

Yellowstone News

January 2005
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Check us out at:
www.nps.gov/yell/newsletter.pdf

National Park Service
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The Passing of Long Time Yellowstone Employee

John A. McDonald, Jr., 68, of Gardiner, died Tuesday, Dec. 28, 2004, at Bozeman Deaconess Hospital. Cremation has taken place at Franzen-Davis Crematory in Livingston. Services will be announced at a later date.

Written by Tim Hudson

I knew Jackie for somewhere over 30 years. He was firmly entrenched in the road crew when I moved to Yellowstone in 1971 and, since I lived at Lake and he worked out of Mammoth, I really only interacted with him during spring opening in those years. I lived in Mammoth during the winter and moved back out to Lake as soon as I could each spring, so I was always asking when I could possibly get there. I am sure that I drove him crazy – especially during those years when the spring opening crews had to endure implementing a different plow schedule almost every year. But Jackie really never complained – he just smiled and shook his head and tried to keep a positive outlook on what was going on. I can only wonder what he really thought about spreading coal dust on the snow a week or so before spring opening so that it would melt off (it melted fine until it snowed again and left a block of solid ice buried in the snow); plowing the whole park one lane wide and letting the rest melt out (I think there was one vehicle on snow crew that didn't get in a wreck that year with people sneaking out into the single cut – the worst being the district ranger and the fuel truck in

the same cut – the fuel truck won); or leaving Norris to Madison unplowed until all of the other roads were plowed (we had to haul half of the equipment around to West and haul it back to work on it). After I moved to Mammoth year-round in 1982 I got to know him better. I learned a lot of history of the park and Park County from old hands like Jackie, Bill Hape and Frank Holst in those days and realized that there were many things that they all knew and saw that people didn't understand or didn't want to learn – I learned things from Jackie up until the day I left the park in 2002. I also learned that Jack would put things in the best light that he could – “we can get that done by Friday” (if everything went right, but that wasn't said) – but that crew could (and would) work 24 hours a day to try and get it done in time.

So, goodbye Jack - all good things come to an end, but not this soon.



Jackie McDonald, former Yellowstone employee for 41 years (retired in 2001).

Continued on page 3

CSS Corner

CSS is calling for any and all old computers and computer parts. We realize that there are lots of computer items throughout your offices and areas that are not being used, or being used only minimally. The National Park Service is now assessing each park PER computer for these computers. Yellowstone, in turn, distributes these costs out to the divisions based on how many computers they have. Last year the charge was \$413 per machine. It is expected to double this year to about \$800 per machine (that's the cost of a new computer in less than 2 years!). Holding onto old, unused equipment is no longer in your or your division's best interests. Any computer equipment that you would like to turn over to us should come to our office as soon as you can get it here. If our office is locked it may be left in the hallway outside our office, just don't leave it as a tripping hazard for the doors. Computers will be "cleaned" before they are given to Supply for auction purposes or passed down to other offices. Cleaned means the hard drives will be written over with blank data so that no files can be retrieved. Thanks for your assistance in helping us reduce Yellowstone's computer inventory!

Kudos to Park Staff

The Old Faithful Maintenance Staff would like to thank the following staffs and operations for all their assistance, support and general help over the past year.

- ❖ Madison Garage Operation
- ❖ Madison Maintenance Operation
- ❖ North District Maintenance Operation
- ❖ Craft Shop Operations
- ❖ Special Projects
- ❖ Canyon Maintenance Operation
- ❖ Lake Maintenance Operation
- ❖ Grant Village Maintenance Operation
- ❖ Old Faithful Ranger Operation
- ❖ Old Faithful Interp Operation
- ❖ Supply/Procurement and Property Operation
- ❖ Administration

THANK YOU!

The Old Faithful Maintenance Staff.

The newest peer award recipient:

Paula Trisdale - Telecom

Congratulations Paula!

Classifieds

FOR SALE: 2002 Honda CR-V EX, 5-speed manual transmission, 40,000 highway miles, always garaged, white color, over \$1400 in extras including seat covers, trailer hitch, roof rack, ski rack, extra wheels and winter tires. NADA "Average Retail" book value of \$19,525 (without extras); sell for \$18,750. Call 344-7754 or 406-586-3744 for more information.

DOCTOR MURRAY will be at the Exxon Friday January 21st. Stop by with your pet if you need a vet.

FREE: I have a large box full of coat hangars that are free for the asking. Most are the metal hangars like you'd get from the dry cleaners, but there are a few coat and pant style hangars too. Perhaps maintenance could place them in seasonal quarters for folks to use, or maybe someone has a bunch of stuff in boxes they'd like to hang up, or a craft project, or..... Denice Swanke
YCR - Aquatic Res. Office
Lake Station (307) 242-4139

Tower Ski Trails: All - I packed, groomed and set track on Tower Fall/Chittenden Loop ski trail yesterday and today. It is done and conditions are excellent. There is about 11" on the ground at the Tower Ranger Station, likewise on the trail -- give or take. I packed Blacktail today to try and establish a base for the rest of the season. Blacktail still has some issues - mostly on top. Gravel in spots, rocks in others, much drifting on top. The best conditions for this trail are on the Tower side of "The Cut." I did pack to the exit of Blacktail. Time permitting, I will try and groom Blacktail the best I can tomorrow. Overall, I would have to rate Blacktail as fair to poor.



Bison in Hayden Valley

The Associated Press - Montana Governor Brian Schweitzer, fearing a national "public relations nightmare" for Montana, wants to cancel the revived hunting of bison that wander out of the park, but is unsure he can do it before the season starts on January 15th.

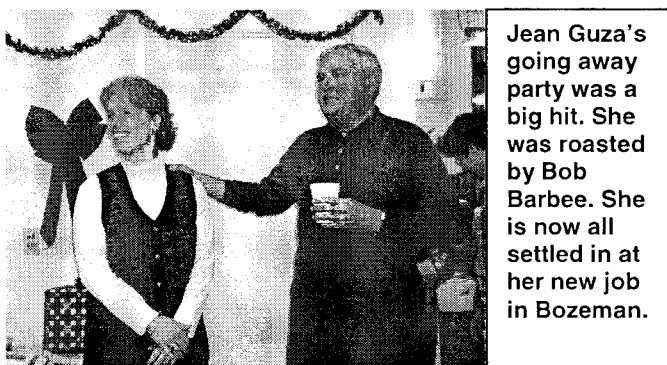
To all my Yellowstone pals,

I looked at the calendar today and realized that I had already worked for the Farm Service Agency (FSA) for one solid month. My Yellowstone NPS career is history now, but I really had quite a wonderful 27-year run, and that will always put a smile on my face. What makes me kind of sad is not seeing a lot of you on a daily, weekly, or even monthly basis. I know we're not separated by that many miles, but we all know how that goes. Shootski, we started seeing less of each other after we vacated the Admin Building!

So let me say thanks to all of you who made my Park Service career in Yellowstone such a memorable and huge part of my life. I really do feel pretty darn lucky. And the luck continues. I've scored a job in Bozeman which means I get to live with my husband Bill, and the folks I work with at FSA are really very nice and helpful. We don't talk much about bison and elk up here as much as we do cows and crops; it's the USDA now and quite a change as you might imagine. However, Yellowstone is hard to shake and will always take center stage. Presently, I have a shot of Electric Peak as my screensaver (I'll substitute a wolf picture for later, after I'm sure they're going to keep me).

A very special thanks to my HR buddies--you guys really know how to throw a party. It was a swell way to end the chapter. So, stop by when you're in the Bozone. I'm on the 5th floor of the Federal Building downtown on Babcock. We'll do lunch!

Jean Guza
Montana State FSA Office
P.O. Box 670
Bozeman, MT 59771
(406) 587-6872
jeanene.guza@mt.usda.gov



Jean Guza's going away party was a big hit. She was roasted by Bob Barbee. She is now all settled in at her new job in Bozeman.

Jack McDonald, continued from page 1

Here are the thoughts by the Projects crew on how they will remember Jack.

Jacks first priority was his family and the Cinnabar. Jack spoke of the Cinnabar often and enjoyed the beauty of the area along with the peacefulness. Jack was proud of his family and spoke of them always.

Jack really enjoyed Snow Crew. It was his favorite job task. On Snow Crew he loved being pulled throughout the Park in the wedge grader. He enjoyed sitting around the table visiting and telling his jokes. He always looked forward to Betty bringing home made out pies for the crew. Jack always looked forward to sweet rolls and ice cream while on snow crew. If Jack would have had his way snow crew would last 12 months a year. Jack also enjoyed helping bears exit culverts in the spring by adding a little incentive on one end to help them get motivated. He also loved going out in the evening after supper for a ride to look at the bears.

Jack's second favorite job was the Hot Plant operation. They were always up to something there. One of Jack's bests was to load his potato cylinder with acetylene and fire it off and then wait for seasonal staff from Norris to come over and see what the commotion was, where he would tell them they were just banging tail gates on the trucks.

Everyone enjoyed Jack's happy go lucky attitude (which we could all use a little of sometimes) that he brought to work every day. Jack's name will come up often as co-workers will always remember his willingness to help others and his happy go lucky attitude.

Randy Baum

The Passing of Old Friends

Written by Frank Walker

Bob Jonas was a seasonal naturalist in Yellowstone from 1947-1977. He worked at several different locations and he and his wife Arlene and their three sons lived in the little cabin behind the Fishing Bridge Visitor Center. He was a professor at Washington State University in Pullman, Washington and had a Doctorate in Wildlife Science. Bob was an inspiration to literally thousands of park visitors and hundreds of park employees over the time he worked here. He was a master at crafting a good story about bears or other features of Yellowstone. He inspired me as a seasonal in 1967 on his Storm Point Walk to seriously consider the National Park Service as a career. A memorial service is planned for Saturday afternoon January 8 at the Presbyterian Church in Moscow, Idaho.

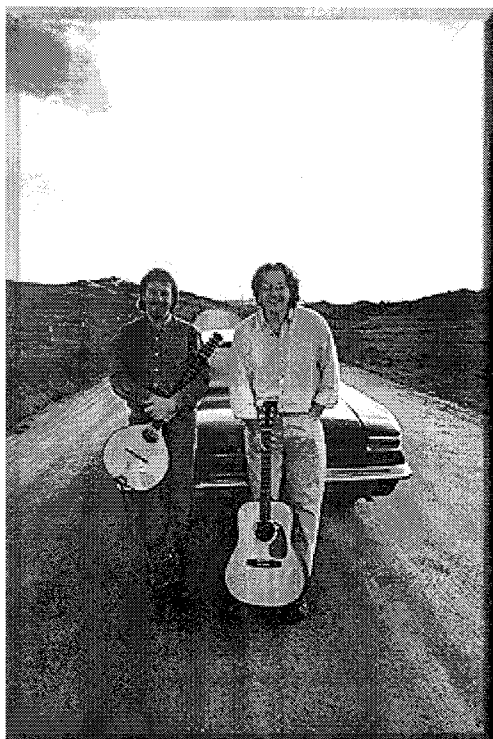
Institute Courses at Half Price for Park Employees

The Yellowstone Association Institute offers a 50% discount to all park employees and their immediate families (spouse and children) for field seminars that have openings within 30 days of the start date. This is a great way to broaden your knowledge of anything park-related. Courses are taught by college professors, research scientists, park staff, and other experts. There are still openings in most of our winter courses! Please call our Registrar at 307-344-2294 to register or request a complete course catalog. For more information about the Institute, visit our website at www.yellowstoneassociation.org and click on "The Institute". Also, our summer catalog will be out this month. Call or stop by the office or Albright Visitor Center anytime after January 24 and pick up a copy!

Start Date	Course Name
January 12-14, 2005	Legendary Yellowstone Wolves
January 17-19, 2005	Yellowstone's Wolves
January 19-21, 2005	Basic Snow Tracking
January 21-23, 2005	Winter on a Sliver
January 24-27, 2005	Ripple Effect: The Ecology of Wolf Restoration
February 1-3, 2005	Coyote & Raven: Fact & Folklore
February 7-9, 2005	Complete Wildlife Photography: Art, Ecology & Stewardship
February 11-13, 2005	Red Fox: Yellowstone's Secretive Little Dog
February 16-17, 2005	Cougars: Ghosts of the Rockies
February 24-27, 2005	Snow Tracking: A Window on Winter Wildlife Ecology
March 4-6, 2005	Wolf Conservation & Management
March 11-13, 2005	Beyond Delisting: The Future of Wolf Conservation
March 14-16, 2005	The Y2Y Initiative: Yellowstone the Island?
March 21-23, 2005	Winter Tales & Trails
March 24-26, 2005	Lesser Known Carnivores

A Big Thank You from YA

The Yellowstone Association would like to thank everyone for supporting our sale. Congratulations to James Sykes and Amy Hubbard our raffle prize winners!
Also someone left a pair of gloves so please call Debbie at 406 848-2454 if you think that they are yours.



Men of Worth

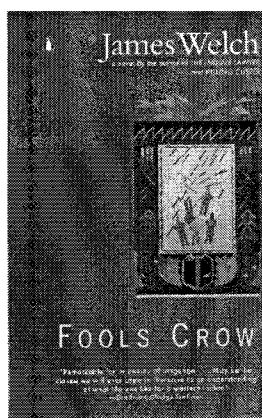
Folk Music from Ireland & Scotland

Monday January 24th 7:00pm
Gardiner School

Tickets available at the door
Adults \$8 • Students K-12 \$5 • Families \$25



This performance brought to you by Electric Peak Arts Council with support from the Western States Arts Federation, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Montana Performing Arts Consortium



Have you read Fools Crow?

This classic novel of the American West was chosen by the Montana Center for the Book as this years *One Book Montana* title. *One Book Montana* asks "What if Everyone in Montana Read the Same Book..."

James Welch tells the story of Fools Crow, a Blackfoot Indian living in 1870's Two Medicine Territory in northwestern Montana. Through Fools Crow we witness the struggles the Blackfeet encounter as they try to hold on to their way of life in an ever changing world.

Copies of Fools Crow are available for loan at the Gardiner School Library Wednesday, January 12 from 7:00-8:00 p.m. or from the Gardiner Library during normal hours. Copies of Fools Crow can also be purchased locally.

Share in the experience of reading and discussing the book as countless others in Montana have done in the past year. Then join community members in a discussion of the book led by a Montana scholar on Wednesday, February 23. Time and location will be announced later.

Electric Peak Arts Council in association with The Montana Committee for the Humanities and First Interstate Bank of Gardiner are helping to sponsor the discussion.



Montana Committee for the Humanities

Pick up your copy at the Gardiner School Library
Wednesday January 12, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Manhattan resident remembered as fixture of community

Copied from an article: By ERIN NICHOLAS Chronicle Staff Writer

Every evening for years, Albert "Swede" Culbertson, 85, stepped out the front door of his Manhattan home and walked across town to a restaurant for dinner. "His favorite thing was going to The Oasis every night, where he always had the same thing: a hamburger, French fries and a couple of beers," Theresa Deyton, Culbertson's longtime friend, said Wednesday. On Dec. 4, Culbertson was walking home from the restaurant after dark, near the railroad tracks. He tried to cross Broadway Street, but was 50 yards from the well-lit crosswalk. "He was struck by a vehicle," Manhattan Police Chief Dave Rewitz said. Culbertson died seven days later at Bozeman Deaconess Hospital.

Manhattan residents said this week that Culbertson's death is a loss to the entire community. "We all dearly loved him," Rewitz said. Culbertson was most visible here walking around town, whether on his way to dinner or taking Deyton's dogs out for exercise. "People kind of always knew him as, 'the old guy with the dogs,'" said Deyton, 48. "He would just sit on the benches in town and under the (park) gazebo and just kind of watch the town."

She met Culbertson, originally from Texas, when they both worked in **Yellowstone National Park about 20 years ago**. He was a widower who had moved around most of his life, working odd jobs everywhere from New Mexico to Whitefish. He always introduced himself as "Swede."

"He always said, 'They call me 'Swede' even though I am Norwegian,'" she said. Eventually, both friends ended up in Manhattan, and Deyton kept an eye on Culbertson as age took a toll on his hearing and memory, and made him increasingly stubborn. "A lot of people would try to talk to him, and they couldn't really get a response," Deyton said. "It was because he wouldn't wear his hearing aids."

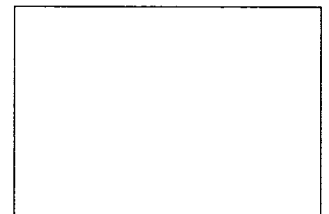
When he wasn't walking around town, Culbertson read paperback mysteries -- Robert Ludlum and Stephen King were his favorite authors -- and enjoyed his favorite beverage. "He lived on Diet Pepsi -- he drank about eight of them a day," she said. He also reminisced about his old sports car, told stories about the days when he was a mail carrier and talked of his travels around the country.

"For the most part, he had a very clear memory of his past, and his stories were entertaining, he could tell you how it was way back when," Deyton said.

Around town, people miss Culbertson's presence at the L & F Food Farm grocery store, The Oasis and in his neighborhood. Deyton added that she finds it ironic that he died the way he did, after battling pneumonia and other health problems. "But it's OK," Deyton said. "He wouldn't have wanted to be in a nursing home."

The accident remains under investigation, but the driver has not been cited, Rewitz said.

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