

**Year of
the
Visitor**

interpreters
information
exchange

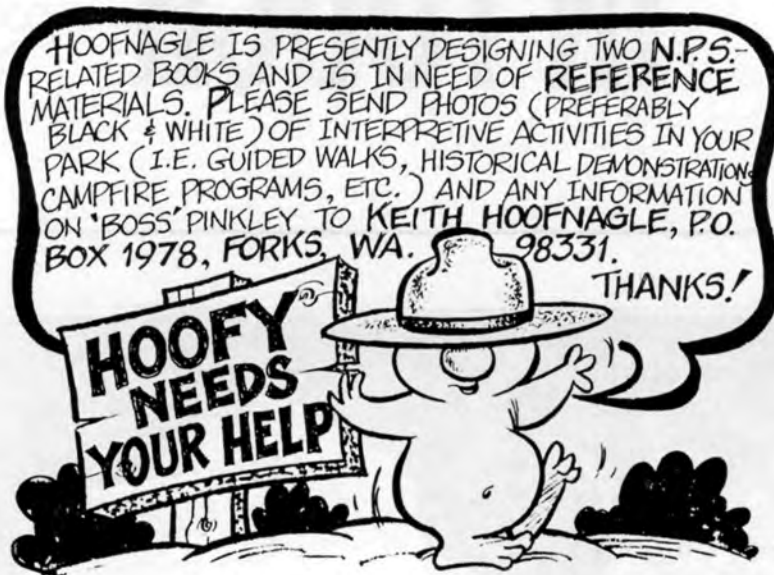
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GETTING BACK TO THE BASICS

The evolution of a park's interpretive program is usually a very nebulous process. Frequently our programs reflect activities or topics that are given in response to visitor or employee interest. Sometimes little thought is given to exactly what the role or function a particular interpretive program is; whether the program meets management or interpretive objectives; or whether the activity is even appropriate for the park. Certainly it is more enjoyable and easier to bask in our ignorance, doing what we like to do and to which visitors favorably respond. Following that philosophy, interpretive opportunities are almost limitless, although many of them might be of questionable value. Unfortunately, we have been able to get away with it.

There are several documents which help us to zero in on the purpose and objectives of a park's interpretive program and also to give us guidelines as to what is appropriate for us to include in our programs:

1. N.P.S. Organic Act
2. Legislation establishing each park
3. Management Objectives
4. Statement for Management
5. Statement for Interpretation
6. Interpretive Prospectus--if current and relevant

These documents clearly define the natural and cultural resources of the park. They should be used in planning the overall interpretive program. Then each individual interpretive activity should be checked against these documents to see if it is really relevant to the purpose of the park. If it does not clearly fit, it is probably inappropriate. The results of such

an analysis will be obvious, but, possibly difficult to accept. Having defined the park's primary resources to be interpreted, it is now necessary to establish priority levels for interpretive activities. The minimum acceptable level and priorities for interpretive activities are given in the zero base budget guidelines.

Certainly, not all interpretive activities have to operate at minimum level. However, it is essential for the justification of increases that all minimum level requirements be met prior to extending programs or services. Remember, that providing information is the basic responsibility of the interpretive division, and according to zero-based budgeting takes priority over interpretation. One must make sure that visitors have an opportunity to ask their questions; know where they are; what the campground situation is; and where the bathrooms are before any in-depth interpretive efforts are attempted. Depending on funds, staffing, and priorities, interpretation of the vast inland seas may never be realized. We have all seen glaring examples of inappropriate programs. However, when we approach the fine interface between what is appropriate or not appropriate, the distinction may become more obscure, or at least harder to accept.

Too often "far-out" efforts are the product of a compelling drive to come up with something innovative. We want to be different; to be the leader in our field; to be the park where things are happening. Of course we all want to be leaders; we all want our park's interpretive program to be high quality. That does not necessarily imply that it has to be different. However, it does have to be appropriate. This is a

difficult statement to make, because it smacks of stifling creativity, which is not the case. But, as interpreters, in addition to having a good program and being creative, we also have an obligation to be responsible.

So often we get hung up on the media and lose track of the most important consideration, the message. There is nothing wrong with using different vehicles to accomplish our objectives as long as the vehicle does not become the objective. A really different approach to an interpretive program does not necessarily make it a good or appropriate interpretive program.

Frequently we do a variety of things to enable us to better relate to visitors. We feel that in order for visitors to identify with a park's resources we have to establish an identity with their everyday lives. Too often our attempts result in bringing the city into the park. I have noticed this philosophy used in building visitor facilities; in publications; multi-media AV programs, puppetry, mime, performing arts, etc. I do not want to imply that these approaches should be ruled out in all situations. But, they certainly should be used with caution. These more sophisticated approaches are essential for places like Disney World, television, the stage, etc., because in these situations there is no tangible resource with which visitors can relate. Actually, in these situations the medium (and the message) is the attraction. National parks all have resources of national significance and that is why visitors come to parks. Interpretation should reinforce the resource and not become the drawing card or compete with the resource. Remove the interpretive media from Disney World or a puppet show and you would have nothing, and no one would come; remove interpretation

from our national parks and visitors will still flock to them. However, if we do our thing, which is helping visitors relate directly to a park's resources, we can add depth to the visitors' use of the park and provide protection for the park's resources. One can visit a museum, watch a puppet show, stage show, movie, T.V., etc., anywhere in the country. But, in how many places in our world can you stand in the spray of a geyser; walk through a virgin forest or stand on the rim of a mile deep canyon? Visitor experiences should relate to these resources, not our activities.

I have heard it said that "interpretation in the National Park Service is not where the action is--we are being passed up by more progressive interpretive organizations." If "action" is defined as meaning using more interpretive gimmicks, then I say "great!" We don't have to be--nor for that matter, should we be--where the "action" is. In the national parks, the resource is the attraction, not interpretation.

Urban parks or recreation areas should be no exception. Most of these types of areas were established for their natural resources; and where they were, recreational and interpretive activities should center around these resources, whether it be riding in a boat, swimming, lying on the sand, exploring a tide pool with a naturalist, or learning how to surf fish. Just because our parks might be near a city, doesn't mean that they have to become city parks, providing puppet shows, T.V., baseball and crafts that can be done in city parks or at school. Again, the unique thing that we have to offer which is different, is a relationship with a resource. There is something to be said for the possibility that the reason visitors leave

the city and come to the natural environment of a park is to escape from the sophistication of their daily lives. We have in our parks places that people want to escape to; let's not make them

what they are trying to escape from.

Stanley G. Canter
Chief of Interpretation
Great Smoky Mountains National Park

HERITAGE--A NEW MEANING FOR INTERPRETERS

A few years ago the word "heritage" became commonly used to justify everything from picking up litter, to throwing a party, or buying a hamburger. The bicentennial celebration was in full swing and "heritage" was both over-used and abused by civic-minded politicians and ruthless advertisers alike.

Often the impression was left that heritage is synonymous with history. This is a sad misconception, especially for national park areas. A definition of national heritage might be: "That which we have received as a people from those who went before us." Most, including Webster, would agree with this definition. Well, then with great pride we can say we have inherited a national debt, political scandal, and chemical warfare as part of our glorious heritage? But are these the kinds of things we hold high as our heritage? By definition, they should be. But obviously heritage is supposed to bring forth pride and joy in the spirit of the audience.

A more precise definition of heritage is needed. How about this: Heritage is that which we have received as a nation from those who went before us BECAUSE THEY FOUND A VALUE IN IT. I wonder if VALUE isn't the key to our real heritage. Our heritage should recall the values of our ancestors, in particular those things they felt were most important and wished to bequeath us for our values today.

These heritage values are evident in our national parks today. Aesthetic values certainly influenced the Yellowstone explorers around that famous September campfire in 1870. They valued the beauty and inspirational qualities of the land around them and devised a way to share these values with future generations. Yellowstone National Park became part of our heritage because some of our ancestors recognized a value, a priceless value there. Other groups drew strength from the aesthetic values of Yosemite, Sequoia, Grand Canyon, Shenandoah, Mt. Rainier, the Everglades, and many other special

places. Our heritage reflects the values of nature and its aesthetic influence on us.

The values of our first Americans are sought at Mesa Verde, Pecos, Chaco Canyon, Hovenweep, Bandelier, Tumacacori, Ocmulgee, Big Hole, Lava Beds, and Little Big Horn.

For later Americans, importance lay in concepts of freedoms, self-rule, and commitment to responsible citizenship. These values, and the struggles around them, are commemorated at Independence Hall, Valley Forge, Boston, Morristown, Ft. McHenry, and Ellis Island.

There is much value in studying the personalities of certain Americans who exemplified the American hero, the achiever, the dreamer, or the leader. National parks remind us of American heritage in the lives of people like George Washington, Ben Franklin, Abraham Lincoln, the Wright brothers, Thomas Edison, Edgar Allen Poe, Carl Sandburg, John Muir, Teddy Roosevelt, Lyndon Johnson, and others.

At one time, Americans expressed conflicting values of such magnitude that war resulted. This story is told at Antietam, Gettysburg, Pea Ridge, Fredericksburg, and Ft. Sumter. In the twentieth century, these same factions would unite against a common threat to their values. At Arlington Cemetery, thousands of soldiers lay side by side in honor, but in an earlier era they would have been enemies.

Our real heritage lies in the values we have inherited. These values are not static, as our growing heritage attests to. These values change and evolve constantly. Yellowstone National Park would have been unthinkable in 1770 because values and

priorities were different. Today our values are still shifting, especially on energy and the environment.

We inherit the values of the past. We are raised and educated on them. Then we live with them, evaluate them, and gradually conclude that they, or some of them, are or are not worth passing on to the next generation. And so, each generation leaves its mark on a nation's heritage. Some values are rejected, new ones are accepted, and the importance of certain values modified.

Our heritage is now in our hands. We are the present generation. We will reshuffle our priorities based on our values and set the course for the twenty-first century. As citizens we are important in determining the contents of our heritage. But as National Park Service interpreters, we play a vital role in presenting our heritage to others. Each park has some element(s) of our heritage to preserve and perpetuate.

When we realize how our entire park system represents the natural, historical, cultural, and conceptual values of a nation, we realize that our role has become to preserve and interpret these values as they were handed down and help visitors to understand and to appreciate them. For that visitor must decide whether a value is still important enough to treasure and pass on to the next generation, or should be erased from our national heritage and be recalled only as a once historic fad.

As interpreters, we not only preserve values of the past but actively shape values for the present and future with our mingling of ecology, energy, and environmental messages in our programs. We have a powerful, influential, and

very responsible role in the continual building of our civilization. We are there not only to tell a story but to help visitors grasp the meaning and underlying values and truths of our particular park story, whether it's the life cycle of a mushroom, the writing of the Constitution, or the tragedy of a Civil War battle. It is very easy to sound like a lecturing biology professor on a nature walk or a broken record of endless trivial dates and names on a historic house tour. Our job is to search deeper and help our visitors probe the relationships, meanings, personalities, and values involved. Visitors should leave not just with new facts, but with new insights, new perspectives, and a sense of relating to the values of their heritage in each park.

Though not in any congressional definitions, we could say the purpose and goal of the national parks is to

preserve and perpetuate American heritage. Likewise, our job as interpreters is to preserve and perpetuate our American heritage. Our parks are those areas where it is easiest to reach and touch our heritage with its natural, aesthetic, cultural, historic, or conceptual values.

We have often heard that our parks are the real treasures of our nation. This cliché originated due to the unique beauties of Yellowstone and the natural wonders of other parks. But today this cliché takes on a new meaning, because our true national treasures are the values we hold high before the world. These values, these national treasures, are preserved in all our parks and perpetuated in our interpretive programs. Our nation's heritage is in our hands.

Tom Danton
Supervisory Park Ranger
Lyndon B. Johnson National
Historic Site



COOPERATING ASSOCIATIONS



WELCOME--TO A NEW ASSOCIATION

The Arizona Memorial Museum Foundation at Pearl Harbor, Honolulu, Hawaii, becomes the Arizona Memorial Museum Association on October 1. The Foundation has been related to the U.S. Navy for a number of years and through its donations program responsible in no small way for the shore-side visitor center now under construction. Sometime next year (July to October) this handsome new building, and the Arizona Memorial itself, will be turned over to the Service. (The launches to the Memorial will still be operated by the Navy.) In the meantime, the Association will operate a small sales outlet at the present dock site. Gary Beito, business manager for the Foundation, will continue in that position. Gary joins us with a great deal of experience and enthusiasm. He understands our kind of management and has pledged his support of the Service's interpretation plans. The board of directors is a delightful group of business people, active naval personnel, and old salts (at least two Pearl Harbor survivors), and has fully endorsed this new relationship with us.

This new group has all the potential of being one of our more significant associations; with only a few items for sale, limited personnel, and not too favorable facilities, they grossed over \$120,000 last year. Interpretive literature for the Arizona (Pearl Harbor, World War II in the Pacific, battleships, etc.) is limitless and will provide a good solid base for expansion to the other Pacific historic sites contemplated. Think what this association can do with the potentially exciting interpretive program here.

While we have worked with Gary on establishing the new association, a word of greeting from you would be great. Drop him a line of welcome if you can and send any suggestions for possible book sales, and why not share any management thoughts you might have (photos of displays, inventory ideas, copies of purchase orders--the kind of things you share with "mainlander").

Gary Beito, Business Manager
Arizona Memorial Museum Association
P.O. Box 6067
Honolulu, Hawaii 96818



NOTICE

As of October 9, the Coordinator's office will be in Washington, D.C., Division of Interpretation & Visitor Services, 1100 L Street, N.W. New phone number: 202/523-5270. Address all mail to the following:

James V. Murfin
Cooperating Association Coordinator
Interpretation & Visitor Services
National Park Service
U.S. Dept. of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

1980 CONFERENCE

The El Tropicano Hotel, San Antonio, Texas, has been selected as the site of the 1980 Cooperating Association Conference; October 27-31, 1980. Doug Evans, chairman of the planning committee, will be meeting with his people the last week of this October to begin program arrangements. Any suggestions you have will be welcomed.

FORUM



Dear Editor:

Because I am an "Administrative Type" you might find it strange that I religiously read each edition of In Touch. However, I've found that is one way to keep abreast of innovations in the interpretive field so that I can hopefully anticipate the changing needs of our park interpreters.

I must admit I am discouraged to note that the first reference to the administrative field in your publication was a barb in Keith Hoofnagle's "Pet Peeves" (March, 1979, Number 28). I admit that a bit of healthy criticism is a good thing. Yet, I suspect that jokes like this perpetuate long-standing bias, stereo-types and conflicts within our organization.

I am personally encouraged by the attitudinal changes I see taking place among administrative personnel across the Service. I think we are now better able to accommodate park staffs than we have ever been before due to the recognition of administration as a vital part of park operations. In the past few years I think we've made amazing gains in our level of professionalism through more and better training opportunities and a wide base introduction and orientation to the National Park Service in general.

Contrary to Mr. Hoofnagle's scenario, I think administrative personnel are most often on the receiving end of "it can't be done, it'll never work, and we've never done it that way before." The level of sophistication of administering the National Park System is increasing every day, and as we implement changes to meet these new and complex demands our most frequent problem is with personnel across the boards who can't adjust to the new way of doing things.

If we are to meet the challenges awaiting the National Park Service, it is imperative that we promote total cooperation between all park divisions. Somehow we've got to convince all those negative thinkers that new ideas can and will be done.

Perhaps I appear to be over-reacting to an innocent bit of humor. Yet, each time a new employee EOD's, I find myself spending an inordinant amount of time proving that what they want is what I want, and that together we can make it a reality.

Dottie Perks
Administrative Clerk
Manassas National Battlefield Park

Dear Editor:

As a park technician who has long recognized the unique needs of foreign visitors, I was most gratified to see the article by Joan Anzelmo "Foreign Visitors, A Very Special Population," in the March edition of In Touch.

As Joan so aptly points out, our foreign visitors do indeed constitute "a very special population." During the past several years, the U.S. has seen a tremendous influx of visitors from every corner of the globe. With the dramatic increase in foreign visitors, many of whom make pilgrimages to the places of historic and natural interest maintained by the National Park Service, the need to aid these travelers is of utmost importance.

In 1975, prior to the bicentennial, I suggested to my supervisors at Colonial National Historical Park that we have our brochure translated into several foreign languages. Happily, they followed up on the proposal. Within a short time, we had obtained brochures in French, German, Spanish and Japanese. Our foreign guests were pleasantly surprised to discover that we had literature available to them in their own languages. Furthermore, since I had studied at a language institute in Germany and had taken French in high school, I aided visitors from abroad with interpretive talks and assisted whenever possible in providing info on lodging and transportation in the area.

Putting yourself in the shoes of the visitor from abroad is not hard to do if you've ever been in a foreign country. Many Americans know the frustrating feeling of not being able to find a hotel or a nearby restaurant simply because you don't know the language. It's a situation which borders on near

panic for many foreigners coming to the U.S., because so few Americans make the effort to learn foreign tongues. In Europe, your chances of finding someone who speaks English are much better.

Seasonals who are foreign language, international relations, or history majors have a great opportunity to practice the language skills they have learned in college. And even those pursuing natural science curriculums may some day find themselves attending cross-cultural environmental programs in foreign lands.

I strongly endorse Joan's suggestions: (1) that employees be canvassed on their ability to speak foreign languages; and (2) that those charged with hiring employ a percentage of seasonals conversant in a foreign tongue. What is more, even if bilingual seasonals cannot be hired in sufficient numbers, our more heavily visited parks should make the effort to obtain printed translations of their areas.

The time has long passed when America was an island unto itself. The NPS has an important role to play in interpreting America's historical, cultural and natural heritage. Providing foreign visitors with the means to understand that heritage will only serve to enhance America's image abroad and to promote brotherhood between ourselves and people of all nations.

Mike Berry
Park Technician
Rocky Mountain National Park

Dear Editor:

My first reaction to Tom Danton's article "Staying Amateur" (In Touch, March 1979), was that he was wrong. In rereading Tilden's chapter, "The Happy Amateur," I don't find any advice to remain amateur, but a hope that as interpreters we can stimulate visitors with increased leisure time, to develop amateur interests. An amateur interest is a leisure time or weekend interest as intense or casual as the individual. A career interpreter in the NPS is not filling up leisure time. It is full time.

This distinction between amateur and professional would ordinarily be of minimal interest. The problem in this case arises because Mr. Danton feels that the amateur spirit is the source of creativity, enthusiasm and, "the endless search for adventure and truth." This kind of statement is extreme and not only misleading, but probably damaging as well. When every other organizational team (protection, resource management, administration, maintenance) seeks to professionalize, we will continue to look like inmates in an ivory tower, running around pushing poseys and faking nature. While everyone else is grinding out the work and grappling with some hard realities, we will still be writing about our glorious running about from, one, "fresh historical insight," to another, "revelation of nature." If the interpretive operation is going to be misunderstood at least it could be so from a more reasonable cause.

Finally, I dispute Mr. Danton's discussion of the difference between professional and amateur. A professional by definition does not lack enthusiasm, emotional commitment or freshness of thought. A creative innovative person simply finds ways of manipulating ideas

accessible by nearly everyone in the discipline. Like a kaleidoscope, the chips of information are there for everyone. The intellect simply twists them into different patterns. The more chips to work with, the more scope for different patterns, or creativity. Why amateurs should be any better at this than professionals escapes me. The reverse is more reasonable.

Frankly, I don't believe, "our amateur-ness," is the heartbeat of our interpretive efforts. It appears to me that the core of interpretation should be the effort to influence the visiting public along the defined management goals of the park. To me that requires professionalism. Being amateur doesn't make it, even if we play a tricky word game by calling it, "the most professional of all."

Ellis Richard
Grand Teton National Park

★ ★

Dear Interpreters:

Your summer issue of "In Touch" featured many fine guidelines for seasonal and permanent rangers. Words like "insight," "public understanding," "service," and "values," abounded and even a warning to "slough off the past that has ceased to be productive" was included. But can you think of anything less insightful than bigotry, so diminished in understanding as sexism, more old-fashioned than prejudice?

The cartoons published on page 22 are perhaps caricatures, humorous exaggerations of people and situations recognizable in the minds of interpreters across the country. Or, they are in part, representative of a potentially destructive, undermining point of view where female visitors are pictures, paranoid, with hairy faces and hanging bosoms, and women rangers become the insipid target of Park Service burlesque. In George Price's article he states that the "Interpreter . . . must also relate to women, minorities, handicapped and foreign speaking folks, little old ladies in tennis shoes, etc." Then how can such tasteless cartoons be tolerated in a publication dedicated to "interpretive and visitor services?" You are depicting yourselves, and National Park Service employees, generally, as sexist, empty-headed park stooges, not only through the content of those jokes but, also, unfortunately, by their authorship.

"As Alice looked through her looking glass, let's look at our parks as mirrors of ourselves." And what do we mirror? If we reflect men and women with a sense of humor, then we will bring about a positive contribution to the Year of the Visitor. But, if we substitute insensitive, verbal pratfalls for fun and abusive humiliation for jokes, we cannot help but appear to be distorted, meaningless human beings interpreting nothing more than our own personal hang-ups.

Claudia Chalden
Pacific Northwest Regional Office

Dear Editor:

As an Administrative Officer, I find your publication most informative; albeit sometimes self-serving and philosophical. Of course, Hoofnagle's pictorial pronouncements are the first thing read and are usually factual and succinct. However, I must take exception to one of the "Pet Peeves" in the March issue. I refer to the negative Administrative Officers Panel.

There is no questioning the fact that there are some negative thinkers in some administrative offices, but certainly not in every one. Would I be a candidate for a living history firing squad were I to suggest that every interpretive division has at least one negative thinker?

Perhaps your suggestor is not fully aware of the important role that each employee--interpretive personnel also--plays in a successful administrative program.

The Service has many progressive, positive and dedicated Administrative Officers. Perhaps a series of articles by one of them would be of value for your readers.

W. H. Saylor
Administrative Officer
National Capital Parks-Central

PROVOCATION TO ARCHAEOLOGY

As a matter of government policy the Department of the Interior spends many thousands of dollars yearly on archaeological research. Much of this work occurs in public view in our national parks. Archaeology is a cultural phenomenon--a basic cultural need which has been present in western society since the Renaissance. Wherever archaeological work can be viewed it is likely that the public will be provoked. We all have some interest in the remains of the past, and we are easily provoked by ruins, artifacts, and excavations. The archaeological record is also the hard evidence of the past, the primary record which separates Williamsburg from Disneyland. How can we expect the public to have faith in our restorations if they cannot see the evidence for themselves? How can we convince the taxpayer of the value of archaeological excavations if they are not permitted to participate for themselves? How can we expect the taxpayer's provocation to be directed away from illegal pot-hunting and the destruction of cultural resources if we do not direct it toward scientific archaeology and conservation? Although a science built by amateurs, archaeology today appears to exist primarily for the professional historian reconstructing particular histories or for the anthropologist studying man. Our employer, the taxpaying visitor, is left out. Although most archaeology today is paid for by the government, any effort to involve the public, to provide for that cultural need, seems lacking. As a result we are not directing the provocation to archaeology efficiently in the direction of conservation of government funds or of the cultural resource.

We should put this provocation to efficient use. Archaeologists seldom, if ever, budget for interpretation and the direction of provocation in their research designs. General interpretation of archaeology and involvement in conservation-related activities are not usually specific park themes. Thus, provocation to archaeology slips from our grasp to direct the visitor to illegal archaeology and the destruction of cultural resource.

I would suggest that we make interpretation of archaeology a matter of interpretive policy just as the government has made archaeology and cultural resource management a matter of public policy. Put yourself in the shoes of the visitor--if you were provoked to archaeology in your park would you be directed to legal and scientific participation? Our job is to get the visitor behind us. We must provide that direction. We must open the doors to participation in archaeology.

Conrad Jay Bladey
Harpers Ferry National Historical
Park

★ ★

Dear Editor:

Few of us would disagree with Paul Hedren's letter printed in the March 1979, In Touch, when he states about interpretation, "there is a matter of balance involved." I am not sure the comments Paul refers to from the

January 1979 issue of In Touch (an article by Cherry Payne) advocate the extreme position of interpretation of history or nature. I agree that the primary interpretive effort at Golden Spike should be making the human event comprehensive to the public, but I think the example of sagebrush interpretation is a bit extreme. On balance, isn't the interaction of humans with limestone formations, coyotes, etc., part of the comprehensive story?

Beneath the comments about moccasins and museums I think lies a deeper question--should the National Park Service artificially divide natural and historic interpretation? If it does it will leave itself open to organization division. Or, should the Service seek an approach to balance historic and natural themes? Like

Paul, I favor a balance. I think a balanced approach brings out the common attitudes we have about all of the sites of the System.

Are cookie demonstrations, etc., the way we should interpret human history? Do museums already satisfy the need? These are valid questions each interpreter and each site must wrestle with. I am not convinced the museums of the 50's satisfy the needs of the visitor in the 70's and 80's. At any rate, I am not willing to discourage creative experiments. Given the diversity of visitors possibly a balance of demonstrations and museums is needed.

Karl Merchant
Park Technician
William Howard Taft National
Historic Site

★ ★ ★ ★

RAP UP



WASO/HFC EFFORT ON AUDIO-VISUALS EQUIPMENT

A joint WASO and HFC task force is working to improve our Audio-Visual (AV) Depots data collection abilities. Questions need to be answered. How long can we expect a projector to last before it breaks down? Which are the best projector values, a cheapie or the "grand master"? As part of this process we have looked at the overall depot service.

The task force consensus was that the depot concept has proven to be a successful way to back-up our interpretive programs. Often, other NPS disciplines have "borrowed" the depot and have also been well served.

So on July 18, 1979, Harpers Ferry management decided to assume responsibility for all "STANDARD" A-V equipment in the Park Service. (You may have seen the most recent "Depot Standard Equipment List" dated March 1979. If not, and you want one, write Gary Cummings, HFC A-V Depot.) As a first step in implementing this decision, the A-V depots are requesting each park to inventory their equipment, and to report that inventory to the depot. Many parks have already responded. If your park has not sent their A-V inventory in, please encourage your colleagues to do so.

The task force has agreed that the overall A-V depot concept should remain unchanged. The Santa Fe and Harpers Ferry Center depots will service STANDARDIZED equipment, not special one-of-a-kind setups. We felt that a one-of-a-kind support effort is exorbitantly expensive and far exceeds our existing resources.

We welcome your advice as we work on this project. If you have any suggestions, drop me a line.

Ron Foust
Contracting & General Services
Division, WASO
202-523-5051

★ ★

THE ART OF BEING A VISITOR

On a recent visit to the newly-established Lowell National Historical Park a fellow interpreter turned to me with a sign and said, "Boy, it sure is hard to be a visitor!"

And so it was. Late in the day we joined a guided walk around the historic City of Spindles. Already we had assimilated a great deal of information through exhibits, brochures, talks, museum displays, and a three mile walk along canals and through historic neighborhoods. We had sore feet and sunburned faces, and the desire to learn just a little more about Lowell's fascinating past and exciting future. The park visit was both extremely rewarding and extremely demanding. Participating in this interpretive activity (which was excellent) required an effort.

The experience of being a visitor is of great value to any interpreter. I often wish that I could see my own park area with the same initial wonder of the visitors I greet every day. Mystified, befuddled, curious, thirsting for knowledge, or just passing the time, I'd like to drive into the park without any preconceived notions. I would like to see the park's resources from a fresh perspective, with an unbiased eye, ready for first impressions.

For example, at Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site, many visitors expect to find a shrine, complete with priests and holy statues. Instead they find the classical porches and gardens of America's most famous sculptor, guarded by a park ranger and Greek garden sculptures. As a visitor then, what would my reaction be?

Or take Lowell again. Even for a Park Service employee it is unusual to be led on a walking tour of downtown storefronts by a stetson-wearing employee. How much more strange for shoppers who suddenly discover that they are in a national park.

As a part-time visitors, we can be reminded that it is not easy to separate the "important" facts from the "unimportant;" not easy to listen to a "lecture" while children scream or storm winds blow; not easy to wander about in a foreign, formal, or even dangerous environment. Only by stepping into the visitors' shoes time and time again can we continue to give the service that they require.

Being a visitor, at other parks, or at your own (if only in your imagination), will help the interpreter to anticipate visitor needs. Only as a visitor can you understand why "Where's the rest-room?" is one of the most important questions you are asked. Only as a visitor can you realize that seemingly trivial details may in fact be far more important than the larger concepts so carefully stated in the park's "Interpretive Objectives."

Although it is not easy, interpreters owe it to their profession to be visitors at every opportunity. New ideas often result when you are jolted into reality on the other side of the uniform. With luck you may be able to add freshness to what might have become an old story. As visitors we realize that the story is never old, and that the park is newly established everyday.

Jeffrey S. Wallner
Park Aid
Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site

COMMEMORATION OF THE FIRST PUBLIC PROCLAMATION
OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

From the minutes of the Philadelphia Committee of Safety, July 6, 1776:

"Ordered, that the Sheriff of Philadelphia read, or cause to be read and proclaimed at the State House, in the city of Philadelphia, on Monday, the eighth of July, instant, at 12 o'clock noon of the same day, the Declaration of the Representatives of the United Colonies of America."

And so it was, 203 years ago, that the Declaration of Independence, now familiar to all Americans was publicly read for the first time.

Here at Independence National Historical Park, it seemed to be a perfect interpretive opportunity to allow the visitors to Independence Hall (then the State House), to hear the Declaration read as it was in 1776.

As we began our research, however, it became evident that it would be impossible to exactly re-enact the event. There were too many missing pieces of historical information about the event, and 200 years had made a lot of changes in Independence Square.

Yet, we could not miss such an opportunity to at least give the visitor a chance to feel a part of history as it occurred. We decided to present a "commemorative reading," using whatever data was available and striving for as much historical accuracy as was possible.

In 1776, the Declaration was read by a citizen of Philadelphia, John Nixon, from a platform behind Independence Hall. Not knowing the exact location and size of the platform, we located a rather large wooden barrel and placed it in the approximate area.

The next step was to determine the copy which was used. This part was easy, the printed "broadside" copy actually read by Mr. Nixon, is in the park's documents collection. A photo copy was obtained, then mounted to 18th century style rag paper.

Through the park's costume coordinator, the proper period clothing was obtained for the reader.

Since the reading was followed by loud cheering and the ringing of bells, we arranged for the tolling of the park's two working bells; the Centennial Bell located in the steeple of Independence Hall, and the Bicentennial Bell, two blocks away in the tower of the visitor center. The bell actually rung that day in 1776 is also in the park, but this time, that bell, the Liberty Bell, would have to remain mute.

On July 8, 1979, at precisely noon, by the strike of the Centennial Bell, park interpreters Costa Dillon, and Chuck Scott entered Independence Square and ascended the barrel. Acting as an escort, Costa read from the records of the Committee of Safety ordering the proclamation, then Chuck proceeded to read aloud the Declaration of Independence just as had been done exactly 203 years earlier.

As his reading drew to a close, the bells began tolling, and the crowd of some three or four hundred people gave their cheers for the Independence of the United States.

Because of the complexity of events associated with Independence National Historical Park, it is not often that we have the opportunity to give the visitor to relive such an event, but this time a rare chance was seized and well received by all.

Costa Dillon
Park Technician
Independence National Historical
Park



Western Interpreters



Association



ADVANCE NOTICE

JOINT WORKSHOP - CONVENTION

March 5 - 9, 1980

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"RESOURCE PRESERVATION THROUGH INTERPRETATION"

Key Note Speaker: Grant W. Sharpe, Professor of Outdoor Recreation
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SKY INTERPRETATION FROM THE OTHER SERVICE

Interpreting the heavens above has presented a challenge to interpreters and naturalists for many years. Evening star programs all too often use Greek mythology in an attempt to relate stories about stars and constellations. A careful examination of Freeman Tilden's six principles of interpretation will reveal the importance of presenting interpretive material so visitors will find it familiar to them or their surroundings. American Indian skylore brings the program to familiar grounds and is a fascinating subject.

Although slides are not necessary for this presentation, they provide an added dimension and a dandy backup in case of cloudy sky conditions. In the program outlined below, drawings have been made of the various stories. Slides were then taken of the drawings.

The program begins with a short background introduction into Indian astronomy. This touches on what their overall feelings are about the stars and constellations. The Milky Way, for instance, quite frequently represented a stairway or pathway into the heavens above. As you are relating this story you can draw the visitors attention up to the Milky Way (if it is visible!). This part of the program lasts about five to seven minutes and culminates with a story on the creation of the sun, moon, earth, and the stars. A tale on the creation of the stars is an excellent transition into the second part of the program, constellations.

By using such phrases as "we'll now take a journey" or "travel with me", a high level of visitor interest can be maintained as your program "travels" through the various constellations.

Throughout your interpretive journey in the heavens you can point out the various constellations that are visible. A slide on the screen depicting either the configuration of the constellation or perhaps the Indian lore about it will enhance the overall program experience. Use the North Star ("he who does not move") as a starting point and work out from there. The program covers six or seven constellations and presents about a dozen American Indian skylore tales. A concluding story about the creation of the sun, moon, and the earth will bring the audience "back down" to the park or forest where the program is being given.

The entire program lasts about forty minutes and is versatile enough to be given in either clear or cloudy sky conditions. After the program, an informal star gazing session can round out the evening's program.

John Louth
U.S. Forest Service
Los Padres National Forest

★ ★

YEAR OF THE VISITOR AT CAPE LOOKOUT

In response to the "Year of the Visitor," Cape Lookout National Seashore personalized its interpretive programs this summer by (1) hiring seasonal park technicians who are musicians, and (2) hosting an Outer Banks Festival.

Cape Lookout is a new park and still without a visitor center or permanent headquarters. Through musicians--who give the park message at local museums, historical societies (and even on the town waterfront)--we have been able to reach publics who normally would not have a park experience at all. Interpretation through music has proven to be an effective way to put a sometimes hard-boiled message into a more digestible form in order to reap the benefits of a wider base of public support.

Another aspect of the program is the "Outer Banks Festival" hosted by our park. By bringing together volunteer musicians, folksingers, storytellers, and poets, we have been able to contribute to a general appreciation of local music and literature in this part of North Carolina. Besides providing entertainment, we have contributed to the preservation of local culture. This is important in a new park which came about as the result of mass condemnations and new regulations. The park musicians and the Outer Banks Festival have demonstrated the human side of the National Park Service, and helped us overcome much of the public hostility to our bureaucratic behavior. Try music in your park.

Bruce E. Weber
Chief of Interpretation
Cape Lookout National Seashore



Park Technicians Scott Pearce and Suzy Miller

REACHING OUT

Making programs available to all persons, regardless of handicaps, can be extremely challenging. The foundation beneath the Lincoln Memorial is the site of the very popular "Looking under Lincoln" walk. This program provides an opportunity to talk about the significance of the Memorial, some of the interesting information detailing how it was built, and the stalactites and stalagmites developing in the man-made "cave" beneath the structure. However, no opportunity was provided for hearing impaired persons to participate in the "Looking under Lincoln" tour.

There has long been a strong association between the Lincoln Memorial and deaf people. President Lincoln signed the charter establishing Gallaudet College, still the only Liberal Arts College in the world specifically for deaf people. Daniel Chester French, the sculptor of the Lincoln statue, also sculpted the statue of Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet which stands on the campus of Gallaudet College. The presence of Gallaudet in Washington, D.C. ensures a large population of deaf and hearing impaired persons in the Washington area. In order to offer the "Looking under Lincoln" walk to deaf visitors several problems had to be surmounted. First, of course, was the need for an interpreter with a knowledge of sign language. Secondly, much of the tour is conducted by flashlight in a nearly totally dark environment. Without light there can be no communication. An account of how these problems were overcome, and a sign language tour provided, follows.

I had been studying signing, but was certainly not a fluent signer. Although I wanted to provide programs in sign, I was apprehensive about my

limited ability. Enlisting the help of an instructor in learning signs and ways of saying things that would be useful for the tour, resulted in brashly deciding to give it a try. For the problem of lighting, the help of another technician was enlisted. She would hold a flashlight aimed directly at me so that my hands could be seen. Now, the problem was how to let people know about it. Advertising that a walk in sign language is being offered frequently fails to reach appropriate audiences, and the result may be poor attendance. With this in mind, a contact at Gallaudet College was reached to learn if there was any interest in the idea. A student organization was invited to send a group of interested persons and the response was enthusiastic. In fact, enough people wanted to participate to give two tours.

Very few problems were encountered during the walks. I began by asking the participants for their help with words I didn't know and they were happy to correct my mistakes. When it was necessary to rely on the flashlights it worked much better than anticipated. The participants all shined their lights on me when I talked, and turned their flashlights on each other whenever anyone wanted to ask a question. Actually, the program went smoother than expected and proved to be quite successful.

Several suggestions can be drawn from this experience. If someone in your park has some knowledge of signing, don't hesitate to make the effort to use it. Explain that you are learning, and enlist the help of the deaf participants in your program. I guarantee you will gain as much, or more, than you give. Better yet, hire a hearing

impaired interpreter. Additionally, you can't wait for people with special needs to come to you. Seek out organizations, schools, etc., in your area and arrange special programs for organized groups. Simply advertising a sign language tour in standard Park Service announcements, such as the "Kiosk," will not generally reach your target population. It's important to seek out the people who can benefit from what you have to offer, and the word will spread.

I hope these suggestions will encourage more people to try sign language or other programs aimed at reaching people that have long been neglected.

Charlotte Pryor
Park Technician
National Mall
Washington, D.C.

★ ★

Dear Editor:

As an interpreter at a historic park, I am looking for a source of historical children's games, particularly for the period 1850-1900, as well as a source providing information about the life of children on the frontier. If any reader knows of a source or where I might find such information about children in the days of frontier military posts, I would be most appreciative. This would be very helpful for us as we develop our new children's programs here at Fort Davis National Historic Site.

Donna Gerstle Smith
Park Technician
Fort Davis National Historic Site
P.O. Box 262
Fort Davis, Texas 79734

APPLIED CULTURAL ARCHAEOLOGY

At Harpers Ferry National Historical Park a new program has been initiated which views archaeology, antiquarianism, and collecting as basic cultural needs adopted by western civilization in the Renaissance. Cultural archaeology is that part of archaeology which is neither history of events nor the study of man. Cultural archaeology is the provocation of individuals within specific cultural groups to become close to the remains of the past or, to collect certain significant objects as prescribed by the specific culture. Applications of cultural archaeology are rare in our national parks. At Harpers Ferry our program attempts to find applications for cultural archaeology which are in keeping with conservationist philosophy and scientific archaeology. Questions resulting from provocation of the visitor are answered with accurate information concerning conservation and preservation of historic and prehistoric materials. Addresses of local archaeological and historical societies are provided. Procedures for reporting and preserving sites are outlined. Hopefully the applications that we help our visitors pursue, for the provocation to cultural archaeology, will aid in the discovery, conservation, and research of archaeological contexts while fulfilling, legally, the basic cultural needs. A behind the scenes tour for archaeological societies is available upon request. For further information contact:

Conrad Jay Bladey
9603 Wellington Street
Seabrook, Maryland 20801
301/577-2163

STUDENT INTERNS--A MEASURE OF SUCCESS

Success is something we all dream about. And more so when it related to us either personally or in terms of something we are involved in. How many of you have been associated with student internships. Let me tell you about the success of our student intern program in Yellowstone National Park.

For several years we have openly invited and accepted student interns from a number of universities. We have been extremely pleased with the caliber of these students, what they have done for our program, and their success ratio in terms of job placement afterwards. Students required by their college curriculum to do a field practicum become heads up for possible internships in places like Yellowstone when the time arrives. After all, what better place to spend an 8 to 10 week college quarter of the year than in Yellowstone? So these enterprising students write a letter of inquiry and hope for the best. Surprisingly enough, many of them score from such an informal approach simply because they let their wishes be known and declare their availability. We, in turn, check their credentials from this end and if they are qualified and authentic and we want to take on an intern for the particular period of time, we commit ourselves.

Besides being legitimate and qualified, an intern must meet other requirements. An intern must be self supporting during the period he or she resides in Yellowstone, and also must be able to get here on their own. Once they arrive, we will provide housing and assign them to one of the three districts within our interpretive division. A formal program of activity is agreed upon with the sponsoring counselor from the school,

and the session takes shape. Onsite, the student becomes an integral part of the park family and undergoes an intense exposure to our activities, gets involved in many phases of park operations and completes a project as part of the practicum requirements. Weekly or monthly progress evaluations are completed by the immediate supervisor (district naturalist) and sent to the school sponsor.

Student interns have been in residence here during all seasons of the year. In each case the individuals were chosen because they had something special to offer for the particular season for which they applied. For example, one young fellow was an expert in winter sports and survival and was used quite effectively during our winter season. Yes, we do have a winter interpretive program in Yellowstone which includes the operation of a visitor center at Old Faithful with guided walks and talks, wildlife camera safaris in the north end of the park from Mammoth to Cooke City, Montana, and guided snowmobile trips around the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone. We also operate a visitor information station in the town of West Yellowstone. For example, his project was to analyze the interpretive needs and desires of the winter park visitor based upon his observations and talking with them while they were in various locations within the park. Obviously this was an interesting assignment, and provided us with some useful information. Incidentally, this young fellow applied for seasonal interpretive work in Yellowstone the following summer and was high enough on the register that we were able to hire him. Success? I would say so. We gained a good employee and he got experience. We

both benefitted from the student intern program.

Another student intern spent the summer with us working side by side with the seasonal naturalists giving talks and walks along with them. He had been a winter keeper in Yellowstone for several winters with the Yellowstone Park Company. Because of his vast knowledge of the park and his skills in communication, he performed on a level commensurate with an apprentice interpreter and did a good job. Again, we gained and he did as well.

One young lady who spent her student internship during the spring of the year is now an interpretive specialist in one of the National Park Service regional offices. As a result of her internship and other qualifications, she rated high enough on the seasonal naturalist register. We were able to hire her for several summers. She eventually competed and was able to secure the regional interpretive position I just mentioned. Again success, and part of it was due to the student internship program.

What are the long term benefits of this program to the student and the agency? First of all, the students gets the opportunity for exposure to a total agency program. In this way he can decide if he is interested in working for that agency. Conversely, the agency has an opportunity to look the student over and by actual experience on the job, see what he or she can do. It is mutually beneficial from both standpoints. And it is only right and fitting that the agency supervisor level with the individual and the sponsor as to their aptitude and potential. Too often in the past we have tried to put square pegs in round

holes, and everyone loses. From our experience, however, based primarily on careful selection, the percentage of interns placed in Yellowstone who succeed is very high and I think will continue that way. Such results are a measure of success of the program.

I would hope that other parks and agencies would find this a viable program and become involved in providing student internships. The program is exciting and provides a practical way to give some of these great young people of today an opportunity to get onsite experience and show what they have to offer. After all, the young people of today are the managers of tomorrow.

The students reading this article may think here is my chance to land an internship in Yellowstone. I would be the first to encourage you to apply; but the competition is keen and the positions are limited. Don't let that discourage you, however, for the stakes are high and success will go to those who have potential and are persistent.

John Tyers
Assistant Chief Interpreter
Yellowstone National Park

★ ★

A FABLE

Once upon a time there was a park interpreter who didn't "do anything." Oh, he talked to people, and knew the resource as well as anyone, and he wrote a few articles and brochures, but he just couldn't seem to "do" things.

And when people asked what he did, he would respond: "I am only a custodian, a keeper of this place. I watch and listen. I am a student, not a teacher, with much to learn."

When important people came to see him from Washington and Region, they found he had no behavioral objectives, no quizboards, no psychological studies to guide him; in fact, he dared to say he was unsure! He had goals and aims, but they only mentioned understanding and appreciation. You couldn't prove them with statistics. Well, those who thought they knew were appalled. Never had they encountered anyone who wasn't in command of every nuance of visitor behavior, of children's growth, of the latest in interpretive psychology. What could be done? If he was allowed to continue, why the whole fabric of modern interpretation might unravel.

Would you believe, on his whole staff, not one was in costume! Not one fired anything, or danced, or dipped a candle. They were out in the park, for the interpreter (custodian) required them to be visible, to be seen by people. They were even told to say "I don't know," when they didn't.

As you might expect, harsh measures were recommended by a blue ribbon task force. First, he was recommended for eight training sessions, to run concurrently, but he wouldn't go! "There is too much to learn here first, maybe in a year or two, when I'm ready."

Second, his career goals were scrutinized, but again, all were stymied, for he wasn't sure what he wanted to be, and there was no mention of management! (This was indeed a singular case.)

So they went to his supervisor to get at the roots of the problem. And they said: "It's your responsibility to get this man straightened out, to get him thinking the way we do."

The supervisor nodded and agreed and hoped they would leave soon so his interpreter could continue his job. They finally left, content that the problem had been resolved. A report was written, approved, and filed; which proved the task force had accomplished something. Meanwhile, more and more people came to the park. Some listened to his talks, and some just looked and walked away. There were old people and children, and a man and boy who only threw stones, and they left feeling better than when they came. At least, they seemed to. How did the interpreter know this? He never could explain it, but he did try to find out once (Region insisted he tell them) but no one could give a definitive answer.

What he finally said raised a new storm of protest by the analysis, by the DOERS:

"Parks are many things to people. I can't tell you what's right for everyone, nor can I tell each person what's right for him or her. I can be available if you want me. I can help keep this park in the way it is supposed to be kept, and I can keep out of your way as you use the park."

But I can't turn people into graphs and charts, no more than I can stop the snow from melting in the spring, and I won't!"

Many snows have come and gone. Near the end, he was no longer asked to training sessions. Region never went to his park, his reports were largely ignored, and the only people who spoke of him at all were his seasonals, but they used words like love and respect, and were laughed at. Where is he now? We don't know, nor care. Why did he leave? It's said the new visitor center, with its open girders, hermetically sealed exhibit cases, and fifty

foot sales counter, contributed. The reconstructed village and attendant colonial lunch counter left him desolate. As the doers congratulated themselves, he walked away, ashamed.

You can still see him . . . if you look carefully, and listen. He's the one who still says:

"I don't know for sure . . . maybe there's no right or wrong answer . . . after all, what is a park for? What are we for in a park? Only custodians . . . of a part of the past and present . . . for tomorrow.

George M. Strock
Interpretive Specialist
Southeast Regional Office

★ ★

WIND ENERGY PROGRAMS/KITE FLYING

With National Park Service interest in wind energy, human history and the sky, how can interpreters and park visitors get together to talk about these subjects? Well, why not by kite flying?

We've begun a wind energy program at Cape Lookout National Seashore that is based on kite flying and the results are promising. Any natural area with steady winds of between 2-25 miles per hour, open spaces, and enthusiastic people to get it off the ground, can use man's second oldest toy to discuss the weather, ancient human history, alternate forms of energy (windpower) and technological advances of the last 200 years. It's a form of recreation which knows no age, socioeconomic group, physical powers or nationality.

Most people spend a substantial amount of time wondering about the weather. While attention is directed upward, questions about wind, clouds and rain are commonly asked. Curiosity about seasonal air masses, the atmosphere, storms, barometers can all be explored. Also interesting comparisons can be drawn between weather and man's needs. For instance the wind power from one day of an average hurricane is equivalent to the electrical energy needed to supply the United States for six months. Another example is how gigantic windmills are presently being used to supply energy for electricity and pumping water in several communities.

If there is interest in tying ancient cultures to our own, you can mention that kites have been around for at least 3,000 years. They were first used in religious ceremonies by the Chinese and Polynesians. Later, they were adapted for fishing, games, musical instruments, and in war for





manned observation, diversionary tactics and dropping propaganda pamphlets.

Since Ben Franklin and his famous test for electricity, kites have strung cables for suspension bridges, aided in the Civil War, elevated radio receivers (Marconi), been experimented with for manned flight (Alexander Graham Bell and the Wright brothers), aided the U.S. Weather Bureau, helped the life-saving of ships, taken aerial photographs of the 1907 San Francisco earthquake, and helped NASA research into different ways of recovering space ships. And these are just samples of what kites have been used for. The list goes on and on.

Only a few kites are needed to illustrate the five basic types. Most people are content to watch them and briefly take the controls. Kites can be sturdy and relatively inexpensive to make and maintain if they are of cloth, tear resistant nylon, wooden dowels, and fishing snap swivels. Another bonus is that there is no need to run, the designs of the last century are extremely easy to launch and fly. Books on kite patterns and kite history are in most libraries. If you still need some help or advice, contact the interpretive staff at Cape Lookout National Seashore.

Kites are an extremely useful device for discussing weather, human history and energy between the interpreter and the visitor. Try it in your park. Perhaps next time, instead of looking down for a solution to a communications problem, look up to a kite.

Ruth Aborjaily
Seasonal Park Aid
Cape Lookout National Seashore

STORAGE OF MAGNETIC TAPES

George Cunha in Conservation of Library Material (vol. 1, Scarecrow Press, Metuchen, NJ 1971) has this to say about the storage of tapes, such as oral history tapes:

"Tapes are chemically stable but differ considerably in strength. The strongest and most durable are those made on polyester and polyvinyl chloride bases. The most serious problems seem to be stretching and shrinking of the base, which affect the quality of sound, the danger of accidental erasure, induced noise due to external magnetic fields, and print-through which results in the signal on one layer being repeated on adjacent layers of tape in the rolls. Sound tapes made for use with cassettes is usually extremely thin mylar in order to get more length on the small spools. Because thin mylar has a life span of only about four years before print-through and other defects begin to occur, tapes intended for archival records should be transferred to heavier, more durable plastics.

Recommended procedures for preservation and storage of magnetic tapes are:

- a. Keep tapes on metal reels in metal cans or sealed polyethylene boxes standing on edge on wooden shelves in wooden cabinets.
- b. Cabinets must be well clear of electric motors, emergency generators, heavy-duty wiring, and radiators, and should not be stored in the basement or attic.
- c. Stabilize environment at 70° and 50-60% relative humidity.
- d. Use only immaculately clean, high

quality playback equipment in dust-free rooms.

- e. Examine all tapes at least once every two years on a rewind-type inspection device. After inspection leave the tape on the reversed roll to minimize creep, induced curvature and print-through.

Recording and playback heads must be kept clean. Dirt and other particles can erode the delicate head surface, affecting signal quality, and can also cause permanent damage to the tape surface. Follow the manufacturer's instructions. Periodic degaussing of the heads is also necessary.

Dan Riss

★ ★

TRY A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

In response to the Director's request to provide special programs for the handicapped, Lincoln Home National Historic Site recently began presenting programs for blind people that could be adapted to fit any other historical area such as ours.

We recounted the story of Lincoln's "experiment"--his twenty-five year development as a lawyer and politician while calling Springfield, Illinois his home. Of course, rather than visually seeing our park, these visitors had to call upon other senses to understand Lincoln's "experiment." (This did not keep them from constantly referring to "seeing" the top hat or 19th century toys we passed around.)

We prepared a script, along with sounds, music, and dramatizations which helped them to appreciate the life and character of Lincoln's Springfield. We used coconut shells as clippity-clopping horses, recorded train sounds while delivering Lincoln's farewell address, rustling newspapers as we took note of "that new lawyer in town," and (perhaps this was the highlight) a life size bust to examine the familiar large nose, high cheeks, and sunken eyes. There was no doubt that these handicapped visitors left with a more vivid impression of Lincoln than many visitors who have allowed other acute senses to stagnate.

The program also helped us, as interpreters, to see things in our park that have grown all too mundane and familiar; the feel of boardwalk under our feet, the various types of fences in the neighborhood, or the steep, winding stairs. Our visitors' tremendous enthusiasm, use of imagination, and joy in discovery are traits that we could all stand an extra dose of.

Peter Givens
Robert Fudge
Park Technicians
Lincoln Home National Historic Site

★ ★ ★ ★

Rangeroons

hoofnagle

THESE COMICS WERE HAND-CRAFTED IN NEW YORK CITY DURING THE VISIT OF THE POPE.

WELL, BLESS YOUR HEART!

AGAIN?

DUE TO THEIR LOYALTY, TRUSTWORTHINESS AND EXPERIENCE, RANGEROONS ARE OFTEN CALLED UPON FOR SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS. HERE IS THE RECENT RANGEROON TASK FORCE PREPARING TO DEPART FOR THE PARKS IN THE STRIFE-TORN NORTH COUNTRY: BUMP!

HMMMM... SOMETHING'S HAPPENED TO OUR PLANE!

OOPS!

YOUR FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD VISITOR CENTER

TRIP

WHEEEEEEEEEEEEE

GOLLY, THERE WAS A STEP THERE LAST TIME I WAS HERE. I THINK!!

THANK - JANET SCHARF - OLYM.

SKIP

THE SAFETY OFFICER INSISTED THAT WE INSTALL THAT WHEEL-CHAIR RAMP. NOW I'M AFRAID MORE VISITORS WILL NEED TO USE IT!

HAVE YOU TRIED HOTEL STREET IN HONOLULU?

I'VE JUST GOT TO ADD A RED-FOOTED BOOBY TO MY LIFE-LIST WHILE I'M IN HAWAII. WHERE MIGHT I SEE ONE?

AFTER COPIOUS RESEARCH AND MUCH SOUL-SEARCHING, THE RESOURCES MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST SAYS HE'S CONVINCED THAT THE FRILLY WARP-DORP IS AN EXOTIC PLANT. HE CLAIMS IT WAS INTRODUCED SOMETIME DURING THE TERTIARY PERIOD AND DOESN'T EVEN BELONG HERE

WAIT JUST A MINUTE! WE'VE BEEN COMING TO THIS PARK EACH YEAR FOR 35 YEARS TO SEE THE FRILLY WARP-DORP IN BLOSSOM, AND IF THAT'S THE WAY THE NPS IS GONNA TREAT PART OF OUR HERITAGE SENATOR BARNEGLE IS SURE GONNA HEAR ABOUT IT!

