

\$5000⁰⁰ REWARD

**For information leading to
the safe return of**



DENNIS LLOYD MARTIN

Disappeared on June 14, 1969 at Spence Field, in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. After extensive search efforts, no trace has been found.

Age 7 (Born June 20, 1962)
Height Approximately 4 feet
Weight Approximately 55 pounds
Hair Dark brown and wavy
Eyes Dark brown with long eyelashes

Family names: Father, Bill Clyde
Mother, Violet
Brothers, Douglas and Michael
Sister, Sarah

Dennis has a German Shepherd dog called 'Lady.'

Anyone having information regarding the whereabouts of this youngster, please contact your local law enforcement agency or:

William C. Martin
738 Murray Road
Knoxville, Tennessee 37912
Telephone (615) 689-5015

INCIDENT REPORT

This form should be completed and information transmitted by telephone to the Regional Director through the Regional Chief, Resources Management and Visitor Protection. In the Washington Office the report will be submitted to the Director and Division of Safety from the Chief, Branch of Visitor Activities Management. Refer to Report NPS(OR)-11 of Part II of the "Reports Management Handbook" for further instructions.

TO: DIRECTOR
 REGIONAL DIRECTOR

FROM: CHIEF, BRANCH OF VISITOR ACTIVITIES MGT., WASH
 REGIONAL CHIEF, RESOURCES MGT. AND VISITOR PROTECTION
 ANNA: Great Smoky Mountains National Park

REPORT RECEIVED FROM: NAME: Larry K. Nielson DATE: 6/14/69 TIME: 8:28 PM BY: Dispatcher

DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT (Death - automobile accident, mountain rescue, forest fire, serious injury - employee)
Lost Child - Visitor

OFFICE OF OCCURRENCE	DATE	TIME
<u>Spence Field, Cades Cove Sub-district</u>	<u>6/14/69</u>	<u>4:30 PM</u>
NAME, AGE AND ADDRESS OF PERSON(S) INVOLVED	EMPLOYEE	VISITOR
<u>Dennis L. Martin, age 7, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) Knoxville, Tennessee</u>		X
<u>(Father: William G.)</u>		

GENERAL STATEMENT (Include details of incident, a list of the action being taken, items actions planned, and any other specific information concerning the circumstances.)

Dennis disappeared while on an outing with family members in the Spence Field area. During the following two-week period thousands of man-days were exhausted in an effort to find the boy. As of this date he has not been located.

(See attached chronology of search effort)

OTHER ACTION: AIR NOTIFIED PRESS NOTIFIED FUNDING ASSISTANCE REQUIRED

HANDICAP ASSISTANCE REQUIRED: Yes OTHER: _____

INFORMATION RELAYED TO: SERO REGIONAL OFFICE: Tony Stark 6/15/69
(Name) (Date)

WASHINGTON OFFICE: _____ (Name) _____ (Date)

HOME TELEPHONE CALLS CHARGED TO: _____

WASH DISTRIBUTION	REG'L DISTRIBUTION
COPIES TO: DA, D, OR, GYM	COPIES TO: D, ORV, ORM
DD, DAL, ARI, PW	

(Sgd) Merrill D. Beal
Merrill D. Beal Acting Superintendent 7/9/69
(Date)

THE DENNIS MARTIN SEARCH
CHRONOLOGICAL NARRATIVE

June 14, 1969 - Saturday

Dennis Lloyd Martin, 7 years, son of Mr. & Mrs. William Martin of Knoxville, Tennessee, was last seen around 4:30 p.m. today in the Spence Field area on the Appalachian Trail in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Dennis was wearing a red "T" shirt, short green trousers, and low cut oxford shoes with a simple heel. Mr. Martin stated that his son is a quiet boy, would not call out, but would answer to strangers. He also stated that Dennis is in a special education group at school, as his mental age is 1/2 year behind his chronological age.

Dennis, his father, grandfather (Clyde Martin), and older brother (Douglas, 9 yrs.) had come to the Spence Field after spending the previous night at the Russell Field shelter, 2 miles west of Spence Field. They camped in the shelter cabin at the west end of the field for the night. Several adults of this group, including William Martin, were sitting in a grassy spot to the southwest of the Anthony Creek trailhead, watching Dennis, Douglas, and two other boys of the group all playing near the top and parallel to the Anthony Creek trailhead. According to Douglas Martin, the boys decided to sneak up and surprise the adults. Douglas and the two other boys went south and then west and came upon the adults while Dennis went northwest, as it were and intended to come upon the adults from a north to south direction. The time the boys parted was the last time Dennis was seen. The adults reported that they saw the boys split up, so in effect, he was last seen on the Tennessee side of the Spence Field. It should be noted here that the state line between Tennessee and North Carolina runs along the apex of the field along the Appalachian Trail (AT). The Spence Field is a grassy area running east and west on the main Great Smoky ridge with its north drainages going into Tennessee and its south drainages going into North Carolina. It is approximately 2.5 miles to the next AT shelter to the west (Russell Field), and approximately 5 miles to the next AT shelter to the east (Derrick Knob). Other trails available to the Spence Field are Anthony Creek and Bote Mountain on the Tennessee side and Eagle Creek and Jenkins Ridge trail on the North Carolina side. The Bote Mountain access is a truck and jeep trail, i.e., 5.5 miles available for truck use and the last 1.5 miles byo jeep only.

Mr. Martin stated that between 3-5 minutes after last seeing Dennis he became concerned and began calling for the boy. He quickly went west on the AT as far as Little Bald (Approximately 1 mile) and returned thinking Dennis might be back to the others. He then went west again on the AT to Russell Field, 2.5 miles, and returned to Spence Field. Mr. Clyde Martin, Grandfather, came down Anthony Creek trail to Cades Cove and informed rangers around 8:30 p.m. Cades Cove seasonal naturalist Terry Chilcoat and his wife were checking out Bote Mountain Road in his personal automobile. They drove the 5 miles to the turn-around and hiked the 1½ miles to Spence Field. They arrived at Spence Field around 7:30 p.m., and learned of the missing boy. They had not seen anything enroute. On their return they picked up Bill Martin (Dennis' father) and let him out at the junction of the Bote Mountain road and Laurel Creek road. The Laurel Creek road is the main paved road leading into Cades Cove.

Ranger Huffman walked up Anthony Creek and Ledbetter Ridge trail to Russell Field, and on to Spence Field on the AT. Ranger Nielson picked up Bill Martin approximately 5-10 minutes after the Chilcoates had let him out, and drove up Bote Mountain Road to Spence Field in a jeep. They talked to some hikers who had come from Derrick Knob to Spence Field and also to some fishermen who walked from Hazel Creek up the Jenkins Ridge trail; and also talked to some hikers who had come west to east on the AT from Fontana Dam. None of those contacted had seen the missing boy.

Clyde Martin, grandfather, walked down Anthony Creek Trail to Cades Cove and back again up Anthony Creek trail from Cades Cove.

Cades Cove Sub-district Ranger Larry K. Nielson notified the Dispatcher at Park Headquarters at 8:28 p.m. The Dispatcher turned on the radio tape recorder and notified Chief Ranger Sneddon and North District Ranger Morris.

Heavy rain storms and thundershowers moved in around dark and greatly hampered search activity. Precipitation was estimated to be 2.5 inches or more in the Spence Field Area. All streams were high and turbulent.

Rangers and family members searched the immediate area around where Dennis was last seen for the rest of the night.

The Chief Ranger set up the following plans for morning:

- 1 crew of 30-men with 5 leaders
- 10 crews of 2-4 men with 10 leaders
- Set up a camp at Spence Field
- Obtain helicopter, if possible

Park rangers and maintenance personnel, Sevier County Rescue Squad, Blount County Rescue squad, Smoky Mountain Hiking Club, and various individuals were contacted and directed to be at Bote Mountain road at 5:00 a.m., the morning of June 15, 1969.

June 15, 1969 - Sunday

Experienced NPS personnel and other experienced persons began a drainage search down the West Prong of Little River, Anthony Creek, Little Bald, and Spence Field drainages.

Ranger Phillips walked up the Eagle Creek trail to Spence Field. (This was the only trail not accounted for on June 14, 1969)

The trail search continued with two visitor horse parties going up Anthony Creek, one on the trail to Spence Field, the other on Ledbetter Ridge Trail to Russell Field. Thirty Boy Scouts, camped at Derrick Knob, walked west on the AT to Spence and eight Boy Scouts camped at Russell Field walked down Jenkins Ridge trail.

Ranger Nichols contacted 51 Ranger students from Lake City, Fla. Junior College, who were on a field trip near Franklin, N. C., and directed them to the area.

Nine jeeps (4 ranger, 2 maintenance, and 3 JCCCC) and three maintenance stake-rack trucks were used to transport searchers to Spence Field and to provide shuttle service from parking areas for volunteers and others.

Tony Stark, Chief, Resources Management and Visitor Protection, Southeast Region, Richmond, Virginia, was contacted and approval was obtained to hire a helicopter to transport equipment to establish a base camp at Spence Field. This was done by a helicopter working in the immediate area.

Ranger Pledger contacted various North Carolina Rescue Squads.

Mrs. William Martin arrived in the Cove around 12 Noon.

Local newspapers and radio stations picked up the report and began to call in for information.

Dr. Randolph Shields, Maryville College, joined Ranger Phillips on Eagle Creek search.

Ranger Mike Myers contacted Dr. Robert F. Lash, FAA and CAB Medical Examiner from Knoxville, Tennessee. This initiated the excellent cooperation received from the McGhee Tyson Air Force personnel. Dr. Lash recommended, and Ranger Myers contacted the Eastern Air Rescue

Service, Warner-Robbins Air Force Base, Macon, Georgia, to obtain military helicopter assistance. Two Huey helicopters were dispatched immediately and spent the night at Dobbins AFB, Atlanta, Georgia. Ranger Myers also contacted U.S. Forest Service District Ranger on the Nantahala, who in turn made contact with Col. Kinney, commanding the Special Forces troops in that area. Col. Kinney requested and obtained permission from the Third Army Headquarters at Ft. Benning, Georgia, to transfer 40 Special Forces to the search area.

June 16, 1969 - Monday

Trail and drainage searches continued. Areas covered previously were checked again, especially the immediate drainages from Spence Field.

Rangers Niclson and Huffman took several rescue squad personnel into the brush and began a grid pattern search at the Spence Field area.

Mr. Hugh "Skip" Trotter, Sevierville, Tennessee, President of Tennessee Association of Rescue Squads met with NPS staff personnel, and planned to organize the rescue squad effort on a larger scale to involve more necessary manpower. Units from Middle Tennessee, East Tennessee, Kentucky, South Carolina, and Georgia eventually came into the search. As mentioned earlier, North Carolina rescue squads were active in the area south of Spence Field, including Fontana Lake.

The Tennessee Air National Guard, 134th Air Rifle Group, McGhee-Tyson AB, Knoxville, Tennessee, sent 17-men to Cades Cove. The McGhee-Tyson Air Base was the NPS contact, almost entirely, for the military aspect of the search, i.e., telephone calls to other military units, liaisons, etc. These military people initiated much action on their own, such as obtaining several volunteers from the Air Guard group.

A heliport was established at Cades Cove in the field immediately west of the sewage disposal area.

Captain Warren H. Bourgeois, Air Force Advisor for the 119th Tactical Control Squad, Tennessee Air National Guard, became the liaison officer to the NPS for the helicopter operations. The 119th supplied ground to air communications and fuel.

WFSC-TV, Franklin, North Carolina, notified the park that 500 Special Forces personnel from Ft. Bragg, N.C., were on maneuvers in the Nantahala Gorge area near Robbinsville, N. C., and would be an available source of manpower. A Col. Kinney was in charge of the unit. Ranger Marion Myers made contact with a Captain Gibson, through Duke Barr, U.S. Forest Service Ranger, Nantahala National Forest, Robbinsville, N. C. Forty (40) Special Forces troops, self-contained and with communications van, were scheduled to arrive during the night at Cades Cove.

Various news media were covering the search, and many individual volunteers had become involved. The Headquarters dispatcher and Gades Cove Ranger Station received hundreds of offers from individuals and organized groups interested in searching for the lost boy. Jeeps, portable radios, maps, and bloodhounds were among the offers made. Many persons having dogs were told to try their animals. A few did arrive, but were unable to obtain any results. The heavy rains on the first night were thought to be a factor which hindered the use of dogs.

Total force for the day: 300 (NPS, Rescue Squads, Air National Guard, Volunteers, and Student Foresters)

The American Red Cross, under the supervision of the Knox and Blount County Chapters came in during the day, providing a food service made up entirely from donations from restaurants, merchants, and individuals.

June 17, 1969 - Tuesday

Ranger Foster began an intensive grid search at Spence Field with the 50 students from Lake City Junior College, Florida. Trail searching continued and extended out of probable areas into possible areas. All possibilities were checked as manpower was available. Anthony Creek and other Spence Field drainages were covered and re-covered, as they were every day. Another helispot was established at Russell Field. Special Forces were assigned to the Eagle Creek and Jenkins Ridge trail area. Fifty (50) Tennessee Air National Guard arrived via two Air Force HH53 (Jolly Green Giant) helicopters and joined the grid search at Spence Field. The HH53 helicopters could carry government employees only, and were used primarily for transporting the Air Guardsmen. Rescue squads and volunteers worked the Anthony Creek and West Prong of Little River areas in Tennessee. The U. S. Coast Guard Auxillary of Knoxville, Tennessee, volunteered boats and men for Fontana Lake. They patrolled the north shoreline of the lake and transported searchers to the trails and drainages on the north shore.

Rangers Cantrell and Kloos, North Carolina Wildlife Protectors, and volunteers further checked trails and drainages in North Carolina.

Additional portable radios were obtained from Central Communications, Knoxville (The Parks Motorola service station).

Additional flagging tape (plastic ribbon) was ordered as the grid searching required good visible marking of the perimeters and search lines.

The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) Headquarters in Knoxville called and offered to help. An additional supply of area quad maps were requested and received from the TVA.

The helicopters were unable to fly until approximately 11:00 a.m., due to ground fog. Helicopters flew 54 searchers to Spence Field and 16 to Russell Field. The majority of the searchers were transported by truck and jeep up the Bote Mountain road.

Additional rains and heavy use made of the Bote Mountain road made it difficult to negotiate.

Several staff and overhead were becoming very tired, putting in long hours. Several were sent back for a rest and other overhead relief were sent to Spence Field.

Additional park manpower assigned to the operation Tuesday afternoon included:

Jim Ray (JCCCC), Relief, Spence Field Overhead
Coy Hanson (JCCCC), Relief, Spence Field Overhead
Jerry Couch (JCCCC), Timekeeper
Ed Menning (Interpretive Div.), Crew Leader
Don Pledger (Sub-district ranger, Luftee), Crew Leader.

Traffic control stations were now set up at Bote Mountain road terminus to Laurel Creek road, Cades Cove campground parking lot, and at Cades Cove helispot.

Lodging and meals were arranged for at Tremont JCCCC for government overhead personnel.

A request was made to SERO to alert additional overhead from other SER areas if needed.

Total force for the day: 365 (NPS, Rescue Squads, Student Foresters, Tennessee Air National Guard, Maryville Tenn. Volunteer Fire Dept., Air Base personnel, U.S. Army pilots and crews, Volunteers, Special Forces (Green Berets))

June 18, 1969 - Wednesday

Tony Stark, SERO called and gave four names of other NPS area personnel put on standby for search and asked that a status report be called in the following morning for the Director's Staff meeting. Later in the day a cost report was called in to Mr. Stark. An emergency account number was assigned to the search operation - 110132.

The grid search continued with utilization of the total Air National Guard forces numbering 97 troops. Trail, drainage, ridge tops, ridge contours, lakeshore, and other extensive area searches continued.

The boy's father, William Martin, believed the most likely places to be Anthony Creek drainage or Eagle Creek drainage. The Special Forces continued to check out the Eagle Creek possibility, as rescue squads and volunteer workers checked out Anthony Creek.

A U-10 fixed wing aircraft was made available with a loud speaker system installed. The plan was for someone, such as Mr. William Martin, to fly over the area and call the boy's name on the loud-speaker and give some simple instructions on how to make contact with some of the searchers. However, upon landing in the Cove, the rear landing gear struck a rock and knocked it through the rear stabilizer, rendering the aircraft unuseable. After repairs were made it had to return to base.

Professor Ed Buckner of the University of Tennessee phoned that he and 15 forestry seniors would be going up Eagle Creek via Fontana. Their plan was to split up in small groups, camp in various places on the Eagle Creek trail and build good sized bonfires throughout the night, hoping that if the boy were in the area he would come to the firelight. Dr. Kerry Schell also took 35 senior foresters and searched the Jenkins Ridge trail up to the Haw Gap vicinity the following day.

The American Red Cross became the central contact for all food donations. The ladies of the Townsend, Tenn., area had been bringing food and drinks to Mrs. Larry Niclson at Cades Cove Ranger Station. Even through all available emergency rations were sent to Cades Cove, the day after the boy was lost, there had continued to be an overabundance of food supplied by these volunteer efforts. This continued throughout the entire effort (through June 29, 1969).

Twenty-two (22) more Special Forces troops came into the area, bringing their total to 62 troops.

Rain the previous night created more difficulty with vehicle travel on Bote Mountain road. Helicopters were limited during the day by cloud cover.

Sgt. Wochart, Eastern Air Rescue Service, Robbins AFB, requested a call back on developments and helicopter status.

Four (4) helicopters involved today - 2 Hueys, and 2 CH53's. The CH53 can haul government employees only.

The first of many predictions by individuals, clairvoyants, and others began to come in today. These predictions played a definite part in this search and will be dealt with in an appendix to follow the narrative.

Total force for the day: 615 (NPS, Martin family, Smoky Mountain Hiking Club, Special Forces, Air National Guard, Air Base personnel, U. S. Army, Volunteers, UT senior foresters)

Operations Center for search activities was set up in the shop building in Cades Cove Maintenance area. A special telephone was ordered and set up and all search related phone calls were directed to it. Several map boards and a large table were set up. Constant radio coverage on both Park frequencies was arranged, and the Special Forces Communications van and personnel were moved from the Cades Cove helispot to the Operations Center. The Special Forces also set up a communications unit in the Spence Field area, via jeep transportation.

A "Strategy Meeting" was held at Park Headquarters, at 9:00 p.m., June 18. A review was made of the entire search operation as to what had been done to date and then it was discussed as to what further action would be taken and necessary planning that should take place.

The following individuals were assigned to coordinate operations, as indicated:

Plans Chief	Ranger Marion Myers
Operations Chief	Ranger James Wiggins
Ground Traffic Officer	Foreman III Dave Galbraith
Air Traffic Officer	Ranger Dennis Huffman
Communications Officer	Management Asst. Roger R. Miller

June 19, 1969 - Thursday

Ranger Widmer called Mr. Stark, SERO, and gave a search status report. Another call was placed to Mr. Kline, SERO, to request that the overhead on standby be sent on to the Smokies. Mr. Kline stated that WASO was sending more quad maps.

The Special Forces began to concentrate on an area between Forrester Ridge and Jenkins Trail Ridge below Haw Gap. A prediction had been telephoned to the Headquarters Dispatcher from a Mrs. Schwaller of Linden, Michigan, stating that the boy would be found "five miles southeast from area last seen on a stream by a waterfall and that white pine trees are in the area." This was a dream Mrs. Schwaller

had, and reportedly her dreams of this nature "had come true before." The Martin family were well aware of this and many other predictions and attached noted significance to them. The area assigned to the Special Forces would cover the area involved on the prediction mentioned. The search had turned up no evidence at all; heavy pressure was being put on us by a good part of the public; there was nothing to do but to check these predictions.

The Tennessee Highway Patrol and the Knoxville Fire Department sent personnel to the search today. A Tennessee Highway Patrol Bell helicopter flew Mr. William Martin over the search area, calling to his son with a small bullhorn, but results were negative as he could not be heard over the helicopter's engine noise.

The Knoxville Fire Department kitchen unit, supported by the Ladies Auxiliary of Knoxville, the Knoxville CB'ers Club and individual contributions, joined the Red Cross in supplying food to the project.

Superintendent George W. Fry visited Cades Cove and was briefed on the status of the search.

Total force for the day: 690 (NPS, Knoxville Fire Dept., Tennessee Highway Patrol, Special Forces, U. S. Forest Service, Rescue Squads, University of Tennessee, Smoky Mountain Hiking Club, McGhee-Tyson Air Base, Tennessee Air National Guard, U. S. Army, Volunteers, Tennessee Valley Authority)

The search continued intensively and extensively. Animal excrement (bear and boar) was checked, pit toilets at trail shelters and fire towers were checked, buzzards were watched, all with no trace of young Dennis Martin.

The Chief Ranger had telephone contact with Major Schaubert, Eastern Air Rescue Service, and learned that three more helicopters had been approved. The airborne infra-red sensing device was discussed with Col. Aiken of McGhee-Tyson. This was later dismissed as ineffective in this case.

TVA sent ten of their best woodsmen to the search.

Rangers Cantrell, Phillips, Kloos, Baffrey, the UT forestry students, North Carolina Wildlife Protectors, individuals, and the U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary continued to work North Carolina.

June 20, 1969 - Friday

The following additional overhead arrived overnight and went on today's search:

Dick Sims, Shenandoah; Gary Kuiper, Larry Bancroft and Larry Freeman, Blue Ridge Parkway

These arrived by the night of June 20, 1969: Carl Lamb, Southeast Regional Office; Dick Young, Colonial; Gilbert Calhoun, Bill Supernaugh, and Marlow Acock, Natchez Trace; Bob Burns, Mammoth Cove; Gerald Ivey, Bob Ellis, Ed Wilson, Grand Teton; Dick Stokes, Everglades; Paul Lagerstrom and David Lane, Everglades.

Bunks were provided at Tremont JCCCC and eating facilities at Townsend, Tennessee, and later on meals were arranged at Tremont JCCCC and a Townsend restaurant.

Two hundred (200) Tennessee Army National Guardsmen, on summer camp at Camp Shelby, Mississippi, were called in and bivouaced at the field next to the Cadec Cove helispot.

Two mobile communications trucks and 5,000 gallons of helicopter fuel (J-4) came in from the 134th ARG, McGhee-Tyson Airbase. The 134th said that **they** would provide indefinite communications and fuel. Fifteen Air National Guardsmen remained for the day's search, the others were airlifted back to McGhee-Tyson by the "Jolly Green Giant" helicopters.

Chief Ranger Sneddon was taped by various radio, television, Associated Press, and newspaper people from Knoxville, Tenn., Alcoa, Tenn., Nashville, Tennessee, and Memphis, Tennessee, regarding search operations.

The base camp at Spence Field continued to be manned each night by at least two persons, as well as the Special Forces Communications team. Groups involved were NPS, Smoky Mountain Hiking Club and Student for-esters.

The Special Forces prepared another helispot at Haw Gap by repelling a man with a power saw to cut one tree. An additional helispot was established on a heath bald near Spence Field, but lower than the field to enable helicopters to land under lower cloud cover. (Spence Field elevation approx. 4,000ft, new helispot approx. 3,800ft).

Total force for the day: 780 (NPS, Air National Guard, Army National Guard, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, U.S. Forest Service, Special Forces, Rescue Squads, UT Forestry students, Tenn. Highway patrol, NC Wildlife Protectors, McGhee-Tyson Air Base, U.S. Army, Volunteers, Smoky Mtn. Hiking Club, Red Cross, Knoxville Fire Department.)

Strategy Meeting - 8:00 p.m., NPS and Special Forces.

Chief Ranger set up Plan A (if found alive) and Plan B (if dead). Under Plan A the boy would be taken by helicopter to the Knoxville Headquarters of the U. S. Marine Reserves and then by ambulance to University of Tennessee Hospital.

Under Plan B the Blount County coroner should be invited to come in.

Instructions to finders of boy:

- 1.d Determine if dead or alive (dead only if rigor mortis has set in).d
- 2.d Notify Chief Ranger by most expeditious means available and give: location in detail, dead (radio code 10-200), or alive (radio code 10-100-A).d
3. Climb tree and set flag, build smudge fire, use smoke bomb (military only) or other signal for helicopter.
4. Stand by while Special Forces rappel a man in by helicopter and secure boy in litter, if alive; or guard area until released by Chief Ranger and coroner.
- 5.d Get name and address of person or persons who find boy.d

Plans Chief Myers stated that the top country was pretty well covered now. Additional helispots will be set up at Russell Field, Thunderhead, Derrick Knob, Gregory Bald, Eagle Creek, Hazel Creek, and Fontana.

The Cades Cove road was closed to keep the many curiosity seekers away from the Cades Cove heliport. The roads were used for transporting men and equipment. There was not time nor space to control traffic or adequately handle the large number of "sightseers." Only bona fide searchers were transported from the "Y" to Cades Cove by bus convoys, a distance of 5 miles.

June 21, 1969 - Saturday

The roadblock was set up at Townsend "Y" at 5:00 a.m. Blount County Sheriff's Deputies and Rescue Squad personnel assisted on traffic control. Rangers screened searchers and loaded them on buses and stake rack trucks for transportation to Cades Cove. Rescue squad units set up an operations center for their units in the orientation shelter parking lot. Volunteers and other groups were placed in the campground parking lot next to the campground store. From these points searchers were taken to the Cades Cove helispot or to the Bote Mtn. road terminus, with priority on the military and other organized

groups. Many volunteers had waited since 3:00 a.m., and became very irritated and anxious to go. After the saturation point had been reached on all the high spots, the remaining searchers were directed on foot to the low country drainages and ridges on Anthony Creek, Allnight Ridge, Ledbetter Ridge, and the immediate drainages into Gades Cove.

A one-mile radius around Spence Field had been completely saturated by today; also all immediate and logical ridge tops. All logical drainages had been covered 250+ up on each side of streams.

Two additional US Army helicopters, Chinooks, carrying 33 persons per load, came in at 10:50 a.m. Approximately 600 persons were taken by helicopter. Approximately 700 were taken up Bote Mtn. road by truck and jeep. An additional 100-200 were sent out on foot.

NPS overhead was set up at Russell Field, Derrick Knob, and Fontana in addition to those at Spence Field.

Total force for the day: 1400 (NPS, Rescue Squads, Army National Guard, Special Forces, Volunteers, US Coast Guard, Smoky Mountain Hiking Club, Aircraft Operations Personnel, Knoxville Fire Dept., Red Cross, Boy Scouts, UT Forestry Students, Medics (two doctors & two nurses), Blount County Sheriff's Department)

At 4:00 p.m., Captain Sulter of the State Adjutant General's Office, Major Schaubert, Eastern Air Rescue Service, and Messrs. Miller, Beal, and Myers discussed the problems of retaining the present military equipment and search personnel. Captain Sulter and Major Schaubert will contact Tennessee Governor Ellington through Adjutant General Mott to see if we can keep one of each type of helicopter and 200 National Guardsmen through Sunday.

Rescue squads took jeeps to Derrick Knob via Tremont and Middle Prong of Little River. A large part of the Rescue Squad effort concentrated on the Middle Prong of Little River area today. One Rescue squadman broke an arm in a fall while trying to cross an abandoned bridge. Injuries were remarkably light throughout the project.

Chief Ranger Sneddon requested Communications Officer Miller to call local radio and TV stations to request no more searchers as of 10 a.m.

June 22, 1969 - Sunday

Roadblock and traffic control stations continued as yesterday. Volunteer turnout was not quite as heavy. Gravel was brought in to be placed in the muddy spots on Bote Mtn. road.

At 11:00 a.m., Messrs. Fry, Sneddon, Myers, Morris and Nelson met with Tennessee Adjutant General Hugh B. Mott and staff; General Douglas, Assistant Adjutant General; General Pate, Air Operations; General Smith, 118th Air Lift Wing, in a closed meeting. The above officers were concerned primarily with the function of the National Guard in the search operations. After the meeting, General Mott held a press conference in which he stated that the present force of 200 National Guardsmen would leave the area this date, as this was the end of their summer camp tour of duty. They will be replaced by three units (150 men) of the 117th Mechanized Infantry Bat., of the Tennessee National Guard who are being called up for this project. They will stay at least through Wednesday, June 25, 1969. Major Webb of McChes-Tyson stated that we would have communication and fuel for air operations as long as needed. The new National Guardsmen would be sent directly to Spence Field and bivouaced.

Based on horizontal map computations, the general coverage area of the search had reached 56-3/4 square miles. The intensive coverage area had reached 12-1/2 square miles. The logical search area had been reached. Nothing at all had been found. The decision was made in effect, to redeploy the searchers again in the morning (June 23). Search groups would start from Spence Field where the boy was lost and re-cover the area.

Nine more Special Forces came in, increasing their total to 71.

Helicopters lifted approximately 500 searchers to Spence Field, Russell Field, Thunderhead, Bone Valley, and Fontana.

Communications Officer Miller contacted area radio and TV stations and informed them that the road block will be removed late this evening after all search crews are out. Visitors may visit and use Cades Cove campground and other facilities. Search to be continued.

Total force for the day: 1,000 (NPS, Rescue Squads, Smoky Mountain Hiking Club, National Guard, Air Operations Personnel, Knoxville Fire Dept., Red Cross, Medics, Boy Scouts, Volunteers, U.S. Coast Guard Aux., UT Forestry Students)

June 23, 1969 - Monday

The level of volunteers dropped considerably as it was anticipated. Searchers were allowed to drive their personal vehicles to the campground parking lot. Heavy rains moved in and curtailed search efforts for a major part of the day. Three large tent flies (tarps) were obtained from Park Headquarters Fire Cache and sent to Spence Field via jeep for the base camp. Helicopters were unable to fly due to the weather.

Total force for the day: 427 (NPS, National Guard, Special Forces, Tennessee Alcohol & Tax Unit (ATU), Air Operations personnel, Rescue squads, volunteers).

A police dog from the Spartanburg, S.C., police department was used on the search with negative results.

June 24, 1969 - Tuesday

Total force for the day: 482 (NPS, National Guard, Special Forces, Air Operations personnel, Rescue Squads, ATU)

Two more offers from dog owners were volunteered and accepted.

A young boy wearing a red "T" shirt and off-green short pants was seen walking the perimeter road of the Cades Cove campground. Rangers investigated and learned that the boy, Michael Devlin, Route 3, McCune, Kansas, was camped with his parents, Mr. & Mrs. William M., in the Cades Cove campground. He was asked to change his shirt, and the situation was explained to the parents.

A staff conference was held with FBI Agent Jim Rike.

The NPS staff proposed putting the search operation on a maintenance basis after Sunday, June 29.

June 25, 1969 - Wednesday

Thirty three of the Special Forces went off of the search after today's operation. The remaining thirty-eight (38) will leave on the morning of June 26.

Rescue squad personnel currently totals approximately 50 men.

Three helicopters, two Chinooks and one Huey, will leave on the morning of June 26, 1969. The one remaining Huey will remain through Sunday, June 29, 1969.

Superintendent Fry issued a press release stating that the operation will be greatly reduced as of June 26, 1969. All NPS personnel now on the search (75) will continue through Sunday, June 29, 1969. If the boy is not found by this time, the search will continue on a limited basis for up to 60 days.

All Tennessee Army National Guard Troops will leave today.

Total force for the day: 403 (NPS, National Guard, Rescue Squads, Air Operations Personnel, Volunteers, Special Forces).

June 26, 1969 - Thursday

Total force for the day: 121 (NPS, Rescue Squads, Air Operations Personnel, Volunteers, US Marine Reserve-Knoxville).

Search crews checked a report of a decaying odor near the park line at Tremont traffic counter. This turned out to be a dog carcass. Several reports of odors had come in throughout the search. A few were located and were the bodies of small animals.

Twelve members of the U. S. Marine Reserve of Knoxville joined the search today and planned to return for the weekend.

June 27, 1969-Friday

Total force for the day: 68 (NPS, US Marine Reserves, Volunteers, Student Conservation Group, Air Operations Personnel)

Twenty members of a Student Conservation program group camped in Cades Cove were used on a trail clean-up project on the AT between Spence Field and Russell Field. They were transported to the area by jeep.

Rangers learned that a Mr. Ed Crabtree, one of the Martin's neighbors in Knoxville who had been in company with Mr. William Martin on the search, had telephoned Tennessee Senator Howard Baker asking for 300 Federal troops to be used next week.

The Regional Office indicated that the search operation effort has been publicly significant to the extent that officials at the White House have been in contact with NPS in WASO. This fact was considered in our extending this search until all logical possibilities were satisfactorily accounted for in the minds of those concerned.

June 28, 1969 - Saturday

Traffic was allowed to travel to Gades Cove as there was not the turnout of searchers and visitors as last weekend. Rescue Squad members controlled traffic from the campground parking lot to the Cove helispot. NPS maintained control of travel on the Bote Mountain road.

Total force for the day: 196 (NPS, rescue squads; Marine Reserves; Volunteers; Bureau of Public Roads, Gatlinburg; Air Operations, Red Cross)

The Chief Ranger traveled by helicopter to Fontana (North Carolina Operations Control) and checked strategy operations with Rangers Cantrell and Phillips.

Mrs. Martin notified Chief Ranger that the family was thinking of offering a reward. Personally, she does not want the troops requested by Mr. Crabtree. Chief Ranger told her that such a request, if made, should come from the family at this point in the project.

Helicopter took searchers to Spence Field (42), Russell Field (40), Derrick Knob (21), and Gregory Bald (9). Twenty-nine (29) went by jeep to Spence Field via Bote Mtn. road.

The Coast Guard and the North Carolina Wildlife boats had gone by now and only two (2) boats remained for use at Fontana Boat Dock.

Vulture spotting activity over the Sugar Cove area, southwest of Gades Cove, was checked and lead to a dead Bobcat.

June 29, 1969 - Sunday

Total force for the day: 318 (NPS, rescue squads, Knoxville Fire Department, Air Operations Personnel, Medical Unit, volunteers, Red Cross)

All search activity for today led from Spence Field and Russell Field only (Tennessee side).

North Carolina activity consisted of shoreline patrol (boat) and vulture observation from Shuckstack Fire Lookout Tower and High Rocks fire lookout tower. Ranger Cantrell and members of the Swain County, N.C., rescue squad checked out the vulture activity spotted by the towers.

At 9:30 a.m., all other area NPS overhead were released and returned to their areas. They were held until this time for possible crew leaders in the event more volunteers showed up than were expected. SERO notified of this action.

At 5:00 p.m., a meeting was held at the Gades Cove operations center with Mr. & Mrs. William Martin, FBI Agent Jim Rike, Chief Ranger Sneddon, District Ranger Morris, and Sub-district Ranger Nielson. The question discussed was "where do we go from here?" Points discussed were:

1. Absence of evidence to support kidnapping, etc. FBI cannot launch a full scale investigation, but investigation as is, will continue.
2. Reward - FBI cannot say yes or no - up to the family.
3. The Chief Ranger assured the Martins that we were prepared to continue search for 30-60-90 days with three (3) of our best men, who also can handle volunteer searchers.
4. Time element discussed - Mr. Martin feels it wasn't over five minutes before they started calling and searching.
5. Mr. Martin feels that some people do have the ability to see or predict things. (This in response to the various predictions received by mail, phone, and word of mouth as to where the boy would be found.)

On this date, June 29, 1969, the operation was closed down at the Spence Field at 6:00 p.m., Ranger Wiggins secured the area, saw that all searchers were down, and brought the last jeep down. All equipment had been brought out previously by jeep.

Appendix

- A Estimated man-hours and costs - National Park Service
- B Transportation of Searchers
- C Rescue Squads involved
- D Other agencies involved
- E News Media involved
- F Predictions, suggestions, and suspicions
- G Injuries

Appendix "A"

Estimated Manhours & Cost - National Park Service (through June 29)

<u>Manhours</u>	<u>Regular</u>	<u>Overtime</u>
Classified (GRSM)	2155	3527½
Wageboard (GRSM)	2164	3208
JGCC (GRSM)	260	407½
Rangers (Other areas)	<u>760</u>	<u>938</u>
Total	5339	8081

Grand Total: Manhours ----- 13,420
Mandays ----- 1,677½

Costs

Personal Services -----	\$45,953.10
Equipment & Supplies -----	<u>4,630.90-</u>
Total -----	\$50,584.00

(Above total excludes 3,175 manhours of regular time of classified employees, which were absorbed by regular operating accounts, amounting to an estimated \$11,715.)

Appendix "B"

TRANSPORTATION OF SEARCHERS TO SEARCH AREAS AND RETURN

Helicopter Operations

	<u>Sorties</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Passengers</u>	<u>Cargo</u>
Army	938	137.7		
Air Force	<u>78</u>	<u>22.6</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Totals	1,116	196.30	12,989	23,801

(As per Captain Warren H. Bourgeois, Air Force Advisor to the 119th Tactical Control Sq., Tennessee Air National Guard, Liaison for Air operations during the search.

Jcep Operations

Total number of searchers taken to and returned from search areas at Spence Field:

1800 - 2000 (estimated)

Appendix "C"

Statistics on Tennessee Association of Rescue Squads involved

Squads participating

Anderson County	Pickett County
Bledsoe County	Rhea County
Blount County	Roane County
Carter County	Rutherford County
Bristol	Scott County
Church Hill	Scott County, Virginia
Claiborne County	Sequatchie County
Coffee County	Sevier County
Cumberland County	Smithville (DeKalb County)
Decatur County	Sparta (White County)
Erwin	Sullivan County
Grainger County	Union County
Greeneville	Warren County
Hancock County	Williamson County
Hickman County	Williamsburg, Kentucky
Hawkins County	Franklin County
Jefferson County	Bradley County,
Jellico	Grundy County
Johnson City	Jackson, Tennessee
Kingsport	Dickson, Tennessee
LaFollette	Tri-County, Kentucky (Corbin)
Knoxville Volunteer	Pike County, Kentucky
Loudon County	Harlan County, Kentucky
Marion County	Anderson, South Carolina
McMinn County	Athens, Georgia
Middlesboro, Kentucky	Graham County, North Carolina
Monroe County	Yancey, North Carolina
Morgan County	
Morristown	
Newport	

Total number of squads participating -----	57
Total man-hours -----	26,589
Total vehicle miles -----	69,811

(As per Hugh "Skip" Trotter, Sevierville, Tennessee, President of Tennessee Association of Rescue Squads.

Appendix "D"

Other Agencies Involved

Agencies Supplying search personnel

Tennessee Air National Guard
Tennessee Army National Guard
United States Special Forces
Smoky Mountain Hiking Club
Knoxville Fire Department, Knoxville, Tennessee
Boy Scouts of America
Tennessee Highway Patrol
Oak Ridge National Laboratory
Tennessee Alcohol and Tax Unit
Tennessee Game and Fish Commission
United States Forest Service
YMCA, Knoxville, Tennessee
Sevier County Sheriff's Department, Tennessee
Cherokee Indian Reservation, Cherokee, North Carolina
Lake City Junior College, Lake City, Florida
The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee
The United States Marine Reserve, Knoxville, Tennessee

Agencies Supplying food and medical services

Knox County Red Cross, Tennessee
Blount County Red Cross, Tennessee
Knoxville Fire Department, Knoxville, Tennessee
Knoxville CBER's Club, Knoxville, Tennessee
The Ladies Auxiliary, Knoxville Fire Department, Knoxville, Tenn.
Minnie Pearl Fried Chicken, Inc., Knoxville, Tennessee
Prospect Poultry Farms, Knoxville, Tennessee
Newman's Restaurant, Sevierville, Tennessee
Sevierville Baptist Church, Sevierville, Tennessee
Sevierville Methodist Church, Sevierville, Tennessee
Gatlinburg Motor Inn, Gatlinburg, Tennessee
Mountain View Hotel "
Hobies Restaurant "
Chimney House Restaurant "
Mountain Market "
Parkway Market
McKay's Restaurant
Swans Bakery
Galbreath Bakery
Numerous individuals and unknown organizations

Dr. Robert Lash, FAA Medical Examiner, Knoxville, Tennessee

Appendix "D", continued

Agencies Supplying Transportation and Traffic Control

U.S. Army, Ft. Benning, Georgia (helicopters and pilots)1
McGhee-Tyson Air Base, Knoxville, Tennessee (Air communications & fuel)1
U. S. Air Force, Robbins AFB, Florida (helicopters & pilots)1
Blount County Sheriff's Department, Blount County, Tenn. (traffic control)1
U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Knoxville, Tenn. (boats & operators)1
North Carolina Wildlife Protectors (boats & operators)1
Government Services, Inc., Fontana Village, N. C. (two pontoon boats)1

Agencies supplying maps and cartography

Tennessee Valley Authority, Knoxville, Tennessee
Alcoa Aluminum Company, Alcoa, Tennessee
Knoxville Blueprint Company, Knoxville, Tennessee

Others

Student Conservation Program personnel (picked up litter and trash at
Spence Field and Russell Field
Federal Bureau of Investigation (consultation)1
John J. Hooker, Jr., Nashville, Tennessee, had his private 12-passenger1
jet plane at our disposal at McGhee-Tyson airport.

Appendix "E"

NEWS MEDIA INVOLVED

Television Stations

WATE-TV, Knoxville, Tennessee
WBIR-TV, Knoxville, Tennessee
WSM-TV, Nashville, Tennessee
WRCB-TV, Chattanooga, Tennessee
WDEF-TV, Chattanooga, Tennessee
WSB-TV, Atlanta, Georgia

Radio Stations

WATE, Knoxville, Tennessee
WBIR, Knoxville, Tennessee
WKGN, Knoxville, Tennessee
WEAG, Alcoa, Tennessee
WMSH, Sylva, North Carolina
WUNC, Asheville, North Carolina
WGAP, Maryville, Tennessee
WFSC, Franklin, North Carolina
WSEV, Sevierville, Tennessee
_____, Memphis, Tennessee

Newspapers

Knoxville News Sentinel, Knoxville, Tenn. (Carson Brewer, Mickey Creager)
Knoxville Journal, Knoxville, Tenn. (Guy Smith IV)
Johnson City Press Chronicle, Johnson City, Tenn. (John Ross)
Commercial Appeal, Memphis Tenn. (Charles Thorbon)
Greeneville Sun, Greeneville, Tenn. (Gregg Jones)
UPI, Knoxville, Tennessee (Carl Vines)
AP, Knoxville, Tennessee (Gerald Segroves)
Asheville (NC) Citizen (Lewis W. Green)
Nashville Tennessean (Wayne Whitt)
Maryville-Alcoa Times (Pam Saylor)

Appendix "F"

Predictions, Suggestions, and Suspicious

Predictions

From Jeanne Dixon, Washington, D.C.:

Look around area where boy was last seen playing. He went out on level ground, went down (was walking, did not stumble or fall) incline and turned off to left at 40-50° angle and up a little. Then went back down and would be underneath point of incline. The area where he turned left has shrubbery and is thickety. Did not see any trees where he veered off to left, more or less bare ground.

Harold Sherman, Los Angeles, Calif.:

He will be found 2½ miles to left of where last seen by father or brother. Fell off steep place. Hung up in bushes.

Jeffrey Owens, Gatlinburg, Tenn.:

Had dreams last two nights about lost boy. In dreams he is not very far from where lost. Night before last saw him lying on hill behind a log, but last night dreamed he had dragged himself down to the river for water.

There were numerous other predictions, and the family was most receptive to these.

Suggestions

A Mr. Billy Nolund, Psychic Interpreter of New Orleans, La., arrived on June 25, talked with the family and headed for Rocky Top on the AT.

On June 26, Carson Brewer of the Knoxville News-Sentinel called and forwarded a suggestion received from a lady telling us to start looking in trees and tree tops - stop looking on the ground.

Telegram received on June 22, from Glen Chandler, Rt. 1, Mascot, Tenn. Take several friendly dogs including the boy's own, put package containing food and plastic raincoat around neck. Release dogs 1-2 miles apart. Be sure dogs are lost same as Dennis. By chance one may find his trail and follow him for friendship. Dogs could be released by helicopter. Thank you.

Info called in to Cades Cove Store, caller unknown:

Two branches go through Spence Field and come together. There's a hole. You have to step in it to know its there. Fern growing out of it.

A Betty Phillips of Townsend, Tennessee, called to say a boy was seen by himself at Elkmont by a waterfall by Joe Jones who lives in a trailer court, first trailer on left marked "private" at Walland. Turn right at King's Grocery and cross bridge to trailer court. We can check this by calling Joe Makee, a preacher, at Walland.

All of the above were checked and rechecked. Negative results.

Suspicious

The Martin family had suspicions concerning several persons, especially during the latter stages of the search:

Richard French, Dandridge, Tennessee, contractor.

Mrs. Martin felt that the lady in Miami and Mr. French, or others, could possibly have taken Dennis for reasons unknown.

Billy Noland Psychic Interpreter, New Orleans. Here without funds and equipment. Wants permission to stay in area for several days. Sure he can find boy. Without funds, food or shelter.

Carter Martin, other Martin camped at Spence Field. Could have someone gotten the two Martin families mixed up and "kidnapped" the wrong boy?

As stated before, the FBI has no evidence to start any large investigation on any of this. The fact should be well-noted that the family possibly does not want to accept the possibility that the boy will never be accounted for.

Appendix "C"

Injuries

6/22/69 Gary King, 22 years, Route 5, Maryville, Tennessee, received a lacerated right eye when slapped by a laurel limb released by a person in front of him while searching on the Tennessee side under Thunderhead Mountain.

6/20/69 A Tennessee Army National Guardsman inflicted a deep laceration on his left leg while whittling in the bivouac area. He was treated at Blount County Memorial Hospital and released. No other information available.

6/21/69 A rescue squadsman fell and broke his lower right arm when attempting to cross the old abandoned bridge over Sams Creek on the Middle Prong of Little River. No other information available.

6/29/69 Captain Vic Houston of Blount County Rescue Squad injured his back, apparently quite seriously, when he fell against the rear bumper and step-plate on the squads refrigerated truck in the parking area.

IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT TWO OF THE ABOVE ARE CAMP INJURIES.

AREA SEARCH AND INT. FILE
SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED
AUG 14 1969

1969

A7623 SER(ORP)

BLUE ENVELOPE

Memorandum

To: Director
Attention: Chief, Division of Park Operations Gibbs

From: Regional Director, Southeast Region

Subject: Dennis Martin search

Chief, Division of Park Operations Gibbs: August 7 letter in reply to Mr. William C. Martin's July 28 letter to you concerning this subject indicates a request to this office to send you information for a further reply to Mr. Martin, the father of Dennis Martin. We have discussed with Chief Ranger Sneddon the matters which Mr. Martin states had been disturbing to him. We found that Mr. Sneddon was familiar with these matters and that, moreover, since the date of Mr. Martin's letter, on August 6 and 7, Mr. Sneddon had met with and discussed them quite fully with him. Mr. Sneddon is convinced that as a result of these discussions Mr. Martin's attitude has changed considerably from that expressed in his letter to you. It is evident to us that Mr. Sneddon has resolved the situation satisfactorily, on a man-to-man basis.

Comments concerning the three items, in the order in which they are presented by Mr. Martin, follow:

1. Mr. Martin's letter does not identify the items of information which he states are incorrect, nor the sources of such information. Of course, it is the FBI's purpose in the investigation of any case to determine the relevant facts involved, insofar as that is possible. During this search and investigation they have so far checked out a great amount of "information" from many sources; much of which has been found to be false, misleading or inconsequential. In the FBI's method of operation it is not their purpose or practice during the course of an investigation to inform people outside the Bureau--not even those most vitally concerned--of the facts in the

case as they develop them. Mr. Martin seems to have been needlessly concerned about the FBI's getting the facts, which is the very expertise of the FBI.

2.t The Park's 27-page report of the search had to be prepared on short notice under the stress and pressure of a crash job (and while the search operation was still going on) at the request of the liaison man between the Tennessee National Guard and the Governor of that State for his use at a scheduled meeting with the Governor. As it developed, the report was not completed until the night of the due date and the meeting with the Governor had to be rescheduled for the following day. Having been prepared under these circumstances, some inadvertences were inevitable, and Mr. Sneddon is aware that there are errors and discrepancies in the report, nothing very consequential, however. Mr. Sneddon has explained this to Mr. Martin and has admitted to him that the report has some minor errors. Actually, since the report is an official document it could probably be construed properly that it was not our responsibility or prerogative to furnish a copy of it to Mr. Martin.

3.t The FBI intercepted Mr. Keys between Nashville and Chattanooga en route to the Park to identify the area where he asserted he saw a suspicious person. The FBI took him to the site, and they and the Park made no attempt to contact Mr. Martin because the FBI wished to go over the site with Mr. Keys. It was Mr. Keys, and not Mr. Martin, that they were seeking to obtain information from on this occasion. It was inadvertent that the news article regarding the FBI meeting with Keys was published before Mr. Martin was informed concerning it. Mr. Sneddon has explained the circumstances to Mr. Martin and has apologized to him for not informing him in advance of the press release. Upon request, Mr. Sneddon had given the story to the press by telephone, and according to him it was correctly reported as he had given it to them. The map referred to was supplied by the paper and not by the Park. The matter of the alleged error in the reported location of the site was reviewed with Mr. Martin on the ground during the field meeting on August 7. As a result this question has been resolved.

At about the same time Mr. Martin wrote to this Service he wrote letters to Senator Baker and Congressman Duncan of Tennessee

There were times during the search when crew leaders who knew the country were in short supply. It would be very desirable for each ranger to make contact with local people and prepare a list for reference in the dispatcher's office. This list should also include the duties the person would be able to perform. Maintenance personnel need to be logged as to areas of the park with which they are intimately familiar.

Some of our planned helispots had grown up with brush and time was lost in sending crews to the remote areas to clear minor brush from these sites. An effort needs to be made by all personnel who have occasion to be in these areas to keep them brushed and open for future use.

Expediting mobilization of park and outside forces

Considerable manpower was lost for many rescue squad members and volunteers were not properly equipped for search operations. It must be stressed to outside forces as to what is required in way of equipment, physical stamina, etc., of men who wish to participate in emergency operations.

Our list of agencies and the services they performed in the dispatch office proved very useful. However, updating and adding new services as they become available to our present list must be a continuing process.

Organization

Have everyone familiar with the park's step-up plan and other operations needed in search and rescue. This will help insure an orderly organization.

Immediately assign a planning crew. It was noted that in the early stages of the search most available manpower was in the field. We were lacking needed assistance in the office to take care of planning, paperwork, timekeeping, etc. Assigned to this planning crew should be someone keeping a log of activities. In this search, a man was not assigned to keep a log until the operations had been underway for a couple or three days and it was difficult to go back and get all notes in order.

Although we had only a few accidents, a safety officer should be assigned to future operations of this magnitude to oversee the safety of the entire operations. For instance, the first few days of the search, the stake racks on our trucks hauling searchers were not braced and could have easily broken off, injuring numerous riders.

Every opportunity on search and rescue training should be made available to rangers. Very few "buck" rangers in this park have received this type of training.

Communications

To ease the load on the park dispatch office, an extra man is needed, at least for the 1st and 2nd shifts. Since the public keeps the normal lines tied up, we should consider installation of an additional phone for use between headquarters and emergency operations headquarters. (Unless this additional phone - a separate unit - could be tied into our switchboard, the set should be installed in the office of the Chief Ranger's secretary in order to avoid congestion in the radio room).

A P.A. system (one of the mobile units so equipped) should be utilized next time for briefing search crews and reminding crew leaders to report to plans officer at end of day.

Supervision

Throughout most of the search there was a shortage of crew leaders. The value of retaining our temporary fire control aids was mentioned. Another source of qualified crew leaders would be U. S. Forest Service personnel, Smoky Mountain Hiking Club members and local people familiar with the terrain. A list of such personnel should be maintained at the dispatcher's office.

Some Smoky Mountain Hiking Club members were used as crew leaders to help this shortage. The U. S. Forest Service men preferred to work as a crew themselves in this instance.

Use of Dogs

Since heavy rainfall (2.5") occurred on the night Dennis Martin was lost, it was unlikely that the use of dogs would have been effective. The dog handlers agreed in this instance. However, there is no question but in the future we should consider using dogs right away while the scent is still good and even though there may be rain. The scent laid down before the rain may be lost, however a lost persons movements after a rain will leave a new scent trail. This must be done early in the search. For this reason we should know where the sources are and have them listed for reference. It would be worth our time to do some research on effectiveness of dogs after time has elapsed, rainfall, etc. It was mentioned that dogs were kept by several rescue squads, both in Tennessee and North Carolina.

Also, in connection with tracking, there are mountain men that are experienced at tracking. At the beginning bring these men in as a "hot shot" tracking crew before tracking evidence is obliterated by search parties and before arrival of tracking dogs.

Psychic leads

Many hours were spent to no avail in the Martin search checking out visions of "seers." It might be well to make a note to talk with the family regarding predictors, seers, visionists, etc., and determine what their feelings are concerning this type person. If parents do not want anything to do with psychic leads, we can send them on their way and not waste time checking out their predictions.

Transportation

Use of helicopters were extremely valuable in the search by putting fresh crews in remote areas in relatively short time. It was noted that some military helicopters cannot haul civilian searchers on certain crafts; others can. The question came up - should we have had waivers signed by everyone boarding one of the choppers, relieving the government of liability? It was mentioned that the Service is sort of in a "gray area" concerning volunteer services, but in cases of emergencies we can accept such services. In case of an accident, it would probably have to be handled as a tort claim against the National Park Service and not the military.

Since military copters are available to us in most emergency situations, a log of these services should be developed and updated in the dispatcher's office for future reference.

Volunteers

Since many of the rescue squads did not have the physical stamina and skills (such as using a map and compass) needed, it was suggested that we contact their president and inform him of the physical stamina, equipment and skills needed in search operations. Perhaps then they will be better prepared to meet such emergencies. If needed, rangers could instruct the necessary skills required.

Congressional inquiries

These are a part of our public relations, and it is felt that such misunderstanding could have been avoided if a press officer had notified congressional representatives direct of actions being taken. This should be considered in future large scale emergency operations. Advise them of the facts, rather than letting them listen to rumors.

Publicity and press relations

To have kept the public better informed a press officer should have been assigned by Sunday, or early in the first phase of the search. The press officer should stress to news media not only the events, but also what is required of persons volunteering to assist, such as physical condition, clothing, equipment, type of terrain to be encountered, etc. (This was done in the Martin search, but not till later). Also the press should be asked to advise volunteers sending food to be particular to send only foods that are not subject to quick spoilage, such as mayonnaise, egg salads, fried chicken, etc. When, and if, refrigeration is procured (as it was later in the search) then the news media can so inform the public. The volume of volunteered food was astonishing.

Conclusion

The consensus of opinion was that the search went very well, considering all the factors involved. If it is ever again necessary to manage a search of this magnitude, the above preparations and actions should improve the performance of the operation.

(Sgd) Keith Neilson

Keith Neilson

cc:
CRO file
gen. file
yellow

JFWiggins:GLS:bjt

DATE: 07-01-2015 10:07:49 AM Type: Recv

SUBJECT: QWA FROM TNNCIC000

Message:

QWA TNNCIC000

09:10 07/01/15 07767

09:10 07/01/15 00001 TNDI001B0

*QWA-----

TXT

TNDI001B0

***MESSAGE KEY QWA SEARCHES ALL NCIC PERSONS FILES WITHOUT LIMITATIONS.
MKE/WANTED PERSON - CAUTION

(6) (6), (b) (7)(C) - unrelated matter

MKE/MISSING PERSON INVOLUNTARY - CAUTION

CMC/01 - OTHER

ORI/TNDI001A0 NAM/MARTIN DENNIS LLOYD SEX/M RAC/W POB/TN

DOB/19620620 HGT/401 WGT/055 EYE/BR0 HA/BR0

SKN/FAR

MNP/MP DLC/19690614 OCA/061469

VLD/20120326 VLN/JACK SHULTS NOA/N

MIS/DENNIS LLOYD MARTIN WAS REPORTED MISSING BY HIS PARENTS TO THE GREAT SMOKY

MIS/MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK SERVICE ON JUNE 14 1969 AROUND 430 PM HE WAS ON A

MIS/FAMILY OUTING WITH HIS PARENTS AT THE SPENCE FIELD AREA OF THE APPALACHAIN

MIS/TRAIL AREA HE WAS LAST SEEN PLAYING WITH OTHER BOYS AND WAS WEARING A RED T

MIS/SHIRT SHORT GREEN TROUSERS LOW CUT OXFORD SHOES HE WAS IN SPECIAL EDUCATION

MIS/BECAUSE OF SLOW MENTAL DEVELOPMENT A TWO WEEK EXTENSIVE SEARCH WAS CONDUCTED

MIS/ AND NO TRACES OF THE SUBJECT WERE FOUND

DNA/N

ORI IS GREAT SMOKY MT PARK PK RANGER DIV GATLINBURG 865 436-1294

IMN/1191190326 IMT/I

IMN/1291162634 IMT/I

IMN/1511195317 IMT/I

NIC/M950606371/ADTE/20120326/0919 EDT DLU/20120327 1132 EDT

JAMES H. QUILLEN
FIRST DISTRICT, TENNESSEE

WASHINGTON OFFICE
Room 102
CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING 20515

DISTRICT OFFICE
Room B-8
FEDERAL (POST OFFICE) BUILDING
KINGSPORT, TENNESSEE 37662

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

June 19, 1969

COMMITTEE
RULES
COMMITTEE ON
COMMITTEES

RECEIVED
GREAT SMOKY MTS. NTL. PARK
GATLINBURG, TENN.

6.23.69

6/23/69
JH
6/23

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. DeLoach	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Bishop	
Mr. Casper	
Mr. Callahan	
Mr. Conrad	
Mr. Felt	
Mr. Gale	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Sullivan	
Mr. Tavel	
Mr. Trotter	
Tele. Room	
Miss Holmes	
Miss Gandy	

Dear George:

The attached copy of a wire I have received is self-explanatory. I am sure that these units would be available upon your request.

Please note a copy of my letter to Mr. Hoffman -- from the heart.

Sincerely,

James H. Quillen

Mr. George W. Fry
Superintendent
Great Smoky Mountains National Park
Gatlinburg, Tennessee 37738

Enclosures

Great Smoky Mountains National Park
Gatlinburg, Tennessee 37738

June 26, 1969

Hon. James H. Quillen
Room 102 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Jimmy:

Thank you for your letter of June 19. The response in providing assistance in the search for Dennis Martin has been tremendous. I have never seen the like of people being so responsive in volunteering to help search for the missing boy as well as providing food and other necessities which are necessary to support such a large operation.

In my entire experience with the National Park Service I have never heard of or participated in a search the extent of which this has built up to. As you know, we have had National Guard from Tennessee for a week, the Green Berets for almost ten days, and have had the use of four helicopters for just about a week also. The rescue squads not only from east Tennessee but throughout the state and southern Kentucky have been here in large numbers, and we have utilized the services of everyone. We have had so many requests from volunteers that starting about the middle of Saturday morning we had to advise the people we had more volunteers than we could accommodate.

As of today the National Guard and the helicopters will be leaving us, but the Green Berets number will be cut in half. They will stay with us through the weekend. We intend to maintain our crews, as well as any volunteers on this, through the weekend. Early next week we will probably operate on a reduced maintenance basis. I want to assure you that everything has been done to look for this missing boy.

I want to thank you for sending me a copy of your letter to Mr. Harold Hoffman of Gatlinburg. I appreciate your comments contained therein. I have been doing the job here as Superintendent as I saw it, as doing what needs to be done for the park and for the people. I appreciate your support and interest in the park, and there still remains a lot to be done here.

Moving is nothing new to us, this will be our 11th major move since I started with the government over 36 years ago, and I anticipate that there will be more. While we are sorry to leave the Great Smokies, we do look forward to our move to Atlanta, and it is not too far from our favorite park of the United States.

Sincerely yours,

(Sd) George W. Fry

George W. Fry
Superintendent

GWFry:MRCh



UNITED STATES
 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
 SOUTHEAST REGION, P. O. BOX 10008
 FEDERAL BUILDING, RICHMOND, VA. 23240

U.S. PARK
 DEPT.
 WED

IN REPLY REFER TO:

A7623 SER(ORP)

AUG 7 - 1969

10 59
 12 5/11
 Beal 9-11
 13 8/12
 in Jan 8/18

Memorandum

To: Superintendent, Great Smoky Mountains
 From: Regional Director, Southeast Region
 Subject: Chronological Narrative - Dennis Martin Search

We have reviewed in detail the narrative report on the search for Dennis Martin submitted by Acting Superintendent Beal on July 9. You and the members of your staff who recorded the developments and progress relating to the search and prepared this excellent report are to be complimented on its completeness and informative content.

We believe this report can and should be utilized advantageously as the basis for a critique and development of a general outline for carrying out large scale searches including sources of assistance, essential first steps, support services, and records.

We regret that the search has not to date reached a more favorable conclusion, however, as I stated in a previous memorandum, your entire staff is deserving of great credit for the manner in which this massive operation was organized and carried out while at the same time keeping the Park running.

You will be pleased to read Acting Assistant Director Gibbs' complimentary acknowledgment of your report, copy of which is enclosed.

J. Leonard Volzt
 J.tLeonard Volzt

Enclosure

cc:
 Director



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

442-40(V)
27623

1 1 360

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Southeast

From: *Acting Assistant*
A Director

Subject: Dennis Martin Search - Great Smoky National Park

We have received the chronological narrative report on the above subject and were very interested in the contents. The information contained in the report apparently covers the entire operation which undoubtedly is the most extensive of its kind in the history of the National Park Service.

We know the personnel who were involved in the operations have been commended by your office, and we would like to also express a "well done" for the obvious excellent management of this tragic search.

151 Robert F. Gibbs

A 16

Bill Bell 8/12

RECORD of LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONE CALL

Date: 8/11/69 Time 11:19 a.m.

From: Fred Arnold To: Sneddon
(Name)

Place: SERO
(Office or Location)

Message:

Arnold called re letter from Bill Martin to WASO. Bob Gibbs sent interim reply to Martin.

Arnold wanted answers regarding three items in Martin's letter:

- 1. Information furnished to FBI incorrect
- 2. Press Release on Key
- 3. Key

Full verbal report on above to Fred. He will answer Gibbs and send copy of incoming and WASO's reply to us.

Signed Sneddon

AP NEWSFEATURES

50 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10020 PLAZA 7-1111

*Supervisor's note: The
last report of Bear's
sign. last summer
was ~~in~~ MCH*

A 76

August 18 1969

f. 5/20/69
Mr. Lee Snedden
Chief Ranger
Great Smoky National Park
Gatlinburg, Tenn. 37738

Dear Mr. Snedden:

I am sure that you will be interested in the enclosed page of photographs I made during my stay in your beautiful park several weeks ago.

This is a by-product of the assignment that was to show the beauty of the area. It shows, in a positive way I believe, some of the great effort that went into the tragic event that occurred in June.

Dean Stone of the Maryville newspaper tells me he intends to use the page in his paper in the near future.

In addition to this page, we have sufficient material to produce a similar page, depicting the park as a recreation area, next spring.

May I thank you for your help in producing the photographs for my assignment.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Wands
Staff photographer

*7-2-69
12
1-1-69*

3027 *Great Smoky*

Region *8/20/69*

RECEIVED

AUG 18 1969

1 28 69

A7C ~~XXXXXX~~

3) 5/10 =
Rec'd 8-22
8/25
8/25

Mr. William C. Martin
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Knoxville, Tennessee 37912

Dear Mr. Martin:

Since we wrote to you on August 5 to advise that we would ask for details of the matters which gave you concern, we have been informed of your discussions and field deliberations with officials of the Park and agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It is our understanding that the questions you raised in your July 28 letter to us were considered and resolved to your satisfaction in the discussions on August 6 and 7. We trust that the matters were clarified for you at that time and that it is not necessary for us to remark further on them.

Please let us reassure you that we of the National Park Service continue to share in your grief and are anxious to avoid any misunderstandings in our relations. Please do not hesitate to inform us if your questions have not been satisfactorily answered.

Sincerely yours,
(SGD.) LYLE H. McDOWELL

~~Chief~~ Chief, Division of Park Operations

cc:
Regional Director, Southeast (2)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Great Smoky Mountains National Park
North Carolina-Tennessee

For release
September 10, 1969

The search for 7-year old Dennis Martin which began June 14, 1969, in Great Smoky Mountains National Park will be officially closed this weekend, September 13, 1969, according to Park Superintendent Keith Neilson.

As many as 1,400 persons were actively engaged in the search in the first few weeks following the youngster's disappearance during a hiking trip with his family. Units of the Tennessee National Guard, a Green Beret detachment, Army helicopters, and numerous volunteers assisted park rangers in what became one of the largest scale search operations in the history of the National Park Service.

Following the major all-out search effort during June, three park employees, who are intimately familiar with the area involved, were assigned full-time duties in continuing the search, Neilson said. During the three months that the search has been under way, no trace has ever been found of the boy since his disappearance.

According to Superintendent Neilson, the National Park Service had expended approximately \$65,000 to date on this search operation, which is exclusive of all manpower and equipment costs absorbed by the many other organizations and individuals who contributed to the overall search.

#



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
SOUTHEAST REGION, P. O. BOX 10008
FEDERAL BUILDING, RICHMOND, VA. 23240

SEAL SMOKY MTS. ETL. PARK
GOVERNMENTAL TRUST
RECEIVED

9. 29. '69

IN REPLY REFER TO:

A7623 SER(ORP)

SEP 26 1969

10/8
 Mr. Tolson _____
 Mr. DeLoach _____
 Mr. Mohr _____
 Mr. Bishop _____
 Mr. Casper _____
 Mr. Callahan _____
 Mr. Conrad _____
 Mr. Felt _____
 Mr. Gale _____
 Mr. Rosen _____
 Mr. Sullivan _____
 Mr. Tavel _____
 Mr. Trotter _____
 Mr. Tele. Room _____
 Mr. Holmes _____
 Miss Gandy _____

Memorandum

To: Superintendent, Great Smoky Mountains

From: Regional Director, Southeast Region

Subject: Dennis Martin search

We have received a copy of your September 10 news release designating September 13 as the date on which the search for Dennis Martin would be officially closed.

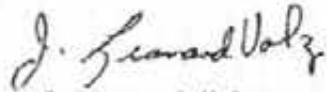
In this connection if you have not done so already, we request that a comprehensive review of this search be conducted, with participation by appropriate members of the Park staff who were involved. This could be carried out in a manner similar to the review of suppression action on a large forest fire. The purpose would be to ascertain, through an objective, probing but constructive analysis of the entire search operation, in what respects and by what means it may be possible to do a better job next time.

The review would be concerned with such questions as whether and specifically how capability for handling similar emergencies in the future may be strengthened, with respect to: advance preparations including training and equipment; expediting mobilization of Park and outside forces; organization, supervision, planning and scheduling; direction and coordination of action of participating agencies and volunteers; search methods and techniques; use of dogs; communications; transportation; provisions for feeding and sleeping; timekeeping; liaison with FBI; relations with relatives and friends of lost person; publicity and press relations; Congressional inquiries; checking out reports, psychic "leads," suspicious characters, etc.

As we have previously acknowledged, we consider that the Park staff has done a commendable job in carrying out this massive search. Nothing in this request for a review of the operation should be construed as criticism of that effort. However, as in all emergency operations there are lessons to be learned

from each experience, and in a follow-up review we should find out what these are so as to profit by them in subsequent operations of the same kind.

Would you please furnish us a summary of the findings and recommendations resulting from your review. We would appreciate receiving this not later than October 15.


J. Leonard Volz

A 76

Great Smoky Mountains National Park
Gatlinburg, Tennessee 37738

October 15, 1969

10/15/69

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Southeast Region
From: Superintendent, Great Smoky Mountains
Subject: Dennis Martin search - comprehensive review

A comprehensive review of the Dennis Martin search, with participation by the appropriate members of the park staff who were involved, was held at park headquarters on October 8, 1969. Those present were: Superintendent Nelson, Assistant Superintendent Beal, Chief Ranger Sneddon, Assistant Chief Ranger Widmar, Park Ranger (Resource Management) Myers, Management Assistant Miller, Park Rangers Wiggins, Phillips, Huffman, Kelley and Nielson; Fire Control Aids Arthur and Grady Whitehead and J. R. Buchanan; Foreman III (Maint.) Colbraith, and Secretary Teator.

Mr. Sneddon explained that the intent of this review was not to "point a finger" at any one person because of action, but to review the entire operation and determine where we can make improvements on future searches or similar emergencies.

It was pointed out that in the Dennis Martin search, everyone kept feeling that the boy would be found in the next hour and it was probably this reason why the search organization did not keep pace with the rapid manpower buildup. This search developed so fast that we failed to realize the need for quick organization, from the standpoint of manpower, overhead and public relations. It was the most intensive and largest scale search that any of the park personnel had ever participated in. It may well be that this was the main lesson learned while conducting such a massive search. Other comments of the review follow:

Advance preparations, including training and equipment

Although the fire step-up method of organization was used, and was successful, it would be more desirable if this park had a search-rescue step-up plan. Included would be detailed instructions as to search organization and operations. Instructions for conducting a "grid search" should also be included.

There were times during the search when crow leaders who knew the country were in short supply. It would be very desirable for each ranger to make contact with local people and prepare a list for reference in the dispatcher's office. This list should also include the duties the person would be able to perform. Maintenance personnel need to be logged as to areas of the park with which they are intimately familiar.

Some of our planned helispots had grown up with brush and time was lost in sending crows to the remote areas to clear minor brush from these sites. An effort needs to be made by all personnel who have occasion to be in these areas to keep them brushed and open for future use.

Expediting mobilization of park and outside forces

Considerable manpower was lost for many rescue squad members and volunteers were not properly equipped for search operations. It must be stressed to outside forces as to what is required in way of equipment, physical stamina, etc., of men who wish to participate in emergency operations.

Our list of agencies and the services they performed in the dispatch office proved very useful. However, updating and adding new services as they become available to our present list must be a continuing process.

Organization

Have everyone familiar with the park's step-up plan and other operations needed in search and rescue. This will help insure an orderly organization.

Immediately assign a planning crew. It was noted that in the early stages of the search most available manpower was in the field. We were lacking needed assistance in the office to take care of planning, paperwork, timekeeping, etc. Assigned to this planning crew should be someone keeping a log of activities. In this search, a man was not assigned to keep a log until the operations had been underway for a couple or three days and it was difficult to go back and get all notes in order.

Although we had only a few accidents, a safety officer should be assigned to future operations of this magnitude to oversee the safety of the entire operations. For instance, the first few days of the search, the stake racks on our trucks hauling searchers were not braced and could have easily broken off, injuring numerous riders.

Every opportunity on search and rescue training should be made available to rangers. Very few "buck" rangers in this park have received this type of training.

Communications

To ease the load on the park dispatch office, an extra man is needed, at least for the 1st and 2nd shifts. Since the public keeps the normal lines tied up, we should consider installation of an additional phone for use between headquarters and emergency operations headquarters. (Unless this additional phone - a separate unit - could be tied into our switchboard, the set should be installed in the office of the Chief Ranger's secretary in order to avoid congestion in the radio room).¹

A P.A. system (one of the mobile units so equipped) should be utilized next time for briefing search crews and reminding crew leaders to report to plans officer at end of day.

Supervision

Throughout most of the search there was a shortage of crew leaders. The value of retaining our temporary fire control aids was mentioned. Another source of qualified crew leaders would be U. S. Forest Service personnel, Smoky Mountain Hiking Club members and local people familiar with the terrain. A list of such personnel should be maintained at the dispatcher's office.

Some Smoky Mountain Hiking Club members were used as crew leaders to help this shortage. The U. S. Forest Service men preferred to work as a crew themselves in this instance.

Use of Dogs

Since heavy rainfall (2.5") occurred on the night Dennis Martin was lost, it was unlikely that the use of dogs would have been effective. The dog handlers agreed in this instance. However, there is no question but in the future we should consider using dogs right away while the scent is still good and even though there may be rain. The scent laid down before the rain may be lost, however a lost persons movements after a rain will leave a new scent trail. This must be done early in the search. For this reason we should know where the sources are and have them listed for reference. It would be worth our time to do some research on effectiveness of dogs after time has elapsed, rainfall, etc. It was mentioned that dogs were kept by several rescue squads, both in Tennessee and North Carolina.¹

Also, in connection with tracking, there are mountain men that are experienced at tracking. At the beginning bring these men in as a "hot shot" tracking crew before tracking evidence is obliterated by search parties and before arrival of tracking dogs.

Psychic leads

Many hours were spent to no avail in the Martin search checking out visions of "seers." It might be well to make a note to talk with the family regarding predictors, seers, visionists, etc., and determine what their feelings are concerning this type person. If parents do not want anything to do with psychic leads, we can send them on their way and not waste time checking out their predictions.

Transportation

Use of helicopters were extremely valuable in the search by putting fresh crews in remote areas in relatively short time. It was noted that some military helicopters cannot haul civilian searchers on certain crafts; others can. The question came up - should we have had waivers signed by everyone boarding one of the choppers, relieving the government of liability? It was mentioned that the Service is sort of in a "gray area" concerning volunteer services, but in cases of emergencies we can accept such services. In case of an accident, it would probably have to be handled as a tort claim against the National Park Service and not the military.

Since military copters are available to us in most emergency situations, a log of these services should be developed and updated in the dispatcher's office for future reference.

Volunteers

Since many of the rescue squads did not have the physical stamina and skills (such as using a map and compass) needed, it was suggested that we contact their president and inform him of the physical stamina, equipment and skills needed in search operations. Perhaps then they will be better prepared to meet such emergencies. If needed, rangers could instruct the necessary skills required.

Congressional inquiries

These are a part of our public relations, and it is felt that much misunderstanding could have been avoided if a press officer had notified congressional representatives direct of actions being taken. This should be considered in future large scale emergency operations. Advise them of the facts, rather than letting them listen to rumors.

Publicity and press relations

To have kept the public better informed a press officer should have been assigned by Sunday, or early in the first phase of the search. The press officer should stress to news media not only the events, but also what is required of persons volunteering to assist, such as physical condition, clothing, equipment, type of terrain to be encountered, etc. (This was done in the Martin search, but not till later). Also the press should be asked to advise volunteers sending food to be particular to send only foods that are not subject to quick spoilage, such as mayonnaise, egg salads, fried chicken, etc. When, and if, refrigeration is procured (as it was later in the search) then the news media can so inform the public. The volume of volunteered food was astonishing.

Conclusion

The consensus of opinion was that the search went very well, considering all the factors involved. If it is ever again necessary to manage a search of this magnitude, the above preparations and actions should improve the performance of the operation.

{Sgd} Keith Neilson

Keith Neilson

cc:
CRO file
gen. file
yellow

JPWiggins:CLS:bjt



INDICATE REFERENCE TO:

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
SOUTHEAST REGION, P. O. BOX 10008
FEDERAL BUILDING, RICHMOND, VA. 23240

OCT 24 1989

GR. SMOKY MTS. NATL. PARK
GAYLESBORO, TENN.
RECEIVED

10.27.89

A7623 SER(ORP)

Memorandum

To: Superintendent, Great Smoky Mountains

From: Regional Director, Southeast Region

Subject: Dennis Martin search - comprehensive review

Handwritten notes and stamps: (P) 10-31, 10/31, 11/5, 11-12, 10/30, 10/31, 11/4, 11/5, 11-12

We have read with much interest and satisfaction your October 15 report of the critique of the Dennis Martin search, following up on the request in my September 26 memorandum. As previously acknowledged we believe that on the whole the search was well conducted. Your report serves to identify several aspects in which improvements can be made in carrying out similar operations in the future.

We hope this review will be followed up as you have suggested, by development of a detailed search and rescue plan for the Park which will incorporate, in addition to other subject matter, the several recommendations from the review. Please send us copies of your plan, when completed, so that we may make the plan available for use as a basis for planning search and rescue operations in other SER areas.

This excellent review presents several new ideas or modifications and points out some possible pitfalls to be avoided in future search operations. Please express to those who took part in it my thanks and appreciation for their frank discussion of circumstances and actions which resulted in recommendations that will contribute to the improvement of practices, techniques and procedures in our field search and rescue program.

J. Leonard Volz
J. Leonard Volz

cc:
Director, w/c incoming

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a fast message unless its deferred character is indicated by the proper symbol.

WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

SYMBOLS

DL - Day Letter
NL - Night Letter
LT - International Letter Telegram

The filing time shown in the date line on domestic telegrams is LOCAL TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is LOCAL TIME at point of destination.

BUD052 (32)CTC024 CT

KPA026 PD-KINGSPORT TENN 19 1106AEDT

CONG JIMMY QUILLEN

WASHDC

DENNIS MARTIN AGE 7 LOST IN GREAT SMOKYMOUNTAINS SINCE 14
 JUNE YOU HAVE FOUR RESERVE UNITS IN YOUR DISTRICT APPROXIMATELY
 600 MEN CAN POLITICAL INFLUENCE BE USED FOR USE OF THESE RESERVE
 UNITS TO SEARCH FOR DENNIS MARTIN THIS WEEK END YOUNG MANS
 LIFE COULD BE SAVED ARMY RESERVE HAS A PLACE IN THE COMMUNITY
 AND HAS OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE MANKIND REQUEST NAME BE WITHHELD
 AND TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS

Great Smoky Mountains
National Park

File reference

A 76

Route to
Supt. _____
Asst. Supt. _____
Cf. Rgr. _____
Cf. Nat. _____
Cf. Maint _____
Adm. Off _____

Dennis Martin
File
Mgmt. Asst. _____
Luftee CCC e e
Tremont CCC _____
PSC _____

LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONE CALL RECORD

Date November 16, 1969 Time _____

From State Police Detective _____

To Marion W. Myers _____

Place Evansville, Indiana _____

Message:

A State Police Detective, Evansville, Indiana, called November 16, 1969, today, to pass on some information from a Mrs. Dorothy Montgomery, Rural Route 3, Newburg, Indiana, from her visit to the Park in September.

In the Little Pigeon River at the chimney tops trail bridge, she saw a child's blue canvas sneaker and was concerned that it may be that of the lost Dennis boy. Told him that we could not see any connection of this sneaker to the Dennis boy, but that we appreciate her concern.

Signed *Marion W. Myers* _____

file

SKH

Great Smoky Mountains
National Park

Route to:

Supt. _____	Mgmt. Asst. _____
Asst. Supt. _____	Luftee JCGG _____
Cf. Rgr. _____	D&C _____
Cf. Nat. _____	_____
Cf. Maint. _____	_____
Adm. Off _____	_____

File Reference

LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONE CALL RECORD

Date 11/28/69 Time 2:40 P.M.

From Bill Martin Place Knoxville, TN

To Sneddon Place _____

Message

Mr. Martin asked where the items of Dennis' clothing were which were brought up to searchers. He indicated the last he saw of them they were in a plastic bag, and included pair of shoes, socks, undershorts, sweater or shirt. He wants these items back if possible. I informed him they were not at headquarters, and must be at Cades Cove, and that I would check with Larry Nielson as soon as possible.

He wanted to know also where all the items went that were brought in from the search - parts of shoes, old handkerchiefs, red shirt or sweater. Told him all I knew of now was an old rotted red garment that was almost completely decomposed.

Martin wants us to call him collect when we have any of Dennis' clothes and they will come up and get them.

copy to:
 Larry Nielson - Larry call Bill ^{collect} if any of these items are at Cades Cove.

* Returned to Clyde Martin 12-6-69.

Shoes (loafers)
 Undershorts
 T Shirt

} These are the only items we signed _____ received from Bill. SKH

GARLAND
RECEIVED

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Knoxville, Tennessee 37912
January 15, 1970

Dear Sirs:

If it is at all possible I would like the following information as soon as I could have it.

1.r The names of all the hikers signed in for campfire permits on the following trails during the period of June 7 to June 15, 1969. Treemont Trail, Cades Cove Trail, Gregory Bald Trail, Boat Mountain Trail, Big Popular Trail.r

2.r Hikers signing the register for the above same trails during the days of June 12, 13, 14, 15, 1969.r

3. Permits for extended camping permits in the camping areas, during the week of June 7 through the week-end of June 15, 1969.r

Sincerely,

Wm. C. Martin

Mrs. Wm. C. Martin

Please notify me if this is not available.

Great Smoky Mountains National Park
Gatlinburg, Tennessee 37738

January 26, 1970

L
1/26

Mr. James Trotter

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

West Palm Beach, FL 33401

Dear Jim:

We have gone over the article "Where Is The Lost Child Now?" and we wish to compliment you. The dead dog you mentioned as having been found by following odor was one at the Townsend "Y" which had been hit by a car, so it really did not have anything to do with the search. However, a deer, which dogs had chased over a cliff, was found by odors, as well as other small animals and snakes.

We wish you success with this article, and also in your new assignment.

Sincerely yours,

G. Lee Sneddon
Chief Ranger

cc:
file
yellow

GLSneddon:bjt

Great Smoky Mountains National Park
Gatlinburg, Tennessee 37738

February 6, 1970

Mrs. William C. Martin
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Knoxville, TN 37912

Dear Mrs. Martin:

Enclosed is a listing of all campfire permits issued from June 8 through June 14; as requested in your letter of January 15. This listing covers the trails mentioned.

We regret to say that no permits are required for the group camping in the regular campgrounds, and hence we have no records for your use.

Sincerely yours,

G. Lee Sneddon
Chief Ranger

Enclosure

cc:
file
yellow

GLSneddon:bjt

2/6

Great Smoky Mountains
National Park

File Reference
A76-Martin

Route to:
Supt. 7-24 Mgmt. Asst. Konkaf
Asst. Supt. Beal 7/24 Luftee JCCC
Cf. Rgr. D&C
Cf. Nat. EJH
Cf. Maint. _____
Adm. Off _____

LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONE CALL RECORD

Date July 23, 1970 Time 10:00 a.m.
From Chief of Police Hugh Wells Place Greeneville, TN
To Sneddon Place _____

Message

Chief Wells said he had received an anonymous phone call from a woman stating that about 3 weeks ago she had seen the "Martin child" in a white automobile with Tennessee license plates (did not get number) on Cecil Street in Knoxville, Tennessee. She said that the man driving the car was bald, between 38-45 years of age. There was also another child in the car.

She said the child had ~~ixt~~ his head out the window and she was positive it was the Martin child, and that since seeing the child she had looked again at his pictures, and therefore, the report. According to Wells she would not reveal her name because she did not want any publicity (Wells feels sure he has traced the call and can now identify the woman if necessary) but that the more she thought about the child, the surer she was that it was in fact the Martin boy.

Chief Wells said he was only passing this information along in case of unfavorable publicity that could arise later in the event the lady decided to relate this information to news media; and in turn give Wells "some publicity for not passing the information on - for what it's worth."

Signed _____

THE WHITE HOUSE OF THE

REFERRAL

To: The Secretary of the Interior

Date: June 24, 1969

ACTION REQUESTED

- Draft reply for:
 - President's signature.
 - Undersigned's signature.
- Memorandum for use as enclosure to reply
- Direct reply.
- Furnish information copy.
- Suitable acknowledgment or other appropriate handling.
- Furnish copy of reply, if any.
- For your information.
- For comment.

NOTE

Prompt action is essential.

If more than 48 hours' delay is encountered, please telephone the undersigned immediately, Code 1450.

Basic correspondence should be returned when draft reply, memorandum, or comment is requested.

REMARKS:

For sympathetic attention and direct reply. Please furnish copy of reply.

Description:

Letter: Telegram: Other:

To: The President

From: Mrs. Donald H. Martin, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Date: pm 6/20/69

Subject: Re 7-yr old relative, Dennis Martin, lost in Great Smoky Mountains last Saturday (June 14th) while camping with family; search now on--asks for additional help.

By direction of the President:

JRB

John R. Brown III
Staff Assistant
to the President

rah

(Copy to remain with correspondence)

KBN

INTERIOR - OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

NIGHT LETTER

June 25, 1969

MRS. DONALD H. MARTIN

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
GULF BREEZE, FLORIDA 32561

PRESIDENT NIXON HAS ASKED ME TO ANSWER YOUR LETTER AND ASSIST YOU IN ANY WAY POSSIBLE. WE HAVE BEEN KEEPING IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH THE SEARCH OPERATIONS FOR DENNIS. IT IS ALWAYS A HEARTBREAKING EXPERIENCE NOT ONLY TO THOSE CLOSE TO A LOST CHILD, BUT TO EVERYONE INVOLVED.

THE EXPANDED SEARCH EFFORT WITH OVER 1,400 MEN CONTINUED THROUGH THE WEEKEND UNTIL MANY OF THE SEARCHERS HAD TO RETURN TO JOBS OR OTHER DUTIES. A FORCE OF 350 TO 400 SEARCHERS WILL REMAIN THROUGH TODAY.

PAGE 1 of 2

KBN

PAGE 2 of 2

THE GOVERNOR OF TENN. MUST ALLOW THE NATIONAL GUARD TROOPS TO RETURN TO THEIR JOBS, LEAVING APPROXIMATELY 120 SEARCHERS. ADDITIONAL MANPOWER WOULD PROVIDE VERY LITTLE ADVANTAGE SINCE ALL OF THE LIKELY AREAS HAVE BEEN COVERED THOROUGHLY, AND IN MANY CASES, SEVERAL TIMES OVER. THE GREATEST HOPE LIES WITH THE REMAINING 120 MEN WHO ARE MOST FAMILIAR WITH THE GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS. THEIR EFFORTS WILL CONTINUE UNTIL THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CAN NO LONGER SUPPORT ANY HOPE.

PLEASE ACCEPT OUR SYMPATHY IN THIS TRAGIC SITUATION.

SGD Charles G. Carothers III

Charles G. Carothers III

Deputy Assistant Secretary

SMOKY MTS NATL PARK
SEMPING, TENN.

RECEIVED

7.7 '69

cc:

Mr. John R. Brown III
Staff Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Secretary's Reading File (2)

FW

US - Mr. Train

Regional Director, Southeast (2)) w/c of inc.

Stamp area with handwritten notes and lines. Includes "Sheet 7-7" and a checkmark.

65-25-69

ROUTE SLIP
FOR
WHITE HOUSE MAIL

FROM: Carl McMurray, Assistant to the Secretary

- TO: 1. ~~DEPT.~~
 2. F-111
 3.
 4.

REPLY FOR SECRETARY'S SIGNATURE (V)

DRAFT REPLY FOR _____
SIGNATURE

REMARKS:

PLEASE PREPARE A MEMO OF TRANSMITTAL FOR
MR. McMurray's SIGNATURE _____

PLEASE FURNISH John R. Brown III
OF THE WHITE HOUSE WITH COPY OF REPLY

NOTE: REPLY MUST BE DISPATCHED FROM
THE DEPARTMENT WITHIN 48 HOURS
(Hand Carry thru the above routing)

Sunday Morning

Mr President:

Last Saturday, a seven-year-old child, Dennis Martin, was lost in the Great Smoky Mountains, while camping with his family.

Today, though hundreds of people are searching earnestly for him, he has not been found. Among those who have not left the mountain yet will search are the boys' father, grandfather, and several ladies who are approaching the age of seventy. They must find Dennis - either living or dead.

My husband is among the men, searching for her

Cousin, but I among those
like the child's mother who can
only wait and pray.

By chance last night as
I lay awake, I read the
enclosed account of your
Cousin's station over losing
and then finding your son. Truly,
I thought, a man with such
compassion for an animal will
understand the emotions and
facts when there is a similar
situation - but involving a child.

The man at the Morris
family home loved the
Bachian for over fifty years.

It is so very at life for the
 other men. That their very presence
 of inspiration should now become
 the site of their tragedy is
 absurd. The Park Rangers say
 that Dennis may still be alive
 as skeletons have existed for
 longer periods than this in
 the mountains. He must be found.

I pray that you can have
 additional help to be added to
 this effort. If I can assist you
 please contact: 934.2.835

Mr. Donald H. Martin
 (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

611 Range, Florida 32521

M.A.O.
SER
JUL 29 9 22 AM '69

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Knoxville, Tenn. 37912e
July 28, 1969 e

Re: Search For Dennis Martin
Great Smoky Mountains Nat. Park

Dear Mr. Hartsog;

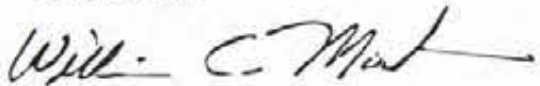
I am sure that you are aware of the disappearance of our son, Dennis, at Spence field June 14, 1969. For the following two weeks an extensive search was made with thousands of Rescue Squads, Military and individuals all searching under the jurisdiction of the park rangers. I feel that this search was quite thorough as I participated in several groups and later checked areas that had been searched by others.

Recently, I have become aware of several things that disturb me.

1. Information had been given to the F.B.I. regarding Dennis's disappearance. Certain items which I have discussed with the F.B.I. agent are incorrect.
2. A 27 page summary has been made of the disappearance and search. There are discrepancies in this report.
3. During the past week I contacted a person, Mr. Keys, who may have seen a Kidnapper. I talked to Mr. Keys Long Distance several times and he volunteered to come to the Smokies. He was contacted and came here to locate the area where he saw a "Suspicious Person". Ranger Ed Widmer and F.B.I. agent met with Mr. Keys. No attempt was made to contact me. I found out about 9:00 P.M. the next night that Mr. Keyse had been here. After calling Mr. Keys at his home, I found that no explanatione was given to him why I wasn't present. At my request, Ranger Widmer showed me the area the next day. This morning I found in the newspaper that Chief Rangere Lee Sneddon gave a complete description of the visit to the local press. Thee description, complete with map was given to the press for public knowledge beforee I knew that Mr. Keys was here. Even so, the description is incorrect. The branche described is about one mile away from the place that was visited. The terrain ande foliage is completely different. I visited Ranger Sneddon today and discussed thise situation. His answer was "You have to co-operate with the press". I feel that Ie should have this sort of information rather than the press. The public has nowe read this distorted report and I expect many new stories and versions to be offered. We already have too many stories from persons who do not have correct information.

I request any assistance you may give to avoid more similar occurances.

Sincerely,



William C. Martin

5



What's Happening In Washington, D.C.

—BY U. S. SEN. HOWARD H. BAKER, JR.

SENATE BLDG. BTL. PARK
ATLANTIC CITY, TENN.
RECEIVED

D.C. 69
Asst. Secy _____
Adm. Officer _____
Chief Clerk _____
For _____
Room, Assistant _____
EOC
July, 1969

Dear Fellow Tennessean:

There was more activity during June in Washington and Tennessee than in several previous months and really kept this senator jumping.

Sub-committees I am on have been concentrating on air and water pollution and on the complaints of the nation's controllers of air traffic. These are two serious problems and I am vitally interested in them. Committee meetings have been long, but members are obtaining vital information which will eventually help solve the problems.

There were several developments in Tennessee in which I had personally been involved and I was most pleased that things worked out which will benefit the state and several individual communities.

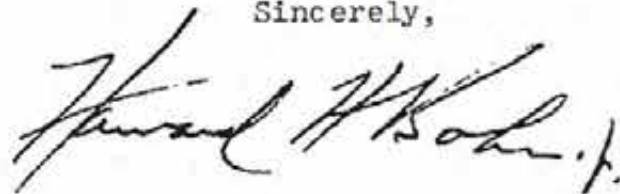
Two of the developments involved Memphis. It was announced that the Internal Revenue Service plans to establish an enormous facility to centralize

of ARC and played a vital role in helping get final approval of these grants. A grant of \$825,000 was approved for a vocational high school in Johnson City in Washington County, another was for \$369,950 for a vocational-technical school in Harriman in Roane County and the other was for \$296,400 for an area vocational school in Tazewell in Claiborne County.

Two tragedies in Tennessee were certainly most distressing. I felt so helpless during the search for Dennis Martin, the Knoxville boy lost in the Smokies. I wanted to do something, but knew everything possible was being done. I'm sure every Tennessean not physically involved in the search felt the same way. The flash flood at Red Boiling Springs and surrounding communities also caused deep concern. I kept in close contact with both situations to provide whatever assistance I could from Washington.

The Packers have moved to Huntsville for the summer and I am spending as much time as possible there on the weekends. The election at Cissy's school was held just as vacation started and I am pleased to report she was elected vice president after a vigorous campaign. Also, Darek has his driver's license and it's hard to get him out of the car long enough to eat.

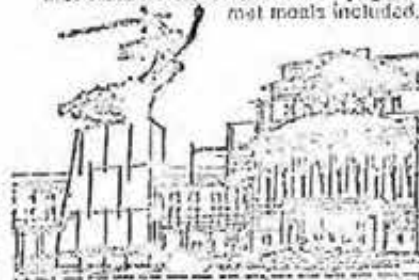
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Howard H. Kohler". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "Sincerely,".

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to the lighthouse. We have him," Hauer said his wife had snapped many pictures of Nixon over the years, and when I asked if I might look at a selection, he drew back his friendly neighbor antennae. "What's your identification?" he asked me. "I might be talking to a Communist."

No longer will the President be able to enjoy the solitude of long walks. For one thing, the lighthouse he strolled to, a quaint red-brick tower on Cape Florida, the oldest landmark on Key Biscayne, stands on the opposite or ocean side of the island. Benches on the bay side are sheltered, and anyway Presidents don't wander far on their own.

"Nixon loves to walk on the beach," says Earl Mazo. "When nobody else is around, he's a barefoot man. In 1962, when he was trying to make up his mind whether to run for governor of California — it was an agonizing decision — he was staying at a friend's home near Malibu. He called and said, 'Come on down and let's have a drink.' When I got there he was lathered in sweat, like he'd been running the marathon. He had come for a walk on the beach with his dog Checkers and he got so deep in thought he didn't pay attention to the dog and it disappeared. He was so frightened he ran all the way back, zig-zagging through the dunes, a mile and a half, shouting all the way. He said he came back and found the dog waiting at the door. He told me it was one of the happiest moments of his life."

Nixon observers say the President is as close to Rebozo as anyone he knows. The two friends and business associates (Nixon and Rebozo are part of a corporation that owns much of nearby Fisher Island) were introduced in the late 1940s when Senator George Smathers, a neighbor of Rebozo's, brought Nixon down on vacation. "Nixon doesn't have many close friends," says an old acquaintance. "One of the reasons Rebozo is such a good friend is that he keeps his mouth shut. Then every time Nixon wants to say something he just bounces it off Debe and gets a reply. Finch and Rogers are his only personal friends in the Cabinet; they'll probably show up on vacation. There's really nobody on his staff who plays the role of court jester, which is odd because Nixon likes a good joke. Kennedy had Dave Powers, a wonderful Irishman, to take his mind off business. He had George Allen."

On that long weekend in early February, Nixon got out of the compound to dine and confer with Rogers and Kissinger, ride on Rebozo's houseboat, and attend church on Sunday morning. He was missed at the Jamaica Inn on Crandon Boulevard, a pleasant candle-lit restaurant he used to favor in less pressing times. At the bar one night a wintering couple from Albany, New York, were

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miniature, owing to his wealth and facility—keeps the yacht—Third District Cruz Interoceano Club at the club's marina and frequently takes his friend the President out for carefree cruises. There is nothing elegant about the club—if anything it tends to a comfortable tackiness—but its 500 members are looking forward to a \$150,000 remodeling job this spring. Members of the beach club across the island believe there is an equally exclusive organization, though admitting that some memberships come automatically with the purchase of a house. "But we still have to pay a fee to get in," a beach club member told me proudly.

Norman Riddle, the yacht club dockmaster, may be the least conventional looking man on the island. He is a hardy old salt, a retired Navy man with a full white beard, bronze leathery skin, and a presence that speaks of a lifetime before the mast. He has met and spoken with Nixon many times around the marina, but heads of state no longer awe him: During the war he served in Washington Navy Yard where he lunched with Roosevelt and Churchill on occasion. Of Nixon he said: "I think he is a gentleman if I ever met one. I don't even think he drinks." (One or two martinis is said to be the President's limit. "If he is a connoisseur of anything," a Nixon observer told me, "it is martinis. He is very particular about the brand of gin—he prefers Beebecker and the way it's mixed.")

Whether Nixon is in town or not, a tight security is posted on Bay Lane, which intersects Harbor Drive just beyond the yacht club. Only residents of Bay Lane and persons on official business are permitted to turn right off Harbor Drive, past the sawhoses and Secret Service men. All day the curious stream by in cars and on foot, peering up the curving well shaded street. The President's security force on Key Biscayne must be massive, but except for the block or two around his compound, agents seldom are in evidence. Little commotion attends his visits. I observed no more traffic crawling by Bay Lane during his first Presidential appearance than on the days he wasn't there. Other than the dozen flags at the traffic circle and some red white-and-blue hunting draped on the Key Colony Motel, I saw no outward recognition of his presence.

Leonard Hamm, a retired trucking executive from St. Louis, has a house on the corner of Bay Lane and Harbor Drive, which gives him a front yard view of the action. Standing beside his yellow-Cadillac convertible (bearing two Nixon era President stickers), Hamm talked fondly of the island's favorite son. "We adore him. Why? Because we knew him walking up and down the beach. We used to see him, my wife and I, walking

SR/March 8, 1969

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James Trotter
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Knoxville, Tenn. 37912

1,800 words

WHERE IS THE LOST CHILD NOW?

The rugged Great Smoky Mountains
guard the fate of a missing seven-year-old

Source of information: The National Park Service, Gatlinburg,
Tennessee.

Maps and photographs available.

June 14, the day before Father's Day, was warm and sunny in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The air along the famed Appalachian Trail was filled with the warm resinous smell of sun-baked pine needles and the droning of various insects. Near Spence Field, a grassy bald running East and West on the main Great Smoky ridge, young Dennis Martin was on a Father's Day weekend outing with his father, grandfather, and brother.

Dennis, a wiry seven-year-old, and his brother Doug, 9, were playing with some other children they had met on the trail.¹ Dennis' father, Knoxville, Tennessee architect William Martin, and his grandfather Clyde Martin were sitting near the Anthony Creek trailhead not far away. The Martin boys decided to surprise their elders by cutting through the woods and sneaking up behind them. At 4:30 p.m., Dennis Martin, dressed in green khaki shorts and a bright red "T" shirt, slipped off the trail and into the forest to carry out his part of the surprise. He hasn't been seen since.

The search for the small boy that ensued has been termed one of the most massive in National Park Service history. In the end, National Park Service employees, National Guardsmen, crack units of Green Berets, the Coast Guard, the U. S. Air Force, 58 different rescue squads, the FBI, the American Red Cross, and other groups and volunteers too numerous to mention had participated in the search. Visionaries, including the famed Jeanne Dixon, had made predictions as to the boy's whereabouts. Yet, not a trace--footprints, a scrap of cloth, a shoe string--nothing--has ever been found.

The best chance of finding Dennis washed away Saturday night before searchers really had a chance to look. Huge black thunderheads rolled in over Spence Field and dumped an estimated 2 1/2 inches of rain on the area before daylight Sunday. Large gullies of water swept down the mountainsides into swollen and turbulent streams. The heavy rain erased any tracks, and, perhaps more important, ruled out the use of blood hounds or other tracker dogs.

"Dennis hadn't been gone five minutes when we began to look for him," his father said. "I covered the trail one mile east and 2 1/2 miles back to the west, calling his name repeatedly." Meanwhile, Clyde Martin made the long walk off Spence Field and reported Dennis' disappearance to the Cades Cove ranger station some eight miles away.

Ranger Larry Nielson, alarmed over the boy's age and the approaching storm, immediately notified the dispatcher at Park Headquarters. The dispatcher turned on the radio tape recorder and notified Chief Ranger Lee Sneddon and North District Ranger Bob Morris. It was 8:28 p.m. Dennis had been missing for four hours.

A party of rangers and other park employees searched for Dennis throughout the night. The blinding rain cut visibility to near zero and made trails slippery and treacherous. Chief Sneddon formulated a plan for morning. One crew of 30 men and five leaders would be set up, along with 10 crews of four men and 10 leaders. Spence Field was designated search camp, and efforts were to be made to procure a helicopter. At 5 a.m., June 15, the massive search began.

Mrs. William Martin, Dennis' mother, arrived in Cades Cove at noon Sunday. She was briefed by officials who were guardedly optimistic that Dennis would soon be found. A drainage search was conducted Sunday in the area near Spence Field. Search members worked their way down gullies, streams and creeks under the assumption that Dennis, groping in the dark and rain, might have slipped into one. Forty Special Forces arrived during the night, along with two Huey helicopters from the Eastern Air Rescue Service at Warner-Robbins Air Force base in Macon, Ga.

After a full day's search of the sodden forest failed to locate Dennis, park officials made plans to intensify the search. A heliport was established in Cades Cove on Monday and the American Red Cross set up a food service for search members. All food throughout the entire two weeks of the massive search came from donations from restaurants, merchants, and individuals. Monday night 40 more Green Berets arrived, a crack, self-contained search team with a communications van. The total force for Monday was 300 men.

Continuing rain and heavy ground fog bogged down operations Tuesday morning. Bote Mountain Road, the only vehicle access to Spence Field, had turned into a quagmire from the rains and heavy use. As the sun rolled the fog away, a second heliport was set up at Russell Field on the Appalachian Trail. Two Air Force "jolly green giant" helicopters were pressed into service. The U.S. Coast Guard Auxillary began to patrol the north shore of Fontana Lake, believing that Dennis might have followed a stream down the mountain, or fell in one and was carried to the lake by the turbulent waters.

The first of many clairvoyants began to phone park officials on Wednesday. Each vision was checked thoroughly, nothing was discounted. The Green Berets checked one vision phoneⁱⁿ by a Mrs. Schwaller. She believed Dennis could be found "five miles southeast from the area he was last seen, on a stream by a waterfall that has white pines in the area." William Martin rode over the search area in a Tennessee Highway Patrol helicopter, calling his son's name over a bull horn.

Veteran park men knew that with each passing day the chances of finding Dennis alive were diminishing. Not only were there the inherent dangers of cliffs, sharp rocks, bluffs, and swift streams, but several animals also had to be figured in. Wildcat, wild boar, bears, rattlesnakes and copperheads are all natives of the area. Woodsmen began checking bear and boar excrement for signs of human remains. Buzzards were watched closely. By Thursday^s end the search had grown to 690 men, including 22 more Green Berets and 10 of the Tennessee Valley Authority's best woodsmen.

Saturday, June 21^d Dennis Martin had been missing for an entire week. A third heliport was established to enable the copters to ferry in searchers under low cloud covers. The search party had swollen to 1400 men, as extra troops, rangers, and weekend volunteers joined in. Chief Ranger Sneddon set up a dead or alive plan. If found Dennis was to be judged dead only if rigor mortis had set in. If this situation proved to be true then the search members were to guard the child's body until reached by the proper officials. Hopefully, however, he would be found alive. He was then to be helicoptered to the U. S. Marine Reserve Base in Knoxville, where an ambulance would be standing by to rush him to the University of Tennessee hospital.

Based on horizontal map computations the general area of the search had reached 56 3/4 square miles, while the intensive search area had covered 12 1/2 square miles. A Green Beret officer, speaking to members of the press, said "When we search an area for a man and don't find him--then he isn't there." Such statements set off speculation that Dennis was not in the area. Search staff members held a conference with FBI agent Jim Rike. Although rumors of a possible kidnapping had grown, both Rike and search chiefs agreed that there wasn't any evidence to substantiate them.

Meanwhile, searchers following odors found the bodies of several small animals, including one dog. Heavy vulture activity was spotted and traced to a dead bobcat.

The search had grown publicly significant to the extent that officials in the White House were contacted. But all involved agreed that nothing more could be done than was already being done. Any more personnel would only hamper the ones presently there.

On Sunday, June 29, family members, park officials and FBI agents gathered to ask the question "Where do we go from here?" In the absence of any evidence to support a kidnapping theory, the FBI said it could not launch any full-scale investigation--but offered to continue the investigation as it was presently being conducted. The family said that they intended to offer a reward for any information leading to Dennis.

As of 6 p.m. Sunday "the most massive search using modern equipment" in Park Service history came to an end. However, the Park Service kept three top woodsmen in the area for 90 days. These men, all born in the area, were fire guards in the Great Smoky Mountains and handled such chores as tending the wild hog traps. All three could

pick signs up off the trail that most people could not even see:

Another man who could not rest was Dennis Martin's father. William Martin had stayed in the search area day and night during the entire two weeks. He was often on the verge of exhaustion and his face grew sick with lines of worry and despair. He returned throughout the summer and continues to return with no plans of ever giving up until his son's fate is known.

And the Martin family has taken other measures that they hope will lead them to an inkling of the boy's fate. Reward posters were printed, circulation^{ed} and are still being circulated. Mrs. Martin said, "If he is on the mountain then he is for sure dead. But we believe that someone may have picked him up and taken him out of the park. If that is true, then he may be alive right now."

Chief Ranger Lee Sneddon, a veteran of many park searches and a central figure in the search for Dennis, believes that the boy must still be on the mountain. "Lacking any evidence indicating otherwise, I would say that he must be up there somewhere," Sneddon said. "For people who don't know the area this is hard to understand. But with the thick undergrowth, laurel and rhododendron hells, you could walk within three feet of a body and still not see it. If masses could have found him we would have found him; if individuals could have found him we would have found him."

A trip to Spence Field during November shows that winter is approaching. The leaves, having attained their beautiful autumn colors, are now fading and falling from the trees. The grasses

of Spence Field are turning brown. Where thousands of men searched
in vain for a small boy this summer there is now nothing--nothing
but the vast wilderness, its quietness, solitude and beauty.
A flat, gray sky /overs over the ridges, and the rugged Great Smoky
Mountains roll far away.

~~####~~

Also, in connection with tracking, there are mountain men that are experienced at tracking. At the beginning bring these men in as a "hot shot" tracking crew before tracking evidence is obliterated by search parties and before arrival of tracking dogs.

Psychic leads

Many hours were spent to no avail in the Martin search checking out visions of "seers." It might be well to make a note to talk with the family regarding predictors, seers, visionists, etc., and determine what their feelings are concerning this type person. If parents do not want anything to do with psychic leads, we can send them on their way and not waste time checking out their predictions.

Transportation

Use of helicopters were extremely valuable in the search by putting fresh crews in remote areas in relatively short time. It was noted that some military helicopters cannot haul civilian searchers on certain crafts; others can. The question came up - should we have had waivers signed by everyone boarding one of the choppers, relieving the government of liability? It was mentioned that the Service is sort of in a "gray area" concerning volunteer services, but in cases of emergencies we can accept such services. In case of an accident, it would probably have to be handled as a tort claim against the National Park Service and not the military.

Since military copters are available to us in most emergency situations, a log of these services should be developed and updated in the dispatcher's office for future reference.

Volunteers

Since many of the rescue squads did not have the physical stamina and skills (such as using a map and compass) needed, it was suggested that we contact their president and inform him of the physical stamina, equipment and skills needed in search operations. Perhaps then they will be better prepared to meet such emergencies. If needed, rangers could instruct the necessary skills required.

Congressional inquiries

These are a part of our public relations, and it is felt that much misunderstanding could have been avoided if a press officer had notified congressional representatives direct of actions being taken. This should be considered in future large scale emergency operations. Advise them of the facts rather than letting them listen to rumors.



IN REPLY REFER TO:

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
SOUTHEAST REGION, P. O. BOX 10008
FEDERAL BUILDING, RICHMOND, VA. 23240

OCT 24 1989

A7623 SER(ORP)

GR. SMOKY MTS. NTL. PARK
GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS, TENN.
RECEIVED

30. 27. 89

10-31
10-28

11/4 '89

11-12

Memorandum

To: Superintendent, Great Smoky Mountains

From: Regional Director, Southeast Region

Subject: Dennis Martin search - comprehensive review

We have read with much interest and satisfaction your October 15 report of the critique of the Dennis Martin search, following up on the request in my September 26 memorandum. As previously acknowledged, we believe that on the whole the search was well conducted. Your report serves to identify several aspects in which improvements can be made in carrying out similar operations in the future.

We hope this review will be followed up, as you have suggested by development of a detailed search and rescue plan for the Park which will incorporate, in addition to other subject matter, the several recommendations from the review. Please send us copies of your plan, when completed, so that we may make the plan available for use as a basis for planning search and rescue operations in other SER areas.

This excellent review presents several new ideas or modifications and points out some possible pitfalls to be avoided in future search operations. Please express to those who took part in it my thanks and appreciation for their frank discussion of circumstances and actions which resulted in recommendations that will contribute to the improvement of practices, techniques and procedures in our field search and rescue program.

J. Leonard Volz
J. Leonard Volz

cc:
Director, w/c incoming



IN REPLY REFER TO:

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
SOUTHEAST REGION, P. O. BOX 10006
FEDERAL BUILDING, RICHMOND, VA. 23240

OCT 24 1988

A7623 SER(ORP)

REF: SMOXY MTS. NTL. PARK
SEASIDE, TENN.
RECEIVED

10 27 89

Memorandum

To: Superintendent, Great Smoky Mountains

From: Regional Director, Southeast Region

Subject: Dennis Martin search - comprehensive review

Handwritten notes and stamps: 10-31, 10-28, 10/31, 11/4, 11/8, 11-12

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J. Leonard Votz
J. Leonard Votz

cc:
Director, w/c incoming

There were times during the search when crew leaders who knew the country were in short supply. It would be very desirable for each ranger to make contact with local people and prepare a list for reference in the dispatcher's office. This list should also include the duties the person would be able to perform. Maintenance personnel need to be logged as to areas of the park with which they are intimately familiar.

Some of our planned helispots had grown up with brush and time was lost in sending crews to the remote areas to clear minor brush from these sites. An effort needs to be made by all personnel who have occasion to be in these areas to keep them brushed and open for future use.

Expediting mobilization of park and outside forces

Considerable manpower was lost for many rescue squad members and volunteers were not properly equipped for search operations. It must be stressed to outside forces as to what is required in way of equipment, physical stamina, etc., of men who wish to participate in emergency operations.

Our list of agencies and the services they performed in the dispatch office proved very useful. However, updating and adding new services as they become available to our present list must be a continuing process.

Organization

Have everyone familiar with the park's step-up plan and other operations needed in search and rescue. This will help insure an orderly organization.

Immediately assign a planning crew. It was noted that in the early stages of the search most available manpower was in the field. We were lacking needed assistance in the office to take care of planning, paperwork, timekeeping, etc. Assigned to this planning crew should be someone keeping a log of activities. In this search, a man was not assigned to keep a log until the operations had been underway for a couple or three days and it was difficult to go back and get all notes in order.

Although we had only a few accidents, a safety officer should be assigned to future operations of this magnitude to oversee the safety of the entire operations. For instance, the first few days of the search, the stake racks on our trucks hauling searchers were not braced and could have easily broken off, injuring numerous riders.

Also, in connection with tracking, there are mountain men that are experienced at tracking. At the beginning bring these men in as a "hot shot" tracking crew before tracking evidence is obliterated by search parties and before arrival of tracking dogs.

Psychic leads

Many hours were spent to no avail in the Martin search checking out visions of "seers." It might be well to make a note to talk with the family regarding predictors, seers, visionists, etc., and determine what their feelings are concerning this type person. If parents do not want anything to do with psychic leads, we can send them on their way and not waste time checking out their predictions.

Transportation

Use of helicopters were extremely valuable in the search by putting fresh crews in remote areas in relatively short time. It was noted that some military helicopters cannot haul civilian searchers on certain crafts; others can. The question came up - should we have had waivers signed by everyone boarding one of the choppers, relieving the government of liability? It was mentioned that the Service is sort of in a "gray area" concerning volunteer services, but in cases of emergencies we can accept such services. In case of an accident, it would probably have to be handled as a tort claim against the National Park Service and not the military.

Since military copters are available to us in most emergency situations, a log of these services should be developed and updated in the dispatcher's office for future reference.

Volunteers

Since many of the rescue squads did not have the physical stamina and skills (such as using a map and compass) needed, it was suggested that we contact their president and inform him of the physical stamina, equipment and skills needed in search operations. Perhaps then they will be better prepared to meet such emergencies. If needed, rangers could instruct the necessary skills required.

Congressional inquiries

These are a part of our public relations, and it is felt that such misunderstanding could have been avoided if a press officer had notified congressional representatives direct of actions being taken. This should be considered in future large scale emergency operations. Advise them of the facts, rather than letting them listen to rumors.