

Yellowstone Science

A quarterly publication devoted to the natural and cultural resources



Celebrating the Roosevelt Arch

A Centennial History of an American Icon
Window Into Gardiner

Volume 11

Number 3

A Monumental Idea

“The entrance to the Park gives one the impression of space—breadth, height and vastness. And the imagination fancies Nature in the personification of a mother standing with open arms to welcome her children home. It is home to the freedom-loving soul, and one wishes that no others save those who love Nature in all her moods, might ever pass through the massive stone archway marking the entrance to the Nation’s fairyland, ‘For the Benefit and Enjoyment of the People,’ —for so is the Park dedicated.”

—from the journal of visitor Dorothy Brown Pardo, 1911



COURTESY SUSAN AND JACK DAVIS

Societies build monuments to celebrate greatness. Some pay tribute to great men and women of history, such as the presidents carved in stone at Mount Rushmore or the yet-unfinished likeness of Crazy Horse nearby. Other monuments glorify great achievements or events of the time, such as Paris’s Arc d’Triomphe proclaiming victory at war. Still others memorialize those who gave their lives in such conflicts, like the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington, D.C.

In Yellowstone, the stately stone structure that stands at the park’s North Entrance celebrates an idea. A good idea. A great idea. A monumental idea. The world’s first national park has come to represent a great societal act of foresight and altruism, preserving for all of time our first best place. That is why, when I approach the stop sign at U.S. Highway 89 and Gardiner’s Park Street, I still find myself, most often, turning sentimentally right. I choose to drive through the Roosevelt Arch, sensing that that something monumental it represents can somehow give us the strength and wisdom to fulfill our charge—our promise to future generations.

So, the next time you find yourself in the vicinity of Yellowstone’s North Entrance, whether coming or going, take the extra time to pass beneath this monument of native stone. If you’re arriving, you’ll be joining countless others who have come before you to pass through this portal to a Wonderland beyond. If you’re departing, the view from the arch can serve as a steadfast reminder of all that lies beyond this historic point of entry—the area we know today as the Greater Yellowstone. Either way, just as Dorothy Brown Pardo found upon her arrival by train in 1911, you won’t be disappointed.

RJA

Yellowstone Science

A quarterly publication devoted to the natural and cultural resources

Volume 11

Number 3

Summer 2003

Contents

COURTESY SUSAN AND JACK DAVIS



Editor

Roger J. Anderson

Assistant Editor and Design

Alice Wondrak Biel

Assistant Editors

Tami Blackford

Beth Taylor

Virginia Warner

Printing

Artcraft Printers, Inc.

Bozeman, Montana

Special Color Issue!

The Roosevelt Arch

A centennial history of an American icon

2

TR's Dedication Day speech 14

The Gardiner depot and other improvements 16

Today's arch as symbol and conscience 18

by Lee H. Whittlesey and Paul Schullery

Window Into Gardiner

25

by Alice Wondrak Biel

News and Notes

31

Barmore Book Published • YNP Lynx Presence Confirmed •
Popular Bear Hit by Car in Park

Cover, "Roosevelt Arch," watercolor by Lynn Bickerton Chan, 2003.

Left, "Roosevelt Arch at Gardiner, Montana," watercolor by Gustav Krollmann, 1936.

Above, F.J. Haynes photo, published by American News Company and printed in Germany, 1903.

Back cover, "Northern Pacific Arch," poster and back cover for Northern Pacific Railway brochure; artist unknown, 1912.

Yellowstone Science is published quarterly. Submissions are welcome from all investigators conducting formal research in the Yellowstone area.

To submit proposals for articles, to subscribe to *Yellowstone Science*, or to send a letter to the editor, please write to the following address:

Editor, *Yellowstone Science*, P.O. Box 168, Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190.

You may also email: Roger_J_Anderson@nps.gov.

Support for *Yellowstone Science* is provided by the Yellowstone Association, a non-profit educational organization dedicated to serving the park and its visitors.

For more information about the Association, including membership,

or to donate to the production of *Yellowstone Science*, visit

www.yellowstoneassociation.org, or write to:

Yellowstone Association, P.O. Box 117, Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190.

The opinions expressed in *Yellowstone Science* are the authors' and may not reflect either National Park Service policy or the views of the Yellowstone Center for Resources.

Copyright © 2003, the Yellowstone Association
for Natural Science, History & Education.

Yellowstone Science is printed on recycled paper with a soy-based ink.



The Roosevelt Arch

A centennial history of an American icon

by Lee H. Whittlesey and Paul Schullery



Visitors throng at the North Entrance to watch ceremonies celebrating the official Opening Day of the 1924 season.

“Stranger, look at yon beautiful arch,
erected by Uncle Sam out of hexagonal blocks of basalt!
That marks the entrance to the Wonderland of the World.”

—Herbert Quick, *Yellowstone Nights*, 1911

The Roosevelt Arch, the formal North Entrance to Yellowstone National Park at Gardiner, Montana, has grown rich in historical associations over the course of its first century.¹ Its creation and career are intertwined with the Northern Pacific Railway (NPR) and the story of regional transportation; with the work of renowned army engineer Hiram Chittenden and the long involvement of the U.S. Army Corps

of Engineers in Yellowstone; with the conservation achievements and irrepressible personality of Theodore Roosevelt; with the honored traditions of the Masons of Montana; and with the communities, colorful characters, and business interests of Gardiner and Mammoth Hot Springs. Like most architectural monuments, the arch’s legacy is a combination of original intent and accumulated experience. And,

like most Yellowstone landmarks, especially those that date to the time when the park was still commonly known as Wonderland, it has enjoyed the affection, admiration, and curiosity of generations of park visitors.

The impulse behind the arch’s construction was a matter of inspiration, convenience, and opportunity. Strange as it may seem today, there was a con-

cern among park administrators, and some in the Gardiner community, that this most important entrance to Yellowstone National Park, nestled in an arid mountain basin, lacked sufficient visual fanfare to serve as the gateway to America's first and most famous national park. At the same time, and on a more prosaic and commercially urgent level, the Northern Pacific's tracks had just reached Gardiner, and the town needed a depot. And, most serendipitously, just as work got underway to satisfy these local needs, President Theodore Roosevelt decided to have a two-week outing in the wilds of Yellowstone National Park. This combination of factors, circumstances, and urges served as the impetus behind "Gardiner's big day" in the history of the West.²

As that day approached, in the middle of all this ambition and attention, though still only a promise of future grandeur and service, was the unconstructed arch, soon to be immortalized by a presidential dedication.

"A fortnight's rest:" Roosevelt's Yellowstone vacation begins

A strictly chronological telling of this story would probably settle right down in the technical architectural and engineering details of the arch. But the drama—and the fun—of the arch's history revolve primarily around human personalities, and none was more powerful or engaging than that of Theodore Roosevelt, 26th president of the United States. Roosevelt (if you must use a nickname, call him "TR;" his close friends knew better than to refer to him by the diminutive and slighting "Teddy"), elevated to office by the assassination of William McKinley less than two years before, was enormously popular in the West, where he claimed many friends and cherished many memories from his Dakota ranching days.³

Roosevelt had been to the park on a few earlier occasions, but this was to be

his longest and most intense immersion in the wonders of Yellowstone.⁴ Indeed, it was part of what remains even today one of the most ambitious domestic presidential trips ever undertaken. In eight weeks, "he was scheduled to travel fourteen thousand miles through 25 states, visiting nearly 150 towns and cities and giving an estimated two hundred speeches."⁵ With such a hectic schedule, it is little wonder that he saw his Yellowstone time as so precious. Though Yellowstone was the focus of his greatest recreational interest on this trip, Roosevelt made briefer (though memorable and of great local significance) visits to the Grand Canyon and Yosemite National Parks, camping in Yosemite with mountaineer and writer John Muir.



Roosevelt appears before a crowd at Livingston, Montana, prior to arriving in Yellowstone.

It was a trip long in the planning and, for all the studied casualness of the president's time in the park, carefully culminated in its details. Yes, it was a vacation, but with presidential purposes. TR's longstanding concern with the wildlife of the West, especially with the glamorous big game species, drew him to the park for a first-hand look at its famous and increasingly controversial elk herd and other large mammals.

Even this seemingly innocent interest had caused a stir of scandal when, some time before his visit, Roosevelt discreetly inquired of the park's acting superinten-

dent, Major John Pitcher, if he might participate in one of the mountain lion hunts conducted to control that species. If not in the park, he wondered, might he go along on a hunt just outside the park's boundary?⁶

At that time, predators were lawfully (if mistakenly) regarded as vermin, and were seen as a threat to the park's more popular and publicly favored grazing species, so in principle at least, such a hunt might have seemed within reason. But TR was quickly learning that as president the solitary hunting adventures he had enjoyed for so many years were a thing of the past, replaced by media-infested picnics in which the hunter could not escape from his entourage long enough to find any game. Worse in this case

was the risk of public disapproval if the lion hunt was perceived as special privilege granted to a powerful politician—he could not afford the appearance of being allowed to hunt where no other citizen was. Recognizing these obstacles, Roosevelt backed away from the idea of the hunt.

To further distance himself from any public unrest, as well as to ensure himself good company, Roosevelt invited his old friend John Burroughs, the beloved

Catskills nature writer, to join him on the trip.⁷ For many years, Burroughs's gentle tales of woodland life had entertained a huge American audience that had no special interest in hunting. It was apparently (and accurately) assumed that Burroughs's presence on the trip would signal to the public that Roosevelt would not hunt.

Roosevelt's train, the *Elysian*, made its way across the West with great public attention.⁸ The "pilot train" and the "special train of the President of the United States" made their way up the Yellowstone River valley on April 8, 1903, with

COURTESY DORIS WHITHORN

an almost triumphal mood.⁹ In his public remarks along the way, TR emphasized his own sense of homecoming, and the local papers editorialized in glowing terms on the character and qualities of this adopted son. “I am on my way to try to get a fortnight’s rest,” he told a cheering crowd during a whistle-stop speech in Livingston, Montana. “For the last 18 months I have taken everything as it came from coal strikes to trolley cars, and I feel I am entitled to a fortnight to myself.”¹⁰

The presidential party reached Cinnabar a little after noon (until the Gardiner depot was complete, the NPR’s Yellowstone terminus remained north of Gar-

evelt was riding north through the park following an extended elk hunt at Two Ocean Pass, south of the park. He and a companion encountered then-Lieutenant Pitcher and a troop of cavalry camped in a geyser basin along the Firehole River and gratefully accepted their hospitality, enjoying a long evening of storytelling around a campfire in the snow.¹²

Pitcher gave the president’s schedule to the *Livingston Post* newspaper. Troop B, scheduled to accompany TR on his trip, would always be available to the president in its full strength, said Pitcher. Local guide Billy Hofer (whom Roosevelt knew at least by reputation as one of

for anyone to enter Wonderland while the president is there.”¹³

Considering Roosevelt’s aforementioned concern that his activities in the park not seem to smack of special privilege, Pitcher’s announcement requires some explaining. This was by no means as draconian an edict as it might at first seem to all of us who are accustomed to year-round access to some park roads. In fact, it might even be characterized as largely bluster. At this time, the park had only one brief tourist season: summer. Public visitation did not begin until well into June, when a combination of spring thaws and the limited snow-removal

techniques of the day allowed the opening of some roads. Thus, Pitcher could easily “close” the park, because in April it was not yet formally open to visitation anyway, and wouldn’t be for nearly two months. The very light traffic on a few park roads in winter and spring was all local, and under constant watch by soldiers and scouts who knew that almost all poaching of park animals was conducted by their less savory neighbors during this off season.¹⁴

But even if “closing the park” for the president wasn’t much of an issue, it was still true that he had Yellowstone completely to himself in April 1903, and he must have loved it. Roosevelt’s secretary William Loeb stated that his own orders were to “give absolutely nothing [to the press] concerning Mr. Roosevelt’s

movements. The president will be lost, as far as the world at large is concerned,” said Loeb.¹⁵

As the elderly John Burroughs was loaded into an army ambulance for the five-mile trip up the hill to Fort Yellowstone (he assumed he’d ride a horse like the others, but happily climbed into the ambulance as if he expected it), and the *Elysian*, with its presidential staff and various other local dignitary passengers, was withdrawn to a sidetrack a few miles north of Gardiner in Cinnabar,

COURTESY DORIS WHITHORN



The *Elysian*, Roosevelt’s train, arrives at Cinnabar, Montana, April 8, 1903.

diner, at Cinnabar, Montana). Among the many to greet them was C Troop of the Third Cavalry and Major John Pitcher, commanding officer of Fort Yellowstone at Mammoth Hot Springs, who also held the civilian title of Acting Superintendent of Yellowstone National Park. “My dear Major,” said Roosevelt, “I’m back in my own country again.”¹¹

It was a cheerful reunion for these two old friends, who had previously encountered each other in a Yellowstone blizzard 12 years earlier. On that occasion, Roos-

the park’s leading woodsmen) and the six park scouts were to accompany his party. There was to be no strict itinerary, Pitcher announced: “The president will go where he pleases and when he wishes.” Pitcher also cautioned the reporter from the *Post* that “no person will be permitted to approach the president’s camp. There will be no person with him except his escort and John Burroughs.” As to security, Pitcher said that “the approaches to the Park are all guarded by soldiers and pickets...it will be absolutely impossible

Roosevelt and Pitcher set off on horseback with the soldiers. They were delayed repeatedly so that the naturalist-president could admire and count various groups of pronghorn (he referred to them as “prongbuck”), bighorn sheep, mule deer, white-tailed deer, and ducks, as well as the small captive bison herd near Mammoth Hot Springs (informally known as “Mammoth”).¹⁶ With these absorbing distractions, it took the party two hours of rambling here and there across the rolling slopes of the Gardner River valley to cover the five miles to Fort Yellowstone.¹⁷

Fort Yellowstone, at Mammoth, was Roosevelt’s first stop, as preparations were completed for his park tour. Clarence “Pop” Scoyen related to the Reverend Merv Olson in 1970 that he was present at Mammoth in 1903 when President Roosevelt rode in. “I was eight years old...my brother, mother, and I watched him ride into Mammoth on horseback,” said Scoyen. “I shook his hand, and he remarked to my mother, ‘I’ve got a couple of boys like that back home too.’”¹⁸

Roosevelt’s time visiting Yellowstone is not the subject of this article, except as it bears on his time in Gardiner, and it is a tale well-told in other publications.¹⁹ It is enough to say that for two weeks, the president tramped, rode, and skied his way through some of Yellowstone’s most beautiful country. He savored the sight of thousands of elk and hundreds of other animals, soaking up the western wilderness scenery and spirit that had meant so much to him in younger times. He captured and, in the best naturalist tradition of the time, prepared the skin of a species of mouse that had not previously been identified in the park (he’d hoped it would be a new species but it



Frontispiece from the 1907 edition of John Burroughs’s *Camping & Tramping with Roosevelt*. The President is shown at Yosemite National Park’s Glacier Point.

was not). He gathered the notes and ideas for his long, stirring essay on wilderness reserves. Perhaps best of all, he provided his small group of companions with unforgettable days in the presence of (in Burroughs’s words), “the most vital man on the continent, if not on the planet.”²⁰ Burroughs’s description of time spent around the presidential campfires is more evocative than any detailed itinerary of their days:

While in camp we always had a big fire at night in the open near the tents, and around this we sat upon logs or campstools, and listened to the President’s talk. What a stream of it he poured forth! and what a varied and picturesque stream! —anecdote, history, science, politics, adventure, literature; bits of his experience as a ranchman, hunter, Rough Rider, legislator, civil service commissioner, police commissioner, governor, president—the

*frankest confessions, the most telling criticisms, happy characterizations of prominent political leaders, or foreign rulers, or members of his own Cabinet; always surprising by his candor, astonishing by his memory, and diverting by his humor.*²¹

And while the presidential party was making its exuberant way across the Yellowstone landscape, plans were forming back in Gardiner that would apply some of that exuberance to the memorialization of a growing local landmark.

Design and construction of the arch

Visitors approaching Yellowstone National Park from the north travel up the Yellowstone River valley between Livingston and Yankee Jim Canyon—a beautiful area rightly known as Paradise Valley. All along this route, they are treated to vistas of a classic, high western valley flanked by magnificent mountain ranges. After making the winding passage of Yankee Jim Canyon, they enter a much narrower valley, featuring rugged mountain peaks, colorful rock outcroppings, and a shining river that seems perpetually posed for calendar photography. It is a landscape in which the modern eye easily finds beauty, wildness, and the nearly mystical excitement of mountain scenery. But it was not always seen that way.

The arch was, along with the monumental rustic architecture of the Old Faithful Inn that was completed only a year later, the product of the aesthetics of its time. In the century since its construction, nature appreciation has evolved dramatically; landscapes once perceived as “barren,” or as “wastelands,” or even “evil,” have been re-imagined with deepened respect for their special ecological and geological virtues.²² For all our devotion to the arch as an historic structure and symbol, it should be admitted that it

would neither seem necessary nor have a chance of being built today. Modern landscape architects and park planners approach park settings much more accepting of the inherent beauties—however challenging those qualities may be to the uninitiated—of the unadorned native topography.

It is reasonably certain that the arch was the idea of Hiram Martin Chittenden, who believed that such a commanding structure would compensate for what was then seen as the relatively uninspiring character of the surrounding country at the park's North Entrance. Because Mammoth was park headquarters, and because the North Entrance was originally the only place where a railroad approached the natural features and hotels of the park, Chittenden, now remembered as the most influential of the early Corps of Engineers officers to work in Yellowstone, said that the North Entrance was "the most important of any [entrance], and this importance it will probably always retain."²³ Although ultimately wrong on that last point, Chittenden added, "it has been thought fitting, therefore, to provide some suitable entrance gate at this point. This was more important because the natural features of the country at this portion of the boundary are about the least interesting of any part of the Park, and the first impression of visitors upon entering the Park was very unfavorable."²⁴

From 1886 to 1918, the U.S. Cavalry was responsible for protecting the park and overseeing public enjoyment of its wonders, and historians have now demonstrated the critical importance of the military period in shaping the park's public image and policies.²⁵ But the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers had begun its Yellowstone career even earlier, in 1883, and in some very practical ways its historic role in the park was even more far-reaching. It was, in effect, the Corps's responsibility to see that the needs of public transportation in the park were satisfied by means harmonious with the park's goals of nature protection. Historians have praised the "aesthetic conservation" efforts of Hiram Chittenden and his fellow road-, bridge-, and facility-builders, recognizing their surprising sensitivity both to the

visitor experience and to the landscape.²⁶ Chittenden was also a leading historian of the American West, and author of the first important history of the park.²⁷ In his distinguished career in Yellowstone, he oversaw road construction and related work during two key periods, 1891–1893 and 1899–1906.²⁸ It was only natural, then, and in keeping with the established order of things, that Chittenden should play a key role in the development of such an important landmark as the arch at the North Entrance. It was likewise certain that the arch would be a product of Chittenden's view of how a national park should best honor the natural scene.

The idea of an arch at the North Entrance dates at least to November 13, 1902, when the *Gardiner Wonderland* reported that in addition to the train depot then being planned, "on the rise of ground to the east will be erected the stone lodge for the squad of soldiers to be stationed here, and the stone archway through which the coaches will pass."²⁹ Planning for the arch's construction was underway by early 1903, and crews had started work on it before the president arrived on April 8. Historian Doris Whithorn has stated that Gardiner merchant Charles B. Scott obtained the contract for rock delivery on February 19, and "at once had men and teams at work delivering the massive stones to the site."³⁰ How Scott got this contract and from whom he got it is not known.

In fact, although Chittenden's role as originator of the idea seems sure, much remains uncertain about the planning, design, and construction of the arch. Historian Aubrey Haines wrote that the design for it was "worked up from his [Chittenden's] notes by Robert C. Reamer, architect of the Old Faithful and Canyon Hotels."³¹ Reamer, perhaps the most noted professional architect to work in Yellowstone and the mastermind of some of the park's most beloved structures, does seem the sort of distinguished professional who might be recruited for such an important park project.

Unfortunately, Haines provided no citation for this information on Reamer's involvement in the arch, and we have been unable to confirm it. Ruth Quinn, long a researcher working on a biog-

raphy of Reamer, cannot confirm it either.³² Reamer was certainly involved in the design of the depot, and it could be that his involvement there became confused over time with the paternity of the nearby arch. Or, it could be that Reamer contributed his thinking to the plans for the arch because it was part of the same entrance-area landscape. The frequent connection of Reamer's name to a former home just north of the arch, known locally as the "Arch House," which now houses the Yellowstone Association's North Entrance Education Center in Gardiner, might have further contributed to the confusion. Both the Arch House and a nearby apartment house have been informally attributed to Reamer as designer or builder or inspiration, though documentation is lacking to support such statements.³³

A number of other sources reiterate the shaky claims of Reamer's involvement in designing the arch. David Leavengood, an architectural historian who worked for a time on a biography of Reamer, stated, "By 1902, Reamer was working on the Old Faithful Inn at [Harry] Child's request as well as on the Roosevelt Arch for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers."³⁴ Historian Anne Farrar Hyde also makes this claim, as do David Naylor and Win Blevins, all of whom cite Leavengood or Haines.³⁵ Unfortunately, Leavengood's two cited sources are an oral history interview that draws strictly on hearsay and Haines's uncited comment in *The Yellowstone Story*.

Because Aubrey Haines has almost invariably proven to be correct about this kind of historical information through the years, our inclination is to at least tentatively accept his judgment on the matter. But barring further documentation, the extent of Robert Reamer's involvement in the design of the arch must remain an open question.

Whatever cast of characters played whatever precise set of roles, the work was done efficiently and well. On March 19, 1903, the *Gardiner Wonderland* newspaper published "The Entrance Arch," further announcing the project.³⁶ The editor, who evidently had an inside track with the contractor to get such information, noted that the arch was to cost \$10,000,



A rare photo of the arch under construction, summer 1903.

and that \$1,000 had already been spent hauling hundreds of tons of rock for it:

The width of the opening through which teams and vehicles will pass will be twenty-five feet, with a height somewhat greater. A tower rises on each side of the arch to a height of 52 feet, and from near the base of the towers the arch begins to make its circle, the centre [sic.] wall of which rises to within a few feet of the height of the towers. On the outside of the towers the wall from the base is carried up on a perpendicular, thus jutting beyond the tower at the top. With a graceful curve wings droop from this line to an outer post something like forty feet on each side. These towers are thirteen feet square at the base and are drawn in until at the top they are perhaps half this size. Over the center of the arch carved in rustic letters will be a quotation from the act of dedication:

“For the benefit and enjoyment of the people.” On one tower, “Yellowstone National Park” and on the other: “Created by act of Congress March 3d [sic.] 1872.” The entire structure will be built of unhewn basaltic rock and will present a grand and imposing appearance in rustic.³⁷

It is worth emphasizing that the reporter was correct in ascribing the quotation, “For the benefit and enjoyment of the people,” to the Yellowstone National Park Organic Act of March 1, 1872. Among the more intriguing folklore to have built up around the arch is the local “common knowledge” that this phrase was first uttered by Theodore Roosevelt. Perhaps this error originated because TR used the phrase during his dedication speech (see box). Whatever its source, it joins other Roosevelt-related mythology relating to Yellowstone, including the belief that he was personally responsible

for the establishment of the park in 1872 (he was thirteen at the time) or, even more improbably, that he was the first explorer of the park area.³⁸

In late March, railroad contractor Walter J. Bradshaw passed through Livingston on his way to Gardiner and told the *Enterprise* that the federal government and the Northern Pacific were cooperating on a project to build a depot and a stone archway there near the park boundary. On March 28, in an early announcement of the project based at least in part on information provided by Bradshaw, the *Enterprise* noted that the new “entrance or gateway to the Park will be a handsome arch” made from rocks of the vicinity. “The contractors have been ordered,” said the newspaper, “not to remove the moss from the rocks used in the construction of the arch, so that it may present as natural an appearance as possible.” Apparently, Bradshaw told the editor more, for the paper proclaimed that

the new park decorations would include a miniature waterfall near the arch (never built), a lake, and rustic houses and stores.³⁹

So far, our search of the official records for construction of this project has not yielded full clarification of the precise chain of command. As with the relative roles of the designers, there is uncertainty about who oversaw construction, and we are uncomfortably at the mercy of newspaper accounts for many of the details. On April 30, however, the *Livingston Post* stated that “Captain Chittenden” and his “force of craftsmen” were the ones erecting the arch. Thus, it appears that the U.S. Army Engineers (led by Chittenden) may have combined forces with the Northern Pacific Railway contractors (perhaps led by Bradshaw) to produce the arch. While Chittenden and Bradshaw at least worked on the arch, it appears that N.J. Ness, an architect from St. Paul who was quite well known for his work on a number of other railroad depots, was also somehow involved in its actual design.⁴⁰

On April 9, the *Wonderland* published an extended description of the grand plans emerging for Gardiner’s arch, complete with the artificial waterfall already mentioned and an additional lake that was never built:

A stone wall, running almost at right angle with the arch, will extend westward from the north wing a distance of about 200 feet. From the south end wing a like wall, about ten feet in height[,] will follow the contour of the hill and extend around to the west side of the new depot a distance of about 800 feet. The driveway from

the arch to the depot describes a circle and within this circle a small artificial lake is being constructed and around the lake will be a beautiful lawn with all sorts of shrubbery and plants. From this lake a pipe will carry the



COURTESY DORIS WHITHORN

A two-horse surrey approaches the arch shortly after its completion.

large overflow under the track and into a[nother] lake of several acres in extent that will be made on all the low ground within the loop [never built]. The water for these lakes will come from the Gardiner [sic., river] in the ditch now being made and will come through the arch in covered pipes and burst forth in a waterfall [never built] over the rocky cliff just beyond where the driveway forks. The surrounding hillsides will all be terraced and laid out in a most artistic manner.⁴¹

Notwithstanding these extravagant dreams of landscape architects and engineers, the aridity of the Gardiner area made it impossible not only to build the waterfall and the extra pond at the arch, but ultimately to have any pond there at all. Nor could enough water be conveyed to keep alive the trees and shrubbery that workmen so lovingly planted there in 1902 and 1903.⁴²

Construction of the arch began sometime in early April, and continued during summer 1903. Traveler Grace Hecox saw both the new depot and the arch under construction on July 15, and opined that Gardiner would soon “be a pretty place

when everything is finished...A very pretty arch of native stone is being built to form the main entrance to the Park. A small engine is used to hoist the stone. We watched the derrick as it worked. Several colors are being used in the arch.”⁴³ Historian Whithorn has stated that even when the arch was still incomplete and surrounded with scaffolding, wagons were allowed to pass through it.⁴⁴

On August 15, 1903, workmen finished the arch. The *Gardiner Wonderland* reported that “last Saturday [August 15] witnessed the tearing down of all the scaffolding, and the arch now stands alone in all its magnificence.”⁴⁵ Calling it the “great arch, which has become so noted throughout the United States,” the newspaper ran a huge woodcut drawing of the new structure.⁴⁶ In addition to the arch, Chittenden built “an artificial body of water” between it and the depot and made provision for “the irrigation of grounds around it.”⁴⁷ After describing

the new turnaround loop of the railroad that backed up to the turnaround loop of the stagecoach road, he described the new arch:

About 30 feet above the level of the [railroad] station grounds, a masonry arch has been constructed of columnar basalt found in the vicinity. The width of the opening is 20 feet, the height is 30 feet, and the maximum height of the structure is 50 feet. Two wing walls, 12 feet high, run out laterally from the arch to a distance of 50 feet from the center, where they terminate in small towers which rise about 3 feet above the wall. From these towers and parallel to the two branches of the loop, walls 8 feet high extend to the Park boundary. Three tablets in concrete are built into the outer face of the arch, with the following inscriptions: Above the keystone, "For the Benefit and Enjoyment of the People;" on the left of the opening, "Yellowstone National Park," and on the right "Created by Act of Congress, March 1, 1872."⁴⁸

The cornerstone ceremony

It is no surprise that Masons felt a special stake in Yellowstone and its new architectural enterprise. From the park's earliest days, Masons had played a prominent role in its fortunes. Both Charles Cook and David Folsom, who visited the Yellowstone in 1869 in an attempt to verify or refute claims of its wonders then drifting around, were Masons. Nathaniel Langford, first superintendent of the park (1872–1877), was Grand Master of Masons in Montana in 1870, when he was a leading member of the Washburn exploring party in what would become the park, and his companion Cornelius Hedges, another important member of that group, held the same office next.⁴⁹

According to the Gardiner newspaper at the time, Charles W. Miller of the Yellowstone Park Association (the hotel company) originated the idea of laying the arch's cornerstone with Masonic ceremonies.⁵⁰ Indeed, Masons at Mammoth Hot Springs appear to have been in

the forefront of conceiving and planning the April 24, 1903 ceremony, including the hoped-for involvement of President Roosevelt (a member of Matinecock Masonic Lodge #806, Oyster Bay, New York). In addition to Miller, they were Henry Klamer, Alex Lyall, W.A. Hall, George Trischman, and C.C. Brandon, all of Livingston Masonic Lodge Number 32. These men sent a letter dated April 13 to Major Pitcher (also a Mason), Captain Chittenden, Harry Child of the hotel company, and Robert Walker, apparently a concession executive. Chittenden presented the letter to President Roosevelt while he was in camp near Yancey's (the meadow near present Tower Junction, current site of nightly chuckwagon cookouts during the summer). The president accepted the invitation, and upon receiving his reply the Masons referred the matter to "Grand Master Smith" at

it. Though the relative significance of the various "players" in instigating the event remains uncertain, together this group of people launched the ceremony successfully.

Preparations for the ceremony

The Masons, the railroad, Gardiner and Livingston citizens, Major Pitcher, and Captain Chittenden all combined their efforts to make the event happen. The NPR engaged 40 stagecoaches at Livingston to take overflow passengers (who couldn't get on the train) to Gardiner, and the town of Gardiner hired the Livingston Volunteer Fire Department band to play.⁵³ "Gardiner is appropriately decorated for the occasion," announced the Bozeman newspaper on the big day, with "flowers in profusion beautifying the vicinity of the arch...now eight feet high."⁵⁴ Photos of Gardiner that day show



Gardiner on Dedication Day, decorated for the occasion.

Phillipsburg, Montana, who was apparently already involved.⁵¹

This "Grand Master" was Frank E. Smith, who indicated his role many years later by stating, "it was at my instigation that [Roosevelt] was invited to participate on that occasion and make the address."⁵² This seems to suggest that Smith was involved even before the April 13 letter of invitation was sent, and had had something to do with the idea of sending

numerous American flags and red, white, and blue bunting decorating some of the storefronts.

Many prominent Masons arrived in Gardiner on Thursday evening's train, and held an evening meeting in the Masonic Hall to arrange the details of the next day's activities. E.C. Day of Helena addressed the Masons and gave a speech about President Roosevelt that was described as "eloquent." Billings, Red

COURTESY DORIS WHITHORN



Visitors and local residents gathered for the arch dedication, April 24, 1903. This photo was taken from the hill just south of the present site of the arch, looking back at the town of Gardiner. The crane used to lower the cornerstone is visible at far left.

Lodge, Big Timber, and Miles City all sent delegations.⁵⁵ Captain Hiram Chittenden had charge of the arrangements for the laying of the stone.⁵⁶

Gardiner's big day: April 24, 1903

At least three regional newspapers covered the occasion: the *Livingston Post*, the *Livingston Enterprise*, and the *Gardiner Wonderland*.⁵⁷ This account of the festivities is taken primarily from those three long newspaper articles.

"The flashing swords of the officers, the martial music of the band, and the lusty cheering of the assembled multitude," gushed one reporter, "gave the scene an aspect which would inspire enthusiasm and patriotism in the breast of a cynic." April 24 dawned clear and warm in Gardiner, a "magnificent" day for such an inspiring celebration.⁵⁸

In Livingston that Friday morning, the city was "swarming with visitors Parkward bound." The first train (12 cars in length) departing (10 a.m.) to Gardiner was besieged by anxious celebrants who scrambled all over each other for seats. Beleaguered railroad officials had to recruit four additional cars and a second engine to carry the horde, which included Livingston Mayor Charles Garnier and the Livingston band in the first cars. "There were 1300 people aboard it when

the train pulled out of Livingston," proclaimed a reporter who was there, "with the band playing a lively air and the people cheering themselves hoarse."⁵⁹

Along the route, the train stopped to receive more people. More than 100 crowded on at the small town of Fridley (today's Emigrant), and about 400

more at Horr (near present LaDuke Hot Springs) and Cinnabar (about three miles downstream from Gardiner). Upon reaching Gardiner at around noon, the hungry, thirsty, early crowd rushed for the town's hotels, saloons, and restaurants.⁶⁰ At about 2:00 p.m., stage drivers ushered a line of ten or more four-horse coaches out of the park and lined them up to be photographed by the eastern photographers who were present.⁶¹

When the second train, carrying the Masons and almost as many people as the first, arrived at 2:30 p.m., the town of Gardiner was "simply overwhelmed."⁶² So great was the throng that many would have gone hungry had they not had the foresight to bring their own lunches.⁶³ Estimates of the size of the crowd ranged from 2,000 to 4,000, but the *Livingston Post*'s "careful estimate" (done by dividing the crowd into "lots" and performing the math) was probably the best one, and it gave 3,700 as the likely attendance.⁶⁴

Security was in evidence, no doubt heightened by memories of the assassination of President William McKinley less than two years earlier. The *Enterprise* noted that "guards were posted all around the spot at points of vantage on the closely surrounding hillsides," and



Troops B and C of the Third Cavalry lead Roosevelt's party into town, possibly led by a Lieutenant Leshar, Captain Johnson, and a local canine resident.

the roped pathway to the speakers' stand was "lined with cavalymen and a lot of special deputy sheriffs were scattered all over the grounds."⁶⁵

Around 3:30 p.m., dignitaries began to move into place. Troops B and C of the Third Cavalry, led by Captain Johnson and Lieutenant Leshner, trotted into town from Mammoth Hot Springs and lined up on the road east of the arch to await President Roosevelt. The Masons formed at Holem's store with the band, and all marched to the arch and found their roped-off space. Masonic Grand Master Frank E. Smith and other Masons climbed onto a raised platform immediately below the cornerstone, which was swinging from a double-poled crane decorated with a flag and bunting. Photos show that many of the Masons were wearing their characteristic white aprons at the laying of the stone, and a Masonic writer later noted, "those who were to have speaking parts had provided themselves with Prince Albert coats and silk hats."⁶⁶

At about 4:10 p.m., the president's entourage arrived from Mammoth. "The eager eyes of the crowd," said the *Post*, "discerned his approach when he was



Gardiner "Mayor" James McCartney (riding with five-year-old Paul Hoppe on his lap), President Roosevelt, and Major John Pitcher arrive at the dedication ceremonies.

still half mile distant, and a mighty cheer broke forth."⁶⁷ Said the *Enterprise*, "All were splendidly mounted and the cavalcade came down the road at a sweeping gallop." Accompanied by Major Pitcher, and apparently using the route that currently passes in front of the Xanterra

personnel office, Roosevelt rode west down Park Street to the platform at the incomplete arch. A photo of him and Major Pitcher taken as they were riding west reveals that another man accompanied them. He was probably Gardiner "Mayor" James McCartney, who carried five-year-old Paul Hoppe on the saddle in front of him.⁶⁸ Roosevelt wore a black coat, military trousers, and a soft black hat. An observer noted that the president appeared to be in the best of health and was riding the gray horse named Bonaparte that he had ridden into the park sixteen days earlier.⁶⁹

As he reached the entrance to the roped aisle in front of the platform, the cavalry presented sabers in a salute to the president. The band struck up "Hail Columbia" (in 1903, "Hail to the Chief" was not yet being played). Accompanied by Captain Hiram Chittenden and Major Pitcher, Roosevelt walked up the aisle, passing between the two sides of the large crowd. "Cheer upon cheer greeted his appearance," proclaimed the *Post*, and Roosevelt "walked swiftly, with hat raised in acknowledgment of the salute."⁷⁰

Masonic Grand Master Smith presided over the occasion (he "conducted the ritualistic ceremonies of the order"), along with Sol Hepner (Deputy Grand



The flag-draped crane used to lift the cornerstone is prominent in this photo of the speakers' stand and assembled dignitaries. The photo was taken looking to the North-Northeast, roughly from the present site of the arch's south tower.



Left, Close-up of cornerstone today.

Below, President Roosevelt watches as the cornerstone is manipulated.

Master), Cornelius Hedges (Grand Secretary), Lew Callaway (Grand Senior Warden), Samuel Nye (Acting Grand Secretary), D.A. McCaw (Acting Grand Junior Warden), and “other officers.”⁷¹ The cornerstone was suspended on heavy block and tackle from a large bunting-bedecked derrick of two wooden poles, each topped with an American flag.

In preparation for the event, the Masons gathered a collection of items to be placed in a “canister” that would then go into a “depository.”⁷² Modern Masonic procedures also refer to this as a “box” or a “casket,” but its precise character is not known.⁷³ According to the *Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Montana*, the following items were placed in the container:

- *Copy of the World’s Almanac, 1903;*
- *Copy of the Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Montana for 1902;*
- *Copy of Northern Pacific Railway descriptive pamphlet, 1903;*
- *Copy Masonic Code of Montana;*
- *Pictures of Hon. N.P. Langford, first Superintendent of the Park, one of*



COURTESY DORIS WHITHORN

the Washburn party of 1870, also of Cornelius Hedges member of the same party, who first suggested making a National Park;

- *Original articles by the latter published in the Helena Herald soon after the return of the party in 1870;*
- *Copies of the Livingston daily papers;*
- *Sundry coins of the United States; and*
- *Copy of the Holy Bible.*

Several things prepared for the deposit had to be omitted on account of the size of the box, such as the Memorials of the Montana Legislature asking for the establishment of the park and the act of Con-

gress setting it apart for the purpose.⁷⁴

Research by historian Doris Whithorn revealed that the Bible belonged to Rev. Edward Smith of the Livingston Methodist Church.⁷⁵ One of the reporters said that the newspapers included were the *Livingston Enterprise*, *Livingston Post*, *Gardiner Wonderland*, and *Montana Record*. This reporter also said that several photographs of park scenes taken at the time were included, as was a portrait of President Roosevelt. The reporter continued, saying that all these items were “placed in the depository to serve as a record in the event of the destruction of the arch by the elements in the centuries which are to come.”⁷⁶

The stone is easily identified today. As you enter the arch from the Gardiner side, the stone is low on the inside (i.e., park side) corner of the right tower of the arch. The stone is more obviously “worked” and more squarely finished than the stones around it, which were intentionally left rough and irregularly angular to display the rugged natural contours of individual stones and to preserve as much as

possible of the colorful appearance of the natural rock with its coating of lichens.⁷⁷ Measured in place today, the stone is 21½ inches deep, 15 inches wide, and 20½ inches high. On the “inside” surface (that is, the side facing across the inner arch), are incised, “Apr 24,” with “1903” directly underneath.

There has been some uncertainty in historical writing about the placement of the box of memorabilia. As quoted earlier, at least one contemporary account did say that the box was placed in the cornerstone itself. However, also as quoted, the same reporter on other occasions referred to a “depository” as the resting place of the box. Historian Aubrey Haines ana-

lyzed the sequence of events as described in the newspaper accounts and concluded that in fact the depository was a “recess” in the stone upon which the cornerstone was laid.⁷⁸ This is plausible. The base stonework was already completed at this corner of the pillar, and is slightly visible in photographs; Haines’s scenario suggests that the “depository” was a space cut or left in this lower stonework, into which the box was placed, and upon which the cornerstone was then lowered.

This makes for a sequence of events that matches the newspaper reports and the Masonic records. For example, the *Livingston Post* reporter specifically stated, “Prior to the lowering of the stone, a canister containing numerous articles was placed in the depository.”⁷⁹ Photographs of that stage of the ceremony show the stone, encumbered by its hooks and tackle, still suspended over the heads of the men. The men may have been able to reach the cornerstone as it hung there, but it seems an unlikely and undignified time for them to be placing anything inside it. Also, though the photographs do not show all sides of the cornerstone at this stage, the sides they do show reveal no indication of a cavity in the stone itself.

All of these logistical details aside, now that the preliminaries were complete, the big moment had come. Now that the box was in place, it was time to prepare the surface and lower the stone. With the cornerstone suspended above them, Grand Master Smith passed the trowel to the president, who “spread the mortar on the bed that was to receive the stone and, at the proper moment in the ceremony, the huge block of basalt was lowered into place.”⁸⁰ The Masons poured corn, wine, and oil upon the stone, these being “the elements of consecration” whose meaning was at this point explained to

the audience.⁸¹ The cornerstone was then “tested by the implements of Masonry and pronounced well-formed, truly laid and correctly proved.”⁸²

The sense of history among many onlookers was palpable, and not only because they were witnessing a presidential event in their little community. “Conspicuous among the Masonic grand lodge officers who conducted the cornerstone

wall.” Accompanying him were Secretary William Loeb, Captain Chittenden, Major Pitcher, John Burroughs, “Mayor” J.C. McCartney, and “others.” The crowd cheered the president as he passed to the stand, and he lifted his hat and smiled. Pitcher then introduced McCartney, who was to introduce the president. But McCartney, apparently suffering from stage fright, “was only able to mutter



President Roosevelt addresses the crowd. Hiram Chittenden stands at Roosevelt’s left. Starting third from his right are John Burroughs, James McCartney, and Major John Pitcher.

laying,” noted the *Gardiner Wonderland*, “was one who played a most important part in the history of the park—Judge Cornelius Hedges of Helena.”⁸³ The *Gardiner* newspaper lamented the fact that David Folsom of the 1869 Folsom-Cook-Peterson party had been unable to attend the festivities.⁸⁴ Though subsequent historians would show that Hedges was not the first to suggest making Yellowstone a national park (he was probably preceded even by Folsom), there is no question that the audience was justified in their mood of a momentous occasion.⁸⁵

The President then ascended the speakers’ stand, which had been “built eight feet above the ground on the arch

‘Ladies and Gentlemen, President Roosevelt.’”⁸⁶

“As the president came forward, the crowd broke into a prolonged cheer,” proclaimed the *Post* reporter approvingly, “which echoed back from the hills and rolled in mighty waves up to the speakers’ stand. The president stood some few seconds before he could begin.”⁸⁷ Some accounts suggest that he made a few remarks before beginning his prepared speech (see box, next pages).⁸⁸

According to the *Post*, the text of the speech was published as “an exact copy of the speech that the president prepared in advance. While he said all that is above quoted, he said many other things that do

not appear in the printed speech. He constantly interpolated remarks which occurred to him upon the spur of the moment.”⁸⁹ If this is the case, it may mean that a copy, prepared in advance, was distributed to the press, or perhaps was made available afterward. In at least one photograph made during the speech, the president is holding in his hand some kind of document or paper, which may have been his text.

When the speech was concluded, the president made a number of other “off the cuff” remarks. He praised the people of the West and decried idleness. He cheered the old soldiers who were represented by Thomas Mains of Livingston’s

Farragut Post No. 7. And he made humorous references to his days of “punching cattle” in North Dakota.⁹⁰ It was all a great success. The *Gardiner Wonderland* editorialized that “The president met and captured this entire country. The boys all say that his equal is not to be found in these United States.”⁹¹

Following the speech, there was a “presentation by the Masonic Grand Lodge to the president of a beautiful Masonic charm. The background of the charm is a Montana gold nugget. On the face of the nugget the Masonic square and compass have been placed and at the top is a plate bearing the inscription, ‘T.R. 1903.’ On a plate at the bottom of

the charm is the word, ‘Montana.’ The presentation was made by Grand Master Smith, who, with the other officers of the grand lodge, gathered around the president in the speakers’ stand after the speech of the day had been finished.”⁹²

Before leaving the stand, Roosevelt recognized some of the men who had been his companions during his park stay. Spotting James McBride (one of the park scouts, later chief park ranger) in the crowd, Roosevelt called out, “Mac, oh Mac! Come up here. I want to see you.” McBride went up and the president shook his hand and thanked him for his help on the park trip. Roosevelt then turned to the two troops of U.S. Cavalry and thanked

Mr. Mayor; Mr. Superintendent, and My Fellow Citizens:

I wish to thank the people of Montana generally, and those of Gardiner and Cinnabar especially, and more especially still all those employed in the Park, whether in civil or military capacity, for my very enjoyable two weeks holiday.

It is a pleasure now to say a few words to you at the laying of the corner stone of the beautiful arch which is to mark the entrance to this Park. The Yellowstone Park is something absolutely unique in the world so far as I know. Nowhere else in any civilized country is there to be found such a tract of veritable wonderland made accessible to all visitors, where at the same time not only the scenery of the wilderness, but the wild creatures of the Park are scrupulously preserved, as they were the only change being that these same wild creatures have been so carefully protected as to show a literally astonishing tameness. The creation and preservation of such a great national playground in the interests of our people as a whole is a credit to the nation; but above all a credit to Montana, Wyoming and Idaho. It has been preserved with wise foresight. The scheme of its preservation is noteworthy in its essential democracy. Private game preserves, though they may be handled in such a way as to be not only good things for themselves but good things for the surrounding community, can yet never be more than poor substitutes, from the standpoint of the public, for great national play grounds such as this Yellowstone Park. This Park was created, and is now administered for the benefit and enjoyment of the people. The government must continue to appropriate for it, especially in the direction of completing and perfecting an excellent system of driveways. But already its beauties can be seen with great comfort in a short space of time and at an astonishingly small cost, and with the sense on the part of every visitor that it is in part his property; that it is the property of Uncle Sam and therefore of all of us. The only way that the people as a

whole can secure to themselves and their children the enjoyment in perpetuity of what the Yellowstone Park has to give, is by assuming the ownership in the name of the nation and jealously safeguarding and preserving the scenery, the forests, and the wild creatures. When we have a good system of carriage roads throughout the Park—for of course it would be very unwise to allow either steam or electric roads in the Park—we shall have a region as easy and accessible to travel in as it is already every whit as interesting as is similar territory of the Alps or the Italian Riviera. The geysers, the extraordinary hot springs, the lakes, the mountains, the canyon and cataracts unite to make this region something not paralleled [*sic.*] elsewhere on the globe. It must be kept for the benefit and enjoyment of all of us; and I hope to see a steadily increasing number of our people take advantage of its attractions. At present it is rather singular that a greater number of people come from Europe to see it than come from our own eastern states to see it. The people near by seem awake to its beauties; and I hope that more and more of our people who dwell far off will appreciate its really marvelous character. Incidentally, I should like to point out that sometime people will surely awake to the fact that the Park has special beauties to be seen in winter; and any hardy man who can go through it in that season on skis will enjoy himself as he scarcely could elsewhere.

I wish especially to congratulate the people of Montana, Wyoming and Idaho, and notably you of Gardiner and Cinnabar and the immediate outskirts of the Park, for the way in which you heartily co-operate with the superintendent to prevent acts of vandalism and destruction. Major Pitcher has explained to me how much he owes to your co-operation and your lively appreciation of the fact that the Park is simply being kept in the interest of all of us, so that everyone may have the chance to see its wonders with ease and comfort at the minimum of expense. I have always thought it was a

them as well.⁹³

Descending the platform, Roosevelt passed through the crowd to his horse while the throng cheered him wildly. Mounting up, the president rode slowly to Cinnabar and his train, accompanied by Major Pitcher and the cavalry. Along the way, he responded repeatedly to cheers from people lining the road. At the train, Roosevelt dismounted and shook hands with Captain Johnson and Lieutenant Leshner of the cavalry and others, bidding them all goodbye and thanking them for their help.⁹⁴

At the train, a rough-looking man approached Roosevelt. Not knowing who he was, Frank Tyree of the Secret

Service quickly grabbed him by the neck and shoved him back ten feet. Seeing that the man meant no harm, the president reached out his hand. The man took it and grinned at having been mistaken for a dangerous person.⁹⁵

After Montana Congressman Dixon boarded the train and introduced some other dignitaries to Roosevelt, the president's train left Cinnabar at 6 p.m. It proceeded slowly to Livingston, arriving at 9:15 p.m., and then on to Billings, Montana.⁹⁶

Yellowstone had provided Roosevelt a rare respite, and his gratitude was evident in his remarks about his return to the world of politics. In a letter written as he

was about to depart Yellowstone, Roosevelt confided that "I have really enjoyed the past two weeks in the Park, but to the next six I look forward with blank horror."⁹⁷ On the day of the arch's dedication, he wrote a long letter to his friend, conservationist George Bird Grinnell, concluding that "Tomorrow I go back to the political world, to fight about trusts and the Monroe Doctrine and the Philippines and the Indians and the Tariff..."⁹⁸

Theodore Roosevelt never returned to Yellowstone, so he never visited or passed through the completed arch that would eventually bear his name. According to a recent biographer, Roosevelt started his western trip in a state of

liberal education to any man of the east to come west, and he can combine profit with pleasure if he will incidentally visit this park—and the Grand Canyon of the Colorado, and the Yosemite, and take a sea voyage to Alaska. Major Pitcher reports to me, by the way, that he has received invaluable assistance from the game wardens of Montana and Wyoming, and that the present game warden of Idaho has also promised his hearty aid.

The preservation of the forest is of course the matter of prime importance in every public reserve of this character. In this region of the Rocky mountains and the great plains the problem of the water supply is the most important which the home maker has to face. Congress has not of recent years done anything wiser than in passing the irrigation bill; and nothing is more essential to the preservation of the water supply than the preservation of the forests. Montana has in its water power a source of development which has hardly yet been touched. The water power will be seriously impaired if ample protection is not given the forests. Therefore this park, like the forest reserves generally, is of the utmost advantage to the country around from the merely utilitarian side. But of course this Park, also because of its peculiar features, is to be preserved as a beautiful natural playground. Here all the wild creatures of the old days are being preserved, and their overflow into the surrounding country means that the people of the surrounding country, so long as they see that the laws are observed by all, will be able to insure to themselves and to their children and to their children's children much of the old time pleasures of the hardy life of the wilderness and of the hunter in the wilderness. This pleasure, moreover, can under such conditions be kept for all who have the love of adventure and the hardihood to take advantage of it with small regard for what their future may be.

I cannot too often repeat that the essential features of the present management of the Yellowstone Park, as in all simi-

lar places, is its essential democracy—it is the preservation of the scenery, of the forests[,] of the wilderness life and the wilderness game for the people as a whole instead of leaving the enjoyment thereof to be confined to the very rich who can control private preserves. I have been literally astounded at the enormous quantities of elk and at the number of deer, antelope and mountain sheep which I have seen on their wintering grounds and the deer and sheep in particular are quite as tame as range stock. A few buffalo are being preserved. I wish very much that the Government could somewhere provide for an experimental breeding station of cross-breeds [*sic.*] between buffalo and the common cattle. If those crossbreeds [*sic.*] could be successfully perpetuated we should have animals that would produce a robe quite as good as the old buffalo robe with which twenty years ago everyone was familiar [*sic.*], and animals moreover which would be so hardy that I think they would have a distinct commercial importance. They would, for instance, be admirably suited for Alaska [*sic.*], a territory which I look to see develop astoundingly within the next decade or two, not only because of its furs and fisheries, but because of its agricultural and pastoral possibilities.

In conclusion let me thank you again for your greeting. It has been to me the most genuine pleasure again to see this great western country. I like the country, but above all I like the men and women.¹

—President Theodore Roosevelt, April 24, 1903,
Gardiner, Montana.

¹transcribed verbatim from *Wonderland* article. The *Livingston Post* version of this same speech varies in a few specifics, such as a few different words and several changes in comma location, and also differs in omitting the paragraph that begins, "I wish especially to congratulate the people of Montana, Wyoming and Idaho, and notably you of Gardiner and Cinnabar. . . ."



F.J. Haynes photo of the newly-completed Gardiner Depot and arch, with Chittenden's pond, 1903. The W.A. Hall store (today's Cecil's), at center rear, is also newly completed.

The Gardiner depot and other improvements

The Northern Pacific Railway extended its tracks to Gardiner in 1902.¹ By June 20 of that year, practice trains ran all the way into Gardiner, and on July 3, the Gardiner newspaper reported that the regular train unloaded passengers "for the first time" in Gardiner.² However, there was not yet a depot, nor was there a track loop to allow trains to turn around. Historian Whithorn says trains had to be backed to the "Y" at Cinnabar for another year until workmen could construct a loop at Gardiner.³ In early 1903, Northern Pacific officials began planning for construction of a depot. In late April, the *Gardiner Wonderland* newspaper announced that railroad officials had awarded architect Robert Reamer the contract to build the structure.⁴ On July 2, the depot was "so nearly completed that it was expected to unload passengers there on Saturday," but last minute touches were delaying that. The *Wonderland* reported that the depot's new sign, reading "Gardiner," was cast by the Herzog iron works of St. Paul and "is a skeleton affair frame, with letters about three feet long."⁵

On July 11, the *Livingston Enterprise* noted that the depot was "nearing completion," and on August 6, the *Wonderland* bragged that the finished depot was the best in the West:

*The depot at this place is now completed and stands alone as the most unique and attractive building of the kind in the west. In workmanship and finish it is something to be proud of and it is an attraction that tourists never tire of examining. The long sidewalks are covered with shades on a framework of logs, all of which is supported on a central tree not less than two feet in diameter. The roofs are all painted green.*⁶

At the completion of the depot, Northern Pacific

Railway director of advertising and historian Olin Wheeler described it and the surroundings for the railroad's colorful promotional booklet, *Wonderland 1904*. For all its adjectival excesses, Wheeler's description was fundamentally correct, and in keeping with the somewhat breathless rhetoric so popular among both promoters and the tourists themselves at the time:

In 1903, the Northern Pacific having extended the railway from Cinnabar to Gardiner, a railway station was constructed that, with its surroundings, is one of the most unique, cosy [sic], and attractive to be found in the United States. From the Bitterroot valley and mountains, selected pine logs were brought which, with the smooth, richly colored bark on, were fashioned into a symmetric, well-proportioned, tasteful, and rustic building, the interior of which, with its quaint hardware, comfortable, alluring appointments, and ample fireplace and chimney, is in keeping with the inviting exterior.

*The whole combination of railway and train, rustic station, lake, town, arch, and landscape, added to the chattering throng of humanity, full of life and laughter as it hustles aboard the line of waiting coaches with their champing, impatient horses, is full of interest and enthusiasm, and a very fitting prelude to the wonderful trip ahead.*⁷

¹The *Park County Republican* noted on May 10 that the Park Branch was soon to be extended to Gardiner and that the extension would cause "a loss to Cinnabar which will knock that town into a cocked hat." "Will Be Extended," *Park County Republican*, May 10, 1902. See also "Gardiner the Terminus," *Gardiner Wonderland*, May 17, 1902.

²"Passengers Transferred at Gardiner," *Gardiner Wonderland*, July 3, 1902.

³Whithorn, *Twice Told*, vol. I, p. 44.

⁴*Gardiner Wonderland*, April 30, 1903.

⁵"The New Depot," *Gardiner Wonderland*, July 2, 1902.

⁶*Livingston Enterprise*, July 11, 1903. *Gardiner Wonderland*, August 6, 1903. No detailed study of the depot's construction using NPR records at Minnesota Historical Society has been attempted here.

⁷Olin D. Wheeler, *Wonderland 1904* (St. Paul: NPR), 1904, p. 34-35. Chester Lindsley has stated that the logs of the depot were firs. Lindsley, *The Chronology of Yellowstone National Park* (Mammoth: YLMA), 1939, p. 179.

fatigue, and the trip gave him new energy. Yellowstone remained on his mind.⁹⁹ A long-time follower of the park's fate, Roosevelt had always been keenly aware of the importance of the idea of the park's "essential democracy," an idea he stressed in his speech. In other words, as he expressed it in the speech, the parks were essentially democratic because they ensured that large tracts of wild, beautiful nature would always be available to the general public, not just to the wealthy who could afford to buy and maintain their own private reserves.

To Roosevelt, Yellowstone and the other national parks did not represent the mainstream of American natural resource management; that was found in the national forests and other public and private lands whose resources—whether timber, minerals, water, wildlife, or others—were to be intelligently consumed in a way that would permit their perpetuation. Roosevelt was the Progressive Era's foremost preacher of the "gospel of efficiency."¹⁰⁰ But Yellowstone and its sister parks held a special place in Roosevelt's heart precisely because of their difference. They were to be used in a new way, to allow Americans to enjoy something else, something very *non-commercial* that he obviously saw as precious: a glimpse of, and a chance to engage with, the natural heritage of the North American continent.¹⁰¹

And, like some other forward-looking conservationists of his time, he was able to take a broader view of what a park contributed, in utilitarian terms, to the region around it. Roosevelt, Grinnell, and a few others saw that Yellowstone National Park served as a reservoir for wildlife whose seasonal migrations could perpetually restock game-lands beyond park boundaries. Thinking even more in terms of ecosystem process (a term they

would not have recognized, though they understood its meaning), they saw Yellowstone's wild, forested topography as a natural "manager" of the annual release of water to surrounding agricultural lands.¹⁰² Thus, for early conservationists, Yellowstone performed tremendous practical and economic services to society at the same time that it acted as a kind of living museum of an earlier America. In his vision of Yellowstone, Roosevelt was

inspiring scenery in the immediate neighborhood. Standing at the arch today, and looking up to the heights of Electric Peak, Sepulchre Mountain, Mount Everts, and the other nearby eminences, and observing the ecological treasures of the area, it is difficult to sympathize with these peoples' need for a more inspiring setting, but they reflected the attitudes of their time. From the arch, a new, improved "avenue" into the park extended east to

the Gardner River, and along it Chittenden planted two bordering lines of trees. He boasted that because all of his improvements were supplied with irrigation water, "the whole effect will be to give a dignified and pleasing entrance to the Park at the point where the great majority of visitors enter it."¹⁰³

These were admirable plans, but within a few years only the arch and the depot would stand. A Fred Mikesell photograph shows the rocked-in, heart-shaped pond and neatly landscaped area between the arch and the depot with its irrigated shrubs about 1903.¹⁰⁴ A suggestion had it that colors would be added to the pond with goldfish in one side and whitefish in the other, but that appears never to have happened, and Chittenden's landscaped arrangement lasted for only a few years. Keeping the pond supplied with water, the foliage around it green, and the trees along the avenue irrigated proved impossible in the aridity of the Gardiner area. Besides, some of Chittenden's chosen ornamental vegetation seemed particularly ill-adapted to such a dry climate; among his choices were "half a dozen sequoias" from California.¹⁰⁵

Gradually, the pond dried up, and so did Chittenden's bushes and trees.¹⁰⁶

This almost immediate decline was perhaps a precursor of things to come; what seems most remarkable about the arch's life, at least for its first half century or so, is how quickly it went from being perceived as very nearly a wonder of the world to seeming nearly expend-

COURTESY SUSAN AND JACK DAVIS



W.S. Berry postcard of the arch, 1907.
Note the long-since-gone shrubbery and pond.

fully aware of both kinds of values: the immediate, economic ones, and the long-term, aesthetic and spiritual ones.

The Arch since 1903

In building the arch, Chittenden and his colleagues were attempting to overcome what they saw as a shortage of

able. While visitors detraining at the depot must have enjoyed the moment or two it took to approach the arch and then leave it behind, and while the many thousands who had this experience may well have admired or photographed the fine masonry and generous sentiment of the arch's great quotation, there are indications that the arch very quickly had little mystique, as of a sacred monument, in its local image.

Another especially notable day in the North Entrance's early years—and certainly one of the big days in the park's history as well—was July 31, 1915. On that day, Mr. K.R. Seiler, of Redwing, Minnesota, led a small group of automobiles into the park, to become the first officially permitted visitors to bring their cars into Yellowstone (August 31 had been set as the big day for this huge change in the Yellowstone experience, but the superintendent, nervous about the crowd of vehicles that might show up, let a few in the day before). Mr. Seiler's Ford carried immense historical symbolism of its own; it was the leader of a flood of new visitors, new commercial opportunities for park concessioners, and new ways to enjoy Yellowstone.¹⁰⁷ The

arch would witness all of these changes, and welcome countless motorists after Mr. Seiler.

We have not found any contemporary notice, either in official records or in regional newspapers, of the arch's 25th anniversary. Two years later, in a remodeling for which we have yet to find any explanation, the wing wall that extended from the main arch wall toward Gardiner was removed. Judging from photographs of the street layout at the time and later, this removal could have been to facilitate realignment of the road connecting Gardiner's business district with the arch.

At the time the arch was built in 1903, it was in a direct line with all traffic to the north entrance; hence all visitors from the north (except delivery vehicles using the "truck gate" located closer to concessioner buildings along the Gardner River) passed through it. The main road from Livingston was, at that time, the equivalent of today's "Old Yellowstone Trail," known locally as the Stephens Creek Road, that runs west from the arch, on the west side of the Yellowstone River

to the old Cinnabar townsite and on to Corwin Springs, Montana, and points north. Rerouting of the state highway to Gardiner (now U.S. 89) in 1929 moved the arch off the main road to Gardiner. Ever since then, drivers wishing to pass through the arch have had to go a little out of their way to do so, (even if they may not know it, because a road sign points them in that direction). Today, drivers entering Gardiner on U.S. 89 and crossing the Yellowstone River bridge proceed to the T at Park Street and then turn right (west), driving the length of Park Street until the arch is reached around a little hairpin curve that lines them up to pass through the arch.¹⁰⁸

The indignity of neglect was combined with a genuine threat to the arch's existence in 1947. This must, at least symbolically, serve as the low point in the arch's history. On July 8 of that year, National Park Service Acting Director Hillory A. Tolson sent a memorandum

quite startling but at the time was apparently not unimaginable:



The first restored wolves arrive in Yellowstone, January 12, 1995.

the American bison.² The march aimed to call attention to the slaughter, by management agencies, of Yellowstone-area bison that left the park attempting to follow historic migration routes. Joseph Chasing Horse, a Lakota Sioux leader of the group, said that, "Long ago, the buffalo gave his blood for us; Today we give

our blood for him."³ The usefulness of the arch's symbolism will no doubt be heightened as more such events occur.

The arch's famous inscription, "For the benefit and enjoyment of the people," has drawn the attention, interpretation, and debate of several generations of people since the arch was completed. Like all rhetoric that invokes some vaguely defined "people" or "public," the arch's inscription is regu-

Today's arch as symbol and conscience

In the past two decades, the Roosevelt Arch has enjoyed a heightening public awareness of its original symbolism. The power of this renewed symbolism was surely evident on January 12, 1995, when a small convoy of National Park Service vehicles passed through the arch with eight Canadian wolves, each in its individual crate. There was no doubt of the instant at which the new wolves entered Yellowstone National Park and thereby made wolf recovery seem like a reality; it happened precisely as the trailer containing them passed under the Roosevelt Arch. The road was lined with a large crowd of wolf-recovery supporters, Gardiner schoolchildren, media, and other observers for what was perhaps the most historic and highly visible event involving the arch since its dedication in 1903.¹

Another event of perhaps even greater drama and meaning occurred on February 27, 1999, when about 100 members of various Native American tribes concluded a 500-mile march from the Black Hills of South Dakota with a ceremony just inside the park near the arch. Representatives of the Lakota Sioux, Algonquin, Apache, Assiniboine, Blackfeet, Crow, Navajo, Nez Perce, Northern Cheyenne, Southern Ute, and Tuscarora tribes were present during a ceremony honoring



North Entrance station and arch from just inside the park, 1922.

Now that a national memorial park has been established for Theodore Roosevelt and the legislation establishing the area provides for a monument to be erected in Medora, North Dakota, we believe that thought should be given to the dismantling of the Roosevelt Memorial Arch, North Entrance, Yellowstone National Park, and the cornerstone

*laid by Theodore Roosevelt used in the proposed monument in Medora, N. Dak., particularly since the Roosevelt Arch is not well located. Please let us have your and Superintendent Rogers' comments regarding this proposal as soon as practicable.*¹⁰⁹

Merriam dutifully forwarded the

memo to Yellowstone Superintendent Edmund Rogers, noting in his cover memo that there seemed to be some good reasons not to dismantle the arch, at least not yet. Rogers responded in the same vein, agreeing with Merriam that although the arch had to some extent been marginalized by the new traffic route, the local people would disapprove of its removal:

*While the unrest that was created by Gardiner residents last year over routing outgoing traffic around the Arch resulted in hard feelings of only a few local businessmen, we are confident that any proposal to dismantle the Arch and ship the cornerstone to some other area would result in a very strong and united protest by all residents of Gardiner and a large group of people throughout Montana.*¹¹⁰

On the other hand, Rogers said that if a new north entrance road was constructed and the local traffic problem solved, then "it is doubtful that much criticism would be encountered locally to the dismantling of the Arch. We do contemplate, however, that strong pressure would be brought

larly put to use to justify or defend a wide variety of political, social, and economic positions, from the most strident to the most mild-mannered, from the most destructively intrusive to the most light-on-the-land sensitive. In the park's earliest days, "benefit and enjoyment" were often implicitly and simplistically interpreted to mean "profit and convenience" or "advantage and entertainment." As the decades have passed since the park was established, however, the idea and ideals behind national parks have continued to develop and evolve. This has resulted in many other interpretations of these terms, interpretations that are both more challenging and, it seems, more rewarding.

For example, as Yellowstone's world significance as a healthy, wild ecosystem became better known, especially in the past half-century, the public's "benefit and enjoyment" of the park came to depend more heavily on that ecological condition. A Yellowstone without its natural processes functioning (which was the case when fires were suppressed, for example, or when predators were destroyed) is, in effect, less able to teach and inspire than a Yellowstone in which those processes are thriving. Previous definitions of benefit and enjoyment led to garbage-fed bears, encouraged the slaughter of thousands of trout by fishermen who then simply threw

them away, destroyed natural hot spring formations to pipe their water into bathing pools, or otherwise favored treatments of Yellowstone's natural wonders that we now see as heavy-handed, short-sighted, or simply foolish.

In a way, the arch's inscription is itself a kind of challenge to us. Each generation must reconsider the definition of Yellowstone, as our generation is doing right now—in the ongoing controversy over the bison that want to migrate beyond the arch to historic winter ranges farther north. This continuing reconsideration of Yellowstone is a painful and trying social process, but it is also an essential one if Yellowstone is to remain vital and best able to provide each new generation the kinds of benefit and enjoyment they regard as fitting. The quotation on the arch remains as essential a guiding principle as it was a century ago, but its meaning never was simple, and probably never will be completely agreed upon.

¹⁰⁹For a summary of events leading up to that day, see Michael K. Phillips and Douglas W. Smith, *The Wolves of Yellowstone* (Stillwater, Minn.: Voyageur Press, 1996).

¹¹⁰"Indians march from across U.S. to protest bison killings," *Billings Gazette*, February 28, 1999.

¹¹¹"Indians protest killing of buffalo," (Louisville, Kentucky) *Courier Journal*, February 28, 1999.

to bear to have the Arch relocated on the new highway.”¹¹¹ If Rogers’s assessment of the local mood was correct, the arch was not quite disposable, but it might be portable.

Of course, none of these proposed or imagined changes were ever made. In 1953, the 50th anniversary of the arch also passed with no celebration in the park, though the appearance of an extended newspaper article in the *Park County News* for April 16, 1953, full of details about the original festivities, suggested considerable interest in the history of the arch and of Gardiner’s “greatest day.”¹¹² The article stated, “no formal celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the arch is planned, but the traveling public will be reminded of the anniversary in Montana travel literature and special publicity throughout the 1953 park season.”¹¹³ The newspaper account is especially revealing of the sense of tradition that had by this point already grown up around the arch: “Members of virtually every race and country on the globe have passed through the Roosevelt arch [*sic.*] at Gardiner in the past half century on their way to view the wonders of Yellowstone, and they will keep on entering the park through the arch for many ages to come”¹¹⁴

Photographs of the arch show changes in fencing and shrubbery over the years, as well as suggesting that at times, at least for special occasions, the arch was even gated. The small walkways, or “pedestrian portals,” on both sides of the main arch were boarded up at various times and in various ways. For many years, the entrance station, from which rangers greeted visitors and collected entrance fees, was located on the west side of the road just within the park from the arch at the current site of the sign that announces one’s arrival in Yellowstone National Park.



Arch Park, spring 2003.

By 1972, when the arch was examined by staff from the National Park Service’s Historic Preservation office at the Denver Service Center, it was described as “generally intact,” except for the loss of the wing wall removed in 1930.¹¹⁵ There was “some deterioration of the concrete cap and two lower tablets.”¹¹⁶ More important, the historic structures report said that “The structure has lost much of its significance due to the fact that large numbers of visitors no longer come to the park by train into Gardiner, and consequently the handsome railroad station no longer stands and the park [today’s Arch Park, now restored] is virtually gone. Additionally, much of the automobile traffic now by-passes the arch, and there are currently plans for a new road alignment into Gardiner which would virtually eliminate all auto traffic through this structure.”¹¹⁷

But unlike some earlier observers, who saw lack of continued public use as justification for elimination of the arch, the authors of the historic structures report suggested that the arch be “developed as a wayside historical exhibit commemorating the establishment of Yellowstone as the first National Park. The monumental scale of the structure and the sentiments expressed on it would seem to make it particularly appropriate for this purpose.”¹¹⁸ The authors further stated that the centennial celebration of

ceremony at the small park nearby. Following a parade that included early Yellowstone stagecoaches, Congressman Richard G. Shoup read greetings from President Richard Nixon and then rain forced onlookers to reconvene at Gardiner’s Eagles Hall. The day’s activities concluded with a barbecue sponsored by the Gardiner American Legion Post. An interesting addition to the activities was the display of a full miniature model of the arch designed by a member of the Montana Masons.¹¹⁹ In the mid-1980s, the arch finally received much-needed maintenance and stabilization.¹²⁰

The site between the arch and the depot eventually became a town park. By 1972, the Park Service had erected a rustic amphitheater here for evening interpretive programs, and Gardiner residents used the spot for picnic-type festivities. In 1999–2000, a partnership of government agencies including the National Park Service built the (much-improved) “Arch Park” picnic pavilion on the site for \$129,000, and equipped it with interpretive wayside exhibits describing the history of the area.¹²¹

Last, it is a remarkable footnote to the history of the arch that it did not gain listing on the National Register of Historic Places until 2002. After many years of intermittent paperwork on behalf of this well-earned distinction, the arch was listed not for itself but as a contributing

Yellowstone, just then about to get underway, would be an especially appropriate occasion to begin such an interpretive development.

Though nothing so ambitious was undertaken that summer, park officials did hold a rededication ceremony for the arch on Sunday, June 18, 1972. Mason Grand Master Arnold G. Beusen led the ceremony, along with other Masons. So as not to disrupt traffic flow at the arch, officials held the

structure to the North Entrance Road Historic District as of 2002.¹²²

Remembering what the arch meant in 1903

Construction of the arch in 1903 solidified Yellowstone's somewhat abstract northern entry point into a place more defined and tangible, especially when the arch combined with the new train presence and its symbol, the Reamer depot. Completion of these structures seemed to usher the park formally into the 20th century, literally and symbolically—literally because it was 1903 and symbolically because the arch represented a step into modernity: trains now came right to the park boundary.

For visitors of 1903 and many years afterward, these edifices may have made Yellowstone seem a little less wild. But at the time they were constructed, the arch and the depot probably did what Chittenden hoped: make the North Entrance to the park more interesting as a place to arrive. The visitor alighting from a train experienced a foreshadowing as he or she stared at the arch. It is probably not straining the bounds of historical interpretation to say that for many visitors, just then arrived in a strange new place, the depot and the arch were an inspiring presage of wonders to come, even a portent of magic and mysteries that might lie in store for them beyond this designated threshold, this newly anointed entryway.

By participating in its dedication, Theodore Roosevelt elevated the historical stature of the arch far beyond the fairly lofty ambitions of its designers. It was no longer just a grand portal into a magical landscape; it was an important object of American culture, swept along in the tide of change that Roosevelt himself was attempting to direct in American society and the world. As Roosevelt was perhaps our greatest conservationist president, the arch, through intimate identification with his legend, could not avoid becoming a powerful symbol of that good cause. And, as Roosevelt himself was a tireless campaigner on behalf of the physical and spiritual benefits of the wilderness, the arch has come to stand for Yellowstone's role as source of serenity and reflection.

The glory days of the arch are long

past. They may already have begun to fade by 1915, when that first Model T Ford drove into the park. Or perhaps they peaked much earlier, on an April day in 1903, when an energetic American president climbed the low, raw stonework of an incomplete pillar to speak of wilderness, and democracy, and the promise of the West. But peak they had. The tracks, trains, and log depot are gone today. The pond, shrubbery, and trees are gone. Most visitors no longer enter the park through the arch; in fact, some may not even notice the arch as they follow another road past the historic structures that now house park and Xanterra staff and offices. The ambience has changed at Yellowstone's North Entrance.

But in 1903, the new arch represented a beginning: a gateway to adventure and wonder. The magnificent, 50-foot high basalt monument offered those who passed through it a promise of excitement strangely combined with a sense of comfort. For those who know its history and honor its legacy, the Roosevelt Arch still offers that same affectionate, hope-filled welcome. 📍

Acknowledgments

Roger Anderson, leader of the Resource Information and Publications Team at the Yellowstone Center for Resources, supported this work in many ways, including helping with photograph research at the Montana Historical Society and researching architectural planning drawings in Yellowstone National Park's Maintenance Division files. In the Yellowstone Park Research Library, librarians Alissa Cherry, Tara Cross, and Barb Zafft, and archival specialist Harold Housley assisted with tracking down various documents. In the Yellowstone Park Museum Collections, curatorial assistants Sean Cahill and Steve Tustanowski-Marsh researched additional photographs. In the Yellowstone Park Public Affairs Office, Stacy Vallie retrieved several key newspaper articles relating to recent events involving the arch.

At Montana State University, Special Collections Librarian Kim Allen Scott assisted with locating additional research materials.

At the Montana Historical Society, Photo Archivist Lory Morrow and Assistant Photo Archivist Becca Kohl facilitated our search of Haynes and other photographs of the arch.

Doris Whitorn, of Livingston, Montana, besides having herself published the most thorough documentary history of the events surrounding the dedication of the arch, provided many images from her famous collection of early Park County and Yellowstone photographs.

Jim Sweaney, of Gardiner, Montana, provided us with several key historic documents relating to Montana Masonic activities. Adeline Moulton and B.J. Thomas, of Gardiner, Montana, provided first-hand recollections of road alignments and planned changes in roads along the Yellowstone Park/Gardiner boundary since the mid-20th century.

Drew Ross, of St. Paul, Minnesota, provided helpful architectural history.

The manuscript was read and commented on by Roger Anderson, Elaine Hale, Marsha Karle, and Alice Wondrak Biel, Yellowstone Park; Leslie Quinn, Ruth Quinn, and Jim Sweaney, Gardiner, Montana; and Jeremy Johnston, Powell, Wyoming. These readers contributed many substantial improvements to this article; any remaining errors are ours.

Endnotes

¹For purposes of this article we will refer to the arch as the Roosevelt Arch. As will be shown below, it was referred to as the Roosevelt Arch as early as 1905 and was at least occasionally also referred to as the Theodore Roosevelt Arch and the Roosevelt Memorial Arch. Other names, such as the North Entrance Arch, Gardiner Arch, Gardiner Entrance Arch, and Chittenden Arch, seem also to have appeared now and then, if only in local conversation. The name seems never to have been completely settled on in local usage, and seems to have evolved over time. The popular *Haynes Guides* (considered for many years to have been the "official" guidebook to Yellowstone) seem to have been a prominent force in that evolution. Editions of the *Haynes Guide to Yellowstone National Park* for 1904 through 1909 referred to the structure only as "The Arch at Northern Entrance" (for example, 1904, p. 14). Beginning with the 1910 edition (p. 11), author Jack Haynes referred to it as the "Northern Entrance Arch." A 1924 newspaper headline (*Livingston Enterprise*, June 21, 1924) makes clear that the name "Roosevelt Arch" was then in use, at least by that newspaper (which mentioned a "ceremony in the shadow of Roosevelt Arch"). In 1939, "North Entrance Arch" was first used in the *Haynes Guides* (1939, p. 36). In 1942, "Theodore Roosevelt Arch" was first used in the guides (1942–43, p. 36), and the guides used this latter name continuously through the last (1966) edition (p. 38). We find no evidence, so far, that any of these names was ever formally preferred over any other. The passing of a century has not settled the question in favor of any single name, though it is our impression that "Roosevelt Arch" is the most popular name today.

²The phrase is from "Gardiner's Big Day," *Gardiner Wonderland*, April 23, 1903.

³Background on Roosevelt's life is found in many biographies, including Edmund Morris, *The Rise of Theodore Roosevelt* (New York: Coward, McCann & Geoghegan, 1979).

⁴Paul Schullery, "A partnership in conservation...Roosevelt & Yellowstone," *Montana the Magazine of Western History*, Summer 1978, 28(3): 2–15.

⁵Edmund Morris, *Theodore Rex* (New York: Random House, 2001), 214.

⁶Jeremy Johnston, "Preserving the Beasts of Waste and Desolation: Theodore Roosevelt and Predator Control in Yellowstone," *Yellowstone Science*, Spring 2002 10(2): 16–17. The episode of Roosevelt's proposed mountain lion hunt is based on this article, and on Schullery, "A partnership in conservation."

⁷Burroughs later confided that though he was apparently seen as a gentling influence on the sportsman Roosevelt, he also would have liked to hunt a mountain lion. John Burroughs, *Camping and Tramping with Roosevelt* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1907), 6. For the history of predators in Yellowstone National Park, see Paul Schullery and Lee Whittlesey, "Greater Yellowstone Carnivores: A History of Changing Attitudes," in Tim W. Clark, A. Peyton Curlee, Steven C. Minta, and Peter M. Kareiva, *Carnivores in Ecosystems: The Yellowstone Experience* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1999), 11–49.

⁸Morris, in *Theodore Rex*, 215, described the *Elysian* as "seventy feet of solid mahogany, velvet plush, and

- sinkingly deep furniture. It had two sleeping chambers with brass bedsteads, two tiled bathrooms, a private kitchen run by the Pennsylvania Railroad's star chef, a dining room, a stateroom with picture windows, and an airy rear platform for whistle-stop speeches."
- ⁹Northern Pacific Railway Company, Office of Superintendent, Montana Division, schedule of the pilot train and the presidential train for April 8, 1903. One-page typescript, from collection of Doris Whithorn, Livingston, Montana.
- ¹⁰"Glorious Welcome for Teddy," *Livingston Post*, April 9, 1903, quoted in Doris Whithorn, *Twice Told on the Upper Yellowstone*, volume I (Livingston: Doris Whithorn, 1994), 5.
- ¹¹*Ibid.*, 8.
- ¹²Theodore Roosevelt, *The Wilderness Hunter* (New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1893), 434–435.
- ¹³"Glorious Welcome," in Whithorn, *Twice Told Tales I*, 9.
- ¹⁴Secretary of the Interior, *Regulations and Instructions for the Information and Guidance of the Officers and Enlisted Men of the United States Army, and of the Scouts Doing Duty in the Yellowstone National Park* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1907), 19, insisted that "All persons traveling through the Park from October 1 to June 1 should be regarded with suspicion."
- ¹⁵"Glorious Welcome," in Whithorn, *Twice Told Tales I*, 11.
- ¹⁶Theodore Roosevelt, "Wilderness Reserves, Part I," *Forestry and Irrigation*, June 1904, 10, 251–255; "Glorious Welcome," in Whithorn, *Twice Told Tales I*, 9; "President Roosevelt Has Honored Us by His Presence," *Gardiner Wonderland*, April 9, 1903. Roosevelt's *Forestry and Irrigation* article was reprinted in *Outdoor Pastimes of an American Hunter* (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1905), 287–317.
- ¹⁷Roosevelt, "Wilderness Reserves," 251.
- ¹⁸Merv Olson, oral history interview with Clarence Scoyen, audiotape 70–1, October 6, 1970, YNP archives.
- ¹⁹Schullery, "A partnership in conservation;" Johnston, "Preserving the Beasts of Waste and Desolation;" Whithorn, *Twice Told Tales I*.
- ²⁰Burroughs, *Camping and Tramping*, 60.
- ²¹Burroughs, *Camping and Tramping*, 51–52.
- ²²Max Oelschlaeger, *The Idea of Wilderness from Prehistory to the Age of Ecology* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1991).
- ²³Hiram Chittenden, *Annual Reports upon the Construction, Repair, and Maintenance of Roads and Bridges in the Yellowstone National Park; and the Construction of Military Road from Fort Washakie to Mouth of Buffalo Fork of Snake River, Wyoming, in the charge of Hiram M. Chittenden, Captain, Corps of Engineers, U.S.A.; being appendices GGG and KKK of the Annual Report of the Chief of Engineers for 1903* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1903, 2889.
- ²⁴*Ibid.*
- ²⁵Aubrey Haines, *The Yellowstone Story Volume II* (Boulder: Colorado Associated University Press, 1997), 3–255; H. Duane Hampton, *How the U.S. Cavalry Saved Our National Parks* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1971).
- ²⁶Haines, *The Yellowstone Story II*, 209–255, Paul Schullery, *Searching for Yellowstone* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1997), 115–116. The essential source for the history of road building in Yellowstone National Park is Mary Shivers Culpin, *The History of the Construction of the Road System in Yellowstone National Park, 1872–1966, I: Historic Resource Study* (Denver: Rocky Mountain Region, National Park Service, 1994).
- ²⁷Hiram Chittenden, *The Yellowstone National Park: Historical and Descriptive* (Cincinnati: Stewart and Kidd, 1895).
- ²⁸Haines, *The Yellowstone Story II*, 465–466.
- ²⁹*Gardiner Wonderland*, November 13, 1902.
- ³⁰Whithorn, *Twice Told Tales I*, 2, 18; Haines, *The Yellowstone Story II*, 229. In this matter, as in others dealing with the arch, the administrative record of the park held in the Yellowstone Archives, usually such an excellent source of such information, is regrettably silent.
- ³¹Haines, *The Yellowstone Story II*, 229.
- ³²Ruth Quinn, communication with the authors, June 3, 2003.
- ³³We have not seen the Arch House or the neighboring building attributed to Reamer in print, but attribution is and for some time has been made in informal conversations among Gardiner residents.
- ³⁴Leavengood, "A Sense of Shelter: Robert C. Reamer in YNP," *Pacific Historical Review* 1985: 497, citing interview with Harry Child's granddaughter Jackie Nicholas-Lowe, and Haines, *The Yellowstone Story II*, 229. Leavengood, p. 509, states: "Reamer helped shape the northern entrance to the park and, in 1902, designed the Roosevelt Arch."
- ³⁵Anne Farrar Hyde, *An American Vision: Far Western Landscape and National Culture, 1820–1920* (New York and London: New York University Press), 1990, 255; David L. Naylor, "Old Faithful Inn and Its Legacy: The Vernacular Transformed," Master's thesis, Cornell University, 1990, 25; Winfred Blevins, *Roadside History of Yellowstone Park* (Missoula: Mountain Press, 1989), 5. We are indebted to Ruth Quinn for much of this information about Reamer and the arch.
- ³⁶"The Entrance Arch," *Gardiner Wonderland*, March 19, 1903
- ³⁷*Ibid.* Olin Wheeler agrees in *Wonderland 1904*, (St. Paul: Northern Pacific Railway), p. 34, that the cost of the arch was \$10,000.
- ³⁸Our thanks to historian Jeremy Johnston for encouraging us to call attention to these misunderstandings. Author Whittlesey has often heard local people and visitors make the claim that TR established Yellowstone. Author Schullery first heard that TR conducted the original explorations of Yellowstone from a Yellowstone visitor in about 1975.
- ³⁹All quotes in this paragraph from "Local Layout," *Livingston Enterprise*, March 28, 1903, in Whithorn, *Twice Told Tales I*, 2.
- ⁴⁰"President Roosevelt at Gardiner," *Bozeman Avant Courier*, April 24, 1903; "The Stone is Laid," *Livingston Post*, April 30, 1903. *Gardiner Wonderland*, April 9, and *Livingston Enterprise*, April 18, both reported that work on the arch was being performed under the auspices of N.J. Ness, an architect from St. Paul. Interestingly, the *Railroad Gazette* credited Hiram Chittenden with both designing and building the arch. "Unique Passenger Station on the Northern Pacific," *Railroad Gazette* 36 (April 29, 1904): 316. Nels J. Ness was a prominent "stone contractor" and builder who was active in St. Paul, Minnesota, from 1883 to 1905, and then moved to Helena, Montana. Patricia Harpole, Chief of the Reference Library, Minnesota Historical Society, letter to Lon Johnson, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Montana Historical Society, May 29, 1986.
- ⁴¹"Work Around the Depot," *Gardiner Wonderland*, April 9, 1903. The *Enterprise* published a very similar description nine days later in "Will Be Beautiful. Extensive Landscape Work at the Entrance to the Park," *Livingston Enterprise*, April 18, 1903.
- ⁴²Workmen constructing the stone wall south of the depot, fencing the new lake, and setting out trees and shrubbery are reported in "The New Depot," *Gardiner Wonderland*, July 2, 1902. Apparently these improvements occurred almost a year before the building of the arch.
- ⁴³Grace Hecox, "Trip Thro' Yellowstone Park," 1903, in Doris Whithorn's "Women's Stories of Early Trips Through Yellowstone Park," YNP Library, 4. See also "Some Park Gossip," *Livingston Enterprise*, August 15, 1903.
- ⁴⁴Whithorn, *Twice Told Tales I*, 44.
- ⁴⁵*Gardiner Wonderland*, August 20, 1903.
- ⁴⁶*Ibid.*
- ⁴⁷Chittenden, *Annual Reports*, 2889.
- ⁴⁸*Ibid.*
- ⁴⁹Robert E. Miller, *The Hands of the Workmen, A History of the First 100 Years of the Grand Lodge of Montana, Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons*. (Helena: The Centennial Committee, 1966), 205.
- ⁵⁰*Gardiner Wonderland*, April 30, 1903.
- ⁵¹"Dedicate the Arch," *Livingston Enterprise*, April 18, 1903, in Whithorn, *Twice Told Tales I*, 14. Hall lived at Gardiner, while the others all lived at Mammoth except for Brandon, whose residence is unknown. Klamer and Lyall ran stores at Old Faithful and Mammoth. Hall was a Gardiner store owner; Trischman was post wheelwright at Fort Yellowstone.
- ⁵²Smith was certainly involved in Masonic arrangements for the ceremony and was present at it with Roosevelt, even sitting on the speakers' platform. In 1940, he wrote letters to attorney Oscar O. Mueller, of Lewistown, Montana, about these events. On January 3, 1941, Mueller wrote to park concessioner Jack Haynes and quoted from two of the letters at length. The Smith quote given here is said by Mueller to be part of an excerpt from a March 30, 1940, letter from Smith to Mueller. Through Mueller, Smith's letters give us good information on some peripheral details about the planning of the event. More important, they identify fifteen persons in two of the photographs. See Frank E. Smith, remarks included in [Roosevelt Arch Dedication], letter of Oscar C. Mueller to Jack E. Haynes, January 3, 1941, in Yellowstone Research Library, vertical files. Here is the relevant text of Smith's letters quoted by Mueller. First, here are two paragraphs from the March 30, 1940 letter:
- "With reference to the laying of the cornerstone of the Northern entrance to Yellowstone Park, I would say that I was personally acquainted with Theodore Roosevelt when [I was] quite a young man and while I was attending the Albany School, the law department of Union University, and he was a young member of the N.Y. legislature. Some of his classmates at Harvard were classmates of mine at Albany, and we several times visited with him in his committee room at the capitol building.
- "He and John Burroughs, the great naturalist, were visiting the Park to see its winter beauties, and it was at my instigation that he was invited to participate on that occasion and make an address. Burroughs is the man ambuscaded in the great beard on the stand while Roosevelt was speaking."
- From a May 8, 1940 letter from Mueller to Haynes:
- "It is hard for me to recollect or recognize those surrounding me at the time of the laying of the cornerstone of the Entrance Arch of Yellowstone Park. However, if you will look at page 38 of the booklet of the 25th Anniversary, you will follow what I can remember of those who were present. First, in the picture in the top, right hand corner, the first Steward with staff is W.R.C. Stewart, acting as W.G. Stewart. (Afterward [he was] District Judge of the Bozeman District for many years, and brother of the later Governor.) Next to him was Frank Kennedy, Junior Steward, acting; immediately back of Kennedy and partly obscured, stands Cornelius Hedges, Grand Secretary; the next two to the right I cannot recognize, but think one was Finley McRae, W.G. Sword Bearer; then my picture appears first one in the group wearing a silk hat; next, to the left, stands Sol Hepner, Deputy G.M.; next to him, I think, is D.A. McCaw, acting G.J. Warden; and last to the left of the group is L.L. Callaway, G.S. Warden. That ends that group on the speaker's platform.
- "Then in the bottom picture, to the right stands

Col. [sic., Captain] Chittenden, U.S. Army, Supt. of the building of the arch; next is President Roosevelt delivering his address; next to him Sol Hepner; next to him is Rev. Bro. F.B. Lewis, acting Grand Chaplain; next to him is John Burroughs, the great naturalist, a member of Roosevelt's party in the park; the next one I recognize is myself on the extreme left. Those intervening were members of the President's party.

"Across from the speaker's platform, is the lowering tackle used in dropping the stone into place; next party I do not recognize, but immediately to his left is G.S.W. Callaway.

"When I received notice that the Grand Lodge had been asked to lay the cornerstone, I took the matter up with the Grand Secretary at Helena, as he was where he could contact people much better than I. I requested him to arrange for the President to come out of the Park and deliver the address. He made all the arrangements, and a large special train bearing brothers from the Western part of the State came through, and I met it at a point on the N.P. and went with them to Livingston. I was careful not to have my name mentioned to the President, as it had been so long since I had known him, I thought he had probably forgotten me, and I did not wish to intrude myself upon him. When he and party arrived from the Park we were all arranged upon the left platform, ready to proceed with the work. I directed the Grand Marshal to bring him upon the platform. However, he declined to come up, stopping 20 to 30 feet in front of us.

"He looked hard at me and I knew he was studying me. When the stone was laid, the President was conducted to the other and higher platform.

"He immediately directed that I be brought to his platform I went over, and was grasped heartily by the hand and congratulated upon the fine way we had performed the ceremony. Then, still holding my hand, he said, 'I know you, where and when was it?' I reminded him of our early acquaintance in New York twenty years before that time. He threw his arm across my shoulder and rung my hand harder than ever and said, 'Now I remember,' and was most hearty in his greeting."

⁵³"Gardiner's Big Day," *Gardiner Wonderland*, April 23, 1903, in Whithorn, *Twice Told Tales I*, 14.

⁵⁴"President Roosevelt at Gardiner," *Bozeman Avant Courier*, April 24, 1903.

⁵⁵Whithorn, *Twice Told Tales I*, 15–17.

⁵⁶"Was a Great Day," *Livingston Enterprise*, April 25, 1903.

⁵⁷"The Stone is Laid—Corner Stone of Entrance Gate Placed in Position by President Roosevelt," *Livingston Post*, April 30, 1903; "Was a Great Day—Gardiner's Place in History Assured," *Livingston Enterprise*, April 25, 1903; and "The Corner Stone Was Laid," *Gardiner Wonderland*, April 30, 1903. The *Bozeman Avant Courier* mentioned that the event was about to occur in its edition of April 24 ("President Roosevelt at Gardiner"), the very day of the festivities, but did not run a story about the concluded affair in the following edition of May 1. The *Montana Record* probably also covered the activities, but copies of it are not known to have survived except possibly for the one said to have been placed in the arch cornerstone.

⁵⁸"The Stone is Laid," *Post*. According to a short article in *The New York World*, April 28, 1903, "Small-Pox Scare in President's Path," the dedication ceremonies, or at least Roosevelt's part in them, were almost cancelled due to an outbreak of smallpox. We have seen only this one report of the scare.

⁵⁹"The Stone is Laid," *Post*. The number of train cars, the information on the Masons, and the "swarming" quote are all in the *Enterprise* account.

⁶⁰*Ibid*. The rush to Gardiner hotels and saloons is in the *Enterprise* account.

⁶¹"Was a Great Day," *Livingston Enterprise*, April 25,

1903. Mentions of photographers, and the obvious presence of cameras in photographs of the crowd, are intriguing to historians today. There is every indication that a great many photographs were taken of this event, but that some large percentage of them have been lost, or have not found their way into public collections. National Park Service museum staff in Yellowstone National Park would welcome information about sources of photographs that might so far have eluded the attention of historians.

⁶²"The Stone is Laid," *Post*.

⁶³*Ibid*. The *Enterprise* varies by saying the second train left Livingston at noon and arrived in Gardiner at 3 p.m. Lew Callaway, *Early Montana Masons* (Billings: Litho-Print Press, 1951), 38, says the Masonic train left Livingston at 12:30 p.m.

⁶⁴*Ibid*.

⁶⁵"Was a Great Day," *Livingston Enterprise*, April 25, 1903.

⁶⁶"The Stone is Laid," *Post*; Photos in Whithorn, *Twice Told Tales I*, 21; Callaway, *Early Montana Masons*, 38.

⁶⁷"The Stone is Laid," *Post*.

⁶⁸Whithorn, *Twice Told Tales I*, 17, identifies McCartney and Hoppe in photograph with Roosevelt. "Mayor" is in quotes because Gardiner, an unincorporated town, has never had an official mayor, that is, one elected or appointed to head city government. McCartney was long referred to in the newspapers as "Mayor" of Gardiner, but that was a strictly honorary title that apparently recognized his longevity in the area. He was present at the town's founding in 1880 and could arguably be called the town's founder, as he settled there in 1879, before it was a town.

⁶⁹"The Stone is Laid," *Post*; "Was a Great Day," *Livingston Enterprise*, April 25, 1903; photo in Whithorn, p. 17. It is also said that the president's horse's name was "Bob." See Ed Nowels, "April 24th 50th Anniversary Arch Dedication," *Park County News*, April 16, 1953.

⁷⁰"The Stone is Laid," *Post*; *Livingston Enterprise*, April 25, 1903.

⁷¹"The Stone is Laid," *Post*.

⁷²*Ibid*.

⁷³Miller, *The Hands of the Workmen*, 216; *Montana Masonic Manual* (Helena: Montana Masonic Grand Lodge, 1974), 3.8.5.

⁷⁴"Special Communication of the Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Montana, Held at Gardiner, April 24, 1903;" Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Montana, September, 1903, 5.

⁷⁵Whithorn conducted an oral history interview with members of the Edward Smith family, who told her that "Uncle Edward's Bible is in the cornerstone." Whithorn, p. 19.

⁷⁶"The Stone is Laid," *Post*. The *Post* account says the items were placed "in the cornerstone." Whithorn's photo caption, p. 21, says, "a depository was enclosed in the stone." It was, incidentally, this repeatedly expressed hopefulness for the longevity of the arch that became a primary factor in the decision of National Park Service arch centennial event planners, in 2003, not to open the cornerstone to retrieve the materials placed therein one hundred years earlier. In the *Montana Masonic Manual*, 3.8.5, under the heading of "Deposit of Memorials," the Grand Master officiating at the laying of a cornerstone is to say, in part, "It has ever been the custom, on occasions like the present, to deposit within a cavity in the stone, placed in the northeast corner of the edifice, certain memorials of the period at which it was erected; so that in the lapse of ages, if the fury of the elements, or the slow but certain ravages of time, should lay bare its foundation, an enduring record may be found by succeeding generations, to bear testimony to the energy, industry and culture of our time." As well, the act of consecration of a cornerstone, as presented in

the same manual, 3.8.9, includes the words, "May the structure here to be erected, be planned with Wisdom, supported by Strength, and adorned in Beauty, and may it be preserved to the latest Ages, a monument to the energy and liberality of its founders." In winter and spring 2003, arch centennial event planners decided that it seemed clear from these statements that, unlike the more popularly known "time capsule," which is widely perceived as having been buried or otherwise set aside for the express purpose of its being opened at some definite or even prescribed time in the future, the contents of the cornerstone depository were placed there more or less in perpetuity. They were, in other words, placed in the arch against the chance of the destruction or eventual aging and deterioration of the structure. Author communication with Yellowstone National Park Chief of Public Affairs Marsha Karle, May 1, 2003.

⁷⁷"Local Layout," *Livingston Enterprise*, March 28, 1903, in Whithorn, *Twice Told*, 2, seems to say that a desire to preserve the original natural surface of the arch included protecting lichens (referred to as mosses) that had grown on the surface of the rock.

⁷⁸Haines, *The Yellowstone Story II*, 235.

⁷⁹"The Stone is Laid," *Post*. It is also probable that many people, such as those who have been quoted as stating that some specific item was in the cornerstone, were not as concerned with precision of language as we might be today.

⁸⁰"The Stone is Laid," *Post*.

⁸¹Miller, *The Hands of the Workmen*, 215. According to the *Montana Masonic Manual*, 3.8.8, the corn is the "emblem of Plenty," the wine the "emblem of Joy and Gladness," and the oil the "emblem of Peace."

⁸²Miller, *The Hands of the Workmen*, 216.

⁸³"The Corner Stone Was Laid," *Gardiner Wonderland*.

⁸⁴"The Stone is Laid," *Post*; "The Corner Stone Was Laid," *Wonderland*. The *Wonderland* reporter added: "It was Judge Hedges who suggested that the Yellowstone country be set apart by the federal government as a national reserve." A Masonic writer noted many years later: "It must have been a soul-stirring satisfaction for Cornelius Hedges as R.W. Grand Secretary, to participate with the Grand Lodge officers and President...Roosevelt in laying the cornerstone." Callaway, *Early Montana Masons*, 11. See also LeRoy Aserlind, "Masonic Connotations in the Formation of Yellowstone as a National Park," undated clipping in Yellowstone National Park Research Library, Vertical Files.

⁸⁵Paul Schullery and Lee Whittlesey, *Myth and History in the Creation of Yellowstone National Park* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, in press, 2003).

⁸⁶Long-time local Ed Moorman recalled this moment, as quoted in Haines, *The Yellowstone Story II*, 237.

⁸⁷"The Stone is Laid," *Post*. According to a later Mason, William Campbell, Cornelius Hedges kept the official minutes of the proceedings, and in them he wrote: "the President delivered a stirring and appropriate address, setting forth the purposes of the Park, its dedication to the pleasure and instruction of all the people of the country and of the world who are to be its guardians and protectors while the general government will continue its bounties to make it correspond with the future greatness of the country." William C. Campbell, "Rededication of Historic Arch at Yellowstone National Park," *New Age Magazine* 80 (October 1972): 53.

⁸⁸Haines, *The Yellowstone Story II*, 237; "The Stone is Laid," *Post*, in Whithorn, *Twice Told Tales I*, 23–24; The *Wonderland* account does not make mention of any preliminary remarks, or any remarks following the formal conclusion of the speech.

⁸⁹"The Stone is Laid," *Post*. In at least one photograph of Roosevelt taken during his speech, he seems to be holding paper, which perhaps was the text of his speech. See Schullery, "A partnership in conservation," 12–13. We have not researched the possibility

that the text survives in one of the collections of Roosevelt manuscripts, such as at the Library of Congress or the Widener Library at Harvard University.

⁹⁰A more complete text of these remarks is quoted in Whithorn, *Twice Told Tales I*, 23–24. The Mains affair is mentioned in the *Enterprise* account.

⁹¹"The Corner Stone Was Laid," *Wonderland*. An irresistible alternative opinion was expressed about the arch just a few years later, by F. Dumont Smith, *Book of a Hundred Bears* (Chicago: Rand McNally & Company, 1909), 218. Describing his arrival in Gardiner, he said, "I tied my horse in front of the 'Bucket of Blood,' the most palatial of Gardiner's business houses, and had a commercial transaction with its urbane proprietor which left me feeling as though I had swallowed a live wire. I saw the granite 'Gateway,' that is not a gateway at all, because no one ever passed through it. It is a hideous structure of boulders that was built solely as an excuse for someone to make a speech. It is getting so in this fair land of ours that anything is an excuse for a speech."

⁹²"The Corner Stone Was Laid," *Wonderland*.

⁹³"The Stone Was Laid," *Post*. The *Enterprise* mentions this event involving McBride, but does not give Roosevelt's exact words as the *Post* does.

⁹⁴"The Stone is Laid," *Post*; "Was a Great Day," *Livingston Enterprise*, April 25, 1903.

⁹⁵"The Stone is Laid," *Post*.

⁹⁶*Ibid*.

⁹⁷Elting Morison, ed., *The Letters of Theodore Roosevelt* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1951–1954), 3: 465.

⁹⁸*Ibid.*, 470.

⁹⁹Morris, *Theodore Rex*, 222–223.

¹⁰⁰Samuel Hays, *Conservation and the Gospel of Efficiency* (New York: Atheneum, 1979).

¹⁰¹Theodore Roosevelt, "Wilderness Reserves, Part II," *Forestry and Irrigation*, July 1904, 10: 309.

¹⁰²Schullery, *Searching for Yellowstone*, 78, 197–200.

¹⁰³Chittenden, *Annual Reports*, 2890. The planting of trees along what the *Gardiner Wonderland* called a "new road" east of the arch was reported in the edition of May 21, 1903.

¹⁰⁴Whithorn, *Twice Told Tales I*, 45.

¹⁰⁵David G. Battle and Erwin N. Thompson, *Yellowstone National Park Fort Yellowstone Historic Structure Report*. Historic Preservation, Denver Service Cen-

ter, National Park Service, May, 1972, p. 300. In his *Report of the Acting Superintendent of the Yellowstone National Park to the Secretary of the Interior 1905* (Washington: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1905, p. 3), Pitcher elaborated on the source and location of the short-lived sequoias: "Some time since 12 small Sequoia trees (*Sequoia gigantea*), from the giant forests in Sequoia National park, Cal., were, by direction of the Department, shipped to this place with a view to their propagation in the park. Six of these trees have been planted near the Roosevelt Arch and the remainder in suitable places on the plateau at the Mammoth Hot Springs. If we are successfully in growing these trees, they will in the future be a matter of great interest to the tourists."

¹⁰⁶Yellowstone National Park botanist Jennifer Whipple stated to the authors in 2001: "there is a reason why the land there [at Gardiner] looks like it does [barren and with only certain plants able to grow]." That reason was and is aridity. Historian Aubrey Haines, *The Yellowstone Story II*, 338–339, has pointed out that the aridity of the North Entrance led to greater difficulties than the failure of Chittenden's ornamental plantings around the arch. Haines reported that "a delegation of Gardiner townspeople" met with Roosevelt on April 24 and persuaded him to grant their petition to the park for a diversion of water from the Gardner River for the town's use. The previous year a similar petition had been turned down by the Secretary of the Interior, but the townspeople needed water, and were persistent. Chittenden's ditch providing water to the road work around the arch was their chance, and they sought access to it, and the right to draw water for municipal purposes from it. Roosevelt, somewhat shortsightedly it now seems, consented, and ordered it to be so. This led to a long-lived ditch that followed the north entrance road "for more than one-half mile." It was, as Haines said, "an unsightly evidence of commercialization of park waters" that survived for decades.

¹⁰⁷Haines, *The Yellowstone Story II*, 256–275, tells the story of the growing pressure to allow cars and the way they changed tourism. Whithorn, *Twice Told Tales I*, 44, says that automobiles, admitted in 1915, were at first not permitted passage through the arch and had to pass the soldiers' station on the inner road, but numerous early photos show autos passing through the arch, so we regard this as an unsettled question so far.

¹⁰⁸Edmund Rogers to Regional Director, August 11, 1947, in vertical files (YNP-History-General [Rogers], YNP Library).

¹⁰⁹Hillory Tolson to Regional Director, July 8, 1947;

Rogers to Regional Director, August 11, 1947.

¹¹⁰Rogers to Regional Director, August 11, 1947.

¹¹¹*Ibid*.

¹¹²Nowels, "April 24th 50th Anniversary Arch Dedication."

¹¹³*Ibid*.

¹¹⁴*Ibid*.

¹¹⁵National Park Service/Historical Research Associates, Inc., "National Park Service - Historic Structure Survey Form, North Entrance Arch," 1999; David G. Battle and Erwin N. Thompson, *Yellowstone National Park, Fort Yellowstone Historic Structure Report* (Denver: National Park Service Historic Preservation, Denver Service Center, 1972), 301.

¹¹⁶Battle and Thompson, *Fort Yellowstone*, 301

¹¹⁷*Ibid.*, 301.

¹¹⁸*Ibid.*, 302.

¹¹⁹William C. Campbell, "Rededication of Historic Arch at Yellowstone National Park," *New Age Magazine* 80 (October 1972): 50–53. For a photo of the miniature arch, see Whithorn, *Twice Told Tales I*, 48.

¹²⁰During the period 1983–1985, stabilizing activities occurred to strengthen the old arch. Information on these renovations is in box D-237, file "Stabilize," YNP Archives.

¹²¹Whithorn, *Twice Told Tales I*, 46. Author Whittlesey's conversation with Eleanor Williams Clark, Landscape Architect, Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming, February 24, 2003. As for where the park boundary is located at the arch, Hiram Chittenden noted in 1907: "A good deal of search was made to establish correct lines when the walls at the little park near the [NPR] station were built, but I am quite certain that they are not both exactly on the [park boundary] line. As I remember, the center of the little tower at the end of the east wall [is] on the line, but that the outer edge of the base of the other tower, and not the center, is on the line. I directed at that time that a careful record be made and put on file in the [U.S. Engineer's] office, showing exactly what the relation of these two towers was to the line and it ought to be somewhere in the office." Chittenden to E.D. Peek, November 18, 1907, archive document 8576, YNP Archives.

¹²²Robert Giles, Acting Director, Midwest Region, National Park Service, letter to Wesley Woodgerd, Chief, Recreation and Parks Division, Montana Department of Fish and Game, received June 28, 1972, with enclosures relating to the qualifications of the arch for National Register listing; Lon Johnson, Deputy SHPO/Rehabilitation, letter to Richard Strait, Association Regional Director, National Park Service, July 25, 1984, concurring in the eligibility of the arch, with attached "Assessment of Effect Form" on the arch. Superintendent, Yellowstone National Park, memorandum to Associate Director, Cultural Resource Stewardship and Partnerships, no date, enclosing the National Register nomination for the North Entrance Road Historic District, prepared by Mary Shivers Culpin in 2001.



Lee H. Whittlesey is the historian for Yellowstone National Park. He is the author, co-author, or editor of eight books and more than 25 journal articles related to Yellowstone, including the recent *Guide to Yellowstone Waterfalls and Their Discovery*. Lee holds a J.D. from the University of Oklahoma, and was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Science and Humane Letters from Idaho State University in 2001.



Paul Schullery is former editor of *Yellowstone Science* and the author or editor of many books about the American West, natural history, and outdoor sport, including ten about Yellowstone. For his work as a writer and historian, he is recipient of an honorary doctorate of letters from Montana State University and the Wallace Stegner Award from the University of Colorado Center of the American West. His article on trout feeding behavior appeared in the Spring 2003 issue of *Yellowstone Science*.

Window into Gardiner

by Alice Wondrak Biel



*Top, approaching Gardiner on U.S. Highway 89.
Bottom, approaching from the old railroad bed north of Gardiner.*

I've been thinking a lot lately about how we see the arch today, and it occurred to me to wonder, literally, just how we *see* the arch today, as opposed to in the past. To sate my curiosity, I drove about 1.5 miles out on U.S. Highway 89 and took the photo that appears on the top above. Then, I drove over to the Gardiner School and walked about the same distance out the old Northern Pacific railroad bed, on the opposite side of the river from the highway, to see the arch as I would have seen it if I had ridden the train into Gardiner. The photo on the bottom shows that view.

I had expected a more dramatic difference. But there are a couple of significant points to be made about these images. One, when the arch comes into view from the road, it appears along with the rest of the town, as part of an expansive vista spread wide in front of and below today's vehicles. There are no secrets here; this is Gardiner in all its glory, and you're driving down into it.

The view from the railroad bed plays its cards a lot closer to the chest. The train made its final approach to Gardiner at roughly the same altitude as the town

itself, with the tracks running through topography that rose higher than its cars. What this meant, as can be seen in the bottom photo, was that a rail traveler's first view of the park's North Entrance featured the arch as its single focal point, appearing as the light at the end of a tunnel. It was the arch that bore the sole responsibility of announcing one's arrival in Yellowstone at long last; the town surrounding it was revealed bit by bit, anticlimactically, as the train wound along the riverbank for the last few minutes of the ride, looking for all the world as though it might just carry its passengers right through the arch and off into the park (as Northern Pacific owner Jay Cooke had so desperately wanted!). In the old days, the arch was, unquestionably, the star of the show.

Of course, it still is, just to a slightly lesser degree. It's still the most dominant sight on the horizon after one crests that last rise on U.S. 89, an eye-magnet of startling power. Whatever its designers' intent, be it just to spruce up the North Entrance a bit or to lend Yellowstone some of the formal dignity signified by similar structures in Europe, the

arch serves as a harbinger that one is approaching something tremendously important. Its geographic situation, with the town on one side and a large open space—*instant wilderness*—on the other, reinforces the sense that after one passes through it, the familiar will be decisively left behind. Somehow its presence evokes anticipation, and its appearance here, in southwest Montana, rather than in the heart of a European city, seems to only increase its symbolic meaning, adding a degree of mystery along the way.

But still, the arch looks a little weird, standing alone and rather out of the way. It almost gives the impression of an architectural severed limb, suggestive of some far grander built landscape belonging to the past. Which, from the Gardiner side, is exactly what it is—a single, relict link of an infrastructural chain that once took people by train to and from Livingston, Montana, but today transports us by imagination into the history of Gardiner.

In reality, Gardiner's history is not something that's been cached away in books and sepia photographs. It's omnipresent, flashing by as momentary feelings, hiding around corners, and visually



Gardiner's "Old West" past is written in the facades of Park Street.

informing everyday experience. On page 11 of this issue of *YS*, for instance, Lee Whittlesey and Paul Schullery write that when Gardiner "Mayor" James McCartney rode into town on the arch's Dedication Day, he had little Paul Hoppe bouncing on his lap. Hoppes and McCartneys are still Gardiner friends today, the latter descended from Show-Me State McCartneys who hearkened from within 100 miles of James McCartney's family there and, coincidentally(?), living in the house that stands on the lot where James McCartney lived at the turn of the 20th century.

Although not all so seemingly predestinate as these, links between past

and present are ubiquitous in the daily lives and landscape of Gardiner's residents; the arch is just the most prominent and perhaps most important example. Past collides with present most visibly in local housing. Gardiner is full of structures that had previous lives in the park and came down to town to retire. An eagle-eyed walk around town reveals old ranger stations, hotel cabins, and maintenance buildings, to name a few; some are free-standing, others incorporated into more contemporary structures. Strip a few layers of plaster and lath off the inside of a Gardiner home and you might find beaded wood that was salvaged after a hotel fire, or original log construction

that the present owner didn't know was there, suggesting that the house has a more storied past than even they knew.

Take a look at the storefronts on Park Street, self-consciously recalling Gardiner's rough-and-ready Old Western past for residents and tourists alike. Check out the campy old basement of the Two-Bit saloon; picture the curve of the school's track, ghosting the tracks that once brought railroad passengers here. Think a minute on the big, nascent history container that will be the park's Heritage and Research Center, which now fills the viewshed through the arch as one drives out of the park (to the chagrin of more than one local resident).

Aside from its large collection of emigrant wooden buildings, Gardiner's defining architectural composition is local rock similar to that of which the arch is constructed. In that sense, the arch seems to rise almost organically from the surrounding land and town, as inseparable from Gardiner as it is from Yellowstone. In a way, the arch is like one of those old buildings that have been given new life and purpose. No longer the grand and formal signifier of both Yellowstone's most visited entrance and the glory of the Northern Pacific Railway, the arch today (along with its own attendant park) is the keystone of Gardiner's vernacular landscape, playing host to weddings, receptions, horseshoe tournaments, Gardiner's brewfest, and the endpoint of the Park-to-Paradise triathlon. As an image and sign, the arch pops up all over town, subtly encourag-



The Gardiner School's track recalls the path by which trains used to pull up to the depot.



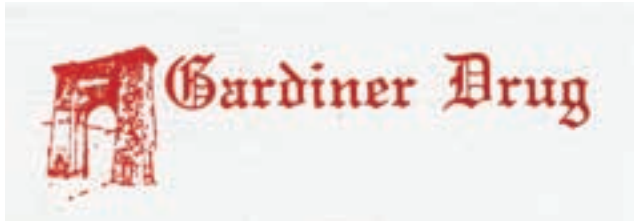
One of Gardiner's historic stone homes.

Above, to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the teddy bear, the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural National Historic Site asked NPS employees to volunteer to host a teddy bear dressed as TR, photographing him at important NPS sites. Here, TR's effigy bear visits the Roosevelt Arch.

Banners flying throughout the town of Gardiner highlight important features of the area. This one depicts the arch and the Yellowstone River.



Construction of the new Yellowstone Heritage and Research Center has changed the view through the arch from inside the park.



The arch appears all over town as a symbol of what makes Gardiner unique—and what makes it, simply, Gardiner.

ing people to express their affinity for it by shopping, rafting, washing clothes, staying at a certain hotel, and even just visiting Gardiner itself.

Of course, equally significant as the arch's vernacular presence is its symbolic power as a representation of the national parks, their meaning, and mission. The arch's symbolic meaning has not only endured for a century, but also become increasingly complex along the way—to the point where the arch as a physical structure and architectural symbol has become deliciously conflated with the literal message it communicates, each one calling to mind the other while simultaneously acting as empty vessels that can be filled with a host of different interpretations. It seems appropriate, in this context, that no one has ever been able to settle on a name for the arch—Roosevelt? Gardiner? North Entrance?

The arch's metaphysical importance in Gardiner is easily evidenced by the act of closing one's eyes and envisioning the North Entrance without the arch. No more RVs clogging up the approach from town, their excited occupants scattered all over the road, fixing the arch in their camera lenses. Those of us simply trying to drive around town may claim this as an annoyance (not to mention a danger), but

there is a sneaking pleasure that comes in the vicarious experience of crossing that threshold for the first time, of being as caught up in the moment of one's arrival in Yellowstone as a new bride and groom standing at the edge of their future. Without the arch there would be no more concrete immortalization of "For the Benefit and Enjoyment of the People," either as a welcome to visitors or an invitation to politicization ("it doesn't say a word about grizzly bears," declared a woman in 1983, at a public meeting about the imminent closure of the Fishing Bridge campground). And we would be absent either a friendly monolith, daily reminding many of us of just what we're doing here, or an apt representation of a monolithic government—again, all depending on one's perspective.

Taken together, these different uses, meanings, temporal compressions, and reproductions make for a structure of layered complexity. And that is why, in addition to its physical qualities, the Roosevelt/Gardiner/North Entrance Arch has outlived the wooden arch that once marked the Gallatin Gateway, as well as the railroad depot that the Roosevelt Arch was built to complement. Symbol to the world and indispensable local landmark, a little less than it once was,

perhaps, but still more than the sum of its parts and open to interpretation, the arch still embodies its own message—benefit and enjoyment to the people. ■

Thanks to Kerrie McCartney and Virginia Warner for contributing ideas for this essay.



Alice Wondrak Biel is a writer-editor for the Yellowstone Center for Resources. She holds a Ph.D. in Geography from the University of Colorado at Boulder and lives in Gardiner, Montana, with her husband Mark and Pepper the dog. Her work has previously appeared in the pages of *Cultural Geographies*, *Montana the Magazine of Western History*, and *Yellowstone Science*.

BEYOND THE ARCH

COMMUNITY AND CONSERVATION IN GREATER YELLOWSTONE AND EAST AFRICA



The goal of the conference is to generate, in non-technical language, a publicly-oriented discussion of issues that draw together national parks in the Greater Yellowstone and East Africa. We will make comparisons and foster dialogue across boundaries marking the intersections of global and local, private and public, natural and cultural, and scientific and social spheres.

Managers, scientists, policymakers, and the public will come together to discuss and consider the interdependence of both nature-society relations and natural and cultural history in local and global contexts. The conference will promote understanding of the ecological and social challenges facing parks in the Greater Yellowstone and East Africa, and initiate the development of useful strategies for sustaining the national park idea at the dawn of the 21st century.

OCTOBER 6–8, 2003
MAMMOTH HOT SPRINGS, WYOMING

Featured speakers will include

DR. RICHARD LEAKEY, leader in fighting political corruption and the destruction of Kenya's natural resources, and global spokesperson for conservation

DR. STEVEN SANDERSON, President and Chief Executive Officer for the Wildlife Conservation Society

DR. A.R.E. SINCLAIR, Professor of Zoology and Director of the Centre for Biodiversity Research at the University of British Columbia

DR. ROBIN REID, Systems Ecologist and Program Coordinator for the People, Livestock and the Environment Program of the International Livestock Research Institute, Kenya

DR. DAN FLORES, A. B. Hammond Professor of Western History at the University of Montana at Missoula



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please visit www.nps.gov/yell/technical/conference.htm for information about registration, accommodations, and a preliminary agenda.

SPONSORS OF THIS SPECIAL EVENT INCLUDE: NATIONAL PARK SERVICE ♦ YELLOWSTONE ASSOCIATION ♦ BIG SKY INSTITUTE, MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY ♦ AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAM, SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES, & RESEARCH OFFICE, UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING ♦ DRAPER MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY, BUFFALO BILL HISTORICAL CENTER ♦ GLOBAL LIVESTOCK COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH SUPPORT PROGRAM, USAID

CONFERENCE FEES

CONFERENCE OPTION A

Includes tickets to the opening reception, luncheons, and banquet, as well as admission to all sessions.

CONFERENCE OPTION B

Includes admission to opening reception, paper sessions, roundtables and displays only.

	Before September 8	After September 8
General	\$185	\$220
NPS employee	\$160	\$195
Student	\$110	\$145
Spouse*	\$60	\$95
One day only	\$110	\$145

*Includes tickets to opening reception, luncheons, and banquet when accompanying a registered conference participant.

	Before September 8	After September 8
General	\$135	\$170
NPS employees	\$110	\$145
Student	\$60	\$95
One day only	\$60	\$95

DINING

The Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel and Restaurant will close to the public on Monday, October 6. After that, the hotel and restaurant will be open only to registered conference participants choosing Option A. For attendees choosing Option B, the nearest restaurants, grocery, and hotel accommodations are located five miles north of Mammoth in Gardiner, Montana.

LODGING

Rooms with private bath: \$93/night, plus tax*

Rooms without bath: \$71/night, plus tax*

*These rates are for 1 or 2 persons. Extra persons age 12 and older are an additional \$10 each per night. Check-in time is 4:00 p.m. Check-out is 11 a.m.

REGISTRATION PACKAGE (CHOOSE ONE)

OPTION A

General \$ _____
 NPS employee \$ _____
 Student \$ _____
 Spouse \$ _____
 One day \$ _____

Vegetarian meals? yes _____

OPTION B

General \$ _____
 NPS employee \$ _____
 Student \$ _____
 One day \$ _____

LODGING: Nights needed

October 5 _____ October 6 _____ October 7 _____ October 8 _____

Room with bath \$93 × _____ nights = _____ \$ _____

without bath \$71 × _____ nights = _____ \$ _____

Number of persons _____ extra person fee \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Registration payment, cancellation, and refund information: To confirm your registration, payment of registration fees must be received by September 8, 2003. If registering after September 8, a credit card payment will be required at the time of registration. Registration fees will be refunded only if cancellation is made BEFORE September 8. Requests for registration fee refunds should be made in writing to Xanterra Special Reservations.

Lodging payment, cancellation, and refund information: To confirm your lodging at Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel, a deposit payment (first night's cost) must be received by September 30 or reservation will be cancelled. If you pay with a credit card, the deposit will be charged on September 30. Lodging cancellations must be made BEFORE September 30. Requests for lodging deposit refunds should be made in writing to Xanterra Special Reservations.

CREDIT CARD TYPE

Visa _____ MasterCard _____ Discover _____ American Express _____

Diner's Club _____ Expiration Date: _____

Credit card # _____

Name as it appears on card _____

Registration Form

BEYOND THE ARCH

COMMUNITY AND CONSERVATION IN GREATER YELLOWSTONE AND EAST AFRICA

October 6–8, 2003
Mammoth Hot Springs, Wyoming

Dr./Ms./Mr. (circle one) _____

Name on Badge _____

Affiliation on Badge _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____

State/Province _____

Zip _____ Country _____

Phone (day) _____ (evening) _____

Fax Number _____

E-mail Address _____

PLEASE REGISTER ONLINE AT: www.nps.gov/yell/technical/conference.htm

OR MAIL OR FAX THIS COMPLETED FORM AND PAYMENT TO:

Beyond the Arch conference

Xanterra Reservations Department

Attn: Special Reservations

P.O. Box 165

Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190

Phone: (307) 344-5437

Fax: (307) 344-7456

E-mail: sr@xanterra.com

Increased Thermal Activity at Norris Geyser Basin Requires Temporary Closure

Due to high ground temperatures and increased thermal activity that could affect visitor and employee safety, a portion of the Back Basin at Norris Geyser Basin on the west side of the park has been temporarily closed. Yellowstone's more popular features within the Norris Geyser Basin, including Steamboat and Echinus Geysers and all of Porcelain Basin, remain open to the public.

The temporary closure, effective July 23, is clearly marked and covers most of the western portion of the Back Basin trail starting at the Norris Museum. There are approximately 12,500 feet of trails in the Norris Geyser Basin, with approximately 5,800 feet affected by the temporary closure (see inset).

Park staff have measured ground temperatures of 200° F in the closure area—an unacceptable level for visitor and employee safety. Also, many thermal features in the Back Basin have heated up as indicated by expelling steam, rather

than water and steam. A portion of the trail system has been closed to allow the assessment of any potential steam eruptions.

Norris is the hottest and most seismically active geyser basin in Yellowstone. Recent activity in the Norris Geyser Basin has included formation of new mud pots, an eruption of Porkchop Geyser (dormant since 1989), the draining of several geysers, creating steam vents and significantly increased measured ground temperatures of up to 200° F. (Because the altitude of Norris Geyser Basin is 7,500 feet, 200° F is the approximate boiling point at Norris.) Additional observations include vegetation dying due to thermal activity and the changing of several geysers' eruption intervals. Vixen Geyser has become more frequent and Echinus Geyser has become more regular.

Historically, Norris is one of the more dynamic areas in the park, and is constantly monitored by scientists. However, recent eruptions of Steamboat Geyser and the formation of new thermal features have heightened the attention on Norris in recent months. Most current changes in thermal activity at Norris began July 11, 2003, when a new mud pot and other thermal features were formed in the Back Basin area, and Porkchop Geyser (dormant since 1989) erupted on July 16.

Park staff continue to monitor temperatures and thermal features in the area. When conditions have returned to acceptable ground temperatures and stable surface conditions have improved, the trail will be reopened. As of July 29, temperatures in the Norris Back Basin trails continued to indicate relatively constant temperatures of about

200° F. Temperatures had not decreased since the temporary closure of Back Basin trails.

Three Rivers Close to Fishing in Yellowstone National Park

On July 22, due to high water temperatures, the Madison, Firehole, and Gibbon Rivers (up to Gibbon Falls) and their tributaries were temporarily closed to fishing until further notice.

Water temperatures in these rivers are unusually high, primarily due to the unprecedented warm temperatures in the region. Temperatures in the Firehole River, as measured by the USGS Firehole gauging station, have been above 79° F since July 10. Temperatures at the Gibbon gauging station have been above 73° F almost every day since July 10. Water temperatures of 77° F can be lethal to trout. In addition, as water temperatures rise, incidental-hooking mortality increases, further affecting fish populations.

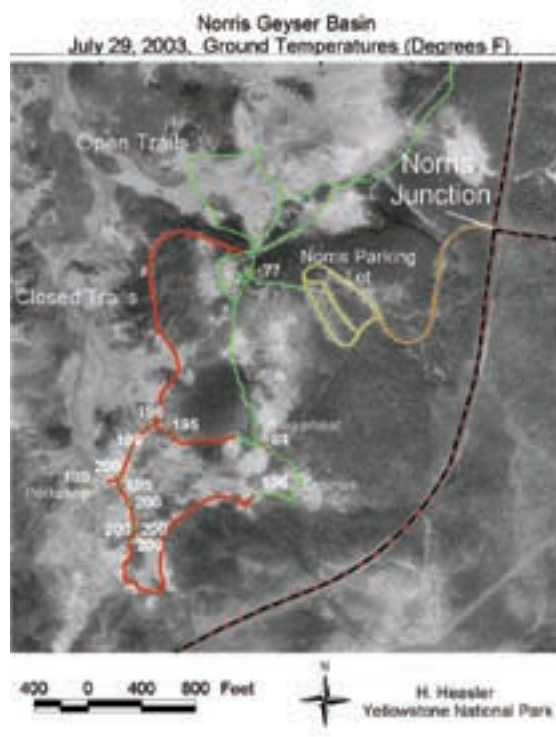
These rivers will remain closed to fishing until the daily maximum temperatures decrease to below 73° F (22.7° C) for three consecutive days and the seven-day weather forecast predicts lower maximum daily temperatures.

YNP Lynx Presence Confirmed

Wildlife technicians have confirmed the presence of a female Canada lynx and her kitten in the central portion of Yellowstone National Park. DNA evidence of the rare cats was found while conducting a survey to detect lynx in the park's interior.

This finding is important because lynx are rare in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. The Yellowstone Lynx Project has been seeking to determine whether Yellowstone has a resident population of this elusive animal, and the discovery of this female and her offspring is evidence that the animals are resident rather than transient.

During this past winter, project technicians identified a lynx family using

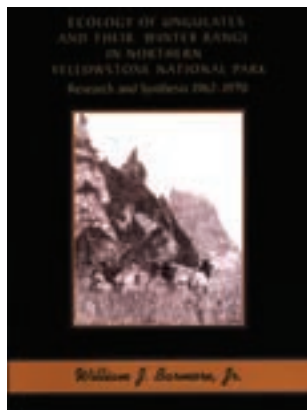


measurements and plaster casts of their tracks in snow as well as photographs that revealed the size of the cats' footprints and bed sites. Based on the disparate size of the large and small print tracks they left, it was determined that at least two animals were traveling together—one adult and one juvenile. In early May 2003, the University of Montana's Carnivore Conservation Genetics Laboratory confirmed that the DNA from hair and fecal samples collected along the tracks were lynx. One sample, apparently the kitten's, was from a male lynx.

While this female lynx and her kitten represent the best evidence found thus far, Yellowstone Lynx Project personnel made other discoveries leading up to this one. Hair samples were collected from a female lynx at a rubbing station—a hair collection device—in summer 2001, and from another lynx just outside the park this past winter. Both hair samples were confirmed by the Carnivore Conservation Genetics Laboratory to be from lynx.

Canada lynx are among the most endangered mammals in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. U.S. Forest Service and Wyoming Game and Fish biologists monitored a small lynx population in the adjacent Bridger-Teton National Forest during the late 1990s, but this population seems to have disappeared from that area. In 2000, the Canada lynx was federally listed as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act.

The Yellowstone Lynx Project is primarily funded by a grant from the Yellowstone Park Foundation.



New publications available from the Yellowstone Center for Resources.

New Publications Available

Ecology of Ungulates and Their Winter Range in Northern Yellowstone National Park, Research and Synthesis 1962–1970, by William J. Barmore, Jr., has been published by the Yellowstone Center for Resources. The book documents eight years of fieldwork conducted by Barmore during his tenure as a Yellowstone park ranger and research biologist from 1962–1970. This unique document is an in-depth record of a pivotal time in the history of ungulate research and management in Yellowstone. Also available are the *Yellowstone Wolf Project Annual Report 2002* and the *Yellowstone Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences Annual Report 2002*. Copies can be obtained by contacting Virginia Warner at (307) 344-2230.

Popular Bear Hit by Car in Park

A female grizzly bear, popular with visitors, was hit and seriously injured by a motor vehicle near the Norris Geyser Basin on Saturday evening, June 14,

2003. The 12-year-old bear received multiple injuries, including a broken back, and had to be euthanized early Sunday morning at 4:45 a.m.

Bear 264 frequented the area between Mammoth and Norris, and was observed by hundreds—if not thousands—of park visitors each year. The bear and her cubs were an especially popular subject of wildlife photographers from around the area. Bear 264 had several litters of cubs during her life

span—first in 1997 (two cubs), again in 1999 (two cubs), and a third and last litter (2 cubs) in 2000. The only litter to survive was the 2000 litter, now subadults and on their own.

Park staff were notified of the incident at around 6:30 p.m. on Saturday evening. They found the bear close to the Norris Campground. The bear appeared to have a broken back, along with other injuries. Park staff were able to immobilize the 260-pound bear and move her by gurney to a culvert trap. Bear 264 was taken to Mammoth Hot Springs for an initial assessment and then to a veterinarian in Bozeman, Montana, where x-rays confirmed a broken back and paralysis in the lower portion of her body.

The driver of the vehicle and other witnesses state that the bear darted out in front of the vehicle. The driver braked and swerved to try and miss the bear, but hit it with the car's right front tire. The driver immediately stopped and reported the incident. It was determined that speed was not a factor in the incident. ☐



NPS PHOTO

Bear 264 and her cubs.

ROOSEVELT ARCH CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION!

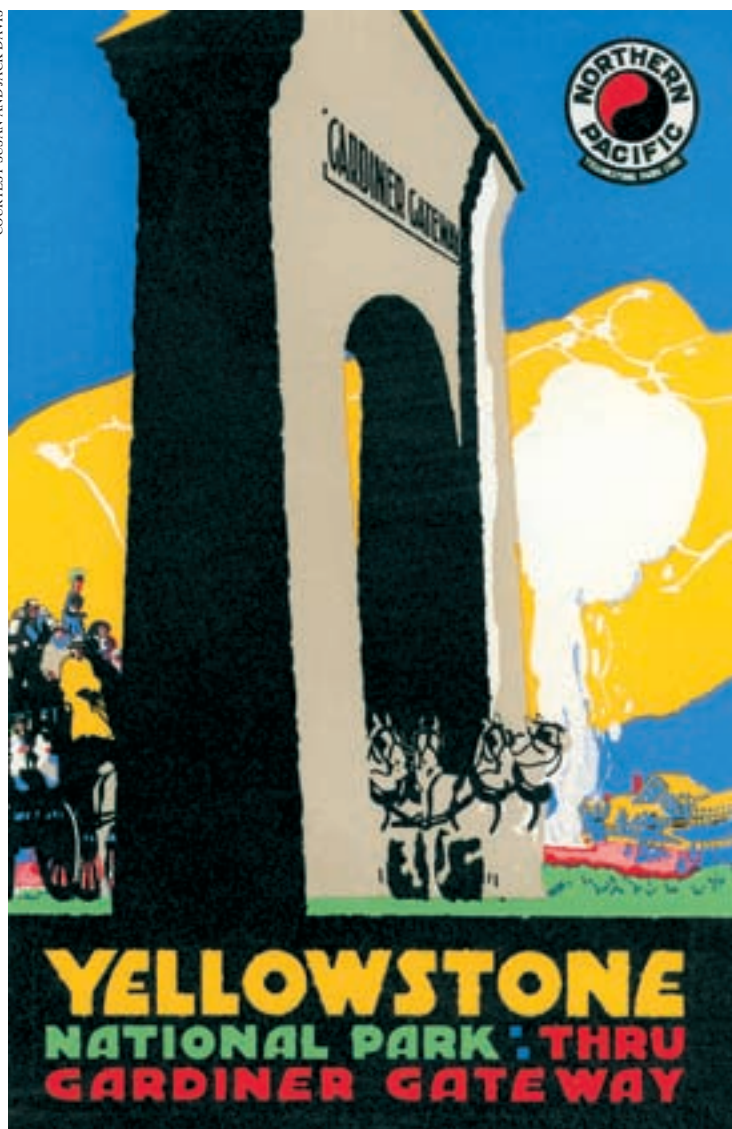
*Please join Yellowstone National Park Superintendent
Suzanne Lewis and the Yellowstone staff for a public event
to celebrate the Centennial of the Roosevelt Arch and
rededication of the Arch by the Montana Masonic Lodge on
Monday, August 25, 2003*

10:00 a.m. – Musical Program

*10:30 a.m. – Celebration Ceremony, including
remarks by Theodore Roosevelt, IV*

*11:30 a.m. – Masonic Rededication with
President Roosevelt Re-enactor*

*All events to take place at the North Entrance of
Yellowstone National Park at Gardiner, Montana*



Help keep Yellowstone Science coming!

We depend on our readers' kind support to help defray printing costs.

Please use the enclosed envelope to make your tax-deductible donation. Checks should be payable to the Yellowstone Association.

Please indicate that your donation is for Yellowstone Science.

Yellowstone Science
Yellowstone Center for Resources
P.O. Box 168
Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

PRSRT STD AUTO
US POSTAGE PAID
National Park Service
Dept. of the Interior
Permit No. G-83