

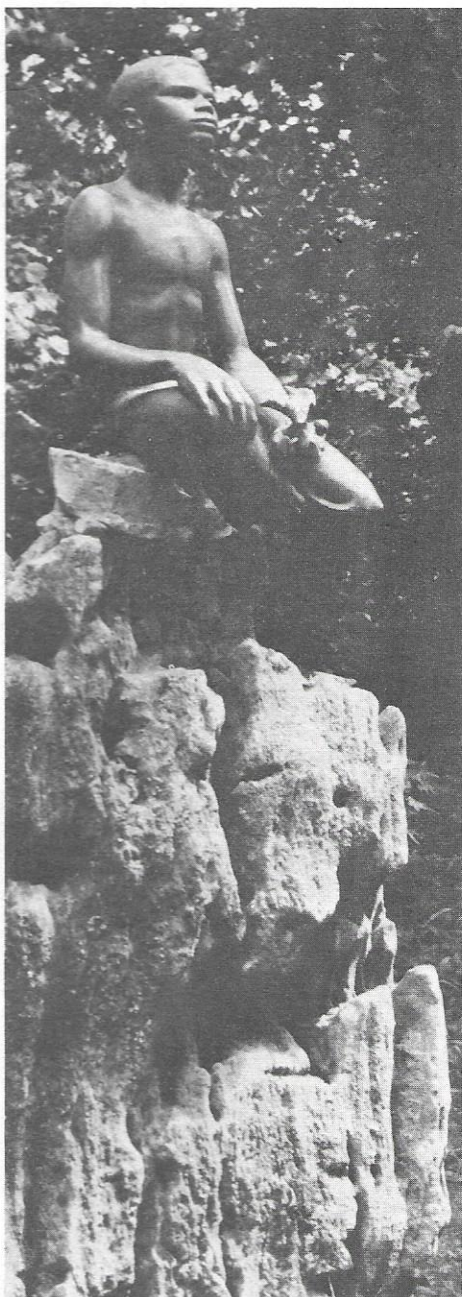
# COURIER

## The National Park Service Newsletter

Vol. 1, No. 3

January 1978

### NPS accepts deeds for two historic Tuskegee Institute buildings



(Above) Statue of George Washington Carver as a boy; (on right) boyhood home of Booker T. Washington.

Deputy Director Ira J. Hutchison accepted the deeds to two important properties for the Park Service at Tuskegee Institute Nov. 13, marking a significant step in the development of Tuskegee Institute National Historic Site, Ala.

The deeds to "The Oaks" and the "Carver Museum" were handed over to Hutchison by Tuskegee Institute President Dr. Luther H. Foster.

The Oaks, former home of Institute founder Booker T. Washington, is a 15-room house built of hand-made bricks by students at Tuskegee in 1899. The home of the Institute's founder and first president was the scene of receptions for faculty and distinguished guests, including President Theodore Roosevelt.

One of the first floor rooms is now used for showing a 15-minute film on the Institute's founding, "Lifting of the Veil," and a slide presentation on Tuskegee's effect on black education. Park Service staff interpreters also give talks on different aspects of Washington's life at the home.

The Carver Museum contains the laboratory where Dr. George Washington Carver, the school's most famous alumnus, worked on peanut and sweet potato projects that helped change the South's one-crop economy in agriculture and a collection of memorabilia relating to Dr. Carver's life.

In accepting the two deeds Deputy Director Hutchison said: "What we accept here today are merely physical things—lands and buildings and artifacts. What you can not transfer is the spirit of Tuskegee Institute. . . . It will be up to the National Park Service here at Tuskegee to perpetuate that spirit, which was so powerfully characterized by Booker T. Washington and George Washington Carver, and to interpret it properly for the many thousands of Americans who will visit here."

Park Service also holds title to another



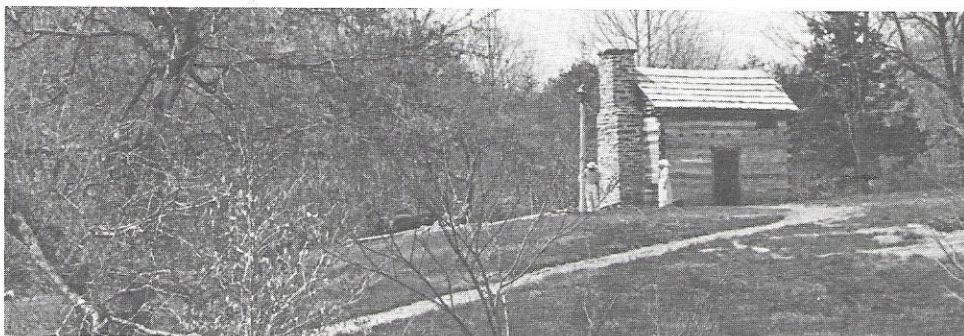
Deputy Director Ira A. Hutchison (left) and Dr. Luther H. Foster, President of Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee, Ala., at establishment ceremony of the national historic site, Nov. 13.

important building on the historic campus of Tuskegee Institute. Grey Columns, which serves as park headquarters as well as the visitor center, was built between 1852 and 1857 by William Varner. The two-story masonry, Greek-revival structure—described as the finest mansion in Alabama's Piedmont section has a porch extending around three sides, with 16 Doric columns rising the full two stories. Park Service guides are on hand at all three structures to answer visitor's questions.

There is also a three-quarter-mile nature trail.

Founded in 1881 by Booker T. Washington, Tuskegee Institute became a major force in launching black Americans into higher education. From two or three buildings, the school has expanded to 161 buildings and 4,000 students.

Authorized in 1974 by Congress, the 75-acre national historic site includes the founder's home, a museum-laboratory, established by Dr. Carver in 1938 and the ante-bellum mansion.







## Letters

### To The Editor:

It's time, once again, to re-evaluate our defensive equipment policy. It appears we will be doing away, for the most part, with our duty leather and the handcuffs, mace, ammo pouches, and baton rings that go along with it, as well as the four-inch barrel duty revolver; this upon the pretense that our profile will thus be lowered to within acceptable standards for law enforcement officers performing duties in NPS areas.

While I am sure the directives being handed down to this effect are rooted in good intentions, I can't help but think a less than realistic and prudent attitude is reflected.

First of all, I assume the "lower profile" is sought in hope that our park visitors will be less intimidated and not have to encounter a law enforcement image while on vacation, and, rather, will see the traditional ranger in his Smokey Bear attire only. What is it we're afraid they'll be intimidated from doing? Might not the opposite attitude be taken . . . that the average law abiding citizen might take comfort in seeing that his or her *still* friendly park rangers have all the expected professional defensive equipment immediately at their disposal to cope with any crime problem that might *really* ruin a vacation? Why should citizens be required to rely upon more poorly equipped enforcement officers than normal just because they are away from home? Likewise, with crime rates increasing radically in our parks, perhaps it's time we recognized the value of trying to intimidate potential violators.

Beyond the mere image matter, some realistic, potentially disastrous consequences could easily result from curtailment of immediate access to the full line of defensive equipment and the accompanying reduced profile.

Starting with the service revolver itself, it should first be noted that the .38 special cartridge is only a marginally effective round at its very best. This marginal status is attained only with the use of long barrels (preferably six inches), expansion or semi-wadcutter type bullets, and, best yet, hot hand loads. The ammunition we currently carry, used in a four-inch barrel, probably yields 50 percent or less stopping reliability. Used in a two-inch barrel, velocities and resultant bullet expansion become pathetic, with defense effectiveness reduced even further. With the reduction in reliable bullet expansion, risk of the projectile passing

through its intended target is increased and hazards to bystanders are magnified. All of the above statements can easily be supported by opinions expressed in writings by this Nation's top firearms authorities (Keith, Cooper, Jordan, Williams, Mason, Skelton, etc., etc.), not to mention documentation by numerous police departments.

Even beyond a ballistics and effectiveness standpoint, there are more drawbacks to use of a reduced barrel length.

- 1) Sight radius is reduced by half, with resultant effective accuracy reduced. Safety suffers.
- 2) With reduced barrel length comes reduced weapon weight and increased experienced recoil. Effective accuracy tends to be reduced. With increased experienced recoil effect, recovery time from one shot to the next increases.
- 3) No two-inch barrel .38 special revolver that I am aware of features an ejector rod long enough to facilitate full extraction of the spent shells. Therefore, it frequently is necessary to remove them by hand, one at a time, before re-loading can occur.

Safety objections can also be put forward against the elimination of the duty belt and equipment that goes with it. The bulk of this argument rides upon the belief that an officer just never can tell when the defensive equipment will be needed, whether working in a problem area like Lake Mead NRA or a traditionally sleepy outpost like Wilson's Creek National Battlefield. You can't predict when you will take a prisoner and will need handcuffs. You can't know in advance, every time, when you will encounter a fight and need a baton or mace. The park visitors have a right to expect their rangers to be prepared at *all* times, and not just when they're responding to an incident with prior knowledge of the situation to be encountered. What if a fight breaks out in the lounge while rangers are eating lunch in the adjacent cafe? Are they supposed to tell persons involved to "wait" while they run to their patrol car to get their equipment? There usually is no backup. Is it better to remain on the scene with only the two-inch weapons and their very friendly image and further risk unnecessary injury to themselves and the public because, let us say, the weapons had to be drawn where the baton or mace might have sufficed to subdue an assailant with a broken bottle or glass in hand? Incidents like this happen all the time in our parks, to lesser and greater extents. The possi-

bilities for variations on this theme are nerve wracking.

Another argument that can be presented might be viewed as defensive for NPS administration, itself. Should not this organization's management protect itself and the taxpayers from lawsuits possibly arising out of an injury of death sustained by a ranger in the course of duty, where it can be shown in a court of law that injury could have been avoided had more ready access to defensive equipment been permitted?

It seems to me that it's time the Park Service went all out to professionalize its enforcement program. The other alternative, of course, is to leave enforcement in our parks, to a larger degree, up to the local authorities. I'm certain we would all prefer to see our own people, under our own control, patrolling our vacation areas. Let's let them do so with the very best equipment available at all times.

Paul D. Berkowitz  
Park Technician  
Grand Teton NP, Wyo.

### To The Editor:

I appreciate your "rescue" article (August 1977 *Newsletter*) concerning Susan Carol Aman, but I feel that Glen Canyon Ranger Bruce Freet and concession shop manager, Luther Cook should also have received some mention. Both Freet and Cook, a retired fireman and paramedic, used mouth-to-mouth resuscitation when Susan's breathing became 'gurgley', appearing that she might have aspirated something into her lungs. They also transported Susan to the Hite Airstrip and Cook flew with Susan and her mother to the Moab hospital. I don't think Susan would have made it if these two hadn't performed as they did.

James M. Dempsey  
Regional Safety Mgr.  
Rocky Mountain Region

Letters are welcome. Only a selection can be published and none individually acknowledged. All are subject to condensation.



## People on the move



### New faces

ADAMS, Andrew A., Realty Officer, Buffalo River Land Acquisition Office  
ANDERSON, Dorothy R., Sec, Office of Natural Science, Everglades NP  
ANDREWS, John L., Park Tech, Colonial NHP  
BAKER, Janice A., Sec, Golden Gate NRA  
BELL, James W., Park Tech, Independence NHP

BENTZ, Jeffrey L., Landscape Architect, MA/NA Team  
BILSKI, John T., Carpenter, Gettysburg NMP  
BOONE, Elmer J., Laborer, Blue Ridge Pkwy  
BRANDER, Robert B., Ecologist, Apostle Islands NL  
BROWN, Gerald W., Laborer, Natchez Trace Pkwy  
CALLOR, Carolyn M., Clerk-Typist, MW/RM Team, DSC

CARROLL, Ray E., Maintenance Mechanic, Guilford Courthouse NMP  
CASSON, Jon H., Laborer, Gulf Islands NS  
CRABTREE, Stephen C., Concessions Mgmt Spec, Yosemite NP  
CROPPER, Irene Y., Sec, Valley Forge NHP  
DALPEZ, Maria L., Clerk-Typist, MW/RM Team, DSC  
DAVAGE, Geoffrey W., Maintenance Worker, Area II Grounds Maintenance, NCR