

**SUPERINTENDENT'S ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT, 2007  
LITTLE BIGHORN BATTLEFIELD NATIONAL MONUMENT**



**"Sunrise over Battle Ridge/Indian Memorial & Last Stand Hill", 2007 - John A. Doerner, NPS-LIBI**

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**Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument started 2007 with our primary focus on: 1) Enhancement of visitor services and visitor experience; 2) Consultation with the various tribes for the permanent interpretive panels on the interior walls of the Indian Memorial; 3) Upgrading the battlefield's infrastructure; 4) Planning for additional visitor service space; 5) Reburial of Sitting Bull at LIBI.**

### **1) 131st Anniversary Observance –**

June 25 & 26, 2007 marked the 131<sup>st</sup> Anniversary observance of the Battle of the Little Bighorn. Again, our role this year was largely supportive as host to the public and our various support groups including Friends of the Little Bighorn, Custer Battlefield Historical & Museum Association (CBHMA), and Lakota, Cheyenne, Arapaho, and Arikara Scout organizations.

## **PEACE THROUGH UNITY - PROGRAM**

### **SATURDAY JUNE 23, 2007**

8:00 AM Park Opens

8:00 AM CBMHA Wreath laying (Location: Reno Benteen Monument)

4:00 PM CBMHA Wreath laying (Location: 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Memorial)

### **SUNDAY JUNE 24, 2008**

8:00 AM Park Opens

10am - 5pm Ongoing presentations by FT Abraham Lincoln staff Location: Tipi Near Amphitheater Area

12:00 Noon Last Stand Hill Wreath Laying

10am-12:30pm CBHMA Annual Meeting at Stone House

1:00 PM Arikara Old Scouts Society Program, White Shield, North Dakota.

Location: Amphitheater (Behind Visitor Center)

- Welcome by Darrell J. Cook, Superintendent, Little Bighorn Battlefield NM
  - Mark Fox, Old Scouts Society
  - Rhoda Starr, Old Scouts Society
  - \*Other Speakers to be announced
  - Special unveiling of the new Arikara Markers for Bloody Knife, Sgt. Bobtail Bull & Little Brave killed in action on 25 June 1876 will follow. Location: Reno-Benteen Battlefield Entrenchment Trail No. 1 Overlook.
  - Taps: John A. Doerner, Chief Historian, NPS-LIBI
- Special Thanks to:
- Old Scouts Society
  - Rhoda Starr

- The Friends of Little Bighorn Battlefield
- Little Bighorn Battlefield Staff
- Veterans Administration

## Monday June 25<sup>th</sup>

- 8:00 AM Park Opens, *no fee charged* to visiting public
- 8-10 AM Bighorn Riders on horseback  
Northeast slope near park boundary,  
and north of Indian Memorial
- 10:00 AM Victory Riders arrive on horseback
- 10:00 AM Steve Alexander and 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry,  
Re-enactment Group  
Wreath laying Indian Memorial and Last Stand Hill
- 10am - 5pm Ongoing presentations by Ft Abraham Lincoln staff  
Location: Teepee Near Amphitheater Area
- 11:00 AM Northern Cheyenne Tribal Chairman, Eugene Little Coyote  
United Tribal Allies
- 3:00 PM Northern Cheyenne Horseback Riders arrive from HWY 212
- 3:00 PM Northern Cheyenne Delegation Program  
Welcome by Darrell Cook, Superintendent  
Historical Remarks on Cheyenne at Little Bighorn by John A. Doerner, Chief  
Historian  
Location: Amphitheater

**1) Visitation** - Chief Ranger Michael Stops reports that Year-To-Date visitation was down 2.61% in 2007 with 293,295 visitors (YTD), as compared to 301,145 visitors in 2006. Record high gasoline prices, another summer of extreme temperatures, drought, and severe wildfires burning throughout Montana, including Big Horn County and nearby counties are likely contributing factors for the decrease.

**2) Indian Memorial** – We are still working to finalize work on the permanent interpretive panels for the interior walls of the Indian Memorial. Several consultation meetings with the Northern Cheyenne were conducted at LIBI and we also worked with the Arikara to finalize their text and graphics for their interpretive

panel. James Charles, Management Assistant for LIBI and Big Horn Canyon NRA (BICA) is to be commended for his assistance to Darrell Cook in 2007 and for coordinating and attending numerous tribal consultation meetings here. James also did all of the electronic computer graphic layouts and provided large color copies for all the tribes and LIBI which was invaluable to us. In previous years we consulted closely with all of the respective tribes including the Lakota, Cheyenne, Arapaho, Crow and Arikara to strategize and came up with the text and graphics for all of the interior wall panels to provide temporary interpretation for the public. RoGene Whiteman is to be commended for all her assistance in coordinating consultation with all the respective tribes, especially the Northern Cheyenne, which was a great help to Superintendent Darrell Cook (Retired from NPS in 2008). Future work will now look at how to proceed with actual contracting, and what needs to be done to the existing granite panels exterior finish before they can be inscribed. This will involve possible removal of each panel by the contractor for off-site polishing and final inscription/graphics, or perhaps explore the possibility of conducting polish work and inscription/graphic work on-site if it is even possible or feasible.

**1&2) Administration** - In FY2007 our ONPS Budget was \$1,082,600 with 20 FTE's, as compared to \$1,052,600 and 20 FTE's in FY2006.

Our administrative staff led by Cathy Not Afraid, our dedicated Administrative Officer, continued to keep up with the high volume of requests including purchase orders, from other divisions, and the hectic pace of LIBI's daily operations. Prudence Pretty On Top, LIBI IT Tech was busy keeping our computer and telephone systems in order and is to be commended for all her hard work. Anna Bellrock who was hired as administrative clerk/receptionist in 2006 was aided by Sandy Harris who was hired in 2007 as our new Office Assistant.

**1) Community Relations** - LIBI continues to have a strong relationship with the local community and our battlefield related organizations including: Crow Tribe, Crow Agency, Northern Cheyenne Tribe, Lakota Sioux Tribes, Hardin, Billings, and government agencies. Our outreach and educational programs

foster strong ties with the community. Superintendent Darrell Cook is to be commended for all his hard work with the Crow Tribe, and Custer Battlefield Preservation Committee on boundary adjustments and land transfers that would be mutually beneficial to Little Bighorn Battlefield, Big Horn Canyon National Recreation Area, and the Crow Tribe. The goal is additional lands that would be gained will ultimately be turned over to the Crow Tribe, and managed by NPS policy to ensure protection of our fragile view shed that surrounds Little Bighorn Battlefield. LIBI also made our new Training and Conference Room located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of our new Administration Building available to the local community, including the Crow Tribe, BIA, and other groups throughout the year.

**1) NPS-LIBI Employee Safety** - LIBI is to be commended for having no lost-time injuries in 2007 and again was below our 5 year average for our important PMDS Goal average of 4. We stressed a proactive safety program that empowers our employees to be safe and work safe at all times.

**5) Sitting Bull Reburial** - In the fall of 2006 Ernest W. LaPointe, Great Grandson of Sitting Bull (Lineal Descendant) made request to NPS-LIBI to transfer Sitting Bull's remains to Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument for perpetual protection, in response to an original agreement with the family to properly maintain Mobridge grave site that was not kept. Family concern for lack of security and maintenance of site within the Standing Rock Reservation that has been used by local residents for illegal drinking and partying at grave site since 1953. Grave is littered with trash, alcoholic beverage containers and shows signs of vandalism to the grave which family feel is inappropriate and insulting to Sitting Bull and the family. Also concern of commercial development plans by new owners who have failed to contact Sitting Bull's family. Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument (LIBI) has been working closely with the Sitting Bull descendents on the Indian Memorial, warrior markers, and museum exhibits over the past five years. LIBI supported the request because it would honor the legacy of Sitting Bull as a champion of the Lakota, provide perpetual care and protection of his grave site for future generations, and help balance the story of the Battle of the Little Bighorn while recognizing the American Indian role in American history. LIBI held several on-site meetings with Mr. LaPointe throughout 2007 including one with his sisters and their immediate family members. NPS-LIBI began formal consultation with both IMR-Denver and WASO for support and authorization to

proceed with appropriate NEPA/Sec. 106 Compliance, including an Environmental Assessment and appropriate public scoping meetings. **Update:** In FY2008 however, NPS-LIBI was notified by the Sitting Bull family that they have decided not to inter Sitting Bull at LIBI, but have decided to inter him at an undisclosed private location that will be known only to the family.

**1) Cooperating Associations & Concessions – Western National Parks Association (WNPA):** W.N.P.A. provided NPS-LIBI with \$45,576.32 as compared to \$77,156.00 in 2006. Our total sales generated from the Battlefield Bookstore was \$577,169.00 They continue to be a vital part of our interpretive operations, and have once again provided funds for reprinting of all of our park trail guides (Custer National Cemetery, Deep Ravine Trail, & Entrenchment Trail), in addition to our summer newspaper/Interpretive Program Schedule. WNPA also helped us to sponsor numerous NPS events including: Indian Memorial Tribal consultation meetings for the permanent interpretive panels which will be inscribed on the interior granite walls. WNPA also had staff from their Tucson Headquarters helping to update and rearrange the bookstore to enhance traffic flow and increase sales. Loreen Walks Crooked Arm our WNPA Field Manager is to be commended again for her dedication, professionalism and management of the battlefield bookstore and WNPA staff; a massive undertaking. Arlene Dawes, and all the WNPA employees are also to be commended for their hard work and dedication in 2007 to the continued success of the bookstore which is a critical visitor service and essential part of our overall operations here.

**1) Apsaalooke Tours:** This is the 11<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our partnership with Little Bighorn College which has operated Apsaalooke Tours under a concessions permit. The one-hour guided bus tours are an important interpretive concessions service for park visitors. 630 bus tours were given to 10,739 visitors from Memorial Day to October 1, 2007 grossing \$50,000.00, an increase from 2006 despite lower overall park visitation. Two new tour busses were purchased in 2007 and really enhanced their operations with the latest efficient and comfortable transportation available. Several large capacity vans were also in service when needed to help off-set costs and lower visitation periods. The

success of the concessions in 2007 is attributed to the dedication of managerial staff, and the Crow students who eagerly share their cultural perspective on the Battle of the Little Bighorn and their unique tribal history with the visiting public.

**1) Interpretive Division** - Ken Woody, Chief of Interpretation, reports another successful season and exceeded the 78% park goal of Visitor Understanding & Appreciation, scoring 82% despite a decrease in visitation, with quality staff training and top-notch interpretive programs (1% over 2006). We continued with the basic themes of the “Battle Talk”, “Indian Village” and “Soldiers in 1876” every 45 minutes throughout the summer starting at 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM daily at the visitor center patio. The following is a breakdown of visitor services provided in 2007: 1,001 **Ranger Talks/Interpretive programs** given to 49,437 visitors; 5 community off-site programs given to 151 students; 865 Jr. Rangers were signed up; 2094 orientation films of “Their Shots Quit Coming” were given to 237,261 visitors; Over 60 educational school packets processed by mail; and over 30 mail requests were processed. Bus Tours: 7,913 visitors attended 562 1 hour bus tours provided by Little Bighorn College/Apsaalooke Tours despite a long and extremely hot summer and daily temperatures averaging from 80-100+ degrees which taxed both staff and their passengers as well as the vehicle air-conditioners. Marvin Dawes, Crow Tribal member is again our lead interpretive ranger with career potential in the NPS. Jerry Jasmer, of Billings, Montana, (also our experienced and dedicated Lead Interpreter) continued in the Long Term Position assist Ken and Marvin with operations, including leading Military Staff Rides at LIBI. A full compliment of Seasonal Interpretive Rangers returned this year including Michael Donahue of Temple, Texas (his 18<sup>th</sup> year); Frances Takes Enemy of Ft Smith, Montana, Tom Smith of Colorado, Steve Littleton of Ohio, and new ranger Rose Williamson who began her first tour of duty here.

**1) Friends of The Little Bighorn Battlefield** – Bob Reece, President of Friends announced that 2007 marked the 11<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Friends of Little Bighorn and we have a very proud track record of partnership with the NPS at LIBI and have succeeded in every project we have been involved with at the

battlefield. Accomplishments in 2007 are included in their Annual Report:

**Friends of the Little Bighorn Battlefield  
Annual Report to the Superintendent  
2007 -**

Our cash contributions for 2007 amounted to \$5,000. Our general funds have surpassed the \$30K level and still growing. Here is a list of other accomplishments:

- The Friends provided 600 volunteer hours for the organization.
- 20 members assisted the NPS by providing interpretation along the Keogh and Deep Ravine Trails June 24-25, 2007.
- We donated \$5,000 for the future Sitting Bull exhibit. Board member Mike Semenock presented the check to Superintendent Darrell Cook during the Friends general membership meeting on June 24, 2007.
- We donated the wreath for the Arikara Scout marker ceremony held on June 24, 2007.
- We held a successful fundraiser for Friends on June 23, 2007 at the administration building. Guest speakers included Chief Curator Sharon Small, with assistance from Jerry Jasmer, discussed the Marquis collection. Ernie LaPointe discussed the Sitting Bull exhibit. And, Margot Liberty added input regarding Marquis.
- We held our annual general membership meeting on June 24 outside the administrative building while providing a Friends Feast – bar-b-que for Friends members.
- We continue to provide updated information of the soldier and warrior participant list that the Chief Historian can use for record. We also maintain that list on the Friends' website resulting in less correspondence work for the monuments Chief Historian – we hope!
- Our membership has grown to 225 from 217 the year before.
- We have kept our costs down to a bare minimum. Newsletters to our members continue to cost under \$400 each. Board members contribute their own funds for some expenses like



the web hosting of the Friends' website and maintaining its domain name.

- We continue to sale products in the visitor center bookstore. Our visitor sales committee now includes Neil Mangum (Chairman), Lola Mauer, and Kay Hunsaker.
- Our website continues to grow in content and visitation has finally leveled off after continued growth for the past seven years. So far for the period from Jan 2007 through October 2007 we have had 198,301 visitors with 5,244,453 hits.
- We added one new board member: Kay Hunsaker has a long tradition of support to the Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument and I feel confident she'll continue that support as a board member of Friends.
- We held a successful fundraiser for Friends on June 23, 2007 at the administration building. Guest speakers included: Chief Curator Sharon Small, with assistance from Jerry Jasmer, Lead Interpretive Ranger, discussed the Thomas B. Marquis Collection. Ernie LaPointe, Great-Grandson of Sitting Bull spoke about Sitting Bull's life. Margot Liberty, Author of Cheyenne memories was also on hand to discuss Thomas B. Marquis.

**1) Armed Forces Day Taps/Taps Echo Observance** - In honor of our American Armed Forces, the National Park Service in partnership with the Veterans Administration held a national day of observance on Saturday May 19, 2007. At exactly 11:00 AM throughout all of the NPS sites with National Cemeteries, taps and taps echo was played by volunteers across the United States. John Doerner, LIBI Chief Historian represented NPS-LIBI at Custer National Cemetery and played taps with his old army bugle, and his echo was played by Jerry Akers, United States Navy veteran of the Korean War, and a member of Bugles Across America, from Ronan, Montana. We hope that this important event will become a tradition here in future years.

**1) Memorial Day Observance** - Our annual Memorial Day Observance was held on May 28, 2007 at 11:00 AM in the amphitheater. Marvin Dawes was Master of Ceremony. Attendee's included: Hardin American Legion Post #8 & VFW James Louk Post

#7481 who served as Color Guards/Rifle Teams. Key Note Speaker was Captain Richard S. Newell, U.S. Army Recruiting Office, Sheridan, WY. Our Lead Interpreter Reverend Jerry Jasmer conducted the invocation and closing prayer. Ken Boggio of Hardin played taps.

**3&4) Visitor Center Expansion** - I would like to extend my appreciation to all those individuals and organizations that took the time to review the Interim Visitor Center Plan Environmental Assessment (EA) and submitted their comments. Correspondence received during the comment period of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document will be evaluated to determine whether or not they contain substantive comments. The substantive comments will be analyzed to determine if any changes are required. At the completion of the analysis, a decision document will respond to these substantive comments. Afterward, the decision document will be sent to all those who commented on the EA, and no individual responses will be prepared. The Council on Environmental Quality regulations implementing NEPA defines substantive comments as follows: question the accuracy of information in the EA, questions the adequacy of the environmental analysis, present reasonable alternatives other than those presented in the EA, or cause changes or revisions to the proposal.

**3&4) Battlefield Tour Road (Rehabilitate Route 10)** – In FY2007 we were still awaiting additional funding to finalize the 100% Drawings/Engineering specifications for the Battlefield Tour Road Project. Actual construction work is scheduled to begin in 2011, barring any unforeseen budget delays.

**1) Battlefield Entrance Fee/Hours** – Entrance fee of \$10.00 per vehicle or \$5.00 for bus passengers/pedestrians is in effect year-round. NPS Interagency (IA) Annual Pass, IA Access, or IA Senior Pass holders received free access, including visitors to Custer National Cemetery. Summer hours began May 27, 2007. Memorial Day to Labor Day the visitor center was open 8:00 AM to 7:30 PM; Battlefield Tour Road was open 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM; and Custer National Cemetery & Last Stand Hill was open from 8:00 AM to 9:00 PM through July 31st; & then 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM through Labor

Day. The Custer Battlefield trails (Deep Ravine Trail/Keogh-Crazy Horse Trail & Indian Memorial-7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Memorial Trail) & the Entrenchment Trail at Reno-Benteen Battlefield were open from 8:00 AM until 7:30 PM daily throughout the summer and are ADA/Universal Accessibility Compliant and are extremely popular with the public.

**1) Arikara Scouts & Corporal John Foley Marker Project** – John A. Doerner, LIBI Chief Historian has been busy conducting historical research on Arikara Indian Scouts Sgt. Bobtail Bull, Little Brave, and Arikara Guide-Interpreter Bloody Knife, who were killed during Reno’s Valley Fight/Retreat. Sgt. Bobtail Bull was killed on the east side of the Little Bighorn River during Reno’s Retreat. Bloody Knife and Little Brave were killed on the west side of the Little Bighorn River. For the time being, their markers will be erected at the Reno-Benteen Battlefield below the first overlook on the Entrenchment Trail next to the marker for Little Whirlwind, Northern Cheyenne Suicide Warrior. Little Whirlwind and Bobtail Bull both shot and killed each other during a bravery run on horseback at each other. Their markers will fittingly overlook their actual casualty sites near the Little Bighorn River.

Corporal John Foley, Company C, 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry will also be honored with a marker to denote his casualty site on the west slope of Medicine Tail Coulee. The white marble markers were supplied by the Veterans Administration and are similar to the original Civil War style that were first placed on the battlefield in 1890 by the U.S. Army to denote and preserve 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry casualty sites. They included the following information:

**U.S. INDIAN SCOUT  
Hukos-ta-rikus  
SGT. BOBTAIL BULL  
FELL HERE  
JUNE 25, 1876  
WHILE DEFENDING THE  
ARIKARA WAY OF LIFE**

**U.S. INDIAN SCOUT  
Naahukoos ciripasiIt'  
LITTLE BRAVE  
FELL HERE  
JUNE 25, 1876  
WHILE DEFENDING THE  
ARIKARA WAY OF LIFE**

**INTERPRETER/GUIDE  
neesirApat'  
BLOODY KNIFE  
FELL HERE  
JUNE 25, 1876**

## **1) Ranger Activities:**

**Law Enforcement/EMS/FEE Operation** - Chief Ranger Michael Stops reports the following:

**Visitation** - We received 293,295 visitors in 2007, a decrease of 2.61% as compared to 301,145 during the same period in 2006. The decrease is attributed to record high gasoline prices throughout the U.S., continued drought with extremely high temperatures (upper 80's to well over 100 degrees), and severe wild fires that raged throughout Montana, including the local area of Big Horn, Yellowstone, and Rosebud Counties, and the intermountain west.

**Law Enforcement/Case Incidents** - We had 16 case incidents relating to minor visitor infractions of park regulations, which is down slightly from the 2006. The Chief Ranger was our only Law Enforcement (LE) Ranger because of last minute departures of staff and we did not have adequate time to fill vacant positions last summer.

**Special Use Permits** - 9 Special Use Permits including two for commercial filming at LIBI were issued.

**Emergency Medical Services (EMS)** – We only had two incidents involving minor first aid treatment of visitors in 2007.

**131st Anniversary observance** - Went off without any major incidents, despite the heavy crowds during Little Bighorn Days and all the various events hosted by the NPS here. Again, Michael Stops was our only Law Enforcement Ranger in 2007 and is to be commended for taking on additional responsibilities and working long hours overtime to ensure that LIBI had LE coverage during the anniversary. I would also like to thank the LE Rangers from Big Horn Canyon NRA (BICA) for their assistance during this important event.

**Fee Collection** – Fee revenue in 2007 was up slightly from 2006 which was commensurate with reduced visitation levels. We maintained a seasonal staff of four-five Visitor Use Assistants, including Cassie Nomee, who served as our long-term seasonal VUA in the Student Temporary Employee Program (STEP).

### **1&3) Natural Resources –**

**Invasive Plant Management:** Melana Stichman, Biological Technician, funded through our fee demonstration projects “Restore Historic Viewshed For Visitor Enhancement and Photography” and “Restore Native Vegetation” treated 34 acres of noxious weeds throughout the monument along with the help of Matthew Brightwings, STEP employee. Target invasive plants included: field bindweed, St. Johnswort, houndstongue, Russian thistle, whitetop, yellow sweetclover, curly dock, Russian olive, prickly lettuce, and several thistles and knapweeds. The Restore Native Vegetation project was completed in 2007 with a total of 117 acres of noxious weeds treated over 3 years. The Exotic Plant Management Team (EPMT) from Glacier National Park returned to help LIBI staff treat field bindweed along park roadways. The EPMT began treating Russian olive along the Little Bighorn River at the Custer unit boundary, although access was limited due to flooding in June.

Preliminary efforts began on developing an Invasive Plant Management Plan that will involve ten parks located in the northern Rocky Mountains, including Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument. This plan will be used to direct the management of invasive plants/noxious weeds and will include the use of a suite of tools that allow the park to effectively manage area natural and

cultural resources with minimal effects from non-native invasive plants.

**Restoration:** A significant battlefield plan to restore the historic and natural landscape back to the approximate 1876 appearance has been completed. It was funded by our Fee Demonstration Program to restore three acres of disturbed land used by the War Department and NPS as a maintenance equipment repair/storage, and staging area. 2007 work included noxious weed removal, and planting native seed that was collected from the park the previous year. Our Fee Demonstration Program has funded a project in 2008 to monitor revegetation and noxious weeds throughout the park. The Montana State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) concurred the Quonset Hut building is non-significant in 2006. The building is slated for removal in the future.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Plant Materials Center in Bismarck, North Dakota continues to cultivate and harvest native grass seed for the battlefield. Native plant species include green needlegrass, bluebunch wheatgrass, sideoats grama, and blue grama. Seeds were originally collected in the park in 2005 as part of a re-vegetation plan for the Battlefield Tour Road Rehabilitation Project.

**1) Severe Summer Drought** – 2007 marked the eighth continuous year of drought in Montana and much of the intermountain west. This situation has created extreme water shortages and fire danger conditions, and has lowered the Little Bighorn River and area aquifers to record levels. As a fire prevention measure commensurate with Big Horn County, we enacted a no smoking ban outside of vehicles which went into effect in late July until conditions improved in late fall. Temperatures reached record high levels in July and August with 100+ temperatures recorded. The prolonged drought has also impacted our abilities to provide adequate irrigation of Custer National Cemetery, and the lawns throughout the battlefield. Our Maintenance division is to be commended again for coping with the water shortage and scheduling irrigation during the evening and early morning hours to maximize water retention and minimize evaporation. The heat has also challenged our NPS staff, including those who work outside and we have continued to provide special cooled units that dispense

bottled water for employee safety at key work areas and buildings. Visitors are also cautioned about the extreme temperatures during the ranger talks, and bus tours. Despite the extreme temperatures, we only had minor heat related incidents with the public.

## **1) Division of History & Cultural Resources:**

**Museum Curator** - Sharon Small, interim Museum Curator was busy working on various research and photo requests, as well as year-end projects, including cataloging of museum objects, and making preparations, and research for the new Sitting Bull Exhibit. Sharon completed an Annual Inventory Report of our Museum Collection, processed 32 research requests, 37 photograph requests, assisted over 11 on-site researchers who accessed the museum collections. She is also working with the annual upgrade to the Automated National Catalog System Plus (ANCS+). ANCS+ is the museum management system that all NPS sites with museum collections have been using since 1998.

Sharon has done a wonderful job in taking care of our important museum collection which had been neglected for over four years without a regular curator. She has also provided valuable assistance to the Chief Historian, assisted with museum exhibits, and has worked very hard to bring the collections up to date.

**Chief Historian** - Chief Historian John A. Doerner processed 391 research requests on the Battle of the Little Bighorn in 2007. Nine on-site researchers utilized the White Swan Library Collection, over 391 email requests were processed in a timely manner, over 10 requests were by traditional mail, well over 153 telephone requests were processed, 20 on-site requests were received and processed. He also conducted extensive research and field work resulting in the placement of a white marble marker for Corporal John Foley, Company C, 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry killed in action 25 June 1876 in Medicine Tail Coulee (east of Sgt. Butler) that was overlooked for over 130 years by the War Department. He also conducted research on the three Arikara Scouts killed in action in the battle and erected temporary white marble markers for them below the first overlook on Entrenchment Trail at the Reno-Benteen Battlefield in order to correct a significant over-sight by the War Department back in 1890. The new markers add to the powerful cultural landscape,

thus helping to add balance to the historic 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry markers first erected on the field in 1890 to denote soldier casualty sites.

**1 & 3) Cultural Landscape Inventory Project Started** – Work began in 2007 on our CLI for LIBI. On July 23-27, 2007 Professor Michael Timmons, Principle Investigator, and Emily Wheeler, Graduate Research Assistant, Utah State University visited LIBI to conduct an on-site investigation of the cultural and natural resource and collect materials from LIBI archives (White Swan Library & Museum Collection) for use in preparing a Cultural Landscape Inventory. They met with John A. Doerner, Chief Historian, Sharon Small, Museum Curator, Darrell Cook, Superintendent (now retired), Michael Stops, Chief Ranger, Melana Stichman NPS Biologist, and consulting with Doug Scott, NPS MWAC Archeologist (now retired).

Actual field-work involved an extensive walking inventory with field notes, and on-site mapping and GPS work recording topography, spatial qualities, circulation, clusters, landforms, views/vistas, and land use. Extensive site photo documentation was also collected to support notes, record viewpoints and conduct historical photo comparisons with historic photo's in the LIBI collection. Work continued into FY2008 including NPS-LIBI & Santa Fe review and comment period and final CLI report is scheduled to be issued in 2008.

**1/3) Maintenance Operations** – Our maintenance staff under Facility Manager Lonnie Hergenrider have been busy again keeping the park irrigated and supplied with water through another summer of severe drought and extreme temperatures. During the Fall of 2007 we worked on significant projects funded by our Fee Demonstration Program including restoration of sidewalks in Custer National Cemetery, and Reno-Benteen Battlefield; removal and replacement of several dead Colorado Blue Spruce trees in the cemetery; upgrades to park employee housing/quarters, and had an unexpected problem with our Pump House equipment that was promptly fixed by the contractor. We had to halt several significant Fee Demo Projects due to changing Park Priorities (ie Visitor Center Expansion) and reschedule them in future fiscal years. Our



surplus trailer that we acquired last year to house seasonal staff at LIBI has really come in handy for us.

**1/3) Custer National Cemetery:** Interments: 18 total (16 regular casket or cremain burials; 2 Cremain scatters, and one disinterment).

**Medal of Honor Plaques** - I am also very pleased to announce a new addition in Custer National Cemetery. In 2006-2007 we installed three new Veterans Administration regulation bronze Medal of Honor plaques in Custer National Cemetery, at the grave sites of Medal of Honor recipients Sgt. Aquila Coonrod, Company C, 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry (formerly of the 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry) Section A-372, and Corporal John Haddo, Company B, 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry interred in the mass grave below the historic Bear Paw Battlefield Monument. Their nineteenth century headstone and Monument did not have their Medal of Honor Award listed, so the VA plaques finally acknowledge these two distinguished American Soldiers. My appreciation goes out to Don Morfe, Baltimore MD (Medal of Honor Historical Society member), and John Doerner, Chief Historian for coordinating this important project, as well as our maintenance staff for installing this important addition to the Historic District #1, in Custer National Cemetery.