



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK
WYOMING 82190

November 27, 1978

IN REPLY REFER TO:

YELLOWSTONE INTERPRETER'S NEWSLETTER

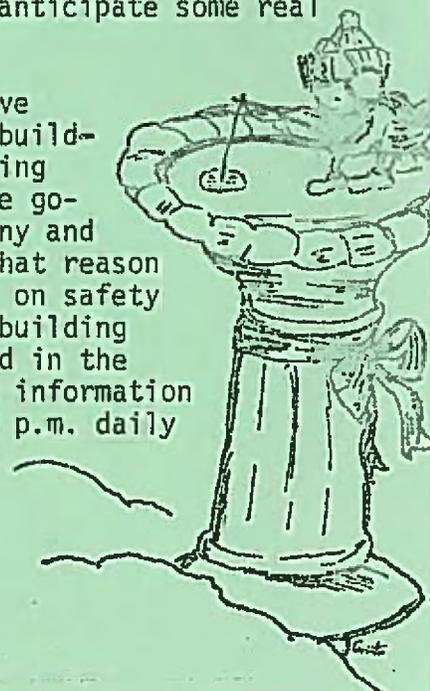
Hello, all of you Yellowstone interpreters. By this time, you have scattered to the four corners of the country and perhaps beyond. If the mail can find you, though, we want to bring you up-to-date on news of interest. Also, it's an opportunity to wish you Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

After a long, warm, beautiful autumn, the contract for remodeling the Mammoth Museum was awarded just as winter arrived. Now the work has actually started and the building looks rather demolished inside as some walls are removed. Every construction project looks that way, though, and so we will be proud to give you a guided tour next June.

If you followed the intricacies of the Omnibus Bill which Congress passed this fall, you will know that it included authorization for the National Park Service to purchase the assets of the Yellowstone Park Company. A total inventory has already taken place and negotiations will presumably start next year. Once the Service acquires the facilities, invitations to bid on their management and operation will be sent to prospective bidders. So there may be a new operator by the 1980 season.

The Omnibus Bill also established many new areas for the National Park System, but did not provide extra funds or staff to manage them. It appears that the Service will have to spread itself thinner plus take the reductions in staff directed by the President. We can all anticipate some real belt-tightening as government spending is reduced.

West Yellowstone will be the scene of a new interpretive effort this winter. The former West Yellowstone bank building will serve as a contact station as a means of helping winter visitors plan their trips into the park. We are going to do this jointly with the Yellowstone Park Company and some of their Travel and Information personnel. For that reason alone, the effort should be rewarding. Panel exhibits on safety and orientation will be displayed on the walls of the building and a 10 minute slide/tape show will be shown on demand in the small 15 capacity auditorium. Park Aides will man the information desk early morning and from supper time to about 10:00 p.m. daily



to help visitors plan their trips into the park. We may even experiment with roving contact on the streets and in the motels of West Yellowstone available for information. Evening programs will be offered when called for. A free double-faced handout map of the U.S. Forest Service area around West Yellowstone and the park, called "Winter Guide to Yellowstone Country" will be offered to winter visitors. We all expect big things in West Yellowstone this year. It should be an interesting experiment.

West District Naturalist, Joe Halladay, will be moving to government quarters in West Yellowstone this winter to oversee the new program there. He will occupy the quarters formerly used by Ranger Randy Fehr. These quarters did need considerable renovation, and Joe will not move over until they are ready. Joe will stay in that location to supervise the year-round West District interpretive program.

The very successful Wildlife Camera Safaris from Gardiner to Cooke City Montana will be offered again this winter. Beginning the second Sunday in January and every Sunday thereafter through the third week in March, one of the permanent naturalist will lead these caravans using our portable CB radio units and the receiving units available from the Gardiner Chamber of Commerce. These caravans are a fun thing to do using our own portable CB unit to communicate with visitor cars as we drive along viewing the wildlife and other neat scenes on that trip. These caravans have been very successful in past years, and we expect a record turnout this year. Come along and join us if you can!

In the South District this winter, most of the activity will be centered around the Canyon area. A small Y.P. food outlet has been added to the Canyon Warming Trailer. Mark Marschall will be presenting daily guided snowmobile tours of the Canyon rims. Frank Walker will guide an all-day trip once a week over Dunraven Pass from Tower Junction to Hayden Valley and return. There are even some cross-country ski groups interested in coming to Canyon this winter. Winter exhibits are up throughout the park and we are awaiting the opening on December 15.

Hello everyone, Ron here! Say it's really looking spectacular around Mammoth. We have been experiencing weather that's closer to February conditions than November's. I think anyone from snow country will know what I mean - temperatures not that much below freezing and those large flakes of snow that tend to clump together as they fall. Sometimes the air seems absolutely filled with whiteness and it's as if you were miniaturized and put into one of those old-fashioned paperweights that you turn upside down and then right side up again to watch it "snow". Everyone is saying that this will be the winter to remember and that we can expect much more of this white stuff ("ah yes, sonny, it was back

in the winter o' '79...). At any rate, things are getting off to the right start. Purple wax for sure, at least on my Horizons.

I wanted to fill you in on some of the publications that will be coming out in the very near future. Actually, Yellowstone Trails, by our own "Colin Fletcher", Mark Marschall, has just been published and looks very good. It's sure to be a popular item for backpackers and hikers of all ambitions this coming summer. Also, that very prolific penman and piscatorial gadabout Paul Schullery is putting the final touches on two books: one, an edited collection of writings and quotations by some of the well-known and perhaps not-so-well-known individuals who came to know and marvel at the country of the Yellowstone; the second, is a long-awaited book on bears, exhaustively researched by Paul. For my own part, I'll be putting together a short brochure on the "Mountain Pine Beetle - Lodgepole Pine Interaction" and related insect infestations that are becoming increasingly visible to visitors to Yellowstone Park. The winter map that we've finally gotten together has been sent to the printers and should be a big help for orienting snowmobilers and skiers. The complete list of new publications is as follows:

1. Schullery's book on "Old Yellowstone Days"
2. Bryan's "Geysers of Yellowstone"
3. Schullery's bear book
4. Brock's "Life at High Temperatures"
5. "Mammoth Hot Springs"
6. Whittlesey's and/or Haines' book on place names
7. "Petrified Forests" by Dorf
8. Sketches by Marj Dunmire

All of us here in the Naturalist Division would like to wish all of you the very best of holiday seasons. Hope you are enjoying your winter, too.

If any of you have address changes, let us know - it is to your benefit. Fred Hirschmann has sent a new address change just this afternoon that I was not able to add to the list. It is (for the winter): Bryce Canyon National Park, Bryce Canyon, UT 84717.

Yellowstone Naturalists



Have a cozy Christmas season!

WANTED

Prospective Authors and Contributors

Educational Images is always interested in publishing new audiovisual programs and are eager to hear from prospective authors and photographers who feel they have suitable materials.

What is needed is professional quality transparencies and scientifically accurate, detailed written material. If you already have a slide show or illustrated lecture prepared, most of the work is done. We can provide additional photographs and editorial work as needed to complete the program.

Although to date we have concentrated on the natural sciences, we will consider any interesting topic. Generally we will only consider complete or nearly complete programs -- we seldom have need for isolated individual pictures.

The best way to begin is by sending us a one or two page outline of your program and a selection of representative pictures. We will respond promptly.

Please do not be reluctant to submit your material, thinking that there is little chance it will be published. At least 10 of the new sets included in our latest catalog came from outside contributors who received our catalog and felt they had programs of comparable appeal and quality. If your slide show is an asset in your teaching, it can also be helpful to others. Send it along and let us take a look at it. The worst that can happen is that we will say, "Sorry, we can't use it, try us again on the next one."

Send all materials registered mail for safety, addressed to: Dr. Charles R. Belinky, Executive Director, Educational Images, Box 367, Lyons Falls, New York 13368.