



Yellowstone Interpreters' Newsletter

NUMBER 10

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

DECEMBER 1974

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK, WYOMING

Greetings to you from all of us in Yellowstone for a happy Christmas and the best of New Years! We hope everything is going your way with 1975 bringing you back to Yellowstone with your customary skills and enthusiasm.

This newsletter does not pretend to be a regular item, in fact you will be lucky (?) to receive two this winter. Even though correspondence is not one of our favored activities, keeping in touch with our entire staff is important throughout the year, so it is time to cough up news of what's going on here.

NPS IN WASHINGTON

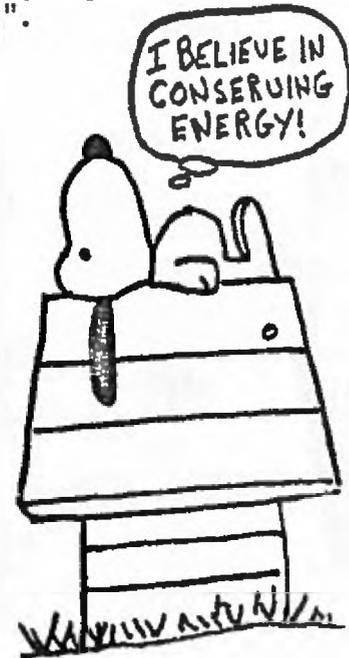
In case the news didn't reach you, Director Ron Walker resigned effective January 1, 1975. He was probably our most well-traveled Director, one who personally met thousands of National Park Service employees during his short tenure. He visited Yellowstone twice and took an active interest in everything, especially our interpretive program. The new Director has not yet been announced, so watch for it soon.

All of you are much aware of the pinch caused by inflation. It's getting our interpretive budget this year, too. All of us Federal types got a 5.5% pay increase October 1, and this time we probably have to absorb it. Also, the amortization rate for our motor vehicles has increased 43% in one year and that's really going to hurt. Something about "You can't have your cake . . .".

The 15% cut in energy consumption will be with us at least through next summer with chances that it may be increased.

WELCOME TO DAVE PUGH

After months of slow wheel-turning, we finally received a list of candidates from which to choose the new West District Naturalist. We are pleased to introduce Dave Pugh, who transferred here from Cape Hatteras National Seashore, North Carolina earlier this month. Dave, Jenny, and their two children have been in a wide variety of parks: Katmai National Monument, Alaska; Chiricahua National Monument, Arizona; Grand Canyon National Park, Arizona; Independence National Historic Park, Pennsylvania; and Cape Hatteras.



NEWS FROM YELLOWSTONE

A few hardy souls are spending the winter here. Joanna Booser will be working at Old Faithful part-time, charming the visitors and learning to ski. If she shows up without her musical instruments, back she goes to Pennsylvania! Bill and Pat Laitner will be returning to Old Faithful where they have stocked ample supplies to insure a comfortable hibernation. Incidentally, they stayed at Old Faithful until the Visitor Center closed the end of October.

Tom Goldsmith will participate in another experiment when he becomes the first interpreter stationed at West Yellowstone. Accepting this position required some sacrifices on Tom's part but he didn't seem to mind. Skis and a snowmobile may not be as much company as a horse, but they provide better winter transportation. Tom has offered to dye his longjohns green but that seems a little extreme.

And of course, Al Hendricks and Rick Hutchinson will be glad to see not only the above faces, but all others who can come for a winter visit. Speaking of Rick, you will never believe that he is growing a full beard! He says it is to see what he can grow in a month but it will come off before Old Faithful reopens.

Paul Schullery is here at Mammoth happily (? well, at least he hasn't run off screaming into the woods yet) digging into the historical archives. His project is to index as much of the collection as possible to make it more useable to researchers.

The Yellowstone Park Medical Service contract was terminated as of November 30 which means no doctor at Mammoth this winter or anywhere in the park until a new medical contract can be reached with prospective bidders. Service could be quite limited next summer.

Yellowstone co-hosted the first Wild Trout Management Symposium on September 25 and 26 with Trout Unlimited. Many topics were discussed in the two days of meetings, but all centered on the idea of managing wild trout populations so that they are self-perpetuating, but still able to support angling. As a result of rethinking management policies here in Yellowstone, the Service plans some fairly far-ranging changes in the fishing regulations for next season. You had better look at the regulations closely before you head for your favorite fishing hole!

A major project has been the revision of the park folder. We would like to thank all of you for your suggestions. Hopefully the revised folder will be more useful and workable, however, it will be far from perfect and will not please everyone. We are hoping to have the revision for next summer, but bicentennial projects are receiving increasing emphasis and we may be squeezed out.



And now the bad news:

We are sorry to report that one horse, Roger, died this fall from apparent blood poisoning. He got kicked by another horse and even though the minor wound responded well to treatment, he died suddenly a week later. Jerry won't be the only one to miss him.

GENERAL GOSSIP

Lots of people got jobs at other parks for the winter season:

Death Valley
Scott Bryan
Barb Burchett

Everglades
Terry Darby
Steve Hodapp
Heather Johnson
Chuck Milliken
Autumn Owsley

Joshua Tree
Kathy Liska
Yosemite
Shari Nelson

The following addresses are changes from the summer roster:

George Algard	Tim Bywater	Art Stephens
4013 McHugh Drive	RR# 2, Box 327	3351 South Field, #170
Helena, Montana 59601	Bozeman, Montana 59715	Lakewood, Colorado 80227

Let us know if you change your address!

George Algard now has a permanent position with the Montana Department of Agriculture in Helena, and Ron Dent will be spending the winter at Old Faithful as a Yellowstone Park Company ski guide.

NATURAL FEATURES

Yellowstone has long been the place for geological research, and now a wealth of new information is about to be released. The U.S.G.S. is publishing a paper bringing together all of the evidence for the existence of a body of partly molten magma beneath the park, underlying an area 85km long and 55km wide. It is "probably only a few kilometers below the surface and a few kilometers thick". The concept is not new, but now there is definite evidence of its existence.

Seismic activity was very much evident during the week of October 14, with Rick Hutchinson counting at least 350 tremors on the seismograph at Old Faithful on the 19th alone. This increased activity could have influenced Beehive Geyser since it has been on an interval of less than 14 hours. Earlier this month Giantess Geyser had its eighth eruption of the year, surpassing the 1929 record.

Joe Halladay accompanied the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on its trumpeter swan census in the park. These great birds really congregate here for the winter with 144 adults and 50 cygnets being counted on the Yellowstone River (plus Sedge and Mary Bays) on November 5.

INTERPRETIVE EVENTS

We are continuing to experiment with interpretive activities and have initiated something new here at Mammoth--a "Wildlife Camera Safari" on two week intervals. By using our mobile transmitter car we lead caravans of visitor cars from Gardiner through the park to Cooke City. We start out bright and early at 8:00 am as the sun comes up here in the north country and arrive in Cooke City about noon. November 17 saw the first caravan lead by Al Mebane and John Tyers; we had twelve cars with people from as far away as Rock Springs, Wyoming. John Tyers and Thea Nordling led the second caravan on November 30 with fifteen cars and people from California and Texas.

Everyone is very enthusiastic about these caravans and are extremely complimentary. Visitors seem to like the cohesive effect of traveling together and being told about the wildlife, other park features, and human history of Yellowstone. So far the wildlife displays have not been too spectacular because the lack of snow and extreme winter weather has not driven the herds down from the high country. The exceptions are the six bachelor bull elk who hang around Mammoth and of course the bighorn in the Gardner Canyon. Our only problem now seems to be whether these caravans will become so popular and large that our feeble one-tenth watt transmitter will not be able to reach the long line of cars. Otherwise every indication points to this interpretive activity was a roaring success. Come for a visit this winter and join us on December 15,28, January 12,25 or February 9,22 for the caravan.

UNIFORMS

Are you aware that Chris Judson and Bonnie Neiswander are overseeing an informal uniform exchange? Contact them about items you want "recycled" along with the price you are asking or needs that you have.

The women's uniform standards for Yellowstone still haven't been approved, but we will contact you about them as soon as possible (if you are a woman). Gregory's at least is pessimistic about their ability to fill all orders. A full uniform allowance of \$125 will be allowed for each woman because of the change.

As we mentioned earlier the weather has been remarkably mild for this time of year. As of early December you can still drive to Old Faithful from Mammoth. Hopefully we'll get enough snow for Santa to bring his reindeer in for a smooth landing.

Once again, the best of New Years and if 1975 brings you our way, stop to see us.

Al
Bonnie
Paul
Joe
John
Jim
Thea

