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National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Klondike Gold Rush
National Historical Park



Greg Clem

In my 15 years in Alaska, I have worked in almost every seasonal job, but never with the National Park Service. Having a wife and growing child, a year round job became a must. I saw a job opening for a year round position at the Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park for, of all things, a custodian. My wife talked me into applying for the job and, to my surprise, I was offered the position.

I'm not sure what the word custodian brings to mind for you, but to me it said a life of cleaning toilets! With a bit of reluctance, I accepted the job and started a new career. Yes, cleaning toilets is part of my job; but I think the ten thousand plus people visiting each day are very happy that there is a custodian and that the Park Service standards are so high.

To my ever loving joy, I discovered that the Park Service is much more than a job. It is a group of caring and loving people who believe; they believe that our lands should be cared for so the future children can enjoy them too. They believe that our history is important and should be preserved. They believe that they should treat the earth and her people with respect.

This job, that I thought twice about taking, has been one of the best things I have ever been a part of. In the 4 years I have been part of this park, the people have become more than friends; I am proud to say I am part of the Klondike Gold Rush park family.



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