

UC0019

QUANTITY: 2 boxes
ACCESS: Open to research
ACQUISITION: February 8, 2006
PROCESSED BY: Margie Amodeo

Biographical Note: Peter Fish served New York State as Forest Ranger from 1969 to 1998 in the Catskills and the Adirondack High Peaks regions. (In an interview from 2008, Fish told a reporter that he had climbed Mt. Marcy 707 times.) During this time his duties included search and rescue, law enforcement, education, trail maintenance, disposition of facilities, and environmental protector of the delicate alpine High Peaks region. In cases where Ranger Fish's judgment in search and rescue were challenged, his support from hiking clubs and individuals around the State is well documented.

Scope and Content Note: The collection consists largely of correspondence between Ranger Fish and DEC administration. Topics range from recommendations on changes facilitating performance of daily duties to failures in institution-wide policies. Some photographs of Rangers and administrators along with selected maps, booklets of government regulations and park usage statistics are included in the collection. Also included are files on specific noteworthy cases involving Ranger Fish and his operations in the High Peaks. In such cases, letters in support of Ranger Fish not only contain detailed accounts of his personal interactions with hikers in the Peaks but lend insight into the role models Rangers became to generations of visitors to the Adirondacks.

Box and Folder List:

Box	Folder	Description
1	1	<p>“Correspondence- Mainly with DEC 1969-1996” regarding his appointment as a Forest Ranger, the Ranger Peace Officer Bill, performance evaluations, Forest Rangers carrying firearms, letters of commendation for Peter Fish, resignation from Ice Rescue Squad, uniform requirements, DEC mission statement and trail signage</p> <p>Names found: Lt. Col. David C. Ames, Robert Bathrick, Robert L. Bendick, James L. Biggane, Henry L. Diamond, Robert Flacke, St. John Gillen, George Glaros, E.F. Jacoby, E.H. Ketchledge, Erwin H. King, Andrew J. Liddle, E. Lantiegne, Lt. R. Marrone, Capt. Don Perryman, Robert Thomas, Henry G. Williams and Malcolm Wilson</p>

2	<p>“Correspondence II- Mainly with DEC 1997-2003” regarding uniforms, Forest Rangers carrying firearms, search and rescue reports, the case of two lost Canadian hikers, Whitney property purchase, the High Peaks Area Unit Management Plan, proposed loss of assistant Rangers, funding, an Environmental Conservation Academy, some Forest Ranger History, trail register problems and Fish’s retirement in 1998</p> <p>Names found: David C. Ames, Jo Benton, Hon. Richard L. Brodsky, John P. Cahill, Erin Crotty, David Gibson, Capt. John Gillen, Roger Gray, Peter Kline, Elizabeth O’C Little, Lt. Robert Marrone, George E. Pataki, Shirley W. Seney, Sir Robert Borden High School and James W. Tuffey</p>
3	<p>“Correspondence III- Mainly DEC 1972-1989” regarding law enforcement status for Rangers, Rangers carrying firearms, letters of commendation, the Forest Ranger Peace Officer Bill, rescues, warnings and fines to non-compliant visiting groups, speaking engagements, disposition of facilities, water-related illnesses and the search, closure of the Lake Placid Memorial Hospital and dogs on the High peaks and rescue bill of 1984</p> <p>Names found: George Amedore, Joseph and John Barbera, Peter Berle, Hugh L. Carey, Chris Carpenter, John Chambers, Jules Comeau, Robert Conklin, Bruce Coon, Malcolm A. Coutant, H.V. Decker, Debbie Dohr, Thomas Dreisback, Jack Drury, Guy Evans, Mrs. Frank Gibson, M. Gary Giller, Gratzner, Robert D. Hofer, Jed Hyde, Jerome Jensen, Paul Johnson, Bill Keating, Paul M. Kelsey, William Krichbaum, Ivan Kusinitz, Thomas Lake, Robert Larr, W. Lundy, Tom McMahan, Roy Messaros, Thomas R. Monroe, E.R. Nason, Frederick N. Olko, Ogden Reid, Joseph C. Reiners, Jr., Greg Salka, Charles R. Severance, Thomas D. Shearer, Senator Stafford, Fred Ulrich, Norm VanValkenburgh, Vershire School, Laura and Guy Waterman, Hon. Saul Weprin, Hynrich W. Wieschhoff, Karen J. Williams, Raymond A. Wood and Ben Woodard</p>
4	<p>“Suggestions from Peter Fish to DEC 1970-1986” regarding snowmobile patrol, needed Ranger arms, equipment, telephones and vehicles, Ranger training, Ranger patches, trail markers, registers, maps, signage, bridges, dogs on trails, drinking water, talk kits, litter cleanup, first aid training, proposed rule revisions and amendments, a helicopter landing pad at John’s Brook, most frequently climbed peaks and proposed list of Ranger equipment</p> <p>Names found: Peter A.A. Berle, Charles E. Boone, Philip C. Capone, Robert F. Hall, Gerald D. Hamm, Paul Keller, Craig Knickerbocker, William Krichbaum, James Lord, William A. Morse, E.R. Nason, T.D. Shearer, W.H. Sussdorf, Norm VanValkenburgh and Raymond A. Wood</p>
5	<p>“Dougher- Vecchio Incident- March 1989 (includes arbitrator’s</p>

		<p>decision)Dougher and Vecchio vs. ADK (includes deposition of Peter M. Fish March 1, 1994)” includes notice of discipline, incident report, Ffield/Dougher-Vecchio incidents minutes, search report, outline of basic Ranger response in search and rescue incidents, copied pages from the policies and procedures manual, employee performance evaluation rating form, related resignation of Jackie Patnode and deposition records from Dougher and Vecchio vs. ADK lawsuit</p> <p>Names found: Louis C. Curth, Lt. John M. Gillen, Assemblyman Glenn H. Harris, F.J. LaRow, Jackie Patnode, Don Perryman, C.R. Severance and Tom Wahl</p>
	6	<p>“Welden Incident” “Note on the outside of the original folder- ‘The autopsy revealed that the subject had committed suicide- overdose of pills. Weldon’s brother called Ranger Fish to apologize for the incident.’”</p> <p>Includes copies of notebook notes, search and rescue report, trail registers, notice of discipline for Ranger Fish and missing person report form</p>
	7	<p>“Fish vs. Curth/ Perryman (DEC) 1989-1990” notes, memos, correspondence and minutes on the Ffield/Dougher-Vecchio incidents</p> <p>Names found: D. Ames, David Boomhower, Earl Butler, Louis Curth, Greg George, John Gillen, Robert Grimm, E. Jacoby, Thomas C. Jorling, F.J. LaRow, Jackie Patnode, Donald G. Perryman, Deacon George Stewart, D. VanDeCar and Tom Wahl</p>
	8	<p>“Fish vs. DEC- Media Reports” magazines, newspaper articles, and local ADK group memos regarding scrutiny of Ranger Fish concerning timing in search and rescue events and documentation of ADK members’ rally to support him</p>
	9	<p>“Letters in Support of Peter Fish” correspondence regarding Fish’s response in the Ffield, Dougher and Vecchio incidents</p> <p>Names found: Robert Adler, Christian A. Alberti, Don Alexander, Charles Ashe, Thomas Babinski, Chris G. Behr, Chris M. Behr, June F. Behr, Richard J. Benson, Steve Brown, Cecily Buck, Ronald Canestrari, Mike Carver, Alexandra Cleveland, Daniel W. Connell, Joe Coughlin, Constance Cross, Mario Cuomo, Steven Detwiler, Mike Devlin, Marion L. DeVoe, Michael Douglas, Michael T. Durocher, D.H. Foster, Stephen C. Frauenthal, Jonathan M. Frishtick, Eric Fullager, Mary B. Gardner, Steve Golden, Robert M. Gurn, Robert Gwartzman, Glenn Harris, Mary Hartery, Richard Harvey, John Heslop, Carolyn J. Hill, Robert A. Hintermister, Pattye Hitchins, Bob Hofer, Thomas C. Jorling, John Jurczynski, Jim Kalbaugh, Joe Kennedy, Anne LaBastille, Marina Lugovoy, Harold Martin, Jim Mason, Marianne McGowan, Donald N. McGregor, Robert B. Meeker, Jenni Millison, David S. Moelling,</p>

		Thomas Monroe, Edward P. Moore, Glen Nison, Heide C. Novado, Dick Olcott, Joachim Oppenheimer, William Page, E.F. Potworowski, Larry Rathman, Albert P. Rosen, Bill and Patti Rudge, Patricia Rush, David Scruggs, Dorothy Sehlmeier, Sanford Shelton, John and Nancy Seifts, Brian Stacey, Barbara R. Strowger, Paul D. Tonko, Joseph Urbanczyk, Eileen M. Urtz, Laura and Guy Waterman, Marcia M. Wentworth, William B. Widlund, Michael Yealland, Robert Ziemba and Gretchen Zierick
	10	<p>“Miscellaneous Photos, Groups of Forest Rangers, award to Peter Fish from Kiwanis Club, photos of Peter Fish’s Ranger Truck 1990-1998, many Photos of overflow in parking lots, High Peaks, Fall 1993”</p> <p>Names found: Douglas Bissonette, C. Boone, Robert Conklin, Manell, B. Coon, C. Crandall, Lynn Day, J. Dalton, Harry DeKing, James DeLaire, F. Dorchak, T. Eakin, Stanley Engel, Peter Fish, Robert Flacke, G. Ford, John Gillen, Howard Graham, John Graves, Michael Hagadorn, Edward Hale, Gerald Hamm, G. Hodgson, Wesly Hurd, J. Hurlbut, Charles Hurtgam, Edward Jacoby, L. Lastiway, Anthony Lenkiewicz, H. Lepka, J. Maye, G. McChesney, Robert Morris, E.R. Nason, T. Oatman, R. Olcott, D. Perryman, Edwin Pierce, M. Roderick, Peter Rossi, Joseph Rupp, Donald Seacord, Victor Schrader, L. Seacord, George Stee, Richard Swanson, Hamilton Topping, Aaron VanDeBogart, James White, Richard Willover and Raymond Wood</p>
	11	“Trail Registration Statistics- High Intensity Use Areas, 1975-1984” Statistics for ADK Loj, Indian Pass, South Meadows, Garden Parking, Elk Lake, Upper Works, East River Trail, Bradley Pond Trail, Stony Creek Parking Lot, Blueberry Parking Lot, Long Pond, Little Clear Pond, Upper St. Regis Marcy Dam, John’s Brook and Lake Colden
	12	“Trailhead Registration Statistics, Wilderness Areas, 1975-1998” Statistics for ADK Loj, Indian Pass, South Meadows, John’s Brook, Garden, Upper Works, E. River Trail, Long Pond, Little Clear Brook, Cascade Mt., Northville-Placid, A.M.R – High Peaks, Elk Lake- High Peaks, Upper Works, East River, Bradley Pond, Ampersand Mt., Stony Creek, Seward Parking, A.M.R. Dix, Round Pond, Elk Lake- Dix, Boreas (Private), Giant-Roaring Brook, Giant- Ridge Trail, Giant-North Trail, Giant- East Trail, Klondike and Cascade
	13	<p>“From the files of Charles Severance, Assistant Dist. Ranger, Warrensburg” correspondence, a proposal for calculating equitable Fire equipment storage rates and Fire Report- Straight Line Fires</p> <p>Names found: Louis Curth, John Gaudette, John W. Hurlbut, James Kesel, Craig W. Knickerbocker, C.R. Severance, G.E. Stewart and B.T. Thompson</p>
	14	“Miscellaneous Items, Performance Rating- Peter Fish 4/19/1987, The Oh! Oh! Factor- A Primer on Gear- by Peter Fish- form Adirondac Nov.

		/ Dec. 1992, Medicine for Mountaineering- 1985 published by the Mountaineer, Seattle, Washington (1985-1995), Park Ranger Schedules 1980-1997, DEC Radio Directory- Region 5, Care and Tips Motorola Rechargeable Battery, Motorola MT 1000 Radio, Time and Activity Record 1972-1978- Peter Fish, Trail Handbook- US Dept. of Agriculture Forest Service, Reprinted June 1953 by State Ranger School at Wanakena, NY.”
	15	“Field Personnel Diaries 1969-1975” Time records and diaries of Peter Fish noting hours spent on activities including fire control, forest practice acts, State forests, youth camps, nurseries, insect and disease control, recreation, forest preserve, fish and wildlife, public relations and paperwork at headquarters
2	1	<p>“Adirondack Park Land Use and Development Plan Maps and State Land Master Plan 1985, 1989, 1993, 1999” includes classification system and guidelines, area descriptions and delineations</p> <p>State of New York, Adirondack Park Agency. Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan Forest Preserve Centennial Edition. Map [1 in. =approx. 3 mi.]. Ray Brook, NY: Adirondack Park Agency, 1985. Print</p> <p>State of New York, Adirondack Park Agency. Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan Forest Preserve Centennial Edition. Map [1 in. =approx. 3 mi.]. Ray Brook, NY: Adirondack Park Agency, 1999. Print</p> <p>State of New York, Adirondack Park Agency. Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan Forest Preserve Centennial Edition. Map [1 in. =approx. 3 mi.]. Ray Brook, NY: Adirondack Park Agency, 1993. Print</p>
	2	<p>“Maps: 15’ Trails of Adirondack High Peaks; Adirondack Map in 4 sections (1964)”</p> <p>USGS. Au Sable Forks Quadrangle. Map [1:62,500]. Washington, DC: USGS, 1953. Print</p> <p>USGS. Elizabethtown Quadrangle. Map [1:62,500]. Washington, DC: USGS, 1955. Print</p> <p>USGS. Lake Placid Quadrangle. Map [1:62,500]. Washington, DC: USGS, 1953. Print</p> <p>USGS. Long Lake Quadrangle. Map [1:62,500]. Washington, DC: USGS, 1955. Print</p> <p>USGS. Mount Marcy Quadrangle. Map [1:62,500]. Washington, DC: USGS, 1953. Print</p>

		<p>USGS. Newcomb Quadrangle. Map [1:62,500]. Washington, DC: USGS, 1954. Print</p> <p>USGS. Old Forge Quadrangle. Map [1:62,500]. Washington, DC: USGS, 1954. Print</p> <p>USGS. Paradox Lake Quadrangle. Map [1:62,500]. Washington, DC: USGS, 1953. Print</p> <p>USGS. Santanoni Quadrangle. Map [1:62,500]. Washington, DC: USGS, 1953. Print</p> <p>USGS. Schroon Lake Quadrangle. Map [1:62,500]. Washington, DC: USGS, 1953. Print</p> <p>Adirondack Mountain Club. Trails of the Adirondack High Peaks. Map [1:62,500]. Glens Falls, NY: Adirondack Mountain Club, 1985. Print</p> <p>Conservation Department State of New York. Adirondack Map (Sections 1-4). Map [1in. =2mi.]. Albany, NY: Conservation Department State of New York, 1964. Print</p>
	3	<p>“Forest Fire Fighting Booklets” “Roster of Forest Fire Protective Force, Division of Lands and Forests State of New York Conservation Department, April 1, 1969,” “The Conservation Law in Relation to Lands and Forests as Amended to the Close of the 1966 Legislative Session,” “Forest Fire Wardens, Prepared by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service- Region 7, 1944, ””New York State Forest Fire-Fighters Handbook, a Publication of the New York State War Council, April, 1943,” “the Fire Warden Guide by Charles Severance, 1968”</p>