



The Gettysburg Quarterly

Living History at the Eisenhower Site

To commemorate D-Day at the Eisenhower National Historic Site, World War II reenactor Marc Hermann represented a paratrooper of "Easy" Company of the 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment, which was part of the 101st Airborne Division. This is the unit of "Band of Brothers" fame. Hermann wore the uniform of this unit as they appeared during the Normandy Invasion, and he displayed equipment carried during their jump into France. Some of the bigger crowd pleasers were the yellow rubber life vest, reserve parachute pack, boxes of "K" rations, and the brass "Cricket" clicker that was used as a signaling device between soldiers among the dark hedgerows.

Eisenhower spent time visiting the members of the 101st in the hours before the invasion kicked off. Of the 6,600 men of the Division who parachuted into France, over 50 percent were casualties. Hermann is an Eastern National employee and an NPS Volunteer.

For another look at World War II living history visit the Eisenhower site on September 16 and 17. See "events" on page four for more information.



Marc Hermann portraying a paratrooper at the Eisenhower National Historic Site.

Momentum Builds in Downtown Gettysburg

Gettysburg National Military Park, the Gettysburg Foundation, and the Gettysburg community are working to create a "seamless" story of the battle of Gettysburg for visitors by telling compelling stories of the battle through town, the aftermath of battle in the town, the civilian experience during the tragic days of July 1863, and the town's recovery. The master plan for this effort, known as the "Interpretive Plan for the Borough of Gettysburg," was created in 2000 and is being implemented by Main Street Gettysburg. Main Street's goals are

to preserve the town's historic resources, expand interpretation, enhance the economic benefits of tourism in the community, and improve the quality of life for residents and visitors.

Momentum is building in Gettysburg's downtown on several of these projects, some of which have already been completed and others will be coming on line in the next two years. Gettysburg College restored the Majestic Theater in downtown Gettysburg and it now operates as a performing arts

center and cinema. Gettysburg's historic Train Station is owned by the Borough and is now fully restored. It is being developed as a downtown information station and orientation space and will be a destination for the planned park/downtown shuttle.

The Wills House is on the National Register of Historic Places, and enjoys national renown as the place where President Abraham Lincoln spent the night before delivering the Gettysburg Address on November 19, 1863. Construction will begin

Momentum

(continued from cover)

later this year to rehabilitate the structure to its 1863 appearance, and install exhibits for its future life as a public Lincoln Museum. The museum will open in 2008. Exhibit designers *Gallagher and Associates* are creating the exhibits in the Wills House and the Train Station, as well as those in the new Museum and Visitor Center, which will help achieve the goal of seamless interpretation.

Two other major projects are in development now to improve the visitor experience: a shuttle system connecting the new park museum and visitor center with several sites in the town and a new, updated signage system throughout the park and the town. The shuttle system, a joint project between the park, the Borough of Gettysburg, and the Adams County Transit Authority, will alleviate traffic congestion and create new opportunities for visitors to experience the town on foot (with a beneficial side effect of increased visitor spending).

The partners are also working on a project to create a new system of signs, called *Wayfinding*. This coordinated effort will address four needs:

1. Gettysburg Foundation's need for new directional signage from the highways to the new museum and visitor center
2. Gettysburg National Military Park's need for new and updated signs to replace a system that is 30 years old and failing



Left: Deteriorated signs at Gettysburg National Military Park.

Bottom: Confusing sign clutter along Lincoln Avenue in Gettysburg.



3. A combined need between the Park and the Borough for new wayfinding systems within the town to reduce confusing sign clutter and improve wayfinding for both cars and pedestrians.
4. Signs needed for the new shuttle system.

Happily, all four of these sign projects are being coordinated and *Gallagher and Associates*, designers of both the new museum exhibits and the Wills House exhibits, will be designing new wayfinding systems for all four needs.



Crews from Pennington Tree Experts working along the Confederate battle line near the McMillan farm.

Reopening the Confederate Battle Line

Another year of battlefield rehabilitation got off to a start in mid-July as contractors began removing non-historic trees from areas along the Confederate battle line at Seminary Ridge near the McMillan farm. Crews are also finishing up areas near Devil's Den. The work underway on the historic McMillan farm will reopen the fields of fire for numerous Confederate artillery batteries, as well as allow the park to replant the largest orchard on the Gettysburg battlefield from the 1863 period -- the 26 acre McMillan orchard. July is the season when work crews can usually begin cutting non-historic trees since birds have finished nesting and the ground is usually hard, provided the summer has

been dry. Work is expected to continue, weather permitting, through March.

Battlefield rehabilitation is bringing back historic farm fields, woodlots, orchards, fences, and farm lanes that affected the fighting of the battle of Gettysburg and had disappeared or changed since 1863. The project improves visitor understanding of the battle of Gettysburg by allowing visitors to see the battlefield the way the soldiers did at the time of the fighting. The project is being phased in over time and includes environmental benefits such as restoration of wetlands and improving water quality and habitat. For more information go to the park's website at: www.nps.gov/gett

Environmental Excellence in the New Museum



A hive of activity at the construction site for the park's new museum.

Heavy equipment continues to roll at the site of the park's new museum and visitor center. Already walls are starting to rise up from the huge hole in the ground where the building will be. In another month, contractors will be putting up the structural steel for the 139,000 square foot structure.

An exciting aspect of the new museum is that it meets "Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design" (LEED) certification requirements established by the U.S. Green Building Council. LEED projects must meet strict standards for energy efficiency, ozone protection, indoor air quality, prudent site development protection, and space allowances for supporting occupant and visitor recycling programs. Some of the new museum's environmentally-sensitive design features include:

- Heating and cooling systems that use geothermal energy. A more costly but more energy efficient system, the geothermal system uses the constant 55 degree temperature of the earth to heat and cool the water used in the system. Approximately 200 wells, each 400' deep and 6" in diameter, will form the thermal shield (located under the parking lot). The wells will be linked with piping in a closed loop system.

- Water efficiency and storm water management strategies that contribute to energy efficiency and local environmental protection including: high efficiency plumbing fixtures and a storm water capture and retention system that manages runoff quantities and soil erosion.
- Landscaping with native, adaptive, and drought resistant plants that require no irrigation. Plants will be watered only through rain events.
- Recycled building materials including 100% recycled gypsum board for the interior walls. Other materials used in the construction that will be at least 50% recycled materials are: rebar, structural steel, metal studs, metal decking, and metal stairs. Carpets, ceiling and flooring tiles, insulation, woodwork, and other features will also have some recycled content.

Gettysburg Foundation President Bob Wilburn has announced that they have now raised \$86 million in the Campaign to Preserve Gettysburg. To learn more and participate in the effort go to the website www.gettysburgfoundation.org



Gettysburg National Military Park, established in 1895, is the site of the great Civil War battle that repulsed the second Confederate invasion of the North. The mission of the National Park Service at Gettysburg is to preserve and protect the resources associated with the battle of Gettysburg and the Soldiers' National Cemetery and provide an understanding of the events that occurred there within the context of American history.

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The Gettysburg Quarterly is produced by the Public Affairs Office, Gettysburg National Military Park, National Park Service.

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