



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Mount Rainier National Park
Superintendent's Office

55210 238th Avenue E.
Ashford, WA 98304-9751

360-569-2211 phone
360-569-2169 fax

Mount Rainier National Park News Release

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Contact: Brooke Childrey, 360-569-2211, x2366



A Piece of History Returns to Mount Rainier

On July 20, Mount Rainier National Park will become the official owner of the vintage 1937 Kenworth Touring Motor Coach pictured above. This coach transported visitors to Mount Rainier between 1937 and 1962 from the historic Winthrop Hotel in Tacoma and Olympic Hotel in Seattle. The bus is being donated to the park by owners Art Redford and Frank Pupo of Gig Harbor. The coach was purchased by Art Redford in 1985.

An informal donation ceremony will be held at Longmire in front of the historic Longmire Gas Station at 2:00 p.m. on July 20. Mr. Redford and Mr. Pupo plan to drive the coach from Tacoma to Longmire for the ceremony.

According to the owners, the "coach" is one of only five built by Kenworth between 1937 and 1938. Three still remain active, one in Sitka, Alaska, one in Montana and the one pictured above.

During the past several years, the owners have generously allowed the park to use the coach for its Centennial celebrations in 1999, in 2007 when the park reopened after the six-month closure due to the destructive November 2006 floods, and again in May 2008 when the historic Paradise Inn reopened to the public after two years of rehabilitation.

The park plans to have the coach on display at various times throughout the summer.

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