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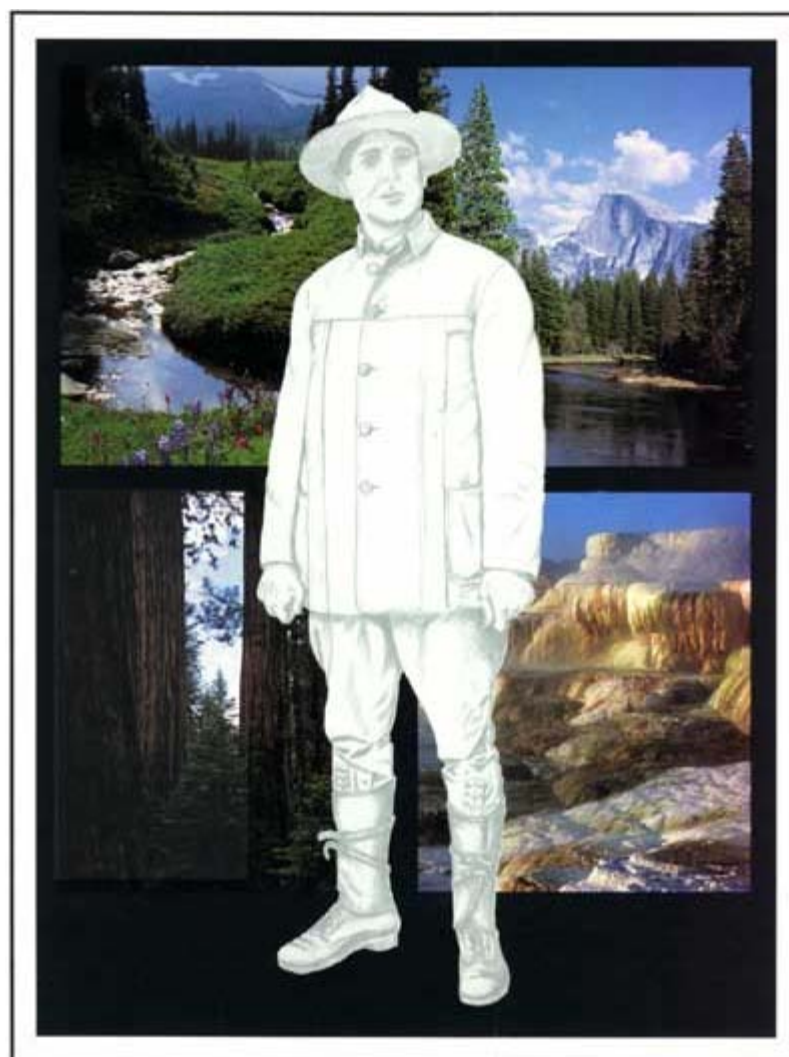
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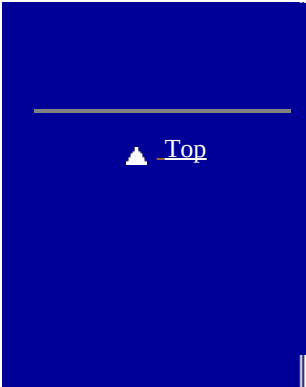
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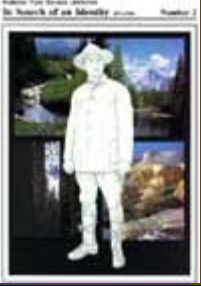


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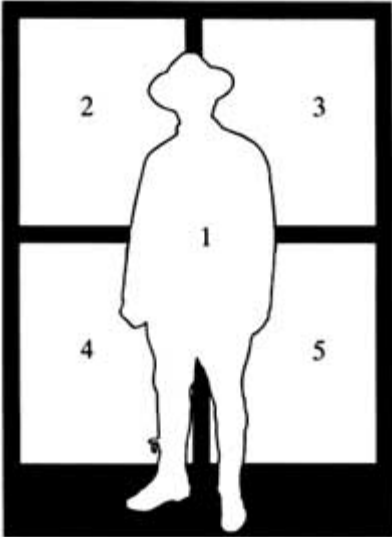
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Cover:

1. **The first authorized uniform to be worn by rangers in the national park system. 1911.**
Drawing by author. *NPSHC - HFC Y55*



2. **Mount Rainier National Park.**
NPSHPC - Ernest Braun photo - HFC/1978

3. **Yosemite National Park.**
NPSHPC - Cecil W. Stoughton photo - HFC/72-193-32

4. **"The Cloister", located in the Giant Forest, Sequoia National Park.**
NPSHPC - J.M. Kauffmann photo - HFC/57-24-3C

5. **Minerva Terrace, Mammoth Hot Springs, Yellowstone National Park, 1987.**
NPSIPC - Thomas C. Gray photo - HFC/AV 977

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Number 2	In Search of an Identity	men's uniforms - 1872-1920	
Number 3	Ironing Out the Wrinkles	men's uniforms - 1920-1932	
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4	Breeches, Blouses and Skirts	1991
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5	(Web edition only, no printed version produced)	1970

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6		1991



Harry S. Yount, 1873.

Harry worked as "game keeper" at Yellowstone National Park 1880-1881. Photograph was taken by William Henry Holmes while both were employed on the Ferdinand Vandiveer Hayden geological survey in 1873. Yount as guide and Holmes as illustrator. William Henry Jackson was the official photographer, but apparently Holmes also dabbled in this medium.

NPSHPC - William Henry Holmes photo - HFC/91-16

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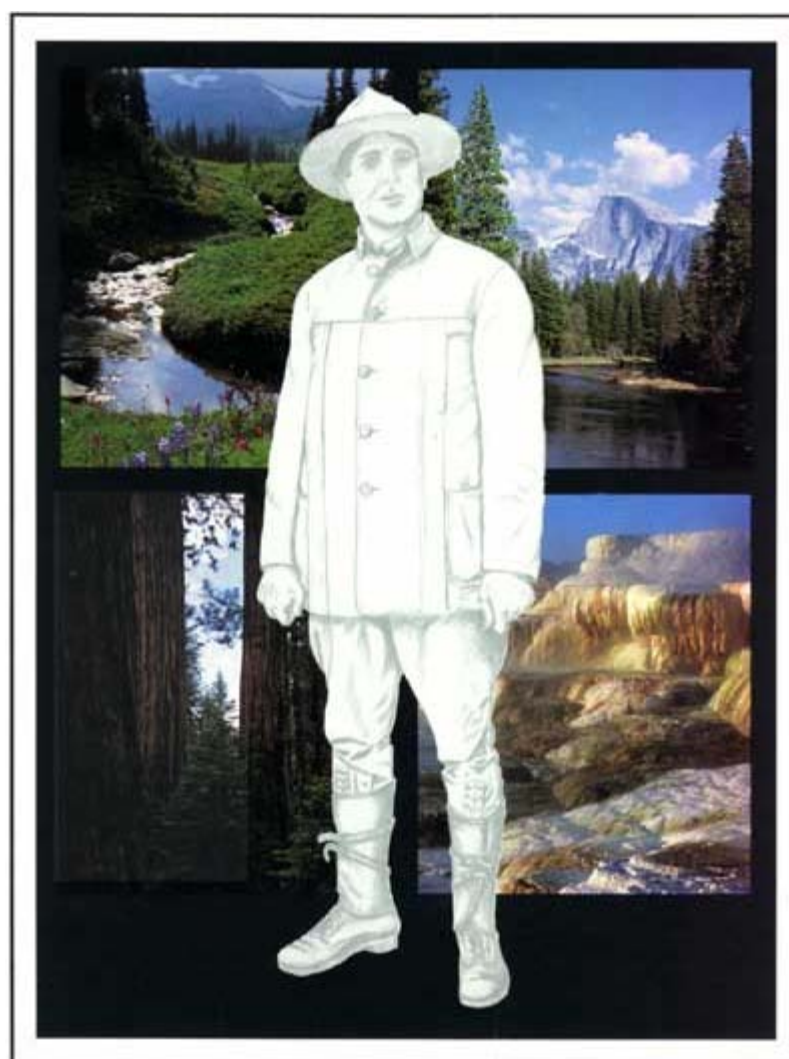
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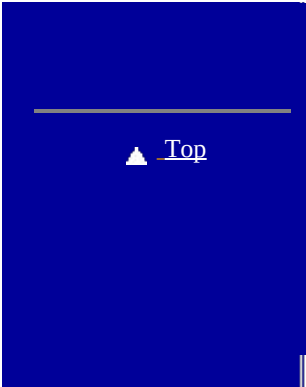
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Introduction

The first uniforms to grace the national park system were worn by soldiers. These made their appearance in 1886 when it was deemed that the civilian administration at Yellowstone was inadequate to protect the park from vandals. As an attempt was made to preserve more and more of the nations natural wonders, other areas came under the park system umbrella. It was only natural then that when Sequoia and Yosemite were designated national parks in 1890 for the Army to take them under their wing.

Unfortunately, since the Army's mandate only extended to the removal of the "trespassers" and "intruders", it became extremely difficult for it to cope with the many interlopers and souvenir hunters that were destroying the game and objects of curiosity, especially after the congress passed the 1894 Lacy Act forbidding hunting in national parks. To remedy this situation civilian "scouts", or rangers were hired by the Department of the Interior, under whose jurisdiction the parks and forest reserves fell at that time, thus forming the nucleus of the present day National Park Service.



Apparently the early rangers thought of their work as a job, not a profession. It wasn't until the separation of the parks and forest reserves in 1905 and the uniforming of the latter by the Forest Service, that the park rangers gave serious thought to their own identity. Up until its formation as a bureau, the National Park Service was apparently a stepchild in the eyes of the Department of the Interior.

A lot of the parks during this period followed their own drummer and to tell each in detail is beyond the scope of this publication. There was, though, a mainstream development of the uniform at this time which flowed through the Interior office. That is the path taken here.

Even though the Department authorized, sanctioned would be a more appropriate word, a specific uniform, this was subject to change at the

whim of the individual ranger and sometimes the Department itself. At one time there were two "authorized" uniforms for the park rangers. The first uniforms utilized forest green wool, then olive drab, then back to forest green. In the middle of the OD period, Yosemite rangers bought forest green uniforms. The only thing the Department required was that all of the rangers within a given park be uniformed alike.

This then is the story of the struggle by these early men, who watched over the nations parks, as they tried to convince the bureaucracy to let them establish this identity, even at their own expense. Then when this desire was finally acceded to only to end up with the less than flattering "norfolk" jacket in 1911.

While the National Archives has excellent documentation for the period following the separation of the services in 1905, it has few images illustrating the uniforms of which they speak. Fortunately most of these were disseminated to the parks. In this regard I am indebted to Tom Tankersley, historian at Yellowstone, for his assistance in delving into the parks archives and finding some of these early photographs and drawings. As usual, a study of this type could not be accomplished without the assistance of personnel throughout the park system, in gathering information and photographs to add dimension to the written word. Again I'd like to thank Barry MackIntosh who was gracious enough to tackle the task of straightening out my text. Also, I'm indebted to David Nathanson for his assistance and for giving me the opportunity to put forward this study; Hugh Brown for assistance with the art work; Susan Myers and David Guiney, for their wizardry with the computer and last, but no means least, Tom DuRant, the sage of the National Park Service photograph collection at Harpers Ferry Center, whose invaluable help made this possible.

As you read this, you will begin to get a feel for the difficulties and resourcefulness of these dedicated early rangers, a trait which has been passed down to the present. These were truly remarkable people.

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In Search of an Identity

Until the establishment of Yellowstone National Park in 1872 and even afterward, local inhabitants and visitors to the area treated the land as their own. Game was hunted, timber was cut, and nodules that had taken thousands of years to form were chipped from the geysers for souvenirs. It did not take long for Yellowstone's superintendents to realize that if they were to accomplish their assigned goal of protecting and preserving the park's natural features for posterity, they would need more help.

In 1880 Superintendent Philetus W. Norris hired Harry S. Yount as a year-round "game keeper." [1] Although Yount has traditionally been considered the first park ranger, others had previously been hired to assist the superintendent. He was paid the munificent sum of \$1,000 a year, not bad considering that the total budget for the park was only \$15,000. Even so, Yount worked for only one year, complaining that the park was too large for one man to patrol.

Yount was typical of many of the men roaming the West during this period. After Civil War service in the Union Army he went out to the Wyoming Territory, working as a bullwhacker, hunter, trapper, and for seven summers as a guide for the Hayden Geological Survey. [2] A photographic portrait taken in 1873



Harry S. Yount, c. 1873.

Here is another photograph of Yount, probably taken around the same time as the previous

Holmes image since he is wearing the same clothing.

Yount is shown wearing skin clothing, but rangers more

than likely wore a combination of regular military and civilian attire. Although traditionally thought of as the first park ranger, others were employed prior to

by William H. Holmes shows him in a regulation 1858 U.S. Army mounted overcoat, a skin (probably buckskin) jacket with a fur collar, a civilian shirt, and a wide-brimmed hat with the front pinned back in a rakish manner. There are three other images of Yount in the National Park Service photo collection. Unfortunately, none of them were taken around the time of his association with the park. One shows him standing, leaning on a Sharps buffalo rifle, wearing the same clothes sans overcoat. He has hide trousers and knee boots. This was probably also taken by Holmes. In another image taken by William Henry Jackson during the 1874 Hayden Expedition, he is shown at Berthoud Pass, Colorado. In the third image he does not have a beard and appears to be somewhat heavier. He is also wearing what appears to be buckskin clothing with fringes, along with the usual panoply of weapons. This photograph is harder to date but was probably not taken while Yount was employed by the park, being titled "Harry Yount, Hunter."

It is not known whether Yount was issued a badge for his Yellowstone service or if he displayed any other symbol of authority. More than likely he just adhered to the old western adage of "might makes right."

Uniforms first made their regular appearance in the national parks on August 18, 1886, when Troop M of the 1st U.S. Cavalry trotted into Yellowstone. The presence of the troops resulted from an act of Congress approved March 3, 1883, which stated, "The Secretary of War, upon the request of the Secretary of the Interior, is hereby authorized and directed, to make the necessary details of troops to prevent trespassers or intruders from entering the park for the purpose of destroying the game or objects of curiosity therein, or for any other purpose prohibited by law, and to remove such persons from the park if found therein." On August 6, 1886, Secretary of the Interior Lucius Q. C. Lamar, deeming that Yellowstone could not be adequately protected by the civilian administration, requested troops from the War Department. The request was approved on August 10 and troops from Fort C.F. Smith were ordered to Yellowstone. [3] Other cavalry units were detailed to Sequoia, General Grant, and Yosemite in California after those national parks were

him to assist the
superintendent. *NPSHPC -*
HFC/91-0023



**Lucius Quintus Cincinnatus
Lamar, Secretary of
Interior, 1885-1888.**

Secretary Lamar invoked the Congressional Act that brought the military into Yellowstone National Park on 18 August, 1886. *LC -*
BH826-28955

established in 1890.

Initially the cavalry units patrolled Yellowstone and the California parks only during the summer months, but later their presence was extended. Soldiers in campaign hats, boots, and olive drab uniforms were a familiar sight to park visitors until 1919, three years after the act creating the National Park Service.



**Yellowstone Park Scout
Badge, c. 1894-1906.**

Issued to civilian scouts hired by the military to help protect Yellowstone National Park. Scouts were issued nickel-silver, while those of the chief scouts were sterling silver.

NPSHC

After the Lacey Act of 1894 prohibited hunting in Yellowstone, civilian police, called scouts, were employed for wildlife protection. This term was no doubt used because the Army had hired civilian scouts for other purposes. Scouts were also required to stop the grazing of livestock, mainly sheep, by local ranchers on park grounds. Since these scouts, or rangers, were more or less dependent on the Army quartermasters for their supplies, their dress was a combination of military and civilian clothing. They were also issued a badge of authority. For Yellowstone National Park, this consisted of a two-inch circle with "YELLOWSTONE PARK SCOUT" stamped in it. The middle of the circle was cut out to form a star with the badge number in the center. The badge was

similar to many of those issued to lawmen of the period.

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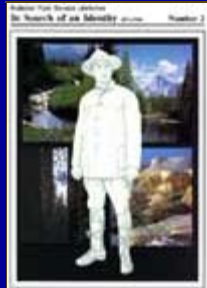
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Here are a couple more images purported to be Harry Yount.



North from Berthoud Pass, Colorado, 1874.

Photograph was taken during the 1874 Hayden Geological Survey by William Henry Jackson. It is one of Jackson's most famous images, but unfortunately he failed to identify the individual. However, it has been passed down through the years as Harry Yount. Yount was a guide on the expedition and would have been at the site when the photograph was taken.

National Archives/NA 57-HS-526



**Harry Yount, Hunter, c.
1880's.**

This image is also purported
to be Harry Yount.

*NPSHPC - (YELL) - HFC/91-
24*



**Soldiers starting out on
patrol, Yosemite National
Park, c. 1890's.**

NPSHPC - YOSE/7933

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29. Letters, Logan to Clement S. Ucker, Apr. 30 and May 6, 1911, *ibid.*

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31. Letter, Fry to Secretary of the Interior, May 18, 1911, *ibid.* Fry enclosed a photograph showing a ranger wearing the uniform then in use, but it has been lost. It was probably the same uniform worn by Karl Keller in his portrait.

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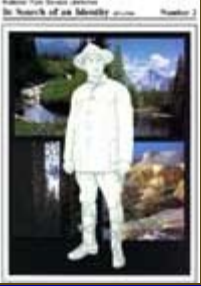


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Appendix A

The following rangers purchased uniforms from Sigmund Eisner through the office of the Secretary of the Interior 1911-1920

CRATER LAKE NATIONAL PARK

1918	1919
Momyer, Henry E.	Momyer, Henry E.

GLACIER NATIONAL PARK

1911	1912
Brewster, Horace	Chapman, R.H.
Burns, William	Cosley, Joseph C.
Cosley, Joseph C.	Doll, Frank G.
Doody, Daniel	Doody, Daniel
Doll, Frank G.	Dovel, D.B.
Graves, J.C.	Graves, J.C.
Henke, G.R.	Hutchings, Henry W.
Hutchens, Henry W.	Keys, E.A
McCabe, H.F.	Prince, Joseph E.
Pierce, Frank	Stevenson, Frank
Prince, Joseph E.	Thompson, H.C.
Reynolds, Albert	Vaught, Haney E.
Stevenson, Frank M.	
Thompson, H.C.	
Vaught, Haney E.	
1913	1914
Bellah, Cyrus C.	Doody, Daniel
Cavanaugh, William J.	Gephart, D.C.
Cosley, Joseph C.	Morrison, Edward U.
Doody, Daniel	Nelson, P.A.
Graves, J.C.	Vaught, Haney E.
Hutchings, Henry W.	
Nelson, P.A.	
Vaught, Haney E.	
1915	1916

Brewster, Horace
Darrington, W. J.
Gephart, D.C.
Graves, J.C.
Morrison, Edward U.

1918

Beebe, Chauncey E.
Cooper
Darrington, W.J.
Hockett, H.C.
Payne, W.W.
Thiri

1920

Beebe, Chauncey E.
Brewster, Horace
Butterfield, W.C.
Cunningham, Harvey J.
Darrington, W.J.
Gibb, Walter Scott
Hockett, H.C.
Labreche, Charles A.
Lund, Alex
O'Brien, Frank M.
O'Connor, John
Sullivan, Thomas J.
Swetnam, Edgar M.

Brewster, Horace
Darrington, W.J.
Gibb, Walter Scott
O'Brien, Frank M.

1919

Hockett, H.C.

MOUNT RAINIER NATIONAL PARK

1911

Estes, Samuel
Greer, Harry G.
O'Farrell, Thomas E.
Phipps, C.E.
Swetnam, Edgar M.

1914

O'Farrell, Thomas E.
Rosso, Rudolph L.

1916

Barnett, Philip E.
Coffee, John
Coffee, William B.
Duncan, Archie
Flett, John B.

1912

Barrett, Philip E.
Clifford, Earl
Greer, Harry G.
O'Farrell, Thomas E.

1915

Flett, John B.
O'Farrell, Thomas E.
Rosso, Rudolph L.

Greer, Frank
Grunigen, John C. Von
O'Farrell, Thomas E.
Rosso, Rudolph L.
Stafford, William L.

SEQUOIA & GENERAL GRANT NATIONAL PARKS

1911

Fry, Walter

1912

Blossom, Charles W.
Britten, U.T.
Decker, Milo S.
Fry, Walter
Grunigen, J.G. von
Keller, Carl W.

1913

Blossom, Charles W.
Decker, Milo S.
Fry, Walter
Grunigen, J.G. von
Keller, Carl W.

1914

Blossom, Charles W.
Decker, Milo S.
Dillon, R.F.
Fry, Walter
Grunigen, J.G. von
Keller, Carl W.

1916

Decker, Milo S.
Foster, Joseph E.
Fry, Walter
Keller, Carl W.

1917

Fry, Walter

1920

Fry, Walter

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

1912

Gaylor, A.J.
Leonard, A.C.
Salter, Nelson L.

1913

Gaylor, A.J.

1914

Gaylor, A.J.
Prien, Oliver R.
Sovulewski, Gabriel

1915

Bell, George V.
Gaylar, A.J.

1916

Bell, George V.
Gaylar, A.J.
Lewis, M.B.
Sovulewski, Gabriel

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Appendix B

National Park Conference Notes, 28 November 1919

Uniforms

The decision was reached that all officers and rangers, and other employees of the service, were (sic) practicable, should wear a uniform, which should consist of straight-brimmed, broad-brimmed hat similar to the J.B. Stetson Astral. The brim should be stiff enough to maintain a straight shape and not curl at the edges.

Uniform should furthermore consist of grey flannel shirt with soft standup collar of same material with dark green four-in-hand string tie, rather narrow.

The trowsers should be duck-backed for temporary rangers, who will not be required to buy full uniforms but must wear duckback(?) trowsers of riding cut.

Brown shoes must be worn, preferably of Army shape, and leather leggings. Preference was expressed for the cordovan shade of brown.

The officers, however, are to have choice of leggings and boots—May wear either leather leggings, spiral leggings, or riding boots. Can not wear high laced boots and or canvas leggings except where they now have them and wish to wear them out. For State occasions the superintendents must wear the leather legging in conformity with the standard for rangers.

It was the sense of the meeting that superintendents and custodians should wear their uniforms at all meetings where public business is transacted outside the park.

The cloth to be used is included in the material already submitted by Mr. Punchard, as well as the cut of the clothes.

The coat is to remain the same.

The Government will furnish all insignia, just as is done with the ranger badge. A deposit should be taken from the ranger to protect the Government against loss.

The insignia was approved as submitted.

Service Stripe

The service stripe shall take into consideration service in the parks under the War or Interior Departments from the time of first connection with the parks in either of these Departments, for those now in the service.

The stripes shall date back to to (sic) the beginning of every man's service who is now in the Bureau.

Service stars — Mr. Punchard's outline was changed. It was decided that the stars should be all silver.

A 2" by 1/8" black braid stripe for one year; silver star for each five years.

It was voted to adopt turn-down collar for coat.

Grey shirt for ordinary use; plain white shirt for superintendents on special occasions. Green tie on all occasions.

Just as soon as we return to Washington we will begin looking into places were (sic) we can get uniforms. Eisner has failed and the superintendents were against continuing to buy from him.

Mr. Fry suggested that possible Fichheimer (sic) Brothers of Cincinnati could supply the uniforms.

No new uniform shall be purchased and put into use after July 1 which does not agree with the adopted standard uniform.

Those people who have presentable uniforms should have until the end of the coming field season before being compelled to change to new type. This covers only trousers and coats. All other material belonging to old uniforms must be discarded after July 1. It can, however, be worn next winter. Anything that can be worn during the winter should be worn out now and not after July 1.

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Appendix C

1920 — National Park Service Uniform Regulations

Regulations Governing the Use of the National Park Service Uniform by Officers and Rangers of the National Park Service

(1) The standard uniform for officers of the National Park Service shall consist of:

- (a) **Coat** of forestry serge 12 to 14 oz.; four button sack; either open or English convertible collar; pinch back and half belt in back; two breast pockets, pleated; two side pockets, bellows; all outside pockets with flaps fastened with Service buttons.
- (b) **Riding breeches** of same material; two side and two hip pockets and watch pocket; a double seat; with or without leather reinforcement inside knees; buttoned at knee opening.
- (c) **Leather puttees** and **shoes** to match, tan or cordovan color, latter preferred, except on dress occasions, when leather puttees are prescribed. Either spiral puttees or tan riding boots may be worn as a part of uniform.
- (d) **Service hat** — Stetson, either stiff or cardboard brim, "belly" color.
- (e) **Shirt** — grey wool or white shirt and collar.
- (f) **Tie** — dark green four-in-hand.
- (g) **Collar ornaments, sleeve insignia** and **service stripes** as herein-after prescribed.
- (h) **Overcoat** of forestry cloth 16 to 20 oz.; five button ulster type, double breasted, English convertible collar; diagonal side pockets, pinch back with half belt and back vented from waist.

(2) Officers in the field service of the National Parks to whom are

referred in these regulations as authorized to wear the officers uniform of the service are those employees holding appointments under the following designations;

Superintendents	Supervisors
Assistant Superintendents	Assistant Supervisors
Engineers	Foresters
Assistant Engineers	Clerks

and such other employees as the Director of the National Park Service may from time to time authorize.

(3) The standard uniform for Park Rangers shall be the same as prescribed for officers with the following exceptions:

(a) **Coat** and **riding breeches** to be made of forestry cloth 16 to 18 oz. instead of forestry serge.

(b) **Overcoat** of forestry cloth 16 to 20 oz., four button mackinaw type, English convertible collar, half belt in back.

(4) While temporary rangers are not required to equip themselves with the standard ranger uniform, its use by them is encouraged. In lieu of the standard uniform all temporary rangers, before reporting for duty, or as soon afterward as practicable, will provide themselves with the following prescribed temporary ranger uniform.

Riding breeches — Dux back

Puttees — leather, tan or cordovan color, preferably latter

Shoes — to match puttees

Shirt — grey wool

Tie — dark green four-in-hand

Hat — Stetson — either stiff or cardboardbrim, "belly" color.

Collar ornaments and sleeve insignia as prescribed under paragraphs 5 and 9.

(5) The collar ornament prescribed for all officers and rangers of the Service shall be the standard NPS service device containing the letters US, the various NPS

NPS service units to be differentiated as follows:

- (a) All officers, device of gold,
- (b) Chief Ranger, device of silver,
- (c) Asst. Chief Rangers, device of silver,
- (d) Park Rangers, device of silver,
- (e) Park Rangers, Temporary, device of bronze.

(6) The sleeve insignia for the Director of the National Park Service shall consist of a single gold star surrounded by four maple leaves, the whole surrounded by a circular frame. The entire device to be embroidered on forestry serge, the star in gold, the leaves in dark green, and the circular frame in light green silk.

(7) The sleeve insignia for the Assistant Director of the National Park Service shall be the same as that prescribed for the Director except that the star shall be of silver color instead of gold.

(8) Oak leaves have been adopted as the basic insignia of the field service other than Rangers, for sleeve insignia. Upon all are superimposed devices designating the particular division of the field service to which the officer is attached. The various designations shall be as follows:

Superintendents — three leaves with three acorns
superimposed

Asst. Supts. — two leaves with two acorns superimposed

Engineers — three leaves with T-square and triangle

Asst. Engineers — two leaves with T-square and triangle

Foresters — three leaves with crossed axes

Chief Electricians — three leaves with lightening bolt

Asst. Electricians — two leaves with lightening bolt

Clerks — two leaves with ink bottle and quill

(a) Officers' sleeve insignia shall be embroidered on forestry serge.

(9) The Sequoia cone and foliage have been adopted as the basic insignia for the Park Ranger Service for sleeve insignia, the differentiation in rank being indicated by the number of cones. The various designations shall be as follows:

Chief Ranger — three cones with foliage

Asst. Chief Rangers — two cones with foliage

Rangers — one cone with foliage

Temporary Rangers — foliage only

(a) Sleeve insignia of the Ranger Service shall be embroidered on forestry cloth.

(10) All Rangers shall be in uniform when on duty at park headquarters during the tourist season, when on official business justify" >either inside or outside of the park, and on any other occasion as directed by the Superintendent of the park to which they are attached. In addition to this the use of the uniform is encouraged on all occasions where contact is had with the public either on or off duty where the nature of the duties being performed makes it practicable.

(11) Superintendents, Assistant Superintendents, Engineers, and Assistant Engineers shall wear the uniform at all times when on duty during the tourist season and shall be required to transact all business either inside or outside of the park in uniform except when on duty in the District of Columbia, or as may be otherwise directed by the Director of the National Park Service.

(12) Other officers of the field service will not for the present be required to supply themselves with or wear the uniform but its use by all above included is urged so far as practicable.

(13) Collar ornaments shall be worn in pairs, one device on either side of coat or shirt collar.

(14) Sleeve insignia shall be worn on the upper right arm of coat or shirt.

(15) A service stripe of black braid 1/8" wide by 2 inches long. shall be allowed for each completed year of service, and a silver embroidered star for each completed five years. Service insignia shall be worn on the cuff of the left hand sleeve of coat, overcoat or shirt.

(16) Collar ornaments and sleeve and service insignia will be furnished by the Service upon requisition of the various park superintendents.

(17) These regulations shall be made applicable to officers and employees at Hot Springs Reservation with such modifications as in the discretion of the Director of the National Park Service may be appropriate.

(18) The above regulations shall become effective on July 1, 1920, but all officers and rangers are urged to supply themselves with complete uniform equipment at the earliest possible date.

Approved:
(sgd) Stephen T. Mather
Director, National Park Service

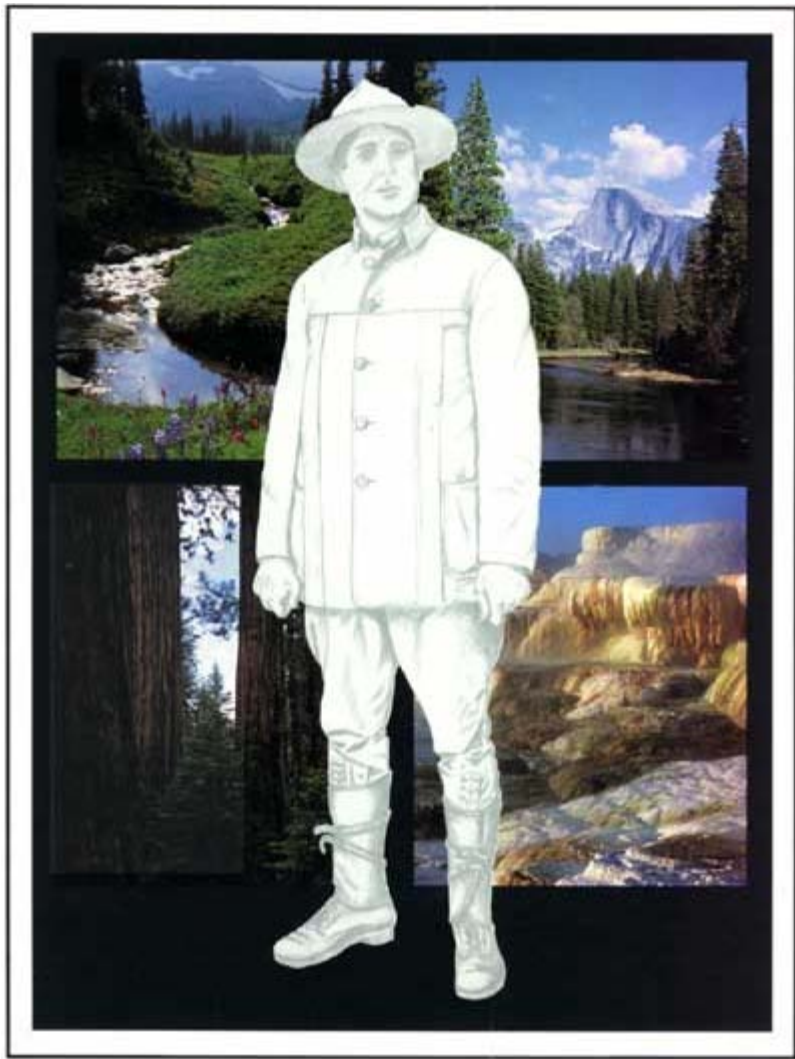
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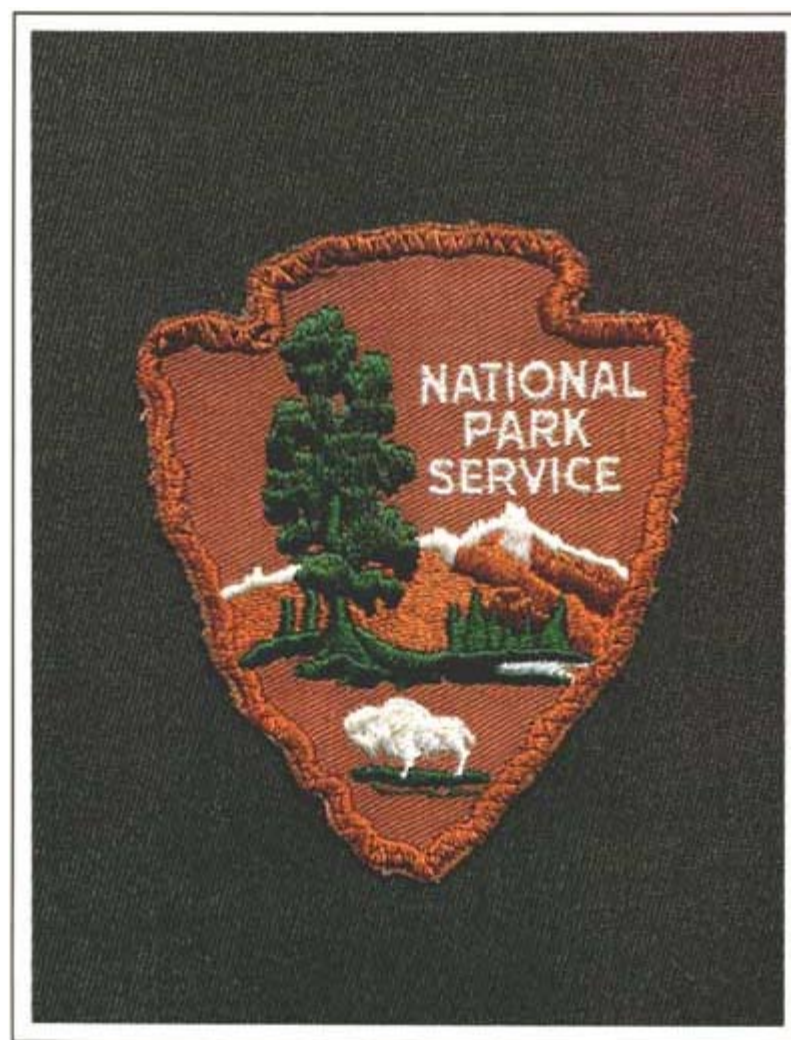
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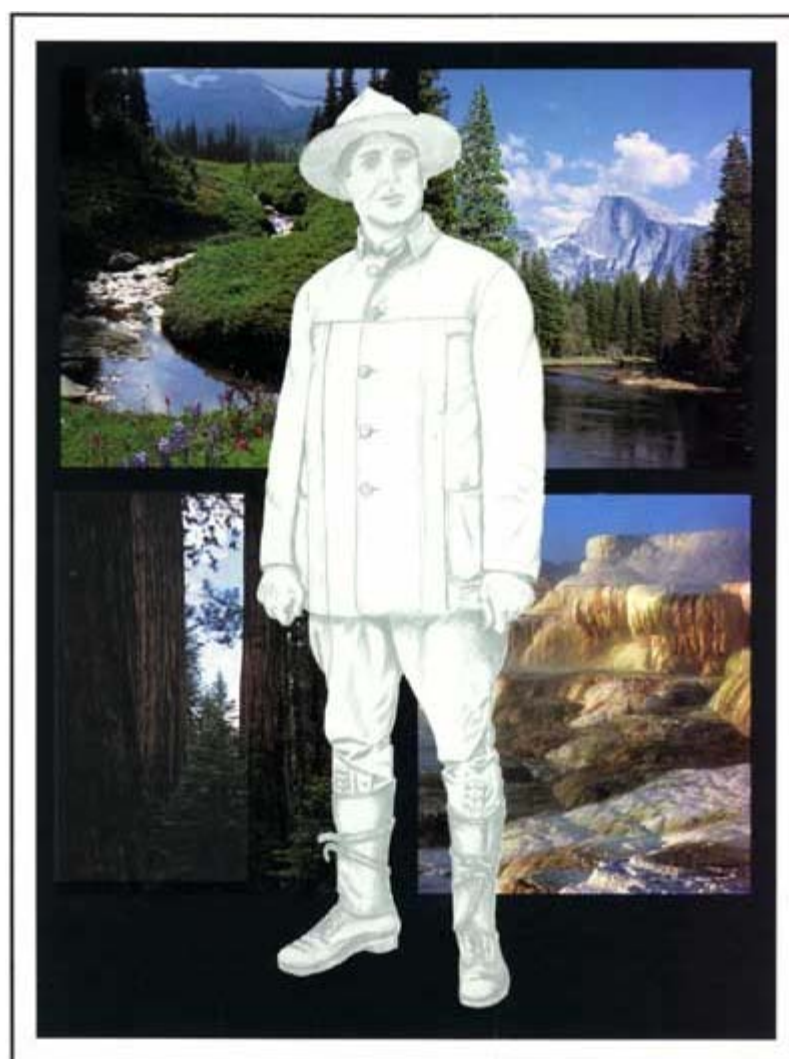
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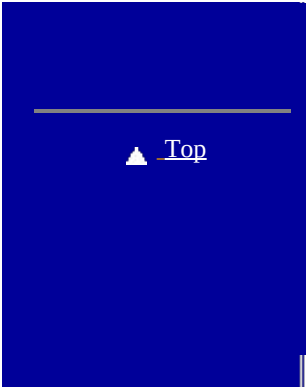
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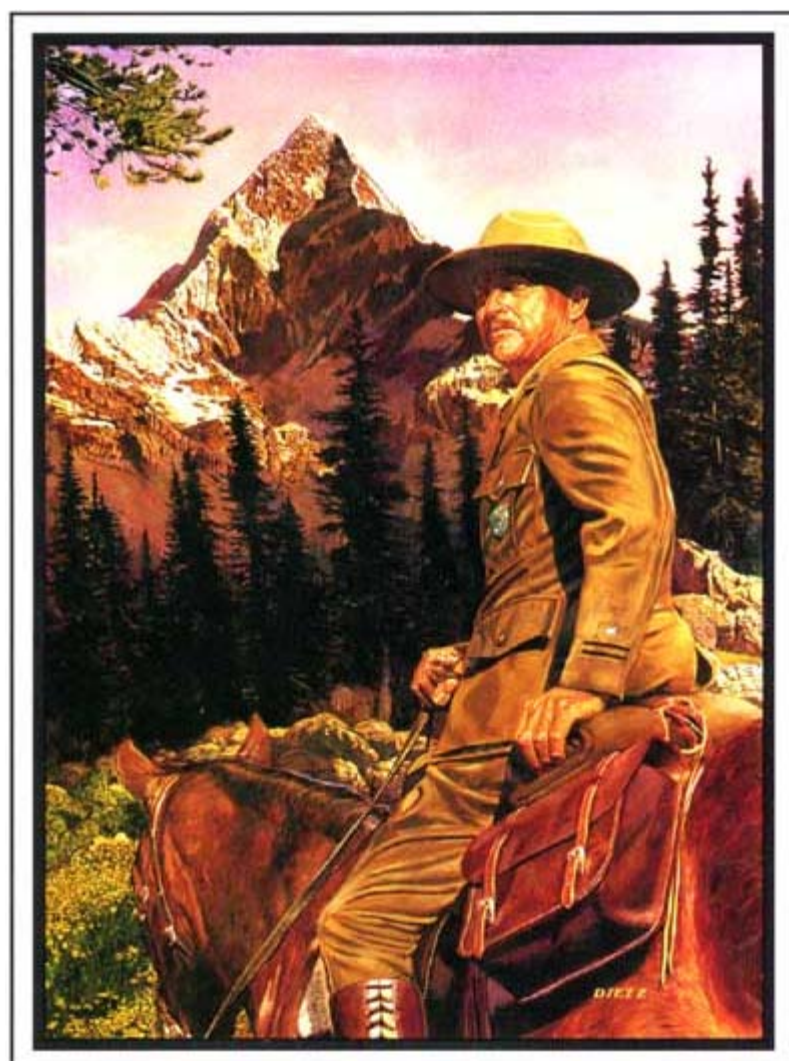
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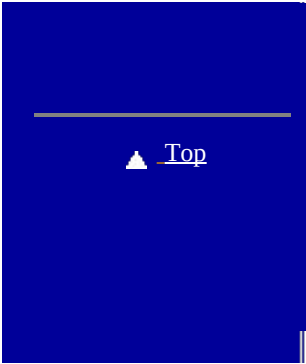
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1920-1932

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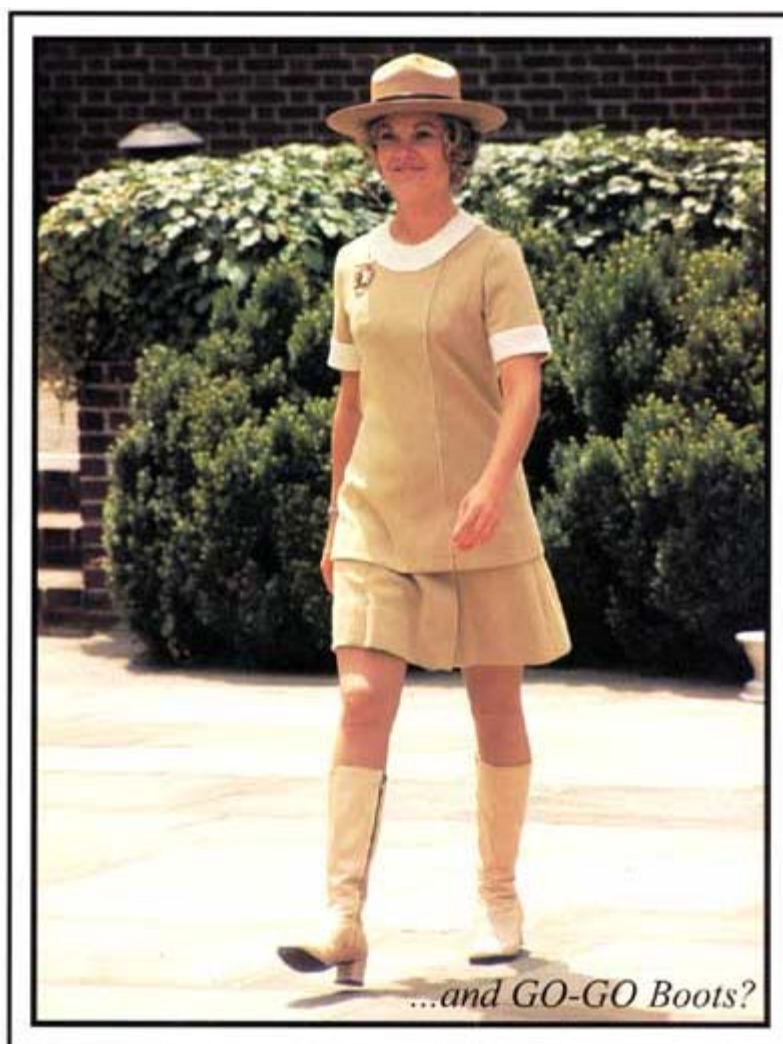
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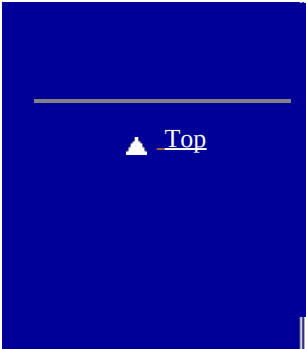
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...and GO-GO Boots?

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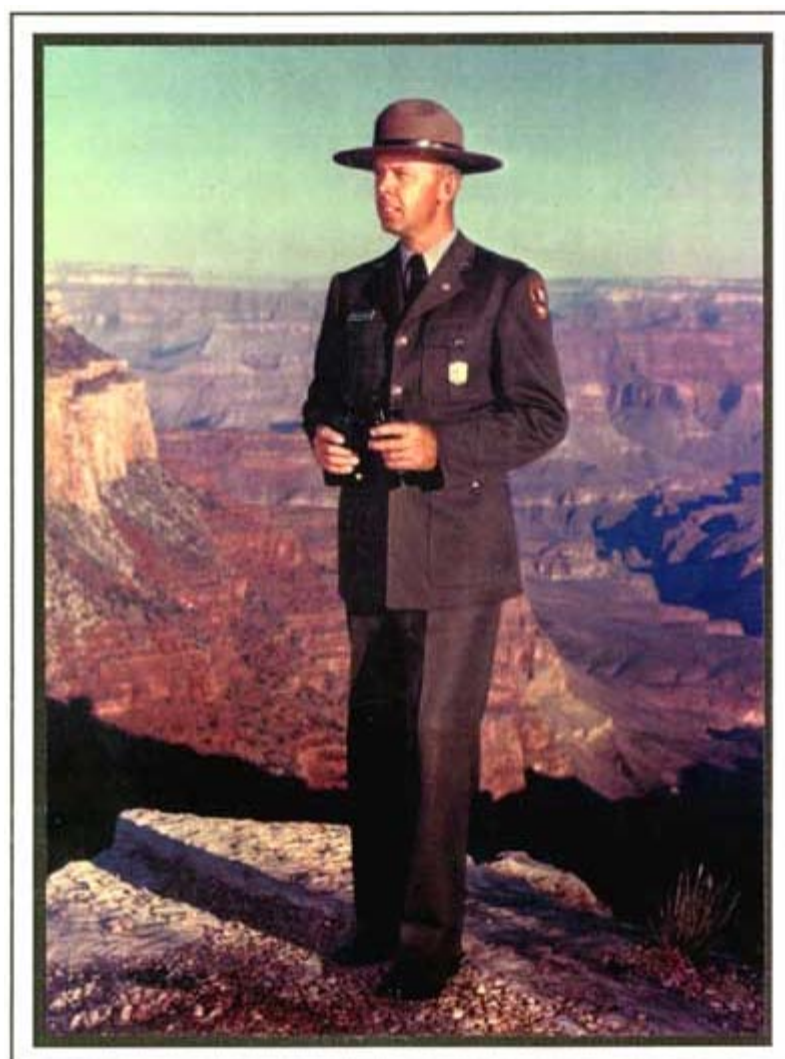
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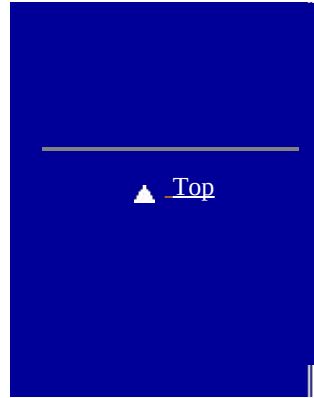
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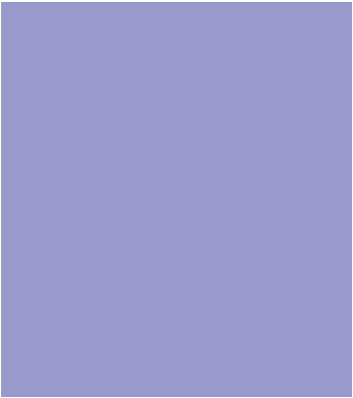
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Manzanar National Historic Site in California

The Park History Program, begun in 1931, preserves and protects our nation's cultural and natural resources by conducting research on national parks, national historic landmarks, park planning and special history studies, oral histories, and interpretive and management plans. Our staff helps evaluate proposed new parks, and we support cultural resources personnel in parks, regional offices, and Washington in all matters relating to the history and mission of the Park Service.

Located in Washington and led by the chief historian, the program offers a window into the historical richness of the National Park System and the opportunities it presents for understanding who

we are, where we have been, and how we as a society, might approach the future. For questions about any of the program areas below, please [contact us](#).

Park History Program Areas:

- For the National Park Service [oral history](#) has long been an invaluable way to document the history of individual parks and the people and events the parks commemorate. Interviews also safeguard the collective memory and expertise of the people who have shaped the Park Service over the years.
- As the Deputy Federal Preservation Office for the National Park Service, we manage [park National Register documentation](#) and assist parks and regional offices with Register and National Historic Landmark preparation.
- The [Maritime Heritage](#) program documents and protects National Park Service and nationally significant maritime resources. It also administers the National Maritime

Heritage Grant Program that provides matching funds for maritime preservation, restoration and education.

- The National Park Service recognizes the value added to its conservation mission by a comprehensive understanding of the [agency's history](#). The origins and development of our parks and programs tell their own story about how Americans have identified, managed, and interpreted special places across the country.



Historic grave markers on the Chilkoot Trail, Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, Alaska.

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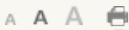
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