

# Yellowstone Interpreters Newsletter



NUMBER 8

DECEMBER 1972

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK, WYOMING

## CENTENNIAL NEWS

For those who had to leave prior to the September Second World Conference activities, we had a busy, but interesting month. All of the preparation, as well as the events, came off with a normal amount of flurry and confusion, but lacking any serious crises. Without question it was a demonstration of proficiency and excellence in planning and performance on the part of everyone involved--an outstanding credit to the NPS, to Yellowstone and to every staff and volunteer member.

The Interpretive Division had no small part in the activity, keeping all of the visitor centers open daily through the conference period of September 17-21, as well as providing other special services. On Sunday and Monday evenings, slide programs were presented for the delegates at Old Faithful, Mammoth and Lake. On Monday, an all day tour of the Grand Loop was conducted for the International Delegates. This was a highlight experience for many of our people as they tried to keep up with the barrage of stimulating questions from these National Park Directors from other lands. An exhausting day, but invaluable rewarding!

On Tuesday, a number of our staff "protected" Mrs. Pat Nixon as she arrived at West Yellowstone airport. What an honor to be personal body guard to the First Lady! But I think I heard something about it not turning out exactly that way--it seems there were mere glimpses of Pat through the crowd of news people and Secret Service from the middle of the parking area while standing in the cold wind and rain directing traffic. Park rangers get all the glory! The big moment of honor, however, came on Wednesday as Mrs. Nixon was preparing to depart. The farewell party consisted mainly of park personnel with a few Secret Service and press people. We lined up near the plane and Pat greeted and shook hands with many of the staff before she boarded the plane. Another day to remember!

Tuesday evening featured the barbecue at Madison campground followed by a ceremony in the amphitheater to rededicate Yellowstone to a second century of service to Americans and the people of the world. Our people again assisted with these activities. You read the accounts in the news of the nasty weather that evening and the briskness of the ceremony. Canyon had about 4 inches of snow on the ground the next morning.

Two other major elements of responsibility for the naturalists were to serve as interpreters on the buses as they returned to Mammoth and Lake from the conference sessions at Old Faithful on Wednesday and to accompany the International Delegates on their trip from Old Faithful to Jackson Lake Lodge on Thursday.

Our sincere thanks again for the splendid assistance and cooperation given by each one.

#### FAREWELL TO BILL DUNMIRE

Bill's final weeks at Yellowstone were anything but leisurely and relaxed as he coordinated and led the naturalist involvement in the Second World Conference as well as finalizing his other official responsibilities. Less than a week after the Conference, the van arrived and he was on his way to new challenges and opportunities. We thank Bill for his leadership, for his innovative ideas and for sharing his insight into interpretive needs and approaches. We know he will continue to do the National Park Service and the American public a great service in his new job.

Before going, Bill left a personal word which he asked that we send on to you. We are including it below:

"As I leave Yellowstone for my new job in the NPS State Office in Denver, my reflections are not so much on the things of the interpretive program that I leave behind, but rather on the people--you--who have shaped that program. To each of you, I'd like to extend my warmest thanks for your part this past summer and in previous summers in making the Yellowstone interpretive program a winner.

I was deeply touched to learn that many of you had contributed to my farewell Scotty Chapman painting of Electric Peak--which now graces a wall in my mountain home just west of Denver.

You guys and gals have been tops. (And a lot of fun to work with and to know, too.) I hope our paths will cross again someday."

Fondly,

Bill

#### INTRODUCING OUR NEW CHIEF

Alan Mebane has been selected as the new Chief Naturalist to replace Bill. Some of you old timers may remember Al, as several years ago he was Assistant Chief Naturalist at Grand Tetons. Al has worked throughout the country with assignments at Dinosaur, Lehman Caves, Blue Ridge Parkway, Grand Tetons, Mammoth Cave, and currently he is Environmental Education Specialist at Southeast Regional Office in Atlanta, Georgia. He and his family spent the past summer at Peak District National Park near Manchester, England on an exchange program. In 1970, Al was voted the outstanding Federal employee of the year in the Richmond, Virginia area. He and his wife Jeanie, daughters Melissa 14, Ann 7, and son Chris 12, will be arriving in Yellowstone about December 6. Al calls North Carolina home, and Jeanie is from Nebraska.

#### WHERE HAVE ALL THE NATURALISTS GONE ...?

The Mammoth crew made it through the Second World Conference with Chuck Nilpiken and Paul Schullery on board. Thea Thompson assisted with special activities and John Whitman was available for weekend and evening work. Paul terminated after the Conference and Chuck and Thea kept the Visitor Center manned through October. Chuck transferred from Yellowstone to Big Hole Battlefield where he is manning the Visitor Center, building fence, shoveling snow, etc., until a new management assistant is selected and arrives. Early in November, Joe Coates accepted an offer of a permanent position with the Bureau of Land Management in Oregon. Joe had been one of the three selected to be on the Old Faithful winter staff. His vacancy will not be filled. Linda Martin has accepted a subject-to-furlough career conditional appointment and will be attending the Introduction to Park Operations course at Grand Canyon in April. She will be on the winter staff at Old Faithful until then. Kurt Topham will also be at Old Faithful this winter. Keith Hoofnagle is at Saguaro enjoying the desert sun again this winter. Steve Heaton stayed with us into the fall and has become a specialist at closing out visitor centers. After closing Fishing Bridge and Grant, he helped Keith wrap up the operation at Canyon. He is spending the winter in Illinois. Doug Doolittle accepted a position with Western Washington State College biology department. He left shortly after the Centennial activities.

According to our last report George Downing is recovering nicely from a major hip operation which he had near the end of the summer. He was able to return to his teaching job on schedule and tentatively plans to have his other hip operated on next summer. Other members of the staff returned to their roles as teachers or students as originally planned.

#### OTHER PERSONNEL CHANGES

Jim Coleman has transferred from Assistant Superintendent, Centennial Coordinator to Superintendent of Morristown-Edison NPS Group. Garth Nelson has accepted the Chief of Interpretation and Resource Management position at Great Sand Dunes National Monument. His position here as Visitor Use Specialist will be filled by Larry Hays, who has been the Lamar Sub-District Ranger. Tom Griffiths has transferred from the Canyon Sub-District Ranger position to take up the Blue Mesa Lake District Ranger responsibilities at Curecanti National Recreation Area. Alden Nash will be switching from Pechler to take over the Canyon Sub-District. Old Faithful Sub-District Ranger Jerry Tayes has been transferred to the Washington Office where he will be aiding in legislation proposal studies for the Northeast Region. Marv Miller will cover Old Faithful this winter. Clesson Hayes has been reassigned from Sub-District Foreman at Canyon to Sub-District Foreman of the Lamar-Beartooth area. Donna Buzzard, South District clerk-steno has accepted a position as secretary with the Central Intelligence Agency in Washington D.C., West District clerk-typist, Rosie Kelly has transferred to the Midwest Regional Office in Omaha. She will be replaced in January by Kathy Warren, who currently is working as clerk-typist in Safety Officer Joe Miller's office.

#### NEW DEVELOPMENTS

A windbreak fence has been set up at one corner of the Old Faithful Visitor Center to deflect the deposition of heavy snow away from the line of sight to Old Faithful. Last winter the drifts were so high that a trench had to be dug in order to see Old Faithful from the visitor center.

We have been informed by the National Park Service Museum Design Office in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, that they are preparing special exhibits for the winter visitor to Old Faithful. The exhibits are expected to be installed in the Old Faithful Visitor Center sometime in January. They will feature a panel each on Yellowstone's Winter Wildlife, Winter in the Geyser Basins, Winter Activities at Old Faithful, Winter Safety, and Year Around Weather at Old Faithful. All except the last will be portable standing exhibits placed around the lobby. These will be taken down and stored during the summer months. The weather exhibit will be permanent and is to be installed in the wall between the inside ladies' restroom and the drinking fountain. This exhibit will include maximum and minimum temperatures for the day, current temperature, wind speed and direction, and a chill factor chart.

After several years of discussing, the Mammoth Sub-District Ranger Station has moved into the Visitor Center and are occupying the offices used by the seasonal naturalist staff last summer. We hope to obtain the apartment behind the book display rack for naturalist office space by next summer. The move means that by combining our efforts both the Visitor Center and the Ranger Station will be open and manned 7 days per week, year around. There is still some work to be done such as providing another access door to the basement. However, when completed we should have a fairly smooth running operation and provide better service to the public.

The U.S. Geological Survey has established a new seismograph network in the park, with stations located at Mammoth, Norris, Madison Junction, Old Faithful, West Thumb, Hayden Valley and Lamar Valley. The seismic signals are all transmitted by phone line to a visible recorder in the basement of the Mammoth Visitor Center. Several earthquakes are recorded each day and it is possible to watch a seismic disturbance hit the different stations and tell immediately where the disturbance occurred.

#### CONSTRUCTION

A number of construction projects were completed by the time that work had to be halted this fall. Final inspections were conducted on the Lake Bypass and the Lake and Grant Village employee trailer courts. The new post office buildings at Lake, Grant, and Old Faithful have been completed. The base work on the West Thumb Bypass was nearly completed. The surfacing will have to wait until next summer at which time the old road in front of the store will be removed.

#### THE COMING WINTER

Yellowstone enjoyed a beautiful autumn with the aspen showing better than average color. The fall storms were interspersed with bright clear days which melted the snow from the roads and bathed the snow covered mountains in clear, warm sunlight. Gradually the elk, bison, and deer came down from the high country while waterfowl numbers increased in the water areas. Every trip through the park was a delightful adventure.

Visitor travel in the park remained higher than normal throughout the fall. This brought both delight and hardship. For those who heeded the road condition signs it was a delight, but some who disregarded the warnings found that snowy roads plus speed equals an "off the road experience." A number of vehicles received property damage and some visitors received minor injuries.

As winter conditions increased the time to close the park to visitor travel came at 4 p.m. on November 6. (See attached news release.)

All district office are now moved to Mammoth and are housed in the ranger  
office building across the mall to the west of the Mammoth Museum.

If your winter travels bring you anywhere nearby, come in and hole-up for  
a couple of days. Let us know in advance and we'll arrange some quarters  
for you. If you can't come by, drop us a line and let us know how you are.

GRIZZLY BEAR MANAGEMENT ACTIONS, 1972

Cumulative total to Sept. 15

Management actions to date . . . . . 32  
 Developed area: 26  
 Other: 6  
 Captures and transplants within park: 23  
 Helicopter: 18  
 Vehicle: 5  
 Successful transplants to date: 17  
 Grizzly bears killed and processed  
 as scientific specimens: 8<sup>1/</sup>  
 Grizzly bears to zoos: 1

Comparative Statistics, 1970 - 1972

	this date		
	1970	1971	1972
Transplants	<u>36</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>23</u>
Grizzlies killed	<u>12</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>8</u>
Grizzlies to zoos	<u>8</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>
Total mgmt. actions	<u>56</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>32</u>
Personal injuries	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2<sup>2/</sup></u>
Fatalities	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1<sup>1/</sup></u>

cc:  
 Chief Scientist, ONSS  
 Chief Scientist, NWRO  
 Dr. Charles Loveless, BSW  
 Superintendent, YELL  
 Asst. Supt. (OPR)  
 Asst. Supt. (SS)

Chief Ranger  
 District Rangers, N, S, W  
 Chief Naturalist  
 Chief of Maintenance  
 Administrative Officer  
 District Naturalists: N, W, S  
 Dist. Maint. Supv.: N, W, S

- 1/ Five accidental drug mortalities.
- 2/ a. Minor scratch circumstantially attributed to grizzly.  
 b. Backcountry encounter with female w/young, circumstantially identified as grizzly.
- 3/ Abundant camp groceries attracted bear into illegal camp site.











# United States Department of the Interior

## NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming 82190

IN REPLY REFER TO:

### STAFF MEETING MINUTES November 14, 1972

Present: Jerry Phillips, Acting Assistant Superintendent, SS, presiding. Messrs. Haraden, Estey, Hape, Miller, Nuss, Tobin, Fellbaum, Stockert, Bucknall, Cole, Hensley, C. Anderson, Scott, Chamberlin, Sellers and Larson and Lee DeRossi.

Maintenance: Work has begun on the snowmobile signs. The Sign Shop is building 30 entrance station signs and 70 directional signs have been ordered.

Quarters 11-B at Mammoth and 251 at Northeast Entrance are being rehabilitated.

A crew is at Big Hole Battlefield this week building a boundary fence and working on bridge abutments.

Personnel: There will be an open season on federal employees' health benefits from November 15-30. Blue Cross-Blue Shield rates will go down by about 20%.

Concern was expressed on filling our 10 permanent positions before the employment freeze goes into effect.

Administration: There will be a reduction in travel funds for the 1973 FY. It is not known what Yellowstone's share of the Regional funds will be but probably about 27%.

South District: Roads are still open except Dunraven and Craig Passes and are in good condition.

Cabins are being removed from West Thumb.

Jerry Mernin is attending an avalanche school in Reno, Nevada.

West District: Winter exhibits at Old Faithful are being designed at Harpers Ferry and preliminary plans are expected to be here this week.

Al Mebane, the new Chief Naturalist, is tentatively expected to arrive December ~~2~~ 6.



National Parks Centennial 1872-1972

John Stockert, as NPS Coordinator for Mountain Bell Pay Stations in Yellowstone, raised the question as to the necessity of the pay phone in the Administration Building hallway. It was decided this phone could be removed as there are two more phones proposed to be installed in the area.

North District: Vern Hurt is on annual leave in Hawaii. Larry Hays will be moving into Mammoth in December to replace Garth Nelson.

The poaching of Swan Lake Flats has stopped but there is trouble with a poacher at Stevens Creek.

Georgia Sumners has moved into the Clerk position vacated by Jan Pennell who has moved over to the Administration Building to fill the Program Assistant position.

Construction: R. J. Studer was the low bidder on the sewage abatement project at Canyon and the contract has been awarded. Work will begin next year.

The Mammoth-Gardiner sewer line will go to bid hopefully by the end of the month. The survey crew is working on this project now.

Forestry and Fire Control: Efforts are being made to establish a Park Service position at the Boise Interagency Fire Center. A meeting was held there last week to discuss the past fire season and plans for the future.

Tom Black is attending the "Emergency Medical Technician Training" course at Camp LeJeune, North Carolina.

Environmental Engineer: Plans for the pollution abatement projects for Grant Village, Norris, Old Faithful and Tower will be here soon for review by the staff before Keith Fellbaum and Bob Haraden go to the Denver Service Center to discuss these.

Operations: Mr. Haraden will be on annual leave from November 16-26.

As Mr. Budlong is now gone, Mr. Haraden's office will handle the 10-238's.

Lee DeRossi: Mr. Anderson is in Washington and at Clemson University, South Carolina, this week. He will return to the park late Friday evening.

The Forest Service/National Park Service Coordination Meeting was held in Billings on November 9 and 10 with emphasis placed on the Greater Yellowstone Area.

Dave Stimson's retirement dinner will be held November 27 in Hamilton, Montana. More details can be obtained from Lee DeRossi.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. R. Phillips'. The signature is stylized with a large, looped 'J' and a long horizontal stroke.

J. R. Phillips