

and conservation. This knowledge develops a sense of proprietorship in the local park system which is reflected noticeably in improved child behavior and proper use of parks.

An orientation service is provided each spring, upon request, to out-of-town school groups visiting Washington. These are largely senior high school graduating classes. Last year, from April to June, 77,341 students from 1,723 schools were served. Groups first visit the Lincoln Museum where a short sound movie is shown, questions answered, informational leaflets distributed, and assistance given in planning a tour of the city.

Each spring, for local residents, adults and children, may participate in parallel "nature leader's training courses." Indoor sessions featuring illustrated talks are introductions to field trips where birds, wild flowers, trees, rocks, and animals are seen in natural surroundings. The course ends with techniques of field party leadership, suggestions for pursuing nature hobby interests, and a discussion of summer camp nature activities.

In addition to the personal contact services mentioned above, a recording is being used for interpretation at the Washington Monument. During the ascent and descent of the elevator a voice tells the history of the memorial shaft, mentions some of the engineering features, and ends with a statement of appreciation which instills pride of country in the listener. It is contemplated that a similar automatic device will be installed in the Lincoln Museum, scene of the assassination, integrated with projected pictures.

Every city has many natural features and historic sites that are of significant interest to residents, and to visitors coming as tourists or in organized groups. Why not try a program of public interpretive service as described above? It pays!



Part of Washington, D. C.'s past still functions as an operating tourist attraction. Canal barge rides up and down the old Chesapeake and Ohio Canal are a popular feature. National Capital Parks photo.

