

From the Office of Congressman Bob Dole, Washington, D. C.

FOR RELEASE: January 3, 1966.

Congressman Bob Dole, (R-Kans) has been notified by the Secretary of Interior that Mr. Elbert W. Smith, chief of Concession Management in the National Park Service's Midwest Regional Office, Omaha, Nebraska, has been appointed first superintendent of Fort Larned National Historic Site, Kansas.

Temporary administrative offices for the new site will be in Omaha until a permanent location for the headquarters is selected.

Fort Larned was authorized on August 31, 1964, however, the public law authorizing the site required that the historic remains of the old fort and adjoining lands be acquired prior to the establishment of the area.

The Fort was the principal guardian of the eastern section of the famous Santa Fe Trail, the natural highway of commerce to the southwest. It was also important as a base of military operations during the 1860's in the campaign against the Indians of the southern plains, and later served as the headquarters for the administration of Indian affairs.

Smith, a career Federal employee with more than 25 years service, joined the National Park Service in 1960 after having served in administrative positions in other Federal agencies.

He graduated from the University of Kansas in 1931 with a bachelor of Science degree in business administration. During World War II he served in the Navy.

Director of the National Park Service George B. Hartzog, Jr. said Smith's primary duty will be concerned with the acquisition of land needed for the site.

Hartzog also said that Smith will represent the Park Service during the planning phase for the development of the historic site prior to its establishment.