

Jeffrey Oshins

The Secret Routes of Capitol Pages

Jeffrey Oshins describes the stairwells and tunnels used by Pages to move around the Capitol complex.
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We, we used to have all of these routes. There's all these catacombs, and stairwells, and things like that, you know, that takes you up in and around the Capitol. That—I still might be able to find my way through some of them. Yeah, we definitely had our own routes and, and knew how to move our way around, because there were always tourists there. So, we were running around doing stuff, we would take these routes that would take us, you know, through the catacombs and, and up these winding metal staircases, and into where we needed to go. To avoid all the crowds that were up taking the tours, in like the Rotunda and then the old Supreme Court room, and, you know, all the stuff that tourists can, can go and see in the Capitol now. And they're still there, I mean I'm sure staff is still taking that, those routes to get in and around the Capitol. Although of course now it's a very restricted area.

And also the Library of Congress, which was one of my favorites. You could just wander around the stacks at the Library of Congress, and, and look at books, and find your, find something that—you know, if you were, rather than—this is one of the things that I discovered, I discovered this more when I was working there, as a professional staff member, was that if I was—rather than go through the whole thing of, you know, looking up something and, and then filling out a slip to have it brought to you in the, in the Library of Congress reading room, I'd just go back into the stacks, and wander around, and find the place, you know, what I was looking for, and, and then look through around it to see if there was anything else that I hadn't, I could find.