

**"OH, RANGER!" A
BOOK ABOUT THE
NATIONAL PARKS**

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"Oh, ranger!" A book about the national parks by Horace M. Albright & Frank J. Taylor

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HORACE M. ALBRIGHT & FRANK J. TAYLOR

**"OH, RANGER!" A
BOOK ABOUT THE
NATIONAL PARKS**



*Harry Yount, of Yellowstone,
the first national park ranger*

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"Oh, Ranger!"

A Book about the National Parks

By

Horace M. Albright and Frank J. Taylor

Illustrated by

Ruth Taylor White



Stanford University Press
Stanford University, California
1929

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A Word of Introduction

To me no picture of the national parks is complete unless it includes the rangers, the "Dudes," the "Sagebrushers," and the "Savages." I like to picture the thousands of people gathered about the park campfires, asking questions of the rangers. In fact, I like to be at the campfire myself, and listen to the thousands of questions asked about the parks and their wild life. Especially am I interested in the replies of the rangers. These men of the mountains have become keen students of human nature. In their brief, informal talks, they have learned to anticipate many of the questions of the visitors.

I like the idea of this book, "*Oh, Ranger!*" It tells the story of the parks in the simple, informal style of the rangers. It gives the rangers the credit due them for their fine work in guarding the national parks and preserving them in their primeval beauty. It breathes the spirit of the people who belong to the parks, who make possible the parks as they are today.

They are a fine, earnest, intelligent, and public-spirited body of men, these rangers. Though small in number, their influence is large. Many and long are the duties heaped upon their shoulders. If a trail is to be blazed, it is "send a ranger." If an animal is floundering in the snow, a ranger is sent to pull him out; if a bear is in the hotel, if a fire threatens a forest, if someone is to be saved, it is "send a ranger." If a Dude wants to know the why, if a Sagebrusher is puzzled about a road, it is "ask the ranger." Everything the ranger knows, he will tell you, except about himself. "*Oh, Ranger!*" now tells you about him.

The national parks are more than the storehouses of Nature's rarest treasures. They are the playlands of the people, wonderlands easily accessible to the rich and the humble alike. They are great out-of-doors recreation grounds, where men, women, and children can forget the cares and the sounds of the cities for a few days. The serenity of the mountains and the forests is contagious. With three million Americans under its spell each year, if only for a short time, it is a powerful influence in our national life. It has been one of the pleasures of my work as Director of the National Park Service to tell the people about their parks, to urge them to see their wonders, and to find new and easy ways for visitors to reach the parks. The whole purpose of Congress in creating the national park system was that the American people might enjoy them and benefit by them forever.

So I am glad of the opportunity to write this short introduction to "*Oh, Ranger!*" which tells the story of the parks in a new and interesting

way, and to say a word about its authors. Horace Albright has served the national parks since the service was organized, first as assistant director in Washington and then in the field. He is an indefatigable worker, a true lover of the mountains. He knows the rangers and undoubtedly knows the parks better than any other man in the service. Frank Taylor has been a friend of the parks for many years, as newspaperman and writer. He, too, has spent much time in them and has helped bring their possibilities to the attention of the people. It is a happy circumstance that two men who themselves have the genuine spirit of the rangers and who are so intimately informed in the affairs of the parks and their people should have collaborated to produce this book.

STEPHEN T. MATHER

Director, National Park Service

WASHINGTON, D. C.

March 1, 1928

Table of Contents

	PAGE
"Oh, Ranger!"	1
Dudes and Sagebrushers	17
Speaking of Bears	33
Wild Animals You May Know	47
Goin' Fishin'	65
"Indians!"	81
Nature's Notes	97
"Hey, Hiker!"	111
The Story of the National Park Service	121
The National Parks and Monuments	139
Index	171

