



## CAVE History Update

A Newsletter from CAVE Cultural Resources in the Resources Stewardship and Science Division

August 29, 2003

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### Ed Greene Oral History Interview

On Thursday, August 28, 2003, Dave Kayser conducted an oral history interview with Ed Greene, the retiring chief of Stewardship Education & Visitor Services. The interview lasted over three hours, and according to Kayser, "was extremely interesting and informative."

Mr. Greene served for over twelve years in this position during which the Interpretive Division won two *Garrison Gold* awards, a unit citation for interpretive excellence. During his CAVE tenure, somewhere between an estimated 150 + permanent, seasonal, Student Conservation Association, and Volunteer-in-Park interpreters worked in the Interpretive Division, gaining valuable interpretive experience and training, and in many cases, moving on to NPS positions of increased responsibility.



He also supervised the Ranger Futures program here during which many permanent interpreters received increased responsibilities and promotions. He also created several positions of future importance to park operations with an Education Specialist, Fee Collection Manager, Museum Curator, and one especially important to me, Park Historian. His position management has resulted in an improved fees administration program and outreach education program.

Prior to his assignment here, cultural resources received scant attention because only interpretive collateral duty time could be devoted to it, and infrequently at that. Ed's creation of several positions dedicated to CAVE's cultural resources dramatically improved achievements in that area. Indeed, his foresight in this regard, created the opportunity for future incorporation of cultural resources in the RS & S division.

Under his leadership, the park also made significant strides in the park publications program and in the CAVE partnership with the cooperating association, *Carlsbad Caverns & Guadalupe Mountains Association*.

These are but a few of his accomplishments as the chief of Stewardship Education and Visitor Services, 1991 – 2003.

For the time being, Ed and his wife Loretta plan to continue making their home in the Carlsbad area.

## National Park Service Founder's Day

Under Founder's Day 2003 Coordinator Sam Franco's organization, several interpreters gave special programs August 25 through August 27 to celebrate the 87th anniversary of the establishment of the National Park Service on August 25, 1916.

In 1915, Connecticut-born Stephen Mather, in his upper 40s and a millionaire, and California-born Horace Albright, in his early 20s, a recent law school graduate and soon-to-be-married, met in Interior Secretary Franklin Lane's office, pulled chairs up close to a fireplace and talked to each other for about two hours about the possibility of them working on behalf of the national parks. At the end of the discussion, each agreed to give at least a year to the "job" to see how it might work out.

When NPS Director Mather passed away in 1930, his assistant, Horace M. Albright, took over as the National Park Service's second director. For me, the best book to fill in the intervening details of that decade and a half is *The Birth of the National Park Service* by Horace Albright (as told to Robert Cahn).

Below, I have included articles from an online book entitled *The National Park Service: The First 75 Years*. It can be found on the NPS history website at: [www.cr.nps.gov/history/online\\_books/sontag/index.htm](http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/online_books/sontag/index.htm)

### Stephen T. Mather 1867-1930

#### By William Swift

Stephen Tyng Mather led a full active life of 63 years, from 1867 to 1930. The years spanning the turn of the century saw vast changes in the country's demographics, as well as the development of modern forms of transportation and communication, and increased leisure time. Mather was able to capitalize on these trends in his marketing efforts at the Thorkildsen-Mather Borax Company, which made him a millionaire, and in his public life as the first director of the National Park Service. During his life, Mather was an active member of numerous organizations, including his college fraternity Sigma Chi, the Sun Alumni Association, the Chicago City Club and Municipal Voter's League, and the Sierra Club. He was always a strong supporter of the University of California at Berkeley. Mather was physically active, pursuing hiking and mountaineering, often squeezed into a frenzied travel schedule related to his business and the parks. His work, travel, and tremendous physical energy exacted a heavy toll and contributed to his untimely death.

Mather recognized magnificent scenery as the primary criterion for establishment of national parks. He was very careful to evaluate choices for parks, wishing the parks to stand as a collection of unique monuments. He felt those areas which were duplicates might best be managed by others. Within the framework of "scenery," his preservation ethic covered such issues as the locations of park developments, provision of vistas along roadways, and the perpetuation of the natural scene. Mather always wished to have the parks supported by avid users, who would then communicate their support to their elected representatives. His grasp of a grassroots support system encouraged the rise of "nature study" and modern interpretation, as well as other park services,



and was followed by increases in NPS appropriations. Mather was the first park professional to clearly articulate the policy which allowed the establishment of park concessioners to provide basic visitor comforts and services in the then undeveloped parks. His provision of creature comforts connected with park developments encouraged a curious and supportive public to visit the national parks.

Steven Mather's life is well summarized—on a series of bronze markers which were posthumously cast in his honor and distributed through many parks.

## **Horace Marden Albright** **1890-1987**

### **By Marian Albright Schenck**

Horace Albright was born in Bishop, California, on January 6, 1890. He attended the University of California, Berkeley, graduating in 1912. While confidential secretary to Secretary of the Interior Franklin Lane, he attended night school at Georgetown University to attain his law degree, and was admitted to the bar in the District of Columbia and California. He was appointed assistant director of the National Park Service when it was established, but was also acting director from 1917 to 1919 when first Director Stephen Mather was absent with severe illness. Other career mile stones included: superintendent of



Yellowstone National Park and assistant director, field (1919-1929); director of National Park Service (1929-1933); vice president and later president of United States Potash Company (1933-1956). He married his college classmate, Grace Noble, with whom he had two children, Robert and Marian, four grandchildren, and 11 great-grandchildren. He died in Van Nuys, California, March 28, 1987.

Beginning his career in Washington, D.C., Albright quickly rose from clerk to assistant solicitor and then secretary to Mather. During the summer of 1916, while Mather was away in the West, Albright attended meetings and discussions on the Park Service bill and saw it through to enactment. Four months later, Mather was hospitalized, and Albright, as acting director, organized the new bureau, set policies and procedures, and lobbied Congress for appropriations. He wrote the so-called "creed" for the National Park Service which appeared as a letter from Secretary Lane to Mather. Then as superintendent of Yellowstone, he also served as assistant director, field. When Yellowstone was closed in the winter, his job was to oversee all national park areas west of the Mississippi River as well as serve three or four months each year in the Washington Office.

In 1929 Albright was named director and instituted two far-reaching policies—expansion of national park areas throughout the states east of the Mississippi River and introduction of historic preservation into the National Park Service. In April 1933, President Franklin Roosevelt agreed to Albright's request for the transfer to the Park Service of national monuments from the Agriculture Department and military parks from the War Department. With most of his goals realized, Albright resigned to become vice president, and later, president of the United States Potash Company. He remained with the company until his retirement in 1956.

Horace Albright will be revered for his great contributions to a variety of causes, but perhaps he will be best remembered for his integrity, honesty, sense of humor, idealistic fighting spirit, loyalty, and devotion to his beloved National Park Service, which he had helped to found in 1916.

**Note It:**  
**Some Park Historical Notes**  
**From September**

**September 1926—New Construction:** No work on new construction during the month. However, it is imperative that we do construct additional comfort stations in the Cavern, as well as on the surface. Likewise, it is very important that we pipe the water from the surface to the lunch room in the Cavern and we are very much in need of a telephone system from the city of Carlsbad before the rush of business during the coming season.\*

\* In his 1926 September monthly report, Carlsbad Cave National Monument Custodian W.F. McLLvain observed that the park needed more comfort stations, a water line to the lunch room, and a telephone system. While the park had a telephone line to the King's Palace in 1926, it would be the early 1940s before we had a telephone system on the surface that connected with the outside world. So, from 1926 to the early 1940s, park managers received their "advice"/instructions by mail and telegram. Imagine working without computers.

**September 1927 -- New Construction:** Materials have been purchased and actual construction has started on the **stone cabins** on the Monument area.

**September 1929** – On the 26th we had another cave wedding: Mr. Lowell Ferris, and Miss Marion Goodbye, of Mesilla Park, Texas. This couple was married at the "Devil's Spring" instead of at the "Rock of Ages" which is selected by most of our wedding parties.

**September 1939 -- Special Improvement Activities:** Project Superintendent Rea of our **Civilian Conservation Corps camp** reports: Masonry wall, screening Cavern Supply washroom and storeroom in Cavern from public view, was practically completed during month, as also, **some of rock barriers at entrance to women's restroom**. Work on alteration and addition to Rattlesnake Springs Pump House progressed satisfactorily. **Employee's residence is progressing satisfactorily, although work has been slowed up some due to small force of enrollees available**. Roof framing is about complete and the brick coping has been started. All rough plumbing is complete and part of electrical installations made. The extension to the entrance road leading down to Rattlesnake Springs' area has been roughly graded to irrigation ditch crossing at Pump House. Gravel and clay topping is being hauled in to cover subgrade.

**September 1956 --** The driest September recorded back to 1931 and most of the springs and seeps were dry.

**September 1961 --** Peggy L. Justice entered on duty September 21 as a GS-3 Clerk-Typist (Cashier). (Many years in the future, Peggy became the Personnel Management Specialist for Carlsbad Caverns and Guadalupe Mountains National Parks.)

**September 1975 --** The **cave lighting project** started September 5. Some of the new lights in the Big Room were activated the following May and considerable improvement in light level and bringing out certain features was noted. The relighting of the Big Room was completed in September 1976; the main corridor was completed October 21; and the Scenic Rooms completed December 1 except for the Green Lake Room. All the new lights were installed by January 1977.

**September 1977 --** Seasonal Park Technician Charles Galt found an **orchid native** to CACA that was only found previously in the Glass Mountains southeast of the park and in one area in Mexico.

**September 1982 --** Superintendent Bill Dunmire participated in the dedication of the **Bataan Bridge in Carlsbad** on September 15. The dedication was attended by Governor Bruce King, other state officials, and a large number of survivors of the Bataan death march in the Philippines during World War II, along with family members.

**September 1983 -- Secretary of Interior James Watt**, Assistant Secretary of Land and Water Resources Gary Carruthers, and Congressman Joe Skeen visited the park on September 17. Approximately 600 persons attended the Annual Press Day banquet at the Civic Center in Carlsbad that evening with Secretary Watt as the guest speaker.

**September 1986 -- Tom Meador, a long-time friend of the caverns**, died. Tom was a prominent rancher in the San Angelo, Texas, area. He was an active caver and historian in the Guadalupe Mountains area for many years.

**September 1989 -- Ron Kerbo**, Cave Specialist, went to the **Soviet Union** as part of a 6-member US caving expedition team from August 22 through September 10. The visit reciprocated a visit to the US by a Soviet caving team last year.

A 10-day expedition into **Lechuguilla Cave** concluded on September 10. The cave's known length advanced to 41.4 miles, moving the cave to 6th place on the list of long caves in the U. S. Some significant new discoveries included more than a dozen new pools or lakes, running water in one area, more underwater helictites, more hydromagnesite balloon formations and a 150 foot high by 300-foot-wide red flowstone formation. The cave was extended both to the east and west.

The **Cave Research Institute Act of 1989** (S.855) and the **Lechuguilla Cave Study Act of 1989** (S.558) were passed by the US Senate; the House had not yet acted on the bills.

**September 1993 --** The **total number of caves** in the park was up to 81 with discovery of another cave between Yucca and Left Hook Canyons.