as a burning dump.

Kenilworth Park, NCR, converted to landfill and methane energy source.

By Robert Cook
Agronomist, National Capital Region

Few parks have their own built-in energy supply. National Capital Region has two.

It is a source that can be burned directly as it comes from the ground, or it can be processed and used as automotive motor fuel. Besides, it is, in a sense, a renewable resource. What is it? Landfill gas or methane and it comes from garbage and trash.

One of these sources is in part of National Capital Parks-East, known officially as Anacostia Park, Section G, and popularly known as Kenilworth Park.

In 1942, the District of Columbia government requested permission to establish a burning dump. This operated until 1968. Burning ceased in February 1968, when a young boy playing in the area was fatally burned. Later that year, it was reopened as a sanitary landfill. In early 1970, refuse disposal was discontinued and the land restored to park use.

During the burning-dump period, the ash from some 6.4 million tons of refuse was dumped here. In addition, 3.6 million tons was burned on the site. The burning resulted in a cloud of smoke and stench, described by Gen. Robert Mathe, Engineer Commissioner, District of Columbia, as "the largest single source of air pollution in the District," and indeed the smoke could be seen for miles.

Not only was this burning dirty, but it was very inefficient, so inefficient that the result has been described as "toasted garbage." When the sanitary landfilling began, about 3.1 million tons of partially burned refuse was on the site. During the sanitary landfill phase, 500,000 tons of raw refuse and 316,000 tons of incinerator ash were deposited in Kenilworth Park.

In a "sanitary landfill" each day's refuse is compacted and sealed with a covering layer of earth material. This, in theory, is not attractive to rats, flies, and other vermin and prevents odors and windblown debris from contaminating the surrounding area. Three feet of soil and earthy material was placed over the final layer of refuse. This was supplemented by about 40,000 cubic yards of sewage sludge mixed with the surface soil. Grass and shade trees were planted to complete the initial stages of return of the area to park use. When Kenilworth Park was operated as a sanitary landfill, this method was thought to be the ultimate in refuse disposal. It was buried, sealed, lost and gone forever.

However, things are seldom as perfect as they are supposed to be and the refuse soon made its presence known in the form of methane. This was first identified in the summer of 1973, when the trees began dying. Methane is a colorless, odorless, lighter than air gas. It is produced by microbial decomposition of organic matter in the absence of air. Methane is flammable and when mixed in air at concentrations between 5 and 15 percent, is explosive. National Capital Region officials discovered methane at Kenilworth because of its toxicity to plants.

In 1979, National Capital Region began looking for someone to help evaluate the methane potential at Kenilworth. At the same time, Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory was looking for landfills in the east that they could study. Through the Department of Energy and Argonne National Laboratory, the two got together and thoroughly surveyed the park for methane. By this time methane was found throughout the area.

The landfill gas produced at Kenilworth is unique. Unlike typical landfill, some wells yielded gas with as much as 98 percent methane with an average of 85 percent from wells tested to date. It is not known why the methane content should be so high here, but this landfill has an unusually high ash content, and the temperature was low compared to other landfills. Both of these may be factors contributing to the high methane content. NCR experts are assuming that when this methane field is tapped and utilized the gas content will shift toward the more common 50-60 percent methane.

There is every reason to believe there is enough methane being generated in the Kenilworth Park landfill to heat and provide hot water in all Park Service buildings in the park for the next 10-20 years.

Jack Fish, NCR Regional Director, announced that recent contractual arrangements have been completed with the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory for plans and specifications for control of landfill gas. Once controlled, the waste energy can be substituted for natural gas and fuel oil at Kenilworth Park and Aquatic Gardens.

Park Superintendent Bernie Kearney, NCP-East, anticipates that once the installation is complete, all costs will be recovered in less than 5 years. Superintendent Kearney plans to convert all nine buildings and greenhouses from

conventional fuel oil and natural gas to landfill gas for all building heating and hot water.

Utility costs are expected to be reduced from $34,000 to $14,700 annually and avoid consuming 19 barrels of high grade fuel oil or equivalent natural gas average daily, each day.

Wells will be drilled through the landfill about 200-250 feet apart. These will be connected by an underground network of pipes to a pumphouse where the excess moisture and the sulfur compounds will be removed. From here it will be piped to the two greenhouse complexes and office-visitor contact station at the Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens. The landfill gas will replace over $30,000 worth of commercial natural gas and fuel oil each year. This will pay for the development of the recovery system during the 5 year period. In a more isolated park this entire facility could be energy self-sufficient. Methane-powered internal combustion engines could drive the necessary blowers and a generator to provide electricity for lighting and monitoring equipment. However, to keep noise pollution to a minimum Kenilworth will use commercial electric power.

A portion of the pumphouse will be devoted to an interpretive exhibit to demonstrate the process of recovery and use, to compare the costs, and to illustrate the reduction in the amount of imported energy used.

It is hoped that the methane from the northern portion (known locally as "Pork Chop Hill" because of its shape on contour maps) will be adequate for the project. This will leave the southern portion untapped and available for heating the maintenance facility there as well. There would also be gas available for other uses. Because this end of the park is adjacent to an industrial area, a self-sufficient processing facility could be developed using the methane to generate electricity, which could be used throughout the park, to heat the maintenance buldings there, or it might be processed for use as motor fuel. Thus, methane that had been seeping through the ground and killing trees will be diverted to the recovery system and put to use. In the end we will be getting nearly free energy and healthier vegetation. As long as there is garbage and trash and the microorganisms, we have the potential for an easy-to-use, clean renewable energy source.

And now— a solar privy

William M. Tipton, a microbiologist formerly employed at Rocky Mountain National Park, Colo., has invented a privy to be run on solar power for use in the high country of the park. His design is inexpensive to build and operate, and requires minimal maintenance because it uses a distillation and incineration process.

In the past, helicopters were used to remove human waste from the more heavily used locations of the park—a costly operation.

The solar privy distills waste so that removal is not required. First, solid wastes are separated from liquid waste using a modified 55-gallon barrel and 30-gallon water-heater tank. As solids build up, they are dried by a flue-draft system, painted black to absorb heat, and to move air. The dried solids can be incinerated. Then, the liquids flow into a solar distillation basin where urine salts are removed. The urine distillate (essentially water) is then drained into the environment.

Microbiologist William M. Tipton, Rocky Mountain National Park.

With increased backcountry use from nearby metropolitan areas, the quality of surface water is a major concern for NPS. Experienced hikers usually carry an ample supply of fresh water, but less informed visitors often drink from what appears to be cool, clean, drinking water, rapidly flowing through unpolluted high mountain streams. Many hikers drink the raw water with no ill effects. But with increasing backcountry use, the chance of contracting diseases is also increasing.

Solar privy, designed for use in the high country of the park at Rocky Mountain.

YCC constructs handicapped trail at Fire Island

By Holly Bundock
Public Information Specialist, NARO

What does someone who has difficulty walking or moving around do at a beach and sand-covered nature area? That was the puzzle the Fire Island National Seashore, N.Y., staff pondered 2½ years ago during planning meetings on a proposed wilderness area for the barrier island.

The answer? Construct a nature trail especially for the handicapped.

And that's exactly what the 30-member YCC crew did in under 6 weeks last summer. Headed by Lester Kiehn, YCC camp director, Walter Titus, work leader, and Sue Britts, YCC enrollee, the crew battled thousands of poison ivy vines, inhaled mosquitoes, fought off biting flies and ticks, and managed to pound nearly 300 feet of board a day in sweltering 90° plus heat waves. But by August, the 4,615 feet of boardwalk were completed and ready for christening.

The handicap trail at the east end of the seashore (Fire Island runs east to west along the southern shore of Long Island, N.Y.), known as Smith Point, is a real success story. "Its nearly mile long, snake-like path touches every life zone found on the narrow spit of land," Assistant Chief Ranger Neal Bullington tells nature walkers.

Opening day of the trail saw other than handicapped visitors using the twisting path. Bicyclers, roller skaters, and skate boards sailed down the ramps and around the bends with a caution for the people using wheelchairs and canes.

During the August 20 inauguration ceremony of the trail, nine representatives from the Seashore, county government, and handicap consultants pounded the "golden spikes" into the last few boards. Superintendent Joel Picklener praised the YCC group and acknowledged the accomplishments through teamwork. "You can come back years from now and say, 'I helped do that!'".

Suffolk County Legislator John Rosso, who manages a portion of Smith Point as a county park, was impressed with the high quality of the walk, less than a football field away from the open ocean and bayside. "It came out beautifully . . . what a pleasure it is to see something we can all use and enjoy."

One of the handicapped consultants, Tom Hodne of the Eastern Paralized Veterans Association, added, "This trail is great for handicapped people but will also make it easier for the able-bodied to get around. I hope it will be well used and wear out so we can replace it with a bigger one!"

There were others involved in the development of the trail, including VIP Tom Quinn, who like Titus and Hodne, is handicapped. He served as a consultant and did construction work—digging holes and carpentry.

Hodne noted during the inauguration day that Park Ranger Don Weirs "has been working on this worthwhile project for approximately 2½ years and has done an excellent job guiding it through the planning, funding and construction processes. His efforts are deserving of note and congratulations on a job well done."

So, 82,000 nails later, YCC kids at Fire Island finished a mammoth job which almost everyone thought would take two summers. But not the park maintenance men Steve Singler, Andy Rokus, and Charlie Magale who instilled, as Kiehn said, "a lot of spirit of team work and competition."

One group of 12 YCC kids started at the head of the trail while the second group of 12 YCCers worked from the end. The maintenance men kept a constant flow of carefully sawed boards and wedges coming. Kiehn, who jokes about worrying whether the two groups would miss in the middle, said the day-to-day competition between the groups over the number of boards placed was a key to the success of the construction project.

And all the YCC kids were out in force for the opening, leading the way along the first guided nature tour past the different life zones including ocean beaches, transverse dunes, forests and salt marshes. The poison ivy has been cut away, the mosquitoes were down to a more tolerable number, and edible berries like beach plums, blueberries, and raspberries were ripening as the first wheelchairs and canes made the way along the ramp collecting bystanders as they went by.

Neal Bullington, assistant chief ranger for Interpretation, points to primary dune line and talks about different life zones. Fire Island NS, N.Y.

Ground broken for visitor center at Cedar Hill

Photo by Bill Clark.

Groundbreaking for a visitor center to be erected at Cedar Hill, residence of abolitionist and statesman Frederick Douglass. (From left) Fannie Douglass, granddaughter-in-law to Frederick Douglass; Manus J. Fish, NCR Regional Director; Denise Joseph, daughter to Under Secretary of the Interior Joseph; James Joseph, Under Secretary of the Interior; Ira J. Hutchinson, Deputy Director NPS; Maxine Boyd, President of the Frederick Douglass Association; Louis Anthony, Special Assistant to the Mayor of the District of Columbia, and Nadine Winters, D.C. Councilwoman.

NPS craftsman wins blues at county fair

A wooden split "gizzard basket" and herringbone pattern chair seat, both woven by Chief of Interpretation Arnold Schofield of Fort Scott National Historic Site, Kans., were awarded blue ribbons at the 1980 Bourbon County Fair held at Fort Scott, last July. Split weaving is a traditional rural craft which Arnold learned from Mrs. Edna Ware of Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, W. Va., when he was assigned there as the resident blacksmith. His basketmaking skill was developed by the "all thumbs method" of trial and error while he was assigned to the North District of the Blue Ridge Parkway at Roanoke, Va. Miss Ann Ragan and Festus Bourne of the Parkway, basketmakers of the Blue Ridge and Friends of Poff Mountain, Va., influenced his present basket design.

At Fort Scott, all of the traditional crafts mentioned have a potential place in the interpretive program. Soldiers of pre-Civil War frontier forts often made their own chairs and used splits for the seats. Similar baskets have been identified in historic photographs of the adjacent town, and the post quartermaster operated a permanent military forge.

Recently, Arnold has developed an interest in 19th-century stoneware. He plans to study the potter's trade and produce jugs, crocks and mugs of traditional design. If past experience is any indication, he no doubt will!

Park Briefs

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK—Two persons were arrested and about 1 ton of marijuana was confiscated Oct. 12, when rangers discovered four separate plots in which a total of more than 400 plants had been cultivated. Six park concession employees were also under investigation for complicity. The street value of the marijuana was put at about $1 million. The plants had been carefully pruned, fertilized and irrigated and the harvest had begun when the bust was made.

WAR IN THE PACIFIC NHP, GUAM—Newly appointed historian James Miculka believes the U.S. bombing of Japanese caves during World War II may have created time capsules when the caves were sealed in 1944. This could be a treasure trove of World War II relics. Miculka is also focusing on recreating battle scenes and reconstructing gun emplacements and fortifications in Asan and Agat. In setting up his historical program he is "trying to blend two different cultural backgrounds, American and Japanese." Many visitors to Guam come from Japan.

MARTIN LUTHER KING NHS, GA.—President Carter signed legislation Oct. 10 establishing this 23.5-acre area in downtown Atlanta as a memorial to the slain civil rights leader. Under the law, NPS will develop picnic grounds, guided tours, parking lots, in addition to renovating existing structures, including the Ebenezer Baptist Church, where King preached; the Martin Luther King Jr., Center for Social Change, and King's birthplace and grave.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT NP, N.D.—Bison roundups in both the North and South units of the park have netted a total of 185 animals this fall. Through arrangements with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, seven Indian tribes received the bison for herd restocking. Tribes included in the distribution were the Cheyenne River of South Dakota, Jicarilla of New Mexico, Kickapoo of Kansas, and the Rocky Boy, Northern Cheyenne, Blackfeet, Flathead and Crow of Montana.

GLACIER NP, MONT.—Park rangers are seeking better ways to protect visitors from dangerous grizzly bears, which have already claimed three lives this year. One of the problems is the tremendous increase in the use of the backcountry in recent years. In July, a young bear rampaged through a camp killing two people. The bear was later identified and destroyed. Early in October, rangers discovered the remains of a Texas man, killed by a grizzly. There's strong evidence that a bear destroyed shortly afterwards was involved. Eight feet tall, and weighing up to 800 pounds, the animal can run up to 25 mph.

ROCK CREEK PARK, D.C.—A fire destroyed part of a U.S. Park Police stable early Oct. 8. Five horses kept there were safely evacuated and no injuries were reported during the blaze. Firefighters, who later entered the structure, determined that the most likely cause of the blaze was a short circuit in a wire connected to a portable heater. Damage was estimated at $100,000.

New rating system implemented

Performance Appraisal
By Lucille Emerson
Branch of Employee Relations, WASO

The Civil Service Reform Act of 1978, which was designed to improve Government efficiency and to balance management authority with employee protections, has resulted in a great deal of emphasis being placed on evaluating employee performance. Under the law each agency must have a system for periodically appraising employee job performance. The appraisal results will be used as a basis for decisions to train, reward, reassign, promote, demote, retain, or remove employees (for reasons other than misconduct).

In the National Park Service all employees (with certain exceptions) occupying full-time, less than full-time, or temporary positions which are expected to exceed 120 days in a 12-month period are covered under the new performance appraisal system.

All employees must be informed of the critical elements and performance standards by January 1981, which will be the start of the first appraisal cycle for non-Merit Pay employees. This requirement will provide for employer/employee communication regarding job performance and job expectations. Employees will be given an opportunity annually to participate in career planning and assessment of training needs as they relate to agency needs and goals.

Performance elements will be identified which define aspects of performance judged to be of sufficient importance to warrant appraisal. Some of these will be identified as *critical* elements, that is, of sufficient importance that performance on any one of them which is below the standard set by management requires remedial action (denial of within-grade for employees not under merit pay, reduction-in-grade, removal, etc.).

Performance standards will define the level of performance required of an employee for all identified performance elements. Each year (not sooner than 90 days or longer than 12 months in a position) employees will receive an appraisal comparing their performance against pre-established performance standards and a summary rating level will be assigned.

This appraisal system will require a good deal of effort on the part of employees and supervisors alike. Training is now being conducted to assure that all employees understand how the system works, what it is used for, how it affects them, and how it can benefit them. In addition, these training sessions will address such topics as:

- planning sessions during which the rating official, with input from the employee, establishes the performance elements, critical elements, and performance standards for the employee's position;
- the ongoing performance review process and the need for continuous communication between the employee and supervisor throughout the rating period;
- the performance appraisal and the formal performance appraisal interview session;
- the review process and the effects of differences between the rating official (usually the employee's immediate supervisor) and the reviewing official (usually the rating official's immediate supervisor); and
- avenues available to employees to resolve a concern regarding an aspect of performance appraisal.

We fully anticipate that this performance appraisal system will improve organization effectiveness through more productive, informed, motivated, and satisfied employees.

NPS people in the news

Kerr heads Southwest, Dayton deputy

Robert I. Kerr, who had been acting director since April, has been officially named Southwest Regional director.

Kerr named Donald A. Dayton as his deputy. Dayton comes to his new post from the superintendency of Carlsbad Caverns National Park, N. Mex.

Kerr succeeds Lorraine Mintzmyer who became Rocky Mountain Regional director in April.

Born in Woodlake, Calif., Kerr graduated from Oregon State University in 1956 with a degree in forest management. He worked first for the Park Service as a seasonal ranger at Sequoia National Park, Calif. In 1956, he received his first permanent assignment at Great Smoky Mountains National Park, N.C.-Tenn.

During his career he has held superintendencies at Grand Teton National Park; and Canyonlands and Zion National Parks, Utah. Prior to that Kerr served as a resource management specialist in WASO, and in posts at Shenandoah National Park, Va., and Everglades National Park.

In 1976, Kerr received the Interior Department's Meritorious Service Award.

Dayton, a native of Akron, Ohio, received his Bachelor's degree in wildlife management from Ohio State University in 1951.

He bagan his Federal career as a smoke jumper for the Forest Service in Missoula, Mont., and also held seasonal jobs at Glacier National Park, Mont., and Sequoia.

He has served as a ranger at Devil's Tower National Monument, Wyo., and became superintendent of White Sands

Donald A. Dayton.

National Monument, N. Mex., in 1964. In 1967, he became superintendent of Petrified Forest National Park, Ariz., and in 1970 assumed his superintendency at Carlsbad.

Way back in 1959, Dayton received a Valor Award for killing a grizzly bear that was mauling a mountain climber at Glacier.

Gebler to Mather

Charles J. Gebler has been selected to succeed David O. Karraker as superintendent of the Mather Training Center at Harpers Ferry, W. Va. Karraker was recently named head of the Albright Training Center, Ariz.

Gebler comes to the Harpers Ferry Training Center from the position of chief, Division of Interpretation and Visitor Services, Pacific Northwest Regional Office.

A native of Connecticut, Gebler graduated from the State University with a Bachelor of Science in wildlife management and went on to earn his Master's in conservation at the University of Michigan. He holds teaching credentials in conservation and science and has pursued advanced studies in communications and management.

He got his start in NPS at Yellowstone as a seasonal during the early '50s and began full-time employment in 1955.

During his career he has held positions as special assistant to the regional director for Environmental Awareness and regional naturalist, Western Regional Office; chief park naturalist, Mount Rainier National Park, Wash.; instructor in interpretation for NPS training centers

Charles J. Gebler.

at Yosemite National Park and Grand Canyon National Park; park naturalist with the National Capital Region, and assistant chief park naturalist at Rocky Mountain National Park.

He holds the Interior Department's Meritorious Service Award.

Gebler began his new assignment Oct. 14.

Cummins to Pearl

Garv T. Cummins has been appointed the first superintendent of the U.S.S. Arizona Memorial in Pearl Harbor, Oahu, Hawaii.

Under a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Navy, the Park Service will manage a new shoreside facility, constructed by the Navy, and provide interpretation at the sunken battleship.

Cummins, was born in Salt Lake City. He received Bachelor and Master of Arts degrees in history from the University of Montana, and a Master of Arts in anthropology from the University of Arizona.

For 3 summers Cummins worked as a seasonal park ranger. In 1972, he was employed by the State of Hawaii's Historic Preservation Office as an historian, and 2 years later became the director of that office.

In the summer of 1977, he began his permanent career with the Park Service when he was employed at the Denver Service Center as a cultural resources specialist. He worked on several major planning projects as a staff archeologist, the position he left to go to Hawaii.

Schmidt to Sagamore

Loretta L. Schmidt, a 12-year NPS employee has been named superintendent of Sagamore Hill National Historic Site, N.Y.

Schmidt, former supervisory ranger at San Juan National Historic Site, P.R., began her new assignment this month.

Her Park Service career has taken her to Edison National Historic Site, N.J., where she was a park historian, and later to Minute Man National Historical Park, Mass., as park historian. She is noted for initiating an oral history program of interviews with former Edison colleagues.

Before arriving at her present position, Schmidt served as an Equal Employment Opportunity chairman for the Boston area and as a park ranger in the Federal training center in Washington.

She has also served the Student Conservation Association as assistant executive director while serving at Sagamore Hill and attending Hunter College graduate school in New York.

Bainbridge to Natchez Trace

James L. "Jim" Bainbridge has been selected as the new superintendent of Natchez Trace Parkway, Miss.-Tenn.-Ala.

For the past 9 years, Bainbridge has been associate director of Operations for the Southeast Region.

He succeeds C. W. "Jack" Ogle, who has transferred to the Southeast Regional Office as deputy director for Support Services.

A civil engineer, Bainbridge joined the Park Service in 1960, after service with the navy and for the Alaska Road Commission.

He has served in engineering capacities at Crater Lake National Park, Oreg., and Oregon Caves National Monument. He also served NPS stints at Death Valley and Joshua Tree National Monuments, Calif. Later he transferred to the Service Center in Denver.

In 1971, he became Southeast Regional director for Park Operations. Bainbridge is a native of Weiser, Idaho, and graduated from the University of Idaho with a Bachelor's degree in civil engineering.

Brown to Lowell

James L. Brown has been named acting superintendent of Lowell National Historical Park, Mass., succeeding Lew Albert, who has been transferred to Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area, Ohio.

Brown comes to Lowell from the superintendency of Longfellow National Historic Site, Mass., where he worked closely with the staff at Lowell.

Bezy to Pecos

John E. Bezy has been named superintendent of Pecos National Monument, N. Mex.

Bezy succeeds Ernest Ortega, who recently transferred to San Antonio Missions National Historical Park, Tex., as chief ranger.

Bezy previously served as supervisory park ranger at Bryce Canyon National Park, Utah.

Bezy's first permanent Park Service position was at Petrified Forest National Park, Ariz., as a park technician in 1972-1976 after serving as a seasonal in 1970-1972. He then transferred to Lake Mead National Recreation Area, Ariz-Utah in 1976 as a park ranger until 1978. He served 2 years at Bryce Canyon.

Prior to joining the National Park Service, Bezy taught geography at the University of Arizona in 1967-1969 and science in the Pittsfield, Mass., public schools in 1969-1970.

Born in Vincennes, Ind., Bezy has a Bachelor's degree in geology/geography from the University of Colorado and a Master's degree from the University of Arizona.

Decker, new district naturalist

L. Joe Decker, a former U.S. Marine and Vietnam veteran, has been named new West Lakes District naturalist at Glacier National Park, Mont.

The Matton, Ill., native joined the Park Service in 1976 and has served in other Federal posts with the U.S. Corps of Army Engineers and the Environmental Protection Agency.

He is a graduate of Eastern Illinois University with a Master's degree in zoology.

Tucker to Andersonville

John N. Tucker has been appointed as the new superintendent of Andersonville National Historic Site, Ga.

Tucker, a park ranger previously stationed at Fort Sumter National Monument S.C., reported to his new assignment Nov. 17.

He succeeds John H. Flister, who retired recently after serving as manager of the historic area for 6 years.

Tucker, a native of Danbury, N.C., joined the Park Service in 1970 following his graduation from North Carolina State University with a Bachelor's degree in forestry, natural resources and recreation management.

After initial training assignments at Great Smoky Mountains National Park N.C.-Tenn., and National Capital Parks, he was named supervisory park ranger at Ocmulgee National Monument, Ga., where he served for more than 2 years.

In 1975, Tucker transferred to San Diego, Calif., where he was supervisory park ranger at Cabrillo National Monument. For the past 3 years, he had been supervisory park ranger at Fort Sumter.

Miculka, new ranger on Guam

War in the Pacific National Historical Park, Guam, has a new ranger in the person of James E. Miculka.

Miculka is a specialist in historical interpretation and plans to set up an educational program for the Guam school system, in addition to offering guided tours for visiting groups.

The new ranger, who is a champion chili chef from Texas, comes to Guam from Fort Union Trading Post National Historical Site, N. Dak., Mont.

He is a graduate of Sul Ross State University in Alpine, Tex., where he majored in history and paleontology.

Valor awards

At the 47th annual Honor Wards Convocation, held Oct. 21 at the Main Interior Building in Washington, D.C., Citations for Valor were presented to seven Park Service employees by Secretary Cecil D. Andrus.

James K. Braggs, a ranger at Grand Canyon National Park, was cited for courageous action under hazardous conditions to save a woman from drowning. During the May 25 investigation of a fatal boating accident on the Colorado River, he observed another boat capsize in the treacherous rapid known as "The Slide." Mrs.

Katheryn Farthing was trapped under the craft. Ranger Braggs sped to the overturned boat. He had a nearby boater hold him by the ankles while he went down under the boat to free Mrs. Farthing from her death trap.

Phillip W. Cholak, a member of the U.S. Park Police on duty on the Baltimore-Washington Parkway, Md., received his Valor Citation for courageous action in rescuing a fellow officer from a burning vehicle. On Feb. 6, Cholak was in pursuit of a speeder who refused to stop. While traveling 80 mph, he observed the car collide into the rear of the other officer's patrol car. The vehicle was engulfed in flames. He pulled his fellow officer, Raymond C. Meeks, to safety, and seconds later the car was totally engulfed in flames.

Chester M. Hendrickson, also a U.S. Park Policeman, rescued a potential suicide victim from death when she leaped off a bridge in Washington, D.C. Hendrickson jumped into the polluted waters of the Anacostia River from a rescue helicopter and retrived the woman from 25 feet of water. He then revived her.

Two Mount Rainier National Park, Wash., rescue team members got valor awards for saving the life of a critically injured climber June 22, 1979.

Rangers Garry D. Olson and Jean Paul de St. Croix were lowered at night by rescue helicopter onto a precarious mountain side and assisted in lifting the injured climber on the helicopter. Because of darkness, noise, rotor wash and blowing snow this operation was extremely difficult.

John J. Troy, a ranger at Cape Hatteras National Seashore, N.C., saved the lives of three persons while on routine patrol near an area called Pea Island. In the area, known for its strong currents and sudden dropoffs, Troy noticed that a man was assisting another man and a young boy who had gotten into trouble off Pea Island. Troy immediately went into the water with a rescue buoy and plucked out a man who was in a more precarious position nearby. Later, he returned and rescued the man and boy, assisting them to shore, swimming through strong currents.

Stephen E. Yancho, a tour guide at Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, Mich., received his citation for rescuing another drowning victim. On Aug. 5, two teenagers were swept into deep water by undertow and crashing waves. Hearing cries of help from atop an 80-foot lighthouse, Yancho raced to the rescue and plunged into the surf fully clothed and swam out several hundred feet to rescue the victims. Later Yancho admitted to being a weak swimmer, but said he could not let the cries for help go unanswered.

Steve Stone receives Presidential recognition

Steve Stone (center) surrounded by other Outstanding Handicapped Federal Employees of the Year, at Honor Awards Convocation, Oct. 9.

By Ann Meroney
Branch of Employee Relations, WASO

Needless to say, Steve Stone is an enthusiastic river runner, and a *pioneer* wheelchair-bound river runner at that! In the January 1980 COURIER, Steve related his exciting experience running the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon National Park— "the quickened pulse, the huge-standing waves, the pliable rubber boats running foaming rapids, the unique sense of adventure!" Due in large part to Steve's efforts, this exhilarating experience is now available to wheelchair-bound visitors. Steve Stone has been an Outdoor Recreation Planner at the Denver Service Center since February 1978 and has since that time utilized his potential for assisting our parks in developing a more rigorous and effective handicap access program. He has provided the Park Service with a new insight and depth of understanding with respect to handicapped visitors and their recreational needs and potential opportunities in the park field areas.

Steve Stone has not only made a name for himself with the NPS, but is now reaching other Federal, State and private organizations by being involved in the development and implementation of a number of instructive courses on handicap access and interpretation. He has also developed, designed and is currently implementing with the cooperation of a local television station, a public service commercial which demonstrates techniques for able-bodied persons to help the disabled public. These are only a small part of his accomplishments.

Steve Stone's exceptional efforts have led to a very special recognition—a Presidential Recognition. Steve was honored at a ceremony in Washington, D. C., on Oct. 9, as one of 10 Outstanding Handicapped Federal Employees of 1980. On behalf of the President of the United States, the award was presented by Dr. Edwin W. Martin, Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitation, Department of Education.

The Outstanding Handicapped Federal Employee of the Year Program focuses nationwide attention on the job *capabilities* of handicapped people employed by the Federal Government. Highlighting these exceptional accomplishments increases an awareness of the value of these people's contributions and publicizes the Federal career opportunities available to other handicapped individuals. Most important, the program focuses public attention on the importance of using all of America's human resources effectively—not only in Government, but in the private sector as well.

Steve Stone reflects the purpose of the program very well. He leaves quite an impression on people. You don't have time to notice that he is wheelchair-bound. You merely see a man who believes in his capabilities of doing his

(Continued on Page 12.)

best in his job because he genuinely likes his work.

Those participating in the 3-days of activities surrounding the presidential ceremony were Mrs. Karen Stone, Steve's wife; Mrs. Myrtle Stone, his mother from California; Mrs. Bonnie McIntosh, his aunt from California; Howard Haiges, his supervisor at DSC; David Wright, chief, Office of Park Planning and Environmental Quality; David Park, chief, Special Programs and Populations Division; Ira Hutchison, deputy director, NPS; Larry Meierotto, assistant secretary for Policy, Budget and Administration; William Kendig, deputy assistant secretary for PBA; Robert Herbst, assistant secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks; George Britton, DOI Incentive Awards officer; George Morris, chief, Branch of Employee Relations, and Ann Meroney, NPS and OS coordinator for OHFEY Program. A reception was held to give those in the Washington, D. C., area an opportunity to personally congratulate Steve on his accomplishments.

Wells receives DSA

Jerry L. Wells, former U.S. Park Police Chief for more than 6 years, was presented with the Department of the Interior's Distinguished Service Award, Oct. 21. Wells, a 29-year veteran of the Police Force, began his successful career in 1950 as a private and progressed through the ranks to Chief.

The Distinguished Service Award cites Wells' "unsurpassed quality of leadership to the U.S. Park Police, his inspiration and the outstanding job he has done in upgrading the administration and operational practices of the Force."

The citation also names many of his significant contributions, including: "The Case Incident Reporting System, for reporting police incidents, now in use Servicewide; the effective adjustment of administrative officers in Research and Planning, and the relocation of the Training Branch to Brunswick, Ga.; the establishment of the helicopter program, mobile field headquarters, streamlined communications system, mobile crime identification unit and the first Force Marine Patrol."

The citation also notes his role in establishing the new field offices in Gateway and Golden Gate National Recreation areas; his institution of a Park Police Aid Program to improve visitor services during the Bicentennial; and his institution of an effective YACC program.

Wells was born in Charlotte, N.C., was educated in the District of Columbia and is a graduate of the FBI Academy. He retired from the U.S. Park Police Force on Sept. 30, 1979.

Bryant receives DSA

John L. Bryant, President of the National Park Foundation, received the Interior Department's Distinguished Service Award, Oct. 21. The citation was awarded to Bryant for his contributions and dedication in directing the National Park Foundation, the program responsible for land acquisition and conveyance of lands.

Bryant has been chief operating officer of the Foundation since 1971, serving as its President as well, since 1974. The Foundation is a Congressionally chartered, non-profit organization designated solely to benefit the National Park System.

The award states, "John Bryant has been an extremely effective spokesman for the Service in the business community and has responsibly managed the financial resources of gifts made to the Service through the Foundation as well as seeking additional donations for special National Park Service projects. Through his efforts, land has been added to such parks as: Acadia National Park, Cumberland Gap National Historical Park, Cumberland Island National Seashore, Fort Necessity, Appomattox Court House National Historical Park, Greenbelt Park, Fort Bowie National Historic Site and the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt, among others."

Bryant, a native of Washington, D.C., received a Juris Doctor Degree from Georgetown University Law Center, Washington, D.C., in 1967. He is a member of Phi Delta Phi Legal Honor Society, the American Bar Association, District of Columbia Bar Association, and the Inter-American Bar Association. He has also been admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court, and the Court of Appeals, District of Columbia.

Lucia Santora's twofold education

Photo by Brooks Vaughn.

Lucia Santora (right) and Mrs. Frieda Levine.

Like many of her contemporaries, Lucia Santora has been working her way through school.

The Long Island, N.Y., native had devoted the past 2½ years to commuting between home and college and Floyd Bennett Field in Brooklyn, which is headquarters for Gateway National Recreation Area; N.Y.-N.J.

She earned a degree in business administration from LaGuardia College in New York, part of the City University system. At LaGuardia, a counselor suggested she consider the student co-op program at Gateway. She later was hired for the Public Information Office and started there in January of 1978.

At Gateway, Lucia became so interested in public information work that when she was graduated from LaGuardia, she decided to continue her education at the C.W. Post Center of Long Island University, from which she expects to earn a Bachelor of Science in communication this winter.

"Gateway has been an exciting challenge. I've met many interesting people and I love the work. I especially appreciate the opportunity to deal with the media since I'm majoring in radio broadcasting," Lucia says.

Lucia's also gained a lot of experience designing brochures for Gateway's Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, designing posters to encourage city dwellers to take public transportation to Riis Beach and in writing articles for the *Outlook*, Gateway's external publication. She also assists with layout and design of the six-time-a-year publication.

"I've made a lot of friends at Gateway. I've especially looked forward to the summers when the park comes alive. Gateway has really taught me a lot. I feel I've accomplished something, and that my energies have a worthwhile meaning," she says.

—Manny Strumpf.

People on the move

AMIDON, Linda J., Park Ranger, Biscayne NP, to Same, SERO
BEZY, John V., Supv. Park Ranger, Bryce Canyon NP, to Park Mgr., Pecos NM
BOYER, Gerald F., Gardener, NCR, to Accounting Tech., NCR
CRAWFORD, Ronald, Park Ranger, Greenbelt Park, to Same, Catoctin Mountain Park
DAVILA, Maria T., Voucher Examiner, WRO, to Payroll Tech., WRO
DIXON, Lewis E., Gardener, Fort Washington & Piscataway Park, to Maint. Worker, Prince William Forest Park
DOVE, Michael R., Statistical Asst., DSC, to Computer Spec., RMRO
FINK, William O., Park Ranger, Homestead NM of America, to Same, Friendship Hill NHS
GADSDEN, Cherryl L., Clerk Typist, White House, to Secretary, White House
GEBLER, Charles J., Supv. Park Ranger, PNRO, to Supv. Park Ranger, Mather Tr. Cen., WASO
GLENN, Karen L., Accounts Maint. Clerk, Yosemite NP, to Cash Clerk, Yosemite NP
GRAHAM, Walt F., Utility Systems Opr., Sequoia NP, to Heavy-Mobile Equip. Mech., Sequoia NP
GREGORY, Gary R., Park Ranger, SWRO, to DMT, WASO
GROVE, Calvin S., Carpenter, Harpers Ferry NHP, to Wood Craftsman, Harpers Ferry NHP
HALAINEN, William J., Park Tech., Colonial NHP, to Park Ranger, Minute Man NHP
HAMMAN, John W., Sewage Disposal Plant Opr., North Cascades NP, to Water Treatment Plant Op., Yellowstone NP
HARPER, Rayford, Park Ranger, Castillo De San Marcos NM, to Same, Ninety Six NHS
HATCH, Donald D., Voucher Examiner, PNRO, to Purchasing Agent, PNRO
HAYS, Monroe N., Automotive Mech., Padre Island NS, to Heavy Mobile Equip. Opr., Glacier Bay NM
HUYCK, Heather A., Park Ranger, Clara Barton NHS, to Same, WASO
LANG, Steven R., Park Tech., Kings Mountain NMP, to Park Ranger, Independence NHP
LUSTER, Theodore H., Maint. Mech. General Foreman, Rock Creek Park to Same, GW Mem. Pkwy.
MADRY, Marvin, Park Mgr., Christiansted NHS, to Same, Kennesaw Mountain NBP
MARTIN, Sandra J., Secretary, NPS, to Program Asst., WASO
MOLINEAUX, Sharon V., Park Ranger, Catoctin Mountain Park, to Same, Greenbelt Park
MOSLEY, Mannin H., Urban Affairs Ofcr., MARO, to Park Ranger, Independence NHP
NORTON, Lorraine C., Park Tech., NCP, to Supv. Park Tech., NCP
O BRIEN, James P., Park Tech., Great Smoky Mountains NP, to Park Ranger, Delaware Water Gap NRA
RODGERS, Robert B., Supv. Park Ranger, Shenandoah NP, to Park Ranger, Assateague Island NS
SNOW, David E., Historical Architect, Klondike Gold Rush NHP, to Same, Alaska Area Office
SULLIVAN, Michael J., Supv. Contract Spec., WASO, to Procurement Analyst, WASO
THOMPSON, Ollie R., Pipefitter Helper, NCP, to Plumber, Rock Creek Park
TUCK, James A., Supv. Park Ranger, Fire Island NS, to Same, Cabrillo NM
BAILEY, Tyrone G., Clerk, WASO, to Clerk Typist, Lightship Chesapeake
BAINBRIDGE, James L., Park Mgr., SERO, to Same, Natchez Trace Pkwy.
BATES, Craig D., Indian Cultural Program Spec., Yosemite NP, to Museum Spec., Yosemite NP
BURDULIA, Joseph, Landscape Architect, Curecanti Rec. Area, to Same, DSC
BUTLER, Keith U., Motor Vehicle Opr., Grand Teton NP, to Engineering Equip. Opr, Grand Teton NP
CARROLL, Herbert S., Equipment. Spec., NCR, to Supply Mgmt. Ofcr., NCR
CHAMBERLAIN, Andrew B., Museum Curator, Springfield Armory NHS, to Same, Lowell NHP
COOGAN, Kevin P., Clerk, NARO, to Voucher Examiner, NARO
DECKER, Larry J., Park Ranger, Florissant Fossil Beds NM, to Supv. Park Ranger, Glacier NP
DONATHAN, Susan F., Staffing Clerk, NCR, to Clerk Typist, NCR
EDELSTEIN, Susan F., Park Mgr., Sitka NHP, to Technical Publications Writer-Editor, DSC
FENDER, Anna M., Park Tech., Rock Mtn. NP, to Supv. Park Ranger, Rocky Mtn. NP
FITZGERALD, Kevin M., Park Ranger, Blue Ridge Pkwy, to Same, Great Smoky Mtns, NP
GIVEN, David M., Environmental Engr., DSC. to Outdoor Recreation, MWRO
GRIEGO, Robert, Admin. Ofcr., Mount Rainier NP, to Same, Rocky Mtn. NP
HAWKINS, Kenneth M., Park Tech., Point Reyes NS, to Park Ranger, Lake Mead NRA
HOUSTON, Douglas B., Research Biologist, Yellowstone NP, to Same, PNRO
HOVDA, James R., Supply Clerk, Mount Rainier NP, to Supply Tech., PNRO
KINNEARY, Christine H., Park Tech., National Visitor Center, to Park Ranger, C&O Canal NHP
KLAWITTER, Gail K., Clerk Typist, Glen Canyon NRA, to Park Tech., NCP
KOHAN, Carol E., Museum Curator, GW Mem. Pkwy., to Same, Martin Van Buren NHS
KREMER, Raymond C., Admin. Ofcr., Edison NHS, to Same, Fire Island NS
KYLANDER, Sue A., Park Tech., Fort Laramie NHS, to Lead Park Tech., Indiana Dunes NL
LA CHINE, Guy L., Park Tech., Chickamauga & Chattanooga NMP, to Supv. Park Tech., De Soto NM
LEFEVRE, Ellis J., Supv. Park Ranger, Fort Laramie NHS, to Same, Dinosaur NM
LEWIS, Teresa R., Project Clerk, Redwood NP, to Procurement Clerk, Redwood NP
MERENKOV, Nancy L., Clerk Typist, RMRO, to Secretary, DSC
MURRAY, Michael B., Communications Opr., Yellowstone NP, to Park Tech., Everglades NP
OGLE, Carroll W., Park Mgr., Natchez Trace Pkwy., to Program Mgr., SERO
PACHTA, Noel J., Park Mgr., Gulf Islands NS, to Same, Virgin Islands NP
POPE, Lurrie V., Park Ranger, Chickasaw NRA, to Supv. Park Ranger, Rock Creek Park
ROBERTS, Barbara J., Staffing Clerk, NCR, to Admin. Tech., NCR
ROBERTS, Kitty L., Mgmt. Asst., NCR, to Park Mgr., GW Mem. Pkwy.
ROY, Cordell J., Supv. Park Ranger, Chickasaw NRA, to Park Ranger, Capital Reef NP
RUGG, Shirley A., General Supply Spec., Gateway NRA, to Admin. Ofcr., Edison NHS
RUSSELL, Norma J., Secretary, RMRO, to Accounting Tech., RMRO
SITES, George L., Supv. Park Ranger, Acadia NP, to Park Ranger, NARO
SMITH, Richard B., Park Ranger, NPS to Park Mgr., Everglades NP
SPECK, Lynda J., Clerk, RMRO, to Same, DSC
STRUMPF, Emanuel M., Public Information Spec., WASO, to Public Information Ofcr., Gateway NRA
VANDER WOUDE, David J., Park Ranger, Lowell NHP, to Same, Delaware Water Gap NRA
VANGUNDY, Jack F., Supply Clerk, Grand Teton NP, to Purchasing Agent, Capital Reef NP
VIEIRA, Walter L., Procurement Ofcr., Lake Mead NRA, to Same, Glacier NP
WILLIAMS, William H., Electrician, Big Bend NP, to Same, Hot Springs NP
WRIGHT, Dorothy V., Secretary, HFC, to Editorial Asst., HFC

McCabe retires

Tom McCabe, equipment operator, retired on Oct. 17 after 28 years of seasonal and full-time work at Wupatki and Sunset Crater National Monuments, Ariz.

Tom will move to the Navajo Reservation where he will operate his cattle ranch and live in the new house he recently completed for himself and his wife Jessie.

In 1952, Tom began work at Wupatki as a seasonal laborer. He worked up through caretaker and truck driver before becoming a full-time motor vehicle operator in 1970. He was promoted to engineering equipment operator in 1972, a position he held until his retirement.

Rodeoing was one of Tom's specialities in his younger days and he won prize money and several buckles for calf roping and bulldogging. He said he used to attend rodeos on weekends then drive all night to get back for work at Wupatki.

E&AA News and Notes

Director's message to employees and alumni:

At the recent meeting in celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the Employees and Alumni Association at Rocky Mountain National Park in September, the Board of Directors and the E&AA membership have rededicated themselves to the stated purposes and have called for a revitalization of their efforts in the achievements of these objectives as stated below:

1. To help maintain and improve morale of the Service employees.
2. To foster continuing close ties between Service employees and alumni.
3. To encourage qualified persons to enter careers in the Service and to assist those with high career potential to train for greater Service responsibilities.
4. To encourage public understanding of the "national park" concept and the Service's responsibilities in administering the natural, historical and recreational areas of the National Park System.
5. To keep members informed of Service accomplishments and activities; Service policies and practices; and the activities of employees, alumni and friends of the Service through the National Park COURIER.

Some of these activities you will notice are continuously carried on through such means as circulation of the COURIER and the very successful Educational Loan Fund Program, so wonderfully supported by the contributions of the NPS Women's Organization. There are some objectives, however, which we must call upon each of you for your assistance in this revitalization effort, particularly in the first stated purpose—to "maintain and improve the morale of Service employees."

As you know, this issue is a primary concern of mine and I believe this should be the primary thrust of the NPS Employees and Alumni Association as we enter our next 25 years.

I strongly feel that within the Association there is a wealth of experience that can be put to use in furthering the goals of the Park Service mission and thereby assuring a continuing viable "NPS Family" dedicated to those tenets of preservation and use so aptly articulated in our organic legislation.

The employees and alumni of the National Park Service are the most important asset of the Park Service. The camaraderie of this Service has always been a magnetic force drawing the very best people as employees. The E&AA is one of the best means of continuing this traditional and binding spirit. Please let your E&AA representatives in your region know your feelings.

The Association cannot be effective without your help. I urge you to join, renew, or continue your E&AA membership now.

Russell E. Dickenson

To E&AA members:

Thanks for helping make the E&AA reunion so successful. It was quite a week with great weather and beautiful people. The effort each of you made to be in the Rockies, and the support you gave me personally, are certainly appreciated. I felt it was a successful reunion for our 25th Anniversary!

Also, a special thanks to those of you who wrote letters of support and appreciation. They make me feel good having been your Chairman the past 2 years and during such an important time in the history of E&AA. It was my honor serving such a fine organization of people. And, of course, I will remain a loyal supporter.

Thanks again for your help, support and loyalty at Estes Park and during the past 2 years.

With warm regards,

Roger K. Rector
Chairman of the Board

Connie Wirth's book, *Parks, Politics and the People,* is available at a discount to NPS employees and alumni by the University of Oklahoma Press. The book, which sells for $19.95 retail, is available to any employee or alumnus at $15.95, and will be sent to any designated address, postpaid. Send check for $15.95 to Richard Hart, Vice-Chairman E&AA Board, 1517 Davenport, Sturgis, SD 57785.

(Left to right) Petrified Forest National Park (Ariz.) Superintendent Roger K. Rector, chief of Interpretation Susan Helpler, and Chief Ranger Chris Andress join E&AA as Life Members during this Silver Anniversary year.

Jerri-Atrics meet again

Prescott, Ariz., was the scene of the fall "Jerri-Atrics" get-together, Sept. 29 and 30. The weather was on the hottish side, but it didn't bother us much. The motels were close together and we got together for lots of talking and those who played golf played both days at Antelope Hills Country Club.

Winners Monday for the ladies were Lois Kowski, first place; Barbara Rumburg, Second place; and Georgia Sylvester, third place. For the men, first place went to Frank Sylvester; Luis Gastellum, second place, and John McKee took third place.

Tuesday was the *real* tournament. Nearest to the pin was won by Gordon Cox, longest drive for the men by John McKee and for the women by Gladys Clancy and Faye Thompson. Coming in first for the ladies was Gladys Clancy; men's low handicap, Gordon Cox; men's high handicap, Earl Stadel. Second place for the ladies was won by Georgia Sylvester, men's low handicap by Joe Rumburg, and men's high handicap by Bill Sawyer. Lois Kowski took third place for the ladies, Ernie Allen for the men's low handicap, and Forrest Benson for the men's high handicap. The traveling trophies went to Barbara Rumburg and Carl Walker. They have won them so many times they are beginning to think they own them!! Regardless of the "system" used, you just can't beat a good golfer!

There was a good turn-out. Thirty-two played golf and about 58 attended the dinner. There was plenty to do in Prescott for those of us who don't play golf. Everyone had such a good time it was decided to do it again next October, and we hope the weather will be a tad cooler. There will be a get-together in Phoenix or Tucson in March—watch for a notice of the event. We have to depend on various means to spread the word of these get-togethers, so don't stay away just because you don't get a letter. Remember, it's not just for golfers—it's for everyone! We have fun just getting together and talking, visiting places, seeing old friends and meeting new ones.

—Mary Benson
10001 E. Lurlene Drive
Tucson, AZ 85730

E&AA to sponsor 1981 tour

At the E&AA Board meeting at Estes Park, Colo., Sept. 22-25, approval was given to sponsor a tour during 1981.

Several suggestions were given for such tours. Tom Ela and George Fry were appointed as a committee to determine which tour to sponsor. It was agreed that a vote would be taken of the membership through the COURIER.

Please indicate your choice of tours and mail your vote to either Tom Ela, 1208 Placita Loma, Santa Fe, NM 87501; or George Fry, P.O. Box 449, Gatlinburg, TN 37738. Please do this immediately, but no later than Jan. 1, 1981.

a. Southwestern U.S., starting at Santa Fe, through the Indian Country and NPS areas to Big Bend, returning to Santa Fe ..... ☐

b. Trans Canadian by railroad, either east to west, or west to east .... ☐

c. New Zealand and Australia ..... ☐

d. Washington, D.C., area, then down Skyline Drive through Shenandoah NP, Blue Ridge Parkway, ending in Smokies ..... ☐

e. Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico ... ☐

f. Your suggestion _____..... ☐

Please support your E&AA, cast your vote for a trip, and come join the 1981 Tour.

Hike-a-Nation reaches Great Sand Dunes

On September 11 they came, singly and in groups of two's and three's. They came on foot across the 70-mile wide, flat, dry, San Luis Valley in southcentral Colorado. Their destination was Great Sand Dunes National Monument for a couple of days of rest and recuperation. They were members of Hike-a-Nation, a group of about 50 hikers who are traveling from San Francisco to Washington, D.C.

After 2 days of patching blisters, doing laundry, and taking precious showers, the hikers left over Mosca Pass toward eastern Colorado and eventually to Bent's Old Fort near La Junta, Colo. They had been on the trail 5 months and were anxious to reach the midway point of the hike in Kansas.

Hike-a-Nation is sponsored in part by the Department of the Interior to dramatize the need for additional trails throughout the country.

—Walt Saenger
Great Sand Dunes NM, Colo.

Your E&AA Representatives

Roger K. Rector	Chairman of the Board
Richard Hart	Vice-Chairman
Theresa G. Wood	Executive Secretary and Education Trust Officer
William H. Ledford	Treasurer of E&AA
Earl M. Semingsen	Special Membership Officer

E&AA Editor	James F. Kieley
E&AA Membership	Ann B. Schramm

Mid-Atlantic
Employee-James L. Sullivan
Alumni-Ross Sweeny

North Atlantic
Employee-John C. Raftery
Alumni-Lawrence C. Hadley

Southeast
Employee-Vern Ingram
Alumni-George Fry

HFC
Employee-Richard Russell

Midwest
Employee-James L. Ryan
Alumni-Raymond Rundell

NCP
Employee-Sandra Alley
Alumni-Theodore T. Smith

Southwest
Employee-Wayne B. Cone
Alumni-Tom Ela

Rocky Mountain
Employee-Frances Reynolds
Alumni-Richard Hart

Western
Employee-Roger K. Rector
Alumni-Mary Benson

Pacific Northwest
Employee-Bill Locke
Alumni-Victor Dahlberg

WASO
Employee-Vacant

Denver Service Center
Employee-Norman Reigle

At Large-Conrad L. Wirth

Portrait of Ronald F. Lee

One Saturday morning in April 1933, Verne E. Chatelain, Chief Historian of the National Park Service, sent a telegram to the History Department of the University of Minnesota, offering graduate students jobs as historical technician. No one at the university knew exactly what a historical technician did in the Park Service. Some faculty members surmised it might involve feeding the bears, an item then prominent in the news. But this was at the height of the Great Depression and historians were hungry for jobs; as a result, in less than half an hour after the telegram arrived, a reply was on its way with a half dozen historians volunteering their services. Each contributed a quarter to pay for the telegram. Without interviews or formal applications, all were hired. One of the six was Ronald F. Lee.

The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) was just being formed to help unemployed youth; at the same time the War Department was in the process of transferring the national military parks and other historic properties under its jurisdiction to the National Park Service. Consequently, historians were needed to give guidance and direction to preservation and interpretive activities. Because of the great scarcity of jobs, the CCC drew into its orbit a number of men of notable stature and ability, including Ronald Lee.

Ronnie, as he was familiarly known, came from New England stock. His father had moved from Vermont to Dickenson, N.Dak., to operate a laundry. After finishing high school there, Ronnie entered the University of Minnesota where he did his undergraduate and graduate work in American history.

His first assignment with the Park Service was at Shiloh National Military Park as a historian-foreman in a CCC camp; but in less than 2 years he was working in Washington, D.C., with the CCC State Park Group, under Connie Wirth's direction. In 1936 Verne Chatelain (in a moment of weakness) handed in his resignation as Chief Historian and Secretary Harold L. Ickes accepted it without delay. He proposed to fill the position with a political friend, but former Director Horace M. Albright blocked the appointment by appealing to the Civil Service Commission (now Office of Personnel Management). and showing that the proposed candidate was not on the civil service register.

In 1938 Ronnie was appointed Chief Historian and historical activities were undertaken at an accelerated pace. The National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings was placed on a solid footing and thematic studies of sites were presented on a regular basis to the Advisory Board on Historic Sites, Buildings and Monuments. In those days, the Secretary's Office accepted recommendations from the Park Service for filling vacancies on the Board and Ronnie was instrumental in helping select persons "eminent in the fields of history, archeology, architecture and human geography," as called for in the 1935 Historic Sites Act. When the Secretary's Office began to make appointments as a reward for political favors, Ronnie countered with a proposal that a consulting committee of professionals be appointed by the Park Service to evaluate historical properties and advise the Advisory Board. This arrangement was accepted and it remained in effect until 1979, when the National Survey of Historic Sites was transferred to the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

During Ronnie's time as Chief Historian, well-thought-out policies and standards were formulated for research, preservation, and interpretation of historical and archeological areas. In addition, he helped to initiate a variety of sales publications, among them the 16-page historical booklet, the Handbook Series, and the Source Book Series.

In 1951 Ronnie was named Assistant Director; under him were the branches of History, Information, Natural History, and Museums. He was of a philosophical bent and was never afraid of new concepts or ideas. On the contrary, he was happiest when formulating a new program or a new approach. Whenever he could, he left the execution of programs to his subordinates; he was never hesitant or reluctant to delegate.

Ronnie's activities were not limited to the Park Service. With Dr. Christopher Crittenden, a North Carolina historian, he took a lively interest in the American Association for State and Local History. He also took an active part in the awards program of the American Scenic & Historic Preservation Society, which annually honored leaders in the conservation field. During World War II he enlisted and remained a private, serving as an instructor for a long time in England. In his spare moments he studied first-hand how the English National Trust operated, and became convinced of the need of a similar organization in the United States. When he returned to this country after the war, he became a strong advocate and leader in establishing the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and he hand-picked the first director, Frederick L. Rath, Jr., for the organization. He believed strongly that the private sector should play an important role in historic preservation. He served as secretary to the National Trust until the end of his life.

In 1960 he was appointed Regional Director of the Northeast Region, whose major endeavors were in the historical field. Following his retirement in 1966, he continued to be active as assistant to the Director and helped in a variety of projects. Among them was the writing of the *Family Tree of the National Park System*. This was distributed to the delegates of the Second International Park Congress held in Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks in 1972.

Ronnie had a creative mind that was constantly searching for new ideas and for a positive approach to life's problems. He shared Robert E. Lee's conclusion that "It is history that teaches us to hope." Like Jefferson, he felt that the glow of one warm thought was worth more than money.

Herbert E. Kahler
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Alexandria, VA 22304

Smith urges responsible action for ANPA

The Association of National Park Rangers gathered for their fourth Ranger Rendezvous in the Ozarks, Table Rock Lake, Mo., in mid-October, for a week of work and fun.

Their keynote speaker was NPS Director Russ Dickenson. Other speakers were President of the Association Rick Smith; Herb Cables, Superintendent, Gateway National Recreation Area, N.Y.-N.J.; Al Veitl, chief, Ranger Activities and Protection; Destry Jarvis of the National Parks and Conservation Association; Peter Gove; chief, Office of Legislation; Dave Dame, chief, Interpretation and Visitor Services Division; Ana Jankowski, Equal Employment Opportunity Officer; Naomi Hunt, Editor, National Park COURIER, and Dick Hart, Vice Chairman, NPS Employees and Alumni Association.

The following are excerpts from ANPA President Rick Smith's "State of the Association Address."

"Our goal is to convince all rangers and technicians, regardless of discipline, grade, assignment or location that the Association of National Park Rangers is a medium through which they can communicate, not only among themselves, but also with senior NPS management about issues which concern us all. . . .

"As rangers and technicians, we spent this last year worrying about our apparent inability to control our careers and our work environments. . . .

"We were also concerned about our personal economic status. Many NPS families are now two income families. We are not as mobile as we could once afford to be. Many of us live in houses financed at mortgage rates considerably lower than current rates. Those who live in park housing are worried that they will not be able to afford private housing, particularly if they must move to one of the high cost urban areas. We were concerned about the rumors that the NPS was going to substantially reduce required occupancy, which affords tax reductions that often balance the higher costs of food, medical care, schooling, and transportation associated with rural or isolated living.

"We were, moreover, concerned with the direction that the expansion of the System was taking. The process of authorizing new parks had, for many of us, gotten too far ahead of the appropriation process. We were being asked to expand visitor services and resources management and protection programs to new areas of the System with little or no increase in dollars and positions. The quality of some of these new areas worried us. Did they, in fact, merit "national park" status, or were they better suited for local or State park management? Wasn't it better, many of us asked, to adequately preserve and protect the resources already entrusted to our care as opposed to actively seeking new responsibilities?

"You have listened to Russ Dickenson speak to many of these same issues. I hope you caught his genuine concern for what the employees of NPS think about the challenges that face us. I hope you understand some of the restrictions under which he operates . . . But most importantly, I hope you capture his feeling that it is time for the NPS to rethink many of its basic policies, particularly those that relate to employees.

"This fact alone, I believe, represents the greatest single opportunity for the ANPR (ranger association). Motivated by many of the frustrations we have reviewed, our membership has again substantially grown. I am pleased to announce that our secretary-treasurer now reports that we have in excess of 500 current members . . . this . . . is a signal to Russ and his senior staff that the ANPR is an organization to be consulted on matters that relate to the parks, an organization that he cannot afford to ignore.

"To merit his consultation, however, we must act responsibly. The biggest single factor in this regard is to make sure that we act as an organization, consistently with what we say we believe in. If . . . we say that as an organization we stand for the wise management of the natural and cultural resources of this Nation, we cannot spend all our time complaining about personnel and administrative policies. We must be willing to accept positions of responsibility in regions and WASO. If we always want to live where the skiing is better or the diving is better or the air is cleaner, we will be outside of the important decision-making loops. We must develop procedures by which we can assist the Director in responding to the multitude of threats to the values for which the parks were established. We should be both his ally and his conscience in regard to parks. . . .

"We have taken several internal steps to increase our effectiveness. We will vote on whether to approve our constitution during this rendezvous. This is an important step toward giving the ANPR stability. . . . Our publications chairman will announce a firm publishing schedule that will improve communications with our membership via the COURIER. Our mailing and dues lists are now computerized. We have made the kinds of changes necessary for organizational efficiency.

"The rest is up to all of us. What we make this organization depends upon our commitment to its purposes, our enthusiasm for its goals and our sense of the value of the Service's mission and the role that the ANPR can play in its accomplishment.

Book

New volcano book

Volcano Watching, a colorful, informative new book on Hawaiian and world volcanoes by Robert and Barbara Decker is now on sale at national parks and other outlets through Hawaii. Lavishly illustrated with full color photographs as well as drawings by Rick Hazlett, *Volcano Watching* started as a weekly series of columns in the Big Island's Hawaii *Tribune-Herald*.

"One of our aims was to provide for local readers and visitors alike a glimpse into the mysterious and often violent, inner workings of the volcanoes that have shaped these Hawaiian Islands," the Deckers said. "We also hoped to shed some light on the much less violent, but almost as mysterious, inner workings of a volcano observatory and the techniques that are used to decipher the clues that the volcanoes send us."

Dr. Decker was Professor of Geophysics at Dartmouth College until 1979, and since has been appointed Scientist-In-Charge of the U.S. Geological Survey's Hawaiian Volcano Observatory. He has been researching Hawaiian volcanoes since 1961 and other volcanoes worldwide since 1959. His wife, Barbara, is a freelance writer, and former National Park Naturalist. Rick Hazlett is a geologist and illustrator currently teaching geology at Occidental College in California.

Volcano Watching was published by the Hawaii Natural History Association with the cooperation of NPS. It was designed by Paul Martin and printed by Tongg Publishing Company in Honolulu.

Letters

To the Editor:

The article by Candace Garry concerning the functions, organization, etc. of the Denver Service Center in the August issue of the COURIER was very informative and interesting.

I should like to point out, however, that the Grand Canyon Hospital was not designed at DSC. It was done in the San Francisco Service Center (SSC), which later became the Western Service Center. It was completed and dedicated in the latter part of 1968, approximately 3 years before DSC was established.

Jerry Riddell, DSC

To the Editor:

Our family spent a week camping in Big Meadow campground in the Shenandoah National Park in Virginia. The campground was very well kept and the rangers were most helpful and enthusiastic. I would like to particularly mention Mike Britten and Kath Gardner, whose personal interest in nature was so well communicated through their professional conduct.

I hope this correspondence can encourage the people at Big Meadow to continue to hold their high standards in preserving the natural environment and in dealing with visitors.

Gloria Kresch
Havertown, Pa.

To the Editor:

In August, I had the pleasure of taking some friends from Washington to the Petersburg National Battlefield in Petersburg, Va. It was a fabulous experience.

The park was very well kept. The directions clear and numerous. But most especially the people were spectacular. The rangers went out of their way to help us and the people at the information center were courteous.

What impressed all of us the most, however, were the living history exhibits. For the first time, I think I am beginning to have some understanding of what life might have been like during the Civil War. And as a native Virginian, I feel like I grew up in it. Whoever thought up the concept of living history should be commended.

I hope there is enough money in the budget for a little more advertising on the Petersburg Battlefield. I would hope that more people will take advantage of one of the finest national parks I have ever been in.

Reverend J. Stephen O'Brien
Cathedral of the Sacred Heart
Richmond, Va.

From the editor:

The COURIER is shipped directly from the printer to the Regional Offices for distribution to the park areas. If you are not receiving your COURIER by the middle of the month, if you are receiving more copies than you need, or not receiving enough copies, please phone one of the representatives listed below:

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Please, please send photos

Sometimes we get complaints that stories about people are run without photographs of those people. We would like to have photographs—and we'll use them if we have them—of people and activities throughout the National Park System. Please send only clear, black and white prints for use in the COURIER.

—The Editor.

Student jobs

The Student Conservation Association recently announced that it is accepting applications for 700 volunteers to work in land management positions in 70 national parks and forests next summer.

Volunteer participation one summer often leads to a paid position the next, the Association notes.

Positions are offered on a competitive basis for students 16 years of age and older.

Interested persons aged 16-18 should send a post card asking for a "Program Listing" and application form to: Student Conservation Association, Inc., Box 550H, Charleston, NH 03603. Older applicants should send a post card requesting a "Listing of Positions" and an application to Student Conservation Association, Inc., Box 550C, Charleston, NH 03603. The telephone number is (603) 826-5206.

Rockaway, New York, Chamber of Commerce President Joel Gerstel, left, presents the distinguished service award to Gateway Superintendent Herbert S. Cables, Jr., center. At right is Alexander Greeley, a member of the Gateway Advisory Commission. Gateway National Recreation Area., N.Y.-N.J.

A tribute to John Rutledge De Weese

On March 23, 1980, the National Park Service lost one of its most dedicated and colorful former superintendents, John R. (Jack) De Weese.

Jack began his Park Service career at Fort Jefferson National Monument, Fla., in 1945 as general mechanic. At that time, Fort Jefferson was more of an isolated area than it is today and Jack and Lauri's closest daily acquaintances were the noddy and sotty terns. However, even in those days Fort Jefferson was recognized as the gem it is and Jack, as superintendent, and Lauri were the official NPS host and hostess to former President Harry S Truman and his party three times. They also acted as official host and hostess to numerous Senators and Representatives who, together with other dignitaries, visited the Dry Tortugas. Jack and Lauri valued their friendships with Alex Sprunt, Jr., Ira Gabrielson, William Robertson and Alan Cruickshank, who all contributed to their bird watching education that remained with them throughout the years that followed.

After his tour of duty at Fort Jefferson, Jack and Lauri were transferred to Fort Caroline National Memorial, Fla., which was one of the newly established parks during Mission 66. While at Fort Caroline Jack was involved in the survey of the Suwanee River for the Wild River Project. On the complex 8-day canoe trip he was accompanied by Neil Butterfield, Jay Bright, Frank Masland, Jr., and Sig Olsen.

After 7 years work of establishing Fort Caroline and seeing it dedicated, Jack was transferred to Everglades National Park as management assistant. From there, his career took him to Moores Creek National Military Park, N.C., as superintendent. From Moores Creek Jack and Lauri retired to South Ponte Vedre Beach, Fla., in 1972. Jack helped build their home there, which overlooks the Atlantic Ocean.

During his Park Service career Jack received several awards for ideas used for safe and useful operation of equipment.

Before entering on duty in the Park Service, Jack saw action in the U.S. Navy in the Atlantic Theater. After the loss of his leg he received a Medical Discharge from the Navy in 1944.

Jack is survived by his wife, Lauri, two brothers, a sister and numerous nieces and nephews. Lauri's address is 2475 South Ponte Boulevard, Ponte Verde Beach, FL 32082.

—Theresa G. Wood

Deaths

Ray Mattison

Ray H. Mattison, whose career of 24 years in the National Park Service included a 15-year detail as historian in the Midwest Regional Office at Omaha, Nebr., died in Tucson, Ariz., on Oct. 6 at the age of 77.

Mattison transferred to NPS from the Bureau of Reclamation in 1941, spending his first 2 years in the Service as a ranger at Tumacacori National Monument, Ariz. After another 4 years as a ranger at Ocmulgee National Monument, Ga., he was given his first assignment as a historian at Shiloh National Military Park, Tenn., then spent 2 years as historian at Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park, N. Dak., before being detailed to MWRO.

He was born in Belgrade, Nebr., in 1903. He earned the B.A. degree in education at Wayne State College, Wayne, Nebr., in 1934, and the M.A. degree in history at the University of Nebraska in 1937. He published some 40 historical articles; and also held membership in numerous historical organizations, as well as the Sierra Club and Common Cause. He served as superintendent, State Historical Society of North Dakota, from 1965 to 1969.

Surviving are his wife, Doris Feldman Mattison, two daughters, and two grandchildren.

The home address is 5038 Crestridge Drive, Tucson, AZ 85718.

Peter Schuft

Peter Schuft, a longtime employee of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, Calif., who retired 7 years ago, died Oct. 10 in Morro Bay, Calif. He was 65.

Mr. Schuft had a 32-year career with the Park Service and was chief ranger at Sequoia for many of those years. He was a native of Hutchison, Minn.

Mr. Schuft is survived by his wife, Catherine; three sons, John W., Michael J. and Thomas T.; two brothers and two grandchildren.

Thomas Ruffin

Thomas E. Ruffin, who was widely known throughout the old Region I and the Southeast Region as a National Park Service engineer, died in Richmond, Va., on Oct. 10. He was 82.

Ruffin retired in 1968 as SERO highway engineer. A native of Danville, Va., he was a civil engineer graduate of Virginia Military Institute and a veteran of World War I. He worked for the Southern Railroad, the Virginia State Highway Department, and the Bureau of Public Roads before joining NPS.

Elbert Cox, former regional director, SERO, recalls that in his work on roads Ruffin was brought in touch with practically all of the superintendents and was "always a cooperative and helpful representative of the Region."

Ruffin is survived by his wife, Ruth Boaz Ruffin; a son, Thomas E. Ruffin, Jr.; a brother, and a granddaughter. Because of failing health, Mr. and Mrs. Ruffin recently moved from their home in Peachtree Boulevard to Ginter Hall South, a nursing home where Ruth will continue to live. The address is 11300 Mall Drive Court, Richmond, VA 23235.

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Celebrating the Holiday Season

Carolers from Fort Stanwix NM, N.Y., regaled shoppers in downtown Rome, N.Y., once again this year Dec. 13. The group of VIPs, known as the Fort Stanwix Garrison, works closely with the interpretive staff at the monument and provides supplementary programs for visitors.

Each year at Christmas staff members from Big Bend National Park, Tex., float across the Rio Grande to the Mexican village of Boquillas, bringing gifts, good cheer and, of course, Santa Claus.

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